

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1892.

## NOT PLEADED.

The Mayor and some members of the City Council appear far from being pleased at the way in which the health affairs of the city are now administered. They seem to feel sore that the management has been taken out of the hands of the Corporation, and they evidently consider that too much money is being spent in stamping out the smallpox.

We do not think that the Councilors have given this subject as much thought as its importance deserves. Have they ever calmly considered what an outbreak of the smallpox means to the city of Victoria? If they would think over the matter carefully and make a few necessary enquiries they would, no doubt, come to the conclusion that even should it last but a short time it is, from every point of view, a very great misfortune. The losses, direct and indirect, which it is certain to cause, are simply enormous. It follows, therefore, that it is the duty of the civic and provincial authorities to use all the means at their command to prevent such an outbreak, and if, in spite of all their precautions, the disease makes its appearance and threatens to become epidemic, they should make every exertion and spare no expense to stamp it out.

It should not be forgotten that this is a business that demands prompt and energetic action. Every day's delay, from whatever cause, greatly increases the danger and adds to the loss which the city must suffer. In dealing with the smallpox the policy of timidity and shilly-shally is simply ruinous. The speediest and most effective way of getting rid of the disease is really the cheapest. Stinginess and the dread of expense are really, in such a crisis, the worst kind of extravagance.

Every one knows in Victoria how matters were going on, and to what condition the city had arrived when the Provincial Government considered it their duty to interfere. Everything was in confusion, and the civic authorities were literally paralyzed. A few days more of inaction, or ineffective action, and the pest would be beyond control; and the result, even the most thoughtful and superficial can see, would be most disastrous, not to this city alone, but to the whole Province. The Premier did not, therefore, interfere before it was time. We have good reasons for believing that, if some effective measures had not been resorted to, the citizens themselves would have taken the matter in hand, and would have attempted to do what the constituted authorities had failed to effect.

Having once taken action in the matter, the Government did not let the grass grow under their feet. They appointed a capable and energetic physician Provincial Health Officer, and gave him all the authority that he in the exigency required.

The smallpox could not be conquered and got under control without the expenditure of money, and works were undertaken and men employed. But no attempt has been made to show that one single dollar has been spent unnecessarily. Every building erected was needed, and every man hired was wanted. And now when the Health Department insist upon a measure that would lessen the expense, complaints are heard from the City Council! It is easily seen that it is less expensive to attend to and take care of persons who have been exposed to contagion, in a single building than to watch a dozen or so of houses in different parts of the city. The isolation of "suspects" is quite as necessary as the isolation of patients. Yet it is against this reasonable measure of precaution that some members of the Corporation are protesting. This must surely be because they have not given the matter sufficient thought.

The City Council, instead of complaining of the measures taken by the Government and the Provincial Health Officer, should be only too glad that so much has been done towards stamping out the smallpox in such a small space of time. We are quite sure that every intelligent citizen of Victoria cordially approves of what has been done and will willingly pay his share of the expense. He knows that where he now is required to pay one dollar he would, if the Government had not taken hold when it did, be compelled to pay ten, and the loss to him and the city indirectly would have been incalculably greater.

For our own part, we are morally certain that the Government have saved the city and the province a great deal more than can now be readily computed. The service that they have done Victoria, and the province generally, will be seen one of these days in its true proportions. The City Councilors cannot discern its dimensions clearly now, but they may two or three years hence. At present it does not look well to see them criticizing adversely the men who did, and did well, a work that the civic authorities, unaided, had proved themselves totally unable to handle.

## THOSE REGULATIONS.

There are some people who believe that the "Regulations issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council in the matter of smallpox" have been devised by the Government of this Province. But this is not the case. They have simply been adapted by the Government to suit the circumstances of the Province. They are identical in almost every respect with regulations that have been in force in the province of Ontario and other parts of the civilized world. They are, in fact, the crystallized fruit of the experience of civilized men everywhere. An epidemic of smallpox would be treated precisely as these regulations direct if it broke out anywhere in the British Empire. Scientific men can give a good reason

for every one of them, and the more a man knows, the more reasonable and effective will he declare them to be. To attribute the authorship of the Regulations to the Government, is to pay its members a very high compliment indeed. They have been suggested by the best physicians and sanitarians of many countries, and were drawn up by men who are as great lovers of liberty as are to be found in any part of the world. There are emergencies, as every intelligent man knows, when the operations of ordinary law are suspended, and when the principles of Government as commonly administered do not apply. In such emergencies the common safety is the supreme law, and good citizens are expected cheerfully to submit to absolute authority for a time for the sake of the general welfare. We venture to say that the health regulations of the United States, like its martial law, are quite as despotic as those of any part of the Dominion of Canada.

## WITHOUT POLICY OR PRINCIPLE.

We see that several French Liberal members have, since the proclamation, severed their connection with the Opposition. We are not surprised at this. The Opposition is a party which has no any reason for its existence. It has no policy. It had not the courage or the steadfastness to adhere to its free trade principles, and its policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States has become utterly discredited, because it really means both annexation to the United States and protection of the narrowest and most exclusive kind. The Liberal Party of the Dominion, as it went to the country at the last general election, has, therefore, no place in it for loyal subjects of Queen Victoria, or honest free traders. Since its leaders have not formally repudiated the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, which was the only plank of their platform that was at all distinctive, it is no wonder that Liberals who are loyal, and Liberals who believe in free trade, find themselves out of their element in its ranks, and that some of them believe it to be their duty formally to sever their connection with the Party.

It may be said that the Liberals wish to be regarded as belonging to the party of political purity. We know that this is the case, but one has only to look at the record of the Liberal Party to see how little grounds its members have for setting themselves up as the enemies of corruption in all its forms. The testimony of their late leader, honest Alexander McKenzie, shows how little claim they have to pose before the country as purists in a political sense. A letter of his published not long ago showed to the world what everyone behind the scenes knew only too well—that the life of that upright statesman while he was in office was embittered by having to deal with the unreasonable claims of venal and greedy followers. They literally worried the life out of him. The number of Liberal members of Parliament who were unseated for violating the Independence of Parliament Act is also evidence of the corruption that permeated the Liberal party in its palmy days, and the records of the election courts show in a very conspicuous way how little the Liberal party of Canada deserved to be called the Party of Purity. There is really nothing in that party to bid to it men of intelligence or political principle. In Ontario, and the other provinces, in a lesser degree, men are asked to fit for what it once was. Liberalism is the traditional policy of their town or settlement or their family, but this bond is becoming every day weaker and more attenuated. Men who think and who see a higher value upon things than upon names are getting very tired of Canadian Liberalism.

## THE MERCHANTS' CONGRESS.

The speeches made at the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire showed that the colonies are regarded by British public men and British merchants with the kindest feelings. Lord Knutsford, Lord Brassey and Sir John Lubbock said some very pleasant things about the colonies and colonists. Lord Knutsford said to the delegates:

"You represent here the trade and commerce of the Empire—a trade and commerce upon which the Empire is based, and upon which her greatness and material prosperity depend. Her Majesty's Government believe fully that these congresses and conferences tend materially to strengthen the links between the mother country and her dependencies, and to promote this union and the integrity of the Empire which every one of us desires."

It is said that sentiment goes a very little way with practical men. The Gradgrind spirit, it is contended, is abroad and that the men who do the business of the world care about are "facts and figures, figures and facts." But Lord Brassey, who is a practical man and who belongs to a practical race, is of a very different opinion. He talked sentiment to the hard-headed business men who formed the Congress and he evidently talked it with acceptance. His Lordship said in welcoming Colonists to London:

"I assure our visitors from the colonies that we give them a hearty welcome. It would be using too cold a phrase to say that we regard them as our fellow subjects; we look on them as a band of brothers bound to us by every tie of kinship, and by whom we wish to live in the closest and most cordial relations socially, politically and commercially. Earnestly desiring as we do to maintain the unity of the Empire, I unhesitatingly assert, though speaking under the auspices of a Chamber of Commerce, that we are prompted far more by sentiment than by considerations of self-interest."

The following are the concluding sentences of Lord Brassey's very interesting speech:

"For ourselves, we have no reason to complain that our trade is languishing or diminishing under our free trade policy. The colonies, on their part, enjoying the advantages of illimitable tracts of fertile

soil, have certainly flourished under protective tariff. It would seem well to leave all fiscal arrangements at least as free as we find them to-day, and the changes, if any, should be rather the removal of the restrictions imposed on the colonies than in the return on the part of this country to protection, from which we were emancipated after those strenuous conflicts with which the great names of Peel, Bright and Cobden will be for all time honorably associated."

At the banquet at St. James's Hall, given by the President and Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, Lord Knutsford and Lord Brassey were again the principal speakers. In proposing the toast of the evening, "The Second Congress," Lord Knutsford made a very happy speech, of which this is the closing passage:

"He thought there was no loyal subject of Her Majesty who would not feel a just pride at the congress that was now meeting in this country—a congress representing the trade and commerce of the Empire, upon which the Empire so greatly depended. It was the proud boast of Rome in ancient days that in her triumph she should show in her streets the inhabitants of distant countries which had been conquered by her legions; but in the streets of London, to-day, there were inhabitants of distant countries who had come willingly as loyal but independent subjects of our gracious Queen (cheers) to meet together to consider questions which affected every interest of the Empire. ('Hear, hear,' and cheers.) They had met to extend and promote the trade and commerce of the Empire, and he believed that the trade and commerce would continue to increase in spite of any hostile tariff or foreign competition."

We need not inform our readers that the most important resolution discussed and voted upon at the Congress, was that of Sir Charles Tupper, with regard to the policy of preferential duties. The resolution was not carried. No one expected that it would carry; but it received much more and much heartier support than many of the friends of that policy either hoped or expected. The speech which the High Commissioner made when introducing it, was as able as it was courageous. The report of it, which was published in the Canadian Gazette, will be found in another part of this paper.

## SENSIBLE NANAIMO.

The conduct of the city of Nanaimo during the visitation of the smallpox has been such as will redound to its credit. Its authorities have not been indifferent or apathetic. They have been fully alive to the danger which the inhabitants of the city are exposed, yet they have from the first acted in a calm, moderate and sensible manner. They did not get, or pretend to get, into a panic, as the authorities of the city of Vancouver did, and they did not attempt legislation which was beyond the power of the Corporation. They, acting on the excellent advice given them by the City Health Officer, Dr. Fraeger, went upon the assumption that the quarantine regulations of the Dominion and the health regulations were sufficient for the protection of their city. Accordingly, when the situation became serious, they insisted upon those regulations being carried out stringently and impartially. No one in Nanaimo, except perhaps the editor of the Free Press, has gone into hysterics about the smallpox in Victoria. No one has acted in flagrant violation of the law, and no indignity or insult has been offered those who entered the city, either by sea or land. The consequence of this firm observance of the law of the land, and this neighborly course as regards Victoria is, that there has not been a single case of smallpox in either Nanaimo city or Nanaimo district. The precautions taken have been sufficient to prevent the introduction of the disease; and the same good sense and good management which has been so successful in keeping out the disease would no doubt have been sufficient to keep it from spreading if, unfortunately, it had found its way into the district.

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There is a Mr. Hammerley in the city of Vancouver, who is evidently a very wise man—in his own conceit. He, in discussing the Vancouver injunction case, declares that we over here in Victoria are a pack of fools and idiots and are acting like a lot of children. As those remarks were made with reference to the writ of attachment that has been issued against certain parties in the Terminal City, the inference that this Mr. Hammerley includes at least one judge of the Supreme Court in his sweeping censure is unavoidable. Now, when considering the weight to be attached to a man's opinion of any person or any subject, it is necessary to know who and what the man is. It is a shallow fellow, with a great deal more conceit than brains, who, in the company of those whom he thinks he can impose upon, poses as a critic and passes judgment upon men, public and private, with the air of an oracle, his opinion is worth just nothing at all. To be condemned by a critic of this class is often the highest compliment he can pay the objects of his censure, for he and his kind have a na-

tural antipathy to men of sense and good judgment, who see at a glance how empty they are, and who are not, when occasion requires, very backward in letting the world know that they see them through and through. There is nothing that the village pretender to wisdom dreads so much as being found out, and he hates most cordially and intensely the discoverer. Now, if this Mr. Hammerley is a man of this sort, no one need pay the least attention to his opinion of Victorians. The chances are that he is what he considers the best reason in the world for condemning the people of Victoria from the highest to the lowest. If they do not appreciate him, if they have found out that he is a very light weight, indeed, they have committed a crime which he can never forgive.

City Attorney Hamnerley, for that is his name, our correspondent calls him, may, however, be a man of this class. He may be a man of shining talents and great accomplishments, a man who has made his mark in the world, and whose opinion has great weight with all who know him. He may, we say, be all this and more, but it is very difficult to imagine a man of sense talking as he did to our correspondent. But there is no accounting for fools and idiots. There are fools who talk like wise men, and wise men who talk like fools. Does Hamnerley belong to this latter class? Any way, who is Hamnerley?

## LORD SALISBURY'S APPEAL.

Previous to the general election in Great Britain, Lord Salisbury issued a manifesto which is certainly an able document, and was calculated, we should say, to produce an immense effect upon a large and very influential class in England, Scotland and Wales. This manifesto was directed against Home Rule. It was a strong and eloquent protest against placing the Protestants of Ireland under the rule of those with whom they have been at variance for many generations. Anything better calculated to awaken the sympathy of zealous Protestants, either Established church men or Nonconformists, than the following passage taken from the Premier's address, can hardly be imagined:

"But there is one interest to which this election is above all others vital. It is the interest of a large portion of the Irish people who are threatened in effect with separation from Great Britain. To them this election is of terrible importance. On your votes during the next few weeks will depend whether it will be to them a message of hope or a sentence of servitude and ruin. Other questions are not burning as this is: other matters if, in politics, are made to be of more importance than the welfare of the Irish people, they are inadequate, can be strengthened and made later on. But for the loyal minority of Ireland the crisis is supreme. At this moment the fate of the Irish people hangs in the balance. The necessity of having decided whether it will be to them a message of hope or a sentence of servitude and ruin. 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