VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 1899

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The Colonist.

of the constitution and grave misstate government proposed that roads should ments of fact, and never ventured to say be built at the general expense of the

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1899. THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION The constitutional question involved in the dismissal of the Turner ministry has been disposed of, so far as the present session of the legislature is concerned but it remains a live issue, neverther less, and one that will play an important part at the next general election. In taking leave of it for the present, the Colonist will be excused for dealing with it in some detail. To the primary proposition—that is, the prerogative right of the crown or its repre-resentative to dismiss a ministry, the

resentative to dismiss a ministry, the Colonist has no reason to alter the view

expressed in its columns on August 9th last, the day after the dismissal, as follows: "That the lieutenant-governor has power to call upon any one at any time to take the position of chief adviser may be conceded." Some friends of the late government dissented from this proposition, but it is now fully admitted on all

sides. The second proposition is that, as the crown or its representative cannot act except through a ministry, and every exercise of the prerogative is supposed to be done under advice of some one responsible to parliament, ministers taking office after the dismissal of their predeces sors, accept the responsibility for such was first put forward by the Colonist, the next place Sir Charles was not disof constitutional law.

isters are responsible for what the crown Sir Charles knew that it was useless to or its representative may do in the in- call parliament, for the verdict of the

terim. This proposition the Attorney- electorate did not admit of any question General carefully avoided. It is good as to the strength of parties. This adconstitutional law. If it were not, he mission by Mr. Martin completely cuts shown the contrary. Mr. Martin found feet of the Lieutenant-Governor, as we himself in an inextricable difficulty on shall endeavor to show. this point, for he was estopped by his The elections were not over on August and justified to parliament by the new ted by Mr. Martin, and he sought to excuse the departure from established usage in this regard by referring to a resolution placed on the order paper by Mr. Turner early in the session. This was simply a pretext for the course followed by the government, and not the reason of it. We come now to the manner in which the Lieutenant-Governor's present advisers "stated and justified' to the legislature the reasons which influenced His Honor in dismissing Mr. Turner and his colleagues, and the first thing to be mentioned in this connection is that His Honor's advisers have utterly

failed to defend his course, and have ex-

TECHNICAL EDUCATION There is therefore left for discussion

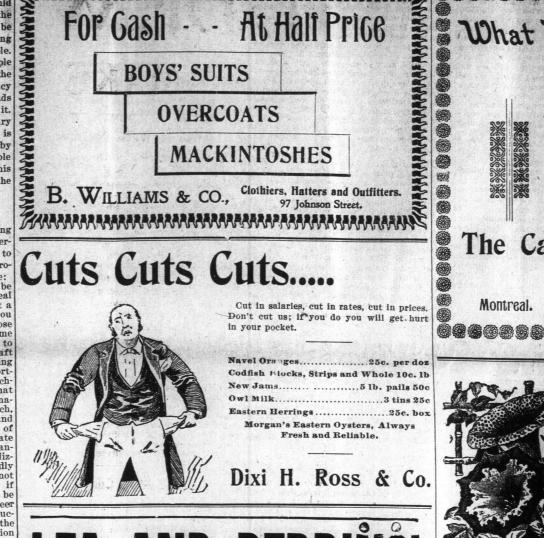
only the justification advanced in His In a speech delivered at the opening Honor's first letter, namely, that the of a hall in connection with the Batter elections showed that Mr. Turner had sea Polytechnic, Mr. Balfour referred to lost the confidence of the country. We the broadening effect upon the mind proreply to this that no precedent can be duced by technical training. We quote: cited for the dismissal of a government You may know very little and not be on such a ground. Several recent cases can be quoted where governments have resigned because of an adverse vote of the constituencies, but none where a con-

the constituencies, but none where a gov- students of this institution who come odditi ernment has been dismissed. The precehere merely to gain some addition to their knowledge of a special handicraft dent relied upon by the Attorney-General may carry away with them somethin which, to my mind, is of far more impor them something was that of the resignation of Sir Charles Tupper in 1896. This precedent does not apply. In the first place there incal skill. They may carry away that broadened knowledge of the laws of na was not the shadow of a doubt as to the ture and the progress of science which, result of the Dominion elections of 1896. liberalizing and to my mind, is not less dismissal. This proposition was chal- Sir Charles Tupper knew he was de- of not less value in the highest sense of lenged by the government press when it feated, and every one else knew it. In knowledge of the grammar of a dead lan accurate was first put forward by the Colonist, but it was categorically admitted by the missed, nor was his dismissal contem-tion. I make no attack, I need hardly Attorney-General as a correct statement plated, so far as the correspondence say, on literary education, but I canno shows. Mr. Martin in his speech admit- admit that scientific education-even if

The third proposition is that in case of ted that if Sir Charles had asked that it be humble in its amount, if it be a dismissal of a ministry and any delay parliament should be called together, he of the learner—is not capable of produc-in forming a new one, the incoming mintaught as any system of education which the ingenuity of the world has yet succeeded in devising.

Mr. Balfour has said what a great many people have been thinking. The object of education is to make a man would have only been too glad to have away all of the ground from under the a good citizen, and it seems hardly m cessary to argue that this can be done

at least as well by familiarizing him to some extent with the achievements of own public statements made at the time 8th, when the letter of dismissal was modern science as by giving him a course from defending the calling in of Mr. written, but it may be admitted that, in classics. The ordinary classical edu-Beaven. He then declared very emphati- conceding Cassiar to the government, cation of the schools or colleges does not cally that the Lieutenant-Governor was the house was divided 19 to 19. Certain get much beyond perfecting the student not justified in doing this. Therefore he recounts and election protests were pro- in the grammar of the ancient languages. had no course left him except that which ceeding, among them those in North Yale How many of the readers of the Colonist he took, namely, to decline to discuss it and East Lillooet, and in view of what who took the usual classical course, ever because it was an unimportant incident. has since transpired, it is not a violent reached that stage when they read Greek The fourth proposition is that the assumption to presume that the pros- poetry for the pleasure of the thing or grounds of the dismissal should be stated pect was that these seats would have for the sake of the philosophical ideas been ultimately secured by supporters of therein contained? A considerable peradministration. This point was admit- Mr. Turner, so that as the case then centage of them may have reached that stood the prospect was that Mr. Turner stage in Latin, for it is no great trick would meet the house with a majority of to get to know Latin almost like a four. There was a better prospect of mother tongue. But very few people have this than there was that, if he remained either leisure or disposition to pursue in power, the opposition would have had their classical studies in after life. The a majority. His Honor recognized this great advantage of a classical education when he sent for Mr. Beaven. If in the is that it opens a door to a field of knowlcase of Sir Charles Tupper, where the cdge, and if the student does not wander majority against him was about forty, in it, his mind is broadened by knowing it would have been within his right, as that it exists. A similar effect is prothe Attorney-General admits, to have de- duced by an elementary education in manded a meeting of parliament, much science, and it has this advantage, that more was that within the right of Mr. research and discovery are continually Turner, who was not in a minority and bringing to light new things in this who stood a good chance of having a domain, and the newspaper press keeps



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igations. Eliminate from the Universe THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins May persons look upon the forgiveness and all which it necessarily implies, and

Honor was charged with grave breaches districts are to be developed. The late averaged with grave misstate averaged that roads should CONSPIRACY CE What Do You Mr. Eberts Says Dismiss (R) stry Was Planned Ber Use Paint For? Explicit Denial of Lieut-Other people use it to preserve property-to beautify and adorn. That's good-and it's right. All Paint "when it's new" looks well. "When it's Assertion of Wrong Bew "-There's the rab-" when it's new." The Elephant Mixed Paints look well and wear well overnment's Feeble ong after other paints are faded and gone, while he cost of applying Elephant Paint is no more Constitutional Crime than the cost of applying a poorer grade. The dealers who sell Our Paints can tell you a story that'll make you think there's a difference in HON. MR. MARTIN, o The Canada Paint Company. on of his remarks in the l Thursday (the first of eared in yesterday's issue tutionality of the Lier * LIMITED. * or's action in dismissing hi ent, observed that even ment, observed that even in been called together on the tion being decided, the then would have been unable to parties would have been d 19-and a Speaker being cho-ernment would have been Montreal. Toronto. St. Malo. Vancouver. Victoria. rote on the first divisio Baker observed that ight very easily have l Hon. Mr. Martin laughi that while he had been to the honorable member fo Kootenay rules of order vas now apparent that to give him a few lesso arithmetic. He would be that are sold at bargain prices? ocked, carefully Twell-stocked, carefully attended garden, rather than the one that is neglected. Here is just the difference between the value of carefully grown Seeds, and Seeds that are carelessly and cheaply grown; which do you think the best for you to grow? Every careful planter considers the high character of the Seeds he uses, this is the class of rade we supply, and that more may prove the fact that GOOD SEEDS PAY BEST we offer the following TRIAL COLLECTION. Every package contains full quantity. this next session, as he himself on his ability as Col. Baker had had som the Attorney-General's had a genial way of tryin appear that two and two n the present case the Att had evidently misundersto speaker might have been c pposition and the majori BRIGGS' GOOD Vegetables trined the government, figures for the sake of ar, Hon. Mr. Martin told to just after the election, w had said to him at Cranbro

General Election

Tendered.

They Owe Powe

looked very dark for th Col. Baker had replied

right—that they would bu the other side. He presu

honorable gentleman woul the speaker from this side Col. Baker—As the hon

men opposite bought the Westminster City. This brought Mr. Hender

with indignation, and the honorable member

he is stating what is which he has not the sligh MR. EBERTS, resumin

Cootenay asserts that I

pointed to the fact that General, in his defence o

ant-Governor's action, had any precedents, which as would have been certain t

they existed. The Attor had led the house astray the action of His Excell

enant-Governor of Can

quence of the last genera

the Dominion, was paralle of His Honor, the Lieute now under consideration. fact very different indeed elections had taken place i

government had been a administering the ordi

the country until well into only when they endeav

special or extraordinary Premier had been asked

Charles Tupper had clai

the right to meet paright had been promp Excellency. That w

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in the courts, to have been given an opthe chief reasons which he advanced for his action. In order that this may be fully appre-

ciated, it is necessary to mention that the Lieutenant-Governor gave two reasons for dismissing Mr. Turner. One of these was the result of the elections, correspondence up to that date, while there is little room for doubt that, if a which he declared established that Mr. Turner had lost the confidence of the of His Honor to give effect to the will would be wiser to choose the technical. it discloses a proper desire on the part youth must choose one or the other, he country; the other that his ministers had of this Honor to give the polls, lost his confidence. We do not think we does not indicate any intention to take do His Honor any injustice in saying the summary course of dismissal. Mr.

that the second reason was given when Turner therefore had no opportunity to elections had not been concluded, and the tenure of their seats by some of the members-cleat may be some of the suggest and of the seats by some of the members-elect was in great doubt. We suggest such a thing after he had been are prepared to concede that the crown his Attorney-General, the following course would have been open to His ters, who have forfeited its confidence

This is a course which can only be taken Honor: If he had felt that the elections had gone against his then advisers, he in extreme cases, but that the right exists cannot be denied by any one acshould have permitted Mr. Turner to meet the house, holding him down in the quainted with the constitution. The meanwhile to the exercise of only such first of the reasons advanced by His ministerial functions as were absolutely Honor, the Attorney-General undertook necessary in order that the government to justify; the second he specifically demight go on. If His Honor had taken clined to discuss. Mr. Turner had gone this course, not a word of objection into the second reason at some length. could have been raised against it. As It involved matters affecting his perthis is a course that might have been sonal reputation and that of his coltaken, and as there is no precedent for a leagues. The only reply made by the

dismissal for a ministry because of a Attorney-General was that he would not doubtful or even adverse vote of the go into these matters at all. Let us see constituencies, it follows conclusively what position this places the Lieutenant that the only ground upon which his Governor in. He made certain grave present advisers are willing to attempt charges against his late advisers. The the justification of His Honor is wholtruth of those charges has been abso ly insufficient, and that His Honor's aclutely denied. He is not in a position tion stands undefended. The simple fact to make good what he has said or to re that a partizan majority voted to sustract it. His mouth is effectually closed tain His Honor cuts no figure. by his present ministers. No matter

to what extent he may be able to justify TOLL GATES. what he said in his letter to Mr. Turner

he cannot say a word. His advisers .A little over a year ago the Colonist have undertaken to defend him, but they suggested that if in any part of the provabsolutely refuse to do so. It is doubt- ince private persons chose to construct ful if the crown or its representative roads at their own expense and for their ever was placed in such a position. The own convenience, they might be given remarks of Messrs. Turner, Eberts and authority to collect tolls from other peo-Baker in the house were as strongly con- ple using them. A tremendous cry went express or implied. There are no Attordemnatory of the Lieutenant-Governor's up from the then opposition. The things life. action and as complete denials of his that were said in regard to this very in-

allegations as parliamentary language nocent suggestion were the reverse of what he had done; no effort was made reach it he builds a road over crown the transaction compatible with the alle-same road. He ought to pay for the the instance of the government who gations of both sides to the controversy. privilege. Yet this idea was deemed wanted another year. No lieutenant-governor was ever left in outrageous by the same people who are

such a position by his advisers. These now prepared to support the government

pressly avoided any attempt to uphold majority as the result of the proceedings them under public notice continually. If sins as something which is to take we are forced to these concl the classical and the technical could be effect at some indefinite date in the fu- drive hope out of life; we turn backportunity of meeting the house. But combined, perhaps the result would be ture, when this life has ended and eternal wards the wheels of progress, and sen-Mr. Turner was never given an oppor-tunity of meeting the legislature. Until alone; but the limitations of time make class of teachers, the effect may not be able degradation. August 8th he had no reason to expect this almost impossible in the very great enjoyed until after the forgiven person Yet the relation of cause and effect i into his hands in the way he did. The exigencies of our progressive civilization, turies. Others believe its full benefit trine of forgiveness. Its operation is enwill be experienced immediately after larged; that is all. For centuries sciendeath. Not many people teach that it is tific men have tried to explain the phenan actual benefit to be experienced in this omena of nature, and the history of their life; that it is peculiarly a present and efforts is a record of exploded theories. We think it right to say a few words practical advantage that can be enjoyed One discovery after another has shown in regard to the action of Rev. R. W. by those who desire it. The latter idea how explanations, regarded as sufficient.

Trotter in resigning his pastorate of the was that held by the writer of the 103rd must be abandoned. Even now, after all Psalm, who said: "As far as the East is from the West, so far hast Thou removed our transgres-sions from us." science recognizes that there may exist forces, conditions and laws not yet accertained, which will overturn theories action, that is, in surrendering the ad-

vantage of a long-settled community, and voluntarily engaging in the arduous task Note that this does not refer to a removal in the future, nor to the promise of building up a church organization in of anything, but to an actual present rea new section of the province, Mr. Trotmoval. The sun of to-day may go down the invisible universe and in the building moval. The sun of to-uay may go down in darkness and storm, but that of to-morrow may rise resplendent with all the potentialities of a new life in its the potentialities of a new life in the potentialities of cause and effect, as we ter has recognized a great truth which too often is disregarded by the churches, namely, that the best men are needed in the newer localities. A too common error is to select young and inexperienced life, dragging after us a burden of men for missionary work. Mr. Trotter wrong-doing, mistakes and disappointhas set an example, and we are sure that nents. It is possible to cut ourselves all classes of the community will apoose from such things and start afresh, plaud his self-sacrifice and wish him the fullest measure of success in his new the better by the experience of past failares, but not weighted down by them.

field. The relation between cause and effect Everybody will join in the hope that is said to be unalterable. As a general the possibility of something to which Everybody will join in the hope that Rudyard Kipling will recover from his present serious illness, but if the worst happens, he will leave a legacy of thought, albeit not a voluminous one, that will be long preserved in the memory of a grateful people. sibility of divine intervention, we and all regard the advice, "Cast thy burden on of a grateful people.

The Chinese railway loan has been ar- itself to the smallest creature the microranged "with the knowledge of Her scope has yet discovered, are like flecks the discoveries of modern science. Majesty's government." This is all that of foam in a resistless torrent, helpless

the British government has said in con- to direct our course and irresponsible for cepted by financiers as a sufficient guar This is what the law of cause and effect, antee of the good faith of the undertak- as ordinarily explained, implies when ing. The reason is that the British government never repudiates any obligation

The session is to end to-morrow. We nection with this loan, but it will be ac-anything we may do or leave undone. Tuesday. It has given the people seven

to direct our course and irresponsible for anything we may do or leave undone. This is what the law of cause and effect, as ordinarily explained, implies when pushed to its logical limit, if we leave out the conditions above mentioned. It forces us to the conclusion that the pro-duction of Shaksmeare's plays was due forces us to the conclusion that the pro-ever an opportunity is afforded it of ney-General Martins in British public duction of Shakespeare's plays was due doing so.

to the peculiar twist of some paleonto-

logical mollusk, which in its turn was There is a report in circulation that It appears that the Colonist was in would permit; yet not a member of the parliamentary. And yet it is hard to error in giving as a reason for the exgovernment rose to reply to them; not see what was wrong about it. A man tension of the time for the Columbia & matter in an unusual position, which to such an abrupt conclusion was the inone of His Honor's advisers attempted owns a mine and it is a long distance Western subsidy the impossibility of the was in its turn due to something else, ability of the government to keep up even to present even a colorable excuse for from any trail or highway. In order to C. P. R. doing the work within the time and so on until at last we find the origin a semblance of harmony in its ranks any limited by the act. The company has of Juliet's soliloquy in the convolution of longer. The relations of the ministers, to show that there is an explanation of lands. Some one else wants to use the done its work, and the extension was at some nebulous fragment in a past so re- unlike "the quality of mercy," are very mote that no one dares attempt to meas- much strained.

ure it. The same sort of reasoning will show that in the great nebulae, which telescopes bring to light, there is in pro-States have been trying hard to make a such a position by his advisers. These neen profited by his action; they had no right to accept office unless they were prepared to defend his action. Yet they either sat dumb in their seats, when His



Excellency. That was ish legislatures through that the government of t winning or losing an ele right to learn its fate sentatives of the people. cedent of 1892, when was defeated. Did he re Parliament was and he took his defeat t in the House of Commo ection he wished to real so eminent an authori Todd, who said: "Up to the year 1868 't rent of precedent' was favor of a minister, beater election, acconting his defe favor of a minister, beate election, accepting his defi-hands of parliament; and was founded on the salu that it is only through pa-the result. the nation can speak.' in 1880 the Conservative and in 1874 the Gladst and in 1874 the Gładstor tion, respectively resigned after the adverse result of to their constituencies was 1892, however, the Salisbu tion adopted the old metho defeat in parliament. Be tions the Conservative n 116: after the opposition 116; after the opposition have a majority of 40, being defeated on the a 11, 1892. So likewise in the defeat of the McCu. the defeat of the McCullo the general election on Ma administration resigned of day previous to the meeti parliament. In like man ministry resigned in Marc a general election and w parliament. And in C after the general election h ber, 1878, and which resu feat of the Reform party a leat of the Reform party —the Mackenzie administi and were replaced by the administration of Sir John The new parliament met usual period—in February, feat of the Reform party usual period—in reotated There was no parallel i tion of the Gladstone adm Mr. Gladstone had been, large majority and this h here the government wour resigned. The point at is Lieutenant-Governor nor eral, nor King even, anticipate and express people. The Premier at perfect and unchallenged parliament, so that those ported him and his polic that the matter had been highest court in the been highest court in the land ing that the Lieutenant the right to act as he did, ed the government, it duty to send for the le sition, and certainly not whom he had first call all very well to say that Mr. Beaven was a huge j a joke perpetrated on the posite. It was a certain orable leader of the ther not the confidence of the time the late governme and this being the case necessary that the gov have had the right to n ture. There was, howe in this dismissal of the s appeared on the surface graceful political trick of more would be known