

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1891.

THE GREAT CONFLICT.

Australia has, for a long time, been the great battle ground between Capital and Labor. The unions are more numerous there and better organized than, perhaps, in any other part of the world, and the combination of employers is firmer, and more extensive, than in either Europe or America. The battle between the two classes, in Australia, was hot, last year, and Labor was defeated. But it did not acknowledge itself subdued. It is still carrying on the war.

That war is not a struggle, as it has been hitherto, there and elsewhere, for better wages and shorter hours. The men are admittedly well paid, and every concession they demanded, as regards hours of labor, has been granted. It has assumed the aspect of a contest for freedom of contract. The unions contend that labor, everywhere, shall be under their direction, and performed on their terms, while the employers assert the right of any worker to accept work from any employer, and the right of any employer to engage any man wanting work.

The Shearers' Union is fighting the battle of Labor, and the Pastoral Employers' Association is contending for the rights of Capital. The Pastoralists have entered into an agreement among themselves, in which they specify the conditions under which they will give employment. By this agreement they give every competent shearer from twenty-four to thirty dollars a week and his board. This seems to be pretty liberal.

The Shearers' Union, on the other hand, has drawn its rules with which its members must comply in accepting work. The difference between the employers' conditions and the shearers' rules are said to be, except in one particular, unimportant. A union man must not accept work from an employer who gives work to non-union men, while, as we have already seen, the employers assert their right to employ whom they please, whether they are union men or non-union men. The question, as expressed by an able writer on the subject, is: "Whether men should be free to contract for work on terms offered by the masters, or should be bound to work only on union terms, subject, of course, to union interference." In a manifesto published last January by the Shearers' Union Labor says: "There is no quarrel as to the terms of shearing. What the pastoralists demand is that the men shall work under the agreement adopted by the union."

A more serious or direct attack on unionism cannot be conceived." The Queensland Pastoral Employers Association joined issue with the shearers on this ground. In a declaration of its principles and objects, it asked: "Have the labor unionists ever really considered what we are asked to do when called upon to give up our right of freedom of contract? We will never consent to further such tyranny. Every man has a right, under the laws of our country, to join a union or not, as he pleases, and this right we are determined shall remain, cost what it may. Indeed, on this question we get outside of money altogether, and treat on ground so sacred that no sacrifice is too great to preserve it."

It will be seen from this that the Australian employers are contending not only for liberty for themselves, but for liberty for all workmen who do not belong to unions. It must not be forgotten that the unions, if they could, would make it impossible for a workman, who does not belong to their organizations, to earn a single shilling. It is not hard to see that taking this position as the advocate and champion of liberty for all, gave the employers a very great advantage. When the unions took the ground that they are the masters of the whole field of labor, the sole dictators as to who shall be employed and on what terms, they compelled thousands of working men to join the ranks of their opponents. Self-preservation, which is the first law of nature, impelled men who were non-unionists, either from choice or necessity, to fight against the men who would not give them a chance to earn their own and their children's bread. The unionists, by their exclusiveness, made a division in the ranks of Labor, and the employers were not slow in taking advantage of the breach.

They sympathized with and protected the legion of "scabs" and "blacklegs," and the consequence was the employers had very little difficulty in getting all the men they needed to do their work. Some of the unions stormed and even went so far as threaten rebellion. But the authorities were prompt to put down any threatened actual breach of the peace, and instead of the seals and blacklegs being coerced to join the Unionists, very many members of the unions were glad to go to work for employers who hired the scabs and blacklegs. The present state of the struggle is thus described by the writer of the article on "The Colonies" in the London Times: "The pastoralists have not moved from their position, and shearing goes steadily forward. Time is of course on the side of the party which is able in the face of all difficulties to proceed with its daily business. The funds of the unions show signs of failing. The arrest of prominent union leaders and their condemnation for conspiracy have done much to turn the current of popular sympathy. Finally, the defection of large numbers of unionist laborers to the pastoralist camp seems to indicate the falling to pieces of the strike."

The reason of this failure is not far to seek. As long as the unionists contended for what all could see were their just rights, they had public opinion and public sympathy on their side, but when, having obtained what they contended for, they sought to dictate to the employers, and to tyrannize

over their fellow-workmen, they not only fell in public esteem, but they made enemies of many who had up to that time, been their friends and helpers. The public see a vast difference between contending for one's just rights and encroaching upon the rights of others. Unionists put themselves in the wrong, and make a most lamentable blunder, when they force capitalists to become, not only the defenders of their own rights, but also the protectors and defenders of workmen.

THE TIMES ON CANADA.

The London Times contains an appreciative article on Sir John Macdonald, and it also shows that it views the progress of events in this Dominion with an intelligent and observant eye. No one, after this, can complain of the ignorance of Canada and its affairs exhibited by the great English newspapers. The public men and journalists of Great Britain, in these days, pay greater attention to Canada and know more about her than they ever did at any previous stage of her existence. The importance of this part of the Empire is now fully understood by thinking men in Great Britain. In the speeches of its public men and in its newspaper articles, Canada is no longer the object of sneers and gibes and disparaging insinuations. Canadians are no longer told that their country is a burden and an embarrassment and that the sooner they set up for themselves or join the United States the better the Mother Country will be pleased. Canada is now spoken of respectfully by men of all parties. The Radical views with the Conservative in showing how high an estimate he places upon Canadian loyalty, and how desirous he is of seeing the connection between Great Britain and her great North American dependency continued. The Manchester school of colony contentions seems to have disappeared altogether. Instead of being annoyed at the ignorance of Canadian politics and Canadian geography, displayed by intelligent English men and English newspapers, we are surprised at the intimate knowledge many of them possess of what is going on in this country. No Canadian could have a more accurate knowledge of the difficulties that stand in the way of forming an Administration, and of carrying on a Government by any party in the Dominion, than the writer of the article headed "The political situation in Canada," in the Times of the 11th inst. He says:

"It is little to say that there are sectional differences among the members of Sir John Macdonald's party and among those of his Cabinet. There are divisions and cross divisions, much deeper and more perplexing, conflicts of interest between provinces and province, jealousies of race between British and French, rivalries between Protestants and Roman Catholics, Churchmen and Nonconformists. Sir John Macdonald's Cabinet includes Roman Catholics of English as well as of French descent, together with Protestants of the fiercest anti-papal type. Orangemen of the warmest hue sit in the same boat with Irish advocates of Home Rule or something more. Then what a task it was to frame a system of legislation which would conciliate at once the fishing and trading populations of the maritime provinces, the small homestead owners of Quebec and the English occupiers of the newly developed wheat-growing lands of Manitoba and the Northwest, and the lumberers, miners, fur hunters and sealers of British Columbia. Railway interests have to be considered in Canada, both as positive and negative forces. Ecclesiastical and educational questions play an important part in the drama of Dominion politics, as may be readily inferred from the fact that in Quebec, Roman Catholicism is substantially an established and avowedly a dominant Church, while in the other provinces it is a militant and aggressive power."

It must be remembered that it is not in the Conservative Party alone that these diverse and conflicting elements exist, and that it is not the Conservative leader only who has to adjust as best he can the varied claims of rival creeds and jealous and self-assertive provinces. The Liberal Party is made up of exactly the same material, and the Liberal leader must address himself to quite as difficult and quite as perplexing a task. This consideration should teach Canadian politicians the necessity of being moderate and conciliatory, and of refraining from fomenting jealousies and stirring up strife that will make the Government of the country by any party or any leader difficult—perhaps impossible.

UNTRUTHFUL AND ENVIUS.

Under the heading of "That Mad Hole," the Yachouer World has the following, which we reproduce, to show how unblushingly dishonest that paper can be: "DEAR COLONIST:—We are so sorry, but when you undertake to talk about that corker harbor or mud pond of yours, somebody or other you always find it necessary to falsify the facts. For your edification, The World rises to remark that the Empress of Japan is now lying at the C.P.R. wharf here without one pound of cargo aboard, and yet is drawing 25 feet 3 inches of water. More than this, when she steamed into port she was drawing just 30, not 23 feet, as you say, and as you well know the 20 foot story about the Victoria harbor will not wash. Vancouver people are glad you have such magnificent ships as the Batavia to console you in your grief. We are so sorry, though, that the Batavia is not truly Vancouver's, but that the Batavia, but then your Chinese trade is a most important one. We are credibly informed that the only freight the Batavia carried to Victoria was 123 Chinese. Ta-ti! Victoria, Yours truly, Vancouver."

It is hardly necessary to adduce figures to prove that the World has stated what is simply and brazenly false. The Empress of India when she called at Victoria with 23 passengers and a full cargo was drawing 23 feet. The Empress of Japan when anchored off the outer wharf was drawing 23 feet 6 inches. The assertion, therefore, that her draught entering Vancouver was 30 feet is untrue. The specifications and account of her trial trip, published in the World, the Saturday before her arrival, stated that the Empress of India's mean draught is 22 feet

6 inches. The three ships were built from the same plans. The further assertion, therefore, that she was drawing 25 feet 3 inches at Vancouver wharf without one pound of cargo aboard is also untrue.

Yesterday, the steamer Costa Rica, drawing 24 feet, was lying at the outer dock, taking on supplies for the war-ships in Behring's Sea. The Batavia, drawing 22 feet, docked easily at the outer wharf, passing over the alleged ridge of sand. It is generally believed that the Empress can dock as readily as either of the vessels mentioned above. However, the stone pier will be completed in about three weeks, and there will be water sufficient at the wharf and in the approaches to it to permit any vessel afloat to lay alongside of it. If the Empress do not then make this port a place for landing and taking on passengers, mails and freight, Victorians will know what policy to follow. The barefaced untruths published by the World, and its silly malice when discussing anything Victorian, are of so little moment, as to be hardly worth mentioning.

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD.

The Dominion of Canada is twenty-four years old to-day. It has safely passed the stage of infancy, and is entering the period of youth. It has grown well and become compact and sturdy. Its constitution is evidently sound, and it can face the trials and difficulties before it with a stout heart. The croakers who have since it came into the world been predicting its speedy dissolution are still prophesying that it cannot live much longer; but they are a shallow and shortsighted crowd. They are always mistaking the signs of the times and always declaring that the nearest difficulty is too great for the Dominion to surmount. But this young and vigorous country has hitherto disappointed the faint-hearted and nervous prophets of evil, and it will still continue to prove that they are as foolish as their habits have developed into dismal moons. Canada has lost its great Chieftain, its veteran Guide, and they declare that the Confederation will not long survive him. They see, now that he is gone, nothing but ruin—ruin commercial and political—before the people of Canada. They are, we are satisfied, again mistaken. Canada's prosperity and development do not depend upon the life or the capacity of any one man, let him be ever so gifted and ever so influential. There are millions in this Dominion who will work intelligently and courageously to keep our country on the path in which it has travelled so far, and there will be others, when they are gone, ready and willing to take their places. Canadians have good reason to celebrate the twenty-fourth birthday of the Dominion joyfully and hopefully, knowing that there are in it in active operation the elements of healthy growth and symmetrical development.

MR. POPE'S LETTER.

Mr. Pope's letter in reply to that of the secretary of the Board of Trustees relative to the Principal of the High School's complaint is moderate and gentlemanly. It should be remembered that the Superintendent of Education was under no kind of obligation to do more than acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Erskine's letter. The Board of Trustees had no authority whatever in the matter. The Superintendent is not responsible to them for the manner in which he discharges his duties. It would have been much better in every way if the Board of Trustees had informed Mr. McLeod that the matter of which he complained was one with which they had no power to deal. Mr. McLeod is too intelligent a man not to know that the Trustees cannot remedy, or, indeed, inquire into, any grievance which may have against the officials of the Department of Education. The whole proceeding was, therefore, out of order, and could not possibly end satisfactorily to any of the parties concerned.

A BAD BREAK.

It is amusing to see what gross and stupid blunders the oldest and most experienced politicians sometimes make, and it is even more amusing to watch how readily those who admire them, and believe in them, repeat and perpetuate their mistakes. Sir Richard Cartwright, a few days ago, committed a measure for which he, himself, had voted, and although it was about a British Columbia matter, the Times Ottawa correspondent, and the Times itself, accuse him of the inconsistency by reproaching, in this city, Sir Richard's self-condemnatory speech.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Times wishes to make its readers believe that putting sugar on the free list is an adoption of the policy of the Liberals. When the Liberals were in power and had a chance of giving effect to their principles, did they take the duty off sugar? Had the Dominion free sugar under the Mackenzie regime? While the Liberals were in power they did not take the duty off sugar or lower the tariff generally. On the contrary, they raised the tariff from fifteen to seventeen and a half per cent. In this, as in many other things, their policy when in opposition was very different from their policy when in power.

valuable coal areas and handing that control over to monopolists."

Here we see Sir Richard Cartwright declaring that he, with others of the Liberal Party, protested against handing the coal areas of Vancouver Island over to monopolists. What are the facts? When the British Columbia Settlement Bill was introduced by Sir Charles Tupper it was strenuously opposed by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Homer, on the ground, among others, that granting so much land to a company would probably tend to create a great coal monopoly in this province. Mr. Blake, who was then leader of the Liberals, and who made the speech which he made on Mr. Homer's amendment, said: "It is not my intention to vote for the motion in amendment moved by the hon. member for New Westminster." That amendment was rejected without a division. Here Sir Richard Cartwright had a fine opportunity to enter his protest, but he did nothing of the kind. The only Liberal who spoke against the measure at that stage was Mr. Charlton. The only other member besides the two British Columbia members named who criticized it adversely was the Hon. Peter Mitchell. When the bill was read a third time the six months' hoist was moved. Here another chance was afforded Sir Richard of protesting, but he did not protest. He did something else and something very different. He voted for the bill and against the motion to kill it. In Sir Richard's usual way of protesting against a measure? But this is not all. How did the other members of the Opposition, whom Sir Richard represents as telling "the Government they were trifling with the resources of the country and doing a very great injury to the future of British Columbia," act? Did they protest? Not a bit of it. The leading men among them voted against the motion to read the bill that day six months. Here is a list of the Liberals who voted with the Conservative Government on that occasion: Davies, Burpee (St. John), Cameron (Huron), Blake, Mills, Weldon (St. John), Cartwright, MacKenzie, Laurier, Holton, Malcol, Troy. The motion was lost on a division of 121 to 29. The minority was composed of eight Liberals and eleven Conservatives. Thirty-four Liberals voted for the bill. After this the Times will not place implicit faith in the random statements made in debate by Sir Richard Cartwright. It knows now that even his positive assertions respecting matters in which he took part need to be verified before they are reproduced.

TOO LONG DEFERRED.

We see by our Seattle exchanges that miners are in a very bad state at the Franklin coal mine. The striking miners and the Company's employes have been allowed to go on, from bad to worse, until blood has been shed and lives lost. Would it not have been better to have sent the militia to the mines at an early stage of the disturbance? An outbreak has been long imminent. The men working in the mines had been supplied with arms for their own defence, and arms were in the hands of the strikers. We see the result of this, and the probability is that worse will follow. If a company of soldiers were sent a month or so ago, to protect the mines, there would have been no outbreak of violence, and in all probability matters would have settled down long before this. A few demagogues might have declared that the presence of troops was an insult to the law-abiding men of Franklin, and they might have tried to make political capital against the authorities for having taken a wise precautionary measure. But the country would have been undisturbed, agitation would have subsided, life would have been saved and the law respected. All this would have been done as it was done at Wellington, without a shot being fired or any breach of the peace being committed. The policy of locking the door after the horse has been stolen is, from every point of view, a bad one. When the people see that the Government is determined to enforce law and to preserve the peace, the men who counsel violence soon find that their occupation is gone. Those who are peaceably disposed are strengthened and encouraged, and the whole community is in a better position to listen to the voice of reason. It was a great mistake in the Washington authorities to allow matters to go so far as they did before they showed their determination to put down lawlessness.

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THE STEAMSHIP WEST CHIAN.

The steamship West Chian, Capt. S. F. Scott, came out of dock yesterday, and at once left for Nanaimo, where she has been chartered for an excursion to Vancouver to-day. While in dry dock she was classed A 1, in black, in the American register, being found in thoroughly first-class condition. Returning to Nanaimo with the holiday passengers she will at once go under the tips, and load coal for San Francisco, for which port she sails Thursday. In San Francisco she will take on a full cargo of provisions for Iquique, where she fleet and citizens are now enduring almost starvation. She will bring back nitrate, and resume her regular business in about two months.

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It is not pleasant to be compelled to refer to the indisputable fact that medical science has utterly failed to afford relief in Rheumatism of any kind. There is nothing so great as the relief that electricity has only been in use as a remedial agent for a few years. It has cured more cases of Rheumatism than all other means combined. Some of our leading physicians, recognizing this fact, are availing themselves of this most potent of Nature's forces.

REHUMATISM. As man has not yet discovered all of Nature's laws for high living, it follows that every one who has committed more or less errors which have left visible blotches. To erase these evidences of past errors, there is nothing so great as the relief that electricity has only been in use as a remedial agent for a few years. It has cured more cases of Rheumatism than all other means combined. Some of our leading physicians, recognizing this fact, are availing themselves of this most potent of Nature's forces.

EXTRACTS FROM CANADIAN TESTIMONIALS. "For eight years I have suffered with rheumatism, and am now out of pain and growing better daily and in my 76th year. Can confidently recommend the Owen Belt when every thing else fails." A. Menzie, Niagara Falls. "Having some knowledge of electricity and its power, and having used other belts prior to my use of yours, I can say that it is the best I have ever worn." Jas. Blair, Port Dalhousie. "A much pleased with belt; it has done me a great deal of good already." J. S. Bergin, Gait, Ont. "I have been a sufferer for years from nervous headaches and neuralgia. After trying one of your belts am now better satisfied with it. Can knock out a headache now in fifteen minutes that used to keep me in bed for days." Thomas Gait, Ont. "I have been a sufferer for years from nervous headaches and neuralgia. After trying one of your belts am now better satisfied with it. Can knock out a headache now in fifteen minutes that used to keep me in bed for days." Thomas Gait, Ont.

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED. TO THE EDITOR: Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send you a copy of my remedy and the names of the many who have been cured, if you will send me their names and Post Office Address. Respectfully, T. A. BLOOM, M.C., 185 West Adelaide St., TORONTO, ONTARIO.

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