

The Colonist

FRIDAY, AUGUST, 23 1895.

UNCONVINCED.

The Times is not satisfied with the Premier's explanation relative to the Canadian Pacific mail contract. We are not at all surprised at this. Our contemporary has made up its mind that the transaction is a crooked one and no evidence that can be adduced and no explanation that can be made can convince it to the contrary. It knows nothing whatever about the details of the transaction yet it asserts without the slightest qualification that the C. P. R. gets under the new arrangement more from the government than it earns. If in a matter of private business a man who knew nothing about the particulars should take upon himself to declare that one of the parties had been imposed upon or had stupidly or dishonestly given more for property or labor than it was worth, he would be set down as an ignorant busybody; and we do not see that the transaction being a public one makes any difference in the character, or the attitude of the critic who does not know and does not want to know the particulars. The Times, like some of the other Opposition papers, at first maintained that the Government did not possess the power to make the arrangement and that when they did make it they encroached upon the prerogatives of Parliament. They have, it seems, found out they were wrong in this contention. They still, however, maintain that the C.P.R. has been unduly favored, though they are evidently altogether ignorant of the grounds on which the arrangement was made or the service which the Railway Company gives in return for the money it receives. The Vancouver News-Advertiser good humoredly chaffs our contemporary on its prudence in passing judgment before it hears the evidence. It says:

The whole matter is so simple that the Times showed excellent judgment in not spoiling its sensation by stating the actual facts. For some years the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has been receiving much less per mile for carrying the mail than the Grand Trunk Railway receives for similar services. The former company carries more mail matter, carries it with greater rapidity and gives more frequent service on some parts of its system than it was required to do when the mail contract was made with it. Yet it has received no additional remuneration. The difference between the amount per mile paid to it and the sum paid to the Grand Trunk Railway is indeed so great that it is quite easy to understand why the Times did not desire to spoil the effect of the huge mare's nest it had discovered.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

There is a good deal of discussion in England as to the issues of the late general election and the lesson it is calculated to teach. The Times says that "The plain lesson of the general election is that the people of Great Britain, from the highest to the lowest, do not want a revolutionary policy, and are thoroughly sick of having it thrust down their throats." This is plain speaking, and it is most likely nothing more than the truth. But it might have occurred to the writer of the article that if the policy which Mr. Chamberlain has outlined—rather dimly it is true—be carried out, the measures proposed by the new Government will be really more revolutionary than anything contained in the Newcastle programme. To change the character of the legislation of the country, to make it mainly social instead of being mainly political, will be revolutionary in a deeper and a wider sense than anything that was attempted by the late Government. Such a change may be necessary and it may prove beneficial, but it will be, if it is effected, without doubt revolutionary in the strongest sense of the term. If the people of England are to oppose measures merely because they are called "revolutionary" they will not listen to Mr. Chamberlain's proposals about old age pensions and dwellings for workmen, and others of the same character. We do not believe that the present Government will endeavor to thrust any measure down the throats of the people, and we have a notion that the great body of British Conservatives will hesitate long and deliberate seriously before they permit their Government to take many steps in the direction of social socialism.

The Times is severe on those who are, now that there is a sweeping majority against them, making inquiries into the nature of parliamentary majorities for the purpose of leading the people to believe that a big majority is, after all, not so powerful or so representative as it appears. "Those," it says, "who applauded Lord Rosebery for declaring that he would continue to govern with a majority of two, and who would have used that majority to impose legislation, not touching Ireland, by Irish votes upon Englishmen and Scotchmen, have now become suddenly alarmed about the rights of minorities. We heard nothing of these scruples when the late Government came into power with a majority of 40, or even when it was forced to subside on a majority of seven. But now when there is a majority of over 150 it is argued that chance has distributed the votes and that the decision is not that of the true democracy. This is the *reductio ad absurdum* of representative government. If a majority such as that returned at the present election is not to be treated as embodying a final and sufficient popular verdict, where is one to be sought for? Surely not in a majority like that of 1892 when the wishes of Englishmen were overridden by the votes of Irishmen on questions concerning England alone.

There seems to be a difference of opinion between the vanquished and the victors as to what were the issues at the election. The beaten party assert that Home Rule for Ireland was not prominently before the people during the late election. This is a very singular contention when the very name adopted by what is now the Government party showed that the preservation of the Empire was the main if not the sole object of their exertions,

the only plank in their platform, indeed, to which any great prominence was given. Why did the party of which Lord Salisbury was the leader adopt the name of "Unionists"? In that campaign the members of that party were not Conservatives or Liberals. Both names were merged in the title Unionist. This was most significant as to what they regarded as the great issue before the people. And in order to make the issue still plainer and to bring it more prominently before the people, the Salisbury party invariably spoke of their opponents as "Separatists."

"It verges upon impudence," says the Times, "for Radicals to assert that Home Rule was not an important issue in the controversy. It was certainly thrown into the background before the dissolution, but Mr. Morley 'nailed the green flag to the mast' when the elections were impending and every one of his leading colleagues in the Lower House felt it necessary at the last moment to reassure the Irish nationalists by protesting that Home Rule was most precious to Radicals. This can be established in the fullest detail by reference to the election addresses and speeches of the members of the late Government. Beyond all controversy, if they had obtained, by some freak of fortune, a majority however narrow, it would have been claimed as giving popular sanction to Home Rule, to disestablishment and to every other article in the Newcastle programme."

REPARATION DIFFICULT.

Missionaries in China have nothing to fear from the hostility of the Government of the country. It, indeed, appears favorably disposed towards them. But they have much to fear from its weakness and its apathy. It appears to be unable either to prevent outrages against them or to punish outrages when they are committed.

The people of many parts of China, as is well known, hate foreigners of all nations and creeds. They attribute to them all sorts of evil intentions and among themselves accuse them of the most diabolical crimes. The antipathy to foreigners is kept alive by publications circulated among the people declaring that the "foreign devils" come to the country for no other purpose than to maim and mutilate their children and to do them all sorts of injury by their wicked arts and their evil eyes. The people hating the foreigners and being most ignorant and incredibly superstitious, believe these horrible libels, and are ready on almost any pretext to do violence to the missionaries when, in their opinion, it can be done with impunity. The local authorities and the soldiery are as strongly prejudiced against the foreigners as are the populace. The consequence is that when the missionaries are attacked their sympathies are with their assailants, and instead of trying to capture the rioters and murderers, they not infrequently help them to commit acts of violence, and aid them to elude the officers of justice when the Government is at last prevailed upon to take active measures against them.

In consequence of the prejudices of the people, and the slackness and in many cases the powerlessness of the Government to punish the offenders, missionaries in China have been often, even of late years, subjected to cruel outrages. "In 1870 the French consul at Tientsin, the French interpreter and his wife and twenty nuns were killed; in 1871 there were outrages at Yung-Chow; in 1872 at Hankow and Shanghai. In 1874 was a massacre of the French at Shanghai, Mr. Margery was murdered in 1875, in 1876 the missionaries at Foochow were raided and assaulted, in 1883 the British concession at Canton was burned while there was an uprising against missionaries. In 1886, 1888, 1889 and 1890 there were similar outrages in various places, and there was a frightful record in 1891 during riots at Nankin, Wuhu, Iohang, and other places, when houses were burned, missionaries assaulted, maimed and killed."

The complaint is that the Chinese Government was either unwilling or unable to punish the greater number of the men who committed these outrages. The British Government, it is more than probable, will find it impossible to procure the punishment of those who perpetrated the murders and other acts of violence in Kucheng. There will probably be no difficulty in getting what may be considered a fair indemnification for the injury done to British subjects, but to secure the punishment of the offenders and to bring about a state of things in which such crimes will be next to impossible will, we fear, be far beyond the power of diplomacy. Such a result can only be brought about by a thorough re-organization of the Chinese government and the most sweeping reforms in Chinese administration. An imperial government must be made strong, and apathetic and corrupt public servants must be made energetic and honest. Nothing short of a miracle could produce these results within a reasonable time. And when this is done the work would not be completed. The prejudices and antipathies of the people must be eradicated. They must be made to believe that the missionaries come to their country not with any evil designs against them and their children, but to do them good, that, incredible as it may seem to them the "foreign devils" are no devils at all but benevolent and premeditated men and women, who have sacrificed everything that most people consider pleasant and desirable to endeavor to make the people of China better and to bring them to a knowledge of what they believe to be the truth. This really means educating the whole people of that vast empire and uprooting prejudices and hatreds which have been the growth of centuries. But as far as we can see this must be done in order to make China a safe place for missionaries and other foreigners to live in.

"Well, Johnnie," said a dotting uncle to his little nephew, who had been fishing all day, "did you catch a good many fish?" "No, uncle, but I drowned a good many worms."—London Tit-Bits.

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P. O. BOX 188.

TELEPHONE NO. 74.

THE "WARRIMOO."

Official Report of the Casualty Which Befel the Unfortunate Steamer.

She Will Probably Leave the Dock Today or Monday.

Yesterday, the finding of the inquiry held into the grounding of the steamer Warrimoo, was presented to the press for publication. It is quite in accordance with what has already appeared in the COLONIST, but the official report, prepared by Capt. Gaudin, and which has been forwarded to Ottawa, is as follows:

"On considering the evidence of the captain, first and second officers and lookout, given before me re the stranding of the R. M. S. Warrimoo on the 9th inst., at Bonilla Point, I find that reasonable care and precaution was taken in making the land, that there can be no doubt about the land seen being Flat-topped rocks. Whilst the weather was tolerably clear a north (true) course was a prudent one to steer, there being a bank of easy soundings along this coast. At 11 o'clock, half an hour after making the land, a dense fog set in, obscuring all surrounding objects. The master prudently changed his course to N. 70 deg. W., in order to reach a deep gully extending northward and which he intended to follow until within the straits of Juan de Fuca. At 11:30, having reached the desired locality, a N. 30 deg. E. course was set to follow this deep basin, and frequent soundings were taken to verify the position of the ship. At noon reckoning the ship bore from Latoosh Island N. 75 deg. W., five miles distant. From this position the course was changed to N. 53 deg. E., edging inwards into Fucus Straits, still continuing in the gully of deep soundings previously mentioned. The lead was kept going to verify the position of the ship. Particular attention seems to have been paid in the endeavor to hear the Latoosh Island fog whistle, but no sound was heard. No importance, however, was attached to this, as this fog alarm is proverbially unreliable. No indications of approaching Carmanah were noticed till 12:30 p.m.,

when the fog horns were faintly heard, but the soundings gave no indications that the ship was not in her supposed position. From the chief mate's evidence it appears that the Carmanah fog horns were heard a little more distinctly as the ship went on, but hearing what was taken to be a tug's whistle inshore signalling to her to stop seemed to lend confidence that the Warrimoo's reckoning was correct. After a sufficient distance had been run, placing the ship in nearly a mid-channel course up Fucus Straits, with Carmanah fog horns abeam, kelp and rocks were sighted, and before the ship had gained sternway, she stranded on the rocky point of Bonilla. Whilst due precaution seems to have been exercised in the courses steered, frequent soundings, etc., it does not, however, appear that the stage of the tide or the set of the current (although of unknown quantity) seems to have been taken into consideration. It being about quarter flood when the land was made on the date in question, the ship met with the strength of the flood tide, which sets well towards Bonilla Point before turning to the eastward up Fucus Straits, and to this cause may be attributed this accident. The chart used by the master was the latest issue obtainable in Sydney at the time of the sailing of the ship. The rocky reef extending nearly one mile off Bonilla Point was not marked on it. The British Columbia Pilot, latest edition, 1888, which was used, is also silent on the existence of this reef on Bonilla Point. Taking into consideration the good seamanship displayed in getting the ship off this dangerous reef, and special care having been observed in the care of life and property, I most respectfully recommend that the master's certificate be not dealt with."

"J. GAUDIN."

Owing to the unfinished state of the Warrimoo's repairs she was unable to leave dock last night, but will probably do so to-night or on Monday night.

SISTER SOCIETIES.

Yesterday turned out a delightful day for the I.O.O.F. excursion to Tacoma. Having a splendid steamer in the City of Kingston, the excursionists wanted for nothing more than good weather and a smooth sea to make the comfort of all complete so far as concerned the trip. The Kingston left her berth at 6:30 o'clock in the morning with close on to 600 people on board, and according to calculations would reach Tacoma about 10 o'clock in the afternoon. A seven hour stay in Tacoma was also calculated on, thus giving the excursionists an excellent opportunity of seeing the city. Heretofore the annual I.O.O.F. excursion has usually been to Seattle, but the change this year will no doubt meet with general approval. The Tacoma people prepared a lunch for the visitors upon their arrival there. Coming home the Victorians enjoyed a fine concert furnished by some of the best local talent.

The Uniform Rank, K. of P., intend celebrating their anniversary on Sept. 4 by a social and dance. At the last meeting of Loyal Dauntless Lodge, C.O.F., Bro. Tagg gave an interesting account of his recent visit to the sister lodges of the province. Bro. Hanson Pirth was appointed correspondent to the Canadian Oddfellow. By invitation Loyal Fernwood lodge will offer Loyal Dauntless lodge on September 5.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

To THE EDITOR:—I read in this evening's paper that the offer made had given way to a certain point, but was being repaired. Is this because the specifications on which the contractor tendered were departed from, and only one row of piles with boarding substituted for two rows of piles? It is important to the city that no chances be taken. The breaking away of the cofferdam would mean loss of life to the workmen below it, and a supply of water out off from the city. It is poor in quality and deficient in pressure as it is, but what a serious position the city would be in from a safe and sanitary standpoint if the supply was altogether removed. If chances are being taken, in order that the contract may be made more profitable, it is simply criminal. There is a water committee, a water commissioner and a city engineer, and they should look to it that full precautions are taken in this most important matter. If the engineer in charge of the work thought it necessary to prepare a plan for two rows of piles after making surveys and soundings, why has he now altered it? and that, too, I understand, without consulting any of the afore-mentioned city officials about it. It should not be a question of how small a strength is capable of keeping back the water of Beaver Lake, but the effort should be so made that there would be no doubt about its being able to do the work. I am not an alarmist, but am only desirous of seeing that the life of men and the health and safety of the city is not endangered through the action of a young and perhaps over-confident engineer. August 17, 1895.

THE ORGAN-GRINDER. He stands outside my window in the street. A humble minstrel of a dozen lays. A memory of simpler, happier days. Dear "Home, Sweet Home" and the faithful "Marguerite." I did not know their music was so sweet. The "Washerwoman" and the "Maiden." I know not which should have my highest praise. Their very ordinariness makes them so complete. Weary of Wagner and his kindred notes. Of Verdi's acrobatic baritone. I love in this arm-delivered air. Which whips a score of years from out my sight. Rejoice me with a bubbling boy's delight. And leaves me scant of pennies and of care. —Exchange. Two solos with but a single thought. Two feet that slipped as one. And when at last he reached the earth. The meeting jarred the son.—Boston Courier.