

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1896.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message differs in many essential respects from the speech from the throne. It does not outline the policy of the Government, and it does not indicate what measures the party in power proposes to introduce and support.

The message sent to Congress on Monday is most likely President Cleveland's last message. In a few months another Administration will have the management of the affairs of the United States, and it is not likely that the new administration will look upon Mr. Cleveland's utterances as authoritative or will be disposed, as far as its power extends, to carry out Mr. Cleveland's recommendations.

A good part of the message is retrospective. The President, as every loyal American citizen should be, is pleased with the way in which the very important election contest, closed only a few weeks ago, was conducted, and with the loyal acquiescence of the defeated party in the result.

The President when discussing the situation in Turkey is no doubt not nearly so sentimental and sympathetic as many United States citizens would like him to be. He is evidently not indifferent to the sufferings of the Armenians, but he in effect tells Congress that if the rights of American citizens in Turkey are recognized and respected, the trouble between the Sultan and his Armenian subjects is none of their business.

Mr. Cleveland regards the situation in Cuba pretty much in the same light as he does that in Turkey. His sympathies are evidently with the insurgents, but he finds that his position requires him to refrain from gratifying his personal feelings at the expense of the people of the United States.

In Cuba, as in Turkey, he is determined that the rights of American citizens shall be respected. The persons and the property of such citizens must be secure. If harm comes to them the Cuban Government will be called to strict account.

The mischief of it is that the Spaniards do not seem to understand what a genuine autonomy measure of home rule means, or, if they do, they are determined to see Cuba transformed into a desert, rather than give its inhabitants what Americans and Canadians regard as a reasonable measure of self-government.

The interference of the United States can as yet be only a matter of conjecture. The President deals in a sensible way with the financial question. He has earned a right to speak with authority on that question. By his clear-headedness, his firmness and his courage in a very critical and trying time President Cleveland saved the people of the United States from financial disaster, the extent and the consequences of which no man living can calculate.

A FAILURE. The Mail and Empire of Dec. 1 says: "So far Liberal newspapers and Ministerial circulars have failed to get together a single denunciation of free traders. But impossible as that task has up to the present been found, it is easy of accomplishment by comparison with that other difficulty which free trade organs think should be undertaken, namely, the hiving of all the consumers apart from all the producers.

OUR EASTERN FRIENDS. The Eastern papers continue to discuss the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. The interest taken in the project by our Eastern fellow subjects is intense. The Kootenay trade seems to them most desirable, and they look upon the Crow's Nest road as not merely the best but the only means of securing it.

One of the greatest drawbacks to successful farming in the Western country has been the great distance from markets, but with the influx of capital to the mining regions on each side, British Columbia to the West and Northwestern Ontario to the East, it will give an increased home market for agricultural products such as flour, beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs.

This statement of the Farmer's Advocate is very ingenious. It wants the Crow's Nest Pass railway to be built to give the farmers east of the Rocky mountains a better market for their produce than they have now. It might have struck the Advocate that there are farmers on the Western slope who want this new market quite as much as do those of the Eastern plains.

Whether built by the Government, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company or some other private corporation, a line from the Kootenay country connecting with the Canadian Pacific would be naturally under the domination of that through line. Its freight rates, time tables, even its daily operation, would be subject to the control of the existing corporation.

The question of who is to build the road appears to be of very great interest to the Toronto Globe. That paper seems to think that the only choice that can be made is that of the dear departed Hobson, for it says:

The Montreal Witness also discusses the Kootenay Railway. It treats the subject with a levity which some will regard as unpardonable. The Witness has very little respect for the newspaper engineer and railway projector, and makes no bones about saying what it thinks. It says:

The railway as projected is from Lethbridge to the Kootenay region west of the Columbia river. The distance as the crow flies is about two hundred miles, but it is only the crow that can fly straight to the Crow's Nest. The newspaper engineers who have decided upon the necessity of the railway, who have

surveyed the route, laid down the line, measured the distance, and calculated the cost, all in their own back offices, and have left the Government nothing in the world to do but build it, give the length of the line as 'three or four hundred miles,' and 'the cost six million or eight million dollars.' They are not particular to a hundred miles or so, or to a couple of millions of dollars.

The Witness is evidently ignorant of the fact that there are extensive coal-fields west of Crow's Nest Pass, from which Kootenay can get all the coal it requires as long as it has ore to smelt. It is, however, convinced of the fact, that if the road begins at Lethbridge it will be under the control of the Canadian Pacific, no matter who builds or who operates it.

It is of interest, however, to note that Lethbridge is a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that the new road, if it ended there, would necessarily be absolutely controlled by that line, no matter who held it. The people of the West do not like this feature of the case. They have had enough of the expansion of railway monopoly, and when Government comes to their aid again in the railway line they want that it shall be to break and not to confirm the bondage in which they are now held.

HOW TO LOSE KOOTENAY. TO THE EDITOR:—I have read your thoughtful article on railway construction in British Columbia, especially on the line through the Crow's Nest Pass to Kootenay. There can be little doubt but that line will be in course of construction by the spring of next year, and unless the government build it themselves, it will be done by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT. The Times of the 7th instant says: "Those who are so ready to represent Government by Commissioners as a panacea for municipal ills should ask the people in Southern and West Kootenay what they think of it. Practically all the municipal functions in that district are vested in a Commissioner appointed by the Provincial Government, and if the unanimous opinion of the local press can be taken as a correct indication, the experience is a most dismal failure."

SCHOOL CONTROVERSY. WINNIPEG, Dec. 9.—(Special)—At a meeting of the public school board last night a new teacher was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by a resignation. Mr. Bawlf, Roman Catholic, advocated the claims of a Catholic young lady to the position. He said she had papers qualifying her for the position. The settlement of the school question said that Catholic teachers were to be engaged, and the present time was a very appropriate one for the board to put on record its approval of the settlement by the appointment of his nominee.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY. NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Herald from Bombay says: Eight hundred deaths are reported up to date from the plague, but the number is believed to be much larger. Crowds of panic-stricken natives are fleeing from the city. Trade and travel are seriously affected. The famine which threatened the whole of India has been partially averted in certain districts by the recent rains. Only one case is reported of a person recently attending a patient having contracted the plague. The disease, though infectious, has not proved contagious. The government bacteriologists are of the opinion that the plague, unlike cholera, has a tendency to stick to the locality where it originates.

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taking power to itself by legislation to levy a local rate sufficient to cover the necessary expenditure incurred thereby. This power, in a measure, it already possesses, by virtue of the provisions of the Provincial Health Act, in cases of emergency; but it is felt by the Government, and very properly too, that the people themselves interested should decide as to what improvements they require, and have the power to assess themselves in order to be able to carry out their wishes. To do this it is necessary to form themselves into municipalities.

When municipalities are being formed the question as to how the Municipal Government should be administered, whether through a Board of Mayor and Aldermen or a Board of Commissioners, naturally becomes pertinent; but that question should not be prejudiced by considerations which in no way, or at least very remotely, affect it. Further than that, the Government so far as we know has not expressed any desire for Municipal Government by Commission, and we have no doubt it is perfectly willing that the people in each municipality should be their own judges in such matters.

Complete Understanding Between Britain and Russia as to Reforms in Turkey. Russian, British and French Fleets to Be Mobilized Near the Black Sea. NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Herald from Constantinople says: The announcement is made that M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, has again postponed his journey to the end of the month. This is looked upon here as an auspicious sign, that Russia proposes giving Turkey the necessary time to apply reforms. Col. Peschhoff has started for Crete and will probably be president of the police reform committee.

AN INSULT TO THE BAR. MONTREAL, Dec. 9.—(Special)—A report comes from Quebec that a lesson was read the Minister of Justice and the Liberal government at Ottawa on Saturday by Chief Justice Casault in the superior court. Mr. Deguire, a Liberal lawyer, made a motion that he should be substituted as attorney in one of the government cases. His Honor, it is reported, said in reply: "I cannot do otherwise than allow this motion, but I deem it my duty to say what I think of the proceedings before me. I do not hesitate to say that what has been done constitutes an insult which should be felt by the whole bar. It is not because the Liberal government has taken the place of a Conservative that in cases in which the crown is interested, the lawyers should be changed and a Liberal lawyer named in place of the Conservatives who represented it. In this country politics spoil everything."

UTILIZING NIAGARA. NIAGARA FALLS, Dec. 9.—It is stated here that a contract has been signed in New York by which Messrs. Albright and Wilson (limited), one of the largest firms manufacturing electric and chemical products in Great Britain, will establish a factory on the lands of the Niagara Falls Power Company, employing a large number of men. The land leased covers 212 acres. The land leased covers 212 acres. The land leased covers 212 acres. The land leased covers 212 acres.

MARRIED. REV. EDWARDS.—On the 3rd inst., by the Rev. J. A. Leaky, Henry Fry, of E. of Duroona, to Eleanor Brooke, youngest daughter of Milton Edgson, Esq., Comliant, B.C. KYNASTON-BLACKMAN.—December 8th, in Christ Church Cathedral, by the Rev. Canon Becklands, Wilfred Kynaston, of "Ashling," Victoria, and of Croydon, Eng., to Annie L. Blackman, second daughter of the late Rev. T. Willoughby Blackman, D.C.L., Rector of Catmore, Wantage, Eng.

DIED. WALL.—At her father's residence, 49 Princess Avenue, on the 4th inst., Lullio, youngest daughter of Mr. John Wall, aged 20 years. CHADWICK.—On December 7th, Frederick H. Chadwick, aged 57 years, a native of London, England. MOFFAT.—On Monday evening at 10 o'clock, at residence of her parents, No. 24 St. John Avenue, James Bay, Mary Jane Moffat, only child of Thos. Moffat, aged 2 years and four months. JOHNSON.—In this city, December 7th, 1896, Peter Johnson, a native of Greece, aged 35 years. MCGILLIEN.—At the Jubilee Hospital, on the 23rd inst., Robert McMillen, a native of Ireland, and late of Vernon, B.C., aged 41 years. HEAL.—On the 8th inst., at the residence of his son, C. A. Heal, Lake, aged 20 years. DONALD.—On the 9th inst., John Donald, a native of County Down, Ireland, aged 70 years.

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