

## A STORM IN VANCOUVER.

There is a great commotion in civic circles in Vancouver in regard to the control of the police. The majority of the city council favor a certain policy as bearing upon certain moral questions. The police commissioners appointed by the government have already expressed themselves as opposed to the course outlined. Here is a chance for Hon. Charles Wilson to get in his finished diplomatic work. A few weeks ago he stated that Vancouver spoke with the voice of the whole province when it elected him to the Legislature by a handsome majority. He, with the assistance of Bowser, secured the amendments to the charter under which the government of which he is a shining light took away from the city of Vancouver a portion of its rights as a self-governing municipality. Now, cannot the Attorney-General prove to the satisfaction of the aldermen that he, not they, represents the sentiments of the people of Vancouver? If he can move the council from its station of contumacy he may with reason claim that he has done something to detract from the reputation for blundering and stupidity the government of which he is a member has already achieved in British Columbia. If he cannot we fear a fuller knowledge by the people of Vancouver of the consequences of the acts now being put in force by the McBride administration, coupled with the indignation which has been aroused over the police commission business, may have a serious effect upon the popularity of McBride and his colleagues in the only portion of the province which has hitherto delighted to do them honor.

## BORDEN, MONK AND TARTE.

The Dominion government has lost Tarte; the Dominion opposition has caught a Tarte. The ex-Minister of Public Works found that he could not boss the government. The acclaim with which he was received by the Conservatives when he was told by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to transfer his ill-directed energies elsewhere fitted the political Beldabb with such burning zeal that he straightway turned into lead the opposition in Quebec. Mr. Monk could not stand that. He found there were in the party in Quebec certain elements that were hostile to him. He resigned the leadership. Mr. Tarte will follow the example set by Premier McBride in British Columbia and force himself upon the Conservatives in the eastern province. When the coup is delivered the Conservative party in Quebec will be ready for business.

The leaders confess that the only chance for the party to succeed in the Dominion lies in the prospect of a great overturning in the second province. There are either seven or five Tory representatives from that province in the Federal Parliament at the present time. It does not matter greatly which is the correct figure. There are many able and not a few brilliant French-Canadians in the Dominion Parliament, but there is not a single one of them allied with the Conservative party. This is one of the notable features of the political situation in Canada at the present time. The young men are all being attracted round the banner set up by the gifted and revered Laurier. Tarte was filled with ambition to create a rival school. It is now evident that he has merely succeeded in creating a rift in the party and that the consequence will probably be a further reduction in the Conservative representation in the House. Possibly Quebec may join issue with British Columbia for the doubtful honor of instructing one political delegate to cast the Conservative vote of the province.

## WORK OF TORPEDO BOATS.

The Toronto News has been looking into naval records, and as a result proceeds to correct the alleged popular impression that dashing, daring work with torpedo boats is new feature in warfare. It says torpedo craft have entered harbors and attacked warships for the last forty years. In the American Civil War half a dozen vessels were destroyed by torpedoes of various types. More than one of these exploits required particularly cold-blooded courage, for the weapon then most used was the spar-torpedo, and it was necessary for the boat to steal up to within a few feet of her victim to bring the explosive to bear. The torpedo boat proper, armed with the self-propelling Whitehead torpedo, came into use about 1878. During the Russo-Turkish war, the Russians torpedoed several Turkish ships lying in harbor, displaying pertinacious courage in steering in under cover of night. In the Franco-Chinese war of 1884 the French sank several Chinese vessels. In 1891 the Chilean Civil War was distinguished by a daring dash into Caldera Bay, and the destruction of the Blanco Encalada by two torpedo gunboats, the Lynch and the Condell. In 1894 the Brazilian Civil War was marked by the torpedoing of the ironclad Aquidaua. During the war between China and Japan, the Japanese torpedo flotillas showed great dash and persistence. They completed the destruction of the Chinese navy by forcing their way into the harbor of Wei-Hai-Wei and sinking the battleship Ting Yuan and some other vessels. The enterprise was difficult, for the harbor was protected by a boom and the weather was bitterly cold. The boats made several unsuccessful efforts to break through, and instances occurred of entire crews being frozen to death. But they kept doggedly at their task and finally got in. Even then, they made sacrifices, and several boats were destroyed by the Chinese fire. The dash of the Japanese torpedo craft into Port Arthur has its close parallel, for nine years ago, when Port Arthur was captured by the Japanese land forces, the torpedo craft aided the shore attack by a brilliant rush into the harbor, destroying Chinese torpedo boats and demoralizing the defenders. In all there were previous to this week, twenty-seven in-

stances of torpedo boat attacks on ships, and in them twelve ships were sunk.

The escape of the attacking craft from injury must awaken surprise. Torpedo service is the most desperately dangerous work in all warfare. Not long ago Mr. F. T. Jane, a well known English naval expert, coolly discussed a thrilling aspect of the consideration which now an officer. A torpedo attack is carried out by sending the boat at full speed—anywhere from 600 to 1,000 yards a minute—towards her prey. When the boat is within 1,000 yards she can launch her torpedo, but as it is a tricky weapon, and may deflect and miss, it is safer to hold on a few seconds longer and get to within 300 or 400 yards. Then the torpedo is fired, and the assailant swerves and tries to steam away into the darkness. Apart from the nerve and skill needed to manage a vessel rushing through the water in the darkness at the speed of an express train, there is the fact that the enemy, if alert, will be pumping out a hail of shells, weighing one, three, six or twelve pounds, the smallest able to riddle the frail little craft. On her deck as she tears through the water is perhaps only one man, who controls her course, and will fire the torpedo. Mr. Jane says that every torpedo officer will enter an attack fully expecting death, and anxious only to drag a more important enemy to destruction with him. Once within extreme range, the temptation to fire at once will be very great. "In a few seconds more I shall be killed. Better fire before I am killed." Such will be the train of thought flashing through the man's brain. It will take nerve to hold on the course for the few moments needed to reach the sun range.

The weirdest romance is associated with the swift career of the stealthy torpedo boat. Four young Japanese lieutenants, whose names doubtless soon will be sung all over their home-land, wrested the balance of sea-power from Russia, and gave it to their countrymen. It was David and Goliath over again. Four little boats have made useless bulks of ten or twelve million dollars' worth of great ships. A naval enthusiast not long ago dwelt upon the "fresh zest, the new romance," which the torpedo brought into naval warfare. "In battle the greatest prizes may fall to the hands of the younger officers. Can any one, for instance, conceive a greater feeling of victory and exultation than that which would arise in the heart of an officer who, having successfully delivered a torpedo into the side of the enemy, sees the great ship bowling down before him, the victim of his skill and daring?" That is the grimly professional point of view. It is possible to sympathize with it, but it is preferable to remember with thankfulness that the telling Japanese success was not accomplished by great loss of life, as the Russian crews escaped to land.

## DR. JAMESON, PREMIER.

It is reported that there is construction in the secret places of statesmen in old London. The Imperialists of Cape Colony have gained the upper hand of the Dutch elements. Premier Sprigg has resigned, and the Premier will be sure to propose a preference in trade or something of that kind. Sir Charles Dike says Canada is the only colony of any note that has sent a representative to the conference. New Zealand is not a factor of sufficient importance to be taken into account in the Imperial circle. Therefore, as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has pointed out, there is no reason why Great Britain should spoil her chance of making a profitable deal with such an opulent country as the United States, nor risk giving offence to her dear kinsmen under a foreign flag, by recognizing the overtures of the colonies towards the establishment of closer trade relations. The average Briton has not yet got rid of his contempt for "men of oaks," and no doubt many Imperial statesmen consider it a "beastly boah, don't you know," to be pestered with these ill-timed preferences. If we had Dr. Jameson's ear for a few minutes we would strongly advise him to pay strict attention to the internal affairs of the Cape, having particular regard to measures designed to safeguard and advance the interests of that state. Until the public men of Great Britain have effected the long-for trade arrangement with the United States or the realization of the fulfillment of their aspirations, it will be useless for a mere colonial to approach them.

## THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

The Police Commissioners have been appointed. Those for the city of Victoria are Messrs. George Russell, barber; Harry M. Grahame, dentist; and G. H. Barnard, barrister and Mayor. The Mayor is the choice of the people; the other two have been chosen for us by the government. Mr. Grahame is well known but the majority of the people will probably be in the dark as to the identity of Mr. Russell. He has never before the ratersayers in any public capacity of prominence; at least not in recent years. But he has long been a conspicuous figure in the Conservative Association. He has rendered important services to that organization. It is said, by reason of his splendid abilities as an organizer of political forces, as a director of campaigns, and as a manipulator of the "sineews" upon which the party depends in its electoral success. It is not, therefore, that Mr. Russell should receive his reward.

What is incomprehensible to us is the nature of the cap that has been thrust on this faithful fishwife. There is no salary attached to the job of police commissioner, as has repeatedly been pointed out. Yet the competition for the honor of serving the city and jealously guarding its morals is as keen as though the post were one of the most lucrative in the gift of the government. There are stories floating around the streets of a salary of \$250 or \$300 diamond policeman. He has demonstrated his starting point. He has demonstrated his ability to bring McBride to his knees. Let him be satisfied with that victory. For as a reward for the service which Mr. Russell has rendered to the city he has taken there should be no spoils, and there will be none.

imbued with protectionist principles. We have not the least doubt that they will apply their principles in a most liberal manner and protect the goods of the city to the utmost of their ability. The Colonist admits that the government cannot be expected to appoint extremists on the board. It is well known that Mr. Grahame is neither a bigot nor a zealot. As for Commissioner Russell, his friends contend that his views are as broad as the ocean, and his sympathies lie deep as the sea. He will probably object to the hampering of important industries by any unnecessary restrictions. In point of fact, it is strongly suspected that the appointments of the government are latitudinarians, and that their policy will be to relax the rules under which the denizens of the submerged stratum have been carrying on their operations for the past year.

The movements of the commissioners will be carefully masked, of course. The old story of the impossibility of suppressing certain forms of evil will be hypocrisically trotted out. It is true it is impossible to suppress crime. The criminal is with us, and he will probably remain with us until the equilibrium of the state is upset again and the warring places become the chief zones of activity of a new civilization. Even there the consequences of the fall will creep in. But the forces of truth, justice, honesty and decency prevail yet. Mankind in its making has evolved certain laws and has created the machinery to enforce them. Governments through their instruments occasionally connive at the violation of the statutes. But public opinion is over all, and public opinion declares that the laws shall be enforced and the operations of law-breakers restricted as far as possible.

It is quite unnecessary to tell Mayor Barnard that the public has no confidence whatever in the men who have been appointed by the government as his colleagues on the police board. They have confidence in him and they look to him to exercise his powers as chief magistrate in seeing that the laws of the state are enforced. Introduction of the methods of ex-Mayor Ames of Minneapolis or of other American experts in municipal mismanagement will be vented in Victoria. Mr. Barnard is on the threshold of his career, and as he values his future he cannot afford to make any mistakes.

## THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

The people of British Columbia have heard a good deal about the lumber industry as it affects British Columbia. They have not been favored with much reliable information. The reasons for the attitude of the settlers on the prairies. It is well known that the agriculturists in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories object most strenuously to any suggestion of a change in the tariff. Their representatives in the House of Commons vigorously support their views. And constituents of members think can furnish good reasons for their attitude. They were roused only during the past summer by the suspicion that there was a lumber combine on the other side of the Rockies and that the lumber trade was being changed in the tariff. Their representatives in the House of Commons vigorously support their views. And constituents of members think can furnish good reasons for their attitude. 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