

The Colonist.

MONDAY, Feb. 20, 1899.

THOSE BLANK WARRANTS AGAIN.

An incident occurred in the house yesterday that is worthy of comment, because it effectually disposes forever of one of the alleged reasons for the dismissal of the Turner ministry. Readers will recall that in his letter to Mr. Turner, the Lieutenant-Governor referred to certain blank warrants, as he termed them. What these blanks were has already been explained in this paper, but it may be well to repeat that the Lieutenant-Governor was quite mistaken about them, that they were not blank warrants at all, but only sheets of paper fastened up with the warrants for the convenience of the Auditor-General in checking up the payments. As a matter of fact Mr. Turner did not know anything about them, nor did any other member of the government, until after receiving the Lieutenant-Governor's letter the former made inquiry of the Auditor-General as to what was referred to.

The allegation regarding them coming from such a source was of a nature that reflected upon the personal honesty of Mr. Turner, although it is hard to suppose that the Lieutenant-Governor so intended. Probably the statement was hastily made, and if His Honor had given his letter greater consideration, he might have abstained from making it. We cannot believe that any one, who has known Mr. Turner as long as Lieutenant-Governor McPherson has, would desire to charge him with an act implying downright dishonesty. But the statement having been made and having gone upon the records of the province, Mr. Turner was naturally desirous that his vindication should be equally public. Therefore when the committee on public accounts, of which he is a member, met and he was asked by the chairman, Mr. Prentice, what he desired to have taken up, Mr. Turner at once spoke of the so-called blank warrants, and the matter was fully gone into. In order that the explanation might be as complete as possible the Auditor-General was summoned, and he gave his explanation of the transaction. We state as a fact that will not be contradicted by any member of the committee, that every member thereof admitted that the explanation was wholly satisfactory, and that no ground existed for laying any charge or making any insinuation against Mr. Turner or any member of the government on this account. Mr. Turner thereupon asked that the committee should prepare a report to that effect. To this the chairman demurred on the ground that he was not prepared to say what they ought to do, and at the next meeting he objected to any such report being made, because, he said, it was not a matter with which the committee had anything to do. Yesterday Mr. Turner attempted to present a minority report from the committee on the subject, but it was peremptorily ruled out of order by the Speaker, who declined even to permit the matter to be discussed.

From this simple statement of facts a few conclusions seem logically deducible. Some of them are as follows: It would have been quite within the power of the committee to have refused to go into the matter at all; but having gone into it, and as it was a matter affecting the personal integrity of a gentleman, who until a few months ago was the trusted first minister of the province, it was the duty of the committee to have reported the facts as they found them. It was not necessary for the committee to have expressed any opinion. A simple statement of the facts as laid before them by the Auditor-General would have been sufficient, and we venture to say that the presentation of such a report would have met with the entire approval of the committee, if the dictates of the government had not been interposed to prevent them from doing a simple act of justice.

If the facts developed before the committee had been of a character to justify the implication naturally drawn from the remark of the Lieutenant-Governor, the majority of the committee would have been directed by the government to report these facts to the house. In other words, if Mr. Turner could have been found guilty, a verdict would have been given, but as the verdict had to be one of not guilty, it was withheld. We claim therefore that the refusal of the majority of the committee to report the facts as they found them is a complete vindication of Mr. Turner and his colleagues from this charge against them.

We are not disposed to cavil at the ruling of the Speaker that at the present stage of matters a minority report could not be presented in strict accordance with the rules of the house. But there are occasions when all rules are inevitably suspended, and that is where the matter proposed to be dealt with affects the personal integrity of a member of the house. Every man at all familiar with parliamentary practice knows that the house is always astute to discover how any member of it may purge his reputation of any discredit that may have been cast upon it. Let us suppose a similar case occurring in the parliament of Canada or of Great Britain, and will any one suggest for one moment that the greatest facility would not have been given the accused to vindicate himself? Will any one say that if such a thing had transpired in British Columbia at any previous session since the province had a legislature, the committee would not have been directed to report to the house the facts as it found them? Unhappily decency and the government of British Columbia have temporarily perished company. The party now in the as-

condant appears unable to appreciate the ordinary amenities of civilized life. Its instincts are brutal. It would destroy a man's personal reputation at any moment for the purpose of gaining a petty partisan triumph. Mr. Turner has the satisfaction of knowing that the matter having been discussed by the Committee of Public Accounts, and no report having been made, the public will accept the explanation that the only report that could have been made was one that would completely vindicate him. He need never hereafter give himself the trouble to refer to these so-called blank warrants in any way whatever, except it be to show how unjustly he has been treated, and what base conceptions the government has of its obligations towards members of the legislature and the public at large.

A CHARACTERISTIC BILL.

Bill No. 73 is a characteristic piece of Martineau legislation. It wipes out all railway subsidies, including that to the Crow Nest Pass railway, and others already earned or in progress of being earned, saving only the subsidy of \$4,000 a mile to the railway from Penit to Robson. Of course the bill will never pass the house in its present shape. The opposition will point out the absurdity of it and the Attorney-General will have to introduce a new bill. The introduction of such a bill betrays the most astounding carelessness on the part of Mr. Martin. Indeed, Mr. Martin is rapidly making a reputation as the champion blunderer in bill drafting. He uses language having no recognized meaning; he employs expressions that are quite contrary to the intention he desires to convey; he inserts provisions which have effects that he has to admit he never contemplated. As a party boss, Mr. Martin is not a success; as a political intriguer he is not to be sneezed at; for lack of conscience in political matters he is phenomenal; but it is as a mixer and muddler of legislation that he shines most conspicuously. He is a bull in a legislative china shop, and it will keep the legislature busy for a whole session by and by setting right the things he has put wrong.

OUR EXCITABLE NEIGHBORS.

Seattle is in a state approaching frenzy over the suggestion that it is the intention of the boundary question some portion of what they regard as Alaska may be handed over to Canada. A meeting was held there last night to protest "against the cession to the Dominion of Canada of any portion of Alaskan territory." The people of Canada do not want a square foot of "Alaskan territory." They are willing to compromise on a reasonable basis as to the ownership of certain disputed areas, by surrendering to the United States a portion of the territory which by the honest interpretation of the treaty belongs to the Dominion.

The Seattle public is like a bottle of soda water. Give it a little shake and open the syphon and it will effervesce to beat the band. The heat of the oratory displayed last night would doubtless have thawed out the Yukon, if it could have been got up there. The eagle screamed vociferously, for did not the Mayor call upon "every store, saloon and cigar stand to close at 7:30" so that all the work and life could come and hear the talking, which was not to be confined to the hall, where the meeting was to be held, but was to be addressed to crowds in the street also. Our hysterical neighbors have convinced themselves that American institutions are at stake, when in point of fact all the fuss is over the prospect of a small reduction in the grocery trade. But when Seattle has anything, it "has it bad."

THE ESTIMATES.

The government looks for an increase next year of \$96,000 in the revenue over that of the current year. The following reductions are anticipated: Free miners' certificates, due probably to the amendment of the law relating to workmen in mines and the exclusion of aliens from placer mines, \$55,000; personal property tax, due to the abolition of the tax on money invested on mortgage, \$20,000; printing office receipts, \$1,000; and Chinese Restriction act, \$5,000. A part of this decrease is offset by an expected refund from the Dominion government of \$15,000 for river protection at Revelstoke. It will be recalled that upon no point were the present government party, when in opposition, more determined than upon the question of the then government for making such a claim upon the federal authorities. If this refund does not materialize, the increase of revenue will be cut down nearly 15 per cent. One of the largest items of increased revenue anticipated is \$23,000 in "land revenue." We shall await the Finance Minister's explanation of this item, and of the very small anticipated increase in land sales, with much interest. In view of the fact that several townships in the northern part of the province will be in demand during the next twelve months, we should have supposed that a very large increase from land sales could have been looked for. Some of the other expected increases seem to be purely arbitrary, and to have been estimated upon for the purpose of showing that it was possible to remove the so-called mortgage tax, and relieve workmen in mines from taking out certificates without reducing the aggregate revenue.

Notwithstanding an increase of over \$30,000 in salaries of civil government officials, the estimated expenditure shows a reduction of upwards of \$230,000, of which \$116,150 comes off roads, streets and bridges, the one item which touches the public most closely and contributes to the development of the country. The sum of \$39,400 is taken off the estimate for public buildings. The provincial police, who certainly earn their money, if any people in the country do,

are obliged to contribute to the new policy of economy by submitting to a cut of about \$15,000 in their salaries, or nearly 20 per cent. The following comparison illustrates very well the Semlin-Martin-Cotton brand of economy: For the current year the estimated expenditure was \$1,996,750, and the cost of civil government \$1,451,710, or a trifle over 7 per cent of the total; for next year the estimated expenditure is \$1,764,873, and the cost of civil government \$1,176,692, or a trifle over 10 per cent of the total. It will cost the province 3 per cent more to expend the appropriations, or in other words, \$31,000 more to expend \$170,000 less. This may be economical administration, but most people will ask to be excused from thinking so. It is a case of more places and patronage and less public works, more government and less development. How do the people like it?

NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTIONS.

The unwise attempt to introduce federal politics in to the local arena in New Brunswick has resulted in the complete collapse of the opposition party. When the Moncton Conservative convention several months ago declared for such a line of action, the Colonist said that its knowledge of the political situation led it to think the decision a great mistake. The elections have borne out this opinion. It is true that the Liberals cannot claim the great triumph of the government as a party victory, because the government candidates represented both parties at the same time no sensible man will say that such performance is very healthy for the cause of Conservatism in New Brunswick. It was a great mistake to precipitate such a contest, to attempt with a divided party to overthrow a combination, that until a few years ago, dominated almost every constituency in the province.

A brief resume of the history of local politics in New Brunswick will help readers to understand the election just held and better to appreciate its significance. It will also serve to more fully demonstrate the lack of judgment shown by those who needlessly placed the Conservative party in such a false position before the eyes of Canada. At the time of Confederation existing party lines between Conservatives and Liberals were obliterated and new ones drawn between the Confederates and anti-Confederates. This came in the course of a very short time to be a very one-sided arrangement, the very great majority of the people having concluded to accept Confederation and make the best of it. The free school question occupied the attention of the electors immediately after the consummation of the Union, and the inevitable struggle arose over non-sectarian education. At least one election was run upon this issue and it left the King administration in unquestioned ascendancy. The Fraser administration and the short-lived Hanington administration were really only a continuation of the King regime. When the Blair government came in, its advent to power was due more to the assertion of the younger element of their determination to manage affairs than to anything else. It was purely accidental that a majority of Mr. Blair's supporters in the house were Liberals, and the fact that his administration came to be regarded as in some sense Liberal was largely because the Conservative leaders in St. John and the two leading Conservative papers, the St. John Sun and the Moncton Times, were opposed to him. Mr. Stockton, who was leader of the opposition in the late house and who has been defeated in St. John, was a supporter of Mr. Blair in the first place. He entered public life under Mr. Blair's auspices. In fact his first election was due to Mr. Blair's declaration that the government would regard his defeat as a direct expression by the electorate of St. John of want of confidence and withdraw a portfolio from that constituency. Mr. Stockton subsequently wrote books for the government on a question of patronage and at the next election was taken up by the St. John Conservatives and elected to the house. Later he united himself to the Conservative party. When Mr. Blair went out of office, the premiership fell to his Provincial Secretary, Mr. Mitchell, a Conservative, and on his death Mr. Emmerson, the present Premier and a Liberal, took office. The election of yesterday was the first attempt to introduce federal lines, and its defeat is due to the revolt of independent Conservatives against machine politics.

Where do you Tire First

In the Back? That means Weak Kidneys. In the Shoulder? That Tells You That the Liver is Wrong.

Would you be healthy? Then read the warnings of nature and fortify the weak points against the attacks of painful and fatal disease.

When the kidneys are ailing the back is easily tired and aches frequently. There are deposits in the urine and irregularities in the urinating organs.

When the liver goes wrong the shoulders get tired first. There is a pain in the shoulders and joints, a feeling of heaviness, sallow complexion and a full feeling in the side.

The kidneys and liver are in sympathy with one another, and are directly acted upon by Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. Liver Pills will put new strength and vigor into the kidneys, and keep them from getting tired and becoming diseased.

It is pain in the shoulder? Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills make the torpid, sluggish liver healthy and active, and drive away backache, biliousness and stomach troubles.

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, the only pill having combined action on kidneys and liver. One pill a dose. 25 cents a box.

For cramp, bronchitis, coughs and colds Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine 25 cents a large bottle.

JAPANESE EXCLUSION.

Provincial Government Declines to Repeal at Suggestion of Ottawa and London.

Imperial Interests Safeguarded by Securing White Population for This Province.

The return asked for by Mr. Helmecken with respect to the reply of the province to the suggestion of the Dominion that the Labor Regulation bill of last session be repealed and just presented by Hon. Mr. Cotton, consists of a report to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor from the Minister of Finance and Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Cotton, approved by the executive and by the Lieutenant-Governor on Thursday. The report of the Minister reads:

The undersigned has the honor to report that he has had under consideration the communication from the government of His Excellency the Governor-General, enclosing a copy of the minutes of the committee of the Privy Council of Canada in reference to a despatch from Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Colonies, enclosing copies of correspondence which has passed between the foreign office and the Japanese Minister in London, and between the foreign office and the colonial office on the subject of certain statutes passed by the legislature of British Columbia, and which contain provisions prohibiting the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on works carried on under the franchise granted by the said legislature.

In his despatch of July 20, 1898, to His Excellency the Governor-General, Canada, Mr. Chamberlain states that restrictive legislation of the type of which the legislature in question appears to be extremely repugnant to the government of the people and government of Japan, and asks His Excellency to impress on his ministers the importance of if there is any real prospect of a large influx of Japanese laborers into Canada, of dealing with it by legislation of the Dominion parliament on the lines of the Natal act.

It may be stated that legislation on the lines of the Natal act, passed in 1880, and passed by the legislative council and legislative assembly of Natal would not be within the power of the legislature of this province, but would be within the competence of the parliament of Canada, being somewhat similar to the act passed by the parliament of Canada in 1880, of \$50 on each Chinese person coming to the Dominion. While the legislature would doubtless welcome any action by the parliament of Canada designed to affect objects similar to those aimed at by the provisions in the statutes which the subject of this communication is from His Excellency's government, it may be suggested that the provisions embodied in the Immigration Restriction act of Natal, would not be effectual for the desired purpose although such legislation would impose restrictions on Japanese laborers into Canada, of dealing with it by legislation of the Dominion parliament on the lines of the Natal act.

The undersigned would point out that the statutes passed by the legislature of British Columbia, which contain restrictive provisions on the employment of Japanese in British Columbia while it is respectfully admitted clearly within the power of that body to impose such restrictions, are nearly as onerous or far-reaching as would be the case were legislation enacted by the Canadian parliament on the lines of the Immigration Restriction act of Natal which appears not to be considered as objectionable by Her Majesty's government. The fact that the number of Japanese persons who may come into Canada is suggested by the statutes passed by the legislature of British Columbia is not carried on under the authority of privileges or franchises conferred by the legislature of British Columbia, but is an exception existing in the past, the legislature from the evidence placed before it having come to the conclusion that the employment of Chinese or Japanese in coal mines under a franchise is a source of danger. All that is sought to be attained by the legislation in question is that Chinese or Japanese persons shall not be allowed to find employment on works the construction of which has been authorized or made possible by the granting of the franchise of certain privileges or franchises by the legislature. It will therefore be seen that the restrictive provisions are merely in the nature of a condition in agreements or contracts between the provincial government and particular individuals or companies, whereby certain privileges, franchises, concessions, and in some cases also subsidies or guarantees, are granted to individuals or companies in consideration of only white labor being employed in the works which are the subject matter of such agreements.

The same causes which have led the legislatures of Natal and the Australian colonies to take measures to restrict the influx of large numbers of Chinese and Japanese into British Columbia. They are indeed more potent here on account of the shorter distance intervening between China and Japan and this province as compared with that between those countries and Australasia and Natal. It may also be pointed out that in connection with the possibility of great disturbance to the economic conditions existing here and of grave injury being caused to the working classes of this country by a large influx of laborers from Japan was so apparent that the government of Canada decided that it was not advisable that the Dominion should participate in the revised treaty between Great Britain and Japan, whereby equal privileges were granted to the people of each nation in the country of the other.

The economic conditions in British Columbia and in Japan, and the status of living of the masses of the people in the two countries does not lead to the grant of freedom of employment to Japanese on such public works as are authorized to be carried out by acts of the legislature, would almost certainly result in all such employment being monopolized by the Japanese to the exclusion of the white population. Therefore while the legislature has scrupulously abstained from any interference with the employment of Japanese by private individuals or companies and has not sought to put any restriction on their engaging in any ordinary occupation or business, it has deemed it to be in the interests of the province to prohibit their employment on works or undertakings for which it has granted privileges or franchises. That such restrictions are not only judicious but necessary has been shown by the manner in which cheap Chinese labor has in many cases entirely supplanted white labor on works to which no such restrictions as those referred to were attached.

"Whence it would be a matter of profound regret if any action of the government or legislature of this province should cause Her Majesty's government any embarrassment or impair its friendly relations with another power, it may be pointed out that there are other considerations of an Imperial character involved in this matter. It is unquestionably in the interests of the Empire that the Pacific Province of the Dominion should be occupied by a large and thoroughly British population, rather than by one in which the number of aliens largely predominates, and many of the distinctive features of the settled British community were lacking. The former condition could not be secured were the masses of the people subjected to competition which would render it impossible for them to maintain a fair and reasonable standard of living."

"For many years the evil effects of unrestricted Chinese immigration caused great agitation in British Columbia, and the imposition of the capitation tax of \$50 was the consequence. Since then the influx of Chinese has continued to increase, and the opportunities for employment in British Columbia arising from the development of its forests, mineral and fishing resources, have led to an influx of Japanese which has materially and injuriously interfered with white labor and has caused the Dominion to pass the statutes now under consideration. There is no reason to believe that this influx of Japanese is likely to diminish on the contrary, there are many indications that it will become larger and that Japanese labor will, if some restrictive measures are not adopted, eventually supplant white labor in many important industries and be used almost exclusively on works carried out under franchises granted by the legislature, and which are in many cases aided by subsidies from the provincial treasury, largely with the object of opening up the province and inducing an immigration of desirable settlers. The undersigned therefore recommends that a reply be made to the government of the Dominion that His Honor's government regrets that in the interests of British Columbia and of the Empire, it cannot see its way clear to introduce a measure in the legislature to repeal the provisions restricting the employment of Chinese and Japanese in the statutes referred to in the report of the Minister of Justice, approved by a minute of the committee of the Privy Council of Canada on December 17, 1898, and that if this recommendation be approved, a copy of it should be transmitted to the Secretary of State for Canada for the information of His Excellency's government."

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The undersigned would point out that the statutes passed by the legislature of British Columbia, which contain restrictive provisions on the employment of Japanese in British Columbia while it is respectfully admitted clearly within the power of that body to impose such restrictions, are nearly as onerous or far-reaching as would be the case were legislation enacted by the Canadian parliament on the lines of the Immigration Restriction act of Natal which appears not to be considered as objectionable by Her Majesty's government. The fact that the number of Japanese persons who may come into Canada is suggested by the statutes passed by the legislature of British Columbia is not carried on under the authority of privileges or franchises conferred by the legislature of British Columbia, but is an exception existing in the past, the legislature from the evidence placed before it having come to the conclusion that the employment of Chinese or Japanese in coal mines under a franchise is a source of danger. All that is sought to be attained by the legislation in question is that Chinese or Japanese persons shall not be allowed to find employment on works the construction of which has been authorized or made possible by the granting of the franchise of certain privileges or franchises by the legislature. It will therefore be seen that the restrictive provisions are merely in the nature of a condition in agreements or contracts between the provincial government and particular individuals or companies, whereby certain privileges, franchises, concessions, and in some cases also subsidies or guarantees, are granted to individuals or companies in consideration of only white labor being employed in the works which are the subject matter of such agreements.

The same causes which have led the legislatures of Natal and the Australian colonies to take measures to restrict the influx of large numbers of Chinese and Japanese into British Columbia. They are indeed more potent here on account of the shorter distance intervening between China and Japan and this province as compared with that between those countries and Australasia and Natal. It may also be pointed out that in connection with the possibility of great disturbance to the economic conditions existing here and of grave injury being caused to the working classes of this country by a large influx of laborers from Japan was so apparent that the government of Canada decided that it was not advisable that the Dominion should participate in the revised treaty between Great Britain and Japan, whereby equal privileges were granted to the people of each nation in the country of the other.

The economic conditions in British Columbia and in Japan, and the status of living of the masses of the people in the two countries does not lead to the grant of freedom of employment to Japanese on such public works as are authorized to be carried out by acts of the legislature, would almost certainly result in all such employment being monopolized by the Japanese to the exclusion of the white population. Therefore while the legislature has scrupulously abstained from any interference with the employment of Japanese by private individuals or companies and has not sought to put any restriction on their engaging in any ordinary occupation or business, it has deemed it to be in the interests of the province to prohibit their employment on works or undertakings for which it has granted privileges or franchises. That such restrictions are not only judicious but necessary has been shown by the manner in which cheap Chinese labor has in many cases entirely supplanted white labor on works to which no such restrictions as those referred to were attached.

"Whence it would be a matter of profound regret if any action of the government or legislature of this province should cause Her Majesty's government any embarrassment or impair its friendly relations with another power, it may be pointed out that there are other considerations of an Imperial character involved in this matter. It is unquestionably in the interests of the Empire that the Pacific Province of the Dominion should be occupied by a large and thoroughly British population, rather than by one in which the number of aliens largely predominates, and many of the distinctive features of the settled British community were lacking. The former condition could not be secured were the masses of the people subjected to competition which would render it impossible for them to maintain a fair and reasonable standard of living."

"For many years the evil effects of unrestricted Chinese immigration caused great agitation in British Columbia, and the imposition of the capitation tax of \$50 was the consequence. Since then the influx of Chinese has continued to increase, and the opportunities for employment in British Columbia arising from the development of its forests, mineral and fishing resources, have led to an influx of Japanese which has materially and injuriously interfered with white labor and has caused the Dominion to pass the statutes now under consideration. There is no reason to believe that this influx of Japanese is likely to diminish on the contrary, there are many indications that it will become larger and that Japanese labor will, if some restrictive measures are not adopted, eventually supplant white labor in many important industries and be used almost exclusively on works carried out under franchises granted by the legislature, and which are in many cases aided by subsidies from the provincial treasury, largely with the object of opening up the province and inducing an immigration of desirable settlers. The undersigned therefore recommends that a reply be made to the government of the Dominion that His Honor's government regrets that in the interests of British Columbia and of the Empire, it cannot see its way clear to introduce a measure in the legislature to repeal the provisions restricting the employment of Chinese and Japanese in the statutes referred to in the report of the Minister of Justice, approved by a minute of the committee of the Privy Council of Canada on December 17, 1898, and that if this recommendation be approved, a copy of it should be transmitted to the Secretary of State for Canada for the information of His Excellency's government."

(Signed) "F. CARTER-COTTON, Minister of Finance and Agriculture." Dated the 13th Feb., 1899.

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