

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, May 10.

A STRANGE DELUSION.

The editor of the News-Advertiser would apparently be a great success in the role of "Rip Van Winkle." He "would like the Times to say what it thinks of the suggestion now made"—that the Dominion should aid the extension of the E. & N. railway—in face of the fact that the Times expressed its opinion on that subject within a very recent period. He also finds that "for months past the Times has been condemning the Dominion government for the liberal manner in which it has carried out public works of utility in various parts of Canada." The Times has done nothing of the sort; it has condemned the squandering of public money on works of utility for the advantage of government pets and hangers-on, but that is a very different matter. From the first "break" of the News-Advertiser noticed here it might have been surmised that the editor had been asleep for a time, but from the second the inference is that he has been reading some other journal while laboring under the hallucination that he was perusing the Times. Perhaps our contemporary will be able to shake itself together and find out what is the matter with its mental outfit.

A TYPICAL SCANDAL.

The Fredericton bridge scandal, ventilated in parliament the other day, is not so great as some of the scandals in which the Dominion government has been involved, but it is just as gross in character as any. Taken in connection with certain attendant political incidents, it should prove peculiarly instructive to the people, whose money is made the sport of politicians in such games. The principal stockholders in the bridge company are Alexander Gibson and Temple, M. P. It may have been noted by some of our readers that some of the Tory papers not long ago boasted about Mr. Gibson being a "convert" from the Liberal to the Conservative side, and it is a matter of common knowledge that Mr. Temple is about to retire into the senate so that Minister Foster may try to find a seat in York, his chances for re-election in King's being practically nil. To the company formed by Messrs. Temple and Gibson to build the Fredericton bridge there was lent from the Dominion treasury six years ago \$300,000, the interest to be paid at 4 per cent. Not a cent of this interest has been paid, so there is now \$72,000 due from the company. In addition to the loan the government subsidized the bridge company to the amount of \$30,000. It appears from the statements dragged out of Mr. Foster the other day that the country stands as a secondary creditor of the company, and therefore it has practically no security for the return of the \$300,000, which might as well have been set down as a free gift at the first. No wonder Messrs. Gibson and Temple feel that they ought to show some gratitude to the government that so generously assisted them at the people's expense.

FROM THE BLUE BOOKS.

Dutiable goods imported in 1892—\$69, 160,737; taxes collected, \$20,550,473; equaling 29.5 per cent.
Dutiable goods imported in 1893—\$69, 873,571; taxes collected, \$21,161,710.93; equaling 30.2 per cent.
Dutiable goods imported in 1894—\$62, 779,182; taxes collected, \$19,379,822.32; equaling 30.8 per cent.

For the nine months ending March 31, there is of course no blue book to consult, but the returns as published give dutiable goods imported, \$42,979,130; taxes collected, \$13,278,555; or at the rate of 30.9 per cent.

Any person who impartially examines these figures will see that there has been a gradual increase of customs taxation, the rate now being higher than in 1892, despite the Fosterian tariff revision.

"CANADA'S ENEMIES."

The London Times will, we fear, have to be reckoned among the number of "Canada's enemies." This sad conclusion is forced upon us by the consideration of some remarks from our esteemed neighbor along with the following utterance of our big London namesake:—Newfoundland exports its principal produce to the markets of southern Europe and elsewhere. It imports almost every article of local consumption. It has, therefore, a very great advantage in maintaining the freedom of its commercial markets. If it joins the Confederation of Canada, it must renounce its existing right to buy in the cheapest as well as to sell in the dearest market. Its sales will still be made in the outer markets of the world, but its purchases will be within the protected ring of the Dominion. The bulk of its present imports from Great Britain will be made from Canada and will be paid for at an increase of about 25 per cent. on the present price. Every commercial argument

which is used in Canada in favor of the incorporation of Newfoundland with the Dominion forms, from the point of view of the Newfoundlanders, an argument against confederation. It is argued in Canada that in proportion to population the islanders would be the best customers of the Dominion, because Canada can supply everything which they now import. But if this is the case, and Newfoundland has never hitherto purchased her necessary supplies in Canada, the deduction is that it has been more profitable for her to purchase elsewhere. The compulsion of the confederate bond will in the future, if she submits herself to it, force upon her the sacrifice of this profit.

Newfoundland and Great Britain have each therefore something to lose by the confederation of Newfoundland with Canada. Great Britain will lose a certain amount of trade; Newfoundland will have to pay more for the goods that she consumes.

"CANADA'S SHAME."

"Canadian public life is rotten to the core."—London Times (Con.).

"As well defend Sodom."—Principal Grant (Con.).

"The existence of an organized system of corruption among public officials in Canada has been conclusively proved, and like everything else on the American continent the bribery has been colossal."—St. James' Gazette (Con.).

"The secret of Sir John Macdonald's electoral victories is out. On this side of the water surprise has often been expressed at the patience with which our Canadian cousins submitted to the protectionist rule of that prince of politicians. There is now, alas, no difficulty in explaining the curious situation. Sir John's government rested on a stupendous and all pervading system of bribery and corruption. Even Tammany Hall smells sweet and clean in comparison with the huge stinkpot of Sir John's government."—Graphic dispatch (London).

Since the above comments were written Mr. St. Louis, a cousin of the minister of public works, has stolen about a quarter of a million dollars and is still at large. Uncle Tom has been liberated from jail and has resumed his old place among his "pals." Sir Adolphe Caron admitted receiving bribes from contractors, said he "would do it again," and is still an adviser of Her Most Gracious Majesty; and a pretty scandal is blossoming in New Brunswick which, so far, looks as if Minister Foster has been purchased.

Would any banking or business institution place any of these men at the head of its affairs?

WHY A DEFICIT.

The Hon. J. H. Macdonald, minister of railways and canals, has represented his present constituency (Inverness) since 1882. He used his influence with the government to induce them to construct a canal six miles in length from the Rideau canal to his own mill. Estimated cost, \$132,000; actual cost, \$479,138.73. Annual receipts, \$120; annual cost of maintenance, \$2,485.00.

HOW IT WORKS.

The province of New Brunswick is rich in forest wealth, agricultural resources and fisheries. Sir Leonard Tilley, a native of that fine province, was financially ruined when the National Policy swindle was introduced. He followed Tupper, senior, in the realm of prodigious prophecy. "Clap on all sail," he cried, "for twenty years of prosperity."

RESULTS.

Increase of population 1871-1881. 35,639
Increase of population 1881-1891. 30

LATEST HAWAIIAN ADVICES.

The Thurston Affair Before the Executive Council.

San Francisco, May 9.—Hawaiian advice received to-day from Honolulu dated May 2nd, per steamer Mariposa, are as follows: "The letter demanding the recall of Minister Thurston is here and was read at the executive session of the council yesterday afternoon. The letter had been to Hong Kong. It went past Honolulu in a bag with several hundred others. The ground of the objection to Thurston is confined to a single transaction. The sole offence alleged is that Thurston, at the legation, showed to reporters private letters addressed to himself from Honolulu. The particular letter that gave such offense to the secretary of state intimidated in strong terms that Cleveland and Gresham were largely responsible for the January uprising here."

NANAIMO NEWS.

Work Started at the Alexander Mine—Slaughter of Farm Stock.

Nanaimo, May 9.—In the provincial police court yesterday, John James, a Seattle Indian, was charged with trapping beaver at McKay Lake without a license. A letter found in his possession showed he had been supplying Joseph Ullman of Victoria with pelts, and contained a request for a further supply. The case was clearly proven and a fine of \$25 and costs was imposed.

Coal is now being freely mined at the Alexander mine, and contracts for the driving of several levels have been let so that the work of opening up this mine may be carried on extensively.

The struggling farmer is again complaining of a wholesale slaughter of his stock by some miscreant or other. Surely the money ought to be taken in hand by the police to prevent the farmer from being impoverished, especially during the time he finds it so difficult a matter to clear his land and at the same time keep the wolf from the door.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

Opening of Ninth Annual Session in Metropolitan Church This Morning.

Proceedings at the Ministerial Session—Notes of the Conference.

The ministerial session of the ninth annual British Columbia conference convened in the Metropolitan Methodist church here this morning at the hour of 9:30. Rev. T. W. Hall of New Westminster, who has capably filled the position of president during the past conference year, was present and occupied the chair. He called the meeting to order and the members present fervently sang the 78th hymn of the Methodist collection, the secretary, read the Scriptures and Revs. C. Bryant and James Woodworth led in the devotional exercises.

On the roll being called there were found to be 31 ministers present from the various parts of the province, some of them now having arrived from the more distant fields. The list of those present is as follows:

Revs. S. Cleaver, Joseph Hall, C. Bryant, J. A. Turner, J. E. Gardiner, J. J. Ashton, R. B. Maitland, John Robson, C. M. Tait, T. W. Hall, J. H. White, J. P. Hicks, C. Watson, W. W. Baer, S. J. Thompson, A. E. Green, E. H. M. Sullivan, J. J. Winslow, J. P. Bowell, A. N. Miller, R. J. Irwin, E. E. Hardwick, C. Lachner, J. F. Betts, W. L. Hall, James Calvert, C. A. Procuier, J. A. Wood, George H. Morden, R. B. Beavis, J. C. Spencer, George H. Raley and a number of probationers.

The other members, both ministerial and laymen, are expected to be present in time to open the regular annual session to-morrow morning.

The ministerial session, though not held with strictly closed doors, transacts business of more than semi-private nature, having to do with the questions of ministerial character, the promotion of probationers, reception of candidates and other matters with which only the ministerial court is competent to deal. The secretaries of the various districts (except the Simpson district) in reply to the disciplinary question, made answer that no charges had been made against any of the members of conference during the year. The answer to the question in the case of the members of the Simpson district was deferred until the chief officers of that contingent arrive. In Victoria district the names of two probationers were dropped in silence, this being a term used in the phraseology of the Methodist discipline to describe the penalties for certain irregularities not affecting the ministerial character. There will be two fewer probationers on the conference roll next year, as a consequence. Rev. E. Victor Smith, now in attendance at the Wesleyan Theological College at Montreal, was continued on probation. The case of W. J. Stone, now a probationer in Indian work at Nitinat, was dropped in silence. At 12 o'clock the conference adjourned and the first draft of stations was laid on the table, as follows:

CONFERENCE NOTES.

Victoria is considered a charming resort by the members of the conference and it is always with delight that the city is hailed by the conference when its annual gatherings assemble here. Some of the "Inlanders" visit here for the first time and express themselves delighted with the beauties of the city.

A very pleasant half hour was spent this morning before the opening of the session in a social union of the ministers, many of whom have not met during the year. The pointed rallies and the fraternal greetings were of a pleasant nature and the members all seem to be in the best of spirits.

Considerable confusion and crossfiring is indulged in owing to the introduction of the new discipline, which is the result of the legislation of the late general conference. In many respects it differs from the former law and the friendly discussions of altered points and the questions arising in the administration of the changes are of course full of interest to all the members.

The conference was heartily glad to welcome, for the first time in this province, Rev. James Woodworth, whose jurisdiction as superintendent of missions has by the last general conference been extended to include the domestic missions of British Columbia. On motion of Rev. R. B. Maitland, seconded by Rev. S. Cleaver, he was invited to sit in the conference as a corresponding member. He took his seat on the platform with President Hall, amid the welcoming greetings of the brethren.

There will be a mass meeting in the church this evening, it being the anniversary of the conference, in the interest of the temperance work of the church. Mr. Ralph Smith of Nanaimo and Rev. A. E. Green of Richmond will speak. Both these gentlemen are enthusiastic supporters of temperance legislation and both being eloquent speakers there will be a good meeting. It begins at 8 o'clock.

From Thursday's Daily.

The regular session of the ninth annual meeting of the British Columbia conference gathered and was called to order at 9:30 this morning by Rev. T. W. Hall. After the opening exercises the meeting received the report from the various districts respecting the lay members elect of conference and then the roll was called. 31 ministers and 26 laymen being present to take part in the work.

The first order of business provided for in the rules was the election of the chief officers of the annual conference, and the conference was about to proceed to that order when Rev. E. Robson arose to a question of privilege and requested leave to move a resolution, as perhaps few knew anything of the nature of the resolu-

tion the conference promptly granted the privilege and Mr. Robson read and moved the following:

"Resolved, that this conference desires to place on record its disapproval of the introduction of political methods into our church, such as the formation of a party or ticket, putting forward of a candidate, the soliciting or canvassing for votes by any member of the conference, such things interfering with the independence of the conference and the independence of the elections, which are supposed to be by ballot without nomination."

Mr. W. T. Cooksley, of New Westminster, immediately seconded the resolution, and it was proposed to take the vote when Rev. Joseph Hall arose to contend that the question was distinctly out of order, as it did not come properly under the "question of privilege." The resolution was a complete surprise to nearly all the members of the conference and the expressions of feeling were of a very varied and conflicting nature for a time. Several of the members disclaimed any complicity in any such methods as are brought under the ban of the resolution, and expressed their utter ignorance that such things had taken place. Rev. C. Watson said that it was rather a grave charge that was implied and it would be a pity to see such items upon the records of the conference. It was, however, voted upon as the sense of the conference and ordered to be left off the records.

There were a good many comments made during the morning on the wisdom of passing such a resolution. No one could avoid a feeling that it was intended to be a reflection on some one, and Mr. Robson even hinted that he hoped it would not be necessary to specify any more particularly than he had done in the resolution. This was interpreted by some to mean that he could do so if he wished. Others sought to smooth out the troubled feeling by stating that "the resolution had accomplished its object and now the matter ought to be allowed to drop." This remark being made after the election was over it excited no little curiosity as to what was the "object" of the resolution. Other members of the conference intimated that they are yet to be heard from on the subject, and so the matter dropped, the conference proceeded to the election of officers.

The first race was for the presidency. There were only two polls necessary. In the first Rev. S. Cleaver and Rev. R. B. Maitland were neck and neck, with a number of scattering ballots. The next poll decided the issue and Rev. S. Cleaver was elected to the office. His election was announced by the retiring president and received with a round of applause. Mr. Cleaver has made himself deservedly popular with every member of the conference. He was welcomed to the chair by Rev. T. W. Hall in a few congratulatory remarks, and took his place after having thanked the brethren in a humorous address for the honor thus conferred on him.

On the fifth ballot Rev. J. P. Bowell was elected secretary in the place of Rev. W. W. Baer, who has filled the position during the last year. The hour for the annual conference prayer meeting having arrived, business was laid over and the hour between 11 and 12 was spent in devotion.

At 12 the conference adjourned and the first draft of stations was laid on the table, as follows:

VICTORIA DISTRICT.

1. Victoria Metropolitan—S. Cleaver, M.A.; D. D. Bicks.
2. Victoria Centennial—J. F. Betts, C. Bryant, superannuated.
3. Victoria West—James Turner.
4. Victoria Chinese—Chan Sing Kai, assistant—J. Ashton, B.A. B.D.
5. Duncan's—B. Manuel.
6. Maple Bay and Salt Spring Island—A. J. Gabel.
7. Nanaimo Central—Robert R. Maitland.
8. Nanaimo, Haliburton St.—Samuel Wilkinson.
9. Nanaimo Chinese—To be supplied.
10. Wellington—R. Wilkinson.
11. Union—C. H. M. Sutherland.
12. Cape Mudge and Lumber Camps—To be supplied.
13. Nitinat—W. J. Stone.
14. Nanaimo—To be supplied.
15. Indian Tribes—C. M. Tate.
16. Japanese Missions—To be supplied.
17. College—V. Smith.

WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

18. Westminster Central Church—T. W. Hall, B. Whittington, M.A. B.Sc., Principal Columbian College; T. D. Pearson, superannuated; H. B. Bayley, left without a station at his own request.
19. New Westminster Sapperton—To be supplied.
20. New Westminster West End—J. P. Hicks.
21. New Westminster Chinese—Liu Yik Peng.
22. Vancouver, Homer Street—C. Watson.
23. Vancouver, Princess St.—W. W. Baer.
24. Vancouver, Mount Pleasant—J. H. White.
25. Vancouver Chinese—J. A. Gardner.
26. Richmond—Joseph Hall.
27. Howe Sound—To be supplied.
28. Delta—W. Winslow.
29. Maple Ridge—Wm. Hicks.
30. Mission City—A. N. Miller.
31. Agassiz and Harrison Hot Springs—R. J. Irwin.
32. Surrey—J. P. Bowell.
33. Langley—J. D. P. Knox.
34. Calliwick—C. Lachner.
35. Chesnut—W. E. Moody.
36. Indian Tribes—T. Crosby.
37. Japanese Mission—To be supplied. H. W. Cook, B.A. B.Sc., left without a station at his own request; A. K. Sharp.

KAMLOOPS DISTRICT.

38. Kamloops—J. Robson, B.A.
39. Thompson River—To be supplied.
40. Nicola Valley—W. L. Hall.
41. Clinton—E. E. Hardwick.
42. Salmon Arm—James Calvert.
43. Revelstoke and Donald—J. A. Woods.
44. Enderby—W. B. Milner; J. E. Roseman, superannuated.
45. Vernon—S. J. Thompson.
46. Kelowna—One to be sent.
47. Similkameen—Jas. Hicks.
48. Nelson—G. H. Morden.
49. Invermere and Kaslo—C. A. Procuier.
50. Slokan—One wanted.
51. Cariboo—To be supplied.
52. Rossland—One wanted.

SIMPSON DISTRICT.

53. Port Simpson—A. E. Green.
54. Inuvik—S. Osterow.
55. Bella Bella—R. B. Beavis.
56. Port Essington—D. Jennings.
57. Queen Charlotte Islands—B. C. Freeman.
58. Upper Skeena—J. C. Spencer.
59. Bulkley—G. T. Neville.
60. Kitimat—G. H. Raley.
61. Bella Coola—To be supplied.
62. Glad Tidings Mission—W. H. Pierce.
63. Japanese Mission—To be supplied.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session a nominating committee was appointed, whose duty it

is to nominate standing committees. At the time of going to press the committee had not reported. Votes of thanks were tendered the retiring officers.

NOTES.

Considerable anxiety is abroad in the conference on account of the non-appearance of the missionary steamer Glad Tidings, which left Port Simpson early and is now some days overdue. Revs. T. Crosby, W. H. Pierce and other members of the conference from the northern district are aboard and fears are entertained for their safety.

The Metropolitan Methodist church is a splendid building in which to hold such an annual gathering. The spacious room, the splendid light and the perfect acoustic properties of the auditorium, make it possible to carry on the work agreeably and easily.

A beautiful souvenir programme of the services with the list of the members is the production of the Province, and is distributed with the compliments of that paper to the members of the conference. It is really a work of art and is richly appreciated by all who come into possession of a copy.

The "College question" is among the most important to be discussed by the conference this year, and the friends of the institution are making strenuous efforts to place the finances of the institution (Columbia Methodist College at New Westminster) in a satisfactory condition so that the institution may continue its good work.

TORY DEFICITS.

The Tory orator says under the Mackenzie government you had nothing but deficits, while the Conservative government has had a series of surpluses. This statement is far from accurate. The Public Accounts show p. xxxiii., that there were surpluses in 1873-74 of \$388,775.79—1874-75 of \$305, 644.00.

It is true that in the three following years there were deficits as follows: 1875-76—\$1, 900,785; 1876-77—\$1,460,027; 1877-78—\$1,128, 145.

But it must never be forgotten that these deficits were not incurred by any extravagance or increase in expenditure, but because the taxation of the people was reduced. As a matter of fact nearly \$3,000,000 less taxes were raised in each of the years 1876-77 and 1877-78 than were raised in 1873-74 or 1874-75, and of course many millions less than the Tory government has since raised.

Governments are, as a rule, only blameable for deficits when they are guilty of extravagance, or unjustifiable expenditure, and not simply because the amount of taxation they raise from the people is small.

But what is the record of the Tory government since 1878 in this point?

DEFICITS.

In 1878-9 the deficit was.....\$1,037,999
In 1879-80 the deficit was.....1,543,227
In 1880-81 the deficit was.....1,543,227
In 1881-82 the deficit was.....2,240,058
In 1882-83 the deficit was.....5,334,571
In 1883-84 the deficit was.....810,031
In 1884-85 the deficit was.....1,210,332

For the present year, 1895, the returns are, of course, not complete, but we have the admission of the minister of finance that the deficit will amount to \$4,500,000, and it may be over five millions.

With our financial condition thus dark, with huge deficits and a rapidly falling revenue, with our taxes increased to the limit of the people's endurance, the government, instead of curtailing expenditure, have largely increased it; while our debt has reached figures which almost force thoughtful men to doubt our future.

Is it not time we had a change?

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Sir Charles Rivers Wilson Elected President—Salary \$20,000.

London, May 7.—There was a harmonious meeting to-day of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk railway of Canada. The board of directors were nominated by the shareholders and the committee elected. The new board is composed of the following gentlemen: Sir Charles R. Wilson, president; Lord Welby, Sir William L. Young, Col. F. Firebrace, Joseph Price, A. W. Smithers, G. Vonchaubin, Alexander Hubbard, Sir Henry M. Jackson, J. A. Clutton Brock and George Allen. Col. Firebrace is managing director of the Great Indian Peninsula railway. The meeting was a formal one. Mr. G. Vonchaubin of the new board, who is a European director of the Western Union Telegraph company and a director of other telegraph and railway companies, is a man of large enterprise and ability. In conversation with a representative of the Associated Press after the meeting he said: "The new directory can outline no definite policy for the future until the actual condition of the property is investigated. The finances and traffic facilities will be thoroughly gone into and the staff in Canada reorganized. These will be the first things to be done."

Sir Charles Rivers Wilson was voted a salary of \$20,000.

CRUISERS COMING NORTH.

The Royal Arthur and Wild Swan Will Be here by the 24th.

A dispatch has been received aboard the Nympha from Admiral Stephenson ordering all mail matter for the Royal Arthur and the Wild Swan to be held here. The dispatch stated that the Wild Swan had been ordered north, and that the ship would soon follow. It is expected that both ships will arrive at Esquimaux a few days before the Queen's birthday. The Wild Swan, on easy draught, makes about 12 knots an hour and the Royal Arthur, making about 16 knots easy running, will likely overtake the smaller craft, or arrive in port about the same time. The news will be received here with pleasure, as the "jolly tars" will be here in time to take part in the celebration sports.

The Hracin is due from the south on Sunday, the 12th inst.

"It thunders loudly, but little rain falls." (Much cry and little wool.)

JOE

Eminent

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