

The Colonist.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1896.

A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

There will be long and an interesting debate in the House of Commons on an important constitutional question. As our readers know, there was a difference of opinion between the Governor-General and the late Government relative to the expediency of it in the last days of its existence making certain appointments and performing other acts of authority.

The previous Administration (of which Sir Mackenzie Bowell was Prime Minister), representing the views of the same political party and having a majority in both chambers, failed to pass its proposed legislation, and on the 25th of April Parliament expired by effluxion of time without having granted supplies for the public service beyond the 30th of June.

It will be observed that His Excellency does not question the power of the Administration to do what it had done, but as he did not look upon the exercise of power to which he objected as "necessary public business," he withheld from it his sanction.

On this ground, too, I felt obliged to withhold the expression of my acquiescence in your suggestion as to the appointment of Senators or Judges. (You have since then laid before me certain recommendations as to Senatorships which are vacant.) These are like appointments, and with them under such circumstances as the present, it would seem proper to leave all other life appointments and the creation of all new offices and appointments for the consideration of the incoming Ministers, unless always such a course is shown to be contrary to the public interest.

The question to be considered is, Had the Governor-General the authority thus to limit the powers of the Government, and was it right and constitutional in him to take into consideration the party leanings of the gentlemen whom the Government desired to appoint to the Senate and the political opinions of the lawyers whom they recommended to be raised to the Bench?

No question therefore can possibly arise as to the British constitutional practice in regard to the right of a defeated ministry to carry on the public business until their successors are appointed, and to fill any vacancies that may exist. Lord Salisbury was not precluded from the creation of additional peers, although the disparity between the Liberals and Conservatives in the House of Lords was at least as great as that which exists in the Senate here.

longed at the time of his appointment, I may call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Sir Henry Strong, and the present Mr. Justice Taschereau, were appointed by Mr. Mackenzie, and that in Ontario the present Chief Justice, Aronoff, and a long list of judges in the different provinces all belonged to the Liberal party when appointed to the Bench.

In answer to the Governor-General's objection to the late Government's nominees for seats in the Senate, Sir Charles says: "I may also be permitted to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that during the five years Mr. Mackenzie was Premier he met with no lack of support from the Senate, except on two occasions. On these occasions he failed to obtain the assistance of some of his most prominent supporters in the House of Commons, and subsequently I myself heard him frankly admit that in those two instances the Senate was right and he was wrong.

This is how the difference between the Governor-General and the late Government stands. What decision Parliament will arrive at with regard to it, is not for us to say, but the question to be considered is very important and most interesting; as far as we can see it is, when a Governor-General justified in disregarding the advice of his constitutional advisers, and how far can he go short of dismissing them outright?

VISITING POTENTATES.

The young Czar of All the Russias and his young wife, like all the rest of the world who can afford it, are having their outing. Emperors and Empresses, like all other human creatures, need change now and then, and take a pleasure in visiting their relations.

On Wednesday, and on Saturday the Czar will pay his grandfather a visit in Copenhagen. On the 20th of this month the Empress will be on her way to see her grandmother at Balmoral, where she will arrive on the 22nd and will remain until the 3rd of October. It is said that the venerable Queen of England is greatly beloved in her character of grandmother and great-grandmother.

It is not expected that the visits of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to European courts and capitals will be productive of political results. Great care has been taken to create the impression that the tour is simply and solely one of pleasure.

MADAGASCAR.

Madagascar, since it has come into possession of the French, does not appear to be in a very peaceful condition. The island, it is said, is in a condition of anarchy from one end to the other. There is friction between the civil and military authorities, and crime is rampant. Robber bands commit their depredations without check, and riots and other disturbances are frequent.

French have not benefited very greatly from the conquest of Madagascar. It is, and most likely will continue to be for some time, a white elephant on their hands.

QUICKED DOWN.

The Tribunal has it appears, completely quicked down. The Uitlanders, if they are not contented, have ceased to complain. One of their grievances, that respecting education, has been redressed, and it is perhaps hoped that other reforms will follow.

GRIT PROMISES.

The promises of the Grits to be economical have been many and they have been emphatic. Whether they have been sincere or not will be seen by and by. They have, too, promised to revise the tariff with the view of lessening the burdens which the people will have to bear.

Le Cultivateur, which is Mr. Tarte's paper, expresses the opinion that it will take millions of dollars to put the public works of the country in the state in which they should be. It also hopes that the Minister of Public Works, who is Mr. Tarte, will inform the public of the facts, so that opinion may be formed so as to ensure the taking of the steps necessary to correct the faults.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

To-day is Labor's holiday. It is only right that one day in the year should be set apart in honor of Labor. The debt which the world owes to Labor is incalculable. Nature has almost everywhere been bountiful, but her gifts would go to waste if men did not work to avail themselves of them.

It is unfortunate that in these days men who consider themselves the friends of mankind think it to be their duty to set class against class—to do their best to cause the men who labor with their hands to be dissatisfied.

THE GOLD DEMOCRATS.

The Indianapolis platform contains the creed of the Gold Democrats moderately and clearly expressed. It condemns the declarations of the Chicago convention as unsound and un-democratic. The Democratic party, it says, "has survived many defeats but could not survive a victory won in behalf of the doctrine and policy proclaimed in its name at Chicago."

or gold must remain in the rocks unused until the end of the world. Without that capital the workingman under these circumstances is as helpless as a child.

But help is at hand. An intelligent and enterprising man who knows of the existence of the gold takes specimens of the ore, says to Victoria. He holds the citizens of the find he has made, and offers them a share in the produce of the mine, if they will supply him with the money to work it.

It is very different with the men—some of them poor enough no doubt—who have invested their savings in the mine. They may have to wait years before they get a dividend, or after waiting they may find that they will get nothing at all; that the money invested and all the gold taken out of the mine have gone to pay expenses—that it has all gone to pay workmen of one kind and another, and that there is nothing left for them.

Then, in the case of the capitalist properly so-called, who invests his millions in gold mines or in other industrial enterprises, whether his ventures succeed or not, he gives employment to large numbers. Money is continually passing through his hands to be used by men and women who take none of the risks, or feel the annoyances, the disappointments, or the cares of business.

A little thought must convince the intelligent man that the demagogues' denunciations of capitalists are generally mischievous nonsense. Capital is needed to enable the people of a country to develop its resources, and the capitalist is, so far from being an enemy of the workman, his very best friend. The capitalists, for instance, who are supplying the money to develop the gold fields of this Province, are, whether they intend to be or not, the benefactors of the working class, and ordinarily they are, as men, worthy of the respect and esteem of those to whom they directly or indirectly give employment.

credit and the honor of the nation, are fully recognized by the Democratic party, and will secure him a place in history beside the father of the Republic. This is high praise, and President Cleveland deserves every word of it. He has proved himself to be an able administrator, and his promptitude and his courage have on more than one occasion averted serious misfortune.



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MAINLAND MATTERS. Gold-bearing Quartz Near Westminster—Burglary at Vancouver—Church of England Synod. VANCOUVER. VANCOUVER, Sept. 5.—The next meeting of the synod of the Church of England Diocese of New Westminster will be held at Christ church, Vancouver, on October 12. C. J. Marani, R. Balfour and T. Cunningham, the Fraser River improvement delegation to Ottawa, left by to-day's train for the Dominion capital. A man giving the uncommon name of Smith was caught by Officer Lean attempting to break into Woodard's wholesale stores, Westminster avenue. It is hoped the rest of the desperate gang will be traced through this captured criminal. The duty collected during August at Vancouver was \$34,216.48, an increase over August, 1895, of \$7,576.12. The value of August exports was \$94,487; of imports, \$68,326. WESTMINSTER. WESTMINSTER, Sept. 5.—Gold bearing quartz assaying \$100 per ton is said to have been found up river, within 40 miles of Westminster. Mrs. J. W. Moore, Mrs. J. R. Richards and Miss Bessie Mitchell were among the arrivals from Vancouver last night. Mrs. Gordon Grant and Miss Grant returned yesterday from Vancouver. W. A. Ward was a passenger from Vancouver by the Charmer last night.

WA Govern ma M The I Gen Orta adre... week, owing tioned. The e this is and the contro in whic in the to parl opposit was not to hear Richard Lister a these go defensiv Sir C. B the opp the chair Mr. M. C. the man; the past servativ reading Mullen general' the pu boom. Mr. Mc traces ac no more be privi his ma place wh leader. The h your rest owed discharge FA albeit it adde y perience press, wh Mr. McL hesitated For inste stalwart lines: "His s versal app He made remarks wh hailed. Some spe some rath one rath claim to h duty. "The luded to "While w not Socl wear red gers conditions are becom be given to an engi country, coming f will be en revolution the larric French re tests in th for a you treating to parliament tion. For yet out of clothes, to Confedera great stre form. Inc WINO and some ment were Ottawa Ci effort, an the govern in British usual for In this cas had been a great de man ente time and h trying role ed that th on a platf some cons for the Hg next he ad a somewh In the co tion had on the lip. ernal income parliament their action erior-Gene time again fulminated utilizing th in an eme the Liberal action, inas ing body of yet there d the SLIGH for their ac great strait they have. have been opposition eriment at terim app salary of the But no, the obstructive to see it therefore, a which the have had w fact must a had all the through, th are now en necessary have been of \$650,000, poor show not a leg to Richard Ca was an und his observa that the go blameless.