The Colonist.

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THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

It must surprise many thinking men that so grand an enterprise and one so well calculated to benefit the commerce of the whole world as the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, makes such little headway. It might be supposed that the Government of the United States would, as soon as it was called upon, do all in its power to facilitate the project. But it has not done so. It has been uncertain as to its action with regard to it. It has evidently been held back by powerful influences whose means of accomplishing their purpose can only be guessed at. The conviction seems is that the advancement of the project has been left to private energy and enterprise.

It is evident that the men of money have little faith in the projectors of the Nicaragua Canal. It, perhaps, could not have been otherwise. The scheme is a gigantic one, involving not only the expenditure of immense sums of money, but considerations of national importance. Who is to have control of the Canal after it is built? Who is to guarantee its neutrality in time of war? What is to prevent its being seized by some powerful nation and being used solely for its own purposes? Then the mismanagement and the phenomenal dishonesty of the Panama Canal Company are fresh in the minds of the men who have money to invest. This with the national considerations mentioned above naturally made them shy of risking their money in a similar project controlled by private persons. The consequence is the Nicaragua Canal scheme, fraught as it is with immense benefits to many rich and powerful countries, is at the present moment at a standstill. Those who favor it are hoping against hope that something will before long turn up to recommend the scheme to the world's capitalists and that a stimulus will be given in some way to its construction in the not distant future.

But there seems to be little ground for even this hope. To all appearance the Nicaragua canal, as a merely commercial enterprise, has had its day. It has been weighed in the balance of public opinion and found wanting. Faith in the advantages that must follow its construction and successful operation is as strong as ever. The men best qualified to form an intelligent opinion on its necessity and its usefulness are as strongly convinced as ever they were that it would do an incalculable amount of good, but they are at the same time beginning to despair of its ever being constructed by private enterprise. What is to be done, then?

A little reflection must convince thoughtful men that if the Nicaragua Canal is to be constructed within a measurable time, the work must be done by nations and not by individuals. If two rich and powerful nations undertook to construct the canal, all difficulties would disappear as if by magic. If Great Britain and the United States instead of snarling at each other about the Venezuela boundary dispute and the Behring Sea seal question, would unite heartily to cut a great waterway across the continent of North America at Nicaragua, they would make a beneficent use of their greatness and their wealth, and earn the gratitude of the whole civilized world. Nothing would be easier than for these two great and rich nations to raise the money necessary to complete the work, and they could by strict official supervision ensure its being honestly and faithfully constructed. Any plan of operating the canal that these two powerful nations would agree upon would be readily acquiesced in by the rest of the world. And it is surely within the bounds of possibility that they would agree upon a way of operating the canal that would be fair, not only to each other, but to all the commercial nations of the world.

This national co-operation for a great object is surely possible. Alliances for war purposes are not only feasible, but common. Why then should an alliance to promote the well-being of many nations be regarded as an impossibility?

A DECEPTIVE NAME.

English Liberals settling in Canada are often deceived by a name. There is a party in this country which has adopted the title Liberal, but which is as far as possible from being Liberal in the English sense of the term. In Great Britain the Liberal Party is supposed to be the party of progress and reform. In Canada the party calling itself Liberal is opposed to progress, and it does not seem to know what reform means. That party opposed to the utmost of its ability the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the extension of the Canadian railway system to those parts of the Dominion that need railways for their proper and immediate development. The Liberals also oppose the extension and the improvement of Canada's magnificent system of canals. Liberals oppose subsidies to steamship lines, in fact they generally consider it their duty to throw cold water upon any expenditure that is calculated to develop the resources of the country and increase its trade. They are, as far as improvements in which some of themselves are not directly and immediately concerned, a regular stick-in-the-mud party.

They have what they call free trade as a plank in their platform, and they have the words inscribed on their banners in order that unthinking Canadians and the unsuspecting stranger may be deceived. But in practice they have never been and they are not yet free traders. In England the Conservative is as strong a free trader as the Liberal. In Canada Conservatives are as a rule moderate protectionists, for the same reason as Liberals in England are free traders. Canadian Conservatives have found the policy of protection best suited to the circumstances of their country, as both Liberals and Conservatives in England believe that free trade is best suited to the circumstances of Great Britain. It is for the English Liberal when he comes to Canada to inquire carefully whether or not a country should have the trade policy best calculated to develop its resources. He will, if he has an open mind, soon find out that the trade policy which is best for an old country like Great Britain is not exactly that which is best for a new country like Canada to adopt. He will, after a little experience and observation, find that it will not be wise to ally himself with a party which *professes* to think as he does on matters of trade but which is, in every other respect, slow and obstructive. He will find that the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada has been the party of progress and of really liberal ideas, while the party calling itself Liberal is as far as possible from being liberal, in any sense of the word, in its policy. After a while he will come to the conclusion that English Liberalism and Canadian Liberalism are essentially different, and that it is most misleading to call them by the same name.

ENGLAND'S NATURAL ALLY.

The hatred of the English so generally felt, or at any rate so freely expressed by the people of the United States, is very forbidden from being reciprocated by the British. Although many Americans write and talk of Great Britain as a bitter enemy, whom it is the duty of all good United States citizens to denounce and defy, Englishmen in general speak and write of Americans in the kindest and most cordial way. They seem never for a moment to forget that Americans are their kinsmen, and that they have more in common with them than with the citizens of any other nation. The origin of this friendliness is not in merely prudential considerations, for Englishmen believe that Americans are, on the whole, under greater obligations to Great Britain than the British are to the United States. Both nations are, of course, as independent as nations in this age of the world can be, but their relations are such that, if they were interrupted, the United States would be the greater sufferer. However this may be, it is certain that the great majority of Englishmen would like to see their country on the most friendly terms with the United States. An evidence of the peculiarity of Englishmen for their cousins on this side of the Atlantic can be found in an article that appeared in the London Spectator during the late crisis. Discussing the subject of alliances the Spectator says:

The English would prefer a permanent alliance with the United States to any other that could be suggested, and many of the wisest among them believe that such an alliance is among the certainties of the future. The two countries have no conflicting interests; they are not divided either by race, religion, or political ideals; and they have a profound reliance on each other's strength, endurance and fidelity. The time, however, is not ripe. The two nations have few common interests, they are divided by traditional antipathies which produce distrust, and one of them dislikes and repudiates the idea of being involved in European complications. Neither the antipathies nor the isolation of the Union will last, America growing fast out of her seclusion; but for the present she could offer us nothing except neutrality, and with that we must perforce remain contented. That is enough to secure our hearty good will; but for a working alliance available for the next few years, we shall be compelled to turn elsewhere—that is, in practice, either to Russia or France, or it may even chance to both.

A permanent alliance between Great Britain and the United States may be much nearer than the writer of the Spectator's article imagines. When Great Britain and her colonies become more closely united than they are at present, when they form a federation like the United States themselves, it will manifestly be to the interest of the United States to be on the best possible terms with the great English-speaking nation. The federation will be for commercial as well as for other purposes, and the Great Republic may find that trade considerations alone will draw it into a close alliance with the Great British Empire.

THE REMEDY.

The abstract of the remedial bill now before Parliament in our issue of Sunday shows that it resembles very closely the Ontario school law, which is, on the whole, satisfactory to the inhabitants of that province of all creeds. It is, we are free to admit, unfortunate that the Government of Manitoba allowed the matter of the grievance of the minority to go as far as it has gone. It would have been much better for all concerned if they themselves had undertaken to redress the grievance of the minority. This could have been easily done, and the federal interposition would have been unnecessary. But that Government have rejected all advances towards a compromise, and have chosen to treat the application to the Federal Government as an attempted invasion of the rights of the Province. But here is where they and their friends in the other provinces make a mistake. There has been no invasion of Manitoba's rights, and there will be no coercion.

The Legislature of Manitoba has not the right to do as it likes in the matter of education. It has, by its own action, settled its jurisdiction over the subject. It has the right to compel every child to pay for the education of children belonging to a religious minority, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, in accordance with its views regarding education. The Manitoba Government and Legislature knew or ought to have known when the school law of 1890 was enacted, what they took from the Roman Catholic minority rights and privileges which they had enjoyed for nineteen years. The minority, as it had a perfect right to do, appealed from the act of 1890 to the Governor-General in Council. The Governor-General in Council, as was his duty to do, heard that appeal and, as he also had power to do under the constitution, found that it was well grounded. Then, as the Constitution directed him to do, he requested the Government of Manitoba to redress the grievance. He afterwards submitted the Manitoba complaint to Parliament to be remedied, and suggested the remedy. Every step in the whole proceeding has been taken strictly in accordance with the Constitution, as strictly and as regularly as any dispute between individuals is submitted to a court of law for decision. The issue is a matter of contract, and however Parliament decides there is no coercion, no interference with the rights of the Province of Manitoba. It would have been better, much better as we have already said, for all concerned, if it had like many disputes between individuals, been settled out of court. But since it has been allowed to go to trial, it is most foolish and highly improper for either of the parties to complain of coercion or of undue interference. The Constitution creates and defines the rights of the province and the minority in this matter, and it points out the course to be pursued by the party aggrieved. When, therefore, everything has been done as the Constitution prescribes, as has been the case in this Manitoba matter, who is justified in complaining of coercion?

THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

The Senate of the United States has lost its high reputation. It was once looked upon as one of the ablest, if not the very ablest, and the purest deliberative body in existence. It discussed and deliberated upon great and important subjects in a manner consistent with their greatness and importance. The decisions of the Senate were given on the merits of the questions before it. Sectional considerations had little weight with its members, and personal considerations apparently none at all. The senators were men of uncommon ability and high character.

The Senate of to-day may be said to be the opposite of all this. Men find their way into it that are remarkable for nothing but their talent for scheming and their want of principle. The old States, in which talent and integrity are appreciated, and the Senators from which represent large sections of the population, are swamped by new and thinly peopled States where men of culture and talent are scarce. Many of the Senators from these States are ignorant and corrupt. Some of them have bought their way into the Senate, and others have pushed themselves into that body by practising the arts of the demagogue. Being narrow-minded, unpatriotic and unintelligent, their only object is to advance what they consider the interests of the section or the industry which they represent. The worst of it is, that each State having the privilege of sending two men to the Senate, the representatives of a few thinly peopled States exercise an influence wholly disproportioned to the importance of the territory which they represent. Besides, the senators from these States are wholly unqualified to exercise the influence they possess for the advantage of even their own sections, to say nothing of the country at large.

It is impossible for them to take a wide or a disinterested view of any question. A late division on a most important measure—the free silver bill—shows that the balance of power in the Senate is held by five Populist senators. The division was:

	For.	Against.
[illegible]	21	13
[illegible]	15	22
Populists	5	0

SIR RICHARD'S STAND.

Sir Richard Cartwright is most tenacious of his opinions. The Leader of his party may twist and turn on the trade question, he may have a new policy every month, but Sir Richard Cartwright adheres to his policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. He courageously accepts all the consequences involved in the adoption of that policy — the assimilation of Canada's tariff with that of the United States and discrimination in trade against Great Britain.

A few days ago while speaking on the Budget he had occasion to read from some of his old letters on the trade question. Here is how the Toronto Globe relates the incident: "As it came nearing six o'clock Sir Richard came to a sentence in his letter where it declared that the people of Canada looked for relief from the system of protection to continental free trade or unrestricted reciprocity. There were ministerial 'hear, hears.' 'I stand by it, every word of it,' Sir Richard retorted."

The Finance Minister is too able and too alert a debater not to take advantage of the latest profession of Sir Richard Cartwright's commercial faith. In his Budget speech he thus reminded the House of the position which the financier-in-chief of the Grit party had taken. He said:

The hon. member from South Oxford Sir Richard Cartwright had cleared up all doubts of his position but two days ago, when he had reiterated his political beliefs of 1891.

Sir Richard Cartwright—1892.

Mr. Foster—One of his beliefs is that free trade with the United States is of greater moment to this country than free trade with all the rest of the world, with the United States left out.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Hear, hear.

Mr. Foster—No man knows better than my hon. friend that free trade with the United States is impossible without discrimination against the rest of the world (hear, hear), and he himself has stated it again and again.

It is important just now to know how Sir Richard Cartwright stands on the trade question. He is admittedly the leader of the Grit party in all that relates to trade and finance, and the policy which he advocates will in all probability be the policy of his party if that party is once again raised to power. The Grits cannot afford to throw over Sir Richard, and if he is made Finance Minister he will be certain to have his own way. Mr. Laurier in matters financial would be a child in his hands, and there is no one in the party who can take Sir Richard Cartwright's place. It is, then, safe to say that if Sir Richard has not abandoned the policy of commercial union and all that that policy involves it has not been abandoned by the Grit party. Mr. Laurier may skilfully keep it in the background; he may hide himself behind some range of imaginary hills or may mask his batteries, but if the people should place him in a position in which he considers concealment no longer necessary, he will come out into the open and let the world see what are his real aims, or rather Sir Richard Cartwright will do it for him.

Electors, therefore, must not forget that the adoption of the protective tariff of the United States and discrimination in trade against Great Britain are still as they were in 1891, the principal features of the policy of the leading financier and the ablest man of the Grit party.

ALBERNI MINING NOTES.

ALBERNI, Feb. 10.—George O. Smith has uncovered a wide ledge on his Bonanza claim, situated on the Alberni canal. He has just received a gold assay and is shipping a ton to get a mill test. Mr. Pellew-Harvey made the assay.

P. Marsh is in 75 feet on his tunnel on Coleman creek. He had to timber all the way.

The Cataract Hydraulic Co. has over twenty men working, and the Duke of York Co. has a full force and so has the Constance claim.

A Good Ration For Calves.

A good ration for calves is made as follows: Make a rather thick gruel by stirring middlings in water before it comes to the boiling point, letting the mixture come to a boil afterwards. When cool, take a pint of this, three pints of skim-milk and three pints of warm water, for each calf. Fed thus, they will not be troubled with scours, and will thrive.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

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NEWS OF THE LAW COURTS.

Another Appeal in the Water Rights Case of Clark v. Eholt—Other Court Proceedings.

In the Divisional Court yesterday argument opened in Clark v. Eholt. This appeal arises out of the old case of Carson v. Martley, which was argued here and was appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada and then to the Privy Council. The present action is brought on the judgment which defined the respective rights of the litigants to the waters of Pavilion creek, Lillooet. Clark is suing Carson and J. and L. Eholt for having taken an excess of water from this creek against the final judgment mentioned governing the Carson and Martley case. Clark claims $5,000 damages and a perpetual injunction restraining Carson from taking over 200 inches of water and the Eholts from taking any of the water for irrigation purposes. Mr. Justice Crease on December 31 last, delivered judgment ordering Carson to alter his ditch so as to have it carry 200 inches of water and no more, and the court also gave interlocutory judgment for damages to be assessed by a jury at the assizes at Clinton next May. From this judgment Carson appeals on the grounds that the proceedings are vexatious; it is not clearly settled that Carson is entitled only to 200 inches of water; also that if there was any complaint against him on account of the final judgment proceedings for contempt of the court's order was the proper course to pursue against him instead of the present action. The argument was not finished yesterday. Mr. G. Hunter for Clark and his wife, and Mr. H. D. Helmcken, Q.C., for Carson.

The Chief Justice delivered judgment in the application to extend time for the appeal in the case of the Timber, Indiana Co., Good Hope and Old Kentuck mines vs. Good Friday. He ruled that the applicants are entitled to an extension for thirty days from date.

The appeal of George J. Cook against the decision of the Police Magistrate binding him over to keep the peace for twelve months for using threatening language to his wife was dismissed with costs by Mr. Justice Drake.

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AN OUTLET FOR FARM PRODUCE.

On Monday next the Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. propose inaugurating a weekly steamboat service between this city and Sooke, with the object of opening up, if possible, a trade with that section of the country. At present there is no regular boat on the route, and in fact there never has been one. It is in view of developing a business, and not altogether of immediate profits, that the C.P.N. Co. begin their new enterprise. If the trade warrants they will make the service more frequent than once a week, but the company's present endeavor will no doubt be greatly appreciated by the settlers of Sooke. The steamer Rainbow is to be placed on the new run and will leave the C.P.N. wharf at 9 a.m.

In regard to the Venezuelan affair, a strong desire exists among the Liberals to meet the wishes of America. There are hints, however, says the Daily News, that although the Radicals favor unlimited arbitration, the Liberal leaders are bound by their own record and are unlikely to press this view.