

## THE COLONIST'S DEFENCE

Victoria, Friday, January 18

## ITS BEST DEFENCE.

The Colonist to-day advances the best defence it can for the municipal commissioners bill. This defence is so damaging that we here reproduce it entire as being the strongest sort of argument against the measure.

It is somewhat singular that the Times will not represent the government of this city fairly or truthfully. In yesterday evening's issue it said:

"It (the bill) will disfranchise at a single blow every elector who is not an owner of real estate, and those who own real estate will be disfranchised themselves the moment they endorse the commissioners selected by the government."

Every elector who is not an owner of real estate will not be disfranchised. Those electors will, in common with the owners of real estate, have the power to elect the mayor, who, if he is a capable man, will have quite as much influence and authority as he has at present. The men who vote for so important a part of the governing body as the mayor cannot be said to be disfranchised.

Those who own real estate will not be disfranchised themselves the moment they endorse commissioners. Under the new law they will have precisely the same power with respect to money by-laws as they have at present. The commissioners take the place of the aldermen. They will not be able to raise a single dollar by way of loan without the consent of the owners of real estate obtained in the usual way at the polls.

When our contemporary misrepresents the new measure in this way it shows that it has no faith in its own objections to the bill. The truth, it evidently believes, will not serve its turn, so it finds it necessary to add to it inventions of its own. The fact is the new law disfranchises no one. It simply does away with the board of aldermen for three years, leaving everything else precisely as it was. The whole electorate votes for the mayor, and the real estate owners, besides voting to put the law in operation, vote for the confirmation of the commissioners nominated by the government, for the money by-law and any other by-law which now requires the sanction of the owners of real estate.

Observe the admissions implied in the organ's attempt at defence. The man who owns no property is expected to sit quiet under his effacement because he will still have the privilege of voting for mayor. How barren that privilege will be our readers can well see for themselves. What will the mayor amount to when his voice is liable to be overruled by three or four men appointed by the government? Then if the favored property-owners are foolish enough to ask for government by commissioners they reserve to themselves the inestimable privilege of voting on loan by-laws. The commissioners will have a chance to make "ducks and drakes" of the civic revenues for three years without check or control from the ratepayers, who will have divested themselves of all power save that of preventing the raising of loans. Both the owners of property and the less favored citizens must feel extremely obliged to the Colonist.

## NO ROOM FOR DOUBT.

In regard to last week's meeting to consider the municipal commissioners bill the premier and the city's representatives took shelter behind the very thin pretence that the meeting was not representative, and they excused their non-attendance by saying they had not been invited. Neither the pretence nor the excuse can be used in connection with last evening's meeting. The premier and the members were there and were given full opportunity to present their best defence. The meeting was a thoroughly representative one; the man who asserts the contrary at once writes himself down a fool. At that representative meeting, after the premier and the representatives had presented their arguments, a resolution was passed by a majority of at least 20 to 1 utterly condemning the bill and demanding its withdrawal. If the premier refuses to withdraw the bill the members have clear instructions to vote against its final reading, and if they ignore those instructions they will plainly be sinning against light and knowledge. They will further be offering an insult to the citizens, whose instructions they last evening professed to be seeking. It was most creditable to the many who attended the meeting that they saw clearly through the sophistries with which the premier and his friends have attempted to surround the bill, and that they refused to have the true issue belittled by any foolish talk as to the "optional" character of the measure. They, and practically all the citizens, have realized that the "option" is only a cloak used to conceal the danger involved. The people of Victoria have told the premier plainly that they want none of his bill, that if they desire any change of system they will intimate their desire. If the premier had been wiser and less autocratic in nature he would have left it to the people to take the initiative, instead of posing as a "deus ex machina" whose superior intelligence was ready to make up for all the defects in that of the populace. Mr. Davie is notoriously slow to learn a lesson from the people, but we are not without hope

that some of his followers may successfully help him in this case.

## COL. PRIOR'S POSITION.

In reply to Mr. Williams' challenge Col. Prior relies on a statement made by Mr. D. R. Ker to prove that "the Times" reporter distinctly stated he would not report the proceedings at last Friday's conference between the Aberdeen reception committee and the city council. A glance at Mr. Ker's letter will show any person that it does not afford proof of the colonel's charge, since the remark with which it credits Mr. Williams implied no such promise as was represented. Then Mr. Williams' letter to-day plainly shows that Mr. Ker misapprehended what he did say. The letter from the mayor and the two aldermen who were close by the reporter prove most conclusively that the latter gave no undertaking of the kind intimated by Col. Prior in his Sunday letter. In view of Mayor Teague's communication it is especially hard to find any justification for the colonel's assertion that "the mayor admits" that such an undertaking was given. Further, Mr. Williams understands, if Col. Prior does not, that Times reporters have no power to say what shall and what shall not be published in the paper, and he would not think of undertaking to suppress the report on his own responsibility. We have now only to dismiss Col. Prior with the remark that if he had not written in the strain he adopts to-day he might have been regarded as laboring under a mistake, but he has unfortunately shown his animus. This is particularly displayed in the closing sentences of his letter, which advances a new and, we believe, unjustifiable charge against Mr. Williams. That, it seems to us, is exceedingly small business for a gentleman in Col. Prior's position to engage in.

## THE TRUSTEES.

The educational interests of the city are in danger of being overlooked in the election of school trustees. This is not so much due to the apathy of the people in the matter of school management as to the overshadowing effect of the aldermanic election. Thus far there has been very little if any discussion of our school affairs at public meetings, and it seems probable that the vote for trustees will be light. This is not as it should be. The cause of education ought to be paramount, and the work of the school board should receive as much consideration at the hands of the ratepayers as the work of the council. For this reason we are glad to see that Mr. Cartmel and Mr. Sprague have offered themselves for election. The Colonist describes them as good men and the Times is pleased to be able to endorse its contemporary's testimonial. With the retiring trustees, Messrs. Hayward, Saunders and Lovell also in the field for reelection, an opportunity is offered to make a selection. We will not make comparisons or presume to direct the electors further than to say that in school management the infusion of fresh blood is essential if we are to expect the best results. The administration of both departments can be improved, and the opportunity to make it possible for reforms to be carried out is now presented to the electors.

## LAST EVENING'S MEETING.

Hon. Mr. Turner made an eloquent appeal for a commissionership last evening. He told of what he had done when he was mayor of the city.

A conservative estimate of the number who voted against Mr. Marchant's resolutions last evening places it at 20. Among the number were government members of the legislature, government road superintendents, government printers, other government officials, and a number of gentlemen who are engaged in business with the representatives of the city in the legislature.

What does Mr. Turner want? He denied last evening that he had been well paid for his services to the city. He is now drawing \$4000 a year, has had several trips to London at the expense of the province and in fact has his expenses paid whenever he takes a little trip. Any ordinary man would be satisfied with this.

Even Mr. Ritchie's personal popularity could not induce the citizens of Victoria to swallow a bitter pill.

## WHISPERINGS.

To the Editor: A rumor which concerns well known personages is that the Hon. Theo. will take the chief justiceship, that the present incumbent of the office of lieutenant-governor will step in Theo's shoes and that a well known senator will thereupon remove from his present residence to Carey Castle. A little game of three card monte, as it were.

A further rumor is to the effect that an individual who sports a luxurious growth of side whiskers, who has a penchant for conducting phrenological examinations, and who has had political aspirations (which were cruelly nipped in the bud), will receive a lucrative appointment from the Hon. Theo in the mining bureau so soon to be established. And no doubt he is entitled to it as much as any one, having, on a hint from the Little Autocrat, withdrawn from the field after announcing himself as a candidate

for a rural district at the last provincial elections.

The appointment might be a wise one in more respects than one, for when the individual referred to was not engaged in an effort to throw his voice from the rostrum over James Bay to the miners of Cariboo and Kootenay he could busy himself in a useful way. Friday and Saturday of conscientiousness on the cranium of "Sarah's Young Man," who has been accused of having a concave indentation where that organ is supposed to be located.

## THE SCHOOLS.

To the Editor: As a parent and ratepayer of this city I desire through your columns to enter an emphatic protest against the scheme which certain members of the school board have in view of reducing the salaries of teachers.

Economy is a good thing, but I do not believe any reasonable person who looks carefully into the matter can come to any other conclusion than that the teachers of this city are not paid one cent too much—at least a great majority of them. I ask any man to compare the salaries of teachers with the remuneration paid in any other business in this province, and then ask himself if the scheme a certain clique in the school board is working up would not be a gross injustice to a hard working class of people.

Now, Mr. Editor, if economy was the sole object of these gentlemen there might be some reason for taxpayers viewing their project with favor, but then there is a proposition to saddle the community with an inspector. I say that the curse of this province is that there are already far too many drones in the hive. We are fairly overrun and impoverished with parasites and barnacles who live on the community, producing nothing. Now it is proposed to work in some of these on the ratepayers. Every parent who has children attending the schools here will bear me out that the great majority of the teachers perform their duties faithfully, and the fact of an inspector coming around occasionally would not add one whit to the efficiency of their work, against those who do not give good service the board has a remedy, and it is their duty to apply it. There are two inspectors already; what under the sun do they do to earn their salaries? I know of places with ten times the school population where one inspector does all the work.

Your view as to the desirability of new blood in the school board is the correct one, and I hope the ratepayers will profit by your advice.

Victoria, Jan. 15.

## DAY LABOR AND CONTRACT.

A Resolution by Sewerage Commissioners Calling for Comparative Cost.

A meeting of the sewerage commissioners was held this morning. The following resolution was passed and ordered sent to the city engineer: "That the city engineer be instructed to supply the commissioners the following information: Relative cost of contract sewers in other parts of city under present conditions as compared with day's work on contract sewers; itemized statement and cost of sewer built by day's work on Fort Street, with a view to a comparison of the same for the information of the commissioners, also comparative statement of cost of contract sewer according to schedule prices. Also a report on also expenditures to date on contract and day's work on sewerage works. Expenses of Coughlan & Mayo's extra charges."

At the meeting a resolution was passed that a comparative statement, City Engineer Harrison & Walker sent in a bill for \$88.50 for attendance of men opening up sewer line Inspector Busby charges. The commissioners refused to entertain the bill.

## NEWSPAPER CHANGES.

Empire and Mail to amalgamate and the Globe to take the Mail Building.

Toronto, Jan. 14.—The Evening Telegram says negotiations are in progress that may end in honorable terms between the Empire and Mail and the Globe's occupation of the Mail building. It is said an apparently good authority that the Mail and Empire people are willing that the papers should be known as the Empire-Mail. The government at Ottawa is said to be doing its best to further the union and if carried out the publisher Bunting will be provided for by the government, while Mr. Creighton will not suffer by the change. The Globe has created the opportunity for union on fair terms which may never occur again. In the event of the union being effected the Globe will buy the Mail plant.

## Law Intelligence.

Mr. Justice Drake of the Supreme Court chambers this morning heard the following applications:

Denny v. Sayward-Davie, Q.C., for the defendant, applied for a stay in proceedings pending the judgment in an action between the same parties in the Supreme Court of the State of Washington. E. J. Bodway for the plaintiffs, contra. Order made granting a stay until 6th February, costs to the plaintiffs in the cause.

Coughlan & Mayo v. Wilmut-Crease (Bodwell & Irving, for the plaintiffs, applied to add the corporation of the city of Victoria as parties defendant. Order made.

Hermann Bennett & Lawson-Drake for the plaintiffs, applied for further particulars of defendant Bennett's counterclaim for damages. Archer Martin contra. Summons dismissed.

The Divisional Court consisting of Justices McCreight and Drake yesterday dismissed the appeal in Ward v. Clark. The appeal was brought by one of the defendants, John Clark, P., from an order of the court. Crease restraining the defendant from interfering in any way with the schooner Enterprise, which he became the purchaser of under a bill of sale in an action of John Clark Jr. v. J. J. Clark.

Ward & Co. are now suing to set aside the judgment as fraudulent, and obtained the injunction as stated. Belyea for the appeal and E. V. Bodwell contra.

This morning the Full Court, consisting of Justices McCreight, Walker and Drake heard arguments of counsel in the Crease-Cole v. Wilson, Q.C., for the defendants (appellants) and Theodore Davie, Q.C., for the plaintiffs (respondents).

The trial of Lem Yim, charged with stealing, and Yee Yook, charged with receiving stolen property, which was set for to-day was adjourned until to-morrow as the judges were engaged in the Full Court.

## THE FRASER OVERFLOWING

Great Deal of Damage Done Along the Banks of the Lower Fraser River.

Rains and Thaws Cause an Unusual Rush of Water in the Rivers.

The rain and thaws of last week have filled the rivers of the Northwest, to overflowing and caused numerous landslides, blocking railroads and delaying trains. On the coast lines most of the winter, and much land is overflowed and crops destroyed. In Portland several of the streets near the river are under water and the street railway company have sustained heavy loss.

Dispatches from Vancouver say the province is threatened with serious floods and great damage will be done in the Fraser river valley, a portion of which suffered so severely last spring. The floods are caused by the unusually high tides experienced here on Friday and Saturday. Saturday morning the delta district was one large lake, and in place of vehicular traffic on the roads boats were called into requisition. The tide, assisted by the heavy gale from the west, drove the water over the dykes, and at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning the water inside the embankments was six inches higher than at any time during the spring floods. Westham island is entirely under water, the depth varying from a few inches to several feet. Fortunately the farmers had time to remove their stock and effects, and as harvest of course is over the loss will not be so serious, though great damage is done to roads and dykes.

At North arm of the Fraser, a settlement on the opposite side of the river, a similar state of affairs exists. The roads are all flooded and several bridges are washed away. The water is over the floors of several canneries, and goods and effects had to be hastily removed. Sea island and Lulu island are in places entirely submerged.

The Cowlitz river, which joins the Fraser above New Westminster, has risen with marvellous rapidity during the last few days, and at noon on Saturday was eighteen inches higher than ever before. Recent heavy rains and warm weather have melted immense quantities of snow in the mountains, and a usually small trickling brook is now a raging mountain torrent, carrying all before it. The traffic bridge at New Westminster Junction was swept away on Saturday afternoon, and fears are entertained for the safety of the railway bridge at the same point. Several small bridges across this stream are also gone.

Telegrams from the upper Fraser all state that the Fraser is rising faster than ever before. At Yale, the head of navigation, there was five feet of snow lying on the ground on Monday, but now scarcely six inches remain. Old timers say they never have seen snow melt so rapidly. Constable Marquette, at Mission City, states that the river rose six feet at that point on Friday.

At New Westminster no serious damage was done, though the water was nearly up to the wharves. The flats at South Westminster were flooded, and the water is nearly up to the Great Northern dock, though it is not thought that it will be flooded.

In this city several boat houses are flooded and also the cellars of some warehouses along the water front. The water has nearly overflowed several wharves, but no serious damage is done so far. Captain Peele, of New Westminster, an old timer and weather prophet, predicts that the tide will be still higher.

Advices just received from Eburne, a settlement at the mouth of the Fraser, says there are three feet of water over Sea island. The planks on the roads were all swept away and several bridges washed out.

A dispatch from Stevenson, another town at the mouth of the Fraser, states that the dyke is washed out in a dozen places and the island is flooded. The water is still rising, and a higher tide is expected.

New Westminster, Jan. 14.—Saturday's freshet at Cowlitz and high tide on the Fraser, caused a great amount of damage. The Cowlitz freshet subsided rapidly on Saturday evening after doing all the damage it could. The municipal bridge at Junction was swept away by sheer force of water. It cost \$6000 but a \$10,000 structure will be necessary to replace it. Water came up higher and faster than ever before, but one old timer says the freshet in the winter of 1886 was as bad. Two great boom-yards on the Cowlitz were broken by the freshet and saw a million feet of lumber was sent adrift. Steamers were at work all day yesterday picking up logs. The C. P. N. steamer Transier was lying in Cowlitz at the time and received some damage from the logs.

Yesterday's tide was higher than Saturday's and the whole Delta district was flooded deeper than ever. Apart from roads, and possibly some fruit trees, no damage worth mentioning was done. The dykes, of course, are wrecked and will cost a great deal to repair. No loss of live stock has been reported. At high tide yesterday the South Westminster flats were flooded for a mile back.

The first C. P. R. train since Thursday came in yesterday. Mud slides in the mountains, caused by heavy rains, caused the delay. The Great Northern has not had a train since Friday. Floods in the Skagit river at Ferndale and landslides near Everett are the troubles. The inquiry on the body of George Frederick Ashford, who murdered his wife and children at Vancouver on the 22nd of December, was held to-day and the verdict of suicide while temporarily insane returned. Medical evidence of Dr. Walker showed that the bullet from the pistol was found imbedded 11-12 in.

in brain, yet he lived and had full use of his faculties for three weeks afterwards.

Inquest on the body of Heinrich Zechow, claimant to estates in Seattle and vicinity worth \$2,000,000, was concluded this morning with a verdict of wilful murder against person or persons unknown. The body was found with a deep stab in the neck under Webster's wharf on New Year's eve.

## ARE ROYAL ENTERTAINERS

Meaning of the Word as Applied to the Engineers and Marine Artillerymen.

Very Enjoyable Smoking Concert at the Work Point Barracks Last Night.

The non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Engineers entertained their friends in royal style last night at the Work point barracks. The entertainment was in the form of a smoking concert, and besides the members of the service there were upwards of a hundred guests present. The scene of the festivities was the racquet court, which was splendidly decorated. The walls and ceiling were simply covered with flags and bunting, arranged and draped in a most attractive manner. The hall was brilliantly lighted, and the effect, heightened by the uniforms, was very pleasing. The affair was admirably arranged, and every attention was shown the guests from their arrival at the post gate, where the sentry stood, until they reached that point again after the concert. There were three long tables the length of the room and one smaller one at the head of the hall, where the officers sat. On the tables were all kinds of refreshments, both liquid and solid, and a full supply of pipes, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes. An active committee saw that no one failed to do ample justice to the hospitality of the hosts. Sergeant Porter made a most excellent presiding officer. Seated about his table were Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne, R. M. A.; Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, Lieut.-Col. Peters, D. A. G.; Capt. Tomplar, R. M. A.; Lieut. Gordon, R. E.; Lieut. Wintour, H. M. S. Phœnix; Lieut. Sargison, Lieut. Gregory, Lieut. Munro, Lieut. McCann and John Braden, M. P. P. During the evening the different branches of the service, the guests, the hosts and the press were toasted and there was a hearty vote of thanks to the hosts from the guests. Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne, Lieut.-Col. Prior, Lieut. Gordon, Mr. Braden and Lieut.-Col. Peters were among the speakers, and all spoke in a happy vein. Lieut.-Col. Peters was particularly happy. He said that the relations between himself and the officers and men from the old country had been most happy in every respect, except that his dog Nero and Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne's dog Mike would not be reconciled. They persisted in quarrelling. The crowd caught the joke and the building shook with cheers. Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne congratulated the men on the success of the entertainment, and Lieut.-Col. Prior and Mr. Braden promised that the compliment would be returned in a similar way in Victoria at an early date. The programme rendered was a very good one, amongst those who contributed to it being Sergeant Porter, Corporal Juffs, Sapper Jones, Gunner Bourner, Gunner Ayton, Gunner Lyons and Lieut. Gordon; Messrs. Flemen, Trigidge, Ratty, McElven and Raisbury, and Lieut. Wintour of the Phœnix, and Messrs. Pilling, Richardson, Braden and Dooley and the Chithams, composed of Dr. Wade, Sergeant Sparrow, Mr. Thomas and the Messrs. Goward. The last number was concluded at midnight and the company joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen." Special cars were in waiting to convey the Victoria and Esquimalt delegations home.

The committee who arranged and managed the smoking concert were Sergeant Porter, chairman, Sergeant Sparrow, Sergeant Phillips, Gunner Ayton, Gunner Lyons, Gunner Hatcher and Gunner Steward. Their work was praised all evening by all who were there. The men make this an annual affair; a sort of gala night, and none who were present last night will fail to respond to an invitation next year.

## THE EASTERN WAR.

British Fleet Watching the Movements of the Invading Army.

Shanghai, Jan. 15.—M. Grenard, the French explorer, who was arrested as a rebel by the Chinese in Tibet last fall, has arrived here. He is in good health. Rhina, who went to Tibet with him, was murdered near Lhasa.

London, Jan. 15.—A Chefoo dispatch says it is rumored that the Japanese have landed in Shang Tung, near Wei-haiwei, and that the British fleet is cruising in the waters in the vicinity watching the movements of the invading force.

## ANOTHER DEFAULTING CASHIER.

A New Hampshire Bank Suspended This Morning.

Dover, N. H., Jan. 14.—The Dover National Bank suspended this morning. The cashier is probably a defaulter. Cashier Abbott of the Dover National Bank is a defaulter to the extent of ninety thousand dollars. Irregularities were discovered by the bank examiner last Friday. Abbott deferred explaining them until this morning. When the vault was unlocked to-day, the bank examiner then posted a notice that the bank had suspended. Late excitement prevails. Abbott was respected by the citizens. He was also cashier of the Five Cent Savings Bank and was the city treasurer. The depositors will lose nothing, but their money is tied up. Abbott is in jail. The savings bank is announced to be all right. The city's money on deposit is said to be safe. Shareholders will have a good deficiency.

## LATE CABLE

Lord Randolph's Edition Not This Morning.

One Hundred Men the Dig Lake at Har.

London, Jan. 15.—Churchill was weaker Paris newspapers expressing the opinion of the present of newspaper opinion is the formation of a ministry under Mr. Bou.

At noon to-day the Dig Lake colliery 90 or 100 men are entered that most of the drowned.

General Baratieri the Italian war office that the necessity for reinforcements of the Africa is most urgent decided to dispatch Africa without delay.

The Prussian land day by the Emperor majesty said that he introduced for the future. He hoped with the landtag to combat attacks which are belated order and monarch was loudly cheered.

The Paris police anarchist who it is a bomb explosion in Tuesday night.

Paris, Jan. 15.—M. of the chamber of deputies to undertake the for ministry and withdrew of M. Bourgeois are London, Jan. 15.—Haled to-day that he had a trial field. He did not want to sail in the summer. Her own sell her.

A Shanghai dispatch of the Chinese peace has been further delay from Peking.

## LIQUOR LEG

Important Decision Supreme Court.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—court to-day judgment case of Huson vs. So is known as power to by-law was passed by South Norwich in On local option. This was the act of ing such powers to law was afterwards ment was again revised the court of appeal, ment Huson appealed court to-day. This was with costs. Just cheau and Fournier that effect while Judge Sedgewick dissented.

The result is that cided that the Mowat stitutional and that right to pass a local of census submitted by 11 ment in regard to of prohibition arising case was heard by Fournier, Taschereau Sedgewick to-day. J answers the whole qu it will be seen that decision in Huson vs.

1. Has the province it sale within province Answer—No. Chief Justice dissented.

2. Has province such Scott act is not in open Answer—No. Chief Justice dissented.

3. Has province power portation of surrend inces? No. Unanimous.

4. Has province power portation into province mous.

5. If province has it has it power to prohibit limits of Scott act? N and Fournier dissented.

7. Has province power option law No. Chief Fournier dissented.

To questions 5, 6 and Fournier answered yes. Chief Mowat has not the prohibition act.

## "BEN HUR"

On the Atrocities—"G at Half-C

Syracuse, N. Y., J. Lew Wallace, formerly key, is here to lecture o most renowned historio was interviewed last

men question. H reports we have rec these massacres and I think the whole Ch unite in demanding the perpetrators. Bu opinion for the surrend doubts of their truth of exaggeration about whole affair seems to spracy were abroad object of which is not to whether the Sultan ed of ordering these at is false. I knew Ad well while at his court al knowledge of his c