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THE COMING CAMPAIGN.

Political events are marching fast at the coast. A few days ago no one would have ventured to predict that by this time a Conservative government headed by Richard McBride would be in office and that "Joe" Martin would voluntarily resign the leadership of the provincial Liberals. The incidents of the past few days make certain a keen party contest for the possession of office, and British Columbia may be allowed to hope that whatever the result may mean for party interests it will justify the predictions of those who believed that party lines would put an end to the old disgraceful state of affairs.

"Joe" Martin displayed his customary shrewdness yesterday in placing his resignation in the hands of the Liberal executive. His action was much in the interests of his party and in his own interest. It gives the Liberals a much better fighting chance, and it also gives Mr. Martin a much better position with the party. Doubtless "Joe" feels that he is more than likely to be the man selected as leader after the election, or at least that he has as good prospects as any other member of the party. In the meantime the friction arising from the late convention is removed.

THOSE CANCELLED GRANTS.

When Sir Thomas Shaughnessy returned to Montreal he was asked by a reporter some questions concerning the cancelled land grants, and his answering statement appears in this somewhat grotesque shape:

"Sir Thomas remarked that the whole trouble had arisen through the internal squabbles in the government. The cabinet did not seem to be at all a happy family and the discord which had for long subsisted were elements of weakness and led to friction which, unfortunately a corporation like the Canadian Pacific could not help being drawn into, because it had its own interests to conserve and these would otherwise be jeopardized or sacrificed."

The attempt of one minister to drive another out of the cabinet and the inevitable retaliation on the part of the person who was to be the sufferer involved executive acts which became the subject of criticism.

So far as these particular land grants went the company had earned them when it constructed the Columbia & Western line and there was not a shadow of justification for the revocation.

The lands, some of them important mineral areas, are understood to be of great potential value, and this is why the Canadian Pacific president is insisting upon the agreement being carried out.

Sir Thomas says he believes that ultimately the company will succeed in obtaining its rights.

Sir Thomas' conclusions are quite correct from his own point of view. He could not well be expected to admit that the people of British Columbia, who are neither "grafting" politicians nor C. P. R. officials, have an interest in the property in dispute. If he had been frank in the matter he would have pointed out that this valuable piece of the public domain was treated as private spoil to be struggled for by grabbers in total disregard of public rights. A consciousness of the cold-blooded treachery to the province that was contemplated in the "deal" ought to keep the C. P. R. president from saying much about it, even if his company, as a company, did none of the manipulation.

OUR GROWING TIME.

The growth of population in the Canadian West is attracting more and more attention among our neighbors. The report of the committee on agriculture and colonization at Ottawa shows that during the first four months of the present year the Dominion of Canada opened its doors to 40,672 immigrants, which is nearly twice as many as sought admission during the corresponding months last year, and three times more than came in 1901—the respective figures being 22,432 and 13,393. Of the immigration this spring, a little over one-third

has come from Great Britain—the figures being 16,457. This is three times more than the British emigration to Canada during the corresponding months of last year, and lacks only 2500 of equaling the number which the United States attracted from Great Britain and Ireland during the same period. The remaining portion of the immigration came from the United States and Europe—the former sending 13,770 persons. Continental Europe's contribution to the permanent population of Canada during the four months covered by the report aggregated 10,445 individuals, an increase of 40 per cent.

The Seattle Times quotes these figures and then observes: "During the same period of four months the immigration to the United States aggregated 287,070 persons. Beside these figures, the 40,672 immigrants to Canada looks like a trifling matter, but the result may be of considerable greater relative importance. Canada's population is only about one-sixteenth of that of the United States, while her immigration equals two-fifteenths of our own."

"It is also worthy of note that Canada's new blood flows in the veins of Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic people—while a large portion of the immigration to the United States comes from Southern Europe and brings with it a medley of sentiments and ideas that are the origin of most of the ills that now beset this nation."

"Again, the Canadian immigration in the Northwest goes largely into the country for the purpose of transforming the wilderness to a condition fit for the habitation of men, like farming, lumbering, manufacturing and mining—aiding to build up a citizenship that will make the nation stronger. In the United States a large portion of our immigration settles in the cities and contributes to make worse conditions that are already bad."

"The conclusion to be drawn from the present trend of immigration to North America is that Canada's strength as a competitor of the United States is destined to grow greater as the years go by. Her opportunities for wheat growing and stock raising are better than has been generally supposed, while her mineral resources are sufficient to support a number of flourishing cities."

It might further be noted that the proportionately greater gain to Canada's population, both in quantity and quality, is likely to increase in coming years. The vacant lands to the south of the border are almost exhausted, and therefore the overflow from the United States to this country will in all likelihood grow rapidly, while a greater portion of European emigrants will be diverted this way for the same reason. It is also probable that the superior character of our immigration will be maintained. We certainly have no reason to desire that the stream from southern Europe should change its course. Better for Canada that it should continue to flow towards the United States, for in our present circumstances we can afford to look to quality rather than quantity.

EDUCATION MUCH NEEDED.

Speaking of the review of progress towards international arbitration given by the speakers of the Lake Mohonk conference, Bradstreet's remarks: "Within the year no less than seven important controversies have been referred to special arbitrators, or arbitration commissions, and six important decisions have been rendered in cases referred to arbitration before The Hague tribunal. Among the cases submitted to arbitration was the Alaskan boundary dispute between the United States and Great Britain, in reference to which ex-Secretary Foster, the president of the conference, said that a satisfactory outcome could not fail to increase the prospects of a permanent arbitration treaty between the two countries involved. In behalf of such a consummation, Mr. Foster suggested that the efforts of the conference should be concentrated in favor of such an arbitration treaty, to be framed along the lines of the unratified convention negotiated by Secretary Olney and Lord Pauncefote six years ago, and that to this end public sentiment should be brought to bear upon the senate of the United States." This reads rather curiously in light of the known facts concerning the Alaska boundary treaty. The statement has been freely circulated in United States newspapers, and is evidently correct, that the senate would not consent to any treaty unless it was made absolutely sure that Canada's claims could not succeed in any degree. In brief, it was not an arbitration that the United States wanted, but a tribunal that should be ready beforehand to record a decree for one party to the dispute.

When the spirit of the senate and the other public men of the United States is so distinctly antagonistic to honest arbitration there is evidently much need for missionary influence such as Mr. Foster proposes.

EXIT.

The legislative assembly completed the "non-contentious" business and was prorogued yesterday. Dissolution will now come at once, it may be expected, to be followed as soon as possible

by the election of a new house. The further announcement is made that Mr. McBride has almost completed his cabinet, the post of provincial secretary being yet unfilled. Mr. McPhillips becomes attorney-general and Charles Wilson president of the council. To all appearances the latter has quietly acquiesced in the arrangement whereby Mr. McBride supplants him in the leadership to which he was appointed by the Revelstoke convention, and so far there seems to be little objection from the rest of the party. The present juncture therefore sees the party forces ready to enter the struggle for the possession of office.

The present state of affairs, though in large measure brought about fortuitously, may be taken by the public as much more satisfactory than that which at one time threatened. It is well to have the old regime entirely done away with and to have the election conducted on new lines. It is also well that supply has been granted so that the government may be carried on with regularity. Some much-needed legislation has fallen of enactment, including mining law reforms, but in that respect, as in others, the situation threatened to be much worse than it is.

It is a matter for regret locally that the extra public works appropriation for this riding should have been refused, because some necessary improvements will thereby be delayed for a year. Probably a good many people have been deceived by this city's name being attached to the riding and therefore suppose that Rossland alone is interested. The appropriation, of course, was asked for Rossland riding as it is now, not as it will be under the new redistribution act.

GIFTS TO RAILWAYS.

The somewhat startling announcement is made that besides a guarantee of bonds to the amount of several millions of dollars the Dominion gives to the Canadian Northern some 30,000,000 acres of land. This, to quote the News-Advertiser, reveals the manner in which the public resources are still being given away for the enrichment of promoters. Although the railway in question has no pretensions to be a transcontinental line, and although it is situated in a territory that should make its operation sufficiently profitable to enable the company to secure the necessary capital for the construction of the road, we find that in land and financial aid it has received more from public resources than the whole of the bona fide expenditure upon the undertaking. Only a few weeks ago it was stated in the public press that the company had sold 3,000,000 acres of its land grant for about twelve million dollars. At the rate of 20,000 acres per mile—which is the usual amount of land given as a subsidy—this would mean that \$80,000 per mile has been realized towards the construction of the road, which, for many miles on the prairie, did not cost more than \$20,000 per mile. Yet in addition to this the company issues bonds and ordinary stock to twice the actual cost of the road. The line will belong to people who have made colossal fortunes out of the public bounties and subsidies and who have not contributed one dollar of their own to the enterprise. But the rates of freight and passenger fares will be based on figures that will yield dividends on bonds and stock that have no representation in any bona fide outlay. Is it not about time that this reckless system was brought to an end?

VALUE OF OIL FIELDS.

Some interesting figures are given by the San Francisco Chronicle in regard to the consumption of petroleum in California. "In 1876," says the Chronicle, "we were only consuming 12,000 barrels. In fact, that represented the total output of the year. It all came at that time from the Los Angeles and Ventura county wells. In 1881, about the time of the discovery of the oil measures in the city of Los Angeles, it suddenly jumped to 39,632 barrels. The highest point in that stage of oil-well development was reached in 1888, when 690,333 barrels were consumed. Then followed years of decadence in the industry, the consumption dropping to 303,220 barrels in 1889. In 1893 it aggregated only 470,173 barrels. The year following the Summerland and Kern county product began to cut a figure and the consumption mounted to 706,969 barrels. From 1895 to 1900 fuel oil steadily increased in favor, the consumption growing from 1,208,482 barrels on a regularly rising scale to 4,321,960 barrels. By that time the railroad companies began to realize its value for steam making purposes, and as a result the consumption nearly doubled in 1901, being then placed at 4,329,950 barrels. Its adoption as fuel for manufacturing doubled it again the following year, the consumption then reaching 8,742,500 barrels, and last year increasing it to 13,692,514 barrels, or about one-third the total consumption from the birth of the crude petroleum industry here. It is now entering into every industry where stationary power is employed and we are burning it at the rate of over 20,000,000 barrels a year." The Chronicle maintains that

while the use of petroleum as fuel is increasing and is likely to increase more rapidly, the consumption is not likely to overtake the producing capacity of the California fields, and it winds up with the declaration that "California possesses the only oil measures on the continent today which promise to be permanently productive." It may be that the paper will have to revise its opinion, for there is no reason to suppose that the California measures are any more "permanent" than those to be opened in British Columbia. But the point to which we wish to draw attention is the value added to oil resources by such increase in consumption as the Chronicle's figures indicate. There is much reason to suppose that the East Kootenay fields will have as favorable a market as those of California. And all this richness our politicians were keenly anxious to give away for nothing. The more valuable the public property the more eager have been its supposed guardians to make gifts of it.

THE MODERN NEWSPAPER.

Colonel Henri Watterson's dictum that the power of the press is weakening in individuality does not commend itself to the Minneapolis Times, which points out that the colonel's tribute to Emerson at the recent centenary celebration supplies a contradiction thereto. The decadence of the newspaper is a pretty well exhausted subject just now, says the Times, but perhaps no more so than the decadence of every form of individual influence, if the wallers are to be believed. There is truth enough in it all to confess that what lack of leadership there is in the newspaper is not peculiar to that form of education. The editor can lose no more relative power than has the teacher, the preacher, the lawyer or the statesman. For power lies not so greatly in the person himself as in the attitude of the people who look at him. If the world refuses to prosper itself before the king, is it because the kings are any less men than they were? Rather that the world has grown past the prostrating stage and even the impertinence of the unbent knee has its pertinence to progress.

In a wider relation, however, the press has not lost power. Gone is the influence once exercised by the few papers that were oracular. There is no Horace Greeley of today, no Raymond, no Dana—in a sense that a paper is merely the background for the high relief of one personality in every department. Colonel Watterson is as fine an evidence of that cameo style of press influence as is now left. Still there is a more pervasive diffusion of the newspaper idea than there ever was. Otherwise why the constant outcry against some phases of newspaper publicity? Why the Pennsylvania libel law? The state does not bother to step in the way of an idea which has no man power inside of it, merely because it makes a big noise in its progress.

The newspaper idea does inspire confidence in its market value. The demand for the idea increases. The world is really hungry, not only to know how the other half lives, but for the ability to keep its eye fastened on this creeping, flying, seven-leagued power of material gains in very way. The wonder is not that there should be yellow papers at all, but that there are so few of them. The real quality of the press today is shown by the reserve with which it receives the yellow paper enterprise and the celerity with which it goes to work to tone down the worst example. There are no papers today so glaring as they were two or three years ago. The power of the newspaper influence lies in the fact of its ability to sift and leave out, and to make other tactics somehow seem to savor of the garbage plant.

How long would it take to stir up a second Commune in these days if the press, as a unit, were to shade only a little more heavily the contrasts? The subtle influence of the negative reasoning has been tried enough in some quarters to show that there is more danger in compliance sometimes than in outright defiance. The daily press has the ear of the world today, and it is impossible that it can lose its attention. Gratitude from the world is called for that the ear is not more assaulted by unpleasant hearsays.

Everybody reads the newspapers. In return the newspaper stands as the interpreter between everybody and everybody else. Upon the ability of the newspaper to use words as signs of deeds worth while does the largest share of the conservative safety and peace of the people depend. What's the news? says the man on the street. There is only one bulletin board to tell him—the one which belongs to the newspaper.

THE POLITICAL CHANGE.

The coast papers, both Liberal and Conservative, seem to regard the new regime with mixed feelings. It is taken as something they would not have brought about as a matter of choice, but which they nearly all will accept as a means of reaching what they want. The politicians appear to be of much the same mind, but whether the press and the politicians accurately reflect public opinion remains to be determined. It is quite probable that so far as they have taken the waiting attitude they are in

accord with public opinion.

Mr. Carter-Cotton's paper, the News-Advertiser, thinks "that the people of the province will be satisfied with the personnel of the new government and will extend to it a confidence such as has not been accorded to the previous administrations." Nevertheless there is an apologetic tone in the remainder of its remarks, some of which are as follows: "There will, of course, be some feelings of disappointment and jealousy among the members of the legislature that they have been passed over in the selection of the names of those who have been submitted to his honor for approval as his advisers. But in such a large number of men as there are in the present house who feel that they are good cabinet 'timber,' it was unavoidable that some should be disappointed, and that fact should neither cause them bitterness or resentment, nor prevent them giving their hearty support to the new government. Men who take an interest in public affairs, either in the legislature or outside, can render good service to the country whether they be private members of the house or as simple citizens of the commonwealth. To allow personal ambition or petty jealousy to prevent them giving their hearty co-operation to the government in the arduous task that it has before it, is neither the mark of good citizenship nor the proof of that public spirit which they profess animates them. We make these remarks because we observe in one or two quarters a disposition to stir up animosities and prevent that harmony which it is so essential should prevail."

The Colonist is quite frankly disgruntled. It commences a long article on "the situation" in this wise: "It is quite evident that the condition of the Conservative party calls for very careful handling, and for loyalty to the party. The man from whom loyalty to the party is most required is the Honorable Richard McBride. If he is under the impression that what is required is for the Conservative party to show loyalty to him, he is putting the cart before the horse. So far, he has made claims upon the party. They have been met out of considerations of party loyalty, not out of consideration for him. The party has some, it has many, claims upon him. Are these going to be met? Does he propose to put himself in the hands of the Conservative party, or does he propose that the Conservative party shall put itself in his hands? Between those two propositions there is a great gulf fixed, and the question is just this, whether Mr. McBride is going to precipitate the Conservative party into that gulf, or himself to bridge it over? We regret exceedingly that it is in his power to choose between those two alternatives. Because he lacks the essential qualities of determinateness and decisiveness which a leader in critical times requires. We have only to hope that what we could not owe to his astuteness and political sagacity, we may receive from the deep sense of party loyalty which pervades his person."

The concluding part of the article is even more emphatic: "If Mr. McBride desires to show his loyalty he can do so by making clear to us all that he does not pose as a leader, but merely as an expedient to facilitate an election upon party lines, and that he will leave it to the Conservative members elected to the next legislature to choose the leader of the party. That means in other words that candidates of the Conservative party would be pledged not to follow him, but to follow the choice of the elected members of the party, and meantime to stand upon the platform of the party. The present government would then appear in its real light as a temporary and makeshift government, to be reorganized as soon as the country has declared its verdict. If that course is followed, the success of the party at the polls is practically certain. If it is not followed, the success of the party is doubtful in the extreme."

The Liberal Times is as frankly condemnatory, though for different reasons. It discourses on "the situation" in this way: "The new government will come into power in a manner worthy of the name it bears. It was born in treachery and deceit. Its leader is as unstable as water. He has been bending to every wind that blows and cutting a most miserable figure in the defeat of the Prior government. That was accomplished by the men who are now commanded to take their places on the opposition side. Our Conservative friends have gained a notable victory. They have at their head a man of whom they should be proud. Their own acts should make their hearts swell with pride in the glory of a great achievement. For a few months they will reap where others have sown. The thought of such a great moral and strategic victory should make their righteous bosoms swell with exultation. How they will be able to strut and plume their feathers as they tell the people of the country that they stood and watched the battle from afar—how simple John Oliver and enthusiastic Smith Curtis and their friends smote one member of the

government after another from their seats, only to find when they had rubbed the dust of battle from their eyes that honest Richard McBride, honorable Robert Green, trusty R. G. Tatlow and other birds of the cuckoo kind had appropriated the nests of the vanquished. While the militant members of the opposition party and the Times have ample reason for expressing disapprobation of the course pursued by the 'strong' new leader of the rehabilitated party whose record in British Columbia is as strong as the striking personality of its head, none of us have any reason to grieve at the outcome. We have accomplished that to which we set our energies. One unworthy government has been killed. Its successor has come into existence in a regular, constitutional manner, whatever we may think of the subsequent conduct of its leader. To that extent the situation has been cleared. The battle must now be joined upon clearly defined issues."

The Vancouver World would have preferred to see W. W. B. McInnes called upon to form a Liberal government, but it is glad to see party lines drawn in any circumstances. It says: "Liberals will not be outdone by their political foemen in courage or in readiness to accept the public will. While they would have preferred to go to the country under an enthroned leader of their own, the opportunity which will be afforded of going to the country against a tangible and fixed party in opposition to them will be accepted with relief and rejoicing. Nor will the reputed readiness of the Conservative claimants of leadership, Messrs. Wilson, Prior, et al, to sink their personal ambitions for the party weal, be without its value as an object lesson. The example may be taken as demonstrating the possibility of as speedily and effectively terminating any domestic differences in the Liberal ranks when party good is to be thereby assured. Anything is better than fighting a tangle of friend and foe in stygian darkness. If Premier McBride as an acknowledged leader of Conservatives throws down the gauntlet, as it appears he must, he will find the gage of battle promptly accepted by provincial Liberalism, well pleased at last to find the campaign laid in such a manner as to give promise of definite and salutary results."

THOSE LAND GRANTS.

In an attempt to review the circumstances of the Columbia & Western land grant affair the Toronto Mail and Empire makes some curious assertions. In one place it says: "The Columbia & Western was entitled to 20,000 acres per mile, contiguous, or not far removed from the line. When the road was completed the then government, that of Mr. Dunsmuir, found that it would be difficult to allocate land along the line of railway, and an arrangement was thereupon entered into whereby the company was to receive, instead of the 900,000 acres that were due to it, two blocks in another part of the district, of greater value, seeing that they contained coal and oil, but of smaller area. The blocks to be given covered 623,000 acres." And again: "There can be no doubt that the cancellation of the land grant, after the service for which it was given has been performed, partakes of the character of repudiation. It is announced that the C. P. R. has two ways of securing redress. One is the petition of right for the legal recognition of its claim; the other is an appeal to the federal authorities to disallow the provincial act repealing the bonus. Its course and the results, will be watched with interest, for it goes without saying that if a subsidy can be withdrawn after the purpose for which it was granted has been accomplished, an entirely new method of promoting railway construction has been discovered." It looks very much as though the Mail and Empire had been carefully primed by some person or persons representing the Canadian Pacific. Or perhaps it is only adopting Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's expressed views. Very likely the Canadian Pacific will endeavor to capture the coveted lands by either or both of the methods mentioned, but British Columbians will be much surprised and dismayed if it gains its end in either way. The Mail and Empire may really be ignorant of the fact that the cancelled grants covered lands not "in another part of the district," but something like 300 miles away. Of course they were of greater value than the lands provided for in the act, but the Mail and Empire will surely not contend that therefore the government and the railway company were at liberty to get aside an enactment of the legislature. It is plain that the action which the Dunsmuir government took at the instance of the company's agents was illegal and was calculated for the robbery of the province to benefit the company. To call the cancellation of that action "repudiation" is impudent in the extreme.

THE IMPERIAL LIMITED.

WINNIPEG, June 9.—The first Imperial Limited train of the season from Montreal passed through Winnipeg today on time and with a goodly number of passengers.

According to the complaints are made who have had business and works department attempts were made to exact thing in the way "tips." The statement connection may or but in any event the well founded complaint in which business is conducted. There is renovation by the World makes some this and other dep. worthy of attention freely stated and v. vining circumstance servants of the people act the people's but under what are ce for the work performed exact tips, bonuses, ations of a monetary to their public duties it is high time for organization.

It is unfair in honest and efficient ment that the culp be singled out, and from the service, to the common law smallest respect to provisions.

While on the subv works department, that Hon. Mr. M. among the Liberal the honor of succe miership after the t at the polls, will a thought to the de this cumbersome an partment. A chang Act, of course, w that change is boun

The dual depart widely, and growing day that passes. of its interests and it extremely diffic minister to keep h all the details of and thus abuses at their command become possible w not.

The separation of from that of pub necessary as does from finance, and in the first instan for the reason th then the finance m ner incidentally to agricultural advan vince. The natura to be between the that of agriculture

Still another de thorough reform is general, which du more has virtually has fallen into an necessity for a m ment of the crimis lumbia is appare observer, when p long series of sin tually dead letter, and each day br siveness of the cr general contempt

It is an evil day the enforcement criminal code is private prosecuto the case in Bri present time.

THE CONSER

It is a good al the country tha throughout the p commenced acti But the rank as must go it alone time to come. E so Hon. Richard leagues in the ca straightening out left by Prior, M erts, to address generally in the therance of good as it should be, fident that all welfare of the cordially commende. It is a cl first and polit consideration.

Conservatives foundation on is the platform vention with wholesome prin organization it value. But in the cause of the remembered the stoke program may be expect government. ately in earn of the wage-ea