

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1896.

A CLEAR CASE OF REPUTATION.

In reply to some remarks of ours in our issue of Tuesday the Times says: "Manitoba has repudiated no constitutional obligation, it has not disregarded or violated the terms of confederation, it has not violated or evaded any provision of the federal compact."

What, we ask, is Manitoba doing now if it is not repudiating a constitutional obligation? Did not Manitoba agree to grant the denominational minority a right to appeal to the Governor-General in Council against any act of the Legislature by the operation of which they might consider themselves aggrieved? Did not the federal compact point out the way in which the minority should proceed to obtain a redress of its grievance, and did not Manitoba in that compact agree to leave it to the Parliament of the Dominion to settle any dispute that might arise between the majority and the minority with respect to the matter of education?

The compact itself gives a clear and sufficient answer to these questions. The second subsection of section 22 of the Manitoba Act, which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council designates "The parliamentary compact," reads: "An appeal shall lie to the Governor-General in Council from any Act or decision of the Legislature of the Province or any Provincial authority affecting any right or privilege of the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority of the Queen's subjects in relation to education."

This is surely plain enough for any person gifted with common sense to understand. According, then, to the terms of confederation the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba can appeal from any Act of the Legislature to the Governor-General in Council. It follows as a matter of course that the Governor-General in Council has power to hear that appeal and to decide whether it is well-founded or ill-founded. The minority having made their appeal and the Governor-General in Council having given his decision upon it and submitted that decision to the government of Manitoba, the compact directs what is next to be done. Subsection (3) of the same section of the Manitoba Act states:

In case any such Provincial law as from time to time seems to the Governor-General in Council requisite for the due execution of the provisions of this section is not made, or in case any decision of the Governor-General in Council on any appeal under this section is not duly executed by the proper Provincial authority in that behalf, then, and in every such case, and as far only as the circumstances in each may require, the Parliament of Canada may make remedial laws for the due execution of the provisions of this section and of any decision of the Governor-General in Council under this section.

It must be remembered that the section we have just quoted is a provision of the terms under which Manitoba entered the Confederation—a condition, so to speak, of the deed of partnership. From this condition it is seen that Manitoba has agreed to submit any dispute that may arise between the minority, whether Protestant or Catholic, and the majority, to the Parliament of the Dominion for final settlement. There can be no doubt about this.

Well, in the present case the Roman Catholic minority did appeal from the Act of the Manitoba Legislature, as the Constitution permits. The Governor-General-in-Council entertained the appeal as the law gives him the power to do. He submitted his decision to the Government of Manitoba. The recommendations he made were rejected by the Provincial authorities. It now remains for the Governor-General-in-Council to submit the remedial measure to the Parliament of the Dominion—the tribunal which Manitoba itself has chosen to settle the difference.

Every step in the proceedings has been made according to law—or rather according to Manitoba's agreement. Does Manitoba acquiesce in the submission of its case to the tribunal of its own choosing? It does nothing of the kind. In the face of its agreement it asserts its right to make what laws it pleases with regard to education, and it designates the carrying out of the agreement, precisely as that agreement directs, "coercion." And the Dominion is told by those who profess to be the friends of Manitoba to refrain from any sort of interference with its legislation on any pretence whatever. If this is not repudiation of the terms of confederation we do not know what repudiation means.

Manitoba is at present in the position of a party who has agreed to submit his dispute to arbitration, but who when the time comes to place the case before the arbitrators, protests most violently, and makes no end of fuss. Does our neighbor consider this carrying out an agreement solemnly made in good faith? The Times imports matters into the case it now stands that do not properly belong to it, and mixes things up that have no real connection with it. For its sake and the sake of our readers who want to come to a sound and a reasonable decision on this very important matter we will recapitulate: It is admitted that the Manitoba minority had a right to appeal from the act of the legislature.

It is admitted that the Governor-General-in-Council had power to hear that appeal and to come to a decision upon it, whether that decision was wise or unwise—sound or unsound, well-expressed or badly expressed, is nothing to the purpose. It is admitted that the Governor-General in Council was required to submit his decision to the Government of Manitoba. It is admitted that if the decision of the Governor-General is not executed by the "Provincial authority," the Governor-General-in-Council may place the matter before Parliament for the purpose of having remedial laws enacted in accordance with his decision. This being a fair statement of the case it will have to be admitted that Manitoba in protesting against the interference of the Dominion Government, and in asserting its right to act with perfect independence in the matter, is repudiating the terms of Confederation and is not acting in good faith.

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A CONTRADICTORY CONTEMPORARY.

The Times is becoming an expert in artful dodging. Having, from Mr. Greenway's address to the electors and from general report, come to the conclusion that the school question was the only one before the electors at the late general election in Manitoba, we inferred that every elector who voted for a Government candidate signified his approval of the course which Mr. Greenway and his Government had taken upon the school question and that every voter who cast his ballot for an Opposition candidate did so because he disapproved of that course. The Times, as we might have known, says we were wrong in our conclusion, for "the majority of the Opposition candidates declared themselves in favor of the national school system and opposed to the re-establishment of separate schools."

If we had asserted that the school question was not the issue at the Manitoba general election, the Times would no doubt have expressed its astonishment at our stupidity and would in its usual courteous way have asked where we had been during the last year or two, that we did not know that the Government's policy on the school question was the sole issue before the electors of Manitoba. If in a week or two, if relying on our contemporary's statement, we should venture to say that the school question was not the issue before the people of the Province of Manitoba, we would be contradicted in terms much more forcible than polite. All things considered, then, we think it the wisest plan to maintain what ninety-nine men out of every hundred in the Dominion believe, which is that the people of Manitoba voted on the school question as generally as it is possible for any people to vote on a single issue.

BEARING FALSE WITNESS. A Member of Parliament cannot draw any salary from the government except that of a minister of the crown. As Secretary of State, Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., will receive \$7,000 a year, the same as his predecessors in that office. Pending the appointment of a High Commissioner, he is to continue to supervise the affairs of his late office in London, as far as that can be done from Ottawa. For this service he can receive no salary—to accept any would be to disqualify himself for a place in parliament.

Yet in the face of this well understood fact the Times, in editorially abusing Sir Charles, states that "his two salaries will amount to the snug sum of \$17,000 a year." Parliament requires of its members that their word shall be as good as their bond. If a candidate should make his way into the House of Commons by systematic lying, what influence could he possibly exert there, having forfeited the respect of all honorable men? If any elector can be made to believe the daily inventions of the Times, it will be to the political advantage of his manager Mr. Templeman, a candidate for parliament. Hence his newspaper's systematic violation of the Ninth Commandment.

A STRONG APPEAL. An earnest and patriotic letter has been placed in our hands addressed by a Canadian Protestant to Canadian Protestants, which contains among others a like import the following paragraph: "Remember that the demagogues' cry 'Hands off Manitoba!' or 'Let Manitoba manage her own affairs,' or 'The people of Manitoba understand their own business,' would be just as logical and as constitutional if applied to Quebec as to Manitoba. If the Legislature of Quebec should pass a law taking away any of the educational rights of the Protestant minority, how would Orangemen receive the cry 'Hands off Quebec?' Every honest Orangeman in Canada would then rejoice that the British North America Act provides for an appeal from a provincial educational act, and would insist that a remedy should be found for the grievance of the Protestant minority. If you would not shout 'Hands off Quebec,' do not be base enough to shout 'Hands off Manitoba.'"

It would be difficult for anyone, Protestant or Roman Catholic, to show that there was anything unchristianlike in the spirit of the above paragraph, or illogical in its reasoning. It is, in fact, an application of the injunction, "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." And it proves beyond controversy if it is the duty of a good Canadian Protestant to uphold the constitutional rights of a Protestant minority it is equally his duty to stand up for the constitutional rights of a Roman Catholic minority. The same letter also contains the following paragraph which is equally sound both in the letter and the spirit in which it is written. Here it is: "Remember that the man who says 'I know that the Roman Catholics of Manitoba have a grievance, but what of it? We are not bound to remedy that grievance,' is advocating a dishonorable and dishonest course. The very men who do not insult your honor and your sense of fairness by making such base proposals to you would be the first to see the gross injustice and immorality of those proposals if a Protestant minority had a grievance. Be brave and true and honest and patriotic enough to take the square manly course of treating others as you would like to be treated if you were in their circumstances."

Our readers would no doubt like to see the name signed to the end of the letter containing these paragraphs. Who is the man and what is his standing in the community in which he lives, and how is he esteemed by the men with whom he associates, are fair questions, and they are fortunately easily answered. The name at the end of the letter is "JAMES L. HUGHES, Grand Master, Ontario West." The letter is from the Grand Master of the Orange Order for Ontario West, and is addressed to his "Orange brethren." The discerning reader of the letter will not be surprised to find that the writer of it has by his sterling qualities of heart and mind gained the confidence of the men of the Order to which he belongs, and we are very sure that a careful perusal of the letter will go a long way to divest him of any prepossession he may have entertained against the Order in which Mr. Hughes has gained a high position.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES ELECTION. TO THE EDITOR:—There being no opportunity, owing to the lateness of the hour, for the candidates for the school board to speak on Thursday evening when the result of the school trustee election was known, permit me through your columns to thank the electors who so kindly supported the lady candidates on that occasion. It is very gratifying that one lady was elected, considering the strenuous efforts made by the combination which issued a gentlemen's full ticket. I think the ladies may congratulate themselves on the fact that by being in the field they brought out the largest list of educated and prominent gentlemen that has ever been nominated at one time for the school board in Victoria. This in itself approves the wisdom of women being eligible for election as school trustees. True, the ladies are somewhat disappointed that both their candidates were not elected, believing as they did that better results would be accomplished by two ladies being on the board. I am confident, however, that the lady elected, Mrs. William Grant, is the right person for the position and will, by her business ability and good sense, convince the two members of the new school board who opposed the ladies that a woman can fill the position of school trustee efficiently, that they never again will stoop to sanction the action of a man in sending the entire day at the entrance to the polling booth pressing a combination ticket on the electors with the advice, "Vote the straight ticket, gentlemen, but if you can't do that, don't vote for the ladies."

Another claim has been recorded on the Murray mountain, back of Carson, which has been named the Birdina. The only mine in the Osoyoos and Kettle river districts upon which really extensive work has been done, is producing a valuable source of income to the owners. The prospects of the Cariboo mine have never been so bright as today, nor the returns so gratifying. A pay-chute of exceptional richness has lately been struck, and the results have been astonishingly large, the fortnightly clean-up giving a return of no less than 700 oz. A competent expert has given an opinion that there is now ore in sight sufficient to keep the mill running for at least two years.

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NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Vancouver's New Electric Light System—A Normal School to Be Asked for.

Mining in the Okanagan District—The Clover Valley Murder—Roads in Cowichan.

(Special to the Colonist.) VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 18.—The Western Electric Light and Heat Co. are commencing the construction of their system. Sixteen thousand poles are on their way here. The power house will be built on False creek. The new company will supply light to private citizens at half a cent per ampere hour. An ampere hour is described by the company as 48 volts supplying a 16-candle power lamp for sixty minutes. The power in the main wire is 2,200 volts, while the wire that enters private houses is reduced to 48 volts. The school board for 1896 are about to urge the government to establish a normal school in Vancouver.

WESTMINSTER. WESTMINSTER, Jan. 18.—The ice in the Fraser is severely affecting the trade of Westminister, as many up-river points cannot be reached. The Queen Lake Ice Co. to-day shipped two carloads of frozen salmon to the East. Freeman, who is thought to have murdered the wispy boy Roy whose body was found recently in Clover valley horribly mutilated, is lying in Fairhaven jail awaiting trial on a charge of forgery. He will not be extradited as the proof against him is only circumstantial and the links in the chain are not complete.

COBBLE HILL. COBBLE HILL, Jan. 18.—A public meeting was held here to-day for the consideration of road matters, Major Mutter, M.P.P., Geo. A. Huff, M.P.P., and about forty settlers being present. The matter of local control of the roads of suburban districts by means of a bill in the legislative house was placed in the hands of the local members with a request that they use their influence to have an act passed based upon the principle contained in the motion.

NANAIMO. NANAIMO, Jan. 18.—On Thursday night the Alberni stage came in with two passengers. There was no snow four miles beyond Wellington, the roads being in excellent condition. On Wednesday night Mr. Ward, proprietor of the Arlington hotel, celebrated his birthday by a well attended entertainment and dance, Sam Dyer's orchestra furnished the music.

J. Hilbert of this city has been requested to act as representative here of the British Empire exposition to be held in Montreal this year and to form a committee without delay, so that Nanaimo and her coal and other industries may be adequately represented. It is proposed to appoint Mr. Hilbert, commissioner for this district. The Nanaimo Amateur Art Club will hold their second annual exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday next in the Green block. Mr. Davidson, who recently shot himself in the thigh while hunting in the Comox district, was brought down on the Joan for medical treatment, his condition being very serious.

MIDWAY. (From the Advance.) Another claim has been recorded on the Murray mountain, back of Carson, which has been named the Birdina. The only mine in the Osoyoos and Kettle river districts upon which really extensive work has been done, is producing a valuable source of income to the owners. The prospects of the Cariboo mine have never been so bright as today, nor the returns so gratifying. A pay-chute of exceptional richness has lately been struck, and the results have been astonishingly large, the fortnightly clean-up giving a return of no less than 700 oz. A competent expert has given an opinion that there is now ore in sight sufficient to keep the mill running for at least two years.

VERNON. (From the News.) The nomination for reeve and councillors in the Spallumcheen municipality took place on Monday, and resulted in the return of a full council by acclamation, as follows: Reeve, John Hamill, J.P.; councillors, D. G. Cumming, Gus. Schubert, J. K. Smiley, and George Parkinson. Mr. G. A. Rendell, the pioneer merchant of Boundary Falls, is heartily imbued with the belief that the mining boom now in its incipient stage, is destined to become of almost unparalleled magnitude, and that a mining town second to none in the province will spring up in some part of the Kettle River or Boundary Creek district.

FORBES M. KERBY is back from an extended visit to Camp Hewitt and Okanagan Mission. He reports work as progressing on some of the claims at Hewitt in a satisfactory manner. The proprietors of the Panoram, Little Duncan and Blindman claims at Camp Hewitt have completed their assessment work, and have every reason to feel encouraged with the appearance of the three properties.

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NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ninth Annual meeting of the British Columbia Fire Insurance Co. will be held at the office of Dalby & Claxton, 64 Yates street, at 3:30 p.m. on January 23rd, 1896. W.M. DALBY, Manager. 4228-21-wim

LATE LONDON

Movements of Royal Navy of Queensland and English

Semi-Official Denial of Venezuela—of British E

LONDON, Jan. 18.—out the week Great E warlike preparations, where noticed with ably short time in squadron of warship sea. There seems to war now than at a cloud of Transvaal di overshadow the stat The war clouds have ever, interfered with FESTIVITIES at Isle of Wight, where ing and extremely tended to heighten those who composed addition to the num companies command fore Her Majesty (Princess Henry of Ba for and supervised an private theatricals w enjoyed and highly Victoria will remain the middle of Febru will go to London fo mainly in order to be drawing-room of the leave Windsor for the 12.

The Prince of Wa week in town, during the theatre nightly, w ham on Friday. He v leave of the season week of February, an go to Marseilles on cutter Britannia. Sh been improved by sli re-appearing. The B part in the Mediterran The Duke of Devon taining the King of Chatworth Castle, in derivings with an Thurs his guests, accompani Wales, visited Olympi the bicycle races, whic attraction there. The Brussels on Friday. The Marquis of Que the press regarding sta spect to Lord Sholto who married Loretta A California. He says Sholto \$300 (\$1,500), y his younger brothers, my sons go to distant to marry music hall s leave they must take the Marquis in Thurs discussed the alleged he looks upon as

AMERICA'S HATED O He says he served o ship during the civil "feeling of this countr smashing the Union, a used to sing night in New Orleans, surround dozen Federal ships, "Flag." "I fancy," E were fighting to preserv with Ireland that in bor a Yankee crew w "The Wearing of the G Much disgust is felt Hunt at Lord Lons methods. He is accus imitate his friend Em Germany. On Wedne a check which occur hunt started. Lord Lon dispute with an Amer hounds, who is still a ber of the Quorn H the day's sport was but he immediately stoppe sent the hounds to the disappointing a large ti Recently statements, the London papers c Foreign office was pre phases the Venezuel regard to this statem at the foreign office say preparing new or spee are satisfied with thos statement, not larg

MAJOR OUT OF WH While Lord Salisbury, thurize us to annou may say he is prepari the whole matter, whic edly be submitted to after it assembles in When asked about the etc., which the Daily C publishing from Wash official remarked: "I think that the last copies of certain docum the matter which w Paris, some years ago, of the Venezuelan gove not cover the entire seem only extracts here and there. Wh doubtedly authentic as they have not been British government as the matter."

The E. S. Ambassa being asked if he had mation that Lord Salis ing a special report of question replied, "I h heard it intimated th fact and am heartily gl it is so as it will und expedite matters. I whether this matter Chronicle was taken published in Paris so do I know the exad documents. They m work of Queen's larg sented the Venezuela Paris. He was an ab acquired a large fortun his government in v matters."

Ever since the begin ble in the Transvaal i sary to dispatch the Hon. Joseph Chambe State for the Colonies relay of messengers, from the steps of the into Charles street ar of King street, where of cabs was in waiti