

## The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1899.

## TURNERISM.

Mr. Joseph Martin said at Nanaimo on Monday that Turnerism was no longer in existence, and that the Colonist admitted it. Mr. Martin is not quite accurate. The Colonist never admitted that there was such a thing as Turnerism. There never was. Mr. Turner and his political associates were a number of gentlemen endeavoring to promote the interests of British Columbia as best they could, and succeeded in a very admirable manner in so doing. They were not inspired by any special "ism," except patriotism. They desired to give the country good government, and in their policy recognized no distinction between classes or sections. Every one may not agree as to the merits of the measures which they advocated, but no one will claim that the intention was not to promote the public welfare, or pretend for a moment that they made any personal profit out of their positions. Mr. Martin said that it could be claimed of the Turner ministry that they were at least open and above-board in their transactions. This is very true. It is to the lasting credit of these gentlemen that they had nothing to conceal. Microscopic examination of their record by the most unfriendly critics has utterly failed to disclose the smallest transaction to their discredit. We invite the attention of the public to this exceedingly interesting and important fact. It will bear further comment.

When Mr. Turner and his associates were dismissed, the claim was made that they had been acting dishonestly. For at least two years the burden of the opposition press had been to this effect. It is true that the charges were in the shape of innuendo only, but many threats were made as to what would be disclosed, when once the records of the government were made available for the inspection of the then opposition. The circumstances directly surrounding the dismissal were such as to create an impression that dishonest practices might be concealed in connection with the administration of affairs. Under these circumstances it is not a matter of surprise that many people throughout the province expected that when the new ministers had had an opportunity to examine the records of their predecessors they would discover something which would sustain the impression which they had labored so hard to create. It was expected that at least some colorable showing would be presented to the house of reasons why the Turner ministry was no longer deserving of public confidence. The new government were in office six months before the house met. They were able in that time to ransack every pigeon-hole in the public departments. Their supporters throughout the country declared that the ministers would show when the house met that the Lieutenant-Governor had abundant ground for withdrawing his confidence from their predecessors. What was the fact? Not a single statement was made on the floor of the house, or by any member, as to the results of the investigation. It was suggested that the administration of affairs under Mr. Turner and his colleagues was not absolutely above reproach, so far as the honest and faithful discharge of the trust reposed in the ministers was concerned. Week after week the Colonist called upon Mr. Semlin to accept the responsibility for the dismissal and to justify it to the legislature. Does any one suppose that if he could have shown a single fact in the record of the Turner government to justify it, he would not have taken up this repeated challenge? Does any one suppose that so pugnacious a gentleman as Mr. Joseph Martin would be content to sit in the house day after day with a handful of political trumps and yet not play them? It is beyond all question that the Semlin ministry completely failed to discover anything on the most careful scrutiny to justify the dismissal. It will be remembered that when they were forced to accept the responsibility of the Lieutenant-Governor's act by a resolution moved by the opposition, they did so in a purely perfunctory manner, not claiming to be in possession of a single fact beyond those referred to in the Lieutenant-Governor's letters, not one of which is now thought by any reasonable man to have been sufficient to justify His Honor's action.

The people of British Columbia are awake to these facts. We believe that even the Lieutenant-Governor himself must be fully satisfied that he made a mistake, and that it would have been much better for the province if he had permitted Mr. Turner to remain in office. We are very sure that such is the general opinion of the people of the province, and this growing opinion will be very potent in shaping the future of our local politics.

If a patriotic effort to give the province good government, to introduce measures calculated to develop its vast resources, to honestly administer every trust, to avoid political scandals, to know neither class nor section in the administration of law or the formation of a policy, and to keep the good name of British Columbia unsullied at home and abroad is Turnerism, then the Colonist for one wants more of it, and he believes the people of the whole province want more of it. If this is Turnerism, then Turnerism is not dead, but is stronger and healthier and more manifest to-day than ever; for the people are determined to have these things, and they know that they are not getting them at the hands of Mr. Semlin and his colleagues.

## THE POSITION OF

## THE GOVERNMENT.

The Colonist thinks the government is in no danger. We should suppose that not only the government but the province is in danger, as long as the minister responsible for the receipt and expenditure of the public money lies under an unanswerable charge of having deliberately falsified the records of the Executive Council. The Nelson Miner infers from the statement of the New Westminster paper that the government has some sort of a guarantee from the Lieutenant-Governor that he will not disturb them in office, no matter how long this charge remains unanswered. We refuse to believe this.

Suppose we apply the facts of the British Columbia case to a government in some other place. Let us suppose that the Minister of Justice should write a letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and publish it in the papers that the Finance Minister was guilty of deliberately falsifying the records of the Privy Council. Would that be a fair charge to make? Would the charge would not call for immediate action by the Governor-General; that is, if it is supposed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would permit it to go forth to the public unanswered, and yet allow the Minister to remain in office? Does any one suppose that public opinion all over Canada and the English-speaking world would not give forth an indignant protest if such a charge should go unanswered? Would not the New-Advertiser demand in its strongest language that the charge should be met in some way, or the minister be ignominiously dismissed? Would the Finance Minister be content to remain for one moment under such a charge? If he did, would not public opinion condemn him, because of his silence? Would the most ardent supporter of the Dominion government claim that it was safe, or that the Dominion was safe, while such a charge remained unanswered?

Serious as this charge is, its seriousness is as nothing compared to the conception of public opinion which it discloses on the part of Mr. Cotton. Every honest man repudiates with indignation any imputation on his honor. Is deliberate falsification of records not an imputation on Mr. Cotton's honor? Does he not lay himself open to the charge of not desiring his honor worth protection when he permits such a charge to remain unanswered. Is not the logical conclusion from his silence that he fears to speak? Martin says he is guilty. He says the Premier knows he is guilty. He says his other colleagues know of his guilt. Now, we say that no man is fit to be trusted with the custody of the public funds and which under any circumstances, but his extraordinary misconception of what public opinion demands of public servants renders him unfit for public office of any sort. His silence has done irreparable harm to British Columbia politics, and no matter what explanation he may offer now or hereafter, he will stand condemned before all the world.

## THE PROPER COURSE.

Mr. Semlin ought to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to call the legislature together with the least possible delay. He knows perfectly well that he no longer has the support of a majority of the members, and as he is an honest man, he can hardly propose to continue to hold office under such circumstances. We admit that he has the right, constitutionally, to administer affairs until he has received his dismissal at the hands either of the Lieutenant-Governor or the house, and that he is under no legal obligation to call the house together for several months yet. But certain obligations rest upon a premier which are not written in the books. One of these is to resign office when he is satisfied that his support does not include a majority of the members. Mr. Semlin's position is precisely as it would be if a general election had taken place, and he found himself in a minority. He would then, undoubtedly resign. He ought to do so now, without waiting for the verdict of the members, but if he is not disposed to do this, he ought to at least give the members the opportunity of expressing their views in the regular way. This can only be done by calling the house together.

Public interests demand that the house shall be called together. Everything all over the province is at sixes and sevens. Profound dissatisfaction exists with some of the laws passed last session, and with some of the administrative acts of the government. The feeling of unrest is general. All lines of business are feeling it. The people of all sections feel unsafe in the hands of the present advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor, and are looking forward to the action of the house with great interest and anxiety. An early session would have a wonderfully clarifying effect upon the political and business atmosphere. The session cannot come too soon.

Many appeals are being directed to the Lieutenant-Governor in this connection. Under the principles of responsible government, as they used to be understood, such appeals are unwarranted. The Lieutenant-Governor is supposed to act only on the advice of his minister, and unless his minister advises him that a session ought to be held, he is supposed, theoretically, not to know it. We have seen this rule of ministerial responsibility departed from in two conspicuous cases recently. One was the case where Lord Aberdeen undertook to interpret the result of the elections of 1896 without consulting his minister, and the other was when Lieutenant-Governor McInnes did the same thing in British Columbia.

lumbia. The Colonist on both occasions protested against the injection of personal government into our affairs, but if these precedents are to govern in future, there is every reason why Lieutenant-Governor McInnes should interpret the incidents of the past few months and require Mr. Semlin, in the condition of further tenure of office, to consult the legislature at the earliest possible moment. He has the power to do so, if he wishes to exercise it, and it is not easy to think of a time when such power ought to be exercised, if it ought not to be now.

## THE OCEANIC.

Probably the majority of Colonist readers will remember the furore created by the construction of the Great Eastern, which was supposed at the time to be the very climax of naval architecture. The Great Eastern was designed by I. J. Brunel, and was launched in 1858. She was the wonder of the world. In 1860 she made her first trans-Atlantic voyage, but did not prove a success. She was then sent to various parts of the world on exhibition voyages. In 1865 she was employed in laying the Atlantic cable, and proved so useful for that purpose that for a time it was thought that her mission had been discovered. But there was a limit to this kind of work, and the Great Eastern was rapidly becoming antiquated, so speedily was marine architecture advancing. In 1884 this famous ship was dismantled and converted into a coal hulk, and two years later, being found too cumbersome for this service, she was sold as junk, and went to the scrapheap as old iron. The Great Eastern's dimensions were: Length between perpendiculars, 680 feet (over all, 691 feet); beam, 83 feet; depth, 68 feet; draught, 15 feet; displacement, 11,844 tons; weight of hull, 8,000 tons. She was truly an immense ship, and it is not surprising that originally it was proposed to call her the Leviathan, the name being abandoned only because her constructor saw with prophetic eye that a greater monster of the sea would one day take her laurels from her. This dream has been fulfilled.

The White Star steamer Oceanic, which leaves Liverpool on her maiden voyage to-day, bound for New York, is a greater ship than the Great Eastern. Her length between perpendiculars is 691 feet (over all, 704 feet); breadth, 68 feet 4 1/2 inches; depth, 49 feet; draught, 22 feet; displacement, 18,000 tons; weight of hull, 12,500 tons. An idea of the enormous scale upon which this vessel is constructed may be gained from the fact that if one of her smoke funnels were laid on its side, two electric car tracks could be laid through it, side by side, and the cars would have abundant room to pass each other. She surpasses in size anything that has ever been afloat on the ocean. This enormous ship is built on such lines that she does not appear very large. Victorians can get a pretty good idea of her size by remembering that the James Bay bridge is 701 feet long, or 3 feet shorter than the Oceanic, and 35 feet wide, or just a little more than half as wide as that vessel. The Oceanic is not expected to be a very speedy vessel, although she will be much faster than the Great Eastern.

## NEED FOR ACTION.

We very greatly doubt the expediency of Mr. W. B. McInnes, complying with the appeal which the Globe makes to him. In common with our contemporary we desire to see a change of government brought about at the earliest possible day, but would regret very much to see any needless strain put upon constitutional usage, which is the only guarantee the people have that responsible government can be maintained. We concede the logic of the position that, if there was sufficient evidence to satisfy the Lieutenant-Governor to conclude that Mr. Turner had lost the confidence of the house, there is more than sufficient evidence to show that Mr. Semlin has also lost it, but as we deprecated the exercise by the Lieutenant-Governor of the power to anticipate the action of the legislature then, so we do not urge him to do so now. If he should see fit to do so, it would not lie in the mouths of his present advisers or their supporters to object, and doubtless public opinion would sustain him, in view of the unfortunate condition of affairs in the province.

There is one matter which can hardly escape much longer the official notice of the Lieutenant-Governor, and that is the charge against Mr. Cotton. Mr. Cotton is a member of His Honor's "official family" as it has been termed and regard for the safety of administration of public affairs and public confidence therein will surely before long compel him to insist upon the fullest and most public explanation of the charge of falsification of the records or else upon receiving the resignation of Mr. Cotton. This would be a perfectly constitutional course, and if a section of this kind is not taken soon the public will become very impatient. If any evil results should hereafter befall the province through deliberate falsifications of the records of the executive council by any one, it will be very difficult for His Honor to justify to himself or the public any omission to take cognizance of this grave charge preferred by Mr. Martin. We repeat what has been said in these columns already that it is not so much the guilt or innocence of Mr. Cotton with which we are concerned, but that public opinion should not be deceived by having it go abroad that a minister of the Crown may be charged with the deliberate falsification of the records of the executive council, and yet be permitted to remain in receipt of the whole revenue of the province and in charge of their expenditures also.

## HACK STANDS.

We suppose hack stands are necessary in a city like Victoria, and that it would be reasonable to insist that hacks should be compelled to keep moving all the time when on the street. Admitting the necessity for the stands, we think it will also be admitted that the business centre of the city is not so large that it makes any particular difference to any one desiring to use the hacks where they are located. The great objection to hack stands, as they exist in Victoria, is the stench arising from them. When the matter was under discussion before, the Colonist insisted that the hackmen should be provided with the necessary facilities by the city and should be compelled to keep the stands clean by sluicing them thoroughly at least once a day. This has not been done. The plan which the city council seems disposed to adopt and which will be before that body on Monday night leaves available for the use of the hackmen Broad street, which is not a broad street at all and passes along one side of the largest hotel in the city. View street which passes before the door of the same hotel, the Mock on Fort street between Government and Langley and that on Yates street between Government and Langley. We think serious objection will be taken to the permission proposed to be accorded hackmen to stand on the streets named. We dissent from the notion that a hack stand ought to be right under every body's nose.

By far the better plan would be to select some place, prepare it properly for the purpose and compel the hacks to occupy it. What serious objection can be urged against devoting Fort street between Langley and Wharf to the hacks and Langley street from Bastion to Courtney? There are few residences here and comparatively few buildings of any kind. Fort street and Courtney street have a natural slope towards Wharf and the whole section can be easily sluiced and kept clean. It is convenient enough for business. If any other part of the city is selected, surely the council will see the necessity of properly preparing the surface and providing means for keeping it clean. Why should a hack stand in the open air, with plenty of fresh water available, be any more offensive than a decently kept stable? Mr. Darling, the originator of what used to be called "gilt-edged butter," was accustomed to say that he would not buy butter from a man who did not keep his stable as sweet smelling as a dining room.

## CHRISTIANITY.

Last Sunday the Colonist spoke of the small and apparently unimportant beginning of Christianity and the vast influence which it has attained. The scientific method might well be applied to investigating this marvellous development. The facts are known to every one. About them there can be no dispute. The change from that tragic night in Jerusalem when the disciples were scattered and the most intelligent of them all was denying with oaths that he ever knew Jesus of Nazareth, to the present day, when the followers of this same Jesus are numbered by millions and are the ruling people in the world, is so great that the imagination cannot grasp it. The fact is worth pondering over and bringing home to every one's mind even at the risk of repetition of what may be thought to be trite.

When artists wish to portray Jesus, dressed by all and left to face alone the anger of the priests and the cruelty of the Roman government, they are careful to surround his head with a halo, so as to make his divinity apparent. This may be very well now, but it ought to be borne in mind that the bystanders saw no halo. Some of them saw in him a good friend whose cause it was both dangerous and hopeless to espouse; others saw in him one whose teachings endangered his influence with the people; others, like Pilate, thought him a harmless enthusiast. "I find in him no harm at all," said the young Roman governor. No one thought anything about his being inspired with even a spark of divinity. The occasion seemed ripe to make a little sport at his expense. So he was dressed up like a mock king, and it was thought so funny that Pilate and Herod, who had been bitter enemies, became good friends over it. Pilate saw a good reason for carrying out the joke begun between him and Herod, and so he ordered the inscription to stand. You may search the whole tragic story of the Crucifixion from beginning to end, and you will find no suggestion of a halo in it, except at the very climax, when the voice of the dying Jesus breathed out that noblest of all prayers: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

There is one thing that is very firmly in your mind: That you never saw a tramp preacher on the streets more utterly insignificant in the popular mind in comparison with the proudest government of the day than Jesus of Nazareth was, so far as outward appearance went, when compared with the institutions which had brought about his death. When he exclaimed, with a loud cry, as the narrative says, "It is finished," those who heard him might be well excused for believing that his career and everything associated with it were ended in absolute annihilation. This is the first great fact to get hold of in applying the

scientific method of inquiry to the nature of Christianity.

It is scarcely necessary to speak of what Christianity is to-day. It is the greatest force now working for the betterment of humanity. It has changed the terrible barbarians of the North, of whom mention was made in these columns a few Sundays ago, from the most cruel and bloodthirsty monsters to the modern Anglo-Saxon. The institutions of mercy and education which are due to its influence are innumerable. It is recognized as a vital force moulding the lives of individuals and the policy of communities and nations. This is the second great fact to be kept in mind.

Now what we want is a working hypothesis to account for the tremendous change. Are we not right in saying that the man who explains it by saying it is due to a delusion writes himself down as unworthy of notice? It is easier to accept the theories of the most superstitious and ignorant plantation preacher than the pretensions of the alleged wisdom that would so dispose of the force which energizes Christianity. We do not propose to suggest the working hypothesis, but to leave this to each reader. Here we have something which is doing more for the amelioration of the condition of mankind than any other influence that has been known. It is so potent that it is overcoming the world; it suits the needs of the monarch on his throne endeavoring to promote the happiness of millions; it meets the wants of the poorest peasant in his hovel, fighting the battle of life under the most adverse circumstances. It is a good thing in life; it is a comfort in "the hour and article of death"; it transforms men in their very nature; it gives full scope and the doctrine of love become universally accepted this world would become a paradise. These are ascertained facts. They are just as well established as any fact in the world of matter. Think out for yourself a working hypothesis that will account for them. Do not be misled or attracted by mere names. Search for the explanation; that is, some explanation which commends itself to your candid judgment. Perhaps when you have found one you will think it ridiculously simple, too simple to be worthy of being called divine, but remember also that the divine is nearer us than most of us realize. "No man hath seen God at any time," said one of the older teachers. Every person in Victoria has watched the sunset tints on the snow-capped mountains, softer in color than infant's cheek or the mysterious tinges in the heart of a rose. These colors are due to the rays of an orb, whose full glory we cannot look upon, reflected back from crags and glaciers in the realm of eternal winter. The ineffable glory of the Divine is too great for human intelligence to grasp. We need to see in it reflection. Perhaps this thought may help to the discovery of the working hypothesis in question.

The Times is laboring hard to prove that the ability to "spell" gas is a guarantee of safety in a coal mine. We sympathize with our contemporary in its task. A real educational test is one thing, but such a tom-fol performance as the new regulation contemplates is quite another. By the way, the Times has not expressed its opinion on the educational test suggested for members of the Executive Council.

A New York despatch reads as follows: "The Finnish delegation which has been sent to America to select lands for a colony of between 5,000 and 10,000 Finlanders, will decide upon British Columbia, along the Pacific Coast. A letter to this effect was received in New York to-day from A. Borgstrom, one of the delegation. The majority of the immigrants from Finland are young men, who, to avoid being sent into Russia to serve in the army, are leaving the country." This is a very important and interesting piece of news and it will be a matter of profound satisfaction if it proves to be accurate.

The Colonist was favored by Mr. Higgins, M.P.P., with a call yesterday. Mr. Higgins thinks that it was unjust to refer to him in connection with the proceedings or lack of proceedings at the government caucus on Mr. Martin's charge against Mr. Cotton. He says that a pledge of secrecy was exacted from the members present. He added that if he were relieved of the pledge, it would soon be seen that he at least was not open to the charge of having been a consenting party to the smoothing over of this matter. We are sure most people will regret that Mr. Higgins thinks he ought to keep his mouth closed. His protest against what the Colonist said only serves to stimulate interest. Did Mr. Higgins sit silent when Mr. Martin hurled his charge at Mr. Cotton in the presence of the assembled party? We infer from his protest that he did not. We think we are justified in assuming that if the charge had been cleared up Mr. Higgins would have discovered a means of letting the public know that in this matter the members of the caucus were not in any way to blame. We have no apology to make to the member for Esquimalt. If an apology is due from any one it is from him to the public for having stimulated curiosity and then declined to satisfy it.

## MARRIED.

FISCHER-MITCHELHAUSE—On the 28th instant, by Rev. Mr. Hansen, Henry Wilhelm Fischer, of Hamburg, Germany, to Miss Louise Mitchell, of Waldkapel, Germany, at the residence of Capt. J. J. Whittier.

## DIED.

OSullivan—In this city on the 26th inst., Mary, fifth daughter of the late Humphrey O'Sullivan, a native of Victoria, B. C., aged 22 years.

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## Labor Da

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Jupiter Pluvius and the carrying out of the arranged for the celebration at Nanaimo. All the baseball match between the Maple Leafs of postponed on account of rain, which is the ball players, dressed in diamond and put up resulting in favor of 14 to 2. The only reason that could be given for the parade and the procession, the for were covered with a but the procession, a tried out with much was one of the most British Columbia. Industries of every order the Trades and blacksmith shop, the coal mine, and many try were well represented of the auriferous, the sawing, the hammering swing of the pick, a though in the ordinary sight was indeed illustrated to strangers people of British Columbia and at noon, when, arrived from the south, by the procession, and the city were escorted where the union represented with the friends of the tradesmen and hearted way. The men present from Victor W. McKay, president Labor Council; T. H. Goldwell, Typographer; Welsh, from moulder; J. C. Meiss and Geo. A. G. Hay, stonecutters; makers; W. F. McCall, J. Nankivell, carpenter, were over 500 extra Victoria, the first true four hundred.

THE ORPHE  
Business Meeting of  
Donations For

The regular monthly ladies' committee of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, held yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. F. McCall. After routine business the bills for the month were read, and from which it appears 57 children in the home of them attending school for a child for acted upon, and two were under consideration. Mrs. Berridge and appointed visitors. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Jamieson for the children of the Orphan Asylum; the Godfrey's band; all societies for their gifts and to Mr. J. Costello for the furniture. The following donations are thankfully acknowledged: Adam's new cloth Fraser, clothing; M. Appleby, two moulted McMillan, pictures; bigging, repairs to Sargison, candy; M. Friend, clothing; clothing; Mrs. Small, ward, clothing and be Boorman, butter and Crow Campers, clothing; Mrs. O. E. B. boots; Mrs. Helma, Andrews, clothing and Reunited, two boys' clothing; Mr. R. daily; Times, Colonist, papers; Mr. J. Cott, of \$12.50 for repairs; Jamieson, free admission concert; Mrs. pair infants' shoes.

MR. MARCHANT  
His Mistakes in Character  
Against British

Mr. William Marchant and appraiser of customs, has been invited to air his views on whether he is acquainted, in the press or otherwise, with the editor of the Times on the 2nd. His letters were well known of the subject with inaccuracies. Cohen, in a philanthropic light Mr. Marchant an offer to instruct the matter. This gave excuse to write a sequel in a style only equalled in interest and instruction by the question at issue. A made a spirited reply, reduced below, as it contained references to the Times, and the text for more of "what Mr. know" about the "Here is the reply read.

THE TRANSVAAL  
To the Editor: Instantly, given in good faith, Marchant again bubbles over as usual. If he would only not stray from the Arctic oceans one might glimpse of his ideas. He accuses me of matter into my last letter. He accuses me of dragging into the controversy, the names of Adams, Knotteney, China of Spain, the late Elizabeth, William III, Galland, Doulos, the Turks, Bulgarians, the American Republic, etc. These references are intended to annihilate any ordinary letter of to-day, and in embroilment against Canadian and Provincial local Chinese question, women's suffrage in Canada, of England, and of America, in the Hague Conference.