

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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"INCIDENTALLY, LIVES."

Nothing that any person has said or written on the Salvor carries with it such condemnation of the deal as the words which fell from Mr. Ralph Smith's own lips on the platform in endeavoring to defend that most unwholly political transaction.

He explained that the Salvor was intended to salvage wrecks and, as if by inadvertence, dropped a phrase which fell with sickening sensation upon his audience - "AND INCIDENTALLY LIVES."

"Incidentally lives" has been ringing in the ears of his listeners ever since. It is an expression that will haunt them as long as the memory of the Valencia lives with them.

"Mr. Hawthorthwaite said on the floor of the house: 'The cheapest thing in America today is human life.' His statement is justified if we accept the estimate placed on life by Mr. Ralph Smith, who regarded it as a feature only of incidental importance, and who went to Ottawa with Mr. Bullen to consummate the deal.

But Mr. Smith, in speaking of 'incidentally lives,' even then took altogether too much credit to himself. The specifications and the terms of contract show that life-saving was not even an incidental feature. There is not a single stipulation as to life-saving appliance in the contract.

The contract which gave \$10,000 a year subsidy to a private firm for wrecking purposes, in return for the political control of Esquimaux district, was iniquitous enough in itself, but that it did not incidentally save lives is far worse. That Mr. Ralph Smith, whose political evolution began in the workingman's stage and passed through that of the labor candidate to prominence as a straight Liberal member of parliament, with cabinet aspirations, should ally himself with capitalistic influences to accomplish such a deal not for lives but for the sake of property, is one of the unpardonable things about the whole affair.

Well might labor men and socialists who are sincere in their convictions and their aspirations say, 'Heaven save us from all such friends!'

"Incidentally lives" will be one of the ringing changes to inure to the political extinction of himself and the government which he supports.

MR. BECKWITH'S CANDIDATURE.

Everyone must admit that Mr. Beckwith, the Liberal-Conservative candidate, has made tremendous strides in favor since his nomination by his party. The change in public sentiment during the past week has been remarkable, and unexpected support has been forthcoming from all quarters.

From pooh-poohing and laughing at his chances, they are now a matter of deep concern to the friends of Mr. Templeman.

It is also exceedingly gratifying to Mr. Beckwith's friends that he is developing such speaking talent and that he shows the true fighting spirit. That a business man, not devoted to politics or public speaking, can in a few days make the splendid showing he has, is the best evidence we want that, if elected, he will shake up the 'dry bones' at Ottawa in advocating and defending provincial interests.

The chief argument advanced by Hon. William Templeman and the few Conservatives who are supporting him as to why he should be elected is that it is necessary to fix for all time the principle that British Columbia is entitled to representation in the cabinet.

Was that principle not fixed in 1894, when Col. Prior was given the same portfolio as is now held by Hon. William Templeman? And did not the Liberal party, on assuming the reins of office in 1896, fail to observe that principle in refusing British Columbia cabinet representation until ten years later? This is a hard nut for Mr. Templeman and Hon. Edgar Dewdney to crack.

NAILING MR. TEMPLEMAN TO HIMSELF.

Honest admission would be much more appreciated than an attempt to deny that there was any pledge to commence construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific from this end simultaneously with other parts of the railway in the West. It is hard to respect men in high places who do not keep faith with the public, but it is still more difficult when they repudiate the pledge itself.

Hon. Mr. Templeman last evening in the Times, under the head of 'False Charges Retuted,' specifically denied that it was ever stated 'that work would be begun at the western terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific simultaneously with the beginning of work on the eastern end,' and he quotes from a stenographic report of

the speech made by him when he read Mr. Hays' letter.

Are we to assume, therefore, that Mr. Templeman had no faith in the statements contained in that letter himself, as the reason why he did not endorse it?

But that avenue of escape is not permitted him. Mr. Templeman did endorse it. In an editorial leader dealing with that very letter the Times said:

"The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will be built from this end. We have the assurance of Mr. Hays that as soon as surveys have been made the work will be commenced on the coast and pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. There is something even more convincing than the assurance of the general manager back of the proposition, etc.

Surely the public can have no patience with that kind of thing. Either Mr. Templeman is responsible for the Times statements or he is not. Either what the Times stated was true or it was not. Mr. Templeman must locate himself somewhere on this question. He was either party to the deception on the public or he was not. If not, he should have repudiated himself as responsible editor on the spot.

A STATESMANLIKE PLAN.

Statesmanlike plan for success at the bye-election on Tuesday next is set forth by Hon. William Templeman in his paper yesterday evening in the announcement of the Liberal rally at the A. O. U. W. hall, as follows: 'O. J. V. Spratt, president of the Young Liberals association, will preside, and there will be cigars and tobacco for all. At the final rally of the party at the time of election campaign of Mr. Riley, pipes will be given away as souvenirs of the occasion, it being intended that all, or nearly all, attending the meeting will receive one of these.'

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

The satisfactory financial conditions of the province, set out lucidly in the budget speech yesterday afternoon by the Minister of Finance, must be highly gratifying to every resident of British Columbia. In a straightforward, businesslike way Mr. Tatlow, after referring to the financial difficulties that had to be contended with when the present government took office, showed how the provincial credit had been restored and the balance had been struck for the year, with a comfortable surplus of \$248,265.

The public debt had been decreased during the year and at the end of June, when the fiscal year closes, it is expected that the figures will show that the province has once more lived within its income. While business is expanding, however, due economy has to be exercised, owing to the fact that the revenue from the Chinese entrance tax has practically ceased, cutting down the surplus in hand the government is enabled to provide for increased expenditure, a very substantial amount going to roads, bridges and other public works. In the course of his remarks the Finance Minister gave some interesting statistics illustrating the increases in the lumber business and the mineral output, showing, moreover, that owing to the growth of dairying, farming and stock-raising, nearly half a million dollars more revenue is derived from the province than in the previous year for agricultural products. The success of British Columbia fruit in England was alluded to and the encouraging remarks of the manager of one of the largest banks in Canada on conditions in British Columbia were cited as proof of how the progress of this province is regarded in the financial world. The government have reason to feel proud of their record, and the people at large may look forward with confidence to the future.

BETTER TERMS.

The question of Better Terms has not been made a feature of this campaign, except to a limited extent, not because it is not an issue, but because it is a question that demands consideration at a time when the whole subject is being dealt with at Ottawa. It is an issue as between the Province and the Dominion, and involves treatment that cannot be well taken up during a by-election.

We refer to it now in order to call attention to the remarkable, though characteristic, attitude taken towards it by Mr. Templeman. In extracts from the Times, published in another column, it is shown that he uses it as a threat to the people of the province that they cannot expect to get their admitted rights until a government is in power across James Bay which is in political accord with the administration at Ottawa. There never was a more high-handed and unconstitutional attempt made in any country to coerce a free people into submission to the dictates of political bosses.

MR. DEWDNEY'S POSITION.

It is scarcely necessary to refer to the reply of Hon. E. Dewdney in execution of his action in handing over a private letter from Sir John Macdonald to himself at a critical time in his political history, to the enemy, to do injury to the cause with which he has been so long identified as a leader. We can assure him that we are quite familiar with the circumstances which led Sir John to write the letter in question, and we only refrained from saying a good deal more about them out of consideration for his own feelings. The very fact that the great Conservative chieftain found it necessary to write such a letter in behalf of

Mr. Dewdney, whose personal interests he had always greatly at heart, is all the evidence required to support our contentions. Let Mr. Dewdney consult the files of contemporary newspapers and he will rest satisfied that we did not put the case half as strong as we might have. Let him consult the files of Mr. Templeman's own newspaper.

In the circumstances, we feel at liberty to discount largely Mr. Dewdney's anxiety about the 'disintegration' of the party in this city. The party will remain undisturbed if he stays where he has placed himself. If he had desired to exercise the 'common sense' which he recommends to others, he would have consulted his party before throwing himself into the arms of the government. The party might have excused him, in time, for taking on the right of dictating its policy in its own name.

AN AWFUL RESPONSIBILITY.

I take the full responsibility for that Salvor contract. I have no doubt you all believe me honest. The assumption seems to prevail among many that this subsidy towards this service is intended for life-saving. That is an erroneous opinion. Intended by the disinterested people have received the false conception that this service was intended for the saving of life. It is a salvage service, to save property, and incidentally save life. It is not part of its service to save life, actually - Ralph Smith, speaking at the A. O. U. W. hall on Wednesday.

Did a speaker at one of the meetings grow indignant and state that the lives of the poor people clinging to the rigging of the Valencia were upon the hands of someone? Did he say that the blood of the victims of that ill-fated vessel cried to heaven for retribution? Did he go too far in placing the responsibility somewhere? Was no one to blame for not taking warning by the fate of the Clallam? Who should we hold culpable for ignoring the numerous representations that were made about protection of life on this coast and were sent to Ottawa by the agent of marine and fisheries in Victoria and by the board of trade? When the people asked for bread who gave them a stone? When lives were always at stake who provided facilities for saving wrecks only?

Perhaps it is too delicate a question to pursue further. There did arrive a time, however, gentlemen, when the bulls were bawling mightily in protest. The hope of the people of Victoria were set on the Salvor. But the Salvor did not, could not save, for the reasons set forth by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith says he takes the full responsibility. It is well for Mr. Templeman that he is thus vicariously absolved, because the responsibility is a grave one. Let us recite a few facts that are not publicly known.

Immediately after the loss of the Pass of Metford on the west coast of Vancouver island, with all hands, the board of trade once more took up the question with the government of life-saving appliances on that coast and pointed out that a whaling company had been formed and were operating at Sechart, and had the steamer Orion engaged in the business; that this steamer kept steam up constantly, and that her crew were always on board. The board of trade requested that an arrangement be made with this company by which the steamer could be called upon at any time for the saving of life and property; also that telegraphic communication be established between coast-points and the whaling station. The board went fully into the question of the great loss of life on the west coast and referred the minister to the records of his own department. A copy of this letter was sent to all the members and senators from the province. Mr. Ralph Smith acknowledged the receipt of the letter and stated that the board 'must be aware that the government had entered into a contract with the British Columbia Salvage company, and that a subsidy of \$10,000 a year had been provided for that purpose.'

When Mr. Ralph Smith assumed the terrible responsibility, did he forget about this letter? We have not forgotten it, because it was read in open meeting.

MORE CHEMICAL WORKS.

In your paper of February 23 is notice of Victoria Chemical Company of 'plans and descriptions of site of works, proposed to be constructed in Victoria harbor, immediately fronting lots 1387, 1388 and 1389.'

In the Colonist of February 27, in the report the city council is stated: 'The city engineer recommended that the request of the Victoria Chemical Works for permission to erect a new wharf be granted. Permission was granted, provided that the wharf does not interfere with any street ends.'

I trust that political and other matters will not so occupy the general public as to overlook the above facts, and take some immediate steps to impress on the mayor and council the duty of inspecting the plans and particulars of the proposed new works, which are deposited with the registrar general in Victoria. Will it be of any use to again urge the council and Tourist Association to insist on the chemical company adopting such means as will consume and rectify the smoke and fumes which at times, (only too often) come into our harbor as well as our residents' LUNGS.

advances but it will never palliate or forgive him for using the privileged communication of a statesman, whose memory will ever be revered in its ranks, for the purpose of furthering the Liberal cause in a wholly unnecessary and an offensive way.

'Common sense' is a relative term and depends largely upon the point of view from which it dictates are assumed. Mr. Dewdney will probably have his judgment as to what was or was not the 'common sense' course to have been followed at this critical juncture.

The gratters of the Yukon warned the electors that if they voted for a Conservative the government would punish the constituency, but Dr. Thompson was elected and the government granted reforms which had not been asked for by their subservient Grit members.

A correspondent asks: 'Where is Mr. Riley?' At latest advices Mr. Riley was 'sawing wood' at Ottawa.

That letter from Sir John A. Macdonald to Mr. Dewdney is very interesting, but, at this stage of the game, a fac simile of Mr. Hays' letter to Mr. Templeman would be more so.

The Colonist has much pleasure in reproducing the text of Mr. Hays' letter to Mr. Templeman, and only regrets that it cannot be presented in fac simile, the original not being available.

That of the Conservatives supporting Mr. Templeman there are still left Hon. E. Dewdney, Joseph Boscowitz and Forbes George Vernon, we are free to admit.

Ralph Smith, the workingman's champion, has forgotten to tell the laboring men and mechanics of British Columbia how much they will benefit from the building of the G. T. P. from east to west.

A vote for Templeman is not a vote for the best interests of Canada; it is not a vote for the best interests of Victoria; it is not a vote for the speedy construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific; it is merely a vote in favor of paying Mr. Templeman a salary.

In spite of attempts by Mr. Templeman and his following to create the impression that the opposition in the present campaign is not representative of the Conservative party - it must be borne in mind that Mr. Beckwith has the endorsement and hearty approval of Mr. R. L. Borden, head of the Conservative party in Canada, also of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, president of the Executive Union of the province. The telegram sent by the leader to Mr. A. B. McPhillips from Ottawa assures those who are fighting against Mr. Templeman that they have Mr. Borden's best wishes for their success. It is, therefore, idle to strive to drag Conservatives into the Templeman ranks by pretending that Mr. Beckwith's candidature does not carry with it the weight of the party.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by correspondents.]

THE REPORT DENIED.

Sir - My attention has been called to a statement contained in a dodger which is being circulated in the city, which reads as follows: 'As a result of the election of the present holder of the office can be superannuated, the postmaster-general at Victoria goes to Mr. Joshua Kingsham, who will probably assume office on April 15 next.'

Kindly allow me, Mr. Editor, to absolutely contradict the above statement. I am not seeking any position in the gift of the Dominion government, neither would I accept such a position if same were offered to me.

JOSHUA KINGSHAM, Victoria, B. C., March 3, 1906.

"INCIDENTALLY, LIVES."

"It must occur to all readers of the Colonist that there is a very vital question involved in the election as yet not discussed by Mr. Templeman or Ralph Smith, viz., the contract. In reading it we are not for the purpose of saving cargoes, hulls, etc., and incidentally, lives, but for the purpose of saving cargoes, hulls, etc., and incidentally, lives. It is well for Mr. Templeman that he is thus vicariously absolved, because the responsibility is a grave one. Let us recite a few facts that are not publicly known.

MATRIMONIAL.

GET MARRIED - Would you marry if suited? If so, send for best Matrimonial Paper published. Married free. The Correspondent Toledo, Ohio. 718

FOR SALE - FARM LANDS.

FARMS - We have several Englishmen wanting to purchase improved farms and cattle ranches in the West, and others desiring partnerships with practical farmers. Write, stating full particulars, to Strohm & Strohm, 27 King Street, Chesapeake, London, England. 222

FOR SALE - S. C. White Leghorn.

scoring 90% to 94%; \$1 for 14 eggs; rebate on larger lots. Marshall & Spears, Cordova, B. C.

FOR SALE - Eggs for hatching - Orpingtons.

Black, \$2.50; White, \$2; Buff, \$1; White Leghorns, \$1; Fawn duck, eggs, \$1; fine laying strain. Fred Gardiner, Oaklands, Victoria. 718

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THE DREADED INTERROGATION MARK.

Sir - Will Mr. Templeman be good enough to explain why he, as a cabinet minister without portfolio, gave the senate notice of a resolution asking for the insertion of a clause in the Grand Trunk Pacific contract providing for the beginning of construction work in British Columbia simultaneously with the beginning of work on the Eastern sections?

Was it because he was sincerely desirous of seeing fair play accorded to British Columbia?

If so, why did he withdraw his resolution at the last moment?

Was his action a deliberate and successful play to prevent the senate from voting on Senator Macdonald's resolution to the same effect?

Was he sincere in his assurances to the people of British Columbia, that Mr. Hays' letter was an official recognition of the rights of this province?

If so, what has he done, as a cabinet minister without portfolio, to force the Grand Trunk Pacific to live up to the pledge which he declared was embodied in the Hays letter?

If the Hays letter possessed any value, why does not Mr. Templeman use it in his present campaign?

Will Mr. Templeman produce it in fac simile in the Times?

If it served so well in helping to elect the 'Solid Seven' why would it not assist to elect him as a cabinet minister with portfolio, a salary and a pension in prospect?

If the letter is worn out by excessive handling on street corners and at political meetings, why does not Mr. Templeman ask Mr. Hays to write him another letter?

Will Mr. Templeman please explain his definition of a 'bunco steerer'?

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THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Master and Servants Umbria & Western Occasion Debate ANNOUNCE DOUBLE S

Notices of Legislation Local Option and Sa Old Cemetery.

(From Friday's Daily Thursday, March 2, and after prayers by the Hon. Mr. Cameron, read a petition from and others, in support of Bill late the sale of patent medicine.

The report on Bill intituled for the extension of the Act was adopted. Bill read a third time.

Bill intituled An Act to amend the Placer Mining Act, was committed to a committee without a Report adopted. Bill read, and passed.

Debate on Masters and Servants Act continued next evening in debate on the Master and Servants Act. He said this was an Act of workingmen's character, and every interest of capital, but almost unprompted. This was maintained towards the name due to them. The present paying once a month was a great improvement upon the work actually done. But returns showed that the present forced traders to give and led to heavy losses in frequent failures. Ninety per cent of all storekeepers failed of its interference with the Act being an argument against reverse was true. There was necessity to guarantee payment made promptly. The argument attorney general that this Act interfered with freedom of contract was a sensible objection, but was such a thing as freedom of contract in the British Empire. The Act was not intended to interfere. Absolute freedom of would mean extermination of it would mean that women and men be forced to work in naked. There were no practical objections to the measure, it was easy to pay for the material, appealed to the House to support Mr. Tanner, thought the Bill was a good one, but work a hardship among agricultural especially in connection with the employed for harvesting and fruit picking. He said he would not carry on to draw their money from the hands of the employers.

J. A. Macdonald was in favor of the principle of the Act, as both introducer and second, willing to accept amendments, but he thought it should be the support of the House. He was their duty to do anything which labor is performed. It is a hardship for a man for six weeks without responsibility, which labor is performed. It is a hardship for a man for six weeks without responsibility, which labor is performed. It is a hardship for a man for six weeks without responsibility, which labor is performed.

The only question was just as the Bill was read, the workman without injuring the employer. There could be no objection to make this, as applying to all men, and it should apply to all men paid by - if not to contract and money he should not be allowed to contract.

Mr. Paterson was opposed to it - it