

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1892.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The proceedings of the Royal Commission which commenced its sittings yesterday, will be most interesting to the people of this province. The visitation of the smallpox last summer was the cause of considerable loss and great anxiety to the population of both town and country. Could that visitation have been prevented? Were the means used by the Dominion officials sufficient to keep the smallpox or any other contagious disease out of the province? Did the quarantine authorities do their duty, and did they act as their instructions required? These are questions which British Columbians generally, and Victorians in particular, would like to see clearly and definitely answered.

The enquiries of the Commission will have a very important bearing on the preservation of the health of the people of the province in the future. It will, of course, be satisfactory to know how the smallpox was allowed to get a foothold in the province with a view of getting reparation done for the damage that faulty administration caused in the past; but the knowledge will be much more valuable if it is used to remedy defects known to exist, and to prevent the recurrence of a similar visitation. If the Commission find, as we have no doubt it will find, how the disease was permitted to get into the province, and if it is able to point out the weak places in the quarantine regulations and the deficiency of quarantine appliances and arrangements, it will have performed a service to the province of very great value. Every mail from the West shows us that the danger is not past. Smallpox is endemic in the cities of China, and the cholera is even now raging in some of them. Every steamer that crosses the Pacific is liable to bring over with it either or both of these dreadful diseases in some form or other.

It is, therefore, necessary that the utmost vigilance should be used by the authorities, and that the quarantine station be put in an effective condition. The authoritative report of the Royal Commissioners will no doubt have the effect of inducing the authorities in Ottawa to do what the law requires them to do to prevent the introduction of disease by means of ocean steamships and other vessels.

The Commission will be able to do good service—to resolve some doubts and to correct many mistakes—by enquiring into the way in which the disease was treated after it did get a foothold in the province. It is not for us to anticipate what the report will be, but we have no doubts that it will be able and impartial and that it will contain much valuable information.

CONTRADICTORY DECISIONS.

The action of the Allegheny County Grand Jury has excited the surprise of thinking people in the United States. Under the direction of Chief Justice Paxson, it found true bills against the Homestead Advisory Committee and several of the rioters, for treason; it also, without direction from the Chief Justice, brought in true bills against H. C. Erick (Carnegie's manager), Robert Pinkerton, and several others who exerted themselves in protesting the Carnegie property, and in resisting the rioters, for conspiracy, riot and murder. The prosecutor is Hugh Ross, one of the strikers, against whom there is a counter charge of murder, treason, conspiracy and aggravated riot. The indictments of the Grand Jury are curious and contradictory. According to them the men who took possession of the Carnegie mills and by violence prevented both the owners and the officers of the law from entering them, were guilty of the crime of treason, and the men who resisted the rioters and helped the owners to regain possession of their property were guilty of conspiracy and murder. It will puzzle even a Philadelphia lawyer to show that both the strikers and the servants of the owners of the mills are criminals. Certainly, if the Grand Jury is right, the Chief Justice must be wrong. It will be interesting to watch the progress of these trials. It is often said that the laws of the United States are good enough but that their administration is most defective.

GUESSES OR CALCULATIONS?

Lively politicians in the United States are complaining that the campaign is exceedingly dull and that the advocates of both the candidates are listless and half-hearted. One of the reasons for this dullness of which they complain, is that the issues of the election are not personal. Very little, indeed, comparatively speaking, is said about the candidates, and a good deal about the questions on which the people are to decide. These questions require thought or their consideration. The man who tries to find out whether high protection or a tariff for revenue only, is best for his country is not helped by demonstrations of any kind, and is not very much disposed to join in a hurrah for any candidate. He has to think and enquire, and often the result of his thinking and enquiring leaves him very much bewildered. He hardly knows what to think or how to decide and consequently he has no enthusiasm to spare for either side.

Besides, neither of the candidates is what is called a popular man. Each is voted for because he represents a principle, not because the voter has any particular liking for him. This absence of partisan feeling makes it difficult to decide how the campaign is going. Of course extreme men on both sides express themselves sure of success, but the moderate men are by no means sanguine. There is always an "it" in the calculations, which shows how large the element of uncertainty is, and which pre-

vents the outsider placing any great dependence on the party predictions.

The states are classed for each side as "sure" and "doubtful." The calculation is made by giving the candidate all the "sure" states of his party, and then apportioning the doubtful states so as to give the side which the calculator favors a majority. For instance, a calculation before us gives Cleveland 159 sure votes, and Harrison 183. The victorious candidate must get at least 223 votes, as the total votes of the Electoral College is 444. According to this calculation Cleveland must get 64 votes from the doubtful states, and Harrison 40. The calculation says: "If Cleveland gets the 159 above, half of the vote of Michigan and the 66 from the doubtful states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana, he will have a total of 232 votes, and he could really afford to lose Connecticut or New Jersey, but he must have one of them." So much for the Democratic prospect.

Now for the Republican forecast. If Harrison, in addition to the 183 votes counted sure, gets New York and one of the other three States specially regarded as fighting ground, he will win. Or if he lost Kansas and Nebraska, counted as sure—eighteen votes—and carried all the others as well as New York, Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana, he would have 231 votes, and could afford to lose Connecticut. In these calculations no account is taken of the new States, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, which have never voted at a presidential election.

Our readers can see that the political arithmetician who made these calculations was by no means certain that his results were accurate. In fact his calculations were not calculations at all, but guesses. The truth seems to be that it is impossible for any American politician, no matter how well informed he may be, to do anything better or more reliable than to guess at the result of the election. There are no data for a calculation. No one can even yet make anything more than a surmise as to how New York will go. All appear to agree that it will be the pivot State, but in what direction it will turn, or is likely to turn, is even at this late date a mystery.

THE WISE COURSE.

The Toronto Empire, which is supposed to be in the confidence of the Government and to express its opinions on all political subjects of importance, has expressed itself emphatically and fully on the subject of the Manitoba school question. It says in its leading article of the 8th inst.:

The only safe ground which can be taken by the Dominion in regard to legislation of the Provinces on subjects committed to them by the Confederation Act, and which is kept within their rights under the constitution, is that of non-interference. That was the doctrine laid down when it was sought to get the Dominion to interfere with Quebec in the matter of the *Jennings' Estates Act*, and, despite the strong feeling which was aroused amongst a portion of the Protestant population, that stand was properly adhered to. Now, in turn, our Roman Catholic friends are pressing for interference, but if they will stop to consider it, they will see that the same rule is the proper one in their case also, and that to break away from it opens possibilities which they would probably be the first to deplore. We have already seen that the strong feeling always connected with the school question, and which is manifesting itself quite natural, considering the circumstances under which the Manitoba School Law was passed, but they had every facility afforded them to prosecute their appeal to the highest court in the Empire, and now that the decision has been made against them, they should endeavor to make the best of the situation. Instead of seeking for redress in a quarter where the difficulties in the way are practically insurmountable, they should turn to the province which has power to deal with the matter, and we have faith enough in the people of any of our provinces to believe that when excitement calms down, if a genuine case of injustice is made out, Protestants as well as Catholics will eventually see that the injustice is not perpetuated.

We are glad to see the leading Conservative newspaper of the Dominion expressing itself in this way. The course which it recommends will, we are quite sure, if followed, be found to be the best from every point of view. By taking it the constitutional rights of the different provinces will be respected. There is not a province of the Dominion that would not bitterly resent any infringement of its constitutional jurisdiction by the Federal Government. There is no member of the Confederation so sensitive on this point as the Province of Quebec, and it is the only one which, it seems, is desirous to have the Dominion Government interfere with Manitoba in this matter of public education. Besides it is hard to see what good interference could do if the Federal Government wished to interfere. It would hardly be expected that the people of Manitoba would resist contented if a system of education of which the majority of them did not approve, were forced upon them by the Dominion Government. The agitation which would follow such an exercise of power would be most bitter and most intense, and it would not be confined to Manitoba.

It seems to us that even those who believe the minority in Manitoba to be harshly and unfairly treated must see that any attempt on the part of the Dominion Government to interfere on their behalf would, from their own point of view, do more harm than good.

It has been said by some that if it is impossible to obtain "remedial legislation" from the Dominion Parliament favorable to the minority, the supporters of separate schools in Manitoba might be aided by being granted part of the proceeds of the sale of school lands held by the Dominion Government. The Empire shows that this cannot be done, for that Government has nothing whatever to do with the moneys realized from the sale of school lands except to hand them over to the Government of the province. It quotes sub-section 3 of section 25 of the Dominion Lands Act in

support of the position it takes. That provision of the law reads as follows:

"All moneys from time to time realized from the sale of school lands shall be invested in securities of Canada, to form a school fund, and the interest arising therefrom, after deducting the cost of management, shall be paid annually to the Government of the Province or Territory within which such lands are situated, towards the support of public schools therein; and the moneys so paid shall be distributed for that purpose by the Government of such Province or Territory in such manner as it deems expedient."

It is seen from this that it is the Provincial and not the Dominion Government, which is entrusted with the administration of the money obtained from the sale of school lands. The Empire thinks that there is no chance of getting the law changed so that the fund may be diverted to the support of separate schools.

We see that the enemies of Canada are in hopes that this Manitoba School question is the beginning of an agitation which will in time break up the Confederation, but the wise course taken by the Dominion Government will, we are convinced, disappoint the traitors at home and the mischief-makers abroad.

A DISTURBING INFLUENCE.

One of the causes of the uncertainty of the Presidential election is the attitude assumed by the Third Party, or the People's Party. Intelligent, clear-headed men laugh at the platform of this Party. They regard it as both mischievous and utterly impracticable; but there are as many ignorant and hot-headed enthusiasts among the electors of the United States as there are in other countries. These people do not get on in the world as well as they hoped and expected, they see misery and suffering all over the country. They believe that it is the business of the Government to right all wrongs, to redress all grievances and to ameliorate every form of suffering, and they have brought themselves to believe that if those whom they consider the right men were in power most of the evils that afflict society would disappear. There are among them, too, political quacks who, having the gift of the gab, convince their dupes that they have discovered a remedy for the ills which cause so much suffering and they get their political support. General Weaver is the candidate of these people who expect to put a government in power which will bring about the millennium in a year or two. He, although not an able statesman by any means, has been promised the support of hundreds of thousands of voters.

It is said by those who favor him, that North and South Dakota will vote for Weaver, that he will divide the vote in Nebraska with the Democrats, that he will spoil the prospects of the Republicans in Kansas, that he will make the election uncertain in Colorado, and that he will give Wyoming to the Democrats. The People's Party is an element in many other states which disturbs the calculations of both Republicans and Democrats, and which, even in the State of New York, is an unknown quantity that vexes and bewilders the political arithmeticians. The Oregonian attaches a good deal of importance to the influence of the People's Party. It says:

The one element of uncertainty, apart from the singular lethargy which seems to have fallen like a wet blanket on all parties alike, is the people's party. This can do nothing for itself, but perhaps it can take votes enough away from Harrison, by union with Democrats in Republican states, to prevent his choice in the electoral college and throw the election into the hands of representatives, where Cleveland will have a majority of three-fourths. All its efforts are directed to this end. All its activity is in Republican states. There was a deal of talk in midsummer about growth of the people's party in the South, but it came to nothing. The third party in Alabama is almost entirely made up of a Democratic faction, though Weaver may get part of its electoral votes, if the Kolb ticket fails.

With this trifling exception, the people's party will take no vote from Cleveland.

Our Portland contemporary is evidently of opinion that the presence of the candidate of the People's Party in the field will tell in favor of the Democrats, and it is, we presume, this conviction that causes our clever contemporary, the Seattle Telegraph, to make that party a present of quite a considerable portion of its space. The more one reads about the United States election campaign the more he will be ready to agree with the Oregonian when it says, "There are more elements of uncertainty in this election, more half-concealed possibilities of change and surprise than in any presidential election since 1876."

A BAD EXAMPLE.

Criminal proceedings have been taken against Mr. Mercier, the ex-Premier of Quebec. A *prima facie* case of malfeasance in office has been made out against him, and he will have to stand his trial in the Court of Queen's Bench at its next session. What is not a little singular is that the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal party of the Dominion, set by Mr. Mercier's side in open court while the proceedings were going on. He did this, not as a legal adviser, for he has not been engaged in the case, but as his personal or political friend. We admire the chivalry that prompts a man to stand by a friend when he is in adversity. But Mr. Laurier was not, we submit, at liberty to do in this case as his feelings dictated. He is a representative man. His public acts are not his own; they are, in a sense, the acts of the whole Liberal Party, and as such the people of Canada interpret them. The Liberals of Canada surely do not wish to be considered as ready to countenance corruption in the person of Mr. Mercier, neither do they wish it to be believed that they sympathize with a man who has pursued the course which Mr. Mercier did, when he is called upon to answer for serious offences in a court of law. There

are, we should think, Liberals in the country who believe that the sentiment which caused Mr. Laurier to give the ex-Premier of Quebec his countenance when that politician was in such a situation, a false sentiment which could not fail to compromise his party and be productive of other mischievous results. They must therefore view his conduct with disapproval, and we confess that we do not see how he can to their satisfaction justify the course he has seen fit to take.

Indeed Mr. Laurier has not only compromised the Liberals of the Dominion by appearing in Court as a friend of Mr. Mercier, but he has brought a reproach upon the whole people of Canada. In England honest men will naturally ask what is the standard of political morality in a country in which the leader of one of the two great parties into which the electorate is divided, publicly shows sympathy with a disgraced man who appears before the judges of the land to answer for his doings when in office? The character of Mr. Mercier's administration is well known in Great Britain and intelligent people there have formed their opinion of its principal member. Every one knows that whether he is guilty of the particular offense now laid to his charge or not, he is not an injured innocent whom it is a virtue to assist and defend.

We find it hard to believe that the Leader of the Liberal Party stood by Mr. Mercier for political reasons. We believe that he is giving his countenance to the fallen Premier, was actuated by mistaken sympathy or foolish good-nature or, perhaps, by a false sense of honor rather than by any interested motive, personal or political.

A SERIOUS CHECK.

The Gladstone Government met with a severe reverse in the Cirencester Division of Gloucestershire a few days ago. The seat for that Division became vacant since the general election. It was filled by Mr. Winterbottom, whom it won by a majority of 153. At the by-election Colonel Chester Master, a Conservative, was elected. This means a loss of two to the Gladstone Government on a division. This, when the majority does not exceed forty, is a serious check. A few more such elections will pare down Mr. Gladstone's majority until it becomes too weak to be of any use.

It is quite probable that the policy which Mr. Morley has initiated in the matter of Irish evictions, has been the cause of this disaster. The English people have no sympathy with men who refuse to pay their honest debts, and they regard rent for either house or land as an honest debt. They consequently will not support a government which encourages tenants to refuse to pay rent. Mr. Morley is evidently giving aid and comfort to the Irish tenants who adopted the policy of rent repudiation. This is how the Times characterizes Mr. Morley's policy: "It is doing his best to root out of the hearts of the Irish peasantry the lesson which all statesmen, all professed lovers of legality, all good citizens even should strive with all their might to plant there—the lesson that the law is in its essence settled and stable, and that it will not be lightly altered through fear, favor or affection towards particular classes or particular persons." A policy which has this tendency will not be countenanced by English voters in either the counties or the boroughs, and if Mr. Gladstone persists in it, he may expect to lose support in Great Britain. At present, he has only gone so far as to appoint a commission to collect information on the subject of the evictions. This may be only a device to put the most persistent and unscrupulous of the agitators off, but it will also lead the evicted tenants, and tenants who have not been evicted, to believe that it is possible to get out of their agreement to pay rent with impunity. This is not the policy that can be approved by a law-abiding people, and, consequently, it may be expected that other by-elections in England and Scotland will result as has this one in Gloucestershire.

THE NEWEST SENSATION.

The public have never been allowed to lose sight of or to forget the Maybrick case. The woman was convicted of poisoning her husband on evidence that appeared to be incontrovertible. She protested her innocence very strongly and with great earnestness in court, but this had no effect upon either the judge or the jury. A verdict of guilty was returned and she was sentenced to death.

Great interest was taken in the trial and much sympathy was felt for the accused woman by many people. After she was convicted great efforts were made to have her pardoned, and for some time without the least success, but on the eve of the day appointed for her execution an order was received commuting her punishment to imprisonment for life. Since then, more than two years ago, there has hardly been a month in which something has not appeared in the newspapers about the cruelty of keeping Mrs. Maybrick in prison. Efforts have been made to get a rehearing of her case, and opinions have been obtained from lawyers of standing to the effect that the evidence on which she was convicted was not of a proper nature and not sufficiently strong, but the opinion of the authorities was that the woman was guilty of a dreadful crime and that she deserved the punishment she was suffering.

Among those who took a lively interest in the Maybrick case and were most earnest and most persistent in their endeavors to obtain her release, was Mr. Stead, now editor of the Review of Reviews. When Mr. Stead takes a case in hand he does not readily let it go. He is resolute and persevering, and is not daunted by authority

and not discouraged by difficulties. He now asks: "Ought Mrs. Maybrick be tortured to death?" He says that both he and Sir Charles Russell have received from South Africa copies of the death-bed confession of one Harry Wilson, who declares that he, with a confederate, a woman, placed arsenic in the medicine administered to Mr. Maybrick.

If this is true, we cannot see what reason there can be for creating an excitement about the matter. If the confession is genuine, and if it is corroborated by circumstances, the Home Secretary will not allow Mrs. Maybrick to remain in prison one hour after her innocence is made clear. But the work of verifying Wilson's confession must be done by competent men, who should not be influenced in the slightest degree by a popular agitation got up by Mr. Stead or any one else. We should think that sensational articles in newspapers and hysterical addresses by emotional people will have no effect at all on the Home Secretary, or upon any one else whose duty it will be to set in the matter. They will examine the new evidence with the utmost care, and with an earnest desire to find out the truth, perfectly regardless of what outsiders may say or do.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Oct. 18.—In some lines trade is dull but in the majority, it is looking up. Money is still very tight. Numbers of persons who borrowed large sums at high interest when everybody was looking for everything through rose-tinted eyes, are now years ago, have had to live on the interest of this debt and pay the usurer the principal. They are now finding it hard to start afresh in rolling the big stone up the hill. This is what a very wise man in your correspondent's yesterday, was the reason of the stringency in the money market here. He said if a man forced a sale of real estate he would be doing a very foolish thing, as the bareness of real estate men was the very counterpart yesterday, was the reason of the stringency in the money market here. He said if a man forced a sale of real estate he would be doing a very foolish thing, as the bareness of real estate men was the very counterpart yesterday, was the reason of the stringency in the money market here.

A few buckets of water put out an incipient fire at Mr. Fraser's house, corner of Carl Avenue and Oppenheimer streets.

The ship *Longhorn* in the harbor is greater than ever before.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Oct. 18.—One of the Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph cables between this city and South Westminster was broken clean off a few days ago by a snag. Superintendent Wilson is on the ground repairing it.

Another dyking company has been formed to reclaim 1,200 acres of submerged land on the Meadows.

T. J. Trapp, Thos. Cunningham and D. S. Curtis have been appointed market commissioners. They will have the new market filled and stocked daily.

Two million salmon ova are now in the hatchery.

The Dominion Government will take the city water for the Penitentiary at a cost of \$200 annually for five years.

The new municipality of Burnaby are going to open up numerous roads.

News comes from Lillooet of great damage to the South-Sonm mining claim by the breaking of the dam which held back the water used for hydraulic mining. The work had only been going on for a few weeks, and at an expenditure of \$16,000 was completed.

The whole business was swept away by the torrent. The shares in the claim are held in this city. A great freshet on the Bridge River was the cause of the dam giving way.

The canneries are at present packing cohes, and will shut down this week.

Permission has been granted by the council to Chinese residents to build a furnace in the old cemetery on the Douglas road, for the purpose of burning Chinese prayers and other inflammable materials used in connection with Mongolian funerals.

E. H. Hebebrand, Provincial Commissioner for the World's Fair, got back yesterday from a trip to Vernon, where he has been visiting the fair and gathering exhibits for Chicago. While absent he secured nearly a ton of magnificent exhibits of grain which will be sent to Chicago as part of the British Columbia display.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Oct. 18.—David Reid, son of Wm. Reid, had his leg broken this evening. While hanging on to the rear of an express wagon his leg got entangled in the wheel. He was taken to the hospital.

The Cedar district agricultural show, postponed on account of the smallpox scare, will now be held on October 29.

As Constable Gibbons was making his rounds last evening, a vicious dog rushed at him thought to be mad. The constable pulled his revolver and shot the brute.

A branch of the B. C. Land and Investment Co. will be established in this city, W. E. Leighton being local manager.

Diver Llewellyn has located the break in the water main across the bay, and it has been repaired. He found two anchors, one belonging to the dredger, the other had apparently been at the bottom of the bay a long time.

The City Council will send a memorandum to the Government asking for permission to fill up Commercial Inlet from the mines.

The tender for the new fire hall, of G. H. Frost, has been accepted at \$6,947.

Arrived, steamship Grandholm.

The Executive committee of St. Paul's Institute have decided to hold entertainments every two weeks throughout the winter. Arrangements are also in progress to hold a chess tournament among members only. A high class entertainment will be given in the hall on Monday, October 31, in aid of St. Paul's church.

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The steamer *Williamette*, which ran down the Premier, will go into the Tacoma dock for repairs.

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From the DAILY

THE

In a Green

August Miller, among the pioneer umbra and a native of Old Folks' Home, ye

Cedar

The harvest festival Hill, is fixed for Thursday and the same fund will be held to-day noon of the above date

To Take

The Royal Commission cases will, in all provinces, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Westminster, before interesting evidence all these points.

Arranging

The ladies of Cathedral met on Sunday for the purpose of arranging a bazaar on Monday, effort will be made to successful event.

Wearing

A gentleman just returned from Eastern States reports acquaintance with the Provincial police of H. B. Reynolds, Mr. B. Sargent Morgan of the

A Miss

In the review of the year, published a line rather mystified made up as below: Lower Coast Catcher, Upper do. do., Pacific do. do., Indians (casual), Total.....

The New Lieut.

The Provincial Government notified by telegram appointment of Hon. B. C. Governor of B. C. appointment takes effect so that Hon. Mr. Nelson, the Minister of the Interior, was also notified and will make his place understood he and England for a trip.

The Premier's

Hon. Theodore D. for Ottawa, the object of discussion and adjustment of the Government of severe affecting the relations of the Dominion. Amputation of the railway by the immigration question enforcement of immigration regulations, and the judicial District session. The Premier away a month or five

Asked Leave

Dr. Sloggett