The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH, 1880.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS PLATFORM.

The Equal Rights Association has issued an address to the electors of the province of Ontario. It is a long and very carefully worded document. It is moderate in its language, and it deals chiefly with the education question.

The political attitude of the association is defined in the following paragraph:

"It is not the design of the founders of the association to establish a distinct and separate party. Rather is it their hope that by its means an influence, which may in some instances be a controlling one, will be exerted on the special matters which they feel require intervention at their hands, and some of which are hereinafter referred to. But the growth of feeling with reference to these and kindred subjects has been in some places so great that it has been deemed proper by members of the association to enter the field of active politics and to put forward candidates to be representatives in our legislative halls. The wisdom of this course must depend on local circumstances, but the association has full confidence in the objects and aims of the branches, which have thought proper to assume this responsibility."

A great deal has been heard about the use of the French language in the schools of the province of Ontario. The address of the Equal Rights Association is far from being silent on this question. It says:

"While in no way desirous of limiting the educational facilities of our French fellow-citizens, and while willing to make all reasonable concessions to their convenience, yet being at the same time profoundly convinced of the importance of having the English language common to all the people of Ontario, and recognizing the fact that the use of the French language, as the language of instruction, tends to perpetuate evils which we are now seeking to remove, we urge that steps be taken to secure as speedily as possible (a) that English shall be the language of instruction in all public schools in Ontario, (b) that every teacher in a public school shall be able to use the English language efficiently in imparting instruction, and (c) that no text books shall be used except those authorized by the Department of Education; and that the law in this respect should be strictly enforced."

It seems to us that the members of the Ontario Equal Rights Association have a rather one-sided view of equal rights. If they could realize the condition an English minority in Quebec would be in if the French-Canadian majority of that province insisted that French should be the language of instruction in all public schools, if they had sufficient imagination to realize the state a school composed of English-speaking children would be in if the teacher was compelled to address them in French whenever he attempted to teach them anything, they would see that there is very little sense and less justice in that part of their platform which insists upon children whose mother-tongue is French being taught by a teacher who is forbidden to use the French language while instructing them. It might be said that the French majority in Quebec dare not use their power in such an absurd and tyrannical way. Why not? If it is right for the English majority in Ontario to insist that the language of instruction in all schools shall be English, how can it be wrong in the French majority in Quebec, to compel all teachers to use the French language when instructing their pupils. It must be remembered that under the Constitution of Canada the French majority in Quebec have precisely the same rights, powers and prerogatives as the English majority in Ontario. The Constitution of the Dominion is, we are proud to know, an equal rights' constitution. It knows no distinction of race, language, or creed. But we do not for a moment suppose that the people of Ontario will adopt the Equal Rights Association's plan of teaching in the French schools, or that the people of Quebec will ever be tempted to retaliate.

The chief plank, however, in the platform of the Equal Rights' Association, is the abolition of the separate school system. The paragraphs of the address which treat of this subject, will no doubt receive the serious consideration of the people of Ontario. Religious education is a question on which honest and conscientious people differ widely. There are many who are convinced that public education must be undenominational, and they also believe that public education is a state necessity. There are others who hold that education must be religious, and that it is better to do without public education altogether than to have it, as they denominate the secular system, "godless." There is a great deal to be said on both sides of this very important question, but it is a question on which men may differ, and yet those taking different sides may respect and esteem each other.

As our readers know, the Separate School system cannot be abolished in Ontario without amending the constitution, and this cannot be done by the Legislature of Ontario or even the Parliament of Canada. The Canadian constitution, however, is not like the laws of the Medes and Persians. It can be altered and amended, and an agitation to have it changed is perfectly legitimate. The Council of the Association appears to be quite conscious of the magnitude of the task it has undertaken, and of the obstacles that lie in the way of its successful accomplishment, but it advises the electors to take the first step necessary to effect the change it desires. It says:

"The Council does not pretend to conceal that the object it has in view in obtaining by constitutional means the repeal of the enactment referred to, is that of abolishing Separate schools. It is convinced that there ought to be no separation of the children of the people in the matter of education. As one law for all is sound doctrine, so one Public school for all is demanded by the principles of the Equal Rights Association. Nor can any good reason be assigned why the Province of Ontario should, by fetters, be compelled to maintain and perpetuate a dual system of schools. The people of Ontario never assented to the Separate school system. It was originally forced upon them by the representatives of Lower Canada in the days prior to Confederation. And for the people of Ontario to submit to this curtailment of the liberty which almost all the other provinces of the Dominion enjoy; for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, British Columbia, as well as Manitoba, have absolute power in educational matters, would be to submit to an injustice that the people of this province, as this council believes, cannot be expected to permanently acquiesce in.

The Council does not underrate the difficulties of the task it has set before it. Its belief is that any change which requires an alteration in the British North America Act, and more especially a change involving the annulling of that which by a portion of our fellow-citizens is looked upon as a guarantee of their peculiar privileges, requires for its successful accomplishment a deep-seated conviction that the continuance of the system is fraught with consequences perilous to the welfare of the country."

The abolition of the separate school system appears to be the main object which the Equal Rights Association has in view. Its members will find that they have undertaken a very difficult task indeed. The advocates of abolition will be opposed by men who believe that their duty requires them to uphold the system which requires religious teaching in the schools which they support. These opponents do not by any means belong to one religious denomination. There are many Protestants who are as desirous to see religion taught in the common schools as Roman Catholics are, so the Equal Rights Association has begun a struggle in which its members will have to fight for every inch they gain.

We believe, however, that in the end each province will have complete control of public education within its limits, but what will happen before that result is achieved it is very hard to say. Of one thing we may be certain, the contest will be long and severe.

RUM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

As is already known, the greater part of the unexpected increase in the revenue of Great Britain last year was due to the greatly augmented consumption of alcoholic drinks. The unlooked-for addition to the revenue from this source amounted, in round numbers, to about $9,000,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer entered into a minute enquiry into the details of "this extraordinary rush for alcohol." He found that greater quantities of all kinds of strong drinks had been consumed, but, by far, the greatest increase was in rum.

"I have taken some pains," he said, "but have failed practically to find out who drinks the rum. But, I am told, it is mainly seaport towns, and London, being a port, has also contributed very largely to this extraordinary increase. The consumption of rum has increased by 12 per cent.; British spirits by 7 per cent.; brandy by nearly 6 per cent., and other sorts of spirits by nearly 5 per cent. I cannot exaggerate the impression which these figures make upon myself. The more you look into them the more extraordinary they seem to be. I have wanted to show what this additional consumption of 12 per cent. in rum means, if reduced to intelligible proportions. I understand that rum is generally asked for in public houses by the the half-quartern or half-gill, either of these terms meaning one eighth of a pint. The retailer is allowed by Act of Parliament to mix water as long as the spirit is not reduced below 25 degrees under proof. The price asked for a half-gill is 2½d or 3d; thus the whole of the rum consumed in the United Kingdom, if supposed to have been drunk in these drams, in the year 1888 was 245 millions of drams, and that enormous amount has been increased by 30 million drams during the course of the past financial year."

These details, besides being of great interest to the social reformer, show how minute the knowledge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is and how complete his information is with respect to all that relates to the revenue, the expenditure and the consumption of the great country whose financial policy he directs. The clearness and the simplicity of his Budget speech, in which the collection and expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars are discussed, must be looked upon with admiration by every intelligent reader.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

There appears to have been a lively debate in the British House of Commons respecting the expediency of compensating the owners of public houses whose licenses the county councils should see fit to cancel. In order to understand Mr. Goschen's proposal it must be remembered that in England it is the house which is licensed to sell beer and spirituous liquors and not the person who occupies it, as it is in this country. The privilege granted by the license therefore attaches to the property, and in many cases greatly enhances its value. The licensed house will bring in a higher rent or sell for more than as good or a better house in the same neighborhood for which a license has not been taken out. As long as the owner or occupier of the licensed house conforms to the law, the possession of the license adds greatly to its value. This is why it is judged fair to compensate the law-abiding owners of a public house when the county authorities consider that in the interest of the general welfare its license should be cancelled and the house suppressed.

Strong temperance men, like Sir Wilfred Lawson and Mr. Caine, believe that the house should be deprived of its license whenever the authorities decide that such a measure is required by the public good, without any compensation being given to its owner. But mere worldly politicians, like Mr. Goschen, who are influenced by what is considered fair in the commercial world, are of opinion that good citizens should not be deprived of valuable property, even if it is for the common weal, without being compensated for the loss they are compelled to sustain

Since county councils have been established in England, a system somewhat analagous to the subsidy system of this Dominion has been initiated in Great Britain. A sum is every year voted out of the general revenue for county purposes. Last year the sum given by Parliament to local authorities, amounted to nearly $14,000,000, and this year it will be over $18,000,000. We see in the Budget Speech that Mr. Goschen stated he wished he had a million and a quarter pounds sterling "to enable the local authorities to buy up some of that enormous multitude of licenses which has so largely contributed to the drink bill of the nation. —a million for England and a quarter of a million for Scotland and Ireland." In order to raise the money, he proposed to impose a surtax of six pence a gallon on spirits and three pence a barrel on beer. It is, no doubt, to carry out this proposal that the bill which was so severely criticised in the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone and the temperance legislators, was introduced. The last mentioned statesman characterized the bill as a scheme for the endowment of public houses. However, whether the measure is good or bad, just or unjust, it will, in all probability, become, before many days, the law of the land. This compensation of the owners of licensed houses is another instance of the care that is taken in Great Britain of anything that has the appearance of a vested right.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth! If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind.
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STILL SHUFFLING.

If the article in Thursday's Times has any meaning at all, it holds that it was the duty of the Government to take the census of the province before it undertook the consideration of a measure for the redistribution of the representation. Has our contemporary any idea of the expense that the work of enumeration would involve or the time it would take? If the Government incurred the expense only a year before the regular decennial census must be taken, the Times would be the first to cry out about the unnecessary expenditure. The people of the province would be told that all that the Government wanted was an excuse to spend money and to give jobs to its supporters. The Opposition complain that the ordinary and necessary expenditure for public works in the various districts is bribing the people with their own money; it is not hard to imagine the outcry that they would raise if the Government undertook this extraordinary and unnecessary work. In that case they would have reason to protest and to find fault. There were many who were quite willing to take the voters' lists, as they stood in February last, as data from which to calculate the proportionate representation of Mainland and Island, but the men who are now loud in their denunciation of the Government's measure scouted the idea of taking those lists as a standard. And, although under ordinary circumstances, and in an older province, those lists would have been a safe guide, we are quite free to admit that at this time and in this province those who refused to accept the conclusions to which they led were quite justified. Rather than do that they agreed to a compromise, which was to last until the census is taken, and we cannot see how any one can blame them. The Times, at any rate, has no reason to complain; and this it evidently knows full well, for although it carps and snarls at the Redistribution Act it has not yet given what can be regarded as anything like a reason why it should not be accepted by both Mainland and Island. Its opposition to that Act is weak, unreasonable and altogether inconsistent —in a word, it is a purely factious opposition.

AN OPPOSITION LIE.

Unable to meet the Leader of the Government's telling arguments in favor of the Railways' Aid Act, the Times, without the shadow of a foundation, asserts that, "it is quite certain that the royalty clause, instead of being a happy conception of the Government's, is really the child of some astute English capitalist." This is a specimen of the way in which the Times deals with an important subject. Instead of showing by facts and arguments that its opposition to it is founded on reason, it raises a lying rumor or publishes an insulting personality. The royalty clause was placed in that Act because there was no other inducement to hold out to men of capital to open up distant mining regions by railways. The Government had no money worth while to offer them, the greater part of the land was not available for agricultural purposes, and it would never do to give the companies full control of the precious metals that might be found on their land grant. The only course left was to give the railway men an interest in the minerals on their lands. When this became known to the moneyed men of the east, they naturally pricked up their ears and made enquiries respecting the country to be opened up. This was a natural consequence of the enactment of the law. But the Times cannot or will not see this, and concocts a lie in order to create a prejudice against the Government.

ANOTHER PRETEXT.

It is really pitiable to see the shifts to which the organ of the Opposition is driven in order to find a decent pretext for its opposition to the Redistribution Act. In yesterday evening's issue it says: "It had been better to let the question of redistribution remain in abeyance than to have aroused the hostility of the Mainland, and especially since the measure is a partial one." If the question of redistribution had been left in abeyance, the general election would have been held without Vancouver city having any separate representation. How would that suit the Mainland? Would it have been right to leave Vancouver city unrepresented in the Legislative Assembly for four years longer? It strikes us very forcibly that if the Government had gone to the country without providing for the representation of the second city in the province, the agitation that has been raised on the Mainland is a gentle breeze compared with the hurricane of protest and denunciation that would have been heard in all parts of the Mainland. A new House without representatives from Vancouver City would, indeed, be like the play of Hamlet with the part of Hamlet left out. And there would be good reason, too, for the opposition which such injustice would be sure to engender. The Times must look somewhere else for an argument to urge against the Government's redistribution policy. It has found none as yet.

A MEAN TRICK.

If anyone expected to see in yesterday evening's Times a fair or even a reasonable criticism of the speeches made at the meeting held in Victoria Theatre, on Thursday evening, he would certainly be disappointed. The remarks about those speeches—they cannot be dignified by the name of criticisms—are captious and made with the evident purpose of raising a prejudice against the Government with regard to matters that are not in any way connected with its policy. For instance, by distorting what Mr. Robson said about the "sickly" Opposition, the Times tries to make its readers believe that he had reference to the physical condition of some of its members. Nothing could be more injurious or malicious than this. An Opposition that is weak in numbers and wanting in vigor is everywhere, by a common and appropriate figure of speech, spoken of as sickly. A man who is beaten in argument and does not know which way to turn in order to defend himself against the attacks of his adversaries is described as a "very sick" man, even though he may be physically as strong and robust as J. L. Sullivan.

Any one who attended the sittings of the Legislature during the last four years would naturally describe the very ineffective Opposition as "sickly." There is not a more appropriate term in the language to give the reader or hearer a correct idea of the political and intellectual condition of the Opposition. And it is very clear that Mr. Robson was understood in this case by all his hearers, even by those who now pretend to believe that he alluded to the state of the health of two members of the Opposition. There was not a whisper of disapprobation from the audience which would not have been the case if it was believed that he reproached his opponents for not enjoying good health.

Mr. Robson is not the man to speak unfeelingly of any one afflicted with ill-health, or to act towards him in any but a considerate manner, and when the Times tries to get sympathy for the party whose cause it advocates by representing the Premier as speaking in an unfeeling manner of the leader of the Opposition or of Mr. Humphreys, it makes a very great mistake. Such a transparently dishonest trick will only disgust those whom it is intended to deceive.

PROMPT ACTION.

On the first of the present month a dispatch was sent from the local Government to Ottawa, pointing out the serious injury which would result to the canning industry on the Lower Fraser from the enforcement, this year, at any rate, of the regulation prohibiting the dumping of fish offal into the river, as has been done during all these years without any apparent injury to the fishing interests. In response to the remonstrance of the Provincial Government the following dispatch was received:

OTTAWA, May 10.

Hon. John Robson, Victoria.

Upon the request of your Government, the regulation suspended for this year only.

(Signed) C. C. COLBY,
Acting Minister M. & F.

THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS' BILL.

It would be hopeless to attempt to correct all, or any large number, of the Times' falsehoods, for its stock in trade, when dealing with its political opponents, besides personal abuse, is distortion and untruth. It said last evening that Mr. Davie's explanation of the reason for the introduction in the original Legal Professions' Act of the clause, requiring a year's residence, was never attempted before. Mr. Davie stated that the reason was to secure the right of the Province to have judges selected from the local bar, and so far from this being the first time that this reason has been given, Mr. Davie took the identical ground at the last session when moving the repeal of the residential qualification; and if the Times will refer to the debates in 1884, when the first act was brought in, it will find that precisely the same reason was urged in support of the year's residence. Will the Times please take a note of this, or, as is usual with it, go on repeating the falsehood, ignoring the correction.

RYKERT IN THE FIELD.

Mr. J. C. Rykert publishes an address to the electors of Lincoln and Niagara in which he poses as an ill-used and a persecuted man. He contends that he has been guilty of no offence punishable by the law of the land, and that Parliament had no business to pry into his private correspondence, or to pass judgment upon the way in which he transacted his private business. He quotes the speech of the Hon. Mr. Blake to show that this view of the case is the correct one. It will, no doubt, strike the unprejudiced reader of Mr. Rykert's address that, if he has stated Mr. Blake's views fairly, it is a very singular thing that that gentleman not only acquiesced in his condemnation, but used all the influence he possessed to procure from the committee a decision adverse to Mr. Rykert. Mr. Blake may not be always consistent, but it is rather too much to expect the electors of Lincoln to believe that he would act in direct opposition to his publicly expressed opinion. It is much easier to believe that Mr. Rykert has quoted only so much of Mr. Blake's speech as suited his purpose and suppressed what was condemnatory, than that he would permit his acts to contradict his words in so glaring a manner. When it is remembered that Mr. Rykert quoted Mr. Blake not only against Mr. Blake, but against Sir John Thompson and other leading members of the Conservative Party, it is hardly to be expected that he will find many intelligent men in Lincoln, of either party, inclined to reverse the verdict of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Mr. Rykert does not spare the members of his own party who, after patiently hearing all that he had to say in his own behalf, pronounced his conduct "discreditable, corrupt and scandalous." This is what he says of the tribunal before which he has been tried:

"Feeling that I had been very unfairly and improperly treated, and knowing that the report was based entirely upon prejudice and political bigotry, I determined to place my resignation in the hands of the Speaker of the House. I knew then that I had offended no law, either written or unwritten, that I had done nothing which would reflect discredit upon those who sent me to Parliament, and I was determined to appeal to a fair and impartial tribunal, knowing that it would, after a full investigation into all the details of the case, pass an unbiassed judgment."

Whatever the verdict of the electors of the County of Lincoln may be, Mr. Rykert will find it hard to make the people of Canada believe that those electors form a tribunal more impartial and more unbiassed, less prejudiced and less bigotted than the Committee of the House of Commons on Privileges and Elections.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE Columbian has been guilty of one of the most contemptible of tricks. It says that the Hon. Mr. Robson received and answered the despatch from Mr. Hendry, asking him if he would represent Westminster City if elected by acclamation, while at Vancouver on Wednesday, on his way to Victoria. In order to give this lie the appearance of probability, it publishes the telegrams without the dates. Had it published them dated as they were, the readers of the Columbian would have seen that Mr. Robson received and answered the telegram on Tuesday while he was in Kamloops. This is a dirty little dodge, and it shows what the Columbian is prepared to do in order to make what it considers a point against those whom it has made its opponents.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Dr. Child's Pile Ointment quickly relieves and cures. $1 of druggists. Wholesale agents, Langley & Co., Victoria. mr30-3m

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

THE CAMPAIGN OPENED.

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wealth to be utilized? By railway construction alone. It was impossible to overcome our magnificent distances, with their rough and broken surfaces, and battle with all the natural obstacles, thus getting at those immense caverns filled with the precious metals, without the aid of railways. It was childish in our peculiar position to talk of issuing government bonds in their behalf, as we should exhaust the treasury by so doing. The railway men might ask, "What do you then propose to do? Is it by land grants that you intend to aid them?" He would reply "Yes, in part." It would be a liberal and enlightened policy to make land grants, provided those lands had an economic value. But railway men would be inclined to say: "Your lands are not, for the most part, valuable save and except for the mineral wealth that they contain," and they said: "Give us the minerals and the lands as well." That the government considered would have been too big a give away, and therefore he said "we'll give you a reasonable percentage on the minerals found in your lands." The premier continued that the government policy was to make a land grant of 20,000 acres per mile in alternate blocks, opposite each railway block being one retained by the province. This manner of distributing the blocks had been adopted so as to provide that the railway companies should not increase the value of their own blocks without at the same time enriching those of the province. Some might say that the government was lavish, nay prodigal, in giving away the property of the province in this manner. But he would reply of what value were these lands, still these mines to-day? They were beyond reach, and would be beyond the reach of the children and the children's children of this generation without the adoption of a liberal policy such as the one the government had hit upon. If, he would ask, a person had two acres of land and, by giving one away, caused the one he retained to be equal to the value of the two he previously had, was he not as well off as before? (Hear, hear.) But here the government was giving away its lands in such a manner that the blocks remaining to them would be worth many times more than the whole without railways. He, therefore, claimed that the government was exercising a first-class, common sense, wise, provident and economical policy in doing as it had done. The railway companies, it must be borne in mind, could not load the lands on their flat cars and carry them off. They would put them into profitable use, because it was to their interest to make them revenue producing, whereas they returned nothing now. The railway companies would deal with them upon business and commercial principles, and by placing them in their hands the government were doing the best thing possible to give them a financial value. (Cheers.) Then as to the proposed royalty. It was very true that there was a natural prejudice against placing a tax on the mines and mineral products, and the opponents of the government were doing their utmost to increase this prejudice in the minds of the miners and the public. Supposing, for example, anyone had mineral claims, say out in Cariboo. At present freight to Cariboo cost something like $120 a ton. But with a railway it would cost only $20 or perhaps as little as $10. At least $100 a ton would be saved, and the freight would be carried more quickly and be delivered in better condition. Moreover, in quartz mining it was necessary to take in very large supplies and very heavy machinery. By reducing the cost of freight the cost of working the mines would be reduced as much perhaps, as one-half. Would any one hesitate at a saving like this? (No! No!) In Cariboo there was much low grade ore that would not at present pay a margin of profit. But, with the railway and the consequent reduction of expenses there would be a handsome margin produced. Besides, with railway communication, the cost of living for the miner would be reduced in the proportion of from say $3 to $2. But in the mining sections there were great ledges of agricultural lands right up to the level of the mines, and there close up to the mines, as they became developed, it would be possible to raise cows, sheep, pigs and other food productions. Thus, instead of the money of the miners having to go out of the province in order to buy food stuffs, there would be built up on the spot a prosperous yeomanry whose presence would stop the drain of money going away to a foreign country for what the section itself was able to raise. No man, he continued, except he was insane, a mad man or a crank, would hesitate at giving a 5, 10, 15 or 25 per cent. royalty to secure such advantages as these. Indeed it would, in some instances, pay the miners to give as much as 50 per cent. Then, there was another point which, in itself, was sufficient to destroy the last figment of opposition to the government's policy. The lands would be divided into alternate blocks. Supposing the miner should hesitate at paying the royalty or tax he could go on the adjacent provincial lands. It had been said that probably all the good ledges would be on the railway company's blocks. But, with the blocks running alternately, as he had said, there was no choice, the only selection that had been made, having been of the first block, the others following in the succession he had described. Thus it might be claimed with equal reason, that the rich ledges would be found in the provincial blocks. It was fair to assume that there were likely to be as many ledges on the provincial as upon the railway blocks. This placed the railway companies in such a position that they could not be hard or oppressive on the miner. They would feel that they must give liberal terms or their lands would remain untouched. They would see that there was a limit to their powers. Indeed, if they found that on their own lands there was not enough margin to enable them to charge the full royalty provided by law, they would come down and exact no more than the miners could pay. He was fully convinced that the government's scheme was the one by which our territory could be opened up without one cent of tax upon the public revenue. Indeed, not only as a consequence of this policy should we have our lands opened up, but inducements were offered that would enable the railway companies to borrow the money that they required. In fact, the government's policy had already had its effect, for so soon as the bill had passed the House and was cabled to England, then things had happened which showed how great an influence our legislation offered for the investment of English capital, arrangements for whose investment were already being made. This scheme, he would repeat, would in no way infringe on the revenue of the province of British Columbia, but would so act as to give us hundreds of dollars where we now had but one. (Loud applause.) In opening up the country and in opening up our mines enormous amounts of money would be spent, and besides kept in the country. Not only should we have the railways, but should have such natural development as would multiply our revenue many times. Compared with this prospect what should we be without railways? Were not, he would ask, the two measures to which he had specially referred sufficient to condemn and snow under the miserable, cheese paring, illiberal policy of the opposition? The government had before the country the two measures of which he had spoken, either of which was sufficient to lead the electors triumphantly to support it. Each elector had a duty to himself and his country to discharge at the ballot box. It was for them, one and all, to study matters out and so exercise the sacred right of the franchise as to keep in power those who were not only doing their duty to them, but to their children, and children's children after them, in that way causing British Columbia to take her true position as the banner province of the Dominion. (Loud, prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.)

HON. MR. DAVIE

said that it was not necessary for him, after what the premier had stated, to dwell upon the reasons that had induced him to offer himself for a constituency other than Victoria. He had enjoyed the confidence of the electors for the last eight years, during which he had been returned three times by good majorities, and the last time by a majority larger than the others. He was conscious of nothing which had caused him to forfeit the esteem which he then enjoyed, and he was confident he still held it. He did not intend to explain his position further than to say that, in his opinion and that of most others, the cabinet representation should be distributed as much as possible. The electors were told some weeks ago by the organ of the opposition, that, as it had not the data, just then at hand, it would during that week enumerate all of the numerous and grievous legislative sins of the government, but so far, although three weeks had now passed, nothing beyond personal abuse had appeared. (Hear, hear.) During the last session 80 bills had been passed by the House—more than ever before. The highest record before the session was 48—of the 80 something over 20 had been private bills—but the bulk of the bills were public measures of practical utility mostly introduced by the government, but some by their supporters. Regarding the Redistribution bill—which, whatever complaint could be found against it in the Lower Fraser, was eminently fair to Vancouver Island. Mr. Beaven had offered and when Mr. Grant, in advocating three more members for Vancouver, Yale and Westminster had been asked whether he was in favor of retaining the present balance of power and how he would do it under his plan he remained silent, and Mr. Beaven applauded, with the remark—that when he was called in he would prescribe. This was simply dodging question, and as an advocate of Victoria's interests placed Mr. Beaven in a very unenviable light. He had pursued a most extraordinary course. Then there was the companies act, of which it had been said that so useless was it that no company would ever take advantage of it. Nevertheless several companies had already registered under it. There was the Tramway company which had the other day registered under it, and another company of which Mr. Fell was one of the leading spirits. He explained how the Companies act removed the injustice which existed under the 1878 act, as against creditors. The Companies act also contained another provision that should warmly commend it, and that was absolute protection to the workmen and laborers of the company, section 28 giving him a special right for his pay. He had never heard of nor seen any measure introduced by the opposition to aid him (the laborer) much as they talked about him. There was no such provision in Mr. Beaven's Companies act. Was there not more sincerity in this than in the pretensions of the people who professed to do so much? Similar provision for protecting the wages of workmen were to be found in the Execution Act and the Lien Act—where was any similar legislation on the part of the opposition? The Railway Aid bill was suggested by the determination of the government to assist the Canada Western road in accordance with the policy announced at the time of the election in August last. It was known that the franchise on the minerals would attract capital, and the result had proved it—as before the act had finally passed the house, parties were here to ascertain the prospects of the road. Mr. Davie went on to explain the bill of last session respecting the legal profession which had abolished the requirement of a year's residence before admission. Mr. Davie explained that this provision was originally inserted to secure the right of the province to have judges selected from the local bar. Owing to the appointments there was no further occasion for the provision, and the year's restriction was abolished. But instead of stating truthfully the effect, the opposition papers tried to show that it was the very reverse of what it is, viz., a bill throwing wide open the doors of the profession to competent people, allowing foreign practitioners to come in. Among other legislation of last year was the Juvenile Reformatory Bill; the bill to prevent property being tied up by way of his pendens in case of litigation in court. There was also the General Railway Act, which had been drawn principally from the law of Ontario. Coming to the consideration of the Lien act, the speaker characterized it as a workable law. The opposition had wanted them to introduce a law similar to the Oregon act, one of the main features of which was that it treated the laborer and workingman as a sub-contractor, and in case of a contract or undertaking coming to grief he would have to wait for six months for his money. This simply means starvation to the workingman with a family. The present Lien act does not place the laborer in the position of a sub-contractor or material man, it provides that before any other calls are met, the wages shall be given, and to the government and their supporters belonged the credit of bringing in these measures which have been introduced to protect the working man and ensure him his wages. How many bills were introduced by the opposition out of the eighty passed by the house? How many did Mr. Beaven introduce, for instance? Two; one, the Municipality act, the principal object of which was to cure the blunders and defects of the act of the previous session; and the other was some trifling amendment to the Election Regulation Act. How many, the speaker asked, gentlemen, the mayor, introduce? The speaker believed none (applause) during the eight years that he has sat in the House. Another useful bill introduced, by a supporter of the government, was the Dock, and the University bill. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Turnes had introduced a bill providing that, when misfortune or disaster overtook a commercial firm, everyone should be paid alike, and there should be no many suits for the assets. The Timber Marking Act, introduced by Mr. Haslam, was a very wholesome measure and in favor of the hand logger. The Rivers and Streams' bill was also in the interests of the lumberman, in whose favor it worked to considerable advantage. And then the institution of public administrators throughout the province, was a want long required. It was true that in the past estates had been administered with honesty and efficiency, but that was owing to the fact of the government having trustworthy registrars, but, with the country growing in population, the old plan would no longer work. Special officers had to be appointed as official administrators. In some cases, where government officers had not been appointed to administer estates, complaints came in showing that even the general expenses were not provided for. Under the present bill, intestate estates are immediately taken possession of, properly administered, and the proceeds paid into the treasury, to be paid out to the rightful heir and carrying interest, if remaining for any length of time. A measure had also been passed providing for the investment of moneys paid into court, of which there are sometimes very large amounts standing idle. The government passed an act in connection with the S. and O. railway, by which they had accomplished two benefits. They gave assistance to this road in such a way that it is now under construction, and they had removed a considerable pecuniary obligation from the province, i.e., the payment of a subsidy of $200,000. Now an arrangement has been made with the S. and O., and C.P.R. by which the latter road agrees to operate the former for 25 years, and allow them 40 p.c. of the gross earnings, which percentage is turned over to the government as security for the guarantee which they had given. (Hear, hear.) Then there was the bill regarding the employment of Chinamen in the mines, which in the present state of affairs will work well. Up to a short time ago there has been no way of prospecting for coal in timber limits, but the government had provided for that also. These were all measures affecting and promoting the welfare of the province (hear, hear). Provision had also been made for the poor and destitute. Mr. Davie concluded with an appeal to the electors to return the gentlemen supporting the government, which had carried out these useful and beneficial measures. They could not have carried out these measures without a strong support in the House, and he asked the people to return sufficient contingent just as strong as the last. They were there tonight to advocate the claims of the gentlemen supporting the government.

HON. MR. TURNER

followed, remarking that he had little to add to the exhaustive explanations that had been laid before the meeting. Speaking of the opposition, he said they had had no policy, that could be called such, during the past session; in fact, during the whole of the existence of the last parliament. They had opposed the government and charged it with corruption. Well, one of the most serious charges was a miscalculation of twenty cents in the accounts, and even in this there was a mistake on their part of five cents (laughter). Another of the charges against the government was that the revenue had exceeded their anticipations by some $100,000 odd. That was, in the opinion of the opposition, an unheard of thing; but the honorable gentleman quoted from a London paper that the chancellor of the exchequer presented his budget with a considerable surplus over the estimated revenue, for which he was congratulated. The government of this province saw an opportunity of adding to the revenue by a specially good piece of business, and they made over $100,000 by it (applause), which was going to give the province better roads, more public buildings and improvements generally. Four years ago there was a heavy debt on the country, and the revenue was somewhere between $500,000 and $600,000. It has been steadily increasing under the fostering care of this government, until we find now it is the revenue of this next year will approach a million dollars, and for the first time in many years the revenue will exceed the expenditure, and yet between this time and the 30th June, 1881, the expenditure will amount to nearly a million dollars, $400,000 of which is to be spent on public works. This will help all, for we are all workingmen, traders and mechanics alike. If money is spent in the country it is for the benefit of the country. A steady increase has taken place in the credit of the province, so that instead of having to beg for money at 7 per cent., people are now begging us to take it at 3 and 3½ per cent. (Cheers.) Mr. Turner was, therefore, sure that the government, collectively and individually, were desirous of promoting the interests of the province. He was a candidate at the approaching election for Victoria, and he hoped to receive the support of the electors. (Applause.) In fact, he could not conceive how the city could return an opposition member in view of the general and special good which the government had done for Vancouver Island on the whole. (Cheers.)

THE CAPTAIN'S CONSCIENCES.

Captain Irving, who was warmly received, spoke very briefly. He said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—This is the first time I have had the honor of addressing a public meeting. I ask your indulgence for my inexperience in making a public speech, and on this occasion I trust you will take the will for the deed. There is no occasion to refer you to my past, which is well known to you all. If elected I shall give my support to the government on all good measures in the interests of the country. On any not in your or the country's interests, I shall oppose them. I have nothing to say retrospective, and ask you to kindly allow my future actions to speak for themselves. You will find me foremost in protecting the interests of the city I represent and the country in general. Before closing my remarks, I wish to refer to a meeting held by the supporters of the government, at which speeches, plumpers were given for me. I wish to assure you that they were given without solicitation on my part, and though it is not considered the proper thing on occasions of this kind, it assures me that I have sincere friends. But I must ask them, in future, to give no more plumpers. I am one of a party of four, and I want my friends to vote the full ticket. Gentlemen, I place myself in your hands, believing, as I do, that the course which I shall pursue, if elected as one of your representatives, will merit the confidence which I now ask you to repose in me. (Cheers.)

Mr. Duck and Mr. Dalby both endorsed the policy of the government, and asked for a continuation of the support of the electors.

In view of holding other meetings shortly, they did not make a lengthy speech.

The meeting having passed a vote of thanks to the chairman, adjourned.

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