The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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"THE VOYAGEUR."

Thomas O'Hagan, in his Canadian Essays, dealing with "Canadian Poets and Poetry," says that Dr. Drummond, the author of "The Habitant," is the most popular poet in Canada, and adds that "it is well to know that the charming personality of the man and the real merit of his poetic work are worthy of this." According to the writer just quoted, Dr. Drummond has done by far the best dialect work in Canada, and "has written himself immortally into these French-Canadian poems." There are greater authorities on the subject of Canadian literature than Mr. O'Hagan, but he has the faculty of sometimes expressing very happily a sentiment that it is useful to quote—an adept phraser. For instance, in dealing with Mr. Drummond, he says that "it requires but little talent to set the foibles of a people to metre, but it calls for genius in touch with the lowly and divine to gather up the spiritual facts in a people's lives, and give these facts such artistic setting that both people and poems will live forever. This certainly Dr. Drummond has done. 'Le Vieux Temps' and 'How Bateese Came Home' are as fixed in the life and thought of Canada as is the citadel of Quebec." Most persons who have read Dr. Drummond's poems will agree with this estimate of his work and his peculiar genius.

It is scarcely necessary to say much about the poems of Dr. Drummond. They are very well known throughout Canada, and all North America, for that matter. "The Wreck of the Julie Plante" has been sung and recited at almost every social or musical gathering held within the four quarters of the continent. He has written nothing that has better caught the popular fancy, and in it we find the characteristic note of his muse as, par excellence, the poet of the "habitant." The simple, homely people, who form so large an element of Quebec, have many qualities that appeal to the poet and the novelist and for that reason have afforded more material for the Canadian litterateur than any other class of the Canadian community. They are an historic product, an evolution of pioneer conditions, that have no exact parallel in any part of the world. We find, however, elements for comparison in the Acadian of Nova Scotia immortalized in Longfellow's "Evangeline," in the Louisiana Creole heroized by Cable, in the California Greaser (a term often contemptuously applied), and in the South African Boer—all descendants of peoples planted in new countries, who have taken root and developed distinctive traits and humors, unlike to the natives among whom they lived and with whom they often intermarried, or unlike the national first stock. The habitant, for instance, has many of the characteristics of the French peasant, but there is nothing at all like him to be found in France. He is "sui generis."

Only those who have lived among the habitants who know their ways, their habits of thought, their customs, their simple faith, their inimitable patois, their quaint humor, their quiet, unambitious life and innocent pleasures, can fully appreciate the pen pictures of Drummond. He does not caricature. He portrays as Carleton portrays the Irish character, but in a more kindly spirit, and in a fashion that does not offend the habitant, who enjoys the portraiture. To quote: "The touches of roguish humor, the playful imagination and quick appreciation of nature, are the heritage of the French-Canadian, and Dr. Drummond has made them his own. He knows the pathos and fortitude of simple lives and the ideals which inspire his people." They are "his people," for although he is himself a Scotchman, he has studied the French-Canadian in his inner life and its outward expression as no other man has done. He has made them peculiarly his own, and they have responded to the almost loving interest he has displayed in their lives and their language. The habitant, too, is a most interesting study; and affords a striking contrast with the up-to-date American, or his Americanized British neighbor. From that point of view he is almost an anachronism, and would never have fitted into this century had he not, like Topsy, "growed up" with the country. As it is, he is a wholesome and very vigorous reminder of the past—honest, simple-minded, industrious, frugal, pleasure-loving, contented with his lot, obedient to his priest, loyal to his province, undisturbed by ambitions, kind-hearted, hospitable, home-loving. Give him a horse, with a cart for summer and a carriole for winter; see that he is provided with a plentiful supply of "tabac Canayen" and an occasional stint of "whiskey blanc" and a fiddle; and place him within a Sabbath day's journey of a parish church, and you have about completed his earthly happiness. He has his innocent superstitions and is prone to reminiscences. Needless to remark, he has a penchant for large families, but is content with small holdings, and is essentially gregarious in his instincts. His house, with its steep-pitched roof and dormer windows, is whitewashed without and scrupulously clean within. He loves his horse and his evening cotillions. Clad in his wife's and daughter's homespun, with his inevitable moccasins, red sash, or ceinture, and his characteristic chapeau, he is always picturesque. Having a unique ancestry several centuries old belonging to his native soil, with a stock of family traditions, unchanging and unchangeable in all things, it is not to be wondered at that Dr. Drummond should choose the habitant upon which to exercise his undoubted literary prowess, and that his work should become the classics of this peculiar people.

Dr. Drummond has written "The Habitant," "Johnnie Croteau" and "Phil-o-Rum's Canoe and Madeleine Verchers," each with other poems. These are well known, particularly the first named. He has just produced another entitled "The Voyageur" and "other poems." It is impossible to give an expression of opinion concerning it as compared with his previous productions. Dr. Drummon's fame is based on "The Habitant." All our first impressions as to the excellence and genius of the author are founded upon that book. It must stand out preeminently as his masterpiece. His subsequent efforts are necessarily imitations of the first. The uninitiated reader who takes up "The Voyageur" and studies its pages carefully and enjoyably would probably go to "The Habitant" with a feeling that the last effort was the best, because of the first impression created. One thing, however, is absolutely safe to assert, and that is that in no respect has the author deteriorated in the strength or skill of his treatment, and if it were not that "How Bateese Came Home," or "Le Vieux Temps" or "How Albani Sang" are already in mind, it might be stated that some of the poems in the present volume excelled all the others. The title piece, "The Voyageur," is extremely good, and is well chosen as a subject with which to introduce his other songs. It immortalizes a figure in old French Canada and fur-trading days, now almost departed, in fact, gone. In this the habitant is seeing visions of long ago, and away in the north land, and says:

"I see de track of hees botte sauvage
On many a hill an' long portage
Far, far away from hees own village
An' soun' of de parish bell—"

And as the visions develops:

"De blaze of hees camp on de snow I see,
An' I lissen hees 'En Rouiant'
On de lan' w'ere de reindeer travel free,
Ringin' out strong and clear—
Offen de grey wolf sit before
De light is come from hees open door,
An' caribou foller along shore
De song of de Voyageur.

"But w'erever he sail and w'erever he ride,
De trail is long an' de trail is wide,
An' city an 'town on ev'ry side
Can tell of hees campin' ground.

"So dat's de reason I drink tonight
To de man of de Grand Nor' Wes',
For hees heart was young, an' hees heart was light
So long as he's leevin dere—
I'm proud of de sam' blood in my vein
I'm a son of de Nort' Win wance again—
So we'll fill her up till da bottle's drain
An' drink to 'de Voyageur."

In the fur trading days in Canada long anterior to the time when the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company extended to these people, there had grown up among the French-Canadians two classes of men peculiar to the pioneer industry of British North America—one was the "coureur des bois," or rangers of the wood, and the other was the voyageur, both famous in the history and literature of Canada. Neither of them, from a moral point of view, were creditable to their progenitors, but they were always picturesque and exciting whenever they appeared upon the scene. They roamed the woods, and ploughed the waters of the lakes and rivers, going to the remotest part of the fur country in search of furs and conveying them back to Quebec, or Montreal or Fort William, or whatever point happened for the time being to be the entrepot of the fur trade. Returning home after months, perhaps years, of toil in the interior, they literally made "Rome howl," or, in more modern parlance, "painted the town red." There was practically no limit to the excesses they committed, and on account of their moral laxity were the veritable "bete noir" of the pious clergy of their day. Notwithstanding their dissipated habits and wild ways they were faithful and useful servants to the Northwest and Hudson's Bay fur companies, in whose employ they eventually almost exclusively served, and whom in time they came to regard "as the legitimate lords of creation." Washington Irving, in his "Astoria," gives a most interesting description of the voyageurs, which will enable readers to appreciate more thoroughly the spirit of Dr. Drummond's poems:

"The dress of these people is generally half civilized, half savage. They wear a capot or surcoat made of a blanket, a striped cotton shirt, cloth trousers or leathern leggings, moccasins of deerskin and a belt of variegated worsted, from which are suspended the knife, tobacco pouch and other implements. Their language is of the same piebald character, between a French patois embroidered with Indian and English words and phrases.

"The lives of the voyageurs are passed in wild and extensive rovings, in the service of individuals, but more especially of the fur traders. They are generally of French descent and inherit much of the gaiety and lightness of heart of their ancestors, being full of anecdote and song, and even ready for the dance. They inherit, too, a fund of civility and complaisance; and, instead of that hardness and grossness which men in laborious life are apt to indulge towards each other, they are mutually obliging and accommodating; interchanging in offices, yielding each other assistance and comfort in every emergency, and using the familiar appellation of 'cousin' and 'brother' when there is in fact no relationship. Their natural good-will is probably heightened by a community of adventure and hardship in their precarious and wandering life.

"No men are more submissive to their leaders and employers more capable of enduring hardship, or more goodnatured under privations. Never are they so happy as when on long and rough expeditions, toiling up rivers and coasting lakes; encamping at night on the borders, gossiping round their fires, and bivouacking in the open air. They are dexterous boatmen, vigorous and adroit with the oar and paddle, and will row from morning until night without a murmur. The steersman often sings an old traditionary French song, with some regular burden, in which they all join, keeping time with their oars; if at any time they flag in spirits, or relax exertion, it is but necessary to strike up a song of the kind to put them all in fresh spirits and activity. The Canadian waters are vocal with these little French chansons, that have been echoed from mouth to mouth and transmitted from father to son, from the earliest days of the colony."

This is probably a roseate view of the voyageurs, but it preserves their general characteristics, and in a way makes us better understand the habitant of today, who is largely a descendant of the men described, who, after the happy hunting days were over, as a rule settled down upon farms in Lower Canada.

In the two dozen odd poems which Dr. Drummond has given us in "The Voyageur," it would be difficult to select the best. There is a judicious admixture of the grave and gay, the humorous and pathetic, the secular and religious, the practical and the sentimental. He has given us many phases in many measures and moods, and it depends upon the temperament of the reader as to which would appeal to him most. In "The Last Portage" he describes the dreaming of an old man waiting for the final call. This verse is characteristic:

"De night is dark an' de portage dere
Got plaintee o' log lyin' ev'ryw'ere,
Blackrush aroun' on de right an' lef',
A step from de road an' you lose you'se'f,
De moon an' de star above is gone,
Yet some'ting tell me I mus' go on."

It would unduly lengthen this review to give further characteristic extracts from this book of poems by our favorite Canadian author, in which his reputation is so well maintained. It is a volume of 142 pages, displaying in the mechanical make-up a neatness and general excellence worthy of the contents. William Briggs, Toronto, is the publisher, and the price is $1.25 net.

AN OUTSPOKEN LIBERAL.

Elsewhere is published a letter from Mr. R. T. Elliott, of the law firm of Elliott & Higgins, on the school question. We are glad to have an editorial opinion confirmed, especially by one of Mr. Elliott's legal standing, in a matter more or less involving a question of law. We are assured by him that at the time of writing the letter he had not read the article in yesterday's Colonist, so that the opinions expressed therein are independently backed up. The importance of the position taken by Mr. Elliott has not been properly appreciated in the discussions which have occurred on the educational clauses of the autonomy bills. As we have pointed out, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fitzpatrick are attempting to smuggle through Parliament legislation the force of which is not understood by the country at large. The new provinces of the Northwest Territory are being committed to an educational policy by which they are bound to granting privileges to the educational minority not enjoyed at the present time and not contemplated by Parliament in its present understanding of the potentialities of the measure. Mr. Elliott views the modified clauses from a purely legal standpoint, and in their construction sees danger ahead for the provinces. That danger was pointed out some time ago by Mr. Haultain, in an interview on the subject, and so far as our reading of the debates in Parliament and of the editorial treatment of it in the press goes, sufficient attention has not been paid to it. Under the school system as it is at present administered in the Northwest, referred to by the Liberal supporters of the autonomy bills as so satisfactory, the provisions of the law of 1875 have not full effect. Any attempt to give them effect would have been resisted by the people and defeated. After, however, the proposed clauses have become law, they will have been read into the constitution of the Northwest provinces and the minority will claim as a constitutional right privileges that they are at present denied, and there will be no help for it, unless it be that the educational clauses now under discussion are declared ultra vires. The people of Canada are plainly being deceived in respect to a very vital issue. Now is the time to prevent the measure being passed, and in calling attention to the gravity of the situation at the present time, Mr. Elliott is performing a public duty. It may have no effect as to the general result, but the Parliament at Ottawa will at least be responsible for passing the law with its eyes open to the certain consequences.

THE ALBERNI ELECTION.

Mr. William Manson, of Nanaimo, has been unanimously nominated by the Conservatives of Nanaimo as candidate in the bye-election to follow the resignation of Mr. W. W. B. McInnes. His selection for the position has been regarded as a foregone conclusion ever since it was definitely known that a vacancy would occur, and his election may be regarded as assured. Mr. Manson was a candidate for the Comox-Atlin constituency at the last general election for the House of Commons, and had the contest been held at the same time as the other elections, he would in all probability have been successful. He is well and popularly known all along the Coast, and in the Alberni district, in particular, he is the strongest man that could have been chosen as a candidate in a local contest. As Mayor and a member of the council of the city of Nanaimo, he has a good record and will be a valuable acquisition to the Legislative Assembly. So far, it is not known who his opponent will be. The names of a number of local Liberals have been mentioned, but as yet no one has been definitely put forward. It is understood that there is a general feeling in Alberni in favor of Mr. Manson's return by acclamation, although, as stated in yesterday's Colonist, efforts are being made to hold a Liberal convention next week for the purpose of bringing out a candidate.

CANADIAN DEFENCES.

It is quite true that when the fact was announced that the Canadian Government had decided to take over the defences of Esquimalt and Halifax, the Colonist approved of the scheme as one most consistent with our representative system which holds the government responsible for all expenditure. No taxation without representation is now a well-founded maxim of British political institutions. In this particular instance, it must be admitted that the judgment formed was a hasty one and without full consideration of all the circumstances. It was assumed that the plans of the Government at Ottawa were well matured after careful and thorough discussion of all the details with the Imperial authorities, and that the new departure on the part of the latter was the result of a mtual understanding and part of a plan which had no alternative. It is also true that the Admiralty gave it out that the change was the result of a well-digested plan for a new and more mobile distribution of naval forces. Naturally, it would have been highly impolitic for the Imperial authorities to have made an announcement which would have reflected upon the unwillingness of the Dominion of Canada to co-operate in a general system for the defence of the Empire. It has transpired, however, in an unofficial way that the Imperial authorities came to the conclusion they did to abandon Esquimalt and Halifax for the very reason that Canada would not contribute as other colonies are doing to a common fund; and if the correspondence on the subject is ever published, it is very probable that this view of the case will be confirmed.

That the Canadian Government decided as it did, in fear of the sentiment prevailing in Quebec, without mature consideration of the responsibilities involved, is shown by the confessed failure to secure recruits in Canada for the purpose of coast defence, and the proposal that the Imperial authorities should continue their forces as at present, and that Canada should pay the bills. It is quite clear now that in respect to any adequate naval equipment on the part of Canada the Government had but the vaguest kind of arrangements in view. To supply independently what by co-operation with the Imperial Government would have cost $2,000,000 or $3,000,000 will cost many times that sum. The business of setting up a navy is quite a serious undertaking for a country with its hands full with the task of internal development. Great Britain, with the experience and a ready made navy, is in a position to perform the work of protecting shipping and Canadian naval stations at what would be a nominal sum as compared with the expense necessary by beginning "de novo," as Canada would have to do. Besides, Canada has not the experience or the men to undertake it successfully, and with the vicissitudes of Lord Dundonald's brief career in mind, the British Admiralty would not be encouraged in lending its officers to take the work of training and organization in hand. In fact, it is quite evident that the Imperial Government desires to keep wholly clear of Canadian military and naval enterprise so long as the authorities at Ottawa maintains their present attitude of non-co-operation.

There is another aspect of the case quite serious in its way. Under the terms of Union, the Government of the Dominion of Canada was to have used its influence with the Imperial authorities to retain the British fleet at Esquimalt. That that clause of the treaty between Canada and British Columbia has been violated seems quite certain. So far from striving to carry it out, the policy of the present Dominion Government has been of such a character as to lead to the abandonment of Esquimalt as a naval station. The removal of the fleet and the dismantling of the station have been a serious loss to the Province, and in particular to Victoria. That it has not led to an emphatic protest at Ottawa is due to the fact that our representatives in Parliament are servile followers of a party rather than the servants of the people who elected them.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

A peaceful and bloodless revolution has been accomplished in Norway, and the union with Sweden has been dissolved. Norway has never in her history had a happy time of it since the beginning of the thirteenth century, when she saw the height of her prosperity. By the union of Calmar in 1397 the kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden and Norway came under the rule of Queen Margaret of Denmark. Sweden threw off the hated yoke of Denmark in 1523 and was henceforth an independent kingdom with varying fortunes. It became involved at various times in the great European wars instigated mainly by Germany, Russia or France, and had various encounters with Denmark, Russia, Poland and Prussia. Several of her monarchs distinguished themselves as great warriors. Sweden suffered great loss at the hands of Peter the Great, who wrested from her Karelia, Ingria, Esthonia and Livonia. During Napoleonic supremacy in Europe Sweden was practically for a time a dependency of Bonaparte, one of whose generals, Bernadotte, became King as Charles XIV., in whose line the present royal family is. In the final struggle against Napoleon, Bernadotte joined the allies and led the Swedish forces against the French armies. In 1814 Denmark, which took sides with Napoleon, was compelled to cede Norway to Sweden, and from that time dates the union just dissolved. Under Charles XIII. Finland was lost to Sweden, and subsequently Swedish Pomerania passed to Prussia. In fact, Europe at the time of which we speak was a great international chess board, and the smaller states so many pieces shifted at will in the game of war and diplomacy.

In her union with Denmark Norway did not prosper, and during the fourteenth century, what with the oppression of Denmark and the ravages of the black plague, national life was reduced to a very low ebb indeed. These facts of her history, together with the uncertain national status she maintained for so many centuries account for the relative smallness of her population and trade as compared with Sweden today. Under the union with the latter Norway has for many years been very restive and latterly the movement for separation became very strong. It was brought to a head by an act passed by the Norwegian Parliament making provision for a separate consular service. This was vetoed by King Oscar for the ostensible reason that the duplication of consular service was wholly unnecessary and, therefore, a waste of money. The complaint of Norway, however, has been that the consular service has been made subservient to Swedish rather than Norwegian interests. The resolutions passed by the Storthing, and published in the Colonist, set forth officially and definitely the cause of separation. While the consular bill is the immediate explanation, the desire for complete independence has extended for many years back. Norway did not willingly join the union with Sweden; but was powerless to resist the force of circumstances at the time it was accomplished, and ever since the yoke has been irksome. The present acton, though not unexpected, is rather more sudden than was anticipated. The King of Sweden, who is now no longer recognized by the Norwegian Government, will not accept the decision, which, it is held, must have the sanction of Sweden as well. It is feared in some quarters that the crisis thus created may give rise to international complications. However, outside of Denmark and Russia, the interests of other nations are not affected, although it is possible that the Emperor of Germany may feel called upon, as the self-constituted dictator of European affairs, to interfere. Denmark naturally feels cheerful over the action of Norway, and Russia has troubles of its own. Sweden will probably find that it is best to accept the inevitable. Norway does not express any sentiments of hostility to Sweden and asks a Swedish prince as King. Sweden will probably find it better to have a friendly ally and neighbor than an unwilling partner, and, therefore, the elements of great danger in the situation do not exist, unless it arises out of outside interference.

Norway and Sweden are countries not unlike the coast of the Mainland of British Columbia with a less rugged interior. They lie in the same latitude as Alaska and contain agricultural land to the extent of between five and ten per cent. of the whole area. While conditions are not as favorable as they are on this coast on account of the severer climate the people through industry and idomitable spirit, have demonstrated what is possible in overcoming obstacles to success. Ethnologically they are related to ourselves and possess many of the characteristics that have made the Anglo-Saxons a dominating influence in the world.

ONE VIEW OF THE JAPANESE VICTORY.

San Francisco Argonaut.

This naval battle is more than a blow to the prestige of Russia. It is a menace to the entire white race. It is a warning to all the Western world. The steady advance of the Japanese land forces against Russia's broken battalions is also ominous. What is to save the twentieth century from seeing another Mongolian war lord, a new Genghis Khan? Certainly not the prowess of Occidental armies or navies. Would any Occidental power today enter the field against Japan single-handed without a qualm? If so, what power?

Will this new power content itself with taking from Russia her Asiatic holdings? Will it not the rather encourage China to lift up her head, to shake off the hated Occidental yoke, to arm and let loose her swarming millions, and to make all the Asiatic coast Mongolian again? What will become of France's holdings on te Cochin-China coast? What of Germany's "sphere of influence" around Tsing Tau? What of Great Britain's crown colonies like Hongkong? What of the United States holdings in the Philippine Archipelago? And if Japan should endeavor to make these ex-Asiatic holdings Mongolian again, can the United States wage a more effective war at a distance of ten thousand miles from Washington than Russia has from Petersburg? Can Germany from the Wilhelm-Strasse? Or Great Britain from Downing street?

A REVERED BISHOP.

Ottawa Citizen.

Bishop Macdonell of Glengarry, whose death is announced, was one of the most interesting and conspicuous personalities in Eastern Ontario. A born Glengarrian, he was a representative of the fine old Scottish stock that peopled this part of Canada. Beloved alike by Catholics and Protestants, he was in many respects the most representative man in Glengarry. He cherished its traditions and embodied all the characteristics that have made its people noted in Canadian annals. Scholarly and refined, courteous and tactful, with a wide, wise knowledge of men, he was looked up to and respected and beloved by all creeds and classes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

MR. ELLIOTT SPEAKS OUT.

Sir—When I read in Senator Templeman's organ, the Victoria Times, a few days ago, that Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P., had addressed the conference of the Methodist church at Vancouver, B. C., and, in the course of his address, after declaring to the conference that he was proud to be a Methodist, and that he was, first, last and all the time a meek and humble follower of the lowly Nazarene, proceeded to assure his hearers that, in the Alberta bill, as amended, the principle of separate schoos had been eliminated; that no separate schools could possible be established; that the only schools which could exist would be national schools; and that the only provision regarding religion was one making optional to parents of school children a one-half hour's religious instruction for their children after school hours, I saw at once that Mr. Ralph Smith had, in all probability innocently, through inability to analyze the provisions of the bill, departed from the truth, and departed at right angles.

I saw also that, in order to prevent the Liberal party from permanently losing its hold with the voters here, if the deception were not exposed before the bill became law, some Liberal would have to publicly state the facts over his own signature.

Having made a careful study of the matter, with the object of avoiding the errors into which one is liable to fall in attempting, as a result of a cursory reading, to arrive at a decision as to the meaning and effect of a statute which is to form, in effect, the constitution of a province, I now address myself to the task of explaining the provisions as to education contained in the law which it is proposed, by and with the consent and assistance of all the British Columbia representatives in parliament, to inflict upon the people of our two new provinces in the Northwest.

On May 15, 1905, Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, minister of justice, in performance of his duty as such minister, laid before the parliament of Canada a formal written statement explaining and defining the scope and effect of the school clauses in the Alberta bill as amended.

After explaining that it had been intended by the Manitoba Act to establish in Manitoba a permanent system of separate schools, but that, owing to some mistake in drawing the Manitoba Act, the province of Manitoba had been able to escape from or avoid the obligation, he goes on to explain that the possibility of such an error and such an escape or avoidance has been carefully and effectually guarded against in the case of the two new provinces.

He then sets forth the classes of schools that will exist in the new provinces when the bill is finally passed:

(a) Public (undenominational),
(b) Protestant (separate), and
(c) Roman Catholic (separate);

and explains explains that in every school district the Roman Catholic residents will have the right to the establishment of a separate school; controlled by their own separate trustees, whom they are empowered to elect; taught in by teachers selected and appointed by such separate trustees; with the right to use Catholic textbooks; and with the right to demand and receive (I use his own words) "the government aid which in practice they have always received, and which is necessary to place those schools in a position to play their necessary part in the scheme of national education."

After a careful consideration of the educational clauses in the proposed bill, and of the minister's statement from which I have just quoted, I am able to assure the readers of this letter that it is proposed to enforce upon the people of the two new provinces the blighting influence of the separate school system in its widest and most harmful form; and in such manner, as part of the constitution, that no relief measure will ever be possible.

This scheme has the hearty support of Senator Templeman and all the British Columbia representatives; in fact, it has been impressed upon us that it was by the efforts of our representatives that the bill in its present shape was agreed to. I cannot give much credit to this statement, for I have never seen any signs of their influence upon any other legislation, and it will be remembered that when the bill was first introduced, Mr. Sifton objecting to its provisions, walked out of his office; but Senator Templeman stayed in his, his silent prayer, in all probability, being that the mantle of some resigner might fall on him. The records of parliament do not show one word of protest on the part of any of our members; they all took to cover. I have every reason to believe, however, that Mr. George Riley, M. P., has given active, though silent, support to the measure, both as originally introduced and as amended. Should I be here doing him an injustice I will cheerfully accept his denial or qualification.

I now that the Liberals of this city will not be a party to the infliction upon the two new provinces of the grievous wrong above explained, more especially in view of the fact that the thousands of immigrants who are now going in there are going there relying upon statements contained in advertisements and literature published and vouched for by the Canadian government, and containing assurances that the educational system is one of national schools, and national schools alone.

It seems to me to be an urgent public duty imposed upon all members of the Liberal party here to meet in convention and protest against the fastening of a separate school system upon the two provinces, and I write in the hope and confidence that Messrs. Cameron, Drury McNiven, and Hall, our local members, will call the party together immediately and give us a chance to do, by concerted party action, all that we possibly can to avert the crime, as our representatives at Ottawa appear to be devoid of all sense of duty, right, or justice in the premises.

I shall be pleased to show a copy of Mr. Fitzpatrick's statement to anyone caring to see it. I do not feel called upon to propound any theory as to why the Times suppressed it.

R. T. ELLIOTT.

WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Wholesale Market report, corrected daily by the Sylvester Feed Co., 87-89 Yates street, Victoria, B. C.

Wheat, per ton	$38.00
Oats, per ton	$34 to $35
Barley, per ton	$28.00
Hay (Island), per ton	$14.00
Hay (Fraser), per ton	$12.00
Straw, per ton	$10.00
Potatoes, B. C.	$32.00
Potatoes, Island	$35.00
Potatoes, Yakima	$26.00

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK.

FOR SALE—An extra good family cow, rich, big milker, very quiet; calved last Sunday. Oldfield, Lake View, West Saanich road; also cedar posts, all the time. je10

FOR SALE—Irish setter dog puppies by Champion Hector-Girlie, whelped Dec. 12, 1904. Wm. H. Petot, Maywood P.O. je10

FOR SALE—Yearling filly; gentle. $17. Gregory, Millstream P. O. je9

FOR SALE—Thorough Gordon setter pups. Apply J. Day, Esquimalt. je10

FOR SALE—Fresh calved cows. S. J. Jackman, Wilkinson road. je10

FOR SALE—Useful horse, about 1,000 lbs. Price $40. A. G. Snelling, East Saanich road. je7

FOR SALE—Fresh cow. A. Anderson, Strawberry Vale. je9

FOR SALE—8 heifers, 1 bull, 18 months old. Donegan, Head street. je10

FOR SALE—White Pomeranian Spitz puppies. J. R. Grant, 1115 Pendrell street, Vancouver. je7

FOR SALE—200 ewes and ewe lambs, at $5.00 each all round. Apply Shepherd, Colonist office. je8

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