

COLONEL PRIOR'S SERVICABLE SUPPORT

Will be Given the Coercionist Government in Whatever Measure They Bring In.

He Promises Absolute and Unquestioning Obedience to MacKenzie Bowell.

Who Was Kind Enough to Make Him Controller and Privy Councillor.

But Not a Cabinet Minister—Protest Meeting at Esquimaux, on Saturday.

Prominent Supporter Present Who Has Been Whipped Into Line by What?

came there to create a disturbance to-night they would find that they had made a mistake. (City Conservative applause.) This remark was totally uncalled for, as the gentlemen referred to had made no movement or remark that could be set down as or construed into a desire to create disturbance. Mr. Archer Martin presented the Colonel's reference. He had, Mr. Martin said, no right to make such a remark. The Col. remarked that Mr. Martin was "starting in now," but Mr. Martin defended himself and companions by showing that the Col. had commenced the attack in an altogether uncalled for manner. Continuing, Col. Prior said he had been, and still intended to be, a supporter of the government that goes in for protection. (No applause.) He had always believed that the protective policy of the government was the best for this country (no applause), and he honestly believed that the Conservative government had done more in one year in building railroads than the Liberal government had done in all their five years of power. (No applause.) The national debt had increased, it is true, but the Col. claimed that there were solid assets to show for it, and the Colonel also referred to the repeated statement about the "rosy condition" of the credit of the country. He defied the Liberals to show where the government had not administered the affairs of the country ably and honestly. (Laughter.) There might be a few bad men here and there; there always are in all parties; but statements about booting came with a very bad grace from a party that had as allies such men as Tarte and McShane, the latter of whom was picked to pieces for the meeting, but there was no applause. At the risk of being accused of offering bribes to the electors, he would say that what we want here is railroad extension. The Liberals, he said, did not give the members from British Columbia any assistance in this direction in the house, and the Col. quoted Sir Richard Cartwright as one of the chief opponents of British Columbia railway extension. He was not ashamed to look at what has been done by the government for British Columbia. (More laughter.) There is the new postoffice, for which he claimed credit, but he said nothing about postal salaries. At the risk of offering another bribe, he would say that the assurances, as far as assurances go, that this session there would be a subsidy granted to the E. & N. railway. ("Oh," referring to the trade question again, the Colonel held that without protection the Alton Iron Works, the pickle, fruit and soap factories in Victoria could not exist. He referred in comparison to the States before 1892, under the protective regime, and his condition at the present time, which he attributed to the departure from a protective policy. It was his firm belief that a similar state of affairs would exist in Canada under the same circumstances. Although respecting Mr. Laurier as a gentleman, he said that he was not going to know where he was on either the school or trade question.

Coming to the school question, the Col. practically repeated his views and intentions as already reported; namely that he would support the government in upholding the school question, as he had come to the conclusion that in passing the remedial order, the government were simply carrying out a duty they owe to the minority. There was no coercion at all about it. How much the Col. really knew of the policy of the government on this question in the past, and how much he knew about the intentions of the same government, which he proposes to blindly support, was cleverly elicited by Mr. Archer Martin, who put a few pointed questions to him. The first query was: Is not the Bowell government pledged to enforce the remedial order against Manitoba at the coming session of 2nd January? The Col. gave an Irish answer: "Do you know what the remedial order is?" Mr. Martin—Certainly I do. Can you answer me whether or not the government you support is pledged to enforce the remedial order? Col. Prior—Not that I know of. Mr. Martin, reading from a report in the Montreal Gazette of a speech by Sir Charles Herbert Tupper, quoted as follows: "There was no one," contended Sir Charles, "who could say that the government was not pledged up to the hilt to introduce and enact remedial legislation on the lines of the remedial order of March last." Col. Prior, in a reluctant tone, admitted: "I expect they are, if that is the case." Mr. Martin—Then is your answer that you are pledged? Col. Prior—To enforce the remedial order? Mr. Martin—Yes? Col. Prior—Yes. Mr. Martin—Did not Mr. Clarke Wallace, late controller of customs under the Bowell government, resign his position rather than enforce the remedial order? Col. Prior—Yes. Mr. Martin—If you go to Ottawa as M. P. for Victoria, will you support the Bowell government in enforcing the remedial order against the wishes of the people of Manitoba? Col. Prior—No, you don't get a straight answer to that. Mr. Martin—It's time we did, then. Col. Prior—You don't catch me in any of your little "quicks" and "quibbles." Col. Prior held that such a question was absurd, as no one knew what course the government is going to take, and that it was absurd to talk about supporting a bill that no one knew anything about. The government, he held, forgetting that it is pledged irrevocably to remedial legislation might not demand separate schools. They might only desire religious instruction, for, say an hour for the different creeds, but being pressed for a straight answer, he replied: "I AM PLEDGED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN WHATEVER THEY BRING DOWN. I

HAVE MADE NO SECRET OF IT.

Mr. Martin—Against the wish of the people of Manitoba? Col. Prior—I answered before that until that bill is brought down no one knows what it will be. WHAT EVER MEASURE THE BOWELL GOVERNMENT BRINGS DOWN, I AM GOING TO SUPPORT IT. Mr. Martin—Should Manitoba refuse to comply with the remedial order or any act of parliament, how do you propose to enforce compliance? Col. Prior—I have no idea. This closed Col. Prior's catechism and confession of absolute, blind and unconditional faith. Hon. Dr. Helmecken was next called upon, and was received with the usual warmth accorded to him. He was for B. C. first and foremost, and he was of opinion that as the school question was Manitoba's quarrel, she should fight it out herself. British Columbia had enough to do to look after her own business, and let Manitoba do as she pleases. It was time enough to discuss the school question when it is found out what the government intended to do. He was very undesirable to bring in any influence to stir up any religious animosities, said the venerable doctor, who has all along unapologetically condemned the men he is supporting in this campaign. Dr. Helmecken spoke warmly on these lines, and was loudly applauded by the Conservative contingent from the Adelaide block, who, after stirring up the fire, are now refraining to flame, they have kindled, and would do anything to shirk their responsibility or sidetrack the question.

Mr. A. E. McPhillips followed in an address on the school question, in the course of which he reviewed the history and legislation of the subject. Although a Catholic, he claimed to be absolutely unbiased on the matter. He prefaced his remarks, however, by a certificate of character for the Conservative party, whom he held up as paragons of honor, honesty and statesmanship, while there was nothing whatever to say for the Liberal party. Practically the same ground was traversed as fully outlined in Mr. Bowell's speech, to which Mr. McPhillips paid a high tribute. He held, however, that the government was not bound "to re-establish" separate schools, and "to deny that the schools under the old system were introduced by Sir Boniface." The government were simply carrying out the order of the privy council, Mr. McPhillips claimed, and therefore the premier was only acting up to the constitution. Dr. Helmecken rose at this point to say that, so far as the cabinet minister's speech is concerned, he had full confidence in the premier that he will carry out to the full his intention to give this country a cabinet minister, without a speech composed of those "glittering generalities," which the coercionist party find so obnoxious in their opposition. Mr. Baker accepted, without question, the stand on the school question, which he deemed a side issue altogether, and without directly saying so, conveyed the impression that he is one more in line with the party, and that differences in this matter have existed here and there in fact of the common danger.

Mr. E. A. Lewis delighted at some length, and got some slight present reward from his companions, for what he called his "unconditional" endorsement of the trade and school questions. As to the former he looked upon it as the only cure for any national ailment. Protection above all and before all else, he hoped in the general elections, not far distant, to be able to discuss these questions more fully when he hoped he would not be left so late on the programme. (Laughter.) The Liberal leader had been as vacillating as a reed on the trade question, and Mr. Earle would defy anyone to produce any utterance of Mr. Laurier's on it. Mr. Martin—I've got one. Mr. Earle—Where is it? Mr. Martin, holding up a paper—Right here; do you want to see it? (Laughter.) Mr. Earle—No, I don't. Mr. Martin—You bet you don't; and you don't want to hear it either. (Great laughter.) Mr. H. Dallas Helmecken looked upon the offer of cabinet representation, which he still believed in as one of the best means of raising the school question, and he was surprised to find any opposition. Mr. Helmecken also touched on the school question on the same lines as Mr. McPhillips. This, however, he only looked upon as a side issue and made only a general reference to Mr. Bowell's motion and coercion, but he held, like Mr. McPhillips, the view that there is a judgment of the privy council which must be carried out. Mr. Martin pointed out where Mr. Helmecken was mistaken in this, as well as in his understanding of the different statutes. Mr. A. E. Lewis, with a scorching smile, announced to the audience, who had now turned to leave the hall, that he had a motion to make. This, after some introductory remarks, he evolved into a motion pledging the meeting to support the Colonist and coercion, but some one shouted "Three Cheers for Templeman," which were given with a will, followed by three cheers of much less volume, by the coercionists from the town. For Col. Prior, Mr. Lewis' chance for gaining immortality was lost, for his motion was not even put, but all joined in a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman. This is "Esquimaux solid" for coercion and blind, unquestioning service to a discredited administration.

JUST A QUESTION?

To the Editor—I would like to ask you the Mr. Bushby is who delivered a speech at the Conservative meeting at Metchoon. If he is the Mr. George Bushby who holds a position under the public works department of the Dominion government; the man who led the applause for Col. Prior at the meeting held at Esquimaux on Saturday evening? Is it not rather out of place for a public servant to take part in political meetings? It looks very much like the municipal politics we see in the United States. Just imagine Collector Milne or Postmaster Skespeare talking in part in public meetings and canvassing votes for Col. Prior.

NON-PARTISAN.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BURGOYNE BAY.

From our own correspondent. Burgoyne Bay, Dec. 25.—The half-yearly meeting for the election of officers of the Loyal Union lodge was held at the school house, Vesuvius Bay, on Sunday evening. There was a large attendance of the brethren. The result of the ballot was as follows: Noble Grand, A. W. Cooke; V. G., J. Vidler; Secretary, G. W. Cundie; Treasurer, J. Hightangle; delegates to grand lodge, W. Robertson, J. Wharmock, Trustees, E. Lee, W. Robertson, F. Raines; Warden, T. Mout. The minor offices being filled, and the ceremony of initiation gone through, the ordinary business of the lodge was taken up. The school examination commenced on Tuesday and was principally written. High School entrance papers were used, supplemented by papers set by the teacher. The result was most gratifying, an all round average of over 60 per cent. being attained.

GOLDEN GOLDEN.

Mr. Brady, of Victoria, passed through here accompanied by an English expert, to re-visit the Thunder Hill property. Though the work already done here has not been a success, there are, it is stated, valuable properties adjoining it to examine. These if a favorable report is made will be changed to a company to a smelter and some to a concentrator, to get a practical test of its value as a concentrative ore. The Hidden Treasure copper and galena mine, worked last month for forty days to Mr. D. D. Mann, of Montreal, has fallen again to its original owners. The terms were extremely easy. The bonder was provided 40 days whereupon to send an expert to report on the property, and he was to be paid to pay \$2500 down, having ample time to pay the balance of \$25,000. The mine is situated on the north side of the Spillimacheen river, seven miles from the Columbia river, from which there is a sleigh road.

FORT STEELE.

It is rumored that R. L. Galbraith has sold his interest in the Moyca group of mines to a Montreal syndicate for a good figure. Mr. James Brady, of the Thunder Hill Mining Company, accompanied by an expert, is at present engaged in examining the property as to future operations. The North Star commenced to haul ore last Monday; they have about 1,200 tons on the dump, which will be hauled the Kootenay river, ready for shipment in the spring. It is reported that a number of sections from Nohrasna and Texas have taken up land at Tobacco Plains. They will bring in their families next spring, and will put in a large ditch for the purpose of irrigation. There is room for all that come in our valley. The Nip and Tuck placer claim on Wild Horse creek, lately purchased by Mr. Foster for \$4,500, has been leased to an American syndicate for ten years. The consideration is \$1,500 per annum. The above investment shows the value of mining property in this district. The Gold Hill property, an immense body of mineral, was discovered in July last by H. L. Amme and Chas. Elwood. The property is located on Boulder creek, a tributary of Wild Horse creek. The ledge is a gold-bearing quartz about 100 feet wide and is exposed the entire length of the claim; in fact the ledge is exposed on three sides, and rises up the mountain by a series of layers or steps some 12 to 20 feet in height. The ledge prospects well in gold, and some \$900 square feet of the ledge has been sampled, and the assays show that it will average \$3.30 to the ton. And there is a strip of some 60 feet in the centre of the ledge that assays as high as \$8 to the ton, and it is said that some 3,000 square feet of this lead that does not contain gold, can be developed with profit. Mr. Derdoris, from Tobacco Plains, reports that the wagon road is completed to the Plains. The men from Fort Steele cut and cleared some 22 miles, making a good timber foot road as far as the mouth of the creek. The men from the Plains put in a bridge 135 feet in length at Elk river, also cut and cleared twenty miles of road to the Plains. And now we have direct communication with Montana.

KAMLOOPS.

A find of mineral is reported from Grand Prairie. A short time ago J. Stewart and company discovered two parallel ledges of mineral not far from the Fish Lake road, which may yet prove valuable. The ledges are about three feet wide and six feet apart, appearing on the face of the rock. Mr. H. Thompson and W. McIntyre, who spent some weeks near Kamloops sometime ago prospecting, have for the past week or two been on the north side of the Thompson river further examining the rocks. When here in the fall they located two claims near Lac la Bois, and during the winter will do the work upon them. They have had assays made of samples taken away when here before, which were very satisfactory, and considering the width of the vein they estimate that the property can be developed with profit. Robert Stevenson, who has spent the summer in Granite Creek constructing flumes, digging ditches, and fitting an hydraulic plant for the Stevenson Gold & Platinum Hydraulic Mining Company, Ltd., came in by last Friday's Nicola stage. He said they had got the work so far advanced that washing would begin in March, and practically as soon as water was running in the stream. They will have about one thousand inches of water enough for two monitors and they will be working in pay gravel from the start. Mr. Stevenson also put in a saw mill, which will turn out 8000 to 10,000 feet per day, though capable of much more. He brought in three nuggets found near the property, while in one part Chinamen made good wages sluicing. One of the most remarkable mining events of the year in the Similkameen country was the find of copper on the Tullow being enforced, causing a great deal of dissatisfaction among the miners and prospectors of this section of the province. Surely the government could find some other means of raising the revenue, without unduly hampering the efforts of those men to whom we must look to for the development of our mineral resources. We understand that Captain Armstrong is building a large steambot at Libby, Montana. It will run between Kamloops and Fort Steele. There will be three, and possibly four, steamboats plying on the upper Kootenay next summer. This is an indication of future prosperity to Fort Steele. With the navigation improved, so that at least eight months of the year can be assured, and four steamboats on the river, mine owners can take out a large amount of ore and feel sure of finding a market and means of transportation. There is another property on which there is considerable work being done this winter, and of which very little notice has been taken. It consists of two claims, the name of one being the Wynnstay, situate in the Rockies on the east side of the valley, about three miles north from where Elk river leaves the mountains and about one mile from the proposed railway line. It is a well defined ledge from three to five feet in width, containing malachite, chalcocite and copper pyrites, with iron oxides and carbonates on both walls; an average assay gives \$4 in gold, 8 ounces in silver and 37 per cent. copper. There are three men employed in extracting ore and they expect to have about 250 tons ready for shipment in the spring. It is thought that it will be worth at least \$80 per ton.

DON'T BE STEERED.

To the Editor: The Colonist and its henchmen have commenced that favorite pastime, "slinging mud." It is a very dangerous practice to indulge in at any time, but more especially by the authors of the present attempt to blacken Mr. Templeman's character. It is not on record, however, that Mr. Templeman ever had his character questioned through his connection with a number of shady real estate transactions; and there is hardly one who will accuse him of "skipping" from his boarding house in Ottawa or anywhere else. Yet such are the men who attempt to malign an honorable man! Who are the bang steers? and who are being steered? CUMTUX.

AS A LEGISLATOR.

Col. Prior's Record at Ottawa Does Not Say Much for Him.

From our own correspondent. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 28.—Lt. Col. Prior has, during his career in parliament, made very few speeches of any kind. What little he has said has been in the direction of military pensions and the like. Last session, however, he rushed to the rescue of the late controller of customs and the government in connection with the duties on hardware, taking occasion in his remarks to sneer at the necessity of any protection to labor. Sir Richard Cartwright brought up in the house a question of customs duties on hardware. Excise Controller Wallace sent to the United States a Mr. Hawthorne, of the Weiland Valve Manufacturing Company, an establishment that controls all the manufacture of agricultural tools, such as axes, etc., made in Canada. The firm has also works at Oshawa and Cote St. Paul, Well. Mr. Wallace was engaged by Mr. Wallace as an expert to see what prices were charged by Americans on goods shipped to Canada so as to prevent the Canadian manufacturer from buying from any other than the highly protected Canadian manufacturer. Sir Richard Cartwright said among other things that it might be better to have a duty of 15 to 20 per cent. on the goods, than to have a duty of 35 per cent. on the goods, which would be a protection to the Canadian manufacturer. Sir Richard Cartwright said among other things that it might be better to have a duty of 15 to 20 per cent. on the goods, than to have a duty of 35 per cent. on the goods, which would be a protection to the Canadian manufacturer. Sir Richard Cartwright said among other things that it might be better to have a duty of 15 to 20 per cent. on the goods, than to have a duty of 35 per cent. on the goods, which would be a protection to the Canadian manufacturer.

MIDWAY.

Returms from the sample of ore taken from the Smuggler claim in Fairview a short time ago, and sent to the Tacoma smelter and also to the cyanide works a Vancouver, gave in one case a return of \$31 in gold, and in the other \$50. With the exception of the last few days the Chinamen who are engaged at placer mining on Boundary Creek have been steadily running dirt through the vein they are working, there are still some corners left worthy their attention. The B. C. Cattle company's last drive of beef cattle to the Rossland camps was taken in by way of Marcus. No more cattle will be supplied to this market by the company until spring, when the several members of the party will be consumed this winter coming by way of the Columbia river from the Northwest Columbia and from Montana over the N. P. R., the same being shipped in a frozen state. It is reported that the B. C. Cattle company supplied during the past summer to the Rossland camps, between 2000 and 3000 head of cattle, and that at remunerative prices. Gradually the ore body widens out as depth is obtained upon the Anarchist claim. It is reported that the B. C. Cattle company supplied during the past summer to the Rossland camps, between 2000 and 3000 head of cattle, and that at remunerative prices. Gradually the ore body widens out as depth is obtained upon the Anarchist claim. It is reported that the B. C. Cattle company supplied during the past summer to the Rossland camps, between 2000 and 3000 head of cattle, and that at remunerative prices. Gradually the ore body widens out as depth is obtained upon the Anarchist claim.

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, Dec. 30.—Roland F. Walsh, scientist, historian and naturalist, died in Bellevue Hospital this afternoon. He was seized with pneumonia a week ago. He was the author of several essays and books, of which the best known work is his life of Charles Stewart Parnell. He was recognized by official departments at Washington as one of the most thorough fish experts in the country, and as also a musician of no little ability.

ROYAL Baking Powder

has been awarded highest honors at every world's fair where exhibited.

Report ing er If it was him. The whole of it was put. The affairs going to be of it by (Cheers) sent the "going" and a "going" Vancouver case and a tion; pusion; fever; kid- greening; uly advise quack doc- Prior; en- culars; call (applause.) life of die- crow over said at the y occasion at robbed in Esquimaux. The steamer. Look at Prior in r, and at Wallace, that the nment not bona fide so long? would send Manitoba. The following meeting of Mr. selves to the resolu- dissenting thanks to posed with DEEP of the board entered by from ed seaman ed was Green, an- everly in- hat raged yesterday here. On Sunday and evening Charles when Saturday, that new pro- cess beyond trific cross over her. over her reef the sea. Brewer berboard. ards. He reat dark, but fresh was a and re- injuries. hospital. Dr. John was not returned to, and she or by the 25 years in this Portland. parts the ever en- Mascat is schooners she could find in other harbor put I to mor- contract dia, now a ship in dition as the gar- room the examined. The next H. M. S. day from waders of the next week. It to get Columbine extraction to send. The next was with and on tered at