

Twice-a-Week Times

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THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

There is a past in connection with the Election Bill now before the Dominion Parliament. If the records of that past could be blotted out the attitude of the opposition would not be any more reasonable, but it would be more consistent with the history of the party. Previous to the year 1896 the Dominion Parliament jealous guarded its own franchise and its own voters' lists. It is a matter of history, the manner in which the power this reserved was exercised. Revising barriers of sweet memory made up the voters' lists, taking care that no party advantage should be lost in the process. The method in which the lists were manipulated for party purposes by those partisans constitutes, as every one knows who has followed the political history of Canada, one of the most unsavory of the many nauseous doings of the Conservative party. Elections were never held upon voters' lists which fairly represented the political sentiments of the country. They were frequently conducted upon lists several years old, and always upon lists compiled with a view to the advantage of the party in power. In the year 1898 the system was abolished. But it was not abolished without a vigorous attempt upon the part of the leaders of the Conservative party to induce Parliament to "retain control of its own franchise and its own voters' lists," as Sir Charles Tupper stated the case. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his ministers intimated then that it was not the intention of Parliament to surrender control of its franchise or of its voters' lists. But the old system had proved cumbersome, unwieldy and an instrument for evil in the hands of the party in power. It was the intention to try something new, and which would give a genuine expression of the popular will. The scheme adopted has proved satisfactory in all the eastern provinces, because there the qualifications of voters are based upon the assessment rolls of organized districts. It also proved satisfactory in the western provinces, which are not organized as the eastern provinces are for municipal purposes, up to a certain point. That point was passed when the Roblin government of Manitoba, which has always maintained a system of registration, relieved the judges of the courts of the duty of revising the lists and handed the work over to partisan politicians. The result was just what might have been expected. The Roblin government considers it has other duties to perform than the administration of the internal affairs of the province of Manitoba. It has assumed the task of assisting the Conservative opposition at Ottawa. In pursuance of this self-assumed task, the Roblin government, through its political agents, succeeded in disfranchising at least eight thousand Liberals during the last federal election. The McBride government of British Columbia, also in pursuance of an understanding with that virtuous, harmless man, Lester Borden, has become a partner in the Roblin-Borden conspiracy. The McBride government will, as it has in the past, use all the machinery under its control for the purpose of striking a blow at the Laurier government. These are no reckless, random statements. They are capable of proof. The methods employed will doubtless be the same as those adopted with manifest advantage during the late provincial elections. It will be remembered that during the elections a number of men who formerly lived in Victoria, but had removed to Cumberland, applied to have their names transferred from the Victoria lists to the Comox division. The registrar at Cumberland assured these men that there would be no trouble about effecting the transfer. He had written to the Attorney-General for instructions, and had been assured that everything would be all right. Accordingly under the provisions of the act these electors made the statutory application to the registrar at Victoria to have the transfer made. Their names were struck off the Victoria list, but when they applied to have them put on the Comox list a difficulty arose. The Premier had been on a tour of the Comox district, and his visit bore fruit of the usual kind. The registrar at Comox specifically received a letter containing instructions that the names of the voters which had been eliminated from the Victoria list on an understanding with the Attorney-General could not be added to the Comox list. The Attorney-General had conveniently changed his mind at a most opportune time from the point of view of the candidate of his government. That is a sample of the manner in which the lists have been manipulated by the McBride government. If the amendments to the Elections Act had no

other effect than stopping that kind of party tactics in one instance, the federal government would be justified in insisting upon their going through the House. But they would unquestionably have a salutary effect in scores of instances in Manitoba and British Columbia. That is evident from the testimony of reliable independent authorities. Yet we have Conservative newspapers such as the Vancouver News-Advertiser ponderously and gravely assuming that the interests of the electorate at large would be safer in the hands of partisans of the Roblin and the McBride governments than in the hands of unbiased judges of the courts.

There is no probability of the opposition forcing dissolution upon such an issue.

A QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

We had thought all along that Mr. Cooper, acknowledged to be one of the greatest of American engineers, was responsible for the fall of the Quebec bridge. This engineer, we are told, proved a most autoerotic, dogmatic gentleman. He would brook no interference with his plans. He would accept no suggestions from those on the work when told there appeared to be a lack of stability about it. Yet we are told, with a gravity befitting the occasion, that the Laurier government, not Mr. Cooper, must shoulder the responsibility for the costly blunder. We had not up till the time of reading this authoritative opinion known that the Laurier government was in the bridge building business. We had not surmised that the members of the Laurier government assumed to know anything at all about modern methods of constructing great bridges. We were ignorant of the fact that the Laurier government had anything to do with designing the bridge or had pretended to superintend the work of construction. Yet it appears the government caused the bridge to fall and must bear the responsibility for the dire consequences. Nor is that all. The government is also, according to this veracious, and of course unbiased, authority, responsible for the construction of the whole of the transcontinental railway. It is not the commissioners, nor even the engineers—the latter also the ablest of the continent—who are planning and building that great work. It is the Laurier government, if a mistake has been made in locating the line—and it is assumed there must have been a mistake, because some one says the line is about two feet under water somewhere owing to a flood—the commissioners, and the engineers must not be held responsible. Not at all. It is the government that is to blame. By the same infallible process of reasoning a former government ought to have been held responsible for the mistakes made in the construction of the C. P. R. Portions of that line have been repeatedly washed away in the province of British Columbia. Traffic has been completely tied up for days, more or less obstructed for weeks. Yet it never seems to have occurred to any person to call governments to account. But we live in different times. There is another government in power and an opposition whose only functions are to find fault and obstruct business.

"WHAT IS NEWS?"

Until yesterday the Times took no notice of the journalistic "Holy Whistles" who have professed deep concern because this paper, by publishing the news of the day in as inoffensive form as possible, has compelled them to adopt an apologetic attitude for failing to chronicle the current happenings. A clause in the presentment of the Grand Jury furnished the Colonist yesterday with what it regarded as a fine opportunity to make a reputation for purity out of its notorious discrimination between individuals in its treatment of news. In dealing with the Grand Jury's presentment the Times took occasion for the first time to expose the humbug employed in this connection; and in attempting to reply this morning under the caption of "What Is News?" the Colonist throws a lot of dust in the air to cover the real issue. That issue, which columns of editorial sophistry cannot obscure, is one which the public understood better than our contemporary is aware of. It is not whether one paper published more or less of the details of the case in question (for both gave it considerable space), but whether or not the case was reported regardless of the social position and wealth of the principals. In attempting to prove its virtue in these matters the Colonist says that in a case cited by us yesterday it also failed to give the news fully. But this is immaterial. There have been dozens of cases in which the test could be applied in which there has been a suppression of facts, and into some of these even the element of " nastiness " did not enter. Since the Times has been assailed in this matter we wish to say that the Colonist is seeking to make a virtue out of its weakness, and to justify on public grounds a course dictated by motives of an entirely different character.

We will take this morning's issue of the Colonist to illustrate our point. On January 22nd a case of libel against Phil. R. Smith was entered in the police court by J. S. H. Matson, managing director of the Colonist; for a statement in a newspaper during the municipal elections which briefly suggested that Mr. Matson's advocacy of the

cause of the Esquimalt Water Works Company was dictated for purposes of private gain.

The evidence in the police court, where the proceedings were in Mr. Matson's favor, and attendant matter were reported in the Colonist to the extent of six or seven columns. Yesterday the case came before the Chief Justice and was unconsciously thrown out after an interesting and newsworthy discussion between counsel and court. Yet the case is disposed of in the morning's issue of the Colonist in the following words: "The indictment against Phil. Smith for defamatory libel was quashed on account of a technical error in the way in which it was drawn up."

We submit that if the case was worth six or seven columns in the police court, when matters went with the prosecution, it was worth more than four and a half lines in the higher court when it went against him. As a matter of fact, even these four lines are misleading, the case not being thrown out on a technicality, as will be seen by those who read the Times and get the unbiased news. But we are not discussing that feature. We are simply drawing attention to something which is a matter of common comment on the streets, that there are elements deciding news values in the Colonist which have their source neither in virtuous solicitude for the morals of the young nor in heart-breaking concern for the public weal.

There is only one other point on which we will touch, and that is the modest assumption in this morning's editorial that the views of "reputable citizens" are expressed in the sentiments of the Grand Jury, but more particularly in the deductions drawn therefrom by the Colonist. We have only to say that we are well content with the ventilation of this matter, because of the opportunity it has afforded this paper of finding out how widely its course has been approved. For the past two days, by letter and telephone, commendatory comment on its fair and fearless course has poured into the editorial office from men and women, the standing of many of whom in the work of moral reform and of public interest has made their support doubly welcome. We are content to leave the Colonist to the smug enjoyment of any reputation it may seek as a champion of the general public. The Times is being published, not for the few, but for the many, and it wants to give all the news that can fitly be printed for the man who at the end of the day's work expects his family paper to give him the current happenings, unbiased by the wealth, position, or politics of those affected. As an illustration of the type of letters and messages received during the last twenty-four hours, the following from a well known and respected citizen may be given:

"May 14th, 1908.
"Dear Mr. Editor,—I have read your editorial of about date, 'Duties of the Press.' I must say I was delighted in reading it. There is only one fault with it, and that is you did not hit both the jury and the Colonist hard enough. It is coming to a nice state of affairs when the press is reprimanded for publishing the facts, irrespective of persons. The evidence, as I read it in the Times, was couched in such language that no person, however modest, could take offence. I think you did a public service in letting the public know the facts.
"Yours respectfully,
"A. SUBSCRIBER."

The wheat crop of the Northwest is the largest by 25 per cent. that has ever been planted in that section of Canada, something that is not unexpected considering the tremendous in-pour of new settlers. All accounts agree that the crops are at least a month in advance of last year. So that the outlook must be considered promising. Should nothing untoward occur, the crop will be the largest by far that has ever been garnered in Canada. All this is very reassuring. It means a great deal for the business of the country. Given a good harvest, and we shall hear no more about hard times for several years. The partial failure of last year will be entirely forgotten. It will be accepted as something which is liable to befall husbandmen in any country, not as a condition peculiar to the circumstances of northwestern Canada. And the result will be a tremendous increase in immigration, an increase which will continue to grow in proportions until the destiny of the Dominion shall be fulfilled. That destiny is a somewhat hackneyed subject. It has been discussed from every point of view. The world will obtain an intelligent understanding of it before the lapse of another decade.

There is no question about it. The visit of the Armada to Puget Sound will be one of the greatest and noisiest events in the history of the Northwest. If any of the shades of the original navigators of these waters linger in the neighborhood their ghosts will be blown by the things they see and their shadowy ar drums tingle at the sounds they hear. Visitors of a material character will also have cause for astonishment when they are called upon to pay for their entertainment. Assurances have been given that there will be no advance in prices for meals and the other necessities of life. But we, possibly unduly sceptical, have reason to express misgivings. The temptation will be great. Our neighbors are but human. The visit of the fleet will furnish them with a grand opportunity. We shall be surprised if they do not improve it.

Seven Persons Reported Killed

Muskogee, Okla., May 15.—Seven persons are reported killed in a wreck of a Missouri, Kansas and Texas passenger train No. 5, known as "The Flyer," which left St. Louis last night for Texas points. The train collided head-on, one mile east of Muskogee, to-day, with a freight coming east.

MINERS WANTED IN BOUNDARY DISTRICT

Granby and B. C. Copper Companies Have Employment for 300 Men.

Phoenix, May 15.—Mining activity and general prosperity in the Boundary this year promises to eclipse any in the past. It is to be a year of big ore tonnage as a solution to the low copper market problem. Every miner in the Boundary is at work and many hundreds more are required by the Granby and B. C. Copper companies to keep their extensive works at full capacity.

The managers state that they have employment for at least 300 more miners. Experienced men are wanted. The scale of wages is the same as in other copper camps, \$3.50 for an eight-hour day. The big Snowshoe mine in this camp is reported as likely to open in a few days with employment for another 200 men.

LEEBO UNDERGOING TRIAL TRIP TO-DAY

New Freighter One of Best Vessels of Her Class on Coast.

Fresh from the hands of her builder, William J. Leebo, the steamer Leebo left Marvin's wharf this afternoon on her trial trip. The Leebo is owned by Leeming Bros., who also own and operate the steamer Cascade, and the new vessel resembles the latter steamer in general appearance. A noticeable feature about her is her great beam and the extraordinary strength of her gear. She has a big beam, one foot over every four feet of her length, and her deck from the house work aft is clear of obstruction. A steel mast carries three heavy derrick booms, and these are worked by a powerful winch. Two holds are served by this gear, and the Leebo is equal to any vessel of her class on the coast for heavy hoisting work. The dimensions of the Leebo are: Length, 125 feet; beam, 29 feet; depth, moulded, 12 feet. She has compound engines 10x24x16 inch stroke, and her boiler pressure is 160 pounds. The contract call for a speed of 10 knots, but the Leebo is expected to develop 250 horse power, and attain a maximum speed of 12 knots.

On her trial trip this afternoon the Leebo is commanded by Capt. J. Hunter, formerly of the Cascade, and her engine room is in charge of A. Lees, the chief engineer. A number of shipping men are taking in the trip.

ANNUAL SESSION BROUGHT TO CLOSE

Grand Temple of Pythian Sisters Has Completed Its Business.

The Grand Temple of Pythian Sisters which were held the annual session on Wednesday, closed its work last evening before they left for the concert and dance at Duncan's. Prior to the commencement of the concluding business yesterday afternoon the Sisters presented the mistress of records and correspondence with a handsome crescent diamond and pearl brooch, as a recognition of her untiring efforts on behalf of the order. The presentation was made by the grand chief, Margaret Neave, of Nanaimo, who in most complimentary words spoke of the work done by the honored sister, and congratulated her on her reelection to the office of grand chief which she has held during the past year. This afternoon the visiting sisters were entertained at the Gorge by the sisters of Island Temple No. 8. In closing the convention the press agent, Sister Thomey, gave out an announcement to the effect that the members wished to place publicly on record an appreciation of the splendid treatment they had received from the sisters of the Douglas road, and that they were deeply indebted to the ladies who had so graciously received them. The visit was highly pleased and gratified at the pains and care taken by the local lodge to make their visit as apart from the usual convention, a matter of pleasure and comradeship were predominant.

VICTORIAN ENTERS THIRTY LAWSUITS

Vancouver, May 15.—Thirty separate law suits were entered here this afternoon by William John Ledingham, of Victoria, against settlers within the E. N. X. road. Sister Thomey, remarked that the visitors were highly pleased and gratified at the pains and care taken by the local lodge to make their visit as apart from the usual convention, a matter of pleasure and comradeship were predominant.

Our Big Sale of Women's Costumes

Attracted a Crowd of Buyers This Morning



SUCH COSTUME VALUES are not often to be had as we offer in this sale. It is not the same as if they were odds and ends or old styles, but these are new fresh suits just received. They reflect the latest and most correct style ideas, and are made up in the newest and nobbiest cloths. We have four different priced lots, and the values have only to be seen to be appreciated.

Regular \$22.50 Costumes selling for\$13.75
Regular \$30.00 Costumes selling for\$18.50
Regular \$35.00 Costumes selling for\$25.00
Regular \$50.00 Costumes selling for\$35.00

Women's New "Tub" Skirts

We have a splendid assortment of new Tub or Washing Skirts, in both white and colors, in ducks, piques and linens. The approaching holiday makes Outing Skirts a necessity. If you have not got just what you need, we can furnish you with it, and at a small cost, too.

WOMEN'S WASH SKIRTS, in navy duck, with white spots, made with clusters of pleats and finished with stitched straps. Price\$2.50
WOMEN'S WHITE MUSLIN SKIRTS, made with double box pleat down front and back and finished with bias fold. Price\$2.50
WOMEN'S WASH SKIRTS, in good quality of white linen, made with box pleats and finished with rows of insertion between pleats. Price\$3.75

WOMEN'S WASH SKIRTS, in white linen with black spots, made with clusters of pleats and finished with stitching. Priced at\$2.50

WOMEN'S WASH SKIRTS, in extra good quality of white linen, made with box pleat at each seam and finished with embroidery and tucks between pleats. Price \$4.50

WOMEN'S LINEN SKIRTS, in pale blue, twelve gores, with inturnd pleat at each seam. Price\$3.75

Women's Seasonable Underwear At Extra Special Prices

The changing season is at hand. All of these lines mentioned are very special value for the money.

WOMEN'S CLOTH UNDERVESTS, fine ribbed, short sleeves and sleeveless, at15¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, plain and fancy ribbed, fancy yoke, long and short sleeves and sleeveless25¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, high neck, long and short sleeves and sleeveless. Also drawers to match35¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, fine lisle thread, shoulder straps, finished with beading, drawers to match40¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, heavy cotton, long and short sleeves, buttoned fronts, drawers to match50¢

WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, fine lisle thread, long sleeves, low cut, prettily finished 65¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, mercerized cotton, fine ribbed, long and short sleeves and sleeveless65¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, fine cotton, shoulder strap and yoke edged with lace75¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, very fine cotton, high neck, short sleeves closed, with silk finish, at75¢
WOMEN'S UNDERVESTS, Ellis Spring Needle brand, a very fine grade, long and short sleeves and sleeveless Sizes 32 to 4480¢

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

SEARCH BY POLICE REVEALS A TRAGEDY

Miss O'Sullivan's Remains Discovered on Beach Off Dallas Road.

While suffering from an attack of nervous prostration which has prevented her from following her vocation of a trained nurse, Miss Mary Ellen O'Sullivan drowned herself early Sunday morning in the waters of the strait just off Dallas road at the foot of Douglas street. Miss O'Sullivan, who has been suffering from nervous prostration since October last when she gave up the position on the nursing staff of St. Joseph's hospital, which she had held for 10 years, entered that institution on Friday last for treatment, but about 1:30 Sunday morning made her escape from her room by jumping from a window on the first floor. Apparently on escaping from the hospital, she went straight up Douglas street to Dallas road and there jumped into the water, her lifeless body being found a few hours later by Constable McLellan, who with other members of the force, was detailed to search for her as soon as her flight was discovered.

That little time elapsed between Miss O'Sullivan's departure from the hospital and her death is shown by the fact that although the police were notified as soon as she was missed and several men dispatched in the patrol wagon to Beacon Hill, no trace of her was found. The wagon and all the men but Constable McLellan returned to the station shortly after 5 o'clock after a fruitless search, leaving the latter to continue the work alone. Shortly afterwards he took a stroll along the beach at the foot of Douglas street and there found the missing woman's body. He immediately sent word to the police station and the body was removed to St. Joseph's hospital, and later was taken to the B. C. Funeral Home for interment. The late Miss O'Sullivan, who was 40

years old, was a native of Victoria, and had been for the past ten years a nurse at St. Joseph's hospital, more or less constantly, coming and going as she saw fit. She took a great interest in her work and had the complete confidence of the sisters in charge of the hospital. One of the sisters, speaking of Miss O'Sullivan this morning, said they had always found her reliable, hardworking and conscientious, and in every respect a first class nurse as well as a particularly likable and sympathetic woman. They sincerely regretted her untimely end, which came as a distinct blow to all connected with the institution.

Last October Miss O'Sullivan's health broke down and since then she has suffered from nervous prostration, returning periodically to the hospital for treatment, and living at other times at the family home, 418 Quebec street. After being away for some time she returned to the hospital on Friday. At the inquest which was held this afternoon a verdict was returned to the effect that Miss O'Sullivan came to her death by suicide by drowning while temporarily insane.

Dr. J. D. Helmcken testified that the late Miss O'Sullivan had been under his charge for the past two months, suffering from melancholia. During last week she had improved so much that she had gone home, but had returned to the hospital on Friday, having suffered a relapse. Shortly before 9 o'clock Saturday evening she had taken laudanum, but he had arrived in time to save her life. Later in the morning she had made her escape, and the hospital authorities had seen nothing further of her until the body was brought back. He had seen the body shortly after it was discovered, and in his opinion death was due to drowning.

Constable Alexander McLellan gave testimony to the effect that shortly after 1 o'clock he had been detailed to search for Miss O'Sullivan. About 6:30 Sunday morning he had found the body floating in the water at the foot of Douglas street.

COOKS WENT OUT AT CRITICAL MOMENT

Manager Humble of Empress and His Chief Steward Acted Quickly.

(From Monday's Daily.)
Shortly before 1 o'clock this afternoon, as the guests were in the middle of dinner, a strike occurred at the Empress hotel among employees in the kitchens, with the result that all the kitchen crew with the exception of the men put on their coats at a moment's notice and walked out of the building. The two men who remained at their posts were the chief chef and the chief pastry cook, who are still on duty. Immediately the strikers walked out, Head Steward Sutherland got to work to obtain fresh help to take their places with various results. Every one that could be obtained was pressed into the service. Employment offices were called up and asked to fill the vacancies with varying results. The reason given by the men for taking the step they did is that they were dissatisfied with the manner in which they were worked, although the details of their dissatisfaction were not made known. When seen for a few seconds between telephone calls to employment offices, Mr. Sutherland, the head steward, said the men were dissatisfied and had walked out in consequence without warning. Help was obtained as quickly as possible to fill their places and he thought the matter would soon be straightened out. Under the trying circumstances the manager, B. M. Humble, and the chief steward, Mr. Sutherland, made every effort to look after the convenience of the guests, who were dining upstairs in the dining room. From the manner in which the service was conducted the guests were absolutely unaware that a strike had occurred in the kitchens below them and were served with their dinner as if nothing unusual had happened.

OAK BAY CLUB FIRST RACE

AUSPICIOUS EVENING SATURDAY

Motor Boat Races Successfully Completed Before Spectators

It is a long time since put on such a gala affair as the opening of the Oak Bay Boating Club. Over one hundred motor boats were present, and power and rowing races, Turkey Head and were flying the colors of the scene was indeed and it marks the return to her old time popularity for those on pleasure boats. The feature of the motor boat racing. After boats took part in which were conducted on a basis. These were on a fairly arranged although all there were some of the owners of the boats that 25 minutes they could be expected a seven-mile race. The race, however, showed was well done.

The new club house, situated for the occasion on the greens, and was everyone. Its rustic arrangement and very much to the general of that part of the race, a landmark a long distance where the large Union plainly seen. The who is to be congratulated an institution which popularity of the district business from every members of the men when they purchased front properties in the thought that within so property would be used institution which would benefit to the whole of.

An interesting feature was the launching of after the opening of tion. While the band cannon was fired, and the same moment as downward, carrying the W. L. James with the water. The firing was done by Mrs. S. R. the president of the club, who was then declared to be formally open. The first race was owned by J. MacBeth was not far ahead, by E. Clark coming second followed D. M. E. launch and the other after the other. They caused as much interest for there were crowd boatouse, lined along and at other vantage boat that found difficulty away was that owned Watson. It, however, before the last of the ton made an excellent hitch occurred.

There was a misadventure in the motor boat built motor boat fine little craft being kept the proper course ed the prize, but with instinct refused it, a race be run again for others an opportunity. This time he did not ing carried off by B.

The following is the prize winners:
From Victoria had minutes between hands arrived at 3:04; silver Oak Bay Yacht Club minutes, arrived at. The remaining race had been officially declared that the following winners arrived worked out:
Second race, for —Jat. P. Clark, M. Third race, for under-1st, P. Clark, M. Eberts' Number Fourth race, for between 21 feet and 35 & Sons' Maid of t Hughes' No. 19.