







LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Mr. Pooley and Dr. Walkem Criticise the Course of the Former Speaker.

Mr. Rithet Deals with Many Important Issues in Continuing the Budget Debate.

Friday, April 1. The debate on the budget assumed a livelier aspect today than any previous day, the replies of the President of the Council and Dr. Walkem to Mr. Higgins in the afternoon being decidedly emphatic and in the evening the Attorney-General made an eloquent defence of the government.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Mr. Higgins continued the debate on the estimates, referring to the list of amounts asked for their districts by the opposition and read on Wednesday by Hon. Col. Baker. So far as he was concerned he had sent in his requisition for \$27,000 in response to the circular sent to him from the department of Lands and Works.

Hon. Col. Baker pointed out that he had not given out the details till he had been asked by the opposition. At the same time he must deny that the document was a private one.

Hon. Mr. Higgins held that the documents should not have come before the house without an order. Turning to the railway question Mr. Higgins took exception to the Kootenay and North West railway bill and said he was sure a bill would be brought down to deal with either money or land. The government should follow the principle laid down by Mr. Blair, Dominion minister of railways, and look into the bona fides of every company before granting such a charter.

Mr. Higgins said that a form of prayer had been issued by Hon. Col. Baker and that it was not at all heart in favor of the secular school system followed in this province.

Hon. Col. Baker remarked that Mr. Higgins was remanding. What Mr. Higgins was probably alluding to was the letter he (Col. Baker) had written to the papers some years ago suggesting that the school children should be taught that portion of the catechism relating to the duty toward one's neighbor.

Mr. Higgins said Hon. Col. Baker was inimical to the very system he was administering.

Hon. Col. Baker—"I distinctly deny that."

Mr. Higgins claimed that in an address Col. Baker made in Toronto in April, 1895, he said that unsectarian religious training should be given to all children from education. Mr. Higgins closed by saying that though he differed from the government he had only the kindest feelings for every member of the house.

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up at large expense had failed. Speaking of the tax on coal miners he expressed himself in favor of doing away with it as no man ought to be taxed for the right to labor. Referring to opposition remarks, Mr. Bryden denied that the government had any intention of trying to bribe the electors by large appropriations. He said that the mining interests of Texada Island and would like to have seen larger appropriations for that part of the province. He commended the government for encouraging agriculture. He had formerly been a great advocate of cheap money, but when he found that there were \$10,000,000 of mortgages on the farms he could not see how the government could advance money to be used to pay up those mortgages. As to the Yukon railway, though he was not sorry altogether that the bill at Ottawa had failed, he hoped to see one in this house in its place. He referred before closing to the mining tax and said that he did not believe in its removal for the present. It gave the only means possible of taxing a class of aliens who would otherwise escape.

Hon. Mr. Pooley, the next speaker, devoted a good deal of his attention to Mr. Higgins. He would far rather, he said, see an open enemy than a hypocritical friend. They had heard Mr. Higgins give an almost fearful account of the financial condition of the province from the government and the members with whom he had such pleasant relations. Mr. Higgins had said that in 1888 \$300,000 more in estimates had been spent before the house had sanctioned it. The Premier had already stated that the estimates of Mr. Pooley did not wonder at Mr. Higgins describing himself as having sacrificed the province. He did not know that the supplementaries were always passed by the house before they were used. Even if he had assented in the chair Mr. Higgins appeared to have passed for three years before that as a member and evidently had failed to learn the simple principles of the constitution of the legislature. That was the reason Mr. Higgins gave for leaving the government party. If that was the case he had been a traitor and a lukewarm friend was a lukewarm friend. Then Mr. Higgins had attacked the government on the railway policy and had advanced the country by leaps and bounds, so much so that by the middle of the year the revenue of the province had expanded in four years 75 per cent. It was by that policy that the province had been able to pay its debts and to expand the Dominion and the cyanoide of all European wealth. Would that have been followed? Not at all. To bring the province forward as it had advanced it was necessary to have money to pay the interest on the debt. The policy of the government had proved that the province was inhabited by men who were not fit to be trusted with the revenue had expanded 75 per cent. in four years and yet Mr. Higgins talked about the revenue of the province being reduced by the railway policy. Mr. Higgins was done with the government and yet had not gained the respect of the opposition for it might be said of him as was once said of a gentleman at Ottawa, "When I put my hat on my head I cover my party." (Laughter.)

Dr. Walkem continued, said that when the elections came conservative members of the opposition would have been elected. He said that the government would dispose of them with scant grace. Dr. Walkem said that the opposition on the island by their cry, anti-Dunsmuirism and anti-Chineseism. He pointed out that the Vancouver Coal Co., whose shares were held by the government, had been the opposition, employed hundreds of Chinese on their lands. For what purpose? To get a right to the coal for the workmen of his district. He did not know what the results in the various districts of the province would be. He denied that he knew that very few of the members now representing districts on the lower Fraser had any real estate in the house again.

Mr. Huff, who though suffering from a cold, made a very good speech and said that the idea of the position the house held at present did not call upon him for the policy either for supporting the party he supported or for opposing it. He said that the condition of affairs for which the leaders of the government party were responsible was not the fault of the government. He said that the government had done well in the past and he hoped they would do so in the future. He said that the government had done well in the past and he hoped they would do so in the future.

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denounced Mr. Higgins' action as a teacher's reading arguments by printing papers on this interview. Dr. Walkem said it was the first time that a speaker of any province had done so. He said that the government was going to be defeated should while he was Speaker change his position. He said that the government was going to be defeated should while he was Speaker change his position. He said that the government was going to be defeated should while he was Speaker change his position.

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a premium as it was to-day. The expenditure exceeded the revenue, but in considering that they had to look at the advantages which this over-expenditure took up the matter of best raising the province were peculiar and rendered it absolutely necessary for a larger expenditure than it was of smaller size. The government must be expensive at first in opening up the resources of this large territory. He had heard the opposition compare the conditions here with those in the other provinces. Those gentlemen, however, overlooked the fact that the other provinces are older and more developed. The development of Ontario and Quebec was under entirely different circumstances from those in British Columbia. Those provinces in their youth had control of their own tariff and the conditions were quite different. The area of Quebec and Ontario taken together was only one-eighth more than British Columbia, something that members perhaps had not thought about. It must, too, be remembered that at confederation Canada took over the debt of \$3,000,000 which Ontario and Quebec had spent in developing their resources and that was the reason those provinces were able to get on their feet. British Columbia reached a similar point the sum of \$60,000,000 would have to be expended here to institute a proper comparison. The government must have only the small debt of six millions. In a country such as British Columbia the debt to-day, any man who objects to borrowing money can have little confidence in the province. (Hear, hear.) If he was running a business he would have no hesitation in borrowing money to open up the province wherever it requires it. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it.

Mr. Rithet continued that he of course did not like to see too many mills there but he liked still less to see it necessary to import wheat to keep them running. He did not believe that the members of the house had a proper appreciation of the farming interests. His friend from West Kootenay had talked at some length about the mining interests, but they couldn't eat quartz for breakfast. He concluded with an appeal to the members of the house to support measures in the interests of farmers. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it.

Hon. Mr. Eberts and Mr. Williams followed Mr. Rithet, and the report of their proceedings was read. Mr. Eberts appeared to-morrow in the morning at the adjournment of the debate and the house rose shortly after midnight.

Hon. Mr. Eberts, attorney-general, next took up the debate. He refrained from going into figures or the budget, believing that they had already been gone into fully by members who had made the necessary deep study of the subject. He would confine himself principally to some of the attacks made upon the government by members on the other side of the house. At the outset he would congratulate the previous speaker on his able address, particularly his remarks dealing with the government of the province on economic lines. The opposition had quoted other provinces in comparison to British Columbia and in their quotations they failed to take into consideration the great differences that exist. A great amount more was necessary to develop the resources of a country which was all hills and valleys than a flat country. It must have been a great gratification to the honorable premier that the attacks of the opposition had all fallen about the neck of the government. He felt bound to call attention to the remarks of the hon. member for Dewdney. This gentleman had made the same speech as usually came from him, and could not get through it without showing a factional animosity, and that factional animosity was taken up by other members on the same side of the house. He had hoped that all such stuff as this had been dropped, but it seemed that it was not yet so. It should be buried and buried for good. The hon. member for Richmond had made his attacks on the government in four or five different ways and they were remarkable for their weakness. They could all be summed up in nothing more than the charge that the government had accused the government of legislation for the rich against the poor, and that he had been doing so since the confederation. He said that the government had done well in the past and he hoped they would do so in the future.

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difficulty in dealing with the question. There were many sections of the province that without irrigation were not fit for agricultural purposes. Mr. Rithet had taken up the matter of best raising the province were peculiar and rendered it absolutely necessary for a larger expenditure than it was of smaller size. The government must be expensive at first in opening up the resources of this large territory. He had heard the opposition compare the conditions here with those in the other provinces. Those gentlemen, however, overlooked the fact that the other provinces are older and more developed. The development of Ontario and Quebec was under entirely different circumstances from those in British Columbia. Those provinces in their youth had control of their own tariff and the conditions were quite different. The area of Quebec and Ontario taken together was only one-eighth more than British Columbia, something that members perhaps had not thought about. It must, too, be remembered that at confederation Canada took over the debt of \$3,000,000 which Ontario and Quebec had spent in developing their resources and that was the reason those provinces were able to get on their feet. British Columbia reached a similar point the sum of \$60,000,000 would have to be expended here to institute a proper comparison. The government must have only the small debt of six millions. In a country such as British Columbia the debt to-day, any man who objects to borrowing money can have little confidence in the province. (Hear, hear.) If he was running a business he would have no hesitation in borrowing money to open up the province wherever it requires it. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it.

Mr. Rithet continued that he of course did not like to see too many mills there but he liked still less to see it necessary to import wheat to keep them running. He did not believe that the members of the house had a proper appreciation of the farming interests. His friend from West Kootenay had talked at some length about the mining interests, but they couldn't eat quartz for breakfast. He concluded with an appeal to the members of the house to support measures in the interests of farmers. He favored the loaning of money to open up the province wherever it requires it.

Hon. Mr. Eberts and Mr. Williams followed Mr. Rithet, and the report of their proceedings was read. Mr. Eberts appeared to-morrow in the morning at the adjournment of the debate and the house rose shortly after midnight.

Hon. Mr. Eberts, attorney-general, next took up the debate. He refrained from going into figures or the budget, believing that they had already been gone into fully by members who had made the necessary deep study of the subject. He would confine himself principally to some of the attacks made upon the government by members on the other side of the house. At the outset he would congratulate the previous speaker on his able address, particularly his remarks dealing with the government of the province on economic lines. The opposition had quoted other provinces in comparison to British Columbia and in their quotations they failed to take into consideration the great differences that exist. A great amount more was necessary to develop the resources of a country which was all hills and valleys than a flat country. It must have been a great gratification to the honorable premier that the attacks of the opposition had all fallen about the neck of the government. He felt bound to call attention to the remarks of the hon. member for Dewdney. This gentleman had made the same speech as usually came from him, and could not get through it without showing a factional animosity, and that factional animosity was taken up by other members on the same side of the house. He had hoped that all such stuff as this had been dropped, but it seemed that it was not yet so. It should be buried and buried for good. The hon. member for Richmond had made his attacks on the government in four or five different ways and they were remarkable for their weakness. They could all be summed up in nothing more than the charge that the government had accused the government of legislation for the rich against the poor, and that he had been doing so since the confederation. He said that the government had done well in the past and he hoped they would do so in the future.

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The Colonist.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1898.

THE THOMPSON CASE.

The correspondence in regard to the drowning of Thomas J. Thompson, a fisherman, has been submitted to the legislature, and the Columbian, which called very vigorously for the returns and stated in the broadest terms that there had been a gross neglect of duty on the part of the Attorney-General, discusses the matter again. We have read carefully what our contemporary has to say, and can only characterize it as a perfunctory effort to bolster up a charge, which it now realizes should never have been made. The returns show that a very full investigation into the death of the unfortunate man took place and that neither the Department of Marine and Fisheries nor that of the Attorney-General thought the case called for action against the master of the R. P. Rithet, which was the steamer responsible for the unfortunate accident. The Columbian says that the case being summed up amounts to this, that there being a doubt as to the responsibility of the captain of the steamer, he received the benefit of it. Most people will think this only in accordance with the principles of British justice, but the correspondence shows that there was hardly a scintilla of evidence to implicate any one on the steamer and this being the case, it would have been a monstrous thing to have put the captain of the steamer in a felon's dock in order to establish a principle. The witty Frenchman who said that Admiral Byng was shot by the British government "pour encourager les autres" has an imitator in the Westminster paper.

Our contemporary complains that the Attorney-General has thrown upon the friends of the deceased the responsibility which he should have assumed himself. We do not so understand his language. What he said was that the reports of the police did not justify him in instituting criminal proceedings, but, he added, "the above conclusion is not binding upon the friends of the deceased for, if they desire, it is open to them to lay and prosecute an information for manslaughter." This is a clear invitation to any one who thought that the decision of the department was a mistake, to come forward and set the machinery of the law in motion. There was no finality about the Attorney-General's decision. He did not lock the door of the courts against any one who might think his opinion an erroneous one. He could not do so if he wished, for the law gives the Attorney-General no control over the courts. Any one who believed the official decision unwarranted could have laid an information and it would thereupon have become the duty of the Attorney-General to prosecute the same to a verdict. The Attorney-General says in effect: This department does not think an information for manslaughter ought to be laid against the captain of the Rithet, but if any one else does, the courts are open to him and this department will take charge of the prosecution. No one seems to have thought the case one that warranted a prosecution, and so nothing was done.

It is remarkable, also, if the friends of the deceased thought the steamer captain was responsible for his death, that they did not bring an action for damages against the owners of the vessel, grove the responsibility and recover damages. They did not have to ask the permission of any one to do this, and the fact that they did not take such a course shows that they themselves acquiesced in the conclusion of the Attorney-General.

We yield to no one in insisting that the navigators of steamers shall exercise the most rigid care to avoid endangering the lives of fishermen; but we cannot agree that an innocent man ought to be subjected to a criminal prosecution in order that this duty on the part of captains may be impressed upon their minds, and we do not think that any one else except the Columbian, will say he ought to be. Under normal conditions our contemporary would be the last to ask that anything of the kind should be done; but conditions are not normal with it. Its views on all subjects are distorted by political disappointment and it expresses opinions which otherwise it would not harbor. An illustration is its insinuation that the captain of the steamer would have been prosecuted, if it were not that the government wished to favor the C. P. N. Company. We think a remark like this is unworthy of a newspaper printed in a province where the laws have ever been impartially administered.

LIFE HELD TOO CHEAPLY.

On Sunday afternoon a man shot another dead in the street in the presence of a crowd of theatre-goers. This was in Seattle. If the statement made by the murderer was true, and the murdered man was guilty of the crimes against morality laid to his charge, most parents will find it difficult to say that the scoundrel did not meet his just deserts. There are offences which the law does not touch, and for the miscreant, who deliberately sets himself to work to destroy young girls, there is perhaps no other means of punishment than to leave him to the vengeance of a justly enraged father. Two girls out of a family of three had had their future blasted by the hand of a man whose name was being led astray. Yet the law calls the killing murder, although it will probably be very difficult to find a jury in Seattle that will bring in a verdict of guilty of any crime whatever.

We do not wish to be understood as reflecting upon the tone of public opinion in Seattle and elsewhere in the State of Washington, when we say that human life is held altogether too cheaply there, and men feel at liberty to avenge their wrongs, by the death of those who in-

jure them, to a degree that is tolerated nowhere else in civilized communities, unless it be in some other parts of the United States. It is not very long ago that a white man, who was drinking with a negro, said something which caused the latter to use an opprobrious epithet, whereupon the white man shot him dead, saying that he would not allow a negro to call him by the name used. He was acquitted. There was a case a few years ago in Olympia, where a man hid behind a fence and rested his rifle upon the rail, taking careful sight upon a man who was approaching with an axe over his shoulder. He closed out to the latter not to come any closer, and his order not being heeded, shot him dead. The jury refused to find a verdict of guilty of murder, on the ground that the dead man ought to have stopped, although the murderer was known to have been an extremely blood-thirsty person and to have left home for the express purpose of shooting the other. In view of such instances as these in an otherwise orderly community, no one will be surprised that in places like Skagway men do not hesitate to take the law into their own hands.

No one suppose that the majority of the people in the state of Washington do not regard murder with as much abhorrence as any of us do in this country. They would denounce the wilful taking of life as strenuously as we would. The great evil is that the press and the courts have combined to place human life on too low a plane, and this is due chiefly to the system under which judges are chosen and the desire of the newspapers to exploit everything for commercial purposes. The consequence is that even right thinking people become hardened, and when a terrible crime appals them they dismiss it promptly from consideration, because familiarity with such things has bred in them a feeling that it is useless to say anything. Many of them think there is really nothing to be said. People who have always lived where the law is administered by British judges and British juries can have no conception of the helplessness which the better classes feel over the maladministration of criminal law in the communities referred to.

There would be no reason to refer to this matter now if there were not a chance to point a moral for our own people. The moral is that we should in Canada rigidly adhere to the good old British rules which regard human life as sacred and insist that those who take it wilfully shall be punished as felons. And there is another point to be made, namely that the employment of euphemisms in describing crimes and criminals is a serious error. Thieves are referred to in the Coast papers of the United States as larcenists, light-fingered gentlemen, and so on, as anything in the short except as thieves. The word murderer is very seldom applied to a criminal. He becomes a gun-wielder, the reckless man anything, in short, except what he is. Criminals are written up in ingenious newspaper men make them very interesting personages. The staple news of the day relates to crime. This mental pabulum dulls the public sense of right, and has led to such a condition of things that men are shot down in the streets and no one pays the penalty of the law.

A QUESTION OF POLICY.

The time appears to have come in this province when partisanship ought to be relegated to a place far more subordinate than that which it has heretofore occupied. The industrial and commercial interests of the province, its financial and commercial relations to the rest of the Dominion and its possibilities of development are such as to call for the best efforts of all its people without regard to party allegiance. Under our system of government all measures of legislation must to a certain extent depend for their support upon party organization; but events have forced us reluctantly to the conclusion that in the strife of politicians the interests of the country may be lost sight of. The representation of the province in parliament is numerically small and its influence is somewhat weakened by disagreements, which are at times political, at times personal, and, doubtless, at times meretricious. We feel, therefore, that it is incumbent upon this paper to take up every subject, directly affecting this province, and discuss it as it will affect this province, and from no other standpoint whatever, unless it shall most clearly appear that to advocate the interests of British Columbia will be to sacrifice those of the whole of Canada or the Empire. Few matters of this character are likely to arise, so the exception is more nominal than real.

Speaking generally, therefore, we desire it to be understood that any measure affecting British Columbia's interests will be considered by the Colonist quite irrespective of the quarter from which it originates, and that we shall refuse to participate in any effort to win a party triumph when what we shall regard as the welfare of the province is involved. We make this explanation in the future of avoiding misconstruction in the course mapped out is not different to that heretofore followed, but it is well that the public should understand why such a course has been and will be taken. The Colonist is a British Columbia paper. The welfare of British Columbia and its welfare are identical. It places the prosperity and development of the province far before any question of party success. Parties may come and parties may go; but the Colonist hopes that this province will go on forever in the path of progress. To share in this advance and to contribute even a little to it, the Colonist regards as a sufficient ambition for any newspaper. Hence the man who shows himself to be a friend to British Columbia will find a friend in the Colonist, no matter what his political associations may be; the man who shows himself to be antagonistic to the province

will receive the Colonist's opposition, and measures which, after giving them the best consideration possible, the Colonist regards as for the advantage of British Columbia, will receive its hearty support, no matter by whom the are promoted or by whom they are opposed.

AN IMPERATIVE DUTY.

We assume that the passage of the Corbin railway bill through the railway committee of the House of Commons means that it is likely to pass the house and probably the Senate, and, if so, it is imperatively necessary that steps should be immediately taken to bring about the construction of the line southward from Penikese. Inasmuch as we trust that such steps will be taken in any event, for even if Mr. Corbin does not succeed in his effort to be first on the ground in the Boundary Creek district, it will be all-important that the trade of this portion of the province should be drawn to British Columbia cities. The people of Victoria certainly did not feel very happy yesterday when they learned that the Senate had blocked the Stickline-Teslin railway, from the immediate construction of which they had expected so much, and that the railway committee had sanctioned a project which means the diversion of British Columbia trade to United States cities. They began to ask themselves for what purpose they are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars every year into the Dominion treasury over and above what is expended even indirectly on their behalf. The answer being that they had expected so much, and that the railway committee had sanctioned a project which means the diversion of British Columbia trade to United States cities. They began to ask themselves for what purpose they are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars every year into the Dominion treasury over and above what is expended even indirectly on their behalf. The answer being that they had expected so much, and that the railway committee had sanctioned a project which means the diversion of British Columbia trade to United States cities.

Referring especially to this matter of the Corbin railway, it is a grievous matter, indeed, that this project should be forged upon British Columbia in direct defiance to the wishes of every representative body in the province. Pending the announcement of the policy of the federal and provincial governments in regard to both the enterprises above referred to, it would be premature to make any comment or address any appeal to the public, but unless things take a very satisfactory turn in the course of a very few days, it will be for the people to consider in what manner they can best make their voices heard.

ANTI-JAPANESE LEGISLATION.

We feel that the Colonist would not be doing its duty if it permitted any fear of possible political consequences to prevent it from taking what it believes to be the true position in regard to anti-Japanese legislation. Certain demagogues have tried to make it appear that any man or newspaper that does not join with them in seeking to pass legislation antagonistic to the Japanese, is an enemy of home labor, and there is a risk of being misunderstood and a certainty of being misrepresented when one takes any other view of the question. But it would be cowardly to allow any fear of this to prevent the Colonist from doing its duty, and it became its duty to raise its voice in the strongest kind of protest against anything which tends to interrupt the very friendly relations or check the growing trade between the British Empire and the Island kingdom of the Orient.

Japanese competition in the labor market is not like Chinese competition. It is not the competition of men, who live exceedingly cheaply and send most of their money out of the country, but of those who desire to assimilate themselves to the conditions existing here, who wish to live as our own people live, who want the same wages as our own people get, and who have no ambition to accumulate money simply that they may send it back to their native country and go there some day and live upon it. Every objection that can be made against the immigration of Japanese, and we believe with equal justice against all foreigners. We do not seek to say that people from any of the countries of Continental Europe shall not come to the province and engage in any sort of work they may see fit to select, although it is not a difficult matter to mention more than one nationality in every way more objectionable than the Japanese. The grounds upon which the latter are objected to are chiefly that they are of a different race. The Hungarian, the Bulgarian, the Italian any one in fact as long as he is of Caucasian origin is at liberty to come to British Columbia and compete in the labor market as much as he chooses, but to the Japanese the doors would be closed if certain people had the power to do so. We believe in putting restrictions upon the immigration of Chinese, and not from any theoretical reason but because experience has shown them not to be desirable settlers, if they come in any large numbers. There are enough of them here now, and more than enough. We would be glad to see legislation adapted that would prevent even one more Chinese laborer from entering Canada. We hold this position because it appears to us, from a practical examination of the labor market and from close observation of the actual conditions now existing in the province, as well as from some knowledge of the probable direction, which the Japanese movement will take, that there is not now nor is there likely to be any serious competition here from the Japanese with any measure now in contemplation by the British Columbia legislature will remove. The question is severely practical. Sentiment cuts no figure in it at all. If the alleged grievances of white labor are real, they call for consideration; if they are merely sentimental, it would be a mistake to place legislation on the statute book for the sake of pandering to them.

If the proposal were to prevent the importation of Japanese coolie labor, after the manner practised in Hawaii, we should very cordially support it. We are opposed to permitting any one to

send abroad for the purpose of getting what are substantially only slaves and placing them in competition with free born British subjects, who pay taxes and sustain the whole fabric of government. But nothing of this kind threatens us and nor is anything of the kind likely to occur. Our claim is that Japanese should be admitted into this province and be permitted to engage in any occupation or calling on precisely the same terms as the people of any other nationality, except the Chinese.

We have claimed to have some knowledge of the probable movement of the Japanese. It has been derived from reading the Japanese press and from conversation with leading Japanese, and among them the present Premier of the empire. This movement is not towards America. There is not in Japan, as in China, a horde of people ready to go anywhere that work of any kind offers. The Chinese are a nation without national sentiment. The Japanese are inspired by the most intense patriotism. They believe their nation is destined for a glorious future. They regard themselves as the heirs of all the wealth and greatness of the Orient. They believe that they have shown themselves to be a nation of men, the peers of any nation in the world. Their marvellous recent history warrants an extreme claim on this head. Said the Marquis Ito: "In three years we accomplished what sending a drop of blood what required three centuries and much bloodshed in England. We abolished the feudal system." A people of whom this can be said need not apologize for their existence and do not occupy a place in the world by suzerainty. Japan believes her sphere of action to be in the Orient. She possesses large areas which await settlement; in Formosa she has scope for extensive colonization; she hopes to secure a footing on the continent of Asia. The policy of Japan is the concentration of her population near home and not the diffusion of her people throughout the world. She needs the strength that can only come from consolidation. Hence we hold that the fear of a Japanese industrial invasion of this country is without foundation.

But some may ask why, if this is true, the Japanese object to such legislation as has been proposed. The answer is that they regard it as a slight upon them. To be bracketed with the Chinese coolies is more than the proud Islanders care to submit to if they can avoid it, and their feeling in this respect will commend itself to the sympathy of Canadians. It would be an unfortunate error if the government is working hand in glove with Japan for the advancement of the mutual interests of the two nations, and when Canada herself is seeking to cultivate closer commercial connections with her trans-Pacific neighbor, the British Columbia legislature in what is little else than a spirit of demagoguery should deliberately put a needless and unjustifiable affront upon a people, who are now our warm friends and who at any day may be found standing shoulder to shoulder with the troops of the Empire defending British interests.

Apparently Spain must answer affirmatively to the demands of the United States to share time today or hostilities will be inevitable. The Madrid authorities are said to have asked for an extension of twenty-four hours in the time within which the answer must be given, which requestment will lapse today. Such a postponement indicates a disposition to consider the advisability of yielding, but as one of the conditions upon which the United States insists is that Cuba be given her independence, it is difficult to see how Spain can agree. The great difficulty arises from the fact that the Spanish people are by no means convinced that Cuba cannot be retained, and if the government should voluntarily give up the island, a rebellion would almost certainly ensue, and this would doubtless mean the overthrow of the monarchy. The Spanish ministry seems to be called upon to choose between the loss of the greatest foreign possession of the country or the overthrow of the present dynasty. Either a foreign or a civil war must be faced and the instincts of self preservation may lead the ministry to choose the former.

It is a long time since San Francisco has had so good shaking up by earthquake. The time was when such occurrences were very frequent. They became less so after the completion of the Union Pacific railway, which led an ingenious writer to suggest that the cause of earthquakes was electrical, and that the continuous lines of rails across the mountains had the effect of equalizing the electrical conditions on the two sides of the Divide. In regard to the origin of these phenomena there are some facts which show that it may be exterior to the earth and not from subterranean agencies. One suggestion is that they are due to what have been called "electrical explosions."

Our opposition friends can hardly feel proud of the progress they have made during the present session. They have failed to score anything which they can by any possibility be mistaken for a point. The public were given to understand that Mr. Semlin and his friends were simply overcharged with political dynamite, but the things which looked like death-dealing bombs proved to be merely bladders painted to resemble the real article and to be filled with wind only. It is said that nature abhors a vacuum, and if so she must entertain very unpleasant feelings toward the opposition.

The Stickline-Teslin railway bill was defeated in the Senate by what was in effect a strict party vote. This is very greatly to be regretted. The people of Canada cannot regard with approval any evidence that the Senate is a partisan body, and this quite irrespective of the merits of any measure with which it may deal.

Advertisement for Castoria. Text includes: '900 DROPS', 'CASTORIA', 'Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN', 'Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.', 'Fac-Simile Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, NEW YORK.', 'A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.', '46 months old', '35 Doses - 35 CENTS', 'EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.' The signature 'Chas. H. Fletcher' is written in cursive across the advertisement.

Advertisement for Klondyke Outfits. Text includes: 'Klondyke Outfits', 'PRICE LISTS NOW READY', 'B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS, 97 and 99 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C.'

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Advertisement for Lea and Perrin's Sauce. Text includes: 'LEA AND PERRIN'S', 'OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE', 'Lea & Perrin', 'PRINTED IN BLUE INK', 'DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER of every Bottle of the ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.', 'Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors, Worcester; Crawford & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Oilmen generally.', 'RETAIL EVERYWHERE.', 'Agents - J. M. Douglas & Co. and Urquhart & Co., Montreal.'

Advertisement for R. P. Rithet & Co. Text includes: 'R. P. RITHET & CO.', 'WHOLESALE MERCHANTS, Wharf Street, Victoria, B.C.', 'Groceries, Wines and Liquors', 'KLONDIKE OUTFITTERS & MARINE UNDERWRITERS', 'Agents for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's Direct Steamers to all Klondike Points.'

PROVINCIAL

Continued

That reply was Mr. Hunter, who is usually between crown and another Turner urged the becoming serious done and here "Last year you and you thought with us." Here was a Hunter comment matched by an eration. That was what the stand of joining mter who was a cial rights. All dence the Premie question of prov another letter th solent. The ex knows better th to our refusal of the protection had to dismiss a sum of \$10,000 disposal by par On several occu micated with a given you the an you cannot poss Mr. Williams- Mr. Hunter's was perfectly ric that the Premier official insolen a Turner's answer ceipt of years of am surprised at tions made by me ment to miss varily been in terms, and I know connection with the subject of the works justifying a dent temper whic With respect to minion estimates say were dismiss ignored by this state that it was part of the session shortly afterwards aware answer estimates of you consider that a matter would only not to say necess templating tentat matter was broug during the wo and we had no tim sary report by an base an estimate, ed it is properly which we did not think it was. That was the rig Hunter commented, gist of the comm the end it brought official to time-it knes, for after req Mr. Parie in the rrespondence says: ment engineer now government is shou cost of the works, knowledge he w Turner right in the platform next, Mr. sisted of eight plat the government rail satisfactory, but wri of Kootenay ha been for that railw have been a howi of one of the tak the province. Mak mines next, Mr. H Le Roi mine we revenue of \$600,000 much as the Welli get the cost mine sessed at \$11,390.94 \$6,857, the coal m double the cost of their proceeds we other. Now they had the opposition of with their own mon if it was better to b whiskey, but he kn tion had entered un key and bribery. H reliable authority th sition heeler had att little scheme of sation from Victoria, him in Cariboo by Mr. Williams- Mr. Hunter'll on to say that the Vancouver sitting the land had writo tion in favor of boo and several of referred to it. H suow as Mr. H. H sleeve. Mr. H letter from his poe an editorial printe tiber of December 3 Hunter and his Chi on December 12 the in the Times o So it was eviden been conducted by sed in his hand, lary of the opposi Creek, and said it prudent thing for to write an understr act such a lett official. It read as Dear Sir: I am n letter of November 3 in the file I ask straight away. We tion here amongst the of Jos. Hunter. Of a kind of joke, but signed. No doubt rround the Forks the spirit of this m in his power get a to the enclosed " Chinaman, for a dri put down half a do the signatures ar all genuine. Give s will manage the th will return it to me and addressed enve turn. We are gol now use. Thank (Signed.) W. B The reading of th with roars of laug Hunter's comment quite evident that as the opposition we a whiskey on a member for Westm put in charge of the ter), and a better how they would be he would adminis first class shape. ( in closing his spe material was not position ranks. Nee ed to see the pree the once more. Mr. Higgins was He had not, he sa it which he stood liberation. Great were today agin he would not vote they are chiefly to Turning to the es and that the defic \$800,000, and the monetary estimates,



