THE PROVINCE

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TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1908.

FEDERAL DESPOTISM.

The newspaper organs of the Federal Government have developed the habit of crediting to want of patriotism all adverse criticism of the acts of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Does the Premier of this province decline to be put off with a totally inadequate subsidy from the Dominion and refer the matter to the Imperial authorities, he is guilty of seeking to make political capital at the expense of the whole country! Does Mr. R. L. Borden when he addresses the people of British Columbia condemn the manner in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier trifled with the wishes of the people of this province, and with his pledged word, in his dealing with Japanese immigration, he is playing the part of an irresponsible statesman who is attempting to unsettle the peaceful relations existing between Great Britain and Japan! And as in these cases so in all others, he who attacks Laurier is either disloyal or dishonest, and perhaps both.—In view of this it is not surprising to learn that in placing the Natal Act on the statute book of British Columbia, Premier McBride was trying to make party capital "by actions deliberately calculated to be prejudicial to Canada's honor and dignity, as a nation and as one of the Dominions which comprise the British Empire." This is the view which the Winnipeg Free Press takes of Premier McBride's effort to limit the influx of low class Japanese. But Canada is not a nation, and there was absolutely no occasion for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to have made the Dominion a party to the treaty between Britain and Japan—there was no occasion, that is, from the standpoint of the interests of the country, whatever there may have appeared to be from the standpoint of the interests of the corporations. It was the signing of the treaty which has complicated the whole situation and given the Japanese people the whip handle over us. That was Sir Wilfrid Laurier's act and it was an act performed in defiance of the promise he had given the people here; in defiance, too, of the insistent plea of the province for protection against the influx of the Japanese, and in utter disregard of the counsel given his Government by the Commission appointed by his own administration in 1900 to take into consideration the whole problem of Oriental immigration.

It is all very well for Liberal organs to talk of our provincial legislation "being in direct and glaring violation of the diplomatic obligations of the Dominion," but what we say in British Columbia is that Sir Wilfrid Laurier undertook those diplomatic obligations knowing that in doing so he was striking a blow at the welfare of this

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babies, the vermin is a scourge of humanity. From the economical standpoint alone the rat is an enemy of mankind, destroying millions on millions of dollars' worth of food in the course of every year.

The familiar brown rat which overruns the earth is credited to Norway. Denmark is now setting an example to the rest of the world in exterminating this pestiferous vermin. A civil engineer named Zuschlag has made it his life's work to arouse public opinion to a sense of the duty of conducting a systematic campaign against the rat. He wrote a book, entitled The Rat and Civilization, setting forth some really appalling facts and figures concerning this enemy of mankind.

Various plans for the extermination of the pestilent vermin have been suggested. Pasteur proposed a plan of general inoculation, but nothing came of it. Zuchslag's method is the most primitive—the rat hunt with dogs or ferrets, traps, bludgeons, etc. It is organized warfare, but it is not scientific. A national society has been formed in Denmark under authority of a special law and assisted with a Government appropriation to pay a small bounty for the tail of each dead rat. Carcasses are disposed of systematically, by cremation in towns and burial in rural communities.

The work of extermination is proceeding rapidly, so that in many places the local appropriations have been exhausted. Zuchslag, from the butt of public ridicule has been graduated to the dignity of a benefactor of humanity. Incidental to the work, many plague rats have been found in the ports. Though these were fortunately uninfected their presence demonstrated how easily plague might be introduced, and shows the necessity for constant vigilance around the docks.

The destruction wrought by a rat is estimated at half a cent a day. With almost as many rats as people on this North American continent, the money loss is enormous. But the great reason for the extermination of the rat is that he carries from port to port the bubonic plague.

THE MORMONS ONCE MORE.

A recent dispatch from Salt Lake City conveyed the intelligence that the president of the Mormon Church had intimated in a circular letter to the faithful that certain old customs which had been abandoned owing to opposition from the law of the country were to be revived. The reference in this communication was taken to signify that the practice of Polygamy is to be resumed, or, rather, that it is once more to be carried on openly and in defiance of the laws of the country and of public opinion. Should the report prove correct it will be interesting to people in this country to see how far the members of this society who modestly designate themselves as the Latter Day Saints will be able to assert their rights, or what they call their rights, to indulge in this custom, in face of the law of the United States and of a widespread disapproval on the part of the people. Of course we all realize that Polygamy is one of the leading tenets of their creed and

LEGISLATURE
DAY BY

The leader of the Oppos
his followers are being pla
somewhat awkward positio
action of the Administratior
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Macdonald took in the Hou
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if not consistent with the c
and resolutions of the Libe
vention of the proceedings
of course, he was a directh
He supported the Natal Ac
ground that, while it could
opinion operate against the
and Chinese, respecting wh
trance to the country there
minion legislation, it would
tive against the Hindus.
authorities at Ottawa are d
that the Natal Act shall no
even to that extent and see
tervention of the courts.
It is well that the validity
act should be tested at the
possible moment. If it can
that the province has not t
to regulate immigration in an
accordance with the wishes
people then the responsibilit
be entirely on the shoulders
wa. If the Government d
not abrogate the treaty wit
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Lemieux are nothing mo
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Yesterday in the Legislatu
one of the lightest for the pr
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ing of the House. While the
good deal of routine business
there was nothing of an exci
important character, and the
adjourned early. There we
reasons for an early adjo
First, there was a caucus
secondly, the Ministers were
their annual dinner. The lat
held in the luncheon-room of t
liament buildings, and was mo
usually successful. All the m
were present, except the Socialis
absent themselves on princip
all social functions, and Messr
Cotton, Grant and Shatford.
siders were included.

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Several new bills were intr
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in a sense, was brought do
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Act to increase the revenues
Crown." It is important fr
fact that it represents a new
ture in the line of obtaining r
not by taxation, but by licen
may incidentally bring up the
of the province in connection
the fisheries. It makes it
for any person or company to
a cannery or a fish-packing
ment without a license and im
penalty of not less than $400 a
exceeding $800. The licenses
transferable, except in the case
change of ownership, and then
be consent of the Commissio
Fisheries. The license fees
paid are as follows:
For the operation of a one-li
cannery .....
For the operation of a two-li
cannery .....
For the operation of a three-li
cannery .....
For the operation of a four-li
cannery .....
For the operation of a fish-pac
ing establishment; for each
tablishment