

THE PROVINCE

W. C. NICHOL

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THE CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE.

We are at a loss to understand what reasonable criticism there can be of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper's attitude as the railway policy of the government. Like everybody else Sir Hibbert is entitled to form his opinion in regard to its merits and if he believes that it is not a policy which will prove to be in the interests of British Columbia it is his privilege to say so. Indeed, he would be remiss in his duty to the public, to which every man of his prominence and ability, and acquaintance with affairs owes advice on such occasions. If he did not express himself freely, and give the electors the benefit of his counsel. The railway policy of the government can stand criticism. If it could not it certainly would not deserve the support of the country. That Sir Hibbert should be expected to refrain from an expression of his views because of his political affiliations is

Canada, where he was governor-general for a term, and Canadians take a genuine and kindly interest in his future.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE LABOR.

The difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of native labor for the South African gold mines, on which in the long run so much of the prosperity of the whole country depends, is now exercising those concerned with the industry very considerably. The Chinese become fewer month by month as repatriation goes on; but it would appear that the natives, who were at first willing, and even eager to take their places, have again proved themselves an uncertain factor in the situation. Many of them have been attracted elsewhere, a good many have probably returned to their homes, set up as prosperous men for the rest of their lives as a result of a not very prolonged period of labor on the Rand.

The explanation of the shortage of labor is, therefore, not difficult. It is poor comfort to those who protested against the repatriation of the Chinese, in obedience to the radical election cry in Great Britain, that they predicted the present situation. Most assuredly they will obtain neither sympathy nor help from the British Government, which is anxious enough to forget the part that it took in exhibiting the Chinese in chains, and under the whip of a cruel mineowner.

The only solution which presents itself—and that solution is in its nature no better than a temporary one—is to discover fresh recruiting grounds for the native laborers. This will probably be done, at the cost of a good deal of trouble and no little expense; but fortunately the mines are now prosperous and successful, and their prosperity is reflected by the improvement throughout the whole of South Africa.

It is this fact, of the dependence of South African advance on the progress made by the mining industry, which was never realized by those in Great Britain who joined in the agitation against the mineowners a few years back.

were a trifle. Nothing seemed to Mexican troops were again and defeated. When they were at crushed their removal, banished and captivity would have been, ju able, but not this appalling slav

The Abolitionists at the height ante-bellum days did not form an indictment as repulsive as brought against Mexico by this passionate writer. The picture presents of the maltreatment of Indians is hideous, ghastly. The severation is that of an eye-wit It is an alleged condition of barous cruelty perpetrated at our doors, and is almost incredible.

At Street Corner

NOTE—This department is merely passing record of individual opinion. The Province assumes no responsibility for the views expressed.

The people on the street yesterday morning were most of them alert & lively. It was too cold to move slowly. As a bright winter's morning it was the record. On a morning like that there is more oxygen to the cubic foot of air than usual and oxygen makes us live faster a feel livelier. We begin to believe are going to do things when breathe it.

Mount Baker is about 90 mi from Vancouver, yet from the high ground south of the city it looks yesterday, as if it were a neighborhood back yard. A mountain that impresses its grandeur upon you that distance is a great mountain. Its mighty slopes are covered in snow. Probably it is because you can see so much of the mountain from Fairview and Mount Pleasant that so many people from Manitoba and other prairie places have settled there. They yearned for a "lumpy ground," as the Scottish surveyor called the district around Banff and Field.

I do not think the police evoked much enthusiasm by their constant raids on Chinese gamblers. I have no doubt that white men gamble behind closed doors for larger amounts than John Chinaman ventures on. Yet I seldom read of a raid on them. I many other women lose large sums each other at bridge others win. do not know whether they do it or if they do, and the principle is to be carried out, they should be raided, too, as the results may be much more disastrous. For my part I would allow