

THE "HIGHEST COURT" AND THE JUDGES.

Now we know why the McBride-Bowser-Hawthornthwaite government in its legislation and its utterances displays such contempt for the Bench and would circumscribe its powers as much as possible. It has by some means ascertained that the Legislature is the "highest court in the province." This discovery, naturally, has added not a little to the already exalted opinion Bowser and Wilson entertain of themselves. As the Legislature is the highest court, the real Attorney-General (Bowser) and his deputy (Wilson), being the directors-general of the course of legislation, except that introduced by the dictator (Hawthornthwaite), which must not be touched on the peril of death to the government) are of course senior to the judges of the courts. It is evident that the ordinary man does not comprehend this fact and is not as thoroughly impressed as he ought to be with the dignity of the positions of those two highly honorable gentlemen. Hence, we believe, the proposals to limit the powers of the judges of the courts and keep them permanently within boundaries laid down by Bowser and Wilson. After a few more demonstrations of the powers of the "highest court in the land," the people will perhaps begin to appreciate the importance of Bowser and his deputy, and may be ready to grant them precedence over the bishops, judges and other dignitaries at state functions.

The libel upon the judiciary contained in the Settlers' Rights Bill we do not attribute to either Bowser or his deputy. We give them credit for a desire to resent that slur if they dared. It was brought in by one who takes precedence over them in the "highest court of the land," whose articles of political belief take account of neither nor country. If the will of this mighty one were thwarted in the slightest degree, he might vent his majestic indignation upon the first Conservative administration of British Columbia, he might kick McBride, Bowser and Wilson from the bench of the "highest court in the land," and what would happen then? The author of the Settlers' Rights Bill brook no opposition. He will hear of no amendment that will protect the general taxpayer, already loaded to the brim of ruin under the Assessment Act, from the consequences of endless and costly litigation. He is in the house for the purpose of combining with the Conservative party to make the people smart. After a period of suffering they will surely be eager to seek relief under the political banner of Socialism. The heavier the burden now the speedier the repentance. The Old Tories chastised British Columbia with whips; the new Tories under the stimulus of Socialism are laying on with scorpions.

THE FREE PASS BILL.

We do not think the Legislature is going far enough in its proposition to compel transportation companies to carry members free wherever they may choose to go. We hope members will strive to make their rights and privileges arise in their places and ask why they should not be ordered to meet trains and steamboats for the purpose of conveying the choice of the people and the anointed of the Lord to the places where they abide and to the halls in which "laws" are "accustomed to be made." It should be ordered also that all citizens shall be compelled to take off their garments and place them in the paths of the anointed ones lest perchance they should dash their feet against stones or soil their sandals in the dirt of Victoria's none too cleanly streets. We are informed that some of the by-keepers of Victoria actually present bills to the representatives of the people for board and lodging during the course of the session. And they seem to expect a settlement. They do not appreciate the honor done to their houses in the patronage of such honorable guests. It is time the status of our Legislators were clearly defined. We do not seem to realize that those who sit in majesty in the Highest Court of the Land should be in fact endowed with the freedom of the province and all it contains. We are apparently in danger of forgetting that this exalted tribunal possesses the power to bind men to loose, to confiscate and to dispossess; and that it is exercising its functions to the limit this session. There are several bills before the highest court in the land now in which the principles of the leading wing of the government party are accurately exemplified. Oh! no. There is not the slightest danger of the "highest court of the land" being nominated or denuded in the "greatest aggregation of dead-heads in the land."

IT IS WAR.

A dispatch to the Times announces that Russia has already two hundred thousand troops stationed in Manchuria ready to cross into Korea. The soldiers have been brought upon the scene where tragic events in which all the world is keenly interested will shortly be enacted. They reached their station apparently without the knowledge of the Japanese or any other nation. This indicates more clearly than all the diplomatic misstatements of the advisers of the Czar the real intentions of Russia. She has been applying the time gained by diplomacy to the perfection of her plans for the conflict she evidently believes to be inevitable. It is now apparent that hostilities may break out any day, and that Korea will bear the brunt of the terrible effects of the operations. It has been apparent for some time that Russia is determined that there shall be none left to dispute her path to the Pacific and that her borders on the north and east shall extend far below the regions to which rival powers would confine her. Her ambitions in Europe have long been thwarted. In Asia she is determined to assert herself. The despised heathen shall not be permitted to block her path. The outcome no man will venture to predict. The moral support of the great Christian nations of the world, notwithstanding Russia's plea of superiority in religious belief, will be given to the Japanese. Whether events may lead to more substantial assistance than merely

moral support must be left to time for determination. The war will be an interesting one, not alone on account of its possible consequences and complications. Since the last set-to between great powers vast advances have been made in the application of science to the construction of engines of war. On sea and on land modern artillery and modern machinery of destruction will be tested. Man's devilish ingenuity will be put to the proof, and however freely he may indulge in ranting expressions of horror at possible consequences, there is no doubt that the world is fascinated in looking on at the thought of war. A good deal has been written about the devotion of patriotism, the marvelous adaptability and the military genius and fiery spirit of the Japanese. The accredited qualities are about to be put to the proof for the first time against a warlike opponent. Defeat for Russia would leave her in a position but slightly different from that which she occupies at present. The subjugation of Japan will hardly be permitted, but if she be overcome it will mean that a brush has been drawn through the picture of the glorious future every intelligent patriotic Japanese has hung up in his mental storeroom.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Colonist is making an able plea for the municipalization of the rural districts of the province. There is no doubt that in the direction pointed out by our contemporary lies the financial and political salvation of British Columbia. If organized communities were collecting and expending their own revenues, and managing their own affairs, by reason of the directness of the responsibility of the officials better results would be obtained. More important still, political considerations ought to be entirely eliminated, some of the chief springs of corruption would be dried up, and the representation of the districts in the Legislature would be of a more independent and superior character. The road boss would no longer be a political factor; such a scandal as that which has brought Lillibridge an evil notoriety would no longer be possible. The interest of the people in the affairs of the governmental unit would become more direct, the associations would be more intimate, a local spirit would be fostered all of which would tend to economy and efficiency of administration.

The cities, too, are deeply interested in the matter of the extension of the municipal system. Our friends in the country districts have been moved to the consideration of the question by the recent increase in taxation. They think they can do better for themselves if the money it is now proposed to take from them. But in the cities we have no such gateway of escape from the hands of the oppressor. The personal property tax and the income tax, the tax on perspective and on prospective; they are all in force, and we evade them at our peril. The man who is daring in disposition and whose consciences desire to make a false return to the assessor, and the one of upright walk and conversation must make up the deficiency. There is no opportunity of making up loss in any other way than by traveling expenses.

But what would become of such statesmen as Hon. R. F. Green? We are afraid our contemporary in carrying on such a propaganda has not considered his masters in the House. The strength of the parochial politician lies in his power to bend the political energies of the read boss to his service. The underling is a most important instrument in the hands of the powerful heeler who sits in the ministry. He extends the circle of influence into all corners of the constituency. His fidelity to the government is not an empty phrase; he can be relied on for suitable obedience, will remain in command until his full obedience is seated. If they do not, we shall see what other measures are necessary to impress them with their duty. The Legislature and the Legislature to Bowser, through whom the Legislature speaks.

SYSTEMS OF ASSESSMENT.

The Toronto News, which on general principles is opposed to the Ontario and all other Grit government, has been informed that some of the by-keepers of Victoria actually present bills to the representatives of the people for board and lodging during the course of the session. And they seem to expect a settlement. They do not appreciate the honor done to their houses in the patronage of such honorable guests. It is time the status of our Legislators were clearly defined. We do not seem to realize that those who sit in majesty in the Highest Court of the Land should be in fact endowed with the freedom of the province and all it contains. We are apparently in danger of forgetting that this exalted tribunal possesses the power to bind men to loose, to confiscate and to dispossess; and that it is exercising its functions to the limit this session. There are several bills before the highest court in the land now in which the principles of the leading wing of the government party are accurately exemplified. Oh! no. There is not the slightest danger of the "highest court of the land" being nominated or denuded in the "greatest aggregation of dead-heads in the land."

Before expressing an opinion on the government's proposed measure to substitute the present companies to furnish passenger members of the Legislature, we should like to know whether under the law if the measure passes, they will forfeit their rights to traveling expenses.

Russia says she is determined to remain strictly on the defensive. "Being a good neighbor," she will not take the offensive on Sunday, even if the heathen Japanese provoke her. There will be no war news, in the strict sense of the word news, before Monday.

THE MINING TAX.

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The government's long promised measure relating to the mining tax has at last taken tangible form. The proposition, briefly, is that the present two per cent. tax, which is based on the gross output of the mine minus cost of transportation and treatment, is to be replaced by a tax of one per cent on the gross value of the output.

The Premier made this disclosure last night before the mining committee, which he has held together together informally for the purpose of ascertaining the views of its members. Said committee members refused to be drawn, told the Premier the committee has no powers in regard to the tax, and a standing invitation to a merchant to lie as to the extent of his assets. The opportunity was not neglected, either. By the new system it will be impossible to evade any portion of the tax, as much money will be collected, there will be less friction, fewer inequalities, and an exact assessment upon an indisputable basis. It is a simple, direct and well comprehended, will be accepted by the assessors of the province as being a nearly perfect a measure as human ingenuity can devise upon so many sided a question.

It seems a few Canadian physicians have been making more than names and reputations for themselves. The dis-

tinguished gentleman who is at the head of a scientific department in Johns Hopkins University has achieved distinction, but it is scarcely possible that his account as swollen proportionately with his fame. The luck, from a sort of point of view, generally crosses the path of the scientist, the constructor of scientific notes that the record in medical facts has been broken in the western United States, and it is a Canadian doctor, now resident in Chicago, who is the possessor of the record. He was called in consultation to a member of a millionaire family at Milwaukee and received no less a sum than \$10,000. But science could not prolong the life of the celebrated German-American brewer. The previous record in the West was also held by a Canadian, who, about a year ago, was summoned to Chicago to a surgical case on the coast, and was paid \$5,000. As a Canadian paper says: "In these days, when the dissatisfaction over the Alaska award has hardly subsided, it is a small comfort to see that the plum is do fall our way occasionally."

It is disheartening to read that the Conservative party is in no better plight in Quebec than in Ontario. It seems to carry a sword into the ranks, with the result that the hand of every stalwart is against his neighbor patriot. The leader of the party, Mr. Monk, has resigned. He could not tolerate the dictation of the new recruit. A Conservative paper says he has become so disgusted at the way matters are going that he has resigned. He could not tolerate the dictation of the new recruit. A Conservative paper says he has become so disgusted at the way matters are going that he has resigned. He could not tolerate the dictation of the new recruit.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

To the Editor:—Nothing would be of greater advantage to the provinces than iron and steel works. Would it not be possible for the provincial government to secure a number of large samples of "magnetics" and other important iron ores of the coast, as well as samples of coke and limestone, that are required as fluxes in iron manufacture, and send these to the St. Louis exposition? Such an exhibit would undoubtedly attract the attention of capitalists interested in the iron and steel industry, and might induce some of them to investigate the very extensive iron and steel deposits of Vancouver Island and the mainland coast. As is well known, there are extensive markets for iron beyond the Pacific, and it is doubtful if any other part of Canada is better situated for this business.

W. P. BEST.

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THE DOUBLE BURDEN NEAR CHEMANUIS

INDIAN HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

The Accused Man Confesses the Crime With Which He is Charged.

Cheமானி, Feb. 5.—Johnnie Peters, a Kuper Island Indian, was arrested on Wednesday night by Constable Halhed, and brought to Cheமானி in connection with the disappearance of Harry Wilson and his wife. He was given a hearing yesterday afternoon and remanded.

The police are in possession of evidence showing that the two Wilsons, Peters and the Indian Jackson all left Cheமானி about the same time. Peters acknowledges having met the others at Bare Point, and having secured some liquor from Jackson and also from Wilson, but claims they separated, Jackson going towards Crofton, the Wilsons towards the lower end of Kuper Island, and he to the industrial school, and that he has seen none of the others since.

Peters had a 36.90 rifle with him, and acknowledges having fired three shots on his way over to the island, as a seal, as he claims. The bullet found in the prow of the canoe was a 36.90.

Jackson's canoe has been found on a small island near the mouth of the Cheமானி river, but the police can find no traces of the man himself, and it is within the range of possibility that he has also been put out of the way.

The supposition is that Peters had a falling out with either the Wilsons or Jackson, and killing the one had to murder the other in order to try and hide his crime. The bodies have not yet been recovered.

Prisoner Confesses.

A special dispatch from Nanaimo to the Times today says "It is reported that on the way to Cheமானி Johnnie Peters confessed to the crime. He is alleged to have said he quarrelled with Wilson about some money, and shot down both Wilson and his wife and threw their bodies overboard."

Constable Halhed arrived at noon with Johnnie, but refused to confirm the alleged confession. He has not yet been identified as the man who was seen with bottles of whiskey, and he drank with each. Then all separated. He admits that he had a heavy United States Kuper Island rifle, which he had in his possession. He has a good reputation. He has a wife and family living at the Indian school at Kuper Island, and there is no doubt that he has given no trouble. He is quiet, and has given no trouble.

CONFESION CONFIRMED.

Chief Crossan, of Nanaimo, reports that Peters has confessed to the Cheமானி crime. His authority is Fred Johnson, who has been identified as the man who was seen with bottles of whiskey, and he drank with each. Then all separated. He admits that he had a heavy United States Kuper Island rifle, which he had in his possession. He has a good reputation. He has a wife and family living at the Indian school at Kuper Island, and there is no doubt that he has given no trouble. He is quiet, and has given no trouble.

COASTAL FREIGHT RATES.

New York, Feb. 5.—One of the most important conferences of steamshipmen here in years has just been held. Agents and representatives of practically all the lines operating between Atlantic ports and the United Kingdom were present. The object of the gathering was to see if the current demoralization in the trans-Atlantic freight business could not be ended by a concerted action.

The lines represented in the conference operate to the United Kingdom from all ports in the coast from the Newport News to Portland, Maine, and included also the Canadian Pacific steamers. Confidential lines were not represented.

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TO CURE A LITTLE IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

WHAT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN MOTHER LOVE?

"Who can to help me when I fall
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well,
My mother."

A mother's worries are many. She sometimes forgets her own bodily comforts because of her overpowering love for the child. She becomes broken down, sleepless, nervous, irritable and feels tired from morning until night. Many mothers experience can tell you that at such a time they have been relieved, benefited and strengthened and put into proper health by taking a prescription which their mothers had told them was the only woman's tonic to be taken at such times. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has enjoyed an enviable reputation for over a third of a century.

It is in the United States more largely than in any other country. It is a tonic for women's needs, and to-day its sales are greater than ever. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription from roots and herbs without the use of a particle of alcohol or narcotic and for the simple purpose of curing those diseases peculiar to women and when there is a lack of womanly strength to bear the burden of maternal duty. How few women ever reach this critical time with adequate strength! The reason why so many womanly sicknesses, the strain of motherhood is because they are unprepared. In preparation thus required for motherhood asks the young woman, And where experienced mother answers—"Yes," "Unobtainably better than any other mother to use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription," writes Mrs. J. W. G. Stephens, of Mila, Va. The reason for this advice is that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best preparative for the maternal function. No matter how healthy and strong a woman may be, she cannot use "Favorite Prescription" as a preparative for maternity without great benefit to her health and comfort. But it is the women who are not strong who best appreciate the great benefits received from Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. For one thing its use makes the baby's advent practically painless. It has in many cases reduced days of suffering to a few brief hours. It has changed the period of anxiety and struggle into a time of ease and comfort.

A Duty Women Owe Themselves.
"Good actions speak louder than words," so, too, does the testimony of

hitherto as unseemly in some particulars. Chairman Clifford refused to allow such references, and ordered Mr. McPhillips to make his statement.

Again and again he was called down, and the chairman called upon the sergeant-at-arms to remove Mr. McPhillips from the man out if he refused to sit down.

Mr. McPhillips thereupon took his seat. The question of the power of the committee was then brought on. In the evidence Mr. Gamble was examined. In the main he denied that he had refused to accede to the board, and took exception to many of the charges made. He said that a fuller account will appear in Monday's Times.

He was Paralyzed in Every Limb—Doctors Gave Him Up—Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him Completely and Permanently.

Oshawa, Ont., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—The story of Joseph Brown of this place borders so close on the miraculous that people would scarce believe it were it not substantiated in every particular. Mr. Brown tells the story himself as follows:

"I was taken ill with what some of the doctors called Paralysis and others Nervous Prostration. The trouble commenced by a stiffness and soreness in the calves of my legs and gradually increased till I could not move my arms or legs, having lost all power in them. I could not stand, and I was unable to get up. My wife, for over four months I could not walk alone a single step.

"I doctored with many doctors, and was for four months in Toronto General Hospital. All was in vain, I only got worse. Twelve doctors there told me I could not recover.

"In this extremity and like a drowning man grasping at a straw I turned to Dodd's Kidney Pills. The first box took the numbness out of my fingers. Continuing their use two more boxes I could walk a little. I used twelve boxes and I was cured. That is five years ago, and I have not had the slightest symptom of trouble since."

IT BORDERS ON THE MIRACULOUS

WHAT DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS DID FOR JOSEPH BROWN.

He was Paralyzed in Every Limb—Doctors Gave Him Up—Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him Completely and Permanently.