

Up to date he has located one of them, whom he met at a place and under circumstances described by the medium. Number 2 has not yet been spotted, but he is to Dominion Government to enact such legislation as will prevent the coming into this country of such people.

Christmas comes but once a year.
And when it comes it brings good cheer.

When this old s.w. was originally called into requisition, it is safe to assume that the battle of life was not so real, not so earnest, as it unfortunately, is at present. "Christmas comes but once a year," it is true, but the approach of the time-honored old visitor just now will, I fear, not bring good cheer, to many hundreds of families in this city, unless, indeed, those who can afford to be liberal will indulge in liberality. I notice that a public appeal is being made on behalf of the funds of the British Columbia Benevolent Society, and I am assured by its worthy secretary that there is a great deal of distress in Victoria. I would suggest that there is no time to be lost if Christmas is to be made a happy season for the poor who are always with us.

The report of the Lands and Works Department of the Province details the work done during the year and demonstrates that really good service was rendered in the opening up of communications and in other ways promoting the development of the Province. The timber cut during the season of 1894 amounted to 67,498,227 feet, from which \$17,969 royalty was received. From this, however, \$6,672 rebates for exported lumber was deducted, leaving the nett royalty at \$11,297. Timber leases and other licenses brought the revenue from lumber up to \$59,506.

It is pleasing to observe in connection with the enforcement

of the regulations of the Board of Horticulture that the picking over and repacking of infected packages will not be allowed. If this be not the invariable course pursued, the work of inspection can be of little avail as the taint or infection is sure to exist among the packages in which disease has been found. The diseases of fruit may be said to be highly infectious or contagious, and can be spread in no more effective manner than by the distribution of products in which they have been known to exist. It is only by ceaseless vigilance that immunity from disease can be secured.

As previously noted, the halibut fishery, by Victoria as well as Vancouver, interests are already assuming considerable proportions. Quite recently the steamer Thistle, chartered by a company in this city, returned with a big cargo taken near the mouth of the Skeena River, of which four carloads have been shipped to Chicago and Boston over the Canadian Pacific. The Thistle has returned North for another cargo, which it is expected will be all ready to load by the time she reaches her Northern destination, and towards the end of this week she may be expected back in port. The eastern markets already opened for this product of our salt water are large and most promising.

Earl Jersey clearly carried away from the Colonial Conference a vivid impression of the value to Britain of her colonial empire. His report advises the Home Government in effect to lend its hearty assistance to the various plans proposed at that time for the binding of the empire together. All existing limitations of the colonial power to establish preferential trade relations under the flag, he would at once sweep away; and he looks with favor upon the various

schemes for harnessing modern science to the task of drawing this modern empire into closer bonds. Very accurately, indeed, has he read the spirit of our people. "It is within the power of Great Britain," his report says, "to settle the direction of their (the colonies) trade and the current of their sentiments for many generations. Such an opportunity may not soon occur as the sands of time run down quickly. There is impatience for action, which would be tried by delay and most sadly disappointed by indifference to the proposals now brought forward." The broader patriotism which feels a hopeful loyalty to the Greater Britain is the typical spirit of our time and our nationality. Every where men of strong sight and authoritative judgment are seeing its capabilities and recommending them to the people.

The report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into matters connected with the management of the New Westminster Asylum, has revealed a most deplorable state of affairs. That patients have been treated with undue severity and brutality there is no room for doubt. It is an unfortunate thing for a man to lose his reason, but how much more so is it if this man is forced to submit to ill-usages which would demand the attention of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals if they were perpetrated on the brute creation. It might be an injustice to say just at this juncture who was responsible, but it will be a matter for congratulation if the prime mover is punished with the severity which his inhumanity so richly merits.

Windsor Castle—the home of Kings and Queens since the days of the Conqueror—has been the scene of a tragedy which concerns and touches the heart of every Canadian in this great Dominion.