Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH, 1888.

A SONG OF LIFE.

(BY THE COMOX RUSTIC.)

Isaiah 53: 6; Romans 3: 26; I John 5: 9, 10, 11; Isaiah 55: 7; St. John 5: 24; I Peter 1: 24, 25.

All we like sheep had gone astray,
We each had turned to his own way;
Christ met for us God's angry scorn,
All our iniquities He bore.

The man who rests on Him alone,
Pardon and life receiveth,
God can be just, yet justify
Whoe'er on Christ believeth.

Now let the wicked man forsake
His evil thoughts and ways,
And seek our God, who waits to save
Through His abundant grace.

If we receive the word of men,
God's witness sure is greater;
Then hear with reverent gladness all,
Your merciful Creator.

He who believes the record true,
God's spirit will inspire,
But he who dares to disbelieve,
Doth make his God a liar.

This is the gracious Word of God,
(O balm for all diseases!)
He giveth us eternal life,
Free, through His Son, Christ Jesus.

"Yea, verily, to you I say,
That he who hareth Me,
And, what My Father saith of Me,
Believeth heartily,

Hath life eternal; nor shall he
To condemnation come,
But unto life from death hath passed."
This is of grace the sum:

All flesh is grass. The flower of grass
Is man's pride and glory,
Like withered grass, like faded flower,
Soon ends his earthly story.

But like a Rock, the Word of God
Forevermore endureth,
That Word which, to believing souls,
Eternal life assureth.

THE CHINA STEAMERS.

Heretofore we have dealt with the question of the China steamers calling at this port or Esquimalt only in a passing way, pending the result of the appeal made by the Board of Trade to the owners of the steamships for that measure of justice to which the importance of this port and community justly entitles it. If we are to judge by the reports published in those Vancouver sympathizers—the *News-Advertiser* and the *Times*—this has been refused and the ship's husband, Capt. Webber, is upheld by them in his action. Our evening contemporary, which can always be relied on to give Victoria a black eye whenever possible in Vancouver's interest, is this fair city's greatest enemy. Unfair dealing from outside is to a certain degree expected; but to find enemies rising up within our own borders is something to be deplored and reprobated. The *Times*, ever ready to lend a helping hand to anything antagonistic to Victoria, now comes out squarely in support of Capt. Webber and openly advocates that the only way in which the steamers in question can be expected to communicate with this port is by tender in passing, thus even more clearly than ever before evidencing its apathy to the onward progress of the city in which it asks for patronage. Can our people consistently support a newspaper which is daily, so to speak, cutting their throats? Heretofore, as a temporary expedient, we have confined ourselves to advocating the calling of these steamers at Esquimalt to land mails and passengers only; but since even this small concession is denied us the whole matter now comes before the people of Victoria in its entirety. We stand untrammelled by any concessions that may have previously been suggested and demand *all* our rights. If they are not granted let the steamship company and the Canadian Pacific Railway take the consequences. We are aware, from personal investigation, that we are voicing the sentiments of our business men as a *unit* when we announce that we do not propose to stand trifling any longer. If we do not get justice we have our remedy—and we will use it. This is no empty boast; it is the sentiment of the community as a whole. Now that the owners, or those acting in their behalf, have shown not the slightest disposition to carry out the promises made by them nor an endeavor to meet in any reasonable way the just claims of this, the principal port and chief commercial centre of the province, we intend advocating in future not only the landing and embarkment of mails and passengers at this port, but freight as well, both on the inward and outward voyage. Believing, as we did, that there might have been some ground for not bringing the steamers to the Outer Wharf at all stages of the tide, we have not, up to the present time, advocated it. In considering this part of the question we are confronted with the question, who have been consulted about it? Have the pilots (and we of course refer to Victoria pilots) given it as their opinion that there is not water enough at the Outer Wharf? Even if there should not be, why, we ask, could not an effort be made to have that portion of the harbor dredged as the quickest, cheapest, and most convenient way of providing suitable accommodation for those steamers? The wharf is already built and every facility afforded for the prompt handling of cargoes. The expense need not be very great, more especially when the government now own a dredger capable of working in deep water. It would be a simple matter to deepen the water at the approach to the wharf and alongside sufficiently to admit of these, and any other steamers, coming in at any stage of the tide. Apart from the depth of water, there can be no other possible objection, since for the past five years the San Francisco steamships and sailing vessels have used the Outer wharf at all seasons of the year and without a hitch of any kind. The Umatilla and the Queen of the Pacific are each of greater length than any of the steamers which have so far been running on the China line. Here, it seems to us, is an easy remedy for the objection raised that there is not a sufficient depth of water. Another is that the through mails would be delayed. That this is not a fact we propose to prove. One of the Vancouver papers, and we may add the one which shows the least solid sense, lays great stress on the circumstance that the Abyssinia on her last trip arrived here at 8 o'clock in the evening, and asserts with its usual positiveness that had the steamer stopped here to land mails and passengers the through mails would not have reached the railway terminus in time to go forward by the following day's train. Surely our contemporary is not so far lost to all sense of fairness as to refuse to admit that the daily mails leaving here at 2 o'clock in the morning reach Vancouver regularly in time to connect with the daily train? As a matter of fact, the daily steamer is due at 9 o'clock in the morning and the train does not leave till 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Had the Abyssinia touched here and landed her mails and passengers, including the through mails, there would have been ample time for the Post Office officials to have assorted the latter and forwarded them by the steamer Princess Louise leaving at 2 o'clock the following morning, connecting with the same train as the Abyssinia and reaching Vancouver about the same time, although she did not leave here until six hours later. This shows that the contention referred to is fallacious in the extreme and only put forward to bolster up a weak argument. Jealousy of this port's continued prosperity and the greed of the Canadian Pacific Railway to further their property sales at the "terminal city" are the causes to which may be largely attributed the absurd reasons why the China steamers give us the go-by. We have confined ourselves to a discussion of the objections made to the steamers landing here; in a future article we will endeavor to show the advantages arising from landing the mails at this port.

THE COLONIES AND THE EMPIRE.

Much has been said and written of the relations of Great Britain to her colonies, and there have been some changes of sentiment in the mother country upon that subject. There was some 200 years ago a school of politicians in England who looked upon the outlying dependencies of the empire as a useless burden which did not contribute to the strength or grandeur of the nation. It was in the nature of things impossible that this view should become general. The common sense of most people would teach them that divested of India, Canada, Australia and the other colonies and dependencies the British Empire must sink to a second-rate position among the great powers of the world. Her vast territories would in such case shrink from their world-wide proportions to the little islands of the Northern sea; her population in like manner from nearly 300 millions to 35 millions. With her colonies she must lose her outposts, coaling stations and strongholds necessary to enable her fleets to protect her commerce. In fact, no such complete loss of *prestige* and power has ever come suddenly to a great nation as would happen to Great Britain if suddenly stripped of her possessions beyond the seas. So in the nature of things the momentary craze of voluntary disintegration has given way to the common sense conviction that "Britons must hold their own" in every quarter of the globe. But the craze had never seriously infected the ruling centre of the empire. The policy of successive governments has been successive acquisitions of territory and population, and the disposition to repress with the full force of the empire any attack upon the remotest of her possessions or boundaries. The ruling spirit of British statesmanship today is to draw closer together and unite with stronger ties the various portions of the empire. Steamships, railways and electric telegraph cables have done much to this end, and the general prevalence of a British sentiment throughout the colonies and dependencies is as marked to-day as ever before. A leading article in a recent issue of the London *Standard* well expresses the regnant feeling at home and beyond the sea in this regard. We quote:

It is no longer the custom of English statesmen to point out to the colonists, with needless emphasis, that if they would like to part company with us they are quite at liberty to do so. It is curious to read the argument in which the historian gravely points out that on the whole there is a good deal to be said in favor of not letting Australia, Canada and New Zealand drift away. No one needs to be convinced of that new. We have learned more of our own weakness, and we do not look on our military, economic, and industrial position with the same eyes as in 1869. Englishmen are prepared to believe that if their country is to continue to be the greatest nation of the world, it must be not merely by her own strength, but as the centre and nucleus of a mighty naval confederacy which has its harbors in every sea, and its seats in all the five quarters of the world. And the colonies have added to their old sentiment of loyalty towards the mother country, the conviction that their best interests lie in remaining members of a great empire, rather than in striving after a perilous isolation.

LIGHT FROM THE "SUN."

The New York *Sun* has a very impartial editorial on the fisheries' treaty. Compare its American views with those of Canadian journals of the *Times'* stripe:

There is no doubt that Mr. Bayard and his associates have labored earnestly and in good faith to secure from the British Commissioners concessions that would count for the American fishermen. They have had at heart not only the interests of this important industry, but also the natural desire to carry to a successful conclusion a series of negotiations undertaken distinctively as an independent administration measure and against the express declaration of Congress. In judging the results the second or political consideration must be left out of sight. The question involved in these negotiations is one of patriotism and national interests, not of partisan politics. The Administration had done what it believed to be its duty, and it has done the best it could do under the circumstances. It should have full credit for this, but the success or failure of the treaty as an Administration measure is of small importance in comparison with the steadfast maintenance of American interests as against foreign interests. The question is between the United States and Canada, not between Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet and the Republicans of the Senate. The question, likewise, is not whether it counts for us or Canada. As the discussion of the proposed argument proceeds these facts will become more clearly apparent. The gains to our side are for the most part intellectual, technical concessions of comparatively small import. No settlement of the material and all important American claims throughout the controversy is reached by the treaty. The concession of the right of American fishing vessels to enter Canadian ports, and to enjoy there the same privileges which are accorded to Canadian vessels in American harbors, is deferred to such time as the American people may see fit to give Canada free trade in fish. The makers of the treaty seem to have had faith that the era of free trade in fish would begin inside of two years, for in the *protocol* they provide an arrangement good for two years, by which, while we are getting ready to give Canada free trade in fish, we may purchase at an exorbitant and prohibitory rate the trading facilities which we have claimed as a right. In other words, the treaty says to the American fishermen: Wait till the glorious day when your American industry dies for lack of protection, and then we will grant all that you claim. But this is precisely what Canada's position has been all along, and therefore the treaty does not settle the main point of controversy, but merely postpones it in the interest of the free trade movement. There is no doubt, finally, that the ratification of the treaty would remove the friction between the two governments and promote harmonious relations with our neighbors across the Canadian border. But it must be remembered that in international relations peace can always be had at the price of surrender.

SIR JOHN'S SPEECH.

The leader of the great Liberal-Conservative party of Canada was very happy in his reply to the Hon. Mr. Laurier. In the language of the prize ring he came up smiling and was received with the enthusiastic applause of his followers. He made a very kindly reference to Mr. Blake, whose absence he deplored and whose ability as an orator and whose devotion to his duties as a public man he admired. After dealing with current events, the Opposition supplied him with an opportunity to get off two very good things. Just as he was driving home a point which evidently pleased him well, an unhappy Oppositionist interrupted with the remark, "I know that." Sir John looked in the direction of the culprit for a moment or so and then exclaimed, "Well, I am glad to learn that the honorable gentleman knows something," after which, amid the loud laughter of his friends, he resumed his speech, to be interrupted no more that sitting. The other good thing which came from Sir John's lips was a story. The charge that the prosperity of the country is waning has not received the endorsement of the people at the polls in the counties in which bye-elections have been held. So, Sir John says, if the Liberals really think the electors were made, to prefer ruin under the Conservatives to prosperity under the Reformers, they are very much like the lunatic who explained in the asylum, "People think I am mad, but I think all the people are mad. The people, however, have carried their view by a large majority, so I am here."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

SPEAKER OUIMET has decided on Saturdays and Sundays to invite the Catholic members to enjoy his hospitality.

C. N. SKINNER, M.P., of St. John, N.B., elected as a Liberal, has expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the Fisheries treaty.

ADAM BROWN, M. P., of Hamilton, intends introducing legislation for the restriction of cruelty to animals, with special reference to pigeon shooting, etc.

MR. VAN HORNE placed his private car at the disposal of Hon. Alex. Mackenzie and Mrs. Mackenzie on their trip from Toronto to Ottawa. The ex-premier's health is very poor and he will not likely be able to attend daily sittings.

THE hysterical Montreal *Herald* is quite sure that it is an unconditional surrender upon the part of Canada. On the other hand the Chicago *Times* declares that the United States gains nothing by it. The leading Grit journal now—the *Mail*—sees in it only bad. The treaty is a compromise, and a good one.

The printing committee of the city council have shown excellent discrimination in excluding the late mayor's annual report from the departmental reports of 1887. The mayor's effusion bristled with libels and untruths, and instead of being first read to the council, was originally published in the columns of the evening paper. The mayor having thus asserted his independence of the corporation, must be content with the limited circulation of the medium of his choice.

IF the Mayor were as coative of tongue as he threateness to be constipated of ear when Coun. Coughlan next rises to address him life at the council chamber would be bearable. But his worship is fond of chin music, always provided his is the chin that supplies the strains. "I am Sir Oracle," quoth Shakespeare's hero; "when I ope' my mouth let no dog bark." Even in Shakespeare's day there were Dogberrys and Shallows who lorded it over sensible men.

A NEW Col. Sellars, in the person of an enterprising New Yorker, who is reputed to have made and lost several fortunes, has just come to the conclusion that there are millions in the plain, every-day cat of domestic production, if properly handled. His scheme is to purchase an island of about thirty acres in extent on a river in West Virginia, and to form a joint stock company for the purpose of starting a cat farm. He proposes to start with, say, 100,000 cats, which might be obtained frome the overpopulated cities for a trifle. In the course of a year, he estimates, the original stock would have increased to 500,000. When the animals reach a sufficiently mature age they are to be killed for the purpose of obtaining the skins, which can be utilized in a variety of ways. The intestines will come in for strings for musical instruments, the bones for glue, and the rest of the *debris* will be economically disposed of. The projector is further reported to have said:

"I hope to perfect the cataphone at the same time. The cataphone, I may tell you, is a musical instrument which is fashioned by taking the tails of several live cats (said cats being of different age, sex and voices) and putting them through holes in a plank so that the tails are on one side of the plank and the cats on the other side. There is the instrument, and this way to get exquisite music out of it is to hire a big strong man to walk up and down the plank. As each cat possesses a different voice you can readily see that the most difficult operatic pieces can be performed with consummate ease."

THE Governor-General's drawing room in the Senate chamber on Saturday night was one of the most brilliant ever held. The attendance was very large, no doubt owing to it being one of the last public receptions of Lord Lansdowne prior to his departure. The band of the Governor-General's foot guards furnished the music, and the handsome costumes of many beautiful ladies made the scene one of rare attraction. The ceremony lasted a couple of hours, during which time many hundreds paid their respects to their excellencies.

PRESS COMMENT.

Beyond a few unimportant bills nothing has really been done by the Legislature. The time of the House has been taken up in discussing matters which are of no particular benefit to the country whatever they may be to those who devote their whole time and energy to them. Mr. Dunsmuir's sayings whether true or not will have no influence in the way of annexation. The people of the province and the Dominion control that matter. While it might be well enough for the House to record its opinion about annexation when it has facts to deal with it seems very far from wise to waste time and make a big fuss over nothing. We say nothing advisedly because there is really no proof beyond a newspaper report for the accusation, and no evidence is produced to prove that what was there stated is true. It ought to have been no difficult matter to have obtained a positive statement of some kind from the party who interviewed Mr. Dunsmuir that what appeared in the Portland paper was correct. But even this evidence was not produced, and the whole discussion was based on a newspaper report. With no better proof than this to produce the House ought to have been satisfied with the denial of Mr. Dunsmuir. His word ought to have been accepted as against that of an unknown individual. His position in the government and his standing in the province as a business man should have been sufficient protection against the statement of an unknown writer. It is more than a public matter because the veracity of Mr. Dunsmuir is called in question when placed in opposition to that of a person of whom neither the House nor the country knows anything. It is really an exhibition of party, and probably hostility as well, run mad. It is questionable if a similar farce could have been enacted in any other legislature in the Dominion. It is anything but a credit to those who were instrumental in forcing it upon the attention of the House. As has been shown they had not a particle of evidence to prove any of their assertions, and the country knows as much now as it did at the beginning of the discussion respecting the truth of the accusations. It is a sorry exhibition of how men supposed to possess intelligence can make fools of themselves, and waste their own time and the time of others in discussing questions which have no foundation in fact, or at all events they have no facts to prove that they have any foundation. It has not only been a useless but an acrimonious discussion, and evoked much feeling and bitterness, which will show itself more or less during the session, even should it end there. Personal charges which serve no other purpose than to gratify party or personal feeling ought not to be made. The business of the country should be the first consideration of the House. Members who do not want to waste their time in idle, hopeless annual existence," by inserting the Canadian view of the question of the annexation of British Columbia put their foot down and insist on the business of the country being attended to. The present session so far may be truly said to have been wasted.—*Vancouver Herald.*

The Opposition have all washed their hands of the investigation into the charges against Mr. Dunsmuir. They evidently like much better to make accusations than to prove them. Their notions are rather peculiar about the way in which investigations should be made into matters of this kind. It is evidently of no consequence by whom such charges are made. They may have no foundation in fact, their author may have no character for veracity or, as in this case, no character for anything so far as is known to the public. The paper in which they first appeared has reasserted the correctness of the statements as first made, but even this will have to be given a wide margin, and if ever the author of the charges is brought before a court, we should not be surprised to find these are his manufacture. We really do not see the necessity under these circumstances of seeking any other tribunal for their investigation than such as can be furnished by the legislature. It would be an unusual method of procedure to ask for the appointment of a royal commission with no certainty that there would be anything to lay before it beyond bare assertion. Besides it is really the facts the public want, and it is a matter of no consequence before whom these are produced. The action of the Opposition in refusing to be members of the committee appointed by the Legislature shows clearly enough that they are not anxious to prove their accusation. There could have been no possibility of suppressing the facts no matter how or before whom they were produced, and they know this. They prefer, however, to make a political plaything of them, hoping thereby to strengthen themselves with the public. It is more likely, however, that the public will refuse to be gulled by a very stale political trick, played by third-rate tricksters, who are not able to cover their tracks by concealing from their audience their real motive. The fact is they do not want an investigation, and the reason most likely is that they have no evidence in proof of the charges they make. It is reasonable to suppose that if real patriots were convinced that some members of the local government were plotting to annex this province or any part of it to the United States they would not be splitting hairs about how and to whom they would communicate the information. Their zeal to punish traitors and preserve to Her Majesty all of her territorial possessions would be superior to all other considerations. But no. British Columbia patriots are of a different breed. They are not going to give their valuable information away in that way. They want a consideration for it, and the consideration which would seem to suit them best is office. It is however not to be had by this sort of party tactics. The people want the facts, and if they have any there is no necessity for secrecy about them. The public are just as competent to judge of their value as those who profess to know them. It is possible that no other ending was anticipated considering the source from which the charges come. They were evidently the product of a mind inflated with self conceit who thought it was only necessary to sound the alarm to the country in a state of agitation. As a political dodge this has been tried too often to alarm any one. The people know that they will have something to say about the matter before Mr. Dunsmuir or any one else makes a change in the territorial limits of the country, and can therefore allow the opposition patriots to amuse themselves in fighting a shadow, which is really about all they are good for. Go it, Thomas Basil Humphreys, it is a good subject to spend any amount of bombast over.—Vancouver *Herald.*

West Middlesex Reformers have selected Mr. George C. Elliot, ex-reeve of Ekfrid, as their candidate in the coming election for the Commons.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

Mr. John Hendry's Belief in its Rapid Advance—The R. C. Mills Will Build a Railway.

Mr. John Hendry, general manager and chief owner of the Royal City Planing Mills, New Westminster, was very much impressed, on his recent visit to the south, with the wonderful progress made in the lumber business. In comparison with our neighbors the lumbering industry here is far behind the times, but Mr. Hendry says we are but in our infancy, and expects that within the next five years that the lumber trade in British Columbia will make rapid advances. The various older sources for supplying the world with lumber have gradually lessened, and although large amounts have been shipped from this coast, yet it can be truly said that the world is just beginning to look our way. Should the Panama canal ever become an accomplished fact, Mr. Hendry is of opinion that the Atlantic coast of North America will be supplied by Panama with a large portion of its lumber and timber.

The success which has attended the Royal City Mills since it came under the management of Mr. Hendry is well-known, and he states that they would now be making foreign shipments of lumber had the Fraser river been given that attention by the Dominion authorities which was its due. The expenditure of a comparatively small amount of money at its mouth would render it safe for navigation to Westminster city, and vessels of large draught could be loaded at the mills there, and be largely benefited by being for a time in fresh water. Mr. Hendry's company intend running a short line of railway from Mud Bay through their timber limits for the purpose of bringing the monarchs of the forest to the water. They have already purchased a locomotive for this purpose, and a quantity of steel rails are now on the way from England for the road. It will be built the regular standard gauge, so that should necessity ever require the line could be made into a public carrier.

EMERGING FROM HER LONG SLEEP.

The Remarkable Trance of Laura Webster of San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27.—Laura Webster, who has for the past three months and a half been lying in a death-like cataleptic trance, is beginning to emerge from her long slumber. She is gradually getting brighter, but the return is so very gradual that those who are about her can scarcely notice an advance. Two weeks ago she surprised her attendants with an intelligible sentence about her food, the first connected remark she has made since her first attack. A few days later she gave them another surprise by stating that she wished to get up. Her wish was granted, and leaning on her sister's arm, she walked across the room. She does not open her eyes when she speaks, and seems to be still asleep. She will speak to no one but her sister, whose questions she generally answers.

THE CROFTERS.

TO THE EDITOR:—The extract from the London *Times* which appeared in THE COLONIST of yesterday's date, was undoubtedly written from a landlord's point of view, and reflects unjustly on the Crofters. You will be doing no more than an act of justice to the class of people thus libelled as "incorrigible loafers leading a lazy, hopeless animal existence," by inserting the Canadian view of the question of the matter from a report which appeared in the Toronto *Mail* at a meeting of the Toronto Gaelic Society. The resolution regarding the Highland Crofters was moved as follows:—

"That this society at its annual meeting desires to place on record its most unequivocal condemnation of a cowardly attack made upon the Crofters of the West Hebrides by a person referred to as an old resident of British Columbia and whose views of the Crofters as desirable emigrants for British Columbia appeared in the columns of the daily press of Jan. 18th. That it is the belief of the society that the views then given were uttered without the necessary knowledge of the present condition of the Crofters, and at complete variance with the history of Highlanders in this province; believing that such monstrous and untruthful statements are calculated to prejudice the British Columbian Government against the proposed emigration of Crofters to that province, the society hereby enters its protest against the foul calumnies heaped on their countrymen, and ask the Government concerned to consider the great part taken by Highlanders in the moral and material development of this Dominion before believing that Crofters are undesirable emigrants."

The mover in the course of his remarks denounced the unjust attack made on the suffering Crofters of Scotland by a man who refused to give his name, but hid himself under the cover of an "Old Resident" of British Columbia. He was able to say that in the County of Bruce where Crofters and their sons are settled no better farmers can be found in the Province of Ontario. (Cheers.) These men were fishermen in the Highlands, but when they came to this country they proved themselves equal to the occasion. The whole charge against the Crofters was that they were poor.

He went on to picture the condition of the Crofters. They were in a starving condition, and the only ray of hope offered to them was emigration. It was unfortunate that a class of people always foremost in the defence of the Empire were now crushed out of their inheritance by the red deer and the pheasant. It was a questionable doctrine which advised emigration to solve a false and iniquitous land tenure system. But if the Crofters must emigrate they must be shielded from untruthful and monstrous attacks. The people of British Columbia must be asked to examine the career of thousands of Highlanders on this continent before believing that the Crofters "will be a source of expense to the Provincial Government for years." The speaker looked around him and pointed to many in the audience holding positions of trust in this city who had been Crofters or descendants of Crofters. What their fathers did for this province the present unfortunate Crofters of Lewis would do for British Columbia if they are compelled to emigrate to this country. In his experience in Ontario during the last thirteen years he never heard of a more wanton insult offered to the race than that of the British Columbian referred to. He thought that it was not only a matter which the Gaelic Society should feel indignant at, but one calling for the righteous condemnation of every Highlander in this province. Highlanders are slow to move against tyrants and traducers, but when they are aroused they generally carry the war into Africa. The Gaelic Society, by adopting the resolution, would repel an insult offered to their countrymen and defend their reputation from the attack of a traducer. (Cheers.)

Mr. David Spence, Secretary of Emmigration for Ontario, seconded the resolution. From an exceptional knowledge of Crofter immigration he repudiated in strong terms the charges made by the British Columbia resident. Following in the line of the resolution, he pointed out that no better immigrant was known than the Crofter, who was always able to take care of himself, and helped to build up whatever country into which he came. Men once Crofters were the leading farmers in Ontario. Crofters evicted by Highland dukes and their myrmidons were merchant princes in Montreal. Highlanders, be they Crofters or fishermen, proved to the world their mettle and their calibre by honorable and distinguished success in all the walks of life, nor would they, said the speaker, lie with impunity under the disgraceful and exceedingly cowardly attack of a miserable scribbler at Ottawa who was afraid that his name should appear when he traduced a people the poorest of whom was at least his better.

The resolution was then carried amid loud cheers. PRO-CROFTER.

March 1st., 1888.

CONSIDERABLE OF A JOKE.

The Hon. Thomas Basil Humphreys, member for Comox in the Provincial Legislature, which, we believe, is the proper designation of this gentleman, wants the House to help him to give THE COLONIST a lesson in polite language. This would look a little too much like Satan reproving sin. If Thomas feels hurt at being fought with his own weapons he had better begin the work of reformation in himself. Precept and example, especially the latter, will prove much more effectual remedies than a vote of the Legislature. We are not sure that the House has got the manners of the people in its keeping and any movement it made in that direction might be open to the retort "Physician heal thyself." Mr. Humphreys boasted the other day in the House when something was said not very complimentary about him and not in the most select language that he was more than a match for any in the House at that sort of thing and would give his opponents all they wanted of it. The man who talks and acts as Mr. Humphreys does ought not to greatly complain if he has met his match and been paid back in kind. His whine for sympathy from the House should be met with a cool reception. The House in fact has not got anything to do with it. If THE COLONIST has said anything derogatory of the character of the member for Comox he has his remedy in the courts. Desperate diseases require strong applications, and if they have had the effect of showing Mr. Humphreys that a civil tongue tarneth away wrath he had better try and profit by the lesson without asking the House to perform the sweetening process for him. Thomas should take it without making any wry faces. It was no doubt meant for his special benefit and if it has had the desired effect Mr. Humphreys, the House and the country will be the gainers.—Vancouver *Herald.*

GEN. SHERIDAN'S BIRTHPLACE.

General Phil. Sheridan won a brilliant name in the war of the rebellion, and it is quite natural, in view of the popularity of generals as presidential candidates, that he should be thought of in that connexion. Many of his friends hoped and of his enemies feared that he might be nominated at the coming Republican national convention. It was known that he does not now, and never was known to aspire to that honor. But his admirers hoped that his objection to a nomination might be overcome, and on the other side no time was lost in damaging his prospects. The cry was raised that he was not a natural born citizen of the United States, and hence not eligible. On this point direct testimony was offered, through the press, that General Sheridan was born in Ireland. It is alleged that he himself states that he was born in Albany, New York. The general was present on the occasion of his own birth, no doubt, but like so many other distinguished men, was asleep when he was very young, and his memory of the then facts are not to be relied upon. His mother, who is now a lady of 86 years, states that he was born in Somerset, Ohio, on 6th March, 1831. The evidence that he was born in Ireland rests upon the statement of a Mr. McCabe, the general's cousin. The burden of testimony, notwithstanding its contradictory character, seems to confirm the belief that he is a born citizen of the United States. So much fairly settled as to his eligibility the general comes to the front with a point-blank refusal to be nominated. There is no mistaking his meaning when he says: "There is nothing that could induce me to leave the profession in which nearly forty years of my life have been spent, to enter upon a civil career, so all talk about my being a candidate may as well end." He further stated that if nominated by the convention he would refuse. There will not, therefore, be any further necessity for attempting to solve the mystery of his birthplace.

SIR JOHN AT THE REVIVAL.

Great Interest Taken by the Dominion Premier in the Services at Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—The revival services conducted by Rev. Mr. Hunter and Rev. Mr. Crossley during the past six weeks in the Dominion Methodist Church here were to have been brought to a close tonight. The interest they have excited in all classes of society has been great, and augmented by the fact that Sir John and Lady Macdonald have been attending as often as two and three times a week. Tonight the church was crowded to the doors, and over one thousand were shut out. Two pews, however, reserved with great care from the pressing multitude, were watched with eager interest, and a very preceptible thrill went through the audience as the Premier and Lady Macdonald, with Lieut.-Governor Dewdney and Mrs. Dewdney, Lieut.-Governor Aikens and Mrs. Aikens, Mr. Chas. Watson and other friends entered the church, and proceeded to fill them. During the course of the preliminary exercises, your correspondent learned that the evangelists to-day lunched with Sir John, when he told in all sincerity that he had experienced a change of heart. His well-known features wore a rather serious and troubled expression as he walked to his seat. He took part in the singing with earnestness, and those in his neighborhood, who were observing him, were not surprised when, in answer to an appeal by Mr. Hunter that all who wished to become Christians and desired the prayers of the audience would stand up, the Premier of the Dominion, whose name has so long been the synonym of iniquity in many worthy Grit minds, arose with his wife. It made a distinct sensation. Later the pastor of the church, the Rev. Mr. Carson, made a motion, which he said had been his secret purpose for two days, to the effect that the Evangelists be besought to remain in Ottawa another week, although they are due in Belleville almost immediately. One thousand names, said Mr. Carson, had been sent from the enquiry room, and of these fully one-half belonged to denominations other than the Methodist. Three hundred and forty had been added to the roll of his church alone. The speaker looked straight at Sir John in requesting some gentleman in the audience to second the motion, and the veteran statesman did it. Later the question, "All who love Jesus," brought Sir John again to his feet. The Evangelists decided on the spot to remain. The collection for the evening amounted to five hundred dollars, contributed on the understanding that it should go to the reverend gentlemen who had taken charge of the services.

Well Worth Trying.

A medicine which has stood the test of time for many years and always given the best satisfaction as has Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam is certainly well worth trying for Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness and all Throat troubles for which it is so highly recommended. tu-th-sat-dw

GONE TO HIS REST.

Mr. H. E. Wilby, a Pioneer Resident of Esquimalt, Dies at Oporto, Portugal.

The sad intelligence of the demise of Mr. H. E. Wilby, for many years a resident of Esquimalt, at Oporto, Portugal, on February 9th, was received yesterday. Deceased left this city on the 1st December last, going via San Francisco. On the steamer he met with an accident, falling on his head, which was injured to such an extent as to render him insensible for some time. He proceeded to Yorkshire, England, his native place, and after passing a few days there went to Oporto, where he had passed the best part of his early life. He was one of the Argonauts of California, having arrived there in 1849. He was appointed Portuguese consul, which position he held until he removed to this city in 1854, where he remained for some years. He then moved to Esquimalt and lived there a highly respected townsman for fully twenty years. He had the reputation of being most consistent in all he did. His remains were interred beside those of his father in Oporto, and although buried far from the many friends in his adopted home, his memory will not soon fade. His wife and seven children are left to mourn his loss in this province, and they have the sincere sympathy of all in this their hour of sorrow.

A MIDNIGHT EPISODE.

The Startling Adventure of Four Legislators on the Esquimalt Road.

While returning in a hack from Mr. Speaker Pooley's residence on the Esquimalt road on Thursday night, four worthy legislators met with an accident that might have resulted seriously, but which happily injured no one, and has by the ludicrousness of the position caused some of them to laugh every time they think of it. It appears that the hack which went for them was detained for some time, and the driver had so liberally imbibed of the ardent that he was quite hilarious when he started with his passengers. When opposite Russell's station he endeavored to pass another hack and drove too near the side of the road. The occupants, feeling that the hack had an unpleasant list to starboard, called on the driver to stop, which he did. One of the occupants on the weather side then got out, which so altered the balance that the hack gave a lurch and fell on its beam ends in eighteen inches of water. One of the party, a senator of great weight, fell on another senator of slimmer build who wriggled out of his uncomfortable position, and using the aforesaid senator as a stepping stone, disappeared through the door, which was now converted into a skylight, in such a lively manner that he might be compared to that living snake renowned for its agility. The third passenger then struggled free from the superabundant mass that had been holding him down, and vanished through the roof. This last escape was a fortunate one, for he was in a very dangerous position and it would have been a most melancholy termination to the affair had any fatality occurred, for that very morning he had received the cheering news that his mineral claim was worth half a million. By this time the water was a foot deep in the hack, and the remaining senator was making desperate efforts to liberate himself. He could, however, get but a portion of his system through the aperture. It is said that at this precise moment the scene was a very interesting one. The moon cast its silvery light on a venerable head, from which had fallen back in confusion the gray locks that were usually coaxingly brought from the back counties to cover the vacant spaces. With both hands he was endeavoring to raise his capacious person from its prison, but after dangling in the air for a few minutes he would drop back to the depths. Meanwhile members of the other hack sympathized and one limb of the law endeavored to help him, but being convulsed with laughter, he had to give up the effort.

The millionaire in prospective asked the imprisoned senator if he would hunt for his cane in the hack, but was met with the answer "——— you and ———," which completely "broke up" the assembled company. It was now thought that the only way in which the senator could be liberated was to unhitch the team and haul him out that way, or chop the exit wider. As a last resort the hack driver got inside and pushed behind while four others hauled from the top. This had the desired effect, and the unhappy passenger at last crossed the Rubicon, and beyond the loss of a few buttons, on which there had been too great a strain, no serious damage had resulted. All the victims having been rescued they were accommodated with seats in the other hack and eventually reached home without further mishap.

ACCIDENT ON THE C. P. R.

First-Class and Dining Cars Thrown from the Track—Several Hurt.

Winnipeg Call: On Thursday last, just before noon, as the Pacific express was speeding along at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, between Veuve River and Markstay—about fifty miles west of North Bay—the passengers in the Pullman were startled by an ominous rattling which was quickly followed by a series of violent jerks, the crashing of broken glass and general demoralization. The train had encountered a broken rail and while the engine, baggage, mail and colonist cars passed over in safety the wheels of the first-class car failed to connect. The result was that the first-class and dining cars were thrown from the tracks on to their sides about forty feet from the track, while the Pullman, owing to its weight, remained on the track, but lurched over at such a violent angle as to nearly pitch a party of whist players through the window. As it was, Mr. R. W. Simpson, of Montreal, was thrown against the window and badly cut about the head, while Mr. E. H. Beelston, of this city, was also badly bruised. There were some eight or ten passengers in the Pullman, among them Commissioner Wrigley, but excepting the two above named, all escaped without injury, although of course badly shaken. In the first class car there were about a dozen passengers, and it was at first feared some had been killed, but a speedy investigation proved this supposition unfounded, although five or six were more or less badly scratched and bruised. The dining car attendants escaped uninjured. The loss sustained by the company was heavy, as both the first class and dining cars were smashed. The first class and Pullman passengers were transferred to the colonist car, and after a two hours' delay the train proceeded. The company did all in their power to assist those who were at all injured, a doctor being put on the train and kept in attendance upon the sufferers throughout the whole of one night.

MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

The annual blue book of this department is just to hand. The following are extracts from the report of Lieut.-Colonel Holmes: "The necessity of the organization of new corps to meet the requirements of this growing province, which forms the military district under my command must be apparent, and it is hoped, now the hon. the minister has visited us and has been able to see for himself our needs, the corps so often asked for by the people and recommended by me, may be sanctioned.

"The city corps which have been and are still recommended, are the following: Batteries of Garrison Artillery at Nanaimo and Vancouver, and a Mounted Rifle Corps at Okanagon, all important strategic points for the defence of the province.

"Attention is respectfully called to previous reports on the advisability of substituting the Martini-Henry for the Snider-Enfield. I consider this a matter of the utmost importance, and it will, I hope, meet with approval at an early date.

"The drill sheds in the district are not at all suited for the requirements of the force, being too small, and in Victoria badly situated.

"I am glad to know that in Victoria a new drill shed on a more central site is likely to be provided, and the district stores removed to the Canadian Artillery barracks, where they will be under the care of a proper military guard."

In conclusion Colonel Holmes pays a just tribute to the late Major McDonell, who, as he very aptly says, "died in harness." Of Major McDonell's successor the D.A.G. states his belief that from what he knows of Captain Jones he will fill the position "with credit to himself and also profit to the Department," in which belief all who know the gallant captain will readily concur.

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC POWER.

The People Marvel Much—Personal Cards Giving Substantial Testimony.

Since the advent in this city of Drs. Darrin, the great healers, the excitement not only in this vicinity, but wherever any of the numerous patients they have relieved can be found, has been most intense. The old story—the lame walk, the deaf hear, the blind see—has come to be a reality in our midst, and what would be scouted as too marvellous to be true is now demonstrated in too palpable a manner to leave room for the slightest doubt or uncertainty. That the doctors are achieving a vast amount of good in this community no will attempt to deny who has given the subject the slightest examination. Testimonials are being continually received, a few names of which we herewith present, and could add many more did not want of space forbid:

FIRST HEALTH IN YEARS.

MR. Editor: DEAR SIR—For over a year I have been afflicted with liver and kidney trouble, accompanied by a stomach difficulty, with great bloating of the abdomen, etc., and for over six years I have not had a good night's sleep. I have been under the treatment of most every doctor in the country, but without relief. As a last hope I was persuaded to consult the Drs. Darrin. After the first treatment I felt instantaneous relief, and now after a thorough course of their electro-magnetic treatment I am entirely well, and for the first time in years enjoy perfect health. I gladly recommend the doctors to the public, as their ability to perform cures is without a question, as I saw many others cured while under treatment. E. L. SPRAGUE.

ASTHMA AND OPIUM HABIT CURED.

Mr. Editor: Dear Sir—I have been troubled with asthma for the past thirteen months, so bad as not to be able to do a day's work, and have suffered