Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1886.

THE VICTORIA BLUNDERBUSS AND THE ARIZONA BOWIE-KNIFE—ARCADES AMBO.

A few days ago we showed that the Times' blunderbuss is doing more execution behind than in front:—that it is actually killing off its own friends while it is pointed in the direction of their enemies. Could a worse policy have been inaugurated than the system of abuse and calumny which it has pursued towards public men who are opposed to the ruinous policy of the Blunderbuss' masters? Look at the results of its blackguardism! A short twelve-month ago the opposition counted ten able-bodied men on the floor of the house. To-day the opposition has shrunk to six (sicks), and a very sickly looking lot they are. If abuse and dirt throwing would kill a government the Smithe ministry would have succumbed long ago under the assaults of the Times. But they have thriven upon it. Not alone are they stronger in the house, but they are stronger in the country than ever before. In proof: What happened on last Wednesday night? One of the chief supporters of the government addressed 800 of his constituents and was *thanked* for his able and satisfactory address by the multitude. Not a single oppositionist put in an appearance—on the platform! but oh! how they have since stormed and sworn and lied through the columns of their evening organ. When the Times was started it was understood that the opposition leaders wanted to kill off the Standard because it was not sufficiently "spicy" to suit their political palates. They wanted a paper which, like the mudhen, would revel in filthy ooze, and, like the street Arab, would fling it. They got the Times and such a *hard* Times. The very air is shocked with its vileness. Within a week it has applied these epithets to the government and its supporters:

"*Rascals*;"
"*Thieves*;"
"*Liars*;"
"*Beasts*."

Oh! The depth of argument that reposes in those four words. So choice, so chaste, —a perfect bouquet of elegant and refined literature. This, then, is the "decent" journalism which the Times projectors promised in their inaugural. It was to be a thoroughly independent, respectable, God-fearing paper—one which no man would be ashamed to take into his family circle. Personalities were to be eschewed; advertisements of bad houses were to be excluded; and both sides of every question were to have fair play. How have these professions been fulfilled? Has not every pledge been violated? and is not the Times now excluded from many households where once it might have been a welcome visitor? What has become of its vaunted 5-cent bawling circulation? At one time the paper was eagerly bought on the streets—a dozen can scarcely be worked off now at half rates with a chromo thrown in. We know of no match for the Times in indecent journalism outside of Arizona. At Red Gulch in that territory there is printed a paper called the Bowie Knife. Here is a specimen editorial which will remind the reader forcibly of an editorial in the Victoria Blunderbuss: "That cowardly cur, the editor of the Rip snorter, can talk fight, but everyone knows what kind of a hairpin he is. Why, an ordinary glass of good budge can knock him out, and when he tackles a dose of genuine Rocky Mountain tanglefoot he is laid out stiff as a poker. He's the worst lop sided, cross-eyed, one-eared son of a galoot in these diggings, and we warn him that he'd better carry his shooting irons with him, for we're going to put some holes in his carcass the first time that we see him. Our name is Two-fingered Jake, and we are laying for him." "Blunderbuss" and "Bowie-knife," how alike in name and style.

IS IT ANOTHER "PAINTIN' 'ER RED?"

The most vulgar piece, unredeemed by a single spark of wit, ever placed on Victoria boards, was "Paintin' 'er Red." To the credit of a portion of the Victoria press it must be recorded that in spite of the fact that it was favored with "a 4-inch ad," it did not fail to speak of the piece in terms of severe reprobation. A remarkable circumstance connected with that horrid play was this: It came highly recommended by the press "southof the line." It was described as overflowing with fun, rippling with mirth and consuming with laughter and, withal, so chaste that the purest mind would be strengthened by witnessing its representation. Well; it came, was seen by a full house and disgusted all who witnessed it. The title of the play was not inappropriate, since it "painted" the cheeks of every decent person who saw it "red" with shame. The Alice Harrison company has been described by a Portland paper as of a kidney with the notorious "Paintin' 'er Red" crowd; and although there are papers that speak approvingly of the company, it must be remembered that those papers are the recipients of "2-inch ads," and that they are like the hired *claquer*, paid for their approving similes. Practically, Victoria knows nothing of the company. Its merits and demerits can only be learned by experience.

POOR VICTORIA.

And now the Nanaimo Ho! has started on the warpath, tomahawk in hand too, after Victoria—Victoria the beautiful child of the sea. The Ho! is jealous of Victoria's political influence. It sees in its preponderance of representation a menace to the state. The politics of the province are lopsided and it wants the political equilibrium adjusted. Victoria with four members is a wart on the body politic. She should be curtailed, razed, pared—as corns are pared—and reduced to controllable proportion. Evidently our Nanaimo friend does not believe in representation by population. Victoria with a population of 12,000 or 14,000 and a voting strength of about 1,600, in his opinion, should be deprived of one or two members; but not a word is said of Nanaimo, with a population of 3,000 or 4,000, sporting two members. As compared with Nanaimo, Victoria should have eight members instead of four; and if wealth and commerce were capable of being represented she should have some eight additional members. What the Ho! has to say about Victoria and Victoria's influence is the supremest nonsense; but poor infant, he is hardly old enough to know better. Victoria is a safe object to attack, for it can afford to laugh its assailants to scorn.

The London Riots and W. K. B.

To THE EDITOR:—As a conservative, and sharing in the views expressed by W. K. B. in his communication upon the above subject, I see no just ground for J. T. B's criticisms. W. K. B. advanced nothing that could be honestly interpreted as favorable to a recourse of "the good old Tory remedy of quieting a discontented populace by the use of bullets instead of bread, but on the other hand suggested that the conservative proposition of Lord Salisbury embodied in free trade for the relief of British workmen, and bringing back that employment which had been lost, and was now enjoyed by foreigners to the national detriment, would be far more likely to confer substantial benefit than for Premier Gladstone to be continually keeping the country in a state of fermentation by the undue prominence he had given to one agitator to the neglect of English interests, and which had now given birth to another who had caused these disgraceful riots.

T. L. D.

COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED.—The Portland police have arrested two men named Blagg and Ethrage and a colored boy named Freeman, on a charge of making counterfeit coin. The apparatus was taken with the rogues, who occupied a cabin in a lonely spot on Columbia river below Kalama.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

FOURTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 16, 1886.

Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m.

Prayers by the Rev. Mr. Percival.

Mr. Beaven called attention to the fact that the government had given no explanation of the cause of the change in the cabinet. He thought that such explanation was now in order in accordance with the usual constitutional custom. Personally he could say that had the member who accepted the seat been able to do so without sacrifice of his political principles and with the consent of his friends, he would have welcomed him upon his appointment. But this had not been the case and hence he took the opportunity of asking for some explanation of the course.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said it had not been customary, in that house at any rate, for any explanation to be made when any change in the cabinet had taken place. Last year it had been done in reference to Mr. Drake's resignation of office because an unjustifiable attack had been made upon his political character, and in answer to false allegations it was stated that his retirement was due simply to private and personal considerations. When the withdrawal of the late president of the council took place it became necessary to fill the position to some extent, at any rate. The only member available in the city of Victoria was his honorable friend the present minister of finance. It was well understood four years ago, when the government was formed, that there should be four members of the cabinet, and the member for Yale had been a party to that understanding. If there had been any sacrifice of political principle and honor it had been, not on the part of his honorable friend the minister of finance, but upon that of another gentleman he might mention, and who was at that moment in the house (hear, hear, and an interruption by Mr. Semlin who told the speaker he would be expected to be furnished with an opportunity of replying.) The member for Yale had been a party to a fourth portfolio being established, and it was only because there had been one gentleman who was willing to give his services without pay that for a term the government had been able to get along without a fourth portfolio being filled. When it was put upon the estimates the member for Yale (Mr. Semlin) had voted for it and always when that gentleman afterwards commented upon what he was pleased to term unnecessary cost to the country, it had seemed to him (the speaker) to come in very bad taste from that honorable gentleman. The position had been offered to Mr Duck who represented the city of Victoria, and who on all the leading questions affecting the policy of the government had been its supporter and not in opposition to it; and who had entered the house as an independent member although the opposition had been always anxious to claim him as one of them, and he had felt that it would be no sacrifice of principle or honor on the part of that gentleman to accept the position which he was now so worthily filling. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Semlin denied he was a party to the fourth portfolio being filled. The government in the past had got along with three members for the cabinet and it was not thought necessary until the present government came into power to add to the number. The vote taken upon the action relative to the lifting of the Fort Simpson reserve would show that Hon. Mr. Duck had been in opposition. He was now working in harmony with the government, and he (Mr. Semlin) would ask who had since admitted themselves in the wrong, Mr. Duck, or the government? As far as he was concerned he knew nothing about the fourth portfolio [a laugh] and he did not think he could now be regarded as being more strictly in opposition than Mr. Duck before he accepted office.

Hon. Mr. Robson said: The remarks of the last speaker astonish me for he has always been as ardent an advocate of a fourth portfolio as any other member. [Hear, hear]. Though, of course, it would not become me to expose all the consultations of the cabinet, I can say speaking from what I know of that honorable gentlemen I am more than astonished—I am astounded that that honorable gentleman should dare to stand up before this house and attempt to pose as an opponent of a fourth portfolio. Is it not, to say the least, remarkable that he did not express these views at the proper place and at the proper time instead of having actually voted as a member of the house and as a member of the committee of supply? It is astonishing that any members of this house are so gullible as to be taken in by the apparently disinterested attitude which the honorable is attempting to assume. I think that there is a very concise explanation of the reason for his changed view, but out of pity for that honorable gentleman I will not give that explanation. [Mr. Semlin—Give it by all means.] No, I will spare the honorable gentleman and refrain from giving the explanation, which is one that has presented itself to every member of the house and to the public at large. That reason would explain the true inwardness of his position in regard to the appointment. My impression, judging from the intelligence contained in the votes cast by the present minister of finance when a private member of the house, was that respected and honored himself forbade him to remain in opposition in this house. (Hear, hear.) That honorable gentleman who has sat in the house and supported the government on the most important measures did what another honorable gentleman ought to do to be consistent with his convictions—to cross the floor of the house, and be in vital accord with his political views. With regard to the Fort Simpson steal what did the honorable gentleman for Yale say in explanation for having supported the resolution passed by the house?—he disclaimed most distinctly any intention of of casting any reflection upon the government, but that it was a departmental irregularity of which the house should mark its disapproval. [Hear, hear.] What did the Port Simpson "steal" amount to? It was simply that a subordinate had overlooked a simple matter of routine in not having caused the lifting of a reserve to be gazetted, in the discharge of a duty which he generally fulfilled without waiting for special instructions from the government. To assert that because of a comparative oversight or dereliction of duty on the part of that officer that a vote of want of confidence should be passed, is absurd. If such were to be the case any government would be liable to stand or fall by any trifling blunder made by a subordinate officer. The proposition is manifestly so absurd that it is not necessary to dwell upon it. The reason of the non-record of the lifting of the reserve has been proved on oath, it being that Mr. Gore forgot when the reserve was lifted to insert the notice in the Gazette, and this could be proved a hundred time over if the honorable gentlemen are capricious enough to require it. The same evidence proved that while the leader of the opposition was in office a similar error was committed. One was just as great a departmental error as the other; the same argument and the same objection lie against his oversight. And what has come of the "great oversight?" Has the country been ruined? or were the friends of the government let into a good thing and the friends of the opposition left out of it? My honorable friend, the leader of the opposition, had a partner who purchased land at Port Simpson—

Mr. Beaven here rose to say the statement was not correct. The only piece of property which he owned in connection with Wm. Wilson was at Port Moody, a piece moreover, purchased before confederation.

Hon. Mr. Robson—When I said that I only said it in the loose sense (laughter) not in a technical business sense. The theory that has been set before the public that it was a political job perpetrated by the government for the benefit of themselves and their friends is utterly absurd. As I was saying Mr. Wilson among others applied for a portion of the land at Port Simpson and was informed such application could not be entertained until the reserve upon it had been lifted. The only cause for putting the reserve upon the land has been removed, and it was consequently lifted. It has always been the policy of the present government to unlock lands and further settlement in every way. [Hear, hear.] The government had not cared to know the individuality of those who had applied for land—unlike perhaps in this case what would have been the case with the opposition, for if they had been in power they would have been anxious to ascertain the political principles of the applicants. It redounds to the honor of the premier that he betrayed no disposition to ascertain who or what these applicants were. Impartiality is stamped upon the whole proceeding. The honorable gentleman (Mr. Semlin) has reminded the house that ever since he cast that vote he has been a pronounced opponent of the government. It would have occurred to me, had I been in his place, that it was a very paltry excuse upon which to claim to have changed my political views. [Hear.] It merely shows how hard it is for the opposition to raise as a point against the government, a dereliction of duty on the part of a subordinate officer of the government. The enquiry developed not a disgraceful reflection on the premier, but a bright mark to his credit—a mark that speaks in golden letters that he is an impartial administrator of the affairs of the country. [Hear, hear.] The explanation of the matter is as I have given—simply that and nothing more. No members of this house can go before their constituents and pull the wool before their eyes to the extent to make them believe that any member has gained any advantage for them in passing that resolution. [Hear, hear.] A great deal has been said about the government giving a seat in the cabinet to a red-hot member of the opposition. The honorable gentleman (Hon. Mr. Duck) never was a member of the opposition. He has been elected as an independent member, and acted as such by recording his vote with the government and against them. But as the government demonstrated to him that their policy was in the interests of the country that gentlemen could not consistently vote against them on the principal questions of the day. I would like to remind my honorable friend, the leader of the opposition, of an honorable member who represented New Westminster, who was not only a member of the Beaven government, but had previously signed a round robin to oust that government from office,—and that almost before the ink was dry the leader of the opposition addressed that gentleman with "Please walk into my parlor," and obedient to the call the honorable gentlemen quietly and gently walked in [hear, hear] How can he reconcile this fact with the truths which he now professes to enunciate from that side of the house? The honorable minister of finance only gravitated towards this side of the house from his convictions, unlike the honorable gentlemen (Mr. Semlin) who was taken suddenly and at once into the arms of my honorable fried the leader of the opposition. These things occasionally happen everywhere [laughter], but the case to which I have just alluded (Mr. Semlin) was of an exceptionally flagrant character. The member for Yale was a strong supporter of the fourth portfolio. I will not say that that gentleman's ardent support was because he thought he might eventually fill it himself, and that when he found out his mistake he suddenly became a strenuous opponent of such needless expenditure of the public money [hear]. It is for that honorable gentleman to reconcile these things with his conscience,—if he has one. [Cries of "oh."] He is now standing up as an opponent of a fourth portfolio. Before the present government came into power three ministers were perfectly competent to do the work of the country, but now the business has more than doubled and according to logical deduction it would require six ministers to do the work. The result is, even now, that four ministers have nearly double as much to do as had the three during the late administration. The present government can well justify themselves before the country and before the house for having taken a fourth member of the cabinet to aid in the work whose amount is now too great for a lesser number. (Applause.)

Mr. Grant was somewhat amused at the ingenious way in which the last speaker had intimated that honorable members had joined the top-sawyers in the Fort Simpson grab.

Hon. Mr. Robson protested against the honorable gentlemen assuming him to have cast an aspersion which he (Mr. Robson) had distinctly disclaimed any intention of making.

Mr. Grant said the effort of the government to place the blame upon the shoulders of a subordinate was a cowardly and unworthy act.

Mr. Smithe—I will refer the honorable gentleman to the report of the committee wherein it is shown that he as C. C. of L. & W. distinctly assumed all responsibility in the matter. [Hear, hear.]

Mr. Grant, continuing, said he didn't look at the matter so much as a "steal" as incompetency. About changing from one side of the house to the other, such was done occasionally everywhere, and he was inclined to look at it as did the last speaker—from a very lenient standpoint. With regard to change of values, he might say that eighteen hundred years ago——

Mr. Dingwall—"Oh, that's too long ago."

Mr. Grant sat down.

Mr. Drake protested that no motion was before the house; the speaker remarked that it was a question of privilege more upon the part of the house than on that of individuals, at least, so some members seemed to think.

Mr. T. Davie read from the committee's report, which had been unanimous, showing that the course of the government was such as to call for no further enquiry. Nothing further had developed and no complaints had been made in the house when crown grants were issued, and now two years afterwards tried to come and make a cry before the people as to what a great steal there had been. Had it come that the opposition had descended so that they had to fall back upon a departmental oversight or blunder if they chose to call it, upon which to attack the government? Surely this was carrying the principle of opposition to unworthy lengths and showed to what straits the opposition were driven. As to blaming a subordinate who he would ask had blamed him? That gentlemen had given his evidence in a straightforward manner and the admission of the error had, as related to that official, ended there. With regard to changing sides in the house the honorable gentleman (Mr. Beaven) would remember those memorable words, "Take my name of that list," spoken by a member who had signed a round robin and whom he (Mr. Beaven) had induced to again change his views, so much so that the honorable gentleman had made the request to take his name *of* that list. So far as the position taken by the Hon. Mr. Duck he supposed that would be a matter for the public to decide upon. He would, however, say he could remember no very determined opposition to the government made by that honorable gentleman. He agreed with Mr. Drake that the whole discussion was out of order, and if there was nothing else to talk about, they had better pack up their traps and close the house—pass the estimates and say no more about it.

Mr. Galbraith, speaking of the acceptance of appointment by Mr. Duck, accused him of having been a pronounced oppositionist, and that the provincial secretary's paper, the British Columbian, had spoken of Mr. Duck as an opposition member.

Hon. Mr. Robson—The British Columbian is not my paper. [Laughter.] I wish, once and for all, to make the statement that it is not my paper and that I have no more interest in it than the leader of the opposition. Before I entered the government I disposed of all interest in it, and more than that I have never since that time written an article for its columns.

Mr. Galbraith—Well, it is a government organ anyhow. [Laughter.]

Hon. Mr. Davie said the statement that Mr. Duck had not voted for the government until Mr. Drake had left the cabinet was wrong, because he had voted for the government at the passage of the settlement bill. Upon the main question the honorable present minister of finance had in 1884 voted with the government on the second reading of the public school bill, also against the amendment to postpone the consideration of the settlement bill, and with regard to a motion to enquire into the accuracy of a report concerning the expenditure of certain moneys in connection with the dry dock. As for turncoats, he would ask: Did not the leader of the opposition vote with the McCreight government in 1872 and then almost the very next day turn round and assist to defeat that government?

Mr. Beaven said, in explanation, that he joined with the DeCosmos government with the knowledge and consent of the former three ministers. A very different case to the case of the Hon. Mr. Duck. [Mr. Duck—Oh no.]

Hon. Mr. Davie said he had been unaware of the particular reason for the conduct of the last speaker on that occasion. He simply based his statement upon the journals of the house which would confirm his remarks.

Hon. Mr. Duck said that he had learned to place the proper value upon the political honesty of the leader of the opposition, and he cared very little about it. Before accepting the position, he had consulted his principal friends and supporters, who without exception had urged him to accept, and not only that but the gentlemen who signed his nomination papers at the first election had done so at the second. [Hear, hear] He admitted that at the last general election he was favorable to the Beaven government, but when the settlement bill came up that gentleman had voted against the bill, and in doing so he (the speaker) maintained that the leader of the opposition had shown himself one of the biggest enemies the country ever had. He had voted for the bill and from that moment renounced his allegiance—if he had ever shown any—to the opposition. Mr. Galbraith had spoken of his (the speaker) having attended opposition caucuses, but had failed to state the conditions upon which he had been present. As to the member for Yale (Mr. Semlin) he would say that he himself, after he had accepted a seat in the cabinet, had been before the electors, but the former had deliberately—unauthorized by his constituents—walked body and boots, so to speak, over to the opposition.

Mr. Semlin rose to assert that he had been elected strictly as an independent candidate.

Mr. McLeese referred to the appointment of a fourth member of the ministry and the Fort Simpson affair. The question, he said, is one that has been discussed so much that it is not necessary for me to say a great deal on it. [Hear, hear.] Therefore I will sit down.

Hon. Mr. Smithe moved that the house at its rising stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. Helgesen was referring to the fact that the government had not explained why the fourth portfolio was created, when the speaker ruled him out of order.

After considerable discussion on the point, Mr. Speaker said it was not an attempt to muzzle debate, but simply a motion that the house at its rising stands adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow—it was not a motion to adjourn, and members should confine themselves to the question.

Mr. Helgesen essayed several times to speak, But was called to order, and finally said he would abide by the decision of the speaker, and speak at another time.

Hon. Mr. Smithe's motion was carried.

Mr. Martin moved that the house adjourn.

Amid calls for "question,"

Mr. Helgesen referred to the fact of Mr. Duck going from the opposition into the government. He also referred to the Fort Simpson affair, and condemned it as an act unworthy of a government.

Mr. Dunsmuir said that the opposition had aired themselves pretty well to-day. When he (Mr. D.) came to this house he understood that Hon. Mr. Duck was a supporter of Mr. Beaven, but he found that Mr. Duck always voted with the government. He then understood that Mr. Duck was an independent member and had a mind of his own, and not confined to narrow ideas like gentlemen opposite. [Laughter.] Then how could they claim him as a former opposition member? Mr. Semlin should be the last man to rise in his seat and make remarks on the matter, for he had voted with the government. He would not say this was intentional on Mr. Semlin's part—it must be bad memory. Talk about turncoats—he was not surprised at Mr. Duck leaving the shades of the opposition. Why had the government added a fourth portfolio? The country was advancing in prosperity and importance, and it was necessary that a fourth minister be appointed. He hoped that the country would prosper so that a fifth minister would be necessary. With regard to what was said about the Fort Simpson steal, he thought it was all nonsense—all clap-trap. He was one of those who was interested in the acquirement of that land, and there was no steal as far as he was concerned—no steamer hired to get there first. Mr. Semlin could have his interest in it for fifty cents on the dollar. Yes, twenty five cents—and if he was pressed much he would give it for nothing. [Laughter.]

Mr. Orr—You promised it to me long ago.

Mr. Dunsmuir, continuing, referred to the wise policy of the government and the general good results that had accrued.

Mr. Galbraith also spoke on the matter.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said he was sorry that discussion should have wandered so far from the question of privilege, and it was a disgrace that the proceedings of the day should have been as they are. The appointment of the honorable minister of finance was not a question of privilege—it was not a breach of privilege to any member of this house. Had the question been put on the notice paper he would have answered it, only there it would have ended. Honorable members of the opposition had taken advantage of the leniency of the house and disgraced themselves by attacking the policy of the government.

Mr. Beaven said the provincial secretary and the leader of the government had attacked members of the opposition and the former had made one of the most bitter speeches ever heard in this house. He had insinuated that he (Mr. B.) had been interested in the Fort Simpson steal.

Hon. Mr. Robson—I never insinuated anything of the kind. If the honorable gentleman had not interrupted me I would would have explained everthing so that he would never have risen. His action in rising to his feet and reiterating what he (Mr. Robson) had denied again and again was contemptible.

Mr. Beaven—The way that the honorable provincial secretary insinuates charges against members of the opposition is contemptible; he never came right out.

Mr. Speaker said he would have to ask the honorable provincial secretary to withdraw the word contemptible.

Hon. Mr. Robson had great pleasure in doing so; but outside the house the word would be most suitable.

Mr. Beaven—Well I will withdraw in the same way. Continuing, Mr. Beaven said that the members of the government were sworn to secrecy; but they had divulged the fact of the withdrawal of the reserve at Fort Simpson.

Hon. Mr. Smithe—It is false.

Mr. Beaven referred to the journals and read evidence where Mr. Gore stated he "thought" the government would raise the reserve that day. The honorable minister of finance had voted against the first settlement bill and with the second, and then gave over to the government, and he had taken the only proper course to get an explanation from the government as to their reasons for that appointment.

Mr. Semlin said he would like to place himself right, in regard to the statements of the honorable gentleman opposite.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said the expenditures the honorable gentleman now opposed he had voted for when on the government side.

Mr. Semlin said the sum voted he had thought would never be called on. It had been said that the work now had doubled, (Mr. Smithe—It has.) and that the revenue had doubled. There was no necessity for the adding of a fourth member to the cabinet when the three previous members did not know how to put in their time.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were received:

From H. A. Abbott, Geo. A. Keefer and others, asking for power to form a company to construct and operate the electric light at the town of Vancouver.

From R. B. O'Brian and others on behalf of the Nanaimo water works company, asking for an amendment of their act of incorporation.

From Amor DeCosmos and others in reference to the construction of the Saanich railway from Victoria.

From Geo. A. Keefer and others, asking for an act to give the power to supply the Granville reserve and adjacent property with water.

From T. B. Cochrane, James Brady and others, asking for a lease of a large portion of Finlay creek, for the purpose of working for gold by hydraulic process, lease to be for 25 years.

From H. A. Abbott and others asking for power to make and maintain a street railway in Vancouver.

From residents of Vancouver and vicinity asking that the village of Granville and vicinity be incorporated a city under the name of Vancouver.

House adjourned until 2 o'clock Wednesday.

MOTIONS.

Mr. T. Davie—That an order of the house be granted for a return of the names of all persons who applied to purchase lands at Fort Simpson in 1879 or 1883; the dates and particulars of the respective applications and the dates of instructions for surveys; to whom issued—the dates of surveys; copies of publication (if any) of the same; the dates of acceptance of surveys, and the dates of issue of crown grants and to whom issued together with copies of all correspondence in relation to the matter.

QUESTION.

Mr. Semlin will ask the attorney-general "Was British Columbia represented before the privy council of England on the license question? If so, by whom? And what was the cost connected therewith?

Who is Mr. Dunsmuir?

To THE EDITOR:—A correspondent over the *nom de plume* "Gallery," in last week's Times propounds the above question. One would hardly think that such a question would need to be put by any person having the slightest acquaintance with this east coast. But presuming that the gentleman—for such I hope he is—knows little of this part of the world, a conclusion which the very nature of the question forces on one, I will with your leave endeavor to answer his question. Hoping, however, that he will be enlightened on that subject before this reaches him by a more competent pen than my poor abilities can command.

Well, then, Mr "Gallery," Mr. Dunsmuir is a man who through his own personal enterprise has, without injuring anyone, but adding greatly to the wealth of the whole province, fortunately achieved financial independence in his rather advanced years.

And now, Mr. Editor, hoping the above answer will be satisfactory and feeling disposed to encourage our friend "Gallery" in his laudable pursuit of knowledge, I beg to offer a few gratuitous remarks on subjects whereon he is evidently in total ignorance. He blames the present government for giving Mr. Dunsmuir so much land. I beg to inform him that the land was reserved for railroad purposes on (if my memory serves me right) the 7th of June, 1873, while the DeCosmos-Walkem government were in power. The land was locked up from settlement, and that without the slightest security that the railroad would ever be built. The government of that day were smart statesmen (!) and of course scorned to descend to the homely aphorism that it takes two to make a bargain, adopted a dictatorial and one-sided policy which simply meant a stagnation policy, and for ten long years the province suffered and bled under that policy. No one throve but the politicians whom we kept in power, who preached up the—in other respects—commendable virtue of patience to a people worn out with waiting, and who painfully realized the fact that hope deferred maketh the heart sick. Driven at last to trust our political affairs in the hands of other men the present legislature and government were elected, and by simply recognizing the above aphorism the stagnation policy began to thaw. The congealed blood around our frozen hearts began to warm up and circulate and made its appearance in the hopeful and smiling faces of all lovers of progress, and it is gratifying to add our hopes have been fully realized. It is gratifying to add that when no capitalist or syndicate would accept "the island and $750,000" to build our much longed-for island railroad, and we were on the brink of despair, our enterprising neighbor, Mr. Dunsmuir, stepped to the front, and with the assistance of others, undertook to build the road. The manner in which he has pushed the work shows the metal he is made of. May his last venture be as successful as some of his other ventures. Now Mr. Gallery, you might have saved a great deal of your sneers and innuendos. Fortunately Truth needs none of them in aiding her case. But you are doubtless young and I hope a graybeard's advice will not be altogether thrown away on you. Mr. Dunsmuir has injured no one. He is giving settlers both the road and the land at one dollar an acre. Who can blame either the government or him in that transaction?

Will Gallery ANSWER?

ENGLISH MATTERS.

The Great Dilke Scandal.

The London Riots.

Parnell and His Merry Men.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has withdrawn the proposals for amendments to the rules of procedure in the house of commons which his party introduced as the first business of the session.

Although Sir Charles Dilke escaped under the technical plea that Mrs. Crawford's unsworn confession was insufficient evidence, the whole tenor of the trial has produced a profound and universal conviction of Dilke's guilt. Justice Butts, in summing up, described respondent's statements as clear and distinct, and said they compelled him to conclude that the adultery charged was actually committed. If the woman had been put in the witness box, and had given the same testimony, there would have been evidence against Dilke. Dilke's position was further damaged by his refraining from giving testimony. The attorney-general's defense—"Were we to put Dilke on the witness box, his cross-examination would be on indiscretions in life from which no man is free"—was taken as a frank admission that Dilke was unable to give an explanation. That part of Mrs. Crawford's confession describing the depth of debauchery between Dilke and her, is unfit for publication. The trial has caused a painful impression throughout the country in regard to the state of society morals.

The Pall Mall Gazette denounces the Daily News and Telegraph for their attempt to whitewash Sir Charles Dilke after the scandals revealed against him in the Crawford divorce suit. The Gazette says that Sir Charles evaded denying on oath the appalling charge made against him, and declares that in view of this and the court's conduct in ignoring these charges, "we must revise the axiom that the law is no respecter of persons." "Sir Charles Dilke's friends," continues the Gazette, "expected better things of him, and his foes could have wished for nothing worse."

The St. James Gazette, commenting on the same topic, says that the judge's decision in the case amounted to a declaration that the stories told against Sir Charles by Mrs. Crawford were true.

The better classes of London have been thoroughly aroused to the real needs of the unemployed. Of the £20,000 already subscribed during the past three days for their relief, nearly all have been contributed by the metropolitan merchants and bankers. The general public has scarcely given anything to the Mansion House fund as yet.

Rev. John Tulloch, D. D., principal of St. Mary's college, St. Andrew's university, is dead. He was born in 1823.

Striking hosiery operatives at Leicester resumed their rioting at midnight. The mob was very desperate, and stubbornly refused to obey the police. However, first a considerable fight, the police were successful and dispersed the mob.

Quiet prevails throughout Leicester today. There are no signs of fresh rioting.

The great firm of engineers, John Henn & Sons, of Greenwich and Deptford Pier, S. E., to-day sent their check for $10,000 to the Mansion House relief fund for unemployed workingmen.

The Mansion House fund, for the relief of unemployed workmen, now amounts to $100,000.

Lord Randolph Churchill in a speech tonight remarked that perhaps the government would find time to perform the sober duty of preserving order in London. Everybody was aware, he said, that disorder prevailed in Ireland, but until lately no one had thought that riot was possible in London. He ridiculed Mr. Childers as home secretary, and denounced that gentleman for having assumed the presidency of the committee appointed to inquire into the cause of the recent outbreak, alleging that the object of the home secretary in putting himself at the head of the committee was to take care that the blame of the riots was not to lay at the door of the home office. Lord Randolph said he believed Mr. Gladstone's parliamentary trickery would disgust and alarm the country. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell had combined their forces to overthrow the conservative ministry. Herbert Gladstone, he declared, was the willing tool of Mr. Parnell. The speaker said that if the conservatives returned to power their government would be the only one in Ireland. Mr. John Morley's ignorance regarding Ireland was only equalled by his arrogance. Lord Randolph hoped that Mr. Morley would have a short career as Irish secretary, and announced that he intended to visit Belfast to exchange views on the Irish question with the leading men of that city.

The committee of inquiry appointed by Mr. Childers, consists of Lord Wolseley, Lord Edward Cavendish, Sir Henry Holland and Mr. Charles Ritchie, with Mr. Childers as chairman. Besides the chairman, Lord Edward Cavendish is the only liberal on the committee. The first meeting of the committee will be held on Monday next.

Hyndman, Burns and Champion, the socialist leaders, were served with a summons to-night charging them with inciting riot, contempt of law, etc. They all expressed themselves as being delighted at this action of the authorities. Burns said he would utilize in his defense some of Mr. Chamberlain's socialistic speeches.

CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS.

Servia Desires Peace at All Hazards.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Germany is mediating successfully between Russia and Bulgaria for the purpose of inducing the former power to accept the Turco Bulgarian agreement.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A dispatch from Vienna to the Times says: Official information has reached here from Belgrade to the effect that King Milan has resolved to sign the treaty of peace with Bulgaria, no matter what action the Greek Government may decide to take.

BERLIN, Feb. 13.—The question of whether the Reichstag will pass the bill prolonging the operation of the Anti-Socialist law for five years, which was adopted by the Bundesrath, is one of the main topics under discussion here. The preamble to the bill recites that if the law has not prevented some attempts at outrage, it has nevertheless ameliorated the situation since 1878, when the measure went into force. The attitude of the parties of the Reichstag toward the bill is uncertain. The members of the Center are opposed to the measure on principle, and if they remain undivided, the rejection or modification of the bill is certain. It is estimated that if necessary thirty Clericals will vote with a coalition of Conservatives and National Liberals to enable the bill to pass.

At a dinner given to him by the conservative members of the Reichstag recently the Chancellor spoke freely of the expected rejection of the spirit monopoly bill. He said he intended to introduce an alternative measure imposing a large duty on the sale of spirits.

On a proposal in the Landtag to augment the gen d'armerie in Eastern Prussia, the debate on the subject of the expulsion of Poles was renewed. Herr Windthorst, the Clerical leader, demanded that the government give the exact statistics regarding the persons expelled, showing their religion, etc. Herr Von Puttkamer, Minister of the Interior, refused to give the desired information, limiting his reply to the statement that the authorities had given the expelled Poles ample time in which to arrange their affairs.

Newspapers which are known to be government organs, give prominence to the statement of the judge who sentenced Captain Sarouw, who was found guilty of having furnished information concerning German fortifications and armaments to the French authorities, that a bureau exists in the French ministry of war whose duty it is to discover German military secrets and, that this bureau employed Sarouw, paying him 600 francs monthly for betraying plans of fortresses, mobilization, etc.

The newspapers of Cracow, Russian Poland, are urging the merchants of that city to break off their relations with German business houses. A medical society at Cracow has decided to boycott German medicines and medical instruments.

All of the Galician miners who were employed in the pits of Silesia have been expelled.

EASTERN STATES.

UTICA, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Ex-Gov. Seymour died at 10 o'clock to-night at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Roscoe Conkling. He began to fail perceptibly at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Shortly afterward he rallied a little, but soon relapsed into total unconsciousness. He expired without a struggle, and as peacefully as if falling asleep.

MATOON, (Ill.), Feb. 13.—Last night at 10 o'clock, at Windsor, near here, Miss Georgia Aldridge narrowly escaped hanging at the hands of unknown parties. She was alone in her house at time, and stepped out of doors, when she was seized, her hands and feet weighted down with bricks and then hung up to die. She was accidentally discovered a few minutes afterwards by her brother, who came in the back way by chance. Life was almost extinct. She can give no account of the affair, being so overcome by the shock. A note was found saying that it was done to get even with her father, Dr. Aldridge. Miss Georgia is a highly respected young lady, aged 23. No clue to the perpetrators has yet been found. Intense excitement prevails at Windsor over the affair.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—John Peterson, night clerk at the Richmond house, on Third street, was shot and killed this morning by a man he refused admittance to the lodging house of which he had charge.

From descriptions and evidence obtained by detectives, the murderer is believed by the police authorities to be Ignatius Pierce, a young man who has frequented the house, son of Capt. Nelson Pierce, a respected citizen, and brother of Nelson Pierce, who is now serving a term of life imprisonment in San Quentin, for the killing in San Jose recently of John McCarthy, brother of State Senator Timothy McCarthy.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—The case of thirteen sailors of the American ship Sea King, who refused to go to sea on the ground that $50 was paid boarding house keepers for each of them by Captain Getchell, which was to be deducted from their wages, was concluded today. The jury returning a verdict relieving the sailors from duty on the ship.

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THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by A. J. LANGLEY & Co. d&w

THE "TIPPING" SYSTEM.

Puck Illustrates Its Advantages.

"The practice of feeing waiters is a pernicious one, James. I have decided to abandon it hereafter." Spoken with a complacency having no hint of apprehension in it.

First Day Under the New System.—Kept waiting forty-eight minutes for a chop and a cup of coffee. Even a mild-mannered man becomes irate under such treatment.

Second Day.—Finds his favorite table which has invariably been reserved for him already occupied. This is particularly provoking to a man of his regular habits of life, but he bears it philosophically, and makes his way to the familiar place where he has enjoyed many a good meal.

Third Day.—An "accident"—he gets the only rickety chair in the house.

Fourth Day.—"The practice of giving moderate fees to waiters is an exceedingly sensible one, in my op