The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 29, 1899.

PREMIER SEMLIN.

The Colonist need not say that for Premier Semlin it has a very kindly feeling, because all its references to him prove it. We feel, therefore, that neither he nor any of his political friends will regard what is said in this article as inspired by any personal animosity; but the truth must be told and it is that Mr. Semlin is not just the kind of man required by British Columbia in the premiership at this particular juncture. The imaginary report of a meeting of the government, sent over from Vancouver, is understood to represent very correctly the general attitude of the members of the cabinet towards each other. Mr. Semlin is little more than nominally premier, and his colleagues are at seven-and-sixes upon more than one question. What British Columbia needs at the head of affairs is a man of strong individuality, a man who not only has faith in the future of the province—for Mr. Semlin has this—but also the courage of his faith, a man to whom the public will look with confidence as a leader, who can reconcile the various elements of the population and weld them together, so that we may all act in harmony for the advancement of the public interest. If there is such a man in the present legislature he has not come into evidence.

One reason why the local affairs of the province are not in stronger hands is that federal issues, or rather federal partizanship, have been allowed to have too much sway in recent years. Even those who look with disfavor upon the blending of Provincial and Dominion issues have not been able entirely to eradicate from their minds the latter when dealing with the former, and until they are kept wholly distinct or avowedly amalgamated, British Columbia will never have such an administration as it ought to have in order that its great interests may be properly watched over.

Premier Semlin can hardly feel much satisfaction with the existing condition of affairs. He must realize quite as fully as any one else that his position in the cabinet is not one that enables him to do full justice to himself or the province. The elements of which his administration is composed are as foreign to each other as oil and water. Political exigency cast upon him a task from which any man of his disposition would naturally have shrunk. He could hardly have failed to foresee its very difficult nature. Every one else saw that Messrs. Cotton and Martin would not work harmoniously together for any length of time. Messrs. Hume and McKechnie are not difficult to get along with, but each of the others fancies himself the real head of the ministry and its chief power of strength. They are in each other's way politically. Nothing is more certain than that at the next appeal to the people they will be found on opposite sides, no matter what shape provincial politics may otherwise get into. The people of Vancouver have been asked for the last time to vote for these two gentlemen on the same ticket. If Mr. Semlin felt strong enough to assert himself, he would find much popular support. He had his opportunity to do so when he found Mr. Martin disregarding his duty to the province in the Deadman's Island matter, but he has allowed it to slip by. If he had acted upon the advice of the Colonist and called upon Mr. Martin to resign, his position before the province to-day would be far stronger than it now is or is likely to become. We suppose that things must drift on as they are for some time; but it is a cause for the deepest regret that the affairs of the province are not in the hands of a strong man in whom the people have confidence.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE.

The police magistrate was the principal actor in a very extraordinary performance last Tuesday, which seems to have been considered by him or some one else to have been of sufficient importance to call for the publication of a verbatim report of his remarks. The occasion was the delivering of judgment in the Jeeves stabbing case. Colonist readers may remember that this paper on Sunday gave an account of this case, printing a simple statement of facts, without comment. The police magistrate has undertaken to censure the Colonist for so doing. The police magistrate has undertaken to say that the printing of this report was "libellous and full of inaccuracies." We shall speak of the latter part of the statement first, because it is important above all things that a newspaper's reputation for accuracy should be maintained. The Colonist said: "Without other words he struck at his friend, the latter catching the knife on his arm to save his neck, and receiving a wound perhaps two inches in length by half an inch in depth." The police magistrate says that this is not borne out by the evidence. The chief of police says that it is what the boy who was stabbed said. The police magistrate said it was not sworn to, and he was governed by the sworn testimony. The Colonist was not pretending to tell what the police magistrate was governed by. It leaves that problem to others. It was simply telling the boy's own story. There is, however, a serious inaccuracy in the sentence above quoted, to which the police magistrate did not direct attention. The wound was not two inches long, but half an inch long; it was not half an inch deep, but nearly two inches deep. May we ask Police Magistrate Hall why he laid stress upon the trifling inaccuracy, if it was one, about the point aimed at, and overlooked this far graver one? The magistrate also took serious exception to the statement of the Colonist that the chief of police was not allowed to introduce certain testimony. He is good enough to say that this statement is due to spleen. He flatters himself. It was due simply to a desire to relate the facts. He is also good enough to express the opinion that the expression "A Youthful Knifer" was "particularly peculiar and dangerous." We do not know that we can do better than apply the magistrate's own language to his own conduct. We question if anything could be more "peculiar and dangerous" than a dismissal with a caution of a boy who stuck a knife in up to the handle in another boy's arm. According to the law, as administered by the police magistrate, this is not even a common assault.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

When the mine owners object to the eight-hour law they are usually met with the statement that they had plenty of notice of it, and if they failed to protest to the legislature against its passage they have only themselves to blame. This is not correct. The section of the act which prohibits miners from being employed underground for more than eight hours out of every twenty-four was not in the bill as originally introduced. In its original shape there was little in the bill to call for criticism. The eight-hour section was put in while the bill was before the committee, and so little attention was paid to it at the time that we do not find any reference to it in the reports of the proceedings of the house published in the newspapers. Under these circumstances it is preposterous to say that the mine owners ought to have protested against the change in the law.

We ask the public what they think of a government which would permit such a change to be made, without notice, and one might almost say in a surreptitious manner. If this sort of thing is to be the rule hereafter, no branch of industry is safe from legislative interference without notice, and this will render investments so insecure that capital will be afraid to come into the province. We do not say that such an amendment could not be properly made in committee, so far as parliamentary practice goes. What we do say is that no government, having any proper appreciation of its responsibilities, would have permitted such an amendment to be introduced into one of its own bills without taking some steps to ascertain how it would be regarded by those who are most interested in it, and by this we mean the miners, as well as the mine owners, of Kootenay and other parts of British Columbia.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The full text of the redistribution bill does not disclose any features other than those contained in the telegraphic synopsis already published. Ontario is very much more affected by it than any of the other privinces; while Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia and the Territories are not touched at all. The speeches delivered on the first reading were of unusual interest for a debate at that stage. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had the bill in charge in the absence of Mr. Mulock, explained that the government did not deem it expedient to do more than deal with the principal changes made in 1882, and would not attempt a general redistribution at this time. He drew attention to the fact that it is the duty of the government to redistribute the constituencies after each decennial census, but so far as we have been able to gather from the Toronto Globe's report of his speech, he gave no reason for the partial measure now introduced, except that the changes made in 1882 were unfavorable to the Liberals. He acknowledged that doubt had been expressed as to the right of parliament to deal with the question at all at the present time, but referred to several cases, which, he claimed, show the power to have been exercised. He specified two cases, namely, the alteration of Argenteuil and Terrebonne and of Terrebonne and Montcalm. We mention these instances because the Colonist was among the first to raise doubt as to power of parliament in the premises, and to add that they hardly prove the Premier's contention. Sir Wilfrid Laurier laid great stress upon the provision authorizing a commission of judges to divide counties and cities, where their division is directed by this act. The provision seemed to meet wth general approval. He also explained that the act is not to come in force during the lifetime of the present parliament, that is, by-elections will be held under the law as it stands.

Sir Charles Tupper took the position that the changes which the bill proposes are of a nature contemplated by the British North America Act, as proper to be made after a decennial census, while not denying the power of parliament to make them at any time. He drew attention to the fact that the bill refers specially to Ontario, and pointed out that the reason of this was doubtless the failure of that province to give a Liberal majority in 1896. He charged that the bill showed the government to be afraid to face the constituences as they stand. The Conservative leader's speech was a remarkably vigorous one, his arraignment of the present government for its failure to make good its pledges to the people. We note his closing observations:

Now, that is the position. I ask my honorable friend if he thinks that the great electorate of Canada, the independent, intelligent people of this Dominion, will feel that a Prime Minister and a government that are able to resort to such unworthy, such unconstitutional, such improper means of clinging to power, should be set aside, and better men should fill their places? (Cheers). It is not my opinion alone, but the opinion of the treasury benches and of the men who sit behind them, that, after the vote they have been forced to give by judgeships and high offices—the promises of which they have had in their pockets session after session, while they were giving a slavish support to the government—that the independent electorate of this country are waiting, patiently waiting, for an opportunity to redress these wrongs, and to show that the time has come when the men who obtained power by promises, every one of which they have broken and disregarded, must be denied any longer continuance of the confidence that they have abused. (Cheers). I challenge in the face of this house, and I challenge them in the face of this country, to name one single act, one single public principle, ever professed as a cardinal principle by that party, that they have not trampled under foot since they obtained power. I challenge them to quote one single promise by means of which they thus obtained power to misgovern this country, that they have not violated. I have given that challenge before, and it remains unmet. (Cheers). No attempt has been made to show a single principle that they have professed that they have not utterly violated, or a single pledge on which they obtained the confidence of the electorate of Canada, that they have not trampled under their feet. Of course we cannot take up this bill in its present shape. It will be printed and placed in our hands. But I undertake to say that the more closely it is examined the more probable will it be that I have not understood the objects and aims that the honorable gentleman has in view in putting this measure before the house.

HIS LAST SHOT.

"Do you know," said a prominent busines sman to the Colonist, "that Victoria lost $40,000 yesterday through the action of Admiral Palliser in ordering the review and sham fight off." There is not much doubt on this score. Several thousand more people would have visited the city if the original programme had been carried out. Admiral Palliser while here did everything in his power to divert business from this city. He kept his ships in this vicinty as ltle as he could and spent as little money here, we mean of course public money, as he could avoid. His last shot, fired at long range, hits the pockets of our people fully as severely as the gentleman above quoted says.

The object in referring to this matter is not to say unpleasant things about Admiral Palliser, who has gone and will probably not return, but to prevent it from being ever said that Victoria can be treated with contempt and gross injustice without having spirit enough to resent it. The admiral commanding on this station can always count upon the kindliest feelings of the people, who recognize in the fleet the emblem of Imperial strength. They have also fortunately almost always had the pleasure of having a gentleman in command who maintained the reputation of the navy for broad-mindedness and sympathy with local interests. In these days, when so much is being said and done to foster the Imperial instinct and draw together in the closest bonds the Mother Country and her dependencies, it is a happy circumstance that rarely the principal representatives of the navy on any of the colonial stations is a man who fails to appreciate his duty in this regard.

THE SENATE.

There are now twenty-six Liberal members in the Senate, and when the late Senator Boulton's place is filled the number will be twenty-seven. The full number of the Senate is eighty-one. It is, therefore, very clear that if the present government remains in power much longer the Senate majority will be Liberal, without the exercise of the power vested in the Governor-General to appoint six new senators, when the interests of the country seem to demand it. We submit that it is not desirable for the Senate to become and be recognized as a partisan body, but we greatly fear that the tendency is in that direction. Indeed, such a result is almost inevitable under our political system, it matters not what party is in power. Rightly or wrongly makes no difference; the Liberals believe the Senate, as at present constituted, is strongly partisan against them, and if they ever have a chance to alter its political complexion we may depend upon it that the partisan spirit will not be eliminated. Hence, as under any circumstances political partisanship is likely to find expression in the Upper Chamber, the people of Canada ought to consider if some change in the manner of filling vacancies in that body cannot be devised with advantage.

Speaking the other day in parliament Sir Charles Tupper said that is the Senate should throw out a bill which the government of the day regarded as of prime importance, the remedy of dissolution was always available, and that the Senate would never go contrary to the opinion of the people expressed at the polls. If this is the object of the Senate, to compel an appeal to the people, the danger of its becoming a partisan body is increased. We confess never to have been enamored with the idea of any body of legislators in Canada who are beyond the reach of the people. Comparison between the House of Lords and the Canadian Senate are quite useless. The House of Lords is a survival from the earliest days of British parliamentary government. British institutions have grown up with the House of Lords forming an integral part of them. It is a unique body. Its existence proves nothing, except that it is not a menace to British institutions, which it could not very well be, because it is identified to an extraordinary degree with British intersts. No appointive body in Canada can possibly fill such a position as the House of Lords in the United Kingdom. Hence any references to the latter are of little use in determining the value of the Senate. To believe that a change is necessary, and to devise a new method of filling vacancies are very different things. We think a majority of the people of Canada favor a change, and that the Conservative party will make a mistake to set itself against it on principle, whatever attitude it may take on the details of the proposed amendment. The votes of the legislatures of three of the Eastern provinces have been in favor of an alteration of the B. N. A. act in this regard, and we venture to say that Manitoba and British Columbia would vote in the same way if the single issue could be presented to them, without being mixed up with any other question. We think, therefore, that the Conservative party would act wisely to approach the question of Senate reform from a critical, rather than a distinctly hostile attitude. Much of the success of that party hitherto has been in the ability of its leaders to keep in touch with the movement of public opinion.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The Peace Conference is being taken very munch seriously than at one time seemed probable. It is a convention which may naturally be expected to have a profound influence upon the gentlemen composing it. However lightly they may have accepted the responsibility of representing their respective governments at The Hague, the great purpose for which they are gathered together could hardly fail to affect them to an unusual degree. It is one of the most valuable qualities of men that they are able to rise to the demands of almost any emergency. We never know what we can do until we try, and we never can know the ability of statesmen to dispose of seemingly impossible problems until they have made a bona fide attempt to do so. That this attempt will be made at the present conference is now very evident. The delegates will certainly not separate without giving the world something to show for their deliberations.

There seems to be a general impression that Great Britain, the United States, Russia and France desire to take a long stride forward towards the perpetuation of peace, and that of the leading nations Germany alone is likely to resist such a movement. Italy must certainly desire peace, for the burden of her military and naval expenditure is crushing her people into poverty. Austria has everything to gain by a prolonged peace and by some understanding that will prevent the interference of foreign nations with the internal affairs of her empire. The domestic problems with which the Austro-Hungarian government has to deal are many and exceedingly difficult. The weight of interest among the nations is therefore overwhelmingly in favor of lessening the danger of war.

Another consideration that will have great influence with the conference is the terrible uncertainty attaching to great military and naval operations in the future. The expense of a war between two first-class nations is simply incalculable. What would happen if two first-class navies met each other is a problem that no one can figure out in advance. The war between the United States and Spain taught this, if nothing else. Spain's fleet was not equal to that of the United States, but it was not so ridiculously inferior as the result of the war suggests. This seems to show that slight apparent inferiority may mean overwhelming defeat. In regard to operations on land there is much to be learned as to the effect of modern weapons and smokeless powder. We saw in the Soudan what terrible destruction can be wrought by quick-firing and machine guns. What would have happened if the Khalifa's army had been supplied with similar weapons, we can only surmise. The land operations of the forces in the recent war in Cuba and the operations now in progress in the Philippines do not shed much light upon the probable result of a meeting of two of the great continental armies. War has become such an unknown quantity that there must be an all but universal desire to avoid experimenting with it on a large scale. For these among other reasons we look forward to some important results from the Peace Conference.

PASSING COMMENT.

The Toronto Globe wants politics to be brought up to the standard of a decently conducted horse race. The desire is a laudable one.

Commenting upon the statement that the public no longer wants Shakespearean plays, the Ottawa Journal expresses the opinion that what the public does not want is Shakespearean plays presented by second-class actors. Shakespeare well rendered will draw as well as ever.

The Times would like to see an examination into the motives which led Admiral Palliser to countermand the arrangements for a display on the Queen's Birthday. If our contemporary can suggest any way by which he can be "investigated" the Colonist will aid it in urging the investigation. But we fear that searching for evidence of motive in a case of this kind would be a long, dreary and profitless operation. The rules of the court must be applied and the Admiral must be held to have intended the consequences of his acts, which are sufficiently numerous to make out a prima facie case of unfriendly motive.

The Globe says there is likely to be an explosion in government ranks that will land Mr. Martin outside of the cabinet. Our contemporary claims to have excelent authority for what it says. The Colonist has a little information indicating that such a thing is not at all unlikely. A very prominent government supporter in this city said a few days ago that Mr. Martin's presence in the government was fast becoming a grave scandal and he knew many others like himself had reached the conclusion that something must be done.

PLEASANT AND SIGNIFICANT.

The following telegraphic despatch tells its own story and it would be a pity to attempt any embellishments. Yet one can hardly refrain from saying that two years ago such a thing would have been deemed impossible:

Spokane, Wash., May 24, 1899
Victoria Stock Exchange, care of A. W. More & Co.

The Spokane Brokers' Association sends greeting and long life to your Queen, your country and your flag.

VAN B. DE LASHMUTT,
President.

After all that grand stand was not much missed. Most people think it a lucky thing for its promoters that they were deterred from putting it up.

Mr. Costigan's explanation explains nothing. All that he says now would have as fully instified him in going over to the government side three sessions ago as it does to-day. His speech was an effort to excuse himself.

We do not understand the alleged report from London which says that Canada is claiming a slice of Alaska. What Canada wants is a definition of what is embraced in Alaska. The United States is perfectly welcome to the whole of it, when that has been ascertained.

Captain Michell, in a letter to the Colonist a few days ago, drew attention to a matter which calls for notice from the city council. He asked that a by-law may be passed, prohibiting the use of narrow lanes for any other purpose than as a convenience for pedestrians. We do not know how many lanes there are in the city to which this observation applies, but the suggestion is a very reasonable one.

The conferring of the title of Queen's Counsel upon Mr. A. L. Belyea is a recognition of a lawyer of acknowledged ability. In the case of Mr. Alexander Henderson there will be a disposition to connect the honor with a certain political act, of which, perhaps, the less said the better. There is an appropriateness about it, for in politics Mr. Henderson has shown himself to be a Questionable Customer.

What a mignificent crowd of people that was at Beacon Hill park on Wednesday night. And a more orderly gathering cannot be imagined. It is the opinion of all people, who have had opportunities of observing large gatherings in many places that there is nothing quite equal to a Victoria holiday crowd. Every one does just as he or she wishes. Every one's rights are respected and every one enjoys the occasion.

A blight has fallen upon the crop of Canadian knights and we do not suppose that many tears will be shed over it. In fact most of us would be as well pleased if we had no knights in the Dominion at all. The distinction of knighthood, which the Colonist admits to be worth the ambition of its fortunate possessor, does not entirely harmonize with the democratic ideas prevailing in this country. It does not hurt the individual, but it does frequently affect the attitude of the mass of the people towards the individual, and not always favorably to him. We do not suppose that the usefulness of a single Canadian has been increased by his ability to write "Sir" before his name.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.
is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

WANTED—To rent, with option to purchase, a small farm in the country; house not less than 6 rooms. Address H. W. Cardew, Colonist office. m19

FOR SALE, CHEAP—(Leaving the country) —One of the most beautiful sites for a house in any country; fronts on Quamichan lake; 20 to 40 acres good land; Al fishing, salmon and trout; near good tennis club; rail 2 miles. Apply James Robertson, Duncan, B. C.

FOR SALE, CHEAP, OR TO LET—Cowichan Lake hotel, V. Island; logging about to begin. Apply James Robertson, Duncan, B. C.

B.C. Year Book
1897.
By R. E. GOSNELL

Cloth ..... $1 50 per copy
Paper Cover 1 00 per copy

THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

This book contains very complete historical, political, statistical, agricultural, mining and general information of British Columbia. Profusely illustrated.

THE COLONIST P. & P. CO., LTD.
VICTORIA, B.C.

APIOL & STEEL PILLS for Ladies.
A REMEDY FOR IRREGULARITIES
Superseding Bitter Apple, Pennyroyal, Cochia, &c.
Order of all Chemists, or post free for $1.50 from EVANS & SONS, LTD., Victoria, B. C.
Martin, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Southampton.

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.
TWO CURES BY DR. SPROULE.

DR. SPROULE, B.A.

Are you discouraged trying to cure your Chronic Constipation? There are many thousands like you. That is because the Chronic Constipation is caused by Catarrh of the Liver, and only a Catarrh Specialist can cure it. Dr. Sproule, the eminent English specialist, will do this for you, permanently and easily. Thousands who have gone to him thoroughly discouraged have left his care absolutely and permanently cured.

Among those thus made happy is Mr. Albert Sheldrake, a young organ-maker of Woodstock, Ont. He had suffered for years from Chronic Constipation and all the ills to which it gives rise. In his gratitude at being cured he sent Dr. Sproule a testimonial to be published. You can get full particulars of it in "Weighty Words," a booklet which will be sent your free. On April 26 Mr. Sheldrake wrote again:

"My Dear Mr. Sproule,—I read my testimonial, and it is truly worded, word for word, as I sent it to you. I hope it will do good. And, as I then said, I will write to anyone about it. I will be glad to do it for the sake or what you did for me, and the kind and never-failing interest you took in my case from beginning to end. Very kindly, your patient,

"ALBERT SHELDRAKE."

Another, among many, is the case of MRS. AUSTIN COLBECK, of Erasmus, Ont., who had suffered from Catarrh of both the Stomach and Liver for years. She, too, had tried to get cured, but without relief. She could produce a movement of the bowels only by a strong cathartic or an enema. The bowels were so inflammed that the latter brought away bleeding pieces of mucous membrane.

Under Dr. Sproule's care both stomach and liver, and consequently bowels, were soon put in order. The quick yet gentle effect of his treatment was a revelation. She writes: Your remedies were just what I needed for my bowels. They move nicely now. I am very much pleased, and shall tell other people here about your treatment.

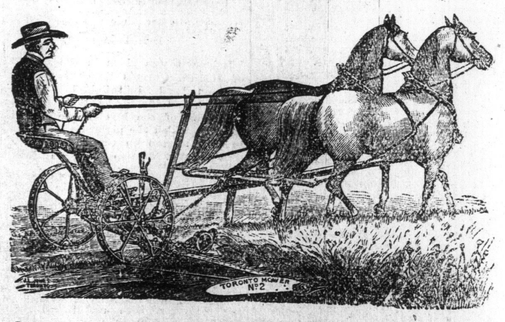
Is your case like either of these? Why do you keep on ailing when a cure is so easy? Under Dr. Sproule's treatment the Constipation will go for good. The dull, sluggish feelings, the unwillingness to work, the dizziness, the heavy brain, the despondency, will all depart. Write to him. His advice is free. Address Dr. Sproule, B.A. (formerly surgeon British Royal Navy Service), English Catarrh Specialist, 7, 9, 11, 13 Doane street, Boston.

LEA AND PERRINS'
OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE
Lea & Perrins
IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER of every Bottle of the
ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE
SAUCE.
Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors Worcester; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Oilmen generally.
RETAIL EVERYWHERE.
AGENTS: M. Douglas & Co., and G. E. Golson & Son, Montreal.

The Columbia Flouring Mills Company
ENDERBY AND VERNON.
Premier, Three Star, Superfine, Gamah and Whole Wheat Flour.
R. P. Rithet & Co., Proprietors, Victoria.

COFFEES | DISCRIMINATING BUYERS Will find it profitable to handle only the best in... | SPICES
PURE COFFEES PURE SPICES and PURE BAKING POWDER.
HIGHEST STANDARD GUARANTEED.
STEMLER & EARLE, IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS VICTORIA.
HEAD OFFICE:—Thomas Earle, 92, 94 and 97 Wharf St., Victoria, B. C.

E. G. Prior & Co., Limited L'b'lity.
VICTORIA, VANCOUVER, KAMLOOPS.



Sole Agents for Toronto and Brantford Mowers With roller and Ball Bearings
Sharp & Tiger Sulky Rakes, Massey-Harris Steel Hay Tedders, Star Combined Sickle, and Tool Grinders. Send for catalogues and prices.
We also have a complete stock of Iron, Steel, Hardware, Mill and Loggers' Supplies, Wagons, Buggies and Carts.