

General approval has been expressed of the idea put forward in yesterday's issue by the steamer to take the place of the Kingston should at least be the equal of that vessel, and the further suggestion has been made that the new vessel ought to be a Canadian bottom, making Victoria her home port. The steamer would be admirably adapted for the service. She is large, comfortable, and speedy. The principal business of the line comes from Victoria, and the freight business almost exclusively. We suppose there would be some objection to placing a Canadian boat on the route because she could not carry any of the local traffic to Port Townsend, but this would hardly be an insuperable one. It would be of material advantage to Victoria to have this city the home port of the Sound steamer, and if it is possible such an arrangement should be brought about.

WILL REDISTRIBUTION BE ABANDONED?

A late Ottawa despatch intimates that the proposed redistribution bill will not be brought forward, and the reason given is that doubt exists as to the constitutionality of such a measure. The contention of the Colonist ever since redistribution was proposed has been that the B. N. A. act contemplates decennial redistributions, and it has questioned the legality of such an enactment at any other time, while suggesting that perhaps the 52nd section authorized the increase of the representation of a province, if it was evident that such an increase would not disturb the proportionate membership. Constitutional questions are not as yet very generally understood in Canada, and the principles upon which the B. N. A. act is to be interpreted are not thoroughly defined. While the ultimate decision of such questions rests with the courts, there is no doubt that parliament may interpret the act for itself, and that the courts may not attempt to overrule such an interpretation. Herein there is a distinction between constitutional questions in Canada and those arising in the United States. Legislative omnipotence is vested in one or the other of the three legislative bodies having the right to make laws for the Dominion. If the local legislatures do not possess it, the federal parliament of the temperate zone does, it is undoubtedly vested in the imperial parliament. In the United States the state legislatures have only such powers as are given them by the state constitutions, and Congress only such as are given by the national constitution; the residue of power remaining in the people. In other words, everything in Canada may be a subject of legislation, while in the United States only such things may be so dealt with as are specifically mentioned in either the state or the national constitutions. It is obvious, therefore, that different principles must be applied to the determination of constitutional questions in the two countries. In one the question is as to the distribution of powers which exist somewhere; in the other it is whether certain powers are vested in any legislative body. Hence the courts of the realm will always be disposed to put a wide interpretation upon the power conferred upon the Canadian parliament to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dominion, and a parliamentary construction of a constitutional question would be very likely to prevail unless it was clearly indefensible, for the courts would be astute to sustain rather than overthrow legislation. Holding these views, the Colonist has been guarded in its opinions as to the right of parliament to interfere with the distribution of representation, and has confined its observations chiefly to the claims of British Columbia for additional representation, if any change is to be made.

THE PENALTY OF A CRIME.

"That which a man soweth, that also shall he reap." This is as true of nations as of individuals. For two centuries the people of the southern states of America sowed the seed of degradation among the slave population and the harvest seems likely to be a terrible one. Very few people in Canada know anything, from personal observation, of negro slavery as it existed in the South, and not very many now living have been made familiar with the true inwardness of the system of intercourse with persons who were closely in touch with it. It was a system that bred moral degradation. The mental and moral standard of the average African brought to this country as a slave was not high, and generations of slavery, with its accompanying vices, were not calculated to elevate it. Experience has shown that the children of the criminal classes are predisposed to crime. Stephen's song in Iolanthe as to what he might have been if he had had a drunken mother or "Fagin for a father" tranches a profound social truth. What then might we not expect from a system under which sensuality, brutality and unbridled passion had full sway. It cannot be denied that thousands of instances have occurred where out of the very heart of the vilest slavery have come men and women of African descent of strong, pure natures. That there is excellent material in the African race is shown by the character of the negro population of Canada, which, as a rule, ranks well up in the scale of moral and intellectual development. But in the southern states every

influence has been downward in its tendency. The instincts developed in the negro, when he was only a chattel, and when it was the financial interest of his owner that the animal side of his nature should have full play, are not to be eradicated in a few years. There are exceptions, just as there were exceptions among the slave owners, but the great mass of the southern negro population has not yet been able to elevate itself above the level into which it was thrust by its masters. The blame does not rest with the negroes. They are what their masters made them. They did not seek slavery, with all its attendant horrors. In too many cases the finer feelings of their nature were extinguished. The family tie was disregarded; it had, indeed, no legal existence. What is regarded as vice among white people was a virtue among slaves, that is if a mere chattel could be virtuous, for there was money in a plentiful crop of slave children. Hence we find the secret of the whole trouble in the South. The sins of the fathers are being visited upon the children, and it may be a bloody visitation.

ADELIE.

Louis de Rougemont is no longer the banner romancer of the day. His place has been ruthlessly usurped by a gentleman calling himself the Marquis d'Angely. The marquis has lately returned, he says, from the country of Adelle, which is situated on the Antarctic continent, directly south of Tasmania, and is inhabited chiefly by Frenchmen. There are native races, but the French are in the ascendancy. They are descendants of French soldiers and sailors taken prisoners by the British during the Napoleonic wars, and exiled to this far distant land. The fact that no record exists of their having been taken there seems to interfere, to some extent, with the story, but when one is romancing he is a poor creature, indeed, if he lets a little thing like that stand in the way of his genius. The marquis says he is born down there, his father having been shipwrecked there in the Oregon in 1863. In confirmation of this he shows incalculable proof that a Marquis d'Angely did sail southward in 1850 on the steamship Oregon on a voyage of exploration, and was never again heard of. Skeptical people might think that the present marquis has taken this as the foundation of his tale, but lack of faith is too common a thing to have a place in matters of this kind.

The climate of Adelle is said to be very good indeed, and most all the vegetables of the temperate zone can be grown there. But its strongest point is its gold mines, which are so rich that gold is more common than iron. Gold is used for the commonest purposes in Adelle. To use a phrase sometimes employed by our miners, anyone there can have gold to throw at the birds. The existence of this gold accounts for the failure of the Adelleans to let the world know where they are at. They fear a gold rush, and do not wish to be disturbed in their pristine innocence, and things like that. Their country is said to be hemmed in by an unnavigable sea, and this again suggests a doubt to disbelievers, who may wonder how the English managed to land these people there. Communication is kept up with Tasmania by means of prologues, which are, as most people know, a kind of canoe. The people of Tasmania, by some unaccountable impulse, have refrained from mentioning their strange visitors. The marquis says he has been to the south pole twice. There is a great volcano there, which makes the whole region roil about quite comfortably to live in, so far as temperature goes, the minor objection of falling ashes and lava streams did not appear to disturb the explorer. In short, the marquis tells us that there will probably be as many as several people who will refuse to believe him; but how any one can be so incredulous in the face of the fact that the San Francisco Examiner prints a portrait of the kind of Adelle, we do not know. The capital of the country is St. Marie. We have no information as to the present price of town lots there. It may be well to add that the marquis appears to be serious in his story.

SECTIONALISM RUN MAD.

The Nelson Tribune, after speaking of the withdrawal of the Kettle River Valley application, makes the following observations: "The mine owners and business men of the Kettle River valley will now get a taste of doing business with one railway and the taste will be as bitter as gall. No other section of Canada has been so unfairly treated. And that it has been unfairly treated is owing largely to the action taken last year by the boards of trade of Vancouver and Victoria, backed up by the votes of the members of parliament from the Coast. From this time on, the interior of British Columbia should 'knife' the Coast and every mother's son that the Coast sets up for office. In view of the fact that the Kettle River people have been doing without any railway facilities at all, we imagine that they will not be greatly hurt by having one road at their disposal in the course of a few months, but we have not made the quotation for the sake of saying this. What we wish to direct attention to is the advice given to the people of Interior British Columbia as to the treatment they should accord the Coast. No one will heed it, but it is just as well to take a passing note of matters of this kind. Substantially the Tribune takes the position that any one who does not think as it does should be 'knifed.' Now, let us suppose that some one had suggested to the people of Victoria a few years ago, when the bal-

ance of power in provincial affairs was held here, that any one in Kootenay, who ventured to oppose anything upon which a considerable number of people here had set their minds, should be 'knifed,' what would the Tribune and its neighbors have said? This province will never get along, if differences of opinion are allowed to develop into sectional enmity.

Admiral Kautz ought surely to pray to be delivered from his friends. His letter, printed in yesterday's Colonist was evidently not written for publication. It was only intended for the perusal of his immediate family, and is an innocent bit of posing such as almost everyone indulges in when surrounded by his intimates. Not even they would take it quite seriously, and it was not intended to be so taken. He will probably want to go somewhere and hide himself, but the letter has been printed. The newspaper which printed it must have queer ideas of journalism. There are certain rules of ordinary decency which ought to prevail in the publication of private matters. One would have supposed that a sense of regard for the Admiral's feelings would have led to a reputable paper to refuse to print the letter, without his approval. Nothing will center of it, except that possibly Admiral Kautz will be made very uncomfortable when he meets his British and German associates in Samoa. The first paragraph in the litany of all United States public men ought to be: "From all our friends, good Lord deliver us."

PASSING COMMENT.

There has been some dispute as to the exact location of Deadman's Island. Some contend it is in Stanley Park, others locate it in the military reserve while some claim it is a sort of no-man's land. The Colonist has discovered that it is in statu quo.

The Vancouver World suggests that it might be expedient for some member of the House of Commons to move and the house to vote that Sir Hibbert Tupp be not heard, if he again offers to discuss the Yukon charges. The motion would come too late. Sir Hibbert has been heard, and what he said will be remembered.

The Toronto World and the Vancouver Province discuss the construction of "the prairie section of a new transcontinental line." We gather from what they say that they have in mind a line south of the Canadian Pacific. But this would hardly commend itself to the people of Canada. What is wanted is a line to the north of the present one, a competing line between the same points, but a line opening new country, of which there is a vast unoccupied area.

The Portland Telegram thinks that Great Britain may ask compensation for the moral support of the United States during the war with Spain. Our country is quite mistaken. All Great Britain asks from the United States is any other country is reasonable treatment.

The Nelson Miner very properly points out that there is "no gerrymandering in British Columbia to undo," and hence no excuse for a redistribution of the constituencies in advance of the census. Another cogent argument in the same direction is that the province is filling up with people so rapidly that what seems like a fair distribution now may seem very unfair by the time the next election is held.

The Rossland Miner thinks that the Senate as at present constituted can only be a danger to the country when its friends are in power. This is not wholly satisfactory. What the country needs is a Senate that will under no circumstances be a menace to the country.

The Times thinks that the people of British Columbia are not pleased with the withdrawal of the Corbin application for a railway charter. Now we put it to the Times if the people of Canada should be at the mercy of a foreign railway promoter in the way it intimates they are, the governments, both local and federal, which it supports, must be singularly blind to their requirements.

The Colonist stands corrected at the hands of its neighbor the Globe, or has kept closer track of a certain thing than it has. Thus this thing treated the woman suffrage question as being yet before the New Brunswick legislature. The Globe points out that it already told the people of Victoria that the resolution was defeated by a vote of 34 to 7. The moral is to watch the Globe more carefully.

There is a very decided difference of opinion between the Vancouver World and the Vancouver Province as to the action of Mayor Garden in the Deadman's Island affair. The former endorses and the latter opposes the action it looks as though the Vancouver proposition will have to stand, and the Colonist again expresses its hope that the material prosperity which Vancouver will derive from such an industry will counterbalance the injury to the aesthetic feelings of her people.

TELEGRAPHIC CABLES.

A few days ago the Colonist made some observations about the telegraphic connections which would be possible when the Pacific cable is laid. A series of maps distributed by the C. P. R. Co.'s Telegraphs makes it possible to speak more clearly on this subject, and perhaps a little fuller information may be of interest. First as to a connection around the world. This can then be got without touching any but territory in possession of Great Britain or under British control. The first step in the progress of the message would be from London to Gibraltar by cable; thence to Malta; thence to Aden; thence to Bombay; thence by land line to Madras; thence by cable to Singapore; thence to Port Darwin, a cable thence by land line to whatever point on the east coast of the Island Continent might be selected as the Pacific cable terminus; thence to Fiji; thence to Vancouver Island; and thence across Canada; and thence across the Atlantic.

As to the union of all the principal parts of the Empire by cable, this is already nearly provided. Thus from Great Britain we have connection with Halifax, and from Halifax to Jamaica and all the other islands of the British West Indies and British Guiana. British Honduras is without telegraphic connection. South Africa is as yet without telegraphic connection independent of any other country, but it can be readily provided. There is a cable down both the African coasts, but both lines touch foreign possessions on the way. Labuan is connected with Singapore by cable and also with Hongkong, which completes the British connection in that direction. Tasmania and New Zealand have cable connection with Australia. This leaves only a few outlying points to be united to the main bodies of the Imperial domain by the electric wire.

On the general subject of telegraphic cables it may be interesting to note that from Santa Cruz, on the southwest coast of Mexico, two lines of cable start. One of them, after touching the coast at several points, finally ends at Panama. The other touches the coast of Nicaragua and then swings out to sea, reaching land again at St. Elena, on the coast of Ecuador. A second cable comes to this point from Panama, and the two lines follow the coast as far south as Valparaiso, one of them stopping at all important points, the other making only three stops on the way. From Valparaiso a line partly on land extends nearly to the Straits of Magellan. From Valparaiso a line extends across South America to Buenos Ayres, from which point two cables run, one to the east coast, making several stops, as far as Pernambuco, whence two cables extend to Lisbon. There is a line from Pernambuco north to Demarara, whence there is connection with Martinique, in the West Indies. Thus South America, like Africa, is almost completely girt with telegraphic cables. The land lines of South America are few and are principally in Argentina, although there are several long lines in Brazil. There is a line across Asia by the route of the Siberian railway for the most of the way; two lines penetrate China for a long distance. Japan's telegraphic connection with the rest of the world is by wire on the Pacific coast of Asia is Alexanderowski, at the south of the Sea of Japan. The most northerly telegraph station in the world is in Norway, the most southerly in Tasmania.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Among the things which some of the aldermen seek to prohibit by the new Sunday ordinance is the sale of the Colonist on Sunday morning. This would not be a very serious matter to the Colonist. It would likely lead to an increase in its regular subscription list, because there are some people who would subscribe to the paper so as to avoid missing it on Sunday morning. The barbers would be glad to hear the world on that day. It would become illegal, if the ordinance passes, for a man to buy a cigar at a hotel counter, and we are not quite sure that it would be lawful to buy a dinner at a restaurant. But granting that the restaurants would not be interfered with, this at least would be the case: A man could not go to his breakfast on Sunday morning, buy a paper to read while eating, and a cigar to solace himself afterwards, and not know that it would close the boot-black stands, although even these are not for the good of the sole. We hope the council will exhibit a little common sense in dealing with this matter. Sunday is very well observed in Victoria. The barbers want to close and their request ought to be complied with. Perhaps the weight of argument is in favor of closing the fruit stands, but we are not sure whether there is more morality in business behind this phase of the movement. The saloons are supposed to be closed under the law of the province. The cigar stand owners would probably gladly close if they were sure that their business would not be interfered with by the drug stores. In view of the fact that a man's cigar is almost as much a necessity as a meal, it seems absurd to prevent restaurants and hotels from supplying their guests with them. Other people can lay in a stock on Saturday night to last them over Sunday. We concede the force of the argument that people who are right to be needless competitors for those who sell the same class of goods seven days in the week. Now that the aldermen have taken the matter up, we hope they will not deceive themselves by supposing that they are engaged in a

SANITATION IN DAWSON.

To an interviewer who talked with him some two or three months ago Mr. Sifton said that the government did not recognize its responsibility for the maintenance of proper sanitary conditions at Dawson, but he is said to have admitted during the conversation that the peculiar conditions of the Yukon capital were such as to take it out of the operation of the general rule, which leaves sanitary matters in the hands of the local authorities. The inquiry which Senator Macdonald is to make will elicit the intentions of the government in this matter, and we hope it will be shown that action will be taken without waiting for the local authorities to deal with the matter. Indeed any other course will, we submit, be culpable in the extreme. In the first place the local organization at Dawson is not sufficiently advanced to enable it to deal with sanitary questions in an efficient way. In the next place the Dominion receives so great a revenue from the Yukon that it can well afford to take precautions to preserve the health of the people. In the third place the responsibility for the administration of the district rests upon the government and cannot be escaped. It is doubtless an unusual thing for the federal government to look after such matters as sewerage and the cleansing of a city, but the whole state of things at Dawson is exceptional. The need of thorough sanitation has been strongly impressed upon the government and it is the proper steps are not taken the responsibility for what occurs will rest at the door of the Minister of the Interior. We refrain from further comment pending the reply which Senator Macdonald may receive to his question.

Senator Templeman told his colleagues yesterday that the population of British Columbia was increasing enormously. Perhaps it would not now be unreasonable to look for something of this kind in Senator Templeman's newspaper, which may now be able to see its way clear to join in a demand for justice to British Columbia.

ANGLO-SAXON FEDERATION.

During the last quarter of a century many writers, whose imagination outran events, have ventured to suggest the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon federation, which would include all countries governed by the Common Law. There have been occasions during that period when nothing seemed more likely than a political union which would embrace both the United States and Great Britain. At times a terrific conflict for supremacy has seemed almost inevitable, and there certainly grew up in the United States a feeling of hostility towards Great Britain of a most unreasoning and violent kind. The reason of this was largely to be found in the common schools. One of the principles of American school education is the development of a flamboyant patriotism. This led to the magnifying of the events of the revolutionary war and that of 1812. The military and naval conflicts were represented as terrible engagements, and the American school-boy was taught that either on land or sea his country was more than a match for any other, the other always being the only enemy against whom there had been any very serious operations, namely, Great Britain. The intensity with which this feeling was cultivated can only be understood by those who have come directly in contact with it. This sentiment was strengthened by the attitude attributed to the British people and government during the war of secession, and by the desire of politicians to pander to the Irish vote. The failure of the British government to extend to the South that sympathetic support which was counted on during the rebellion embittered that section of the Union against our nation. Yet in spite of these adverse influences, the two countries have been steadily drawing more closely together, until it has become quite the popular thing in the United States to refer in the most friendly terms to what used to be called their "traditional enemy." No prominent United States public man has yet ventured to advocate an alliance with Great Britain much less any sort of political union, but what is of greater importance is that the community of interests of the two countries is recognized and their possible co-operation is regarded as among the possibilities of the immediate future.

In this connection it is interesting to note that a practical statesman like Lord Brassey anticipates a close and permanent union between the two nations. Speaking at Melbourne in the early part of the present year, he said: "My hopes of federation are not limited to the British Empire alone. I trust that the statesmen of Great Britain and the United States will never rest content until they have established a permanent union between the two countries. The words used by Earl Grey fifty years ago are as true today as when they were first uttered. The hopes of the world rest upon the increasing numbers of English-speaking people, scattered in three continents upon the earth, asserting the dominion of the sea, and offering to the citizens of all nations the advantages of freedom and the resources of boundless territories." The expression of such sentiments as these will do much towards bringing about the desired consummation. We may not be able to see how it can be reached; but how many of us would have supposed that in so short a time after Mr. Cleveland promulgated his Venezuela message the two nations would regard each other as they do to-day?

NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT.

This is not an advertisement. It is intended as a little plain talk to those people who patronize the drama in Victoria. To-morrow night Mr. Stuart Robson is to present a popular play in the Victoria theatre. The advance booking is not encouraging. This is unfortunate only too true of many of the better class of entertainments visiting this city. Some of the best actors of the day, who have visited Victoria, have declined to return on the ground that they could not afford to do so. Yet our people complain that more of the better class of entertainments do not come here. Take Mr. Robson's case. Here is a gentleman, who in addition to a national reputation has a peculiar interest to Victorians, because of his relationship to the late John Robson, premier of British Columbia. There is no question about Mr. Robson's standing in the dramatic world. He has with him among others Marie Burroughs, who is also enjoys continental fame. If he is ever to visit Victoria again, he will need to have much better reception than now seems probable. Richard Mansfield has declared that he never will play again in Victoria; so have Frederick Ward and Mr. Louis James; so have others. Now the fault is not that the people of this city do not patronize dramatic and other entertainments very liberally, but because intentionally or otherwise they discriminate against the more meritorious performances. We cannot believe that due to the taste of the people, because no end of dissatisfaction is expressed because so few first class entertainments come here. Things simply seem to have got down into an unfortunate rut, and an effort ought to be made to pull them out. Many persons blame the newspapers and attribute much of the present condition of things to the character of the advertisements published. Experienced theatre-goers ought not to be misled by an advance notice. These are usually written in very florid language, but most people ought to be able to judge of the general character of the entertainment to which they relate. No one has any right to blame the newspapers if he finds a vaudeville show simply a vaudeville show, or blames the manager of the theatre; but with the manager it is simply a matter of business. If bringing a first class company means a financial loss and a third rate affair gives him a substantial profit, the manager is not likely to engage many of the former. The matter rests with the public. If they want first-class dramatic entertainments, they must patronize those that come, which will enable the management to engage others. There will then be more of the high class and fewer of the lower grades, which is what we all desire.

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The Debates

At C
Capt. Wolley Recalls Interest to B
Columbian

Mr. Maxwell Object
fix Nest Road

Ottawa, April 21.—This quiet week at Ottawa, notwithstanding having got through several matters and decided the promises of the minister and fisheries, that we are quiet except down to routine. Amongst the questions the government were not mount interest to British the West generally.

Mr. McInnes submitted a motion that it be provided that any mining inspector in the Yukon Territory act in the territory. The object of Mr. McInnes was to provide for such an act. Mr. N. P. Davin suggested that the militia force Yukon amounted to 202 men, and that it had cost \$188,000 to transport this force to that their supplies had cost \$188,000 to freight in; that this freight done by the Hudson Bay, the Boston and Alaska companies; that the supplies procured from eastern Hudson Bay, and not in a single any British Columbia or think it will be found that it stated in the last week, forces are to be brought, as possible. However, he denied that Judge Dugas that the militia was quite the Yukon. It may be does the country require statement?

We know that since then in the Yukon has been do. We know that Mr. A. said that there were nine every Canadian in the Yukon and others, and there fine fellows that they say but rather helped the official law and order, and there that Mr. Sifton's fears of "ate men" (who we control of one lame policeman in was rather a footnot which cost Canada a good deal of a million of dollars, and reach the half million by get our soldier boys safe. But that doesn't matter. West, who are mining, and ally sweating it out in the Quebec and elsewhere can't as they have no voice in a Sifton and Co. matter. By the way, apropos of Quebec, we had a little light on them, and their ways, that one listens to those who house, which speaks French by a Frenchman, one begins side-side it was that would be near Quebec.

Mr. Casgrain wanted to have had heard of a law of legislature of Quebec to a number of judges of the of that province by three, ally suggested that some already appointed did not work in the year. Of course the government know anything about the dear French Quebec, but admit that Quebec has not one listens to those who judges of the superior court of the papers which appear next day was an article of matter beyond our control. matter laxity in the administrative in Quebec, especially in counties, and a murder cases to prove they if the good little politician in a language which was French, you would not been as full of gratitude to were, for teaching us to add to the Yukon, and a simple, stay-at-home folk, their priest, and their life reward, living (so local) for a less expense than a China and onions, and so progress have not learned anything seem to be forgetting French France. Isn't that good words for how they might Consider for instance Mons. and the work his snag boat Stikine river last year? Ask about capturing about it, and regret the report that that Franchman has given up service and entered upon press, which he stumbled engaged perhaps in his office the Yukon.

Through the interrogations lay Morrison, we discover this act is no longer good come the Yukon, nor Mr. Wade to the Yukon administrator. Hemen having been replaced C. Sinclair and Mr. W. H. whose appointments are per Mr. J. W. Williston is still a of the timber inspectors, authority of head timber and whilst Major Walsh has no connection with the administration either has or is official under the government to stake claims or hold mining rights for others, but as restrictions the salaries of in this district now range to \$2,000 a annum, with bonus Yukon, nor Mr. Wade's name in lieu of board.

All in this is very well, they that it was not done be possible, complete, and we adopt such same measures. In answer to questions by the Yukon, that Mr. Wade's official positions, the Yukon, clerk of the court, and legal advisor of the Dominion land and mining, \$3,131, and is still in the office as crown prosecutor. In charges against Mr. Wade, is full of interest. He was