Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1886.

MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

One of the legacies the present mayor and council received from their immediate predecessors was a responsibility to perfect a drainage and sewerage system. This responsibility was conferred by a direct vote of the ratepayers last summer. That vote authorised the city corporation to procure plans and specifications for draining the city. In pursuance of that authority the late city council arranged with Pickering & Crompton, English engineers, to prepare the necessary plans. The present council have accepted the responsibility handed down to them by their predecessors and await the arrival of one of the engineers from England. The sum that will be required for the purpose of providing the city with a complete system of drainage is as yet an unknown quantity. The sum may extend all the way from $500,000 to $700,000. Now, the Municipalities act, 1881, limits the borrowing power of the council to ten per cent. of the assessed value of the real estate of the municipality. The assessed value of the real estate last year was $5,000,000, which at ten per cent. would give the council power to borrow $500,000. When it is remembered that the city already owes upwards of $200,000, it will be understood that if the borrowing power were to remain at ten per cent. there would be less than $300,000 available for drainage purposes. Under these circumstances, and, having before them the endorsement of the ratepayers last summer, the council decided to ask the legislature to extend the limit of their borrowing power to twenty per cent. It is believed that this will yield an amount ample to make Victoria a wholesome, sweet and healthy city and not leave her open to the reproach of being "a beautiful slattern," as a recent visitor described her. The explanation we have given is deemed necessary in consequence of some ill-natured and entirely unwarrantable remarks by our esteemed morning contemporary, who imagines that he detects in every proposition to improve, clean and beautify the town a scheme to plunder the civic treasury. Our contemporary is entitled to his own opinion in the matter, and as for "watching" certain councillors he will, no doubt, be afforded every facility. Like the flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la, his visits of inspection to the city hall will always be welcomed and every facility will be afforded him by the courteous officials to obtain all possible information on every conceivable subject. But he has no right to suppress important facts. He has no right to turn public alarmist and unduly excite the people by mendacious representations, or at any rate, by the suppression of an important fact. The object of his article yesterday was to deceive the ratepayers, to make them believe that, *without* their consent, they are about to be saddled with an enormous debt. No such power is asked. It is expressly provided in the Municipalities Act that loans shall not be contracted for any period extending beyond the civic year, except upon the express consent of the ratepayers, to whom A bylaw authorising the loan must be submitted for their decision—aye or no. We repeat that it is a fact that no power is vested in the council to contract a loan or issue debentures unless by permission of the ratepayers. The bylaw under which a contract was made with Pickering and Crompton is a case in point. The contract with the Sperry Electric Light Co. is another. Both expenditures were authorised by the owners of real estate before being contracted. On the same day that consent was obtained for these necessary works the ratepayers' consent was withheld from those other money bylaws and they fell to the ground. It is therefore clear that the council cannot borrow without the consent of the taxpayers. The restriction is wise very and sensible one, and the council have neither asked nor desire instead to ask power to have the restriction set aside. Will our esteemed friend make a note of this?

MONOPOLY BILLS.

The present session will indeed be one unequalled for encouragement of private monopolies, if the many charters for the promotion of company interests are granted. The rage for speculation has seized upon capitalists and would be capitalists, and the scene of their intended operations is the site of the terminal city of the Canadian Pacific railway, at present plain "Vancouver." The embryo city has been aptly described by the provincial secretary as "that young child, Vancouver." Christened by irresponsible sponsors, unfortunate as it is in name it is even more so in regard to those who, anxious to force its growth, are endeavoring to administer to it certain patent stimulants for which its infantine stomach is unprepared. The limits of the proposed city are not defined; its incorporation has not yet been granted; its streets not yet levelled, nor have their lines been run, neither have lots which have several times changed hands been surveyed upon anything but paper. And yet in spite of all this, there can be found members of the house to seriously represent the crying want of the "city of Vancouver" for the establishment of social institutions in the shape of gas and electric lighting, tram-works and tramways. In the first place the proposed city must be incorporated before its voice can be heard, and if it is not its voice that we are hearing, then it is the voice of greedy monopoly which, for its own ends, is attempting to parade before the local house, as necessary wants, that which has no existence. Given a charter, we feel assured that a proposed city whose very name is anti-monopolistic would not wish to become a city of monopolies—and those monopolies directed, also, against its own interests. Looking over the many private bills which are being engineered through the house, one experiences no difficulty in reading the sentiment that pervades them all. Exclusive privilege, and forfeiture of nothing, in case of failure to complete, except the charters themselves which give such an extended period of time in this direction as to offer endless inducement to promoters to inexpensively "hold on" to their privilege. To hold on, pending the arrival on the scene of more *bona fide* enterprise, enterprise which cannot invest capital in these embargoed classes of works in "Vancouver" except by treating with the astute speculators who will possess a "corner" on gas, electricity, water and street railways. What a heritage for the unborn corporation! What a record of legislative sufrance of private interests to fatten upon the anticipated wants of an anticipated municipality! To borrow a favorite expression of Ingersoll's, "There's something wrong somewhere!" and if the local legislature fails to find out what that something is, there is no doubt that the "proposed (handicapped) city of Vancouver" will solve it, and will moreover find the problem painfully easy of solution. In a word, genuine or not, the measures are premature, and the groundless fear that if they are killed other measures equally advantageous (to the promoters) will not be brought forward, should not be allowed to deter the slaughter of these strictly private bills. When the real demand comes, with it will come the supply; for the same interested end, when legitimate, commendable spirit of enterprise will be as predominant then as now. But there is a line to be drawn between what is the rational conception of enterprise and the sky-rocket notions of progress of the "Col. Sellers" order; and to this latter order belong the private monopoly bills, whose deadly aim is directed at "the breast of that young child Vancouver!"

THE DEAD LOCK UNLOCKED.

The mayor and councillors Lipsett, Humber, Barnard and Higgins sat last evening and transacted business, the city barrister having given an opinion that four councillors with the mayor constituted a quorum for the transaction of business. A great deal of work was gone through. Among other things the police committee reported in favor of a reduction of the police force to ten men, a saving of some $3,000 a year. The council adopted the report. Tenders were opened and contracts awarded for several important works and a resolution asking the government to subsidize the Victoria-Saanich railway was unanimously passed.

THE ESTIMATES.

This interesting array of figures was laid before the house yesterday. It presents the financial position of the province in a much more favorable light than the opposition journals had led people to expect. Indeed, there is reason to believe that those worthies will turn green with disappointment at the utter failure of their prognostications of disaster. Want of space prevents all but the briefest reference to the document. The estimated revenue for year ending 30th June, 1887, is $576,161 05. The estimated expenditure is $710,524 50. Nearly every item of receipt shows an increase except that of land sales. The estimated revenue from that source for 1885-6 was $200,000. The receipts fell short of that sum and the government have wisely decided to put the estimate for next year at $100,000. After land sales and federal subsidy, the principal items of revenue are licenses, $70,000; mining certificates, etc., $34,000; road tolls, $10,000; provincial revenue tax, $75,000; real property tax, $24,000; personal property tax, $20,000; wild land tax, $10,000; registry fees, $15,000; interest on investment of sinking fund, $6,500. The government propose to expend on public works, $225,350; on the administration of justice, $125,438; salaries civil government, $62,290; on charities, $21,250; legislation, $19,800; maintenance public institutions, $9,650. The present government has ever been a generous supporter of the free educational system. They sustain their well-earned reputation by proposing to expend under that heading $94,405 during the current year, a considerable increase over last year. The time is approaching when the educational requirements of the country will be so great as to require a special rate to provide for them; but we are glad to see that the government do not propose to anticipate events and that they intend to meet, as far as possible, every reasonable demand upon them. We believe that it is not the intention of the government to introduce a loan bill to meet the deficiency, as there is reason to believe that by an expansion of the revenue and the exercise of rigid economy the two financial ends may be made to meet at the end of the year.

A CAPITAL JOKE.

Mr. Orr, M. P. P., is a brave man and a wily. He is disgusted with the opposition to his Vancouver bill and imagines that he can scare islanders into voting for his measure by giving notice of a motion for the removal of the capital. "What fools we mortals be," quoth Puck; but no member is foolish enough to change his opinion because of a threat like that. The capital is at Victoria by Imperial appointment and Granville or Quadra is the name of the new town in spite of Mr. Orr's motion.

The Spallumcheen-Okanagan Line.

TO THE EDITOR:—I have read with feelings of very great pleasure, Mr. Forbes Vernon's reply to my questions in connection with the Spallumcheen Okanagan railway. The admirably clear and straight forward manner in which each point is handled will doubtless carry conviction to many a wavering soul, and help wonderfully to a clearer perception of the need and value of such a road. I regret exceedingly that the seemingly immaterial fact of my writing over an assumed name should lead him to decline furnishing further information, for judging others by myself, his reply will be read through the entire district with unqualified pleasure and marked profit. I had reserved a few queries which I am now reluctantly obliged to suppress, for not even the tempting implied promise of additional light can induce me to leave the modest seclusion of my *nom de plume*.

As the heading of my former letter clearly indicated its sole object was to elicit information. I was in grave doubt on a subject of provincial importance, and, as the event proves, rightly regarded your columns as the best means for ventilating the matter. I had repeatedly noticed a sort of anti-Spallumcheen spirit cropping up in various quarters that seemed uncalled for. I had been treated to Munchausen-like accounts of how Mr. Linsby had been compelled to plough in sure after acre of wheat that had been irretrievably ruined by frost. I had heard apocryphal stories of fictitious millers who considered it unadvisable to attempt to make high grade flow from unmixed Spallumcheen wheat. Misleading eye-witnesses in the summer of 1883 had drawn absurdly erroneous pictures of Spallumcheen fields with dwarfed and drought-stricken grain relieved by occasional cheerful patches of bare ground where the seed had failed even to germinate. Individually, I had experienced the pangs of dyspeptic torture from an indiscreet indulgence in bread maliciously alleged to have been made from the flour of sprouted Spallumcheen wheat. Hence, despite a sincere desire to think the best, I was all but forced to believe the worst.

It is eminently cheering, therefore, to have Mr. Vernon's unqualified assurance that these trifling drawbacks, if they existed at all, were simply due to the unfortunate want of available labor at the proper time. It is highly encouraging, too, to know that Mr. Ohudley, whose Liverpool experience is so overpowering and whose residence in Victoria during the past few years must have afforded him unequalled facilities for obtaining a thorough knowledge of northwest wheat, is so pronounced in favor of the provincial article. It is extremely soothing also to find that the promoters of the railway have no intention of applying for a land grant, had the disclaimer been carried a step further so as to embrace the subsidy question as well it would have been simply delightful.

With regard to the insinuation that my interest in the welfare of Yale district is a feigned one, I can only say that I farm in the district, that I have invested the bulk of my means in the district, that what I earn, I spend in the district instead of going elsewhere to get rid of it, and that I am so foolishly attached to the district as to be perfectly satisfied to spend the rest of my days in it. If any further proof of a sincere, deep-rooted desire for the well-being of the district is needed, I may mention the fact that, at the last Dominion election, one of several electors who, notwithstanding the highest possible esteem for Mr. Vernon, sacrificed inclination to duty and voted against him, was BUNCOMBE.

Nanaimo Notes.

(Free Press.)

The steamer Dunsmuir arrived on Sunday with 400,000 young salmon from the New Westminster hatchery. The fish are about two months old. Half of the number were placed in the Nanaimo river and the other portion taken to Cowichan river.

A child of Mr. Wm. Miller had a narrow escape on Monday, by falling into a hole near Haliburton street, which had been excavated for a closet. The alarm was given and the child was rescued just in time to save it from drowning.

Now comes the report that a Saanich Indian, the day before the murder of Miller and Dring, saw a canoe going towards the scene, with two Indians and a Klootchman in it. On nearing it the Saanich Indian saw that the Indians were crying, and on being questioned by the Saanich aborigine replied that their tillicum had been hung at Nanaimo, and that they were seeking revenge. The next day the Saanich Indian on returning met the same Indians coming from the direction of the scene of the murder and they carried a satisfied manner and appearance, but kept some distance from the canoe. This news was given to us by a reliable gentleman recently from Chemainus, and as such we make it public.

A fine display of beautiful Easter Cards at Hibben & Co.'s.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

FOURTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, March 24, 1886.

Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m.

Prayers by Right Rev. Bishop Cridge.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved that the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider certain proposed amendments to the licensing acts.

His object, the mover said, was to increase the price of liquor licenses, for rural licenses from $30 to $60 for six months and for town licenses from $100 to $200 for same period. Public sentiment, he thought, had been drifting for some time in the direction of high license, and that the increased price would not weigh unduly upon any person. The exact figures could of course be fixed in committee. Seconded by Mr. Dingwall.

Mr. T. Davie said as the house had to confine its attention to sections 1, 2 and 3 of the proposed resolution he took it that if the house was not of opinion that the cost of licenses should be increased, the motion to go into committee would be superfluous. He might say he was not in favor of high license, although were the question of prohibition or restriction of the sale of liquor before the house he might be inclined to take a more modified stand. He thought where the sale of liquor was recognized the increase of cost of license would place the traffic in the hands of those who were the more wealthy. To a certain extent the traffic might be considered a vice, and this action would make that vice a monopoly, and he could not see in the present state of affairs that this legislation was called for. When the necessity arose it would be time enough to consider the question. As a matter of revenue, the house was not then in a committee of ways and means, which subject would be considered later. In view of these opinions he should oppose the resolution.

Mr. McLeese took the same view, and said the proposed measure would operate against wayside and other houses in the interior, against whom he had heard no complaints. The increase of the opium license showed that with that increase the revenue from the source decreased. The drug was largely consumed in his district, but, in spite of rewards, detection of any evasion of the law was difficult. He thought in this case the extra cost of license would prevent many from longer carrying on the business and also encourage the illicit sale of liquor. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Semlin said the rise in the cost of licenses would be as predicted, that many would have to close up their houses of accommodation entirely against the travelling public, and the illicit sale of liquor become too great for effectual suppression in the country districts. Saloons in cities might, however, be made a subject of discrimination in this respect.

Mr. Grant also agreed that high license would place the business in the hands of a monopoly of the wealthier liquor sellers, and unless some principle were brought forward to place all on an equal basis he would not be prepared to support the measure.

Mr. Wilson also thought it would tend to undue advantage to some over others who would be unable to afford the increased cost. He did not think the people of this province a drunken people—that drink was such a characteristic vice as to call for this measure, and, therefore, seeing no necessity for it he should vote against the resolution.

Mr. Helgesen also knew no reason why a change should take place in the present cost of license, and should oppose the motion.

Mr. McTavish thought the near approach of the general election might explain the opposition with which the proposed increased cost of liquor licenses was met. He himself, was in favor of high license and should support the motion.

Mr. Cunningham said he thoroughly endorsed every means calculated to restrict the sale of liquor, for the traffic was a cheap and a nasty one. He used the words deliberately, regardless of consequences, for he knew they were true.

An hon. member—You know that by experience, I suppose! (Laughter.)

Mr. Cunningham—I am one of those who neither taste, touch nor handle it.

Another hon. member—You are afraid to, perhaps! (Laughter.)

Mr. Cunningham—The object in view is a good one. It is a well known fact that the liquor interest of this country is out of all bounds and hard to manage, and it is responsible for a good deal of crime and the consequent increased cost of the administration of justice. As I said on a former occasion large sums have been spent in this country on public works and yet here are poor amongst us, the men who have engaged in the traffic have made the gains. He cannot see why this business which bears such a profit cannot be made to contribute a large income in support of other industries. I do not believe there should be such a thing on earth as the licensing of liquor, because it is wrong in the beginning and wrong in the end. The house may not be willing to take up the question to-day, but the time is coming when a change will take place, a time coming when the people will make themselves heard.

Hon. attorney general said that as it seemed probable the resolution would be decided by a vote on this point, he would mention that as municipalities had the power to regulate this matter and he thought the matter might always well be left to them. As regarded inland districts, however, he was not inclined to the putting on of high license. (Hear, hear.) As to the statement of the measure being a preventive to excessive drinking he could, without entering into the question of expediency, say that such had not been the case, at any rate, in the district which he represented, and he would not be acting at all in accordance with the views of the people of his district if he voted for the proposed increase. With regard to cities the fixing of scale of license could always be left in the hands of those municipalities, and if in the opinion of the ratepayers, too high a price were fixed, the latter had their remedy always at hand in the election of councillors who would re-echo their views.

Mr. Orr said there was no municipality so far as he was aware had taken advantage of the power to increase licenses. He also failed to see any necessity for the resolution and should oppose it.

Mr. Rayboud said the discrimination made in the cost of rural as opposed to metropolitan licenses showed that the necessity for a distinction was recognized and the question might be whether the desired maximum cost of those licenses had been arrived at. It would not be a hardship to those keeping hotels, being able, with the increase of their trade, to pay the extra cost. As for the excuse that a monopoly would be created the trade was already a monopoly because not everyone was allowed a license even now. He should support the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Smithe was sorry to have to raise a point of order, against a colleague but he was inclined to think the resolution was out of order [Hear, hear.] It was out of order, he was of opinion, because it proposed to introduce an amendment to the licensing acts when no such act had been passed this session; and also another objection was that this was a question affecting the revenue—imposing additional burdens upon certain classes in the community and he took it that such was beyond the province of a private member.

Mr. Galbraith—Oh! Is the Hon. John Robson, Minister of Mines, a private member?

Hon. Mr. Smithe—He is also the senior member for New Westminster district.

Mr. Galbraith—I see. He is sometimes one and sometimes the other.

Mr. Wilson—A sort of Mikado!

Mr. Galbraith—He is not in the confidence of the ministry, I can see that. He was out of it several days ago.

Hon. Mr. Smithe—I can only say that as the honorable gentleman's (Mr. Robson's) colleagues in the ministry were not consulted in the introduction of this measure it comes directly from the honorable gentleman as a private member.

Mr. Galbraith thought the honorable gentleman was bringing it in as a government measure and not in his capacity as member for New Westminster.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that, speaking individually, apart from the point of order, his own opinion was that whatever might be the views of honorable members as to high license, he agreed with the honorable member for Saanich that this was not a very appropriate time to bring in this resolution though not because of the reason which that honorable gentleman had given, but because it was probable that at the ensuing election the question would be made a prominent one, and that candidates would have to express themselves on this question, and those returned as members of the house would know exactly the views of their constituents on the subject, until which time it would be better to defer any action in this respect. He would like the Speaker to decide on this point of order.

Mr. Helgesen asked whether it was possible for the honorable introducer not to know that his motion was out of order; or that he could introduce it without the knowledge of his colleagues? He accused the government of trying, after it had found out the feeling of the house, to shirk the responsibility, and caused some laughter by saying that "such a practice was simply appalling."

Hon. Mr. Robson said that perhaps he should have mentioned at the beginning of his remarks that he was moving in the matter as a private member and in accordance with the concensus of public opinion in his district, and had not therefore deemed it necessary to consult his colleagues on the subject. The insinuation that there was any collusion between himself and the premier in the event of finding the resolution unfavorably received was entirely groundless.

The speaker (Mr. Pooley) raled the resolution out of order. In the first place no resolution could be introduced which proposed to deal with a bill which had not been enacted that session, and in the next place no private member had a right to introduce a measure which in any way affected the revenue of the country.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. T. Davie moved that as one of the members of the lands committee was absent the name of Mr. Allen be added to the list of the committee's members.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Orr asked: What amount of money remains due for lands sold prior to 1884?

Hon. Mr. Smithe asked that the question be made for definite.

The question was withdrawn.

Mr. Grant asked: "What reply was received from the Dominion government in respect to an humble address presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, passed by this house 7th December, 1883, praying that his honor would recommend to the Dominion government the expediency of establishing a mail between Victoria and Cassiar.

Hon. Mr. Robson—The honorable the secretary of state for Canada acknowledged the receipt in a despatch dated December, 1883, stating that the matter would receive due consideration.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Semlin asked a suspension of the standing rules and orders be made that he might move a resolution that an address be presented to the lieutenant-governor requesting him to urge on the Dominion government the requisiteness of establishing an efficient mail service to Granite Creek.

Leave granted and resolution carried.

Mr. Beaven said that Wednesday being private members' day, it was not competent to place the government order of granting a supply to Her Majesty first on the list.

The house consenting to waive to right to object,

Hon. Mr. Duck moved that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the resolution to grant a supply to her majesty.

Carried; Mr. Drake in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Duck moved the supply. Carried. Committee rose and reported the resolution, which was received. Consideration to be taken up on Friday.

B. C. FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Bill was read a third time and passed.

COQUITLAM WATER WORKS CO.

Adjourned committee. Mr. Rayboud in the chair.

On motion of Mr. Orr, a clause limiting the liability of the shareholders to the amount unpaid on their shares was inserted.

Mr. T. Davie moved an amendment giving the municipality or province the right to acquire the works upon certain terms upon giving twelve months' notice to the company.

The amendment was lost.

The Chinese clauses reported by the select committee were inserted in the bill.

The committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

The speaker left the chair at 5 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Speaker took the chair at 7.45.

The Vancouver water works company incorporation bill, the mineral amendment bill, 1884, and the Vancouver gas company incorporation bill were prepared for their third reading.

BREEDING STOCK.

A bill to amend the breeding stock act, 1874, introduced by Mr. McLeese, passed its second reading, and was considered in committee; and reported complete with amendments.

It was then read a third time and passed.

SUMAS DYKING ACT.

Mr. T. Davie moved the second reading of the Sumas dyking act amendment act and repeal bill.

After a lengthy discussion on the principle of the bill by Messrs. T. Davie and Drake, the latter moved the adjournment of the debate.

MINERALS.

Mr. Galbraith asked the chief commissioner what action had been taken by the government to have the question of jurisdiction over the minerals in the railway belt. It was a matter that should be promptly settled as it was interfering with the prosperity of the province.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said the matter was under consideration and that the Dominion had already conceded the right of the province to impose and collect miners' licenses.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Drake's amendments providing for an appeal to county court judge from decision of courts of revision were passed.

Clause to exempt firemen of five years standing, from jury duty, was passed.

Committee rose and reported, asking leave to sit again.

QUESTION.

Mr. T. Davie—To ask the attorney-general "Will an assize and county court be held at Granite creek during the coming summer; and if so, about what time will such court assemble?

Gladstone and His Cabinet.

LONDON, March 22.—Radicals estimate that Gladstone's strength in the house, not including the Parnellites, numbers 200 votes. This would not be sufficient to uphold the premier in a test vote.

Chamberlain informed a correspondent that he wishes to be distinctly understood as desiring home rule for Ireland, but only upon the plan of the American union which, although it left to each state control of local affairs, made all auxiliary to the general government.

John Bright earnestly urged Gladstone on Saturday to abandon the land purchase proposal, and Morley made a similar appeal, declaring that to proceed with it would result in breaking up the liberal party. Gladstone promised to consider the matter, and it is to be hoped his decision will be favorable; but if he continues obdurate, a crisis in the government is certain.

Chamberlain has not yielded an inch, and will not. I am inclined to believe that Glads one will soon recognize the inevitable, re-arrange his Irish scheme and endeavor to retain his present ministry intact. Although the ministers held a variety of opinions in regard to the government's Irish policy, they are entirely harmonious in all other respects, and all reports of personal, private or political ill-feeling among them are baseless.

THE DAISY.—The steamer Daisy, which has passed into the hands of Croft & Angus, Chemainus, left for the latter point yesterday morning with Mr. and Mrs. Croft on board.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway)

OTTAWA, March 15.—The Government steamer Lansdown, now at St. John, New Brunswick, will be one of the vessels for the protection of the fisheries in the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. J. H. Woodman, a former manager of the Ontario Bank in the city, died in Winnipeg on Saturday at the age of 64 years.

OWEN SOUND, March 13.—The following hotelkeepers were to-day brought before the Police Magistrate charged by License Inspector Pearce with selling liquor during prohibited hours:—Mrs. Homes, for selling on Sunday, fined $25 and costs; Robert McKinney, same charge, fined $25 and costs; David Comely, selling on Saturday night, fined $25 and costs; Thomas Grimes, selling on Sunday, second offence; fined $40 and costs.

GALT, March 12.—John Reinhart, brakesman on the Galt Branch of the Grand Trunk Railway for about twelve years, was killed at the station here this afternoon while coupling cars.

BELLEVILLE, March 15.—The four men convicted of stealing goods from a Grand Trunk bonded car were sentenced by the magistrate to day. Stephen Cummins and Thomas McDonald, were sentenced to the Central Prison for one year. William Haslip, for receiving goods, was sentenced for nine months; and E. Penny, on the same charge, got three months in the County Gaol. Haslip is a married man with three children. The others are young men. For three years there has been systematic stealing going on about the Grand Trunk premises here.

WELLAND, March 18.—Early this morning Round's planing and saw mills were burned to the ground. Loss, $7,000; no insurance. Cause unknown.

WALKERTON, March 18.—On opening the Court of Revision for East Bruce under the Dominion Franchise Act to-day it was found that three hundred and eighty-two declarations had mysteriously disappeared from the judge's chamber and the court had to adjourn.

ST. THOMAS, March 18.—George W. Baggs, deputy postmaster here, was arraigned at the police court to-day on four charges of stealing registered letters and forging a postoffice order. He pleaded guilty and was remanded for sentence. He has been employed in the postoffice for 16 years.

KINGSTON, March 18.—Col. Hewitt, commander of the Royal Military College, is seriously ill, and doubt is entertained of his recovery.

TORONTO, March 17.—Several street car employes who are Knights of Labor have been discharged since Saturday and their places supplied by non-union men. Another strike is imminent and Saturday morning is looked on as the time.

John Robinson, treasurer of the Knights of Labor assembly here, has been missing since last Thursday. He had one hundred and fifty dollars of society funds when he disappeared but it is not thought that he is a defaulter as he could have taken a much larger sum. Foul play is feared and a reward is offered.

Hon. Alexander Morris was entertained at lunch at the Queen's hotel yesterday, and presented with an address, by friends in the Local House, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

The bay is now clear of ice, and pleasure boats were out yesterday.

Two bodies were found floating in the bay to-day. They were identified as John Cochrane and Miss Alexander, who disappeared during January.

MONTREAL, March 18.—Of five customs officers suspended for being implicated in the Brosseau L. Isabelle frauds, the appraiser, packer and tide-waiter have been dismissed. Of the others two gaugers and a superanumerary checking clerk are still suspended.

The estate of J. A. Beauvais was sold at auction to-day and realized ten thousand dollars. The liabilities of the firm are forty-three thousand dollars.

Fong Long, a Chinaman, arrived here yesterday in bond from San Francisco. The consignee, Wah Lee, paid over a fee of $50, and Fong was released.

The Canadian Pacific traffic earnings for the period between the 7th and 14th of March were thirty-one thousand dollars more than last year.

Madam F. E. A. Fraser has entered an action to recover fifty thousand dollars from her mother, now Mrs J. S Watt, alleging that her mother manipulated the estate so as to deprive her of property to that amount left her by her father, the late Thos. Fraser.

OTTAWA

Still Discussing Riel's Death.

OTTAWA, March 18.—The Riel debate was resumed in the house by the minister of militia, who read letters from Bishop Grandin and many other priests showing that Riel was a responsible person and the cause of the rebellion. He also read a declaration from Gen. Middleton and Boulton, scout, testifying that Riel did not surrender, but was looking for a horse, bridle in hand, to leave the country when captured. Middleton says he never offered Riel safety. Riel asked him to place the women and children in a safe place, so that the troops would not fire on them. A priest called on Middleton after the battle of Batoche and said Riel would give himself up, but he was afraid the troops would shoot him in Middleton's camp. It was then that Middleton wrote the letter, frequently quoted, offering Riel protection until his case was disposed of by the government. The minister of militia justified the execution, and said if the same thing came up he would do it over again.

Bad Gypsys.

GREENVILLE, Ohio, March 18.—Cora Green, a pretty fourteen year-old girl, who escaped last Sunday from John McVey, a gypsy, and his two female companions, relates a horrible story of her treatment. She states that she was kidnapped from her home near Lebanon, Ind., over a year ago, and was compelled to travel about the country with them. McVey, she says, whose hair is the head, kicked her, cut her on the body with a hatchet, beat her with a club, flogged her with a whip and assaulted her. He also drove a nail through her foot, fastening her to a board, and swung her up to the wagon bows. Marks of the girl's wounds are still plainly visible. Her parents have been communicated with, and they will arrive here in a day or two. McVey and his two companions decamped as soon as they learned of the girl's escape. A large number of citizens are hunting for the party, and if they are captured a lynching will probably follow.

A SINGULAR OMISSION.—"Pawpaw," said a New Jersey young lady, "will you look into the dictionary for 'mosquito' and let me know how it is spelled?"

"Tain't there," said the old man, after a search.

"It must be, pawpaw. Have you looked carefully?"

"I've been through the s's five times, an' there ain't nothin' that even looks like 'skeeters.'"—N. Y. Sun.

A SPICY SET OF LETTERS.

The Tilt 'Twixt Lady Seymour and Lady Shuckborough Referred to in the Beaconsfield Correspondence.

In his letters to his sister, lately published by Mr. Murray, Lord Beaconsfield makes reference to the "Shuckborough Correspondence." These letters were printed in the newspapers at the time, and that "all the world should talk of them," is by no means to be wondered at. Here they are. The Lady Seymour of these letters, it may be said, was Queen of Beauty at the famous Eglington Tournament.

LETTER NO. I.

Lady Seymour presents her compliments to Lady Shuckborough, and would be obliged to her for the character of Mary Stedman, who states that she has lived twelve months, and still is, in Lady Shuckborough's establishment. Can Mary Stedman cook plain dishes well, make bread, and is she honest and good-tempered, sober, willing and cleanly? Lady Seymour would also like to know the reason why she leaves Lady Shuckborough's service. Direct under cover to Lady Seymour, Maiden Bradley.

LETTER NO. II.

Lady Shuckborough presents her compliments to Lady S. Her ladyship's note, dated October 28th, only reached her yesterday, November 3d. Lady Shuckborough was unacquainted with the name of the kitchen-maid until mentioned by Lady Seymour, as it is her custom neither to apply for or give characters to any of the under servants, this being always done by the housekeeper, Mrs. Couch, and this was well known to the young woman; therefore Lady Shuckborough is surprised at her referring any lady to her for a character. Lady Shuckborough having a professed cook as well as a housekeeper in her establishment, it is not very likely she herself should know anything of abilities or merits of the under-servants; therefore she is unable to answer Lady Seymour's note. Lady Shuckborough cannot imagine Mary Stedman to be capable of cooking for any but the servants' hall. November 4th, Pavilion, Hans place.

LETTER NO. III.

Lady Seymour presents her compliments to Lady Shuckborough, and begs she will order her housekeeper, Mrs. Pouch, to send the girl's character; otherwise another young woman will be sought for elsewhere, as Lady Seymour's children cannot remain without their dinners because Lady Shuckborough, keeping a "professed cook and housekeeper," thinks a knowledge of the details of her establishment beneath her notice. Lady Seymour understood from Stedman that, in addition to her talents, she was actually capable of dressing food fit for the little Shuckboroughs to partake of when hungry. (To this note was appended a clever pen-and-ink vignette by the "Queen of Beauty," representing the three little Shuckboroughs with large turnip-looking heads and cauliflower wigs, seated at a round table, eating voraciously, scrambling for mutton chops dressed by Mary Stedman, who is seen looking on with supreme satisfaction, while Lady Shuckborough appears in the distance in evident dismay.)

LETTER NO. IV.

Madam: Lady Shuckborough has directed me to acquaint you that she declines answering your note, the vulgarity of which is beneath contempt; and although it may be the characteristic of the Sheridans to be vulgar and witty, it is not that of a "lady," unless she happens to have been born in a garret and bred in the kitchen. Mary Stedman informs me that you only require a girl who can cook a mutton chop; if so, I apprehend that Mary Stedman or any other scullion will be found fully equal to cook for, or manage the establishment of the Queen of Beauty. I am your ladyship's, etc.,

ELIZABETH COUCH (not Pouch.)

Some Curious Wagers.

A wager is related to have been decided in 1806 in the Castleyard, York, between Thomas Hodgson and Samuel Whitehead, as to which should succeed in assuming the most singular and original character. Hodgson appeared decorated with ten-guineas, twenty-guinea notes on his coat and waistcoat, a row of five-guinea notes and a purse of gold around his hat, whilst to his back a paper was attached, with the words "John Bull." Whitehead appeared dressed like a woman on one side, with a silk stocking and slipper, and one half of his face painted. The other half resembled a negro in a man's dress, with a boot and spur. One would have thought that so far as presenting a ridiculous spectacle and making a fool of himself, he ought to have won the wager, but it was decided in favor of his companion. How far the latter owed his success to the prevailing weakness of humanity towards wealth is a question we think might fairly be mooted.

Somewhat similar to this bet was one made in relation to Heidegger, Master of the Revels to George II., whose ugliness, it was alleged, it was impossible to surpass. The sights of London were ransacked from one end to the other, and at last, in St. Giles's, an old woman was found who it was thought would beat away the palm. On being introduced with Heidegger the judges maintained that the latter, who made himself a party to the dispute with the greatest good humor, had now fairly met with his match, when it was suggested that he should put on the old woman's bonnet. The additional ugliness then imparted was such that Heidegger was unanimously declared as the undoubted holder of the championship of ugliness.

The subject matter of wagers has sometimes taken rather a grim form. A well known story is told of a member of a party of revellers who engaged, in a fit of bravado, to enter the vault of a church at midnight, and in proof of his having done so, to stick a fork in a coffin which had been recently deposited there. He accomplished his object, and was returning triumphantly when he felt himself suddenly caught, and was so overcome by terror that he fell into a swoon and was found in this condition shortly afterwards on the floor of the vault, by his companion, who, alarmed at his long absence, had come out to look for him. The fork which he had stuck into the coffin had caught hold of his long cloak, and thus occasioned a fit of terror which had nearly proved fatal. An incident of this kind is credibly recorded to have taken place in London in the last century.

The Short Road to Wealth.

First Train Robber—Is this train the one we are waiting for?

Second Train Robber—No; this only carries a couple of millions in gold to the San Francisco Mint. It is the next train.

First Train Robber—What's on the next train?

Second Train Robber—A sleeping-car porter with a whole week's earnings in his pocket.

A TELEGRAM received from Cowichan last night states that Mr. Murdock, walking boss for Bell, Lewin & Paterson, was taken with bleeding at the lungs yesterday. To-day he has another attack and is very low. Dr. Walkem is in attendance.

THE COWBOY AS HE IS.

Not the Wild Whisky-Drinking Fiend that Travelers Have Pictured Him.

I was sitting in the office of the Hotel Maverick, of San Antonio, the principal hotel in the city, reading a letter which I had just received, when a stranger stepped up to me.

Excusing himself for the intrusion, he began asking some questions as to the business in which I am engaged. This being of a public character, the questions betrayed interest, not impertinence.

I looked up and saw a fine, tall man with a heavy black mustache. He wore a very broad-brimmed black sombrero hat. His hair was long, and reminded me at once of Buffalo Bill, with whose appearance all New Yorkers are acquainted, either personally, or by picture.

An interchange of a few words showed me that the man was educated and intelligent. His whole carriage and conversation were those of a gentleman.

After he left the hotel, I asked the clerk who the stranger was, and received the answer, "Russell, the ranchman."

He was a cowboy in every sense of the word, known far and wide as a "dead shot." He was also reported to be a man of his word, never making a promise unless he intended to fulfil it.

He had made money in Texas, having come from Boston as a poor boy. He worked as a cowboy on several ranches, and saved money enough to get a start in the world.

To-day he has several cowboys—perhaps fifty—in his own employ.

Cowboys are fond of playing tricks of an apparently desperate character, without intending harm. I will repeat one told me by the person who actually went through the experience, and in his own language.

The hero of this adventure was in the Government employ, and at the present time resides only a short distance from where I am now writing.

Describing the scene and occasion he said:

"I was out looking at some land. Finding night coming on, and being a long distance from any town, I made my way to a rough-looking cabin, outside of which were hitched some five or six horses. I went into the cabin for the purpose of getting a bite to eat and a place to sleep.

"On entering I found it a kind of a one-horse barroom, and I saw present five or six of the roughest looking men it was ever my experience to meet. They were all armed.

"Their dress being part buckskin, I immediately recognized them as being cowboys, and doubtless owners of the horses on the outside. The first glance told me I was an object of disfavor.

"One of them, the largest and least prepossessing of the party, stepped up to me, and in a rough manner asked:

"'What are you doing here?'

"'Out looking at some land.'

"'Well, ain't you seen the land?'

"'Yes.'

"'Well, what are you hanging around here for?'

"'I have a right to hang around, if I desire.'

"'What right?'

"'There is my right,' taking out my passport and exhibiting it to him; 'dispute it if you can.'

"After looking at the document for a moment, he deliberately tore it up, with an oath that almost made the boards of the cabin sides turn green.

"It is true that I had a pistol, but what could be done against half a dozen such desperadoes? They had all drawn their revolvers, and one man stepped up and took mine away. Then the largest man said, forcibly:

"'You're a —— detective.'

"I at once positively denied the accusation.

"'What?' he said: 'Do you dare to tell me I lie. I have a good notion to shoot you down in your tracks.'

"I began to feel very unpleasantly, and wished myself miles away from that place.

"'Now, then, young feller,' said the man who first addressed me, 'you have just five minutes to live. Set your eyes on that clock in the corner. It's minutes to 9. When that clock points out 9, you go down. If you have any prayers to say, say 'em, and be — quick about it, too.'

"I thought of my wife and children. Home and a thousand other things flashed through my mind as I watched that clock.

"'Take your eyes away from that clock,' said the large man, 'and you die on the spot.'

"I kept my eyes on the clock, and never till then did I realize how valuable a moment could be.