The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9.

CITY EXTENSION.

It is to be hoped that the owners of property just outside of what is now the city of Victoria will not be frightened by the cry of increased taxation into opposing the extension of the city's limits. If the proposed extension does not take place, these property owners will, before very long, find themselves in a very unpleasant situation. There is nothing surer than that the suburbs will go on increasing. All sorts of buildings will be put up by all sorts of people. The building will not be regulated by authority of any kind. There will be no uniformity as to the nature of the structures, the direction or the width of the streets, and, instead of being in a quiet neighborhood with pleasant surroundings, the suburban resident will most probably find himself in the neighborhood of what is becoming a mere human rookery, destitute of all the comforts and conveniences which the inhabitants of the city enjoy. As for the retirement which he expected, that will certainly be invaded on all sides, and he will have all the discomfort he hoped to avoid without having any compensatory advantages. This is the rule everywhere, and Victoria is certainly not going to be an exception. Anyone who has travelled knows that as soon as he passes the boundary of the city the houses generally are of an inferior class, and the groups of houses that he sees here and there do not make the localities in which they are situated very desirable places of residence. It is no wonder that the respectable people whose privacy has been invaded, and who have lost all the advantages of living in the country, without getting the conveniences which the city affords, begin to agitate for annexation. They know that when they are annexed to the city there will be some order in the neighborhood, and that the conveniences and the protection which they need will be placed within their reach.

We are told of the dirty streets of the city. Well, they might be cleaner, certainly, but, bad as they are, they are comfort itself compared with the muddy lanes of suburban villages, and the abominable roads, destitute of sidewalks that are invariably found in those places which are neither town nor country. We have heard comparisons instituted between the roads in the country and the streets of the town to the disadvantage of the streets. But the suburban districts are not country. Increase the travel on the country roads twenty-fold and it will then be seen what a state they will be in. We know of no places so undesirable to live in as those which are on the outskirts of large towns, and beyond the jurisdiction of the corporation.

The owners of property will find to their surprise and disappointment that land in the neighborhood of suburban rookeries depreciates in value and in some instances becomes unsaleable for residential purposes. It is not so hard to spoil a neighborhood as they imagine. Land to which neither water supply nor light nor drainage can be extended, and which is outside the sphere of police jurisdiction does not increase in value. Those who hope to get richer by merely holding on to their land in the vicinity of the city, who expect their property to increase in value by the energy and enterprise of their fellow-citizens, will find that there are elements which they have forgotten, or made light of, which should be taken into the calculation. Neither will they escape the taxation which they try, by opposing the extension of the city, to avoid. The difference between the taxation on land within the city's limits and that just outside its boundary may not, in a year or two, be worth mentioning. The improvements required must be paid for and the property must pay for those improvements.

We confess we cannot understand why men leasing and owning property within the area proposed to be annexed to the city are opposed to the annexation. We are fully convinced that it will be to their interest to have their property brought within the jurisdiction of the Corporation. Any increase of taxation which will follow the extension of the city's boundaries will be more than compensated by the increased value of the property. The annexation is sure to take place sooner or later, and at their desire or the desire of their successors. If their property is brought within the city's limits now, they, or those who come after them, will, to a certainty, be saved much inconvenience, annoyance and loss.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

We see by the Times that a Liberal Association is about to be established in New Westminster. If the organization is to be really liberal it cannot fail to do good. But, as every one knows, it is one thing to be liberal by name, and another and quite a different thing to be liberal in nature. People who are narrow minded, unintelligent, unpatriotic and factious, may call themselves what they please; a name will not make them any better or wiser than they really are. They will act out their nature in spite of their fine name. There are men who, because they call themselves Liberals, really believe that they are liberal. But many of them are the most illiberal, intolerant, selfish creatures that are to be found in the community to which they belong. Many of them are the blind followers of blind leaders. They are superstitiously attached to a name, and wear it and swear by it long after it has lost all that gave it significance.

We are glad to see that men in these days care less about names than they did in the "good old times." They look now a great deal more to what a man or a party is than to the name by which he or it is called. When, for instance, the integrity of the empire was, in their opinion, at stake the politicians and people of Great Britain thought very little of party names and party traditions. Tories and Whigs and Radicals combined to preserve the Union without a moment's hesitation, and the Tory of ten generations fought shoulder to shoulder with the red-hot radical whom his grandfather would have hanged if he could. Lord Salisbury, Lord Hartington and Joe Chamberlain formed a combination which was in a national sense truly representative. The example set by these leaders was followed by hundreds of thousands of good men and true in every part of the empire. They disregarded their differences, great as they really were, and stood firmly united to assert a great principle. This important union has deprived the party names in every section of the the empire of a very large part of their significance. Men have come to see that names after all amount to very little, and that the animosities and the antipathies of parties are not based on reason. When the Radical came to know the Tory he found out that he was not such a proud intolerant obstructionist as he had imagined him to be, and the Tory discovered that the Radical, whom he was taught to believe was as dangerous as dynamite, was not such a bad fellow after all, and that in some things he was even a greater conservative than he was himself.

We do not think that either in England or in the Colonies will party names and party cries ever have the power they had in the olden time. Men know each other better than they did, and they attach more importance to principles than they do to names. Few men in these days are proud of being on the same side of politics as their fathers and grandfathers. Many indeed, boast that they have thought for themselves, and have come to conclusions in matters political very different, indeed, from that arrived at by their fathers. Besides, the significance of names changes with time and place. "Tory," to-day, has not the same meaning as it had fifty years ago, and the Liberal of Great Britain has very little in common with the Liberal of Ontario or Quebec. In British Columbia, as far as provincial politics are concerned, the old party names have no significance at all, and the reason is plain. The questions at issue are altogether different to what they are in the other provinces. If the really liberal men of the Westminster town and district form themselves into an association, they will be amused to find that they belong to both parties and to no party at all. If true liberality of mind and opinion and dispoeition is made the test, it will be a very pleasant association; but it will be made up of material, from a political point of view, exceedingly various and amusingly incongruous. But, if "Liberal" is to be the shibboleth of faction only, the result will be very different, indeed.

THE NATURAL RESULT.

The Farmers' Alliance in the United States is producing the results that might be expected. When men begin to look about them for some means other than through their own industry and economy to pay their debts they may be expected before very long to take the law into their own hands and repudiate them altogether. The Farmers' Alliance expects Government to step in to help them to meet their obligations. It asks Uncle Sam to make money, both of silver and paper, and to lend it to them at two per cent. on the security of their land and such of their farm products as are not perishable. Every one that takes the trouble to think knows what is sure to happen when men expect the government to get them out of their financial difficulties. One of the results of this abandonment of old self-reliant ways was seen the other day in Wingman County, Kansas. A farmer in that county borrowed money on mortgage. He was unable to meet his payments, and foreclosure ensued. A hard working, honest man, Thomas Guthrie, bought the farm and settled on it. He had hardly commenced to work when he received threatening letters telling him that he was the tool of the mortgage companies, and ordering him to "get out and stay out." Guthrie paid no attention to these letters. A few days ago he was visited by a crowd of masked men, numbering some seven hundred. These men seized him, placed his household goods, his wife, his father, his mother and his four children in a wagon and drove them sixteen miles from his farm. They then unloaded the wagon by the road side and left the man and his family exposed to the mercy of the elements. The mob still had work to do. They took the former owner of the farm, whose name is Cassidy, back to the house out of which they had turned Guthrie, and put him in possession. It is said that the leading officers of the Alliance advised the outrage. The telegram says:

"The local alliance agreed upon the plan, followed it out, and have submitted their scheme to those in the organization high in authority, and the same approved it. It is believed that this is he first exhibition of a plan that is to be followed by the organization, hoping to defeat the law un il they can have it changed."

This is no doubt the beginning of a series of outrages of the same kind. If the mortgag es insist upon their rights and will not quietly consent to be ruined, the men who considered it right to turn Guthrie out of the house he had bought and reinstate Cassidy, who was either unable or unwilling to pay his honest debts, will be ready to repeat the same lawless operation. The spirit evinced by the seven hundred and by the Alliance under whose guidance they acted does not die out suddenly or of its own accord. If the authorities attempt to enforce the law it is easy to see that at the first at any rate they will be overpowered and the triumphant allia ce men will carry things with a high hand. Capital will of course be withdrawn from a state in which such outrages are committed.

INDIAN MANAGEMENT.

According to the testimony of honest and well-informed Americans themselves, the Indian troubles in the United States have been brought on by bad management and bad faith. The agents who represent the Government of the United States in districts and on reserves have, with hardly an exception, been political appointees. They have had no training in the duties which they are required to perform, nor, indeed, any training for any duty. The man who has been serviceable to a senator or member of the House of Representatives at elections and in party engineering, does not, as a general thing, possess the moral or the intellectual qualities that will enable him to deal successfully with semi-independent and semi-barbarous Indian tribes; neither is he the man whom his neighbors would place in a position of trust, where the oversight would be necessarily lax. The consequence of this mode of appointment of agents is that the Indians have been dreadfully mismanaged, and both they and the Government outrageously cheated. General Grant may not have been the first to discover the vices of the Indian system, but he was the first to direct public attention to the gross and impudent dishonesty of Indian agents as a class. The strictest integrity is necessary in dealing with the Indians. The agent, to win and to keep their confidence, must in every case be as good at his word. These untutored children of the wilderness despise a liar, and if a man deceives them once or twice it is folly for him to attempt to regain their confidence. But the regard which electioneering agents and other small politicians have for the truth is—not to put too fine a point on it—not proverbial. They are not remarkable for the openness of their ways or the candor of their speech. In fact, they would not feel complimented if it were said of them that they were men without guile. They brought with them to the Far West the habits by which they had won their success in the East, and the result of their administration has been as bad as it can well be. It is condemned by men of all parties; but the condemnation has not brought about reform. President Grant declared that the Americans had cheated the Indians and taught them to distrust white men, and an eminent United States journalist of to-day says: "The distinction of our Indian policy is want of principle and common sense."

The Americans contrast the Indian management of the Dominion of Canada with that of their own government. They see that Canada has no trouble with its Indians, while they are a perpetual source of annoyance to the United States. They admit that the cause of the difference is that the Canadian Government looks well after the Indians and sees that they are honestly dealt with. What the Canadian Government promises it is careful to perform, and its agents are required to follow its example.

How the United States treats the Indian population may be gathered from the following extract from a late number of the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It says:

"Cannot this great nation, in the intervals of leisure from debates on the tariff and silver and the election bill that is to do so much for the negro, consider the possibility of keeping just a few of its solemn promises to the Indian? We believe it is no exaggeration t say that there is no an Indian tribe which has ever had any de lings with the government that has not good reason for a charge of bad faith against us. Can we no give them good agents, as long as agents are a painful necessity, and let them stay where they are, if they have proved efficient, without r gard to their political influence? Can we not spare enough money from the treasury to dis charge the treaty debts which we owe just as solemnly as we owe the fulfillment of any other obligation? Can we not give moneys overdue to the starving Sisseton and Wahpeton ribes, begging us to save them from death, while they stand our faithful friends, without waiting for some congressman to make a speech? May we not, at last, celebrate the end of the last Indian mutiny by closing up the accounts of a 'century of dishonor,' and trying to keep our end of a bargain, even though the oth r party is an Indian and at our mercy? If, as we scarcely dare to hope, such results as these should follow, the trouble in the Northwest during the last two months would repay us for all that it has cost."

It is no wonder that Indians who have been treated in this way are suspicious of their rulers, and that some of them fight with the courage of despair rather than surrender their arms and thus place themselves completely at the mercy of the men who have oppressed and defrauded them.

MONDAY'S VOTE.

We are much pleased to see that the vote in favor of the extension of the city's limits was so large. It was to be expected that the opposition to a measure of this kind would be very strong among those whom it would affect directly and almost immediately. Such changes do not recommend themselves to everyone as soon as they are proposed. People look at them in different ways. Some believe as firmly that th y will be injurious in their effects as others do that they will be beneficial. This was the case with regard to the proposal to extend the limits of the city, but we are proud to be able to say that the discussion which it evoked was moderately and intelligently carried on. The disputants appealed to the reason of those whom they addressed in language which was studiously temperate. The discussion was exceedingly creditable to all the parties concerned. We believe that the gentlemen who opposed the proposal will, before long, admit that the results of annexation have disappointed them agreeably, and that those who favored it will see all their hopes realized and their predictions fulfilled. We are very confident that no one in Victoria, or out of it, will have reason to be sorry for the vote that was taken yesterday. It will result in good to all and will benefit those who voted "no" quite as much as those who voted "aye."

POVERTY, A CRIME.

The general opinion seems to be that persons guilty of slight offences in this city are, in the police court, dealt with rather too severely, and that the culprit is punished for being poor. The lowest fine imposed is five dollars, and if the offender cannot pay the fine the equivalent is thirty days imprisonment with hard labor. It does seem rather hard on the impecunious violator of the city's laws that he is requested to work at the rate of sixteen and two-thirds cents a day. The mechanic who gets drunk and is disorderly, and is arrested by the police, when he has five dollars in his pocket in the morning gets his freedom by paying what is equivalent to less than two days work, while, his companion in guilt, as well as misfortune, who cannot beg or borrow five dollars, must lose thirty days and suffer the disgrace of imprisonment besides, before justice is satisfied. Is this not making poverty a crime? Surely, if justice is satisfied with five dollars in cash, or two day's work in freedom, she should not require, as an equivalent from the penniless wretch, thirty days' work, plus an amount of disgrace which, in many cases, cannot be represented by five dollars, or ten times five dolla s. Is not this punishing the poor man with two days' imprisonment for his offence, and twenty-eight days' imprisonment, with the odium of imprisonment, besides, for his poverty? If the Police Magistrate, who is, we believe, a kind-hearted and fair-minded gentleman, would work out this little sum, he would see that, in this matter of computing the equivalent of a fine, poverty is considered a far greater crime than violation of law. This proposition, strange as it may seem, admi s of mathematical proof. We know that somewhere in the Bible it is said that the "destruction of the poor is their poverty," but, though this may be true in our very imperfect social system, one does not expect to see it strikingly exemplified in a court of justice.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PROGRESS.

The trade of British Columbia keeps on increasing in a way that is exceedingly encouraging. It was thought that while the Canadian Pacific Railway was in the course of construction the prosperity of the province was abnormal, and that as soon as the work was finished and the company ceased to spend large sums in it for construction purposes, its trade would, to a very cons derable extent, fall away, and that it would be many years before business would be so brisk again. But these predictions, which appeared to be reasonable, have not been fulfilled. British Columbia has not halted in the march of progress but has gone on prospering. Each year shows an advance. This is not the case in Victoria alone, but every part of the province has shared in the general prosperity. The incr ased trade returns show that the industries of the province generally have been progressing and that its resources have been in process of development. The trade statistics are a faithful exponent of the advancement of industries, the progress of which cannot be shown by official figures. The reader will see that we have good warrant for what we have said when he examines, at all carefully, the following returns of exports and imports for the last four years:

EXPORTS.

	1887	1888	1889	1890
Nanaimo	$ 1,151,493	$ 1,240,393	$ 1,351,419	$ 1,604,514
New Westminster	232,363	11,208	36,304	221,744
Vancouver	—	553,039	518,762	435,735
Victoria	2,094,364	2,129,039	1,927,931	3,143,178
Totals	$ 3,478,270	$ 3,933,677	$ 4,334,306	$ 5,755,171

IMPORTS.

	1887	1888	1889	1890
Nanaimo	$ 156,657	$ 188,678	$ 201,016	$ 293,391
New Westminster	382,518	117,974	165,569	2 5,855
Vancouver	—	220 900	443,739	698,170
Victoria	3,008,677	2,922,399	2,893,803	3,255,558
Totals	$ 3,547,852	$ 3,500,951	$ 3,705,127	$ 4,442,474

The duties collected last year in British Columbia at the different ports were:

Nanaimo	$ 48,885
New Westminster	60,231
Vancouver	153,354
Victoria	828,930
Total	$1,091,400

Besides foreign trade there was a very considerable interprovincial trade; no official record of which has been kept. The trade, both import and export, with the o her provinces would add very materially to the volume of British Columbia's trade.

THE LATEST PHASE.

The latest correspondence between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States relative to the rights and powers claimed by the latter nation over the waters of Behring's Sea, has been published. Fragments only of that correspondence have reached us through the telegraph. It may be supposed that the telegrams contained the gist of the arguments used by the representatives of the two Governments, but it is more than probable that the compiler of the telegram has given more than its fair share of prominence to the argument in favor of the contention of the nation to which h belo gs. It appears to us, at any rate, that Mr. Blaine's arguments are more fully and more favorably presented than are those of Lord Salisbury. This, of course, is natural; but it is not favorable to those who really wish to come to an impartial conclusion in the matter.

It appears from the telegrams, as they have been sent to us, that Mr. Blaine has once more changed his position. He does not now insist that Behring's Sea is a *mare clausum*, a closed sea, or that the United States claims exclusive jurisdiction over the whole, or even the half, of its waters. This appears from the following passage in the telegram:

"The rep ated assertions," Blaine says, "that the Government of the United States demands that Behring's Sea be pronounced a *mare clausum*, are without foundation. The Government," he says, "has never claimed it, never desired it, and expressly disavows it."

This is the first time that this very important disavowal has been made. It is one which, we think, should aid impartial persons in coming to a correct conclusion as to th validity of the claims advanced by the Government of the United States.

There is an important admission in one of Mr. Blaine's dispatches, which will help the honest enquirer in forming an intelligent and a correct opinion on this very important subject. It is this:

"The second offer of Lord Salisbury to arbitrate simply amounts to a submission of the question *whether any country has the right to extend its jurisdiction more than one marine league from the shore. No one disputes that as a rule;* but the question is, whether there may not be exceptions whose enforcement does not interfere with those highways of commerce, which the necessities and usages of the world have marked out."

The words we have underlined shows that, even in Mr. Blaine's opinion, no nation has the right, under ordinary circumstances, to claim jurisdiction over the sea for a greater distance than three miles from the shore. The high seas outside that limi are therefore the property, not of one nation, but of all the nations. Consequently, if any nation undertakes to sell to any other nation a portion of the sea outside this three-mile limit, the sale is null and void, for the simple reason that the nation attempts to sell what does not belong to it. Mr. Blaine admits that Behring's Sea is not a closed sea. The waters of that sea, according to the principle laid down by Mr. Blaine himself, except a strip three-miles wide bordering the sh re, are the common property of the nations of the world. Therefore, sovereignty over them could not be sold by Russia to America, or to any other nation. This it seems to us was the opinion held by the Americans themselves with respect to Behring's Sea, before they purchased the Alaskan territory, and we know it is the opinion they hold with regard to every other sea of like size, and situation on the face of the globe. If Great Britain claimed to exercise the same rights over any part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as the United States Government claims to exercise over Behring's Sea, the Americans would themselves be the very first to contest that claim. Yet the Gulf of St. Lawrence is much mo e a British sea than Behring's Sea is a United States sea. Nothing is said in the correspondence about seal hunting in the Behring's Sea being *contra bonos mores*.

But Mr. Blaine contends that there are extraordinary circumstances which make the claims of the United Sta es to extraordinary jurisdiction over part of the waters of Behring's Sea. What these circumstances are depends upon the interpretation placed upon treaties made with Russia by both the United States and Great Britain. Was Behring's Sea included in those treaties? appears to be a disputed point. What is meant by the "North-west coast of America" in those documents? is a question which Mr. Blaine regards as of the utmost importance. The failure of Great Britain to assert its right to hunt seals in Behring's Sea is, in Mr. Blaine's estimation, an admission that she possesses no such right.

Then, in defence of the claim for extraordinary jurisdiction, Mr. Blaine adduces two British precedents. He says that while Napoleon Bonaparte was in St. Helena Great Britain assumed exclusive and absolute control over a considerable section of the South Atlantic Ocean, and that the same power exercises jurisdiction over part of the high seas in the Indian Ocean in order to protect pearl fisheries, to which it lays claim. But Mr. Blaine does not say that the control assumed by Great Britain in the South Atlantic was legitimate, or that the claim to protect pearl fisheries at a greater distance from the shore than three miles could, if disputed, be maintained by the law of n tions. These are questions which must be settled before the precedents cited by Mr. Blaine can be admitted to have any force. It will not do to say tha Great Britain exercised an unjustifiable authority in the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, and these precedents make it right for the United States to exercise unjustifiable authority in Behring's Sea. Two wrongs do not make one right in diplomacy any more than they do in morals.

What Lord Salisbury has to say with respect to these precedents does not appear in our telegram. But his answer will be included in the full reports which we shall be able soon to lay before our readers. The conclusion to which any intelligent man, whether he is a British subject or an American, who reads the telegram carefully, must be that the objections made and the questions raised by Mr. Blaine are precisely those with which a tribunal composed of men well versed in international law and in the interpretation of state papers can deal in a manner at all satisfactory to men who wish to see the question equitably settled. Why any reasonable or fair-minded man, either in Europe or America, should object to such an arbitration passes our comprehension. That it will be settled in this way we are firmly convinced. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the British and the Americans will permit their Governments to go to war about a matter of such comparatively small importance, and one which so readily admits of a settlement both amicable and equitable.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE Truth, of New Westminster, has disappeared, and The Ledger has come in its place. We liked The Tru h. It was latterly a bright paper, moderate in its tone and genial in its spirit. It appears, however, that it was not, from a commercial point of view, a success. It has, therefore, gone the way of many newspapers. It has been incorporated in the Ledger. The new, or rather the transformed, paper is, we learn, to be conducted by Mr. Wm. Baillie, under whose editorship The Truth was so much improved. He will, we trust, make The Ledger an unqualified success. This, we see, is what he aims at, and from what we have seen of his work, we have a notion he is one of the men who "get there."

The retirement of Sir Joseph Hickson from the management of the Grand Trunk Railway was quite unexpec ed by the general public. He is by no means an old man, and his work, arduous and difficult as it was, does not appear to have injured his constitution. He is still hale and hearty, and to all appearance as capable as ever he was. Sir Joseph Hickson has been a faithful servant of the Grand Trunk company. He worked for it for nearly thirty years, and has been for sixteen of them its manager. He had a difficult task to perform, but he has accomplished it in the face of many obstacles, to the complete satisfaction of those who are most competent to judge of the value of his work. The mileage of the Grand Trunk since he became manager has increased about three fold, and its revenue has nearly doubled. In 1873 its mileage was 1,384, and its revenue $1,959,897; in 1890 the mileage was 4,107, and the income $3,165,000. It is said that Sir Joseph's successor is to be L. J. Seargeant, who for the last few years has occupied the responsible position of traffic manager. He has a thorough understanding of the working of the Grand Trunk, being connected with it since 1874.

THE egg trade between Great Britain and Canada, which some wiseacres laughed at a little while ago, promises to be both permanent and profitable. Several shipments have been made, the eggs reached England in good condition; they sold readily, and yielded a fair profit to all concerned. This is what the Canadian Gazette says about the trade, which may now be said to be fairly established:

"The experiment of shipping Canadian eggs to British markets was brought to a close on Tuesday by the arr val at Liverpool of the Lake Huron with 100 cases, each containing 1,400 eggs. Since the McKinley tariff came into operation no less than 1,000 cases, containing in all 1,400,000 eggs, have reache i this country from Canada, and dealers who have handled the consignments say that, were the McKinley law to be repealed—as it is not, of course, likely to be, at all events for some time to come—the Canadian egg merchants have so far already succeeded in meeting British requirements as to place the trade upon a sound and permanent footing. At the same time, we need hardly remind Canadian shippers that there is plenty of scope for the exercise of caution and enterprise."

This is encouraging to those Canadians who consider it more consistent with self-respect, as well as better policy, to endeavor to find new markets than to grovel at the feet of the Americans begging them to trade with us on fair terms.

"A VERY BIG SCHEME," INDEED.

TO THE EDITOR:—I was almost paralyzed with astonishment upon reading the paragraph in your issue of to-day under the heading of "A Very Big Scheme." Your readers are told that the Electric Light Committee of the Board of Aldermen have a report in preparation in which they will recommend the purchase by the city of the plant and business of the Victoria Gas Works, the Victoria Illuminating Co., and the lighting department of the Tramway Co.

Now, if there has been one branch of the city government that has been managed badly it is the lighting branch. The whole thing is as near a fizzle and failure as it can be when it might be one of the best. The city lights can scarcely be relied upon from one hour to another, and, as to cost—who has undertaken the hopeless task of computing it? Has Ald. McKillican? I will venture to say that he knows as little about electric lighting as he did when he was first appointed chairman of the committee. Victoria is the worst lighted town on the Sound. Go to Seattle, Port Townsend, Tacoma or Vancouver, and you will find the city lights always aglow when they should be, and maintained at very slight cost. A couple of years ago, the Sperry light—an excellent illuminant if well handled—was condemned, and the Ball light substituted, at a heavy expense. Have the results of the change proved satisfactory? Ask the citizens whose streets have been in a chronic condition of darkness ever since the substituted light was installed. And we are asked to increase the expenditure, enlarge the powers, and place more money in the hands of Ald. McKillican and company to squander in the introduction of the Lord Knows Who's system of electric lighting.

I am told, on excellent authority, that there are consumed at the city works 4½ tons of coal daily to produce an indicated horse-power of seventy. What do you think of that, Mr. Editor?

Oh! yes, buy out the establishments named and, under the management of Ald. McKillican, it would require all the city revenue to keep them running.

When the new Board meets, the first step taken should be an inquiry into how, considering the l rge amount of money spent in city lighting, results are so poor?

CITIZEN.

THE CITY'S DEBT.

TO THE EDITOR:—In your paper of yesterday you have an article headed as above. Now, sir, kindly allow me to make a c rrection in said article. It says that a discount of 25 per cent. is allowed on rates paid on or, before the 31st December. Now, sir, I say that it is not the case. It is an increase of 20 per cent.; at any rate it is so with my own assessment, there being a discrepancy of 45 per cent. ALFRED LEECH.

Victoria, Jan. 2, 1891.

PORT CRESCENT.

New Machinery for More Vigorous Operations on the Breakwater, to Ensure Its Speedy Completion.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

PORT CRESCENT, Jan. 6.—Numbers of workmen, specially skilled in the handling of rock, arrived here this week from Victoria and other places and went to work immediately on the breakwater, the construction of which is going forward vigorously. The improved machinery will arrive in a few we ks, and masses of rock five tons in weight will be handled readily and put in place rapidly. This will increase the speed and quality of the work over that effected by the present engine and equipment. The ingenious method of construction here ensures the speedy completion of the entire breakwater at no distant day, making a harbor of ample proportions and without a rival for the shelter it will provide in every wind.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Pearl are here from Tacoma to complete the title to some valuable timber land, west of Port Crescent.

Manager John E. Lutz, of the Port Crescent Improvement company, returned yesterday from Victoria.

"Habitues" of the Chinese theatre say that there is a specially good piece holding the boards at that place of amusement. There is some capital talent—male and female—employed, and the spectacular effects make up for a good deal of the inability the stranger has in understanding the Celestial language.

EMMA ABBOTT'S DEAT

She Made Her Last Appearanc the Stage While Suffering From Pneumonia.

A Pathetic Death-Bed Scene Great Singer Was Not Afraid to Die.

SALT LAKE, Jan. 5.—Emma A the popular operatic singer, di pneumonia at 7:40 this morning, Templeton house. Her compar rived at Salt Lake, last Wednesday, a successful engagement in Or where Miss Abbott achieved one o most marked successes in opening new opera house, and delighted the ence with her wonderful rendition favorite song, "The Last Rose of mer."

On Wednesday she sang to an un ly appreciative audience in this ci though on that night she was com ing of hoarseness. Manager Prat jected to her appearance, but she ed, being desirous of retrieving her tation in the eyes of the people of Lake, since it appears that, two ago, Miss Abbott visited Salt Lak both she and her husband were una appear on account of pneumonia. disastisfaction was expressed, bu singers' precaution was well take her husband, Charles Wetherell, the following week in Denver. memory of the occurrence made Abbott doubly anxious to appear. sang and the audience was take storm, but it was her last appearan

On Thursday, she was confined room, where she was attended b Pinkerton, who had been her phy in the East. She steadily grew notwithstanding the attention o physicia s and the solicitude o friends, and on Saturday she exp the belief that she would not recov

Sunday marked the crisis, wh noon, she apparently grew better. called for her pape s and her reticu handled some of the contents and some remarks about her future She talked cheerfully to some lad her company and arranged wit manager that Miss Broderick shoul her part at Provo to-night.

At 3 she suddenly grew worse a was believed the end was near at Her friends were summoned, and aid of her physicians she seemed over and it was hoped that her m ous vitality would enable her to through, but this mor ing she st grew worse and at 7:40 passed away

The scene at the death-bed pathetic one. The great singer was scious almost to the last moment, d the fact that opiates had been ad tered. Her last words on earth "I am not afraid to die."

There were present at the be Alice Ellerton, Miss Nellie Fra Miss Vernon, Mr. Pruette, Mr. an Michelena and Miss Lizzie Anna of the company, Ma ager Pratt an and Dr. Pinkerton.

The body was embalmed and en in a handsome casket, and will go here to Denver, thence to Chicag thence to Gloucester, Mass., wher husband is buried, her will providin the disposition of her remains.

The professional career of Emm bott has been phenomenally succ She died worth at least $3,000,00 some good judges have placed it 000,000. She was born on Decem 1849, in Chicago. Her father music teacher and moved to Peori when Emma was a child. She develop d musical gifts of a high and sang on the stage when not than ten years old.

Clara Louise Kellogg was the f take a kind interest in the little song She generously sent her to New city for instruction under Signor E and it was not long before she w gaged as leading soprano at the Avenue church of Dr. I. H. Chapin made such an impression on that c gation that three of its wealthy me Jacob Weeks, C. P. Huntington George G. Lake, raised a purse i to send her abroad to complet musical education.

During her four years' absence in and Paris she had the instructi Giovani and Wartel, and secure praise and friendship of Patti, G the composer and many other m celebrities.

It was in 1874 that she married, Lake's house, in New York, Mr. Wetherell, of Massachusetts, a excellent business capacity, and Abbott was largely indebted to his agement for her great success as She made her first appearance in in London in 1875 in Don "Daughter of the Regiment," a American debut took place at Ch ing Hall in New York city in the of 1877.

She soon became a popular singe devoted herself to her ar with vigor. Her husband was shrewd vestments. He paid her a regular of $700 a week. This was her own balance he invested as he thought both for himself and for her. money he could command he pla property in Minneapolis, St. Omaha, Los Angeles, Tacoma and S His judgment was vindicated. Eugene Wetherell died suddenly a ver, two years ago, he had willed thing he had in the world to his wif it made her three times a millio She was possessed at her death o real estate, improved and otherwis dozen cities of the Union than an man on the American stage has le hind her.

Although immensely rich, Miss A loved her profession and could no life of ease and retirement. Wi means at her command she readily ored an operatic company of the talent, and was on the most succ tour of her career when death si her voice at Salt Lake City, after ness of only two days. I is not singular that she died in precise same manner as her husband, from monia contracted in traveling th sudden changes of climate.

Emma Abbott was a special favor