ING DENIES LEGED INTERVIEW

NO STATEMENT ON CHAMBERLAIN'S POLICY

d Laurier Expresses Disappro- of Unfounded Reports Credit- Boundary Commissioners.

(Special to the Times.)

Oct. 14.—In the House to-day ix read from a Montreal news- able stating that Hon. W. S. ns in favor of Mr. Chamber- ferential tariff policy. The correspondent of an English l that Mr. Fielding stated to although the government had eclaration on the subject, they y to go to the country and n Mr. Chamberlain's policy, that no rider was attached contribution to Imperial de- e asked if the government had o do with this.

. Fielding—"I am glad to be y that I gave no interview on , and I never used the words to me in conversation with

oundary Commission.

em of $140,000 for the Alaska Mr. Fowler said that he was at the case was well prepared etted that one of the commis- l so far forgotten himself as tatements attributed to him; he did make them.

id Laurier replied that the was that the statements were n the press, as there was no- ow that Mr. Alyesworth had f the expressions. Only yes- Alverstone had denied what out him in the same way.

en said that the difference ord Alverstone had done so Alyesworth had not.

r to some further remarks, Laurier said that Lord Al- d denied the statement, but ght he had ever said it. In stone's case there were per- ors in the American press ief Justice was going to go and therefore he took the eny them.

ley said that the Canadian e in London was beneath

OMIC COLORED URDAY SUPPLEMENTS

e One Every Week For the ent and Entertainment of Younger Readers.

on Saturday next, the ssue a colored comic supple- l of the present one. This ch has been secured at con- xpense, is being employed or the entertainment during and winter evenings of the g friends of the paper, many re signified a desire for such

ng people have shown such reciation of the comic puzzle the Times has used daily ime, and later of the Can- ical puzzle series which has en inaugurated, that it has to minister still further to tainment and aumsement in just indicated.

es with which they will be portray among other things tions of Adam in raising ay not be generally known, makes no mention of the e boyhood of Cain was suf- chievous to foreshadow the me on which he entered in rs. The practical jokes played on his mother Eve, is father Adam, and by the nish the artist with a fertile hich he does full justice.

n juvenile type of Cain is whose pranks are also de- y in these supplements. ers and other creations of pencil will give the children easure as Happy Hooligan

touch with these fun mak- o are not now receiving the l subscribe at once.

rt in the Colonist that there s of scarletina among the school children is alarming-

As a matter of fact the r of cases in the entire city ceed 28. The great difficult g the spread of a disease letina is that the character illness is not reported to the l quarantine precautions not be taken. Supt. Eaton lth authorities have, how- a plan whereby this difficul- overcome. By it the prin- hools are directed to report he particulars, the name of absent, the cause of whose own, or believed to be, sick- kind. The report must be school board office not later k every school day hereafter ler is cancelled. These re- en be handed over to the for further action if neces-

CE OF THE PEACE.

Cole, of Athol, has the fol- y of Polson's Nerviline, the ld liniment made: "I have the a most reliable remedy headache and pain in the ave used it externally for with excellent results. No be without Nerviline You olson's Nerviline just as ." Sold everywhere in large Try it.

FEARS FELT FOR NORWEGIAN SHIP

PRINCE ALBERT IS MAKING LONG TRIP

Many Other Carriers En Route to Port —Cottage City Arrived Last Night—Marine Notes.

Shipping men feel apprehensive over the non-arrival of the Norwegian ship Prince Albert, which though listed for Puget Sound, is under engagement to load lumber at Chemainus. The vessel, in command of Captain Hansen, left Capetown 267 days ago. She was sighted passing Angers on May 16th, but from that date on no reports have been received from her. There are those who believe that she is making a long passage from the fact that her hull was very foul when sailing, and on the strength of this theory no re-insurance has been placed on her. Many, however, are beginning to form the impression that the ship has been lost. She was at Capetown when the Strathdon was there, which latter vessel has long since arrived and is at Portland receiving outward cargo.

Another vessel coming to this port from Capetown is the Pass of Brander, which, as will be remembered, was here last year. She is coming now for orders. The Forteviot, the British barque about due from Antwerp, with general merchandise for British Columbia ports, will be one of the largest craft of her kind to have ever visited these waters. She has a registered tonnage of 2,982 tons. The vessel is one 119 days from Antwerp. The British ship Lytton, now at San Francisco, and which became famous a few years ago in connection with Rear-Admiral Palliser's expedition to Cocos island in search of Peruvian treasure, is coming here, according to report, to undergo repairs.

British ship Aristomene, is due from Yokohama. She is coming for orders. The German ship Ariadne, which is 39 days out from Santa Rosalie, is under charter to load British Columbia salmon. The British ship Grenada is still another merchantman heading for the Royal Roads. She is coming from Molendo. British barque Hugomont has just left Glasgow with general cargo for British Columbia, and the British barque Nivella is reported chartered by Findlay, Durham & Brodie to load at Chemainus. She is coming from Capetown.

LIVERPOOL CAPTAIN'S PRIZE.

A Paris telegram states that the Lisbon correspondent of the Patrie informs that journal that a few days ago the Liverpool steamer Obidense arrived in the Tagus from Maderia. Her captain reported that the Jeanne d'Arc, a French three-master, was found abandoned and leaking, with 14 feet of water in her hold, fifty miles from Maderia.

With the Jeanne d'Arc's own pumps he reduced the water in the hold, put a crew on board, hoisted the British flag, and brought the French vessel into Funchal. A few hours previously the French crew of the Jeanne d'Arc, who had taken to the boats and left her, were picked up by an Italian cruiser and brought into Funchal. They could hardly believe their eyes when they saw their ship towed into the same port by the Obidense, and flying the British flag; and it is thought that the captain of the Jeanne d'Arc will have some trouble in explaining to the satisfaction of the owners why he abandoned his vessel when there was no immediate peril of shipwreck, instead of signalling for assistance to a passing steamer.

The captain of the Obidense has gained a rich prize, for the Jeanne d'Arc is a first class three-master of 1,300 tons, built in 1891. She had on board a valuable cargo of wine and other merchandise. The second mate of the Obidense was left on board the Jeanne d'Arc at Funchal, and the English steamer continued her voyage to Lisbon and England.

The Obidense is a steel screw steamer of 2,380 tons. She was built in 1891 by T. Royden & Sons, at Liverpool, and is owned by the Booth Steamship Co., Ltd., Liverpool.

COTTAGE CITY RETURNED.

Quite unexpectedly the Pacific Coast steamship Cottage City, which, according to last reports, had been disabled in the north and was waiting for a tow south, arrived in port Tuesday under her own steam and without the assistance of any vessel. The steamer was returning with 150 passengers, when, in Frederick Sound, her low pressure cylinder broke. An anchorage was soon found and then Capt. Wallace headed for Juneau to confer by telegraph with his owners. A tug was dispatched north, as already reported, but before her services could be called into play temporary repairs of a character to warrant the ship proceeding were carried out. As a result the steamer came on to port last evening, looking none the worse for her misadventure. Her next run north will be taken by the City of Topeka.

NELLIE SANK IN COLUMBIA.

While going up the Columbia a few days ago with a log raft in tow the steamer Nellie struck a rock near the mouth of the Willamette and a large hole was made on her port side. Before she could be beached the vessel sank, nothing but her smokestack remaining above the water. The accident occurred near the shore, and the captain and a crew of seven men had little difficulty in reaching land. The Nellie is a sternwheeler.

THE COAL MARKET.

"In Harrison's report of the coal market, under date, San Francisco, October 8th, appears the following: "There are at present 33 vessels chartered, 25 of which are already en route. The total tonnage of these vessels engaged will foot up to 110,000 tons, which shows very clearly that the ships are arriving here largely in excess of the charters being made. We had at this time last month 145,000 tons loading en route for this port. It is reported that 16s. is the minimum rate for loading from Newcastle. But few vessels are liable to be engaged at this rate, as importers cannot see their way clear to dispose of coal cargoes at covering figures. The products of British Columbia and Washington are being landed here at prices which preclude the importation from Australia."

ITALY'S RULERS

Received Enthusiastic Welcome to the Capital of France.

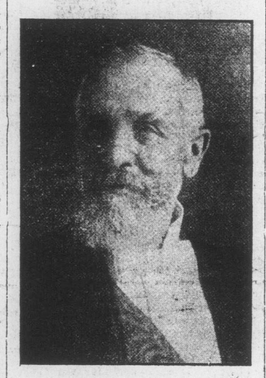
Madane, Oct. 14.—The royal train conveying the King and Queen of Italy to

KING OF ITALY.

Paris arrived here at 1.40 this morning, and left at 2.12. The engine is decorated with French and Italian flags. At the French capital they will be received by President Loubet and Madame Loubet. The visitors will remain in Paris until Sunday, when they will attend a review and afterwards return to Rome.

Arrival at Paris.

Paris, Oct. 14.—King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helene, of Italy, arrived



PRESIDENT LOUBET.

here at 3 p.m. A large crowd at the station greeted their Majesties enthusiastically.

In Safe Keeping.

Paris, Oct. 14.—Every precaution has been taken to secure the safety of the Italian sovereigns on their visit to-day.

QUEEN OF ITALY.

Six hundred and thirty-five arrests have been made during the last few days of tramps or suspected Anarchists, all of whom will be detained in custody until after the King's departure.

DATE OF CONVENTION.

Liberal Members Will Meet Here Monday—Government Considering Cabinet Changes.

A change has been made in the date of the convention to be held of the Liberal members elected to the legislature. It has been found advisable to hold the meeting on Monday forenoon instead of Friday as at first arranged.

The members from the upper country will all reach the city towards the close of the week and be ready for the convention on Monday.

The provincial government held an executive meeting on Tuesday, when Hon. Charles Wilson, president of the council, was present. It is believed the question of the filling of the cabinet vacancies which will follow the defeat of the two ministers was fully gone into. It is said that a decision will be arrived at very shortly, probably before the close of the week.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow went over to Vancouver Tuesday night. His visit may have something to do with appeasing F. Carter-Cotton, J. P. Garden and W. J. Bowser, all of whom are aspirants for office.

"Does marriage really change a man?" queried the bachelor girl.

"It does," replied the newly-made husband. "Why, the very first call for an

LOCAL AMATEURS IN MINSTREL SHOW

THEY PLEASED FAIR AUDIENCE LAST NIGHT

Another Performance on Wednesday—"The Dairy Farm" and "Sherlock Holmes" Coming.

The minstrel performance at the Victoria theatre Tuesday was a very enjoyable one. It was given in aid of Perseverance Lodge, I. O. G. T., and was under the patronage of His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. McCandless.

The attendance was very good. The patronage extended to it will doubtless be increased this evening, when the entertainment is to be repeated.

The first part of the evening was purely minstrel in its character, with a little side play by the end men to break the monotony.

With J. G. Brown as interlocutor and L. Leigh, F. Leroy, A. Petch and F. W. Jenkins as end men, some timely local hits, especially touching the politicians of the hour, were introduced. The songs were excellently rendered and of sufficient variety to satisfy every one present.

At the conclusion of the first part of the programme the burnt cork artists disappeared and the remainder of the evening was given to special features interspersed with songs.

The second part opened with a cake walk by the Misses Smith and LeBlanc. C. Wriglesworth gave an exhibition of electrical club swinging, which called forth much praise from the audience. R. C. Wilson as a temperance stump speaker produced much merriment. L. Leigh and F. W. Leonard in a sketch "Dr. Black of Coalville," also provoked much amusement. Prof. Wilhelm Peters gave a capital exhibition of legerdemain, introducing many amusing and mystifying feats. Frank Leroy introduced several good songs in the second part.

The minstrels were: Interlocutor, J. G. Brown; end men, Messrs. Petch, F. W. Jenkins, F. Leroy, L. Leigh; first tenors, Messrs. G. H. Redman, M. R. Worlock, F. Savage, J. Petch; second tenors, Messrs. D. A. Fraser, J. Frost, L. Yorke, A. Rivers; first basses, Messrs. H. Kent, F. Neelands, J. Hunter, A. Davies; second basses, Messrs. J. Mullins, R. Macdonald, L. Gleason, R. Petch and Arthur Wheeler.

The orchestra was composed as follows: First violins, Jesse Longfield, Miss Stoddart; second violins, Mrs. Morrison, Miss Rolfe, flute, Miss Locke; piccolo, Gideon Hicks; double bass, Mr. Matthews; 'cello, A. Longfield; piano, Mrs. Lewis Hall.

The complete programme, which will be repeated this evening, was as follows:

PART I.

Orchestral selection, Jolly New Yorker (march and two-step), Longfield's orchestra.
Opening chorus, Witmark's Minstrel Overture.

Synopsis: 1. Down Home in Alabama; 2. Sadie, the Moon am Beaming; 3. The Good Old Days; 4. (Stein Song) A Health to Comrades Old or New; 5. Whistling Chorus; 6. Hush, Ma Babe; 7. Jones Said; 8. What Yer 'Gwine to Do; 9. One, Two, Three, Shift; 10. Katie, You're the Girl I Love; 11. The Organ Grinder; 12. Waltz Song from Faust, introducing All Coons Look Alike to Me; 13. Finale (Patriotic Chorus) The British Volunteer.

End Song—Parody on Ma Hannah Lady ..... L. Leigh
End Song (play on words)—The Grip Car Gripman's Grip ..... A. Petch
Bass Song and Chorus—Deep, Down Deep ..... H. Kent
End Song—We All Have Troubles of Our Own ..... F. W. Jenkins
Quartette (unaccompanied)—Doan' Ye Cry, Ma Honey ..... Messrs. Kent, Mullins, Worlock, Redman
End Song—Every Morn I Bring Her Chicken ..... Frank Leroy
Song and Chorus—Is Yer Mammie Always With Ye ..... J. G. Brown
End Song—Zizzy ze Zum Zum.... L. Leigh
Plantation Song—Piccaninny Lullaby.. ..... M. R. Worlock
End Song—Dandy Colored Coon....A. Petch

Interval.

Orchestral Selection—Gavotte Pompadour ..... Longfield Orchestra

PART II.

Prize Cake Walk. First prize, $8; 2nd prize, $5. Winners to be decided by applause of audience .....
Illustrated Song—Life's Game of See-Saw ..... Frank Leroy
Sketch—Dr. Black from Coalville..... ..... Messrs. Leigh and Jenkins
Electric Club Swinging...C. Wriglesworth
Stump Speech—Schultz's Lecture on Temperance, etc. ..... R. C. Wilson
Illustrated Song—Where the Silv'ry Colorado Wends Its Way—Frank Leroy
Exhibition of Legerdemain .... Prof. Wilhelm Peters
God Save the King.

From Pulpit to Stage.

Edward Davis, formerly the pastor of the First Christian church of Oakland, is one of the very few clergymen who have forsaken the pulpit for the stage. He has been engaged by Balasco & Mayer to play the hero in their production of "The Dairy Farm," which comes to the Victoria theatre to-morrow night.

In speaking of his change from pulpit to the stage, Mr. Davis said: "It is never too late to change professions if we change a bad one for a good one, or, if bad in a good one we change to become better in a bad one. I have exchanged a cross for a mask, but there may be more truth behind a mask, which appears to be naught but a sham, than behind a face which seems to be aglow with glory, when, if the truth were known, it is but a calcium light effect of godliness. I had received by collegiate degree before I was twenty, and found myself, before I had reached my majority, preaching. With my increasing maturity I came to realize that my very characteristics which would tend to provoke antagonism so long as I remained in the pulpit—the very method which would make me from an orthodox standpoint a failure in the ministry—would serve to secure a success upon the stage. Fortunately for my present professional career I had left my former profession before I was 25, and, in the past five years I have at least passed the period of apprenticeship. The stage is not a devil's workshop, but a God's playhouse—nay, not a playhouse, but a place of toil, of triumph and of tears. Some men go to the stage with ulterior motive, some men go to it for art's sake alone, some men go to it for sheer reason of real conviction—a moral hope to be of benefit unto the world. I am glad of the opportunity afforded me by Messrs. Balasco & Mayer of making my initial tour of the West in a role so congenial, and a play so naive that my most punctilious friends could not be offended by what otherwise might have been a radical change in my passing from the pulpit to the stage."

The Phenomenal Sleuth.

It is not difficult to understand the success made by Mr. Herbert Kelcey and Miss Effie Shannon, since they began their starring career over six years ago. Every play that they have been identified with as stars has seen them doing the same consistent and artistic work that marked their connection with the famous Frohman Lyceum Stock Company, and earned such high praise at the hands of the press of New York city.

In all their years before the public they have never been received with such acclaim as they have in William Gillette's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes." It may be well to note that the same support which earned such high encomiums last season has been retained intact.

The setting of the first act is an exact reproduction of the drawing room in the London mansion of Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, whose literary contributions alone would have made him famous, had he not been Prime Minister of England. Its rich colorings and tapestried walls is a sight worthy of the lovers of the beautiful. The fourth act setting is a reproduction of the "surgery" of the late Sir Morrell Mackenzie, England's greatest physician, who is no doubt well remembered as the surgeon who attended the father of the present Emperor of Germany in his last illness. The first scene, second act, is the reproduction of an underground room in the notorious Whitechapel district in London.

This drama is booked to appear at the Victoria on Saturday night.

LIBERALS MEET TO SELECT LEADER

WILL CONVENE HERE ON MONDAY NEXT

The Result of Gathering Will Harmonize and Unify All Sections of The Party.

The elected Liberal members of the legislature will meet here on Monday next to select the man who will henceforth lead the Liberal forces in this province. The meeting has been called by Stuart Henderson, member-elect for Yale, who is also president of the Provincial Liberal Association.

As Victoria is now regarded as the Liberal stronghold of the province, and as Vancouver Island constituencies are also almost unanimous in returning Liberal members, this place is the natural point to hold the gathering which will name the leader of the party.

Several names will come before the convention. There has been no wire-pulling going on, but the names of several members have been canvassed as likely nominees for the responsible and important post in question.

Among those most prominently mentioned are J. A. Macdonald, of Rossland, the clever young barrister who defeated a minister of the crown there a few days ago; W. W. B. McInnes, member-elect for Alberni, whose eloquence and campaign force are well-known; John Oliver, the staunch member for the Delta, who did such yeoman service for the party and the province last session; Stuart Henderson, the clever member for Yale; R. L. Drury, who has done so much to focus Liberal sentiment in this city, and T. W. Paterson, the invincible representative of the Islands.

The choice of the members on Monday next will settle finally a matter which has been a source of heart-burning and dissension in the Liberal ranks for several years. Several conventions have been held, but the views of the members of these conventions were so irreconcilable that friction instead of harmony resulted therefrom. A month or two ago Mr. Martin, the nominal leader, voluntarily retired from his position, on the general understanding that the leader would be selected by the Liberals elected to this House, and that such choice should be final and loyally accepted by all sections of the party.

The result of the convention on Monday next will therefore be awaited with great interest.

RESTORING PEACE.

Large Number of Insurgents in Monastir District Have Surrendered.

Monastir, Oct. 12, via Salonica, Macedonia, Oct. 13.—This district is settling down. The insurgents have been routed and practically annihilated in the Peristeri mountains, though their stronghold is still the meeting place of what insurrectionists remain in the region.

Chakalaroff, the insurgent leader, is still at large in the Kasteria district, but most of the peasants who acompanied him have surrendered. The inspector general, Hilmi Pasha, in concert with the mixed commission, is arranging to rebuild the homes which were destroyed out of government funds.

ANOTHER TERM FOR STEALING MONEY

WOOD WAS UNABLE TO RESIST TEMPTATION

Got Six Months on Wednesday—Unfortunates Confined at Police Station.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Six months' imprisonment with hard labor was the penalty inflicted upon Walter John Wood on the charge of obtaining $11.25 under false pretences from Richard Bray. It appears that Woods and a man named Townsend were employed on the marine railway at Esquimalt, and the latter became ill. Money was left for him at Richard Bray's stable. Wood presented himself, ostensibly on behalf of Townsend, but as a matter of fact on behalf of his own pocket, and secured the sum. When the fraud was detected the police were notified, and Constable Clayards took Wood in charge.

It was only a comparatively short time ago when the prisoner was released from the provincial jail, where he served a ten months' term for stealing money from a patient at the St. Joseph's hospital. This theft occurred last fall and was of a somewhat unusual character. Wood, who was an attendant, persuaded the patient to leave his money in his (Wood's) custody, and the other thinking it all right did so in order to cover up his wrong-doing. Wood placed the purse which contained the money in a drawer in the sister superior's apartment. He is a man of good ability and appearance, and is uniformly industrious. In every task he undertakes he acquits himself most creditably, but unfortunately he seems to be unable to resist the slightest temptation to steal.

* * *

A couple of weeks ago Wood was responsible for a quarter-mile dash in which Sergeant Walker and Constable Harper participated. It occurred principally on Store street about two o'clock on a Sunday morning, which accounts for the absence of any publicity in regard to it to date. It is understood that a member of the Work Point police squad was taking back to the barracks a soldier who had broken leave. Wood happened to come along, and, sizing up the situation, interfered. "See, here," said he to the refractory soldier, "you don't have to go back with him unless you want." This encouraged the prisoner, who proceeded to resist his captor with Wood's assistance, and the prospects of escape were very bright when Sergeant Walker and Constable Harper appeared on the scene. Seeing them the soldier and Wood made a break, followed by the military policeman, Sergeant Walker and Constable Harper, in the order named. It was a splendid race, an athletic demonstration such as might have graced a stadium in palmy old Hellenic days. Sergeant Walker gradually overtook the soldier policeman and slowly gained on the two fugitives, who dashed up Herald street. The erring soldier was becoming exhausted, and Wood, who was in fine form, having had ten months' in which to get into the very best possible shape, caught hold of his arm to help him. This gave the sergeant his opportunity, so with a spirited spurt he closed up on the pair and caught them. Wood looked rather belligerent, but the heavy blackthorn cane the officer had in his hand exercised a wonderful subjugating influence. The soldier prisoner was surrendered to the policeman from his own forces, while Wood was taken to the lock-up. No charge was preferred against him. Perhaps it would have been better for him had he been given a month or so, for he would have missed the opportunity which has landed him at Topaz avenue for six.

* * *

Constable Best took into custody last night one George McLean, who was charged with assaulting Daniel Crammer in the Telegraph hotel. According to the story of Crammer, who wears a marked discoloration in the region of one of his eyes, he entered the hotel and found McLean and two companions. He (Crammer) was in conversation with a woman when McLean began talking to him in a very objectionable manner. The upshot of the discussion was, he said, a blow delivered by McLean, which struck him on the eye and made his nose bleed. He thereupon went outside and notified Constable Best. In court this morning McLean charged Crammer with being the aggressor. The case was remanded until Friday.

* * *

During the past few days the serenity of the police station has been rudely disturbed by the cries of demented unfortunates who have been confined there for safe-keeping. There were four of them at one time, one of whom is under treatment for a very bad attack of delirium tremens. Another, suffering from the same trouble, has about recovered. A lady from Fairhaven, whose husband is said to be quite well-to-do there, was confined at the police station for several days, temporary insanity having overtaken her. Her husband was sent for, and the two returned to Fairhaven this morning. Another unfortunate who is suffering from unsound mind is Bob Foster, "Old Tulip," who became quite violent at the hospital a few nights ago and attempted to cut his throat. Happily he was unsuccessful, but it was found necessary to confine the old sport in the police station. To-day he is reported to be improving.

* * *

Two offenders against the bicycle by-law were fined $3 each in the police court this morning. They rode not wisely but too well—on the sidewalk. A Japanese named Mida was fined $10 and $2.50 costs for drunkenness. Yesterday he denied that he was drunk, but the evidence against him was indisputable. He had entered a private house in the small hours of the morning and greatly alarmed the household, who thought he was a burglar. Drunkenness was the lightest charge that could be preferred against him under the circumstances. The alternative to the fine is twenty days.

C. H. Dickie, ex-M. P. P., accompanied by Mrs. Dickie, returned the other day from a visit to Seattle and other Sound cities.

REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING.

No people on the globe have greater reason to be thankful for the regularity with which seed time and harvest succeed each other than Canadians. For them the earth bestoweth of her abundance with an almost prodigal hand. They have indeed much to be thankful for, and it is meet that one day in the year should be specially set apart for a general suspension of business on farm, in workship, factory and store, in order that the inhabitants of this favored land shall return thanks for the favors so lavishly showered upon them by kindly Providence. Not only are we doubly blessed in that our lot has been cast in a country in which no good thing is lacking for the bodily comfort, but there is reason to give thanks for the beneficence of the age in which our destiny has been cast. The ingenuity of man has produced many marvellous inventions designed for the uplifting of the race. Steam and electricity are being employed to bring the great human family into such relationships as will produce a better understanding, a more effective bond of union, and end in time the misunderstandings which in the past could only be settled by bloodshed, sufferings and hardships indescribable. The peculiar position of Canada on this new continent has shielded her sons and her daughters during the greater part of the formative period of the country from unfortunate entanglements and misunderstandings. War has not cast its blighting shadows over our thresholds. Our energies have been applied to the peaceful pursuits of industry and commerce. The things that make for comfort, convenience, peace and prosperity have exclusively engaged our attention. We have built up in the majority of the provinces of the Dominion almost unequalled facilities for the education of our children. They are being carefully trained for the continuance of the work their forefathers began so well. We are devoting our attention specially to the creation of institutions in which the sick, the suffering and the unfortunate shall have the best treatment and care the science of the age can provide. We have not yet reached ideal political conditions by any means, but we are advancing along those lines also, as a comparison of the debates in Parliament with those of two or three decades ago, the abolition of gerrymanders and partizan franchise acts, prove.

To-morrow Canadians will be called upon to turn their minds temporarily away from thoughts of trifling disappointments and failures, and to give thanks for the unequalled blessings they have enjoyed throughout the past year. It is contrary to the nature of the average individual of the human race to dwell too long upon the immediate past, however pleasing the retrospect. There will be many to-morrow taking tent of the future as well as pondering gratefully upon the pleasant past. And while we have as a people much to be thankful for, there was never a time in the history of Canada when her sons had such reason to anticipate a year of more abundant material prosperity. The bow is bright with promise. The eyes of the world are upon us. The most enterprising specimens of the race are crowding in upon our shores. What but a few years ago was fittingly described as a great lone land will soon be converted into the most prolific of regions. Great railway enterprises are projected for our particular section of the Dominion. The wealth stored up in our mountains will be made accessible; our timber, our coal and our fish, will be provided with an ever-increasing market. The heart of Canada will not less spontaneously return thanks for past blessings because it is filled with an abounding hope for the future.

LEADERS AND PARTIES.

A very short time ago the Colonist was greatly concerned about the leadership of the Conservative party. It admonished Mr. McBride that whatever his private opinion on the subject might be, he would never do. He was lacking in character and deficient in determination. He must sink his personal ambition, put his feeble light under a bushel, and make way for a greater star who was nameless. The Conservative party could never hope to achieve success and retain office under such a weakling. But McBride is still there. His character has undergone no change, yet he seems determined to remain at the head of the party, and in power until he is finally ousted.

And the curious feature of the case is that the Colonist now affects to believe the Premier one of the strong men of the Conservative party. It may be right, because the party appears to be woefully deficient in strength as regards its leaders, its members and its policy. In the federal field the complaint of men who can read the signs of the times is that Mr. Borden and his followers have nothing to offer the people of Canada. They criticize the fiscal policy of the government and maintain that the country is threatened with ruin. Yet in all lines trade is booming, the Dominion revenue is expanding, and men are launching forth confidently into new enterprises. The opposition denounces the proposal to construct a new national highway across the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, although it knows in its heart that the time is fully ripe for another such enterprise, that the people recognize this and will overwhelmingly sustain the government when they are appealed to for judgment on the point. Mr. Borden has no opinion to pronounce upon the British preference, although that is one of the supreme questions of the day. It is Imperial as well as national. The country cannot be expected to bestow its confidence upon such a spineless combination, with a leader afraid to open his mouth lest he give offence to some of the particular cliques from which he hopes to receive support.

From its experience, therefore, we may assume that the Colonist has special knowledge of the weaknesses of leaders and the blighting effects of lack of character in the head of a party upon the fortunes of that party. Therefore it is greatly concerned about the choice the Liberals of British Columbia are about to make. In a column of words meaningiessly strung together our contemporary seems desirous of hinting that if the Liberal party proceeds to carry out the programme laid down before the elections were held it will but set in progress a process of disintegration. Which is no doubt true. But it will be the forces of the Colonist's well-beloved leader, Mr. McBride, that will suffer, and our contemporary knows that and fears for the result. The party that was designated a leaderless rabble when it appealed to the electorate has all but achieved the destruction of a government entrenched in power and buttressed by all the resources of the public treasury, which it did not hesitate to lavishly apply in purchasing support, and notwithstanding the fact that the banks had refused it further credit and that a special session of the legislature had been summoned for the purpose of relieving it from its embarrassments. A party which achieved such a remarkable success as "a leaderless rabble" is not likely to lose in strength when it is properly organized and efficiently led, acting in harmony instead of as an army of independent units. Some strong men fell in the late battles, men whose voices would have been of value in the selection of a leader, and whose counsels afterwards would have been of great assistance to that leader in his important public duties. But new material has been drafted into the ranks of the party. In many respects that new material will strengthen the party and add to its claims upon the electorate. The men who will meet to choose from amongst themselves a leader are too broad in their views, too firmly determined to sink all personal ambitions for the good of Liberalism and the well-being of the country, not to loyally accept the choice of the majority. Nor do they need advice from any individual or newspaper upon the subject. The choice of a leader will strengthen the Liberal party and equip it with the one essential to bring about the downfall of the tottering McBride government. That is what the Colonist fears; its vain hope is for a continuance of the conditions which have weakened the Liberal party and hindered it in its work in British Columbia.

The opponents of Mr. Chamberlain are fatuously playing into his hands. We have no desire other than that the people of Great Britain shall adopt the fiscal policy best suited to their necessities and their circumstances, and it is apparent that the real question is going to be lost sight of unless the opposition feel that their case is inherently weak and they cannot hope to win by sticking to the actual issue. What are people of the spirit of Britons likely to think when they are told by every alleged statesman who rises to combat the arguments of Joseph Chamberlain that Great Britain cannot afford to arouse the antagonism of the world by entering into preferential arrangements with her colonies? They have but to repeat that argument a few more times and get it thoroughly impressed upon the consciousness of the people to arouse such a spirit as Mr. Chamberlain could never hope to do by his most fervent appeals. Unless the old stubborn character has greatly deteriorated—and we do not think it has if it is possible to form a reliable judgment from the specimens we occasionally encounter—John Bull will simply act as though he were inviting the whole world to come on. Beside, the men who to-day are deprecating action that would invite antagonism have been for years telling the people that foreign nations had done their worst—that they had gone as far as they could in their efforts to hamper British trade and strangle British industry.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE DECORATIONS.

To the Editor:—I notice in your issue of the 8th a paragraph descriptive of the hall window in the Government House, which states that the work in question was "designed" and executed by the firm of Henry Bloomfield & Sons.

Please allow me to say that the firm, as such, did not design the window in question. I myself am the author of the design, not only for this, but every other piece of stained glass of importance in the building, the firm named merely carrying out the work to my cartoons.

In the case of the hall window, as its designer I have to make grateful acknowledgments to Rev. Canon Beanlands for a number of very valuable suggestions which have had no small part in making the work heraldically complete.

JAMES BLOOMFIELD.
600 Burrard St., Vancouver, Oct. 13, 1903.

The limpet adheres to a rock with a force equal to 2,000 times its own weight.