Weekly Colonist. ... JANUARY 2.

THE O... TO SEIZE THE ... TY.

...ment is like a ...ate by right of ...nine points of the ... is necessary to a ... the mischief is that his worship thinks he knows the ground on which he stands, and is determined to yield not one inch if he can help it. What may be the motives which impel Mr. Carey to act like the fabulous dog in the manger cannot at present be divined. He probably has floating through his fecund brain a shadowy sort of scheme by the operation of which he hopes to hold over as mayor for another year; or he may have an idea that the office has fallen to him as a sort of inherent gift, or Christmas-box, which he will his are to enjoy through all time. But as there are methods by which even the man who holds the necessary "nine points" may be dislodged, so it may yet be shown that the mayor, although in possession, can be discomfitted without an appeal to the courts. The municipalities act is the constitution under which all the municipalities in the province work. The act prescribes that the election of mayor and councillors shall be annual, and that nominations shall be made and votes taken at such place or places as the council shall by *bylaw* appoint. A succeeding section states that the nomination shall be held on the second Monday in January, and the polling, if any, on the Thursday following. Section 48 says that the mayor and councillors shall continue in office until the next annual election. Now, suppose there should be no election on the second Monday in January, can the mayor and councillors hold over until provision has been made for another election? or do they, as a body, die on the 15th of January? and if the latter question is answered in the affirmative will not the charter or letters patent constituting the municipality lapse and the existence of the corporate body come to an end? These are nuts that must be left for the legal fraternity to crack; but it is held that the election can only be held after the bylaw that was passed on Friday night has been signed by the mayor and received the impress of the corporate seal. The mayor has said that he will not affix his signature and the seal is not in the custody of the corporation. Can the election take place without the bylaw? There is authority for the statement that it can. The "Municipal Manual" cites cases to show that it has been held "when the *head of a corporation*, either from *caprice or obstinacy*, refuses to do his duty in *passing a bylaw* which is required for the benefit of his township, or a part of it, that the *remaining members of the council* would be justified in requiring another member of the council to take the chair, and do that which the head of the council perversely refuses to do." The same authority states that it has also been held "If the head of the council refuses to put a *motion* which it is his duty to put he may be voted out of the chair; or the members may vote on the motion *without its being put from the chair*." To name the place for the election is a statutory duty imposed on the council; to refuse to perform that duty is a MISDEMEANOR AND ALL MAY BE INDICTED. Now, it seems plain that should the mayor continue obdurate and the council neglect to authorize one of their number to perform the duty which devolves on them they will not discharge any ratepayer may lay an information and the whole corporation may be proceeded against criminally. But there is reason to believe that the mayor will not find the councillors the pliancy he may have imagined them to be, and that they will shortly declare their independence of him in a pronounced manner. Should this prove to be incorrect and the election is illegally held it may become necessary to surrender the charter and apply to the house for an act to confirm the election. From any standpoint in which the matter may be viewed it is serious, and we shall be much surprised and disappointed if the man or men who are responsible for the imbroglio do not presently find themselves involved in a grave difficulty.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Telegraphic communication with the outer world, fitful at the best of times, has ceased entirely during the past two weeks. The last news dispatch received at this office was on the 14th inst. Since that date there has been a dreary news blank. The weather, though cold, has not been unfavorable to the repair of the line. This is shown by the fact that the line through the interior of British Columbia has been "up" nearly all the time, and that the line from Victoria to the boundary at Sumas has been and is still in a condition of good repair. South of Sumas and thence on to Seattle (a section of country covered by the Western Union Company's wire) is where the trouble lies. Either no effort is made by the repairers to restore communication or the force is too weak to cover the extended "beats" in that section. The trouble has been located time and again, and complaint made; but the line continues to fall before every breath of wind or every inch of rain, and to remain down for so long a time as to create a suspicion that it is the repairers and not the line that are taking a rest. A few weeks ago the efficient superintendent of Canadian telegraphs visited Victoria and laid a new cable across the straits. This cable was intended to connect with an existing wire on Puget Sound whenever the Sumas line went down. Scarcely had Mr. Gisborne turned his back on the province when the current of electricity began to flow feebly through the cable, and in a few days it ceased altogether. It is feared that the cable is broken in two? But it now appears that even had the cable remained intact no arrangements are possible with the American company whose line covers the southern shore of the straits and the western shore of Puget Sound. So that in any event the cable would not have been a reliable factor in the maintenance of communication. Victoria's situation in this matter could not well be worse. To be fifteen days without dispatches, except such as are scissored from the American newspapers, and to have the whole commercial community paralyzed for want of means of communication is not creditable to—some one. Who that "some one" is the Western Union Company should ascertain, and apply the remedy. The wires are maintained to Portland and Seattle. They are kept up through British Columbia as far east as the foot of the Selkirk range, and as far south as the boundary line. But over a stretch of country about 80 miles in length, lying between Seattle and the last Canadian telegraph station in British Columbia, the line is almost constantly in a chronic state of "down". ness.

A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX.

The agitation for a personal property tax has about died a natural death. No one can be found to favor its imposition outside of those who, being owners of shanties in Chinatown, wish to avoid a revision of the real estate roll because they know that a revision means a revaluation of their underrated property. It was shown in these columns a few days ago that several absentee landlords who own heavy blocks of realty in and about Chinatown escape comparatively tax free, their buildings being rated the same as 14 years ago, notwithstanding that they are worth ten times more now. Besides, personal property within the city is already taxed by the provincial government while real estate goes free. Let no ratepayer be led astray by the cuckoo-cry of a tax on personal property. It is a tax which will fall heavily on the poor man while it will relieve the Chinese tenement owners from payment of their just quota of taxation.

ENGLAND'S WORRIES.

There is a very sore feeling in England over the position of its foreign affairs. In all parts of the world her foreign policy has been receiving disastrous checks, and the conviction is being forced upon the government that England's virtual monopoly in the colonization of the world is at an end. Germany is the power which has been making the greatest aggressions. The publication of the German white book, containing the correspondence in regard to the Angra Pequena affair, has caused much chagrin in England, as the impression produced is that Lord Granville was snubbed by Bismarck. On top of this comes the announcement that Germany has got possession of St. Lucia, on the coast of Africa, which will enable her to keep an eye on Zululand and Transvaal. This is significant when it is remembered that the Boer delegates recently sought the support of Germany and were graciously received. From the western Pacific comes the news of further German aggressions. There this enterprising power has seized New Britain, New Ireland and the northeast of New Guinea. In the meantime Egyptian affairs are looking very dark. The prospect of the rescue of Gordon and his army is still a matter of uncertainty, and the expedition, under General Wolseley, is meeting a great many discouragements. The Russian advances on Afghanistan have by no means been discontinued, and a new worry is the threatened advance of France against the kingdom of Siam. In the midst of all these troubles, it is no wonder that the Nicaragua treaty with the United States has called forth expressions of alarm and protest. If the United States succeeds in obtaining control of the canal England will see a water-way capable of bringing her 10,000 miles nearer her Pacific colonies which in case of war could be closed against her. In the event of trouble with Russia, for instance, with whom the United States might ally themselves, the disaster which might befal England is obvious. Much dissatisfaction is felt with Lord Granville, foreign secretary It is said that he is incurably lazy, and some do not hesitate to call him incompetent. He rarely goes near the foreign office, and clerks have to take documents to his bedside to be signed. Enemies of the government assert that only Gladstone's friendship keeps him in his position. The conservative journals declare that England hasn't a friend in the world, and the prevailing mood is that of a bankrupt wearied with disaster, who is frenzied by trifles, and contemplates the beauties of suicide. Lord Granville's special visit to Gladstone at Hawarden is taken to indicate serious alarm in ministerial circles, and there is a supposition that the secretary of foreign affairs is making a fight for ministerial life. His laziness and incompetence have been known to inner political circles for years, but his high rank and Gladstone's keen friendship have kept him alive. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, the under secretary, is not so lazy, but is quite as incompetent. He has a thin, squeaky voice, a griggish and petty manner, and is the most abject failure as a ministerial speaker in the present parliament. The English papers having now been brought, by these various occurrences, to a confession that the monopoly of England in the colonization of the world is at an end forever, and some of them, making a virtue of necessity, profess to be delighted at the prospect of having the neighborhood in all parts of the world of people so agreeable and so diffident as the Germans.

"The People" Discussed by "One of the People."

TO THE EDITOR:—The issue bearing the above appelation made its bow to the public to-night. It gives a very generous outline of its future bearing. It is called "The People" but I think the title is a misnomer altogether. (One of our late M. P.'s asked in the writer's presence "Who are the People?" He learnt to his own disgust at the next election.) Its first paragraph entitled "The Ticket" is an article fulsome to the brim of Mr. Fell's good qualities, (DEPREDATING and otherwise) and equally as full of hidden charges against Mr. Rithet and his party, (as "The People" designates it) showing it to be a strictly party journal, and therefore not entitled to it cognomen as it has not yet been accepted by "The People" as their organ to emancipate them from the yoke and thraldom of the affluent party either in power or out. The test will be at the polls very shortly.

The writer of paragraph No. 2 evidently owns a "one-horse chaise" of a concern upon which no tax could possibly be collected by valuation, and makes the poorest possible excuse when he says "The time is fast approaching," &c., &c.

Paragraph No. 3 comes out in bold language. In fact, certain "real estate agents" in this city have been harping the same story day in and day out, this last six months, that it has become monotonous to listen to, and whether the writer has lots to sell in "Vancouver" or not I do not know. The question of monopoly is about as fully explained as the writer is capable of in the few words: "The idea of "Workingmen are beginning," etc., "The People (must mean the paper) vs. attempted monopoly."

It is very evident the writer of the article respecting Sir J. A. Macdonald must be laboring under a terrible delusion. Either he or his late employer must have been snubbed by Sir J. A., or perhaps worse. What has Sir John to do with Chinamen? He simply ratified the contract of Onderdonk & Co. for the building of the B. C. portion of the C. P. R., and I very much doubt if the writer of the item would come before the Victoria public and state his full meaning like a man. If he did I am the worst fooled man if he would not stand a chance of riding the proverbial rail out of this city with a gentle hint not to darken its limits again.

Respecting having nothing to thank Sir John Macdonald for, that terrible IF comes to the front. It is easily accounted for. Brother Reginald was not with us at the time, or the catastrophe would not have occurred; but all the if's and Reginalds in creation will not avert the fact that we did join and are still a part of confederation.

Whatever may be the merit or demerit of alcohol the writer has used a chapter to suit and doubt; to my mind it is his best effort. "Why not arrest the mayor instead of property?" Is that the liberal idea of our worthy friend. Maybe he would like to see the old *regime* of personal imprisonment for debt brought about again, and the old scenes of the debtor's court again enacted. So much for his much vaunted liberalism.

Any weaker effusion than the next paragraph respecting "The People's Ticket" (a ticket only existing in the editor's mind, as far as the public are acquainted with it) would give a reasonable being the colic and needs no comment.

To continue, "The People" gives a salutatory and announces itself as brought into this world of strife by force of circumstances, a statement beyond dispute. The circumstances are as visible as Race Rocks on a clear day from Beacon Hill. Our worthy friend and a few of his followers had no through way of ventilating their ideas, and "The People" is the "Idea" with a vengeance; but, as I have already gone, I expect, too far I will follow up my criticism in the near future, and be solemnly assured

I AM ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Child's Battle.

TO THE EDITOR:—This community has borne with wonderful equanimity the fantastic tricks the mayor and city council have played with our municipality, surrounding it in the meshes of litigation, and annoyance of relief when, by the exercise of a little common sense, it might have been prevented.

Is it not monstrous that those possessing such little brief authority as the present city council, terminating in a few days, should still be allowed without indignant remonstrance and demand for explanation the continuance of such vagaries?

Surely, surely it is high time those deeply interested in the welfare of the city should come to the rescue, and demand of this expiring council some clearer exposition of future action than that imparted by the ambiguous information of their last meeting.

A RATEPAYER.

Sewer Ventilation.

TO THE EDITOR:—The ventilating of sewers by small pipes and lateral shafts is amenable to scientific precision, for the ventilating area of a large sewer bears a known mathematical relation to the discharging capacity of the sewer itself. The subject has engaged the attention of some recent scientific investigation and the opinions formed as to its feasibility amongst sanitarians who have designed and executed modern works are not doubtful. When a sewer is running two-thirds full or thereabouts its branches are commonly sealed and the ventilating pipes connecting therewith have this action suspended, possibly when most required. It is practically impossible to effect the ventilation of a large sewer by small pipes within the limits of distance that should be allowed for this purpose. Analgeneral rule sewers exhale from morning till noon and inhale from noon to morning. The ability of a sewer to inhale freely, is an important factor in its capacity to dilute sewer gas. The escape of sewer gas is only hurtful in a badly ventilated sewer. The best modern practice is that which does not provide for the accumulation of poisonous gases in deleterious quantities. The law of dilution is that of the distance from the point of discharge, which means that a man's chance of being poisoned by sewer gas are eight thousand times less when he stands twenty feet from a manhole than would be the case if his nose were situated in the centre of the hole.

Proper soil and ventilating pipes are indispensable to house sanitation; but form only an adjunct in the ventilation of sewers. The ventilation of a system of sewers by lateral shafts and pipes would not obviate the need of manholes, as the latter are necessary for locating and removing obstructions and also for general inspection.

H. C. BELL

South Cowichan in Favor of Temperance.

SOUTH COWICHAN, Dec. 23, 1884.

A public meeting of South Cowichan settlers, to take into consideration the advisability of abolishing the granting of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors in South Cowichan, was held at the house of Messrs. Marshall. The persons present were: Messrs. Thos. Marshall, Matthew Marshall, Wm. Forest, Jas. Dougan, Jos. Dougan, Geo. Baltie, Alex. Mearns, Archie Howie, Robt. Cavan, Thos. Williams, W. Ford, Geo. Bartlett, Geo. Jones, Fred. Jones and G. Northcote.

Moved by James Dougan, and seconded by Thos. Marshall, that Wm. Forest act as chairman. Carried.

Moved by Thomas Williams, seconded by Robt. Cavan, that Geo. Bartlett act as secretary. Carried.

Mr. Thos. Williams, in addressing the meeting asked, if any action taken by this meeting would have any effect?

Mr. Thos. Marshall drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the district of Chilliwhack, on the mainland, had no licensed houses, and that the settlers had prevented any being granted; and what had been accomplished there could be done. As the construction of the Island railway will soon be commenced here, and a number of bad characters will be around, the liquor houses will be a source of continual trouble and annoyance, even more so than at present.

Mr. Jas. Dougan said he was glad that this meeting had been called. He drew the attention of the meeting to the murders and accidental deaths that had occurred in Cowichan when the perpetrators were under the influence of drink.

Mr. Thos. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Robt. Cavan, that this meeting views with alarm the increase of crimes and casualties, through the sale of intoxicating liquors, and respectfully requests that the proper authorities take immediate steps to prevent the sale in future of intoxicating liquors in South Cowichan. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Jas. Dougan, seconded by Thos. Marshall, that a memorial be Trwn up for the signatures of the settlers in South Cowichan requesting the government not to grant licenses and to prohibit all sale of intoxicating liquors in South Cowichan. Carried.

Mr. Thos. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Robt. Cavan, that a copy of the minutes of the meeting be forwarded to the head of the government, and also a copy sent to the daily papers. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Wm Forest, seconded by Mr. Thos. Marshall, that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Jos. Dougan, Geo. Bartlett and Wm. Forest call on the settlers for their signatures to the requisition, and forward the paper to the government. Carried.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman and secretary, and the meeting adjourned.

EGYPT.

The News far from Satisfactory.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The news from Egypt is not of the most satisfactory character. It appears that Wolesley has decided not to abandon the attempt to reach Shendy by the desert route, thus cutting off the great bend of the Nile. The difficulties in the way seem too great to be surmounted with the resources at his command. Instead of the desert route he will use the Merewch route to Berber, likewise through the desert, but much shorter than the other. He has accordingly changed his base from Korti to Merawch. This change places the relief of Khartoum two months further into the future than was expected. Gen. Wolesley is far from satisfied with the arrangements for the expedition. He has sent furious complaints to the War Office of the inefficiency and absolute break-down of the transport and commissary service.

EUROPE.

Germany and France Form an Alliance.

LONDON, Dec. 26 — The French Ambassador has returned to London from France. He is instructed to advise Earl Granville to accede to the demand of Germany and Russia for membership in the Egyptian Debt Commission, and also to withdraw the proposal to reduce the interest on the debt. Failing of an agreement between France and England, all the powers except Italy will reject the English proposals.

A HORRIBLE OUTRAGE.

MADRID, Dec. 26.—Bandits entered the Catholic Church and the house of the priest at Cortelas Galicia, for purposes of pillage. Failing to get money, they tied the priest in a headstraw and burned him to death.

TO TAX CHURCH PROPERTY.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Senate adopted the clause of the budget establishing the principle of taxation of religious bodies.

INFERNAL

Machine on a Railway Track.

EASTON, Pa. Dec. 27.—The infernal machine found on the Jersey Central railway track yesterday, near Westfield, consisted of a square package bound by a shawl strap, placed near the rail so as to appear to have been accidentally dropped The track-walker found it. The package was so constructed as to explode if struck a heavy blow. It contained 58 cartridges and a lot of No. 1 giant powder. Had the package not been discovered, it would have been struck by the next train, and terrible must have been the result.

THE captain of the steam schooner Grace which ran on the rocks at Gossip Island states that his crew hauled the schooner off the rocks and that the vessel was not floating around indiscriminately. He states also that he made a bargain with the officers of the Otter for towing the schooner to a place of safety. The extent of the damage has as yet not been ascertained.

ALBERNI.

Encouraging Letter From a New Settler.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR THE DISTRICT.

This Province as Compared with Eastern Provinces.

(Correspondence of The Colonist.)

ALBERNI, Dec. 17.

Some twenty years ago one of the largest steam sawmills on the Pacific coast was in operation here, and judging from the extensive logging camps which may be seen to-day in every direction, there must have been immense quantities of lumber manufactured, which, I am told, was shipped in large vessels to various parts of the world. In those days Alberni must have presented a lively scene; but unfortunately there is nothing left of that enterprise to-day save the old smoke stack in ruins and some of the charred remains of the wharves which were all destroyed by fire some years ago. The splendid mill was shut down, the hands discharged and but one or two remained to tell the tale of days gone by. Since the closing of the mill up to last summer little or no progress has been made in the settlement. There were but four or five settlers who came here and remained; but this year has brought with it a new era of prosperity. Settlers have been coming in, and with few exceptions have been quite satisfied with the land and situation and have taken up claims which they are now improving.

The immigrant guide, Mr. Halpenny, has paid us frequent visits this fall, and every trip has added to the number of our settlers. The government made a good choice when Mr. Halpenny's services were secured. He is a man thoroughly acquainted with his pack, and will put himself to any amount of trouble and hardship in order to find good locations for those who may come with him.

ALBERNI VALLEY.

It is astonishing how little is known of the extent and capabilities of this fine valley for agricultural purposes. New settlers who have lately spent some days in hunting and prospecting have discovered fine alder bottoms and maple groves with open patches here and there, all of which, if cleared, would make magnificent farms within easy access to the settlement. It is the prevailing opinion in this country that outside of the land mentioned above there is nothing left of any value for agricultural purposes. I think, Mr. Editor, that this is a very wrong idea. We have here a good deal of comparatively speaking level land, lightly timbered with small balsam and fir. The soil is a loose, reddish clay of great depth, with from two to four inches of a rich black surface; but because such land is rather more expensive to clear it is said to be worthless. I have seen in Canada immense tracts of much inferior soil which when cleared and brought into cultivation become the homes of a thriving population. Comfortable homesteads, large barns and immense flocks of sheep are seen where twenty or thirty years ago there was but a dense forest.

A PREDICTION.

I venture to predict that ere long the whole of this land will be taken up and cleared by a class of settlers who will come from the east in search of a milder climate and better returns for their labors. Industrious and energetic men will not meet with disappointment coming here in these respects. A good farmer can make more money off 30 or 40 acres of good land here than he could in the east on one hundred, for the simple reason that he realizes double the price for anything he may produce with much less danger of failure in crops, and very much less cost in raising stock on account of our short winter season. I feel confident that in the course of another year we shall have all the available land occupied in Alberni. It is altogether probable that direct communication will be established with Victoria next spring. We hope, then, to have a tri-weekly mail and a post-office. We have about seven miles of a road constructed last season which when completed will be a great advantage to settlers.

NEEDFUL.

One thing is very much needed, that is a general survey of the whole valley into a township. Settlers would then find no difficulty in selecting their locations, and would go on with their improvements with the assurance that there was no possible danger of losing part of their improvements by any future alterations ever being made to their boundaries. The danger will exist until the lands are surveyed by the government. I am satisfied that the authorities at the capital will do all in their power shortly to remedy this evil.

THE FUTURE OF THE PROVINCE.

Thanks to the present government, the resources of this fine province have been advertised, and the consequence has been during the last two years unusual prosperity. It is the opinion of many that there is a bright future in store for this province. Our lumbering and fishing industries, which are still only partly developed, our mineral wealth, the completion of that great transcontinental route, the C.P.R. R., and our mild climate, all these attractions are sure to draw thousands of people to our shores, and we may look forward with confidence for still better times. Alberni is bound to have its share of this future prosperity, and although now it is somewhat isolated the day may not be far distant when it shall become one of the principal distributing points on the coast.

The weather here has been unusually wet this fall. The streams and rivers have been very high; but of late it has become dry and frosty, and the waters are gradually receding to their summer level.

JOHN C. MOLLET, J. P.

Marine.

Bark Niphon from Nanaimo, and steamer Wellington from Departure Bay arrived at San Francisco on the 26th. Same day steamer Mexico sailed for Victoria.

Steamship Mexico will be due to-morrow for San Francisco.

Bark Rover of the Seas, 185 days from London, consigned to Welch, Rithet & Co., arrived yesterday morning. She brings a general cargo of merchandise and will commence to discharge on Monday or Tuesday.

The Maggie E. Seed arrived from Rio yesterday afternoon seeking.

The Am. ships Belvidere and Occidental, the former for Nanaimo and the latter for Departure Bay, arrived in the Royal Roads yesterday morning from San Francisco.

Ship Theobald was towed down from Departure Bay on Christmas night. She is bound for San Francisco.

Ship John DeCosta will be towed down from Burrard Inlet by the Alexander to-day.

Bark Minstrel King will load at Departure Bay.

Steamship Idaho will take in a cargo of V. C. Co.'s coal.

HANDSOME MAP.—We were shown yesterday a map of the various sections of Coal Harbor which are at present on the market. The map takes in the shore line of Burrard Inlet from west of Granville to the town of Hastings and back beyond False Creek about a mile and a half from the water. The draughting was done by Mr. F. Richards, and reflects great credit on that gentleman, the lines being clear and perfect, the figuring and lettering are well shaped, and everything about the map excellently well made. The map has been gotten out by the joint owners of Coal Harbor property, and will be lithographed. Its size is about 6x4 feet.

WEATHER.—A change occurred in the weather on Thursday and Friday; but yesterday the wind veered around to the north again and the air began to grow cold. Last evening the mercury stood below freezing point. It looks as if we are going to have a real Canadian winter after all.

OLD WORLD GOSSIP.

Conflicting Interests of England and Germany—Notes.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A cable special from London of December 20th says: The Colonial Office and Australian agents in London continue to deny the report that Germany has annexed certain islands in Polynesia, but, despite these denials, the report continues to be the absorbing sensation in political circles. The Pall Mall Gazette says this morning in a leader devoted to the subject that the bulk of the Liberal party would not object and would have no cause to object if it should prove true that Germany has annexed the island in question. "It is absurd," says the Gazette, "for England to continue to sulk because she cannot monopolize half the world." The writer believes that the proposed colonial enterprises of Germany on the west and east coasts of Africa may possibly imperil Anglo German friendship, but that no such result can come of Germany's acquisition of unimportant and at most unknown islands in the Pacific ocean. The article goes on to say that thoughtful politicians believes there has been more than enough bickering between England and Germany, and that the need of a good understanding between those two great powers is a matter of such weight as to outweigh interests which are far more important than any colonial scheme.

THE SPANISH PRETENDER.

Spanish newspapers state that Don Carlos has suffered for some years with a disease of the throat, and that his symptoms lately became so alarming that a consultation of physicians was held.

RUSSIAN PAWNBROKERS.

The pawnbrokers throughout Russia have long been notorious for the extortions which they practice on the poor people whose necessities compel them to have recourse to the pawnshops. The fact that many pawnbrokers are Jews adds to their unpopularity among the masses, and Count Tolstoi, minister of the Interior, has determined upon a measure which appeals strongly to the favor of the people, both as a blow to the Jews and a check upon their extortion. It is stated that after January 1, 1885, the Russian Imperial government will monopolize the business of pawnbroking.

AN INFAMOUS BUSINESS.

The action of the Austrian vice-consul at Marseilles in sending back to their homes eight girls being exported for immoral purposes has led to startling discoveries at Buda Pesth. It has been ascertained that a regular traffic in Hungarian maidens has long been in existence, with its headquarters at Buda Pesth, and that it has grown to large proportions. Some of these unfortunates have been decoyed to Brazil, as in the case of those intercepted at Marseilles last week; but most of them have been sent to Egypt to recruit houses of ill fame at Cairo and Alexandria, or to become slaves in the harems of Egyptian boys and pashas. The Austrian Imperial government gained some knowledge of this infamous traffic a few months ago and issued an order prohibiting to exportation of women to Egypt, unless each was accompanied by some male relative or legal guardian. These relevations have caused a tremendous sensation at Buda Pesth and several men and women alleged to be procurers have been arrested.

A MYSTERIOUS CRIME.

Another mysterious crime attributed to the nihilists has just been discovered at Moscow. The police had their attention attracted to the cellar of an old, unoccupied building, by the terrible smell which proceeded from the place. They found in the cellar the decaying corpse of a young man whose identity had been effectually destroyed by the use of quicklime. In addition to this his head had been smashed, and two large stones with which this evidently had been done were found, covered with blood and tufts of hair, lying near the body. The police believe the victim was some young student who had joined the nihilists and betrayed some of their secrets. Their theory is that he was decoyed into the cellar by the conspirators, and after being disfigured by vitriol, finally murdered and left to rot. Search is being made in the various colleges to ascertain if any of the students are missing?

A CURIOUS WILL.

A remarkable case of eccentricity in will matters has just been reported from Bradford, and rivals in real life Eugene Sue's dramatic story of "The Wandering Jew." John Taylor died at Bradford in 1860, leaving considerable wealth and a will directing his property to be so administered as to accumulate for twenty-five years. The only charges which were to be paid were the cost of maintaining and tending the property and of discharging certain mortgage bonds as they became due. At the end of twenty-five years the property was to be divided among certain heirs named in the will, or among such of them as should then be living. In case none of the heirs should then be living the share of each one, as apportioned in the will, was to be paid to him or her natural heirs. The beneficiaries named in the will were all relatives of Taylor and all poor. They valiantly sought to set aside the will and vainly appealed time and again to the executors for some relief out of the shares which were eventually to come to them. The executors rigidly adhered to the terms of the will, and some of the heirs, although prospective millionaires, became reduced to great poverty and want. Several of them died in poorhouses. Only eight now survive to share the property, which will be distributed among them in the spring. The fortune amounts to no less than $20,000,000.

THE WAR IN THE ORIENT.

The Marquis Tseng, Chinese minister at London, has received an official dispatch asserting that there is a fearful amount of sickness, attended by a high rate of mortality, among the French troops in Tonquin.

"Mrs. Sharon."

(San Francisco Call, Dec. 25.)

Handsome Persian curtains separated the room in Mrs. Sharon's abode at the corner of Larkin street and Golden Gate avenue, and Mrs. Sharon was found yesterday afternoon in this parlor, seated in a dark blue plush rocking chair. She was attired in a shrimp pink satin wrapper of a very elegant pattern; straps of the same colored satin secured the bodice, while the skirt was one series of box plaits. "I'm so happy," she said; "I feel just like a young kitten that has been brought into the house and set before the fire."

Continuing, she said: "The poor, dear old 'Sen.,' I'm sorry I beat the old man, for I love him still; he's a dear, sweet old fellow." Mrs. Sharon said further that only for the principle of the thing she would have compromised long ago, but that it was "not his money she was after, but his name."

"I married that man," she said, "fully believing that he would act fairly. The marriage was on the quiet, but was only so done at his request, as he thought it would scandalize his relatives, in particular Flora Sharon, or Lady Hesketh.

"I'm awfully glad I won," she reiterated, "for its sets me right before the public and vindicates my honor. His money I cared not for, and if you will remember I made a proposition in court one day to compromise the matter and relinquish all claim to the estate if he would acknowledge that I was his wife. I know that he did not accept this proposition, as the court has decided that I am his wife."

THE "SEN." INDIGNANT.

Mrs. Sharon was found in his apartments at the Palace hotel. He was closeted with his attorneys, but granted a reporter an interview. "I think the action is an outrage upon public justice," said. A further talk with the lady disclosed, according to his statement, that he looked upon the woman as a mere adventuress, and treated her accordingly. "I will," said Nevada's ex-senator, "pursue her to the end of the earth, in particular, I intend to prosecute her in the United States court. The decision as rendered by Judge Sullivan I will be reversed by the appellate

Supreme Court.

On Hing vs. Pemberton.

(Before Sir M. B. Begbie, C. J.)

Dec. 24, 1884.

In this case the plaintiff applied for a *certiorari* with a view to quashing a conviction for that he had "unlawfully altered a wooden building within the fire limits of the city of Victoria, to wit, on Government street, without the written permission of the inspector of buildings, approved by a majority of the fire wardens, contrary to the form of bylaw in that case made and provided;" and whereby he was adjudged, "to pay a fine of $50 within one week;" in default, distress; in default of distress, one month's imprisonment.

Several grounds were relied on for quashing the conviction. It was said that no evidence was adduced to show what the fire limits were, or that the altered house was within those limits; that the magistrate could not take judicial cognizance of the extent of those limits, and that the bylaw defining them ought to have been proved. And there is little doubt but that this is true. But the objection would rather seem proper ground for appeal, than upon *certiorari*. Upon this application I have only to consider whether there is a valid conviction on its face. The first objection was that against the validity of the building bylaw under which the conviction was had. That bylaw, No. 98 (which was produced and proved before the magistrate) by section 23 provides that "no wooden building within the fire limits shall be altered without the written permission of the inspector and majority of the fire wardens" previously obtained. This provision was enacted as being authorized by the municipalities act, 1881, c. 16, s. 104, subs. 78, which empowers the municipality to make bylaws (inter alia) "To regulate the erection of wooden buildings, notwithstanding any act or law in force in the province" and subsection 58, "The prevention of fires" The applicant contends that this statute does not authorize any bylaw respecting alterations of existing buildings but only bylaws respecting new erections. And upon this, the only point of general interest, we are not left without authority. Both the statute and the bylaw are very similar in effect to a statute and bylaw in Ontario relating to similar matters, which have been considered and decided on in the case of R. vs. Howard (4 Ont. Rep., p. 377.) There the statute authorized a municipality to make bylaws against fires, and "for regulating the erection of wooden buildings and preventing the erection of wooden buildings or additions thereto and wooden fences" in specified parts of the city. A bylaw was made, under that supposed authority, ordering that all roofs of shingle should have the shingles laid in half an inch of mortar. The defendant, the owner of a wooden house of several dwellings, proceeded to re-shingle it without mortar, and being convicted of a breach of the bylaw, the conviction was quashed, for that the statute only authorized the passing of a bylaw to regulate new erections, and did not authorize a bylaw to interfere with existing wooden buildings; that "the statute only applied to the erection, or creation as it were, of new buildings or additions thereto, or the removal and placing of a wooden building in a new locality within the fire limits." And the powers given under the statute to make bylaws "for the prevention of fires" were held not to affect the decision.

I feel quite disposed to follow the reasoning of C. J. Hagarty in that case; and this case is in many respects similar. In addition to the grounds there adopted by the court, it is to be considered that a by-law (dealing with matters of this sort) cannot go beyond the words of the statute; and the statute here gives no power whatever to regulate alterations; so that this by-law is quite unauthorized. A by-law to be valid must be reasonable; and this by-law extends to every alteration, even the mending of a lock on the door, without first running about to find the inspector, and procuring his assent, and then hunting up the fire-wardens and procuring the assent of a majority of them. They are not bound to give their consent, even to the most reasonable suggestions; they are armed with a wholly arbitrary power. It is unnecessary to point out the inconvenience, impracticability, the suspicions to which such a by-law might give rise. I should feel disposed to hold the by-law bad on this ground alone. If the proposed alterations were alleged, and proved, to increase the risk of a fire; if the by-law were confined to the making of any alterations having that effect, something might be said as to its reasonableness, though the other objections would remain. But (so far as it is permissible to conjecture from the depositions, which, however, I do not rely on at all for my decision) no risk from fire seems to accrue here. And part of the alterations appear to have been the replacing of decayed wood with new lumber; which on sanitary grounds, perhaps, it would be useful to make, not permissible merely, but universally compulsory. The contents of depositions, however, as has been said, are rather for appeal than for consideration on *certiorari*; but they are not out of place in considering the reasonableness, i.e., the validity, of the bylaw under which the conviction was had.

But there are other grounds more peculiar to this sort of application, upon which I also think the conviction must be quashed. It is of the most obvious importance that a conviction should state the offense and the place of the offense accurately, so that the defendant can plead it if again accused of the very same offense, and on the other hand that he may not be able to plead it if accused of like or offense in another house. Again, when any money is ordered to be paid by a convicted defendant, involving distress (i. e., deprivation of his goods) and imprisonment (i. e., deprivation of his liberty) the precise sum payable, and the person to whom it is payable, should be clearly stated, so that he may preserve his goods and his person from distraint. Now, this conviction does not comply with any of these obvious requirements. It finds that the defendant unlawfully altered a wooden building "within the fire limits of the city of Victoria, to wit, on Government street." It may be suspected as a matter of fact that a great part of Government street, which is nearly a mile long, is outside of the fire limits. But with that we have nothing to do. According to Brittain vs. Kinnaird (1 Smith, L. C. 677), even if that were so, yet, if the conviction found as a fact that all Government street is within the limits, the applicant cannot dispute it. Besides, the words are after a "videlicet," and may be omitted. But wherabouts in Government street is the house? It is quite impossible to identify it. It may be anywhere in Government street. The description is not aided by the information, even if we could look at it for such a purpose. The conviction should at least state the number of the lot. Again, the conviction does not make any provision as to costs. It ought to state how these are to be dealt with; and if dealt with, then state the amount; and not only the amount but the person to whom payable, so that the defendant may know precisely how to relieve himself from his liabilities. If no particular person or application be intended, it ought to be stated that the fine and costs (if any) are to be paid and applied according to law, which the convicted defendant is presumed to know, or at least can clearly inform himself of, viz., probably as directed in sec. 89 of the Municipality Act. The conviction is also bad in this, that if the penalty be not paid, nor leviable by distress, the defendant is sentenced to one month's imprisonment absolutely, and without power of redemption; whereas the imprisonment ought to be expressed to cease on payment of the penalty and costs, according to sec. 93 of the Municipality Act, and the 11 and 12 Vic., c. 43, sec. 18.

The printed form in the schedule to the act provides for most of these points; and it is dangerous to depart from statutory forms when the offence and the conviction are mere creatures of the statute.

I think that on the ground of these substantial defects and omissions and excess of punishment as well as by reason of the invalidity of the bylaw that this conviction must be quashed.

"DOUBLENESS."

Remarkable and Romantic Marriages of Twins.

Cincinnati Enquirer.

Special zest was lent to the recent Thanksgiving celebrations of twin brothers who had married twin sisters and observed their golden weddings at Arcadia, Ind., on that day. The principals were Isaac Martz and wife and Moses Martz and wife. The venerable grooms are twin brothers and the brides twin sisters. The former were born in Piqua, O., May 27, 1812, and Lavina and Tabitha McCormick, the brides in Fayette county, Ind., February 27, 1816. The double wedding was had November 27, 1834. The father of the brides lived near the intersection of the old National road at White river, and he boarded the Commissioners while they surveyed and laid out the present city of Indianapolis. In 1837 the Martz families removed to Fayette county. Afterwards they lived in Indianapolis, but finally settled in Arcadia. The birthday and marriage anniversaries fell upon the 27th, although in different months, and each family had twelve children—seven boys and five girls. The first children of each were born within four days of each other (both sons), and there is but five days difference in the ages of the youngest. The youngest son of Isaac Martz is Rev. C. M. Martz, pastor of the Sixth Christian Church in Indianapolis, and the eldest is also a minister, now living in Kokomo. Among the number of guests there was only on, M. B. Pentacoast of Indianapolis, who witnessed the bridal ceremony of fifty years ago.

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How the Great Statue was Made.

Charles Barnard has contributed to the July *St. Nicholas* a very graphic and popular account of Bartholdi's great Statue of Liberty, from which we make the following extract: "In the first place, there had to be a sketch or model