The Victoria Weekly Colonist.

THIRTIETH YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1888. VOLUME XXIX, NO. 56

CABLE NEWS.

Rumors Regarding a Split in the Cabinet—The Unionists Threaten Open Revolt.

Troops on the Frontier Suffering from Cold and Exposure—Want War or Withdrawal.

Lord Charles Beresford's Resignation Causing Considerable Comment —O'Brien's Reception.

Cabinet Crisis Imminent.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—There now seems to be more truth than was at first supposed in the assertions that have been recently made that discussions of a serious nature existed in the cabinet. There are many indications that Lord Salisbury and his colleagues are at their wits end over many important measures. The Unionists on the one hand are dissatisfied with the local government bill, and are threatening open revolt and the withdrawal of their support from the Tories, and on the other hand certain hot-headed Tories insist upon the government exerting more power. Rumors of contemplated changes and of sundry new purposes fill the air. The latest one is that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is to resume his old position of chief secretary for Ireland in the event of a failure of Balfour's policy is untrue, but its circulation shows to what straits the ministry have come. No one believes Sir Michael would in any event return to the Irish secretaryship, and in the face of the speech he made the other night it is almost impossible. There is no likelihood of his ever again assuming active cabinet service. The Irish press claims that his recent speech forecasts a speedy disintegration of the government. Parnell himself thinks that Sir Michael is turning toward a moderate home rule belief, and that he will shortly follow in the lead of Sir George Trevelyan. While the government may pursue its policy of coercion and injustice against the political leaders of Ireland and find servants to carry out their designs, but when they attempt to extend such manifest injustice to the church its power fails. This is shown by an attempt of Balfour to protect Major Roberts, governor of Cork county jail by arresting Canon O'Mahony, who charged the Major with corrupting young girls. Canon Keller was also under bann, but the arrests were abandoned, as it was intimated that every Catholic constable in Cork would refuse to take part in such an action and would throw down his arms first.

Lord Charles' Resignation.

The resignation of Lord Charles Beresford has raised quite a breeze both in political and club circles, and in the columns of the press. A portion of the Tory press condemn the action of the intrepid sailor as reflecting upon naval administration, but other Conservative newspapers are sufficiently outspoken to declare their belief that the present system of carrying on the naval department of the government has forced him to resign, as a means of disclaiming any responsibility for the bungling methods and mortal stupidity of economy just now prevailing in the Admiralty office. Foremost among the newspapers supporting Lord Beresford's action is the *St. James Gazette*, which asserts that the reasons given by the Admiralty for Lord Beresford's withdrawal are insufficient, and adding that the country must know more of the truth of the matter impelling his action and the sooner the better both for the country and those responsible for the country's loss of Lord Charles' services in the naval department. Lord Beresford's popularity with the masses by reason of his conspicuous gallantry during the bombardment of Alexandria, his regard of tradition on the occasion of the last naval review at Spithead, that a man may not be a man in the presence of the Queen, and his independent criticism of the naval administration during the last two years is enormous, and public opinion is largely in his favor, even in the absence of anything like an explanation of his course in the present instance. People generally condemn Goschen's opposition to Lord Beresford's schemes for increasing the efficiency of the navy and the strength of England's defences, ostensibly on the score of economy, and it is likely that the chancellor of the exchequer will find himself confronted with the necessity for a more lucid explanation of his promise than he has hitherto evinced a disposition to vouchsafe.

Balfour Banquetted.

The presence of nearly all of the Dublin judges at the banquet given last evening in honor of Mr. Balfour is generally condemned as evidencing a subserviency of the Irish judicial authorities to the Tory executive. The fact that these wearers of ermine were present in semi-official state is also commented on and held to indicate more strongly their willingness to consider themselves bound to carry out the wishes of the government, while pretending to administer justice.

O'Brien's Reception.

Great preparations are being made in Dublin for the immense reception to O'Brien on his arrival there, the ovation, of course, being contingent upon the decision of the authorities not to re-arrest him for his connection with the Woodford midnight meeting. Before arrangements are completed, if proceedings are not interrupted, the Irish capital will witness one of the largest and most enthusiastic testimonials of sympathy and regard ever paid to any man within its precincts.

Must Leave Spain.

The virtual, if not the actual expulsion of ex-Queen Isabella from Spain is due, it is ascertained, to the discovery of a plot to place her upon the Spanish throne as regent, pending the arrival at the age of majority of her grandson, the baby King Alfonso XIV. Queen Christina, the present regent and mother of the king, upon the discovery of the intrigue, insisted that there was not enough room in Spain for both Isabella and herself, and being very comfortably situated in her official and domestic establishment, would prefer that the ex-queen should do the traveling necessary to place the boundary line of Spain between them.

Electric Motive Power.

The managers of the London underground railway have recently contracted for an electric locomotive to be of same power as the steam locomotives used now. If the trial engine is a success, electric motive power will be adopted by the road.

Jockey Licenses Refused.

The Jockey Club has refused to grant licenses to jockeys C. Wood and Barrett on account of foul riding during the past season, and jockey Glover will not be granted a license until after the first week's racing next season, for disobedience at the post.

Petroleum Transportation.

The work of laying a pipe line for the purpose of conveying petroleum between Baku and Batom, cheapening transportation and augmenting the quantity of oil conveyed from the interior petroleum fields of Russia to the Black Sea is progressing rapidly and large shipments from the latter place are expected soon.

Settlement Urged.

At a meeting of the directors of the Direct United States Cable Company, held to-day, John Pender, the head and front of the cable pool, urged his colleagues to arrange a settlement of the cable war with the Commercial Cable Company on the basis of a shilling a word.

Will Visit Florence.

It is officially announced that the Queen will visit Florence in the spring. The report that a house had been engaged for her at San Remo is untrue. Reports from Florence state that Mr. Gladstone is in unequalled health and spirits.

Warning the Pope.

The *Chronicle's* Rome correspondent telegraphs that Cardinal Manning has written to the Pope that any outspoken opposition to Mr. Gladstone on the part of the Vatican will seriously disaffect the Irish and English Catholics.

Large Orders for Rifles.

Simultaneously with the order of the Servian government for the manufacture and delivery of 150,000 rifles, comes a verified report that 180,000 similar weapons have been contracted for by the Hungarians.

Many Drowned.

Advices from China say that while 4,000 workmen were engaged in constructing a breakwater to stem the floods of the Loang Ho river a sudden rush of waters engulfed them and only a few escaped from drowning.

Will Not be Ready for Six Months.

Davis, the pugilist, now backs out of the challenge he issued offering to fight either Smith, Kilrain or Sullivan, and says he will not be ready to fight under six months.

Reinforcements of Troops.

Reinforcements of troops have been ordered to depart immediately for the Island of Lewes to quell the disturbances created by crofters there.

Constituency for Mr. Blunt.

Wm. J. Evelyn, a retiring member of parliament for Deptford, has issued an address to the electors advising them to return Wilfred Blunt in his place.

Retains His Opinion.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach, in a speech at Netheravon to-night, denied that his opinions upon the Irish question had undergone any change, as had been reported.

Four Portuguese Burned.

A house was burned to-day in Houndsditch and four Portugese who were in the building lost their lives.

The Queen Will Not Open Parliament.

It is announced the Queen will not open parliament in person when it re-assembles next month.

Retired Officer Dead.

Admiral Verslurme, a retired officier of the royal navy, committed suicide at Falmouth to-day.

Ex-Queen Isabella.

Despatches from Spain state that ex-Queen Isabella will shortly be exiled.

Sir Robert Carden Dead.

Sir Robert Walter Carden, city alderman, died to-day.

An Editor Re-Arrested.

DUBLIN, Jan. 20.—Mr. Hayden, editor of the Westmeath *Examiner*, who has only just been released from prison, has been re-arrested for making an inflammatory speech.

An Arrest Causes a Riot.

Father McFadden, Gweedore, has been arrested at Armagh for participating in opposition to evictions.

The arrest of Father McFadden, of Gweedore, at Londonderry this afternoon on a charge of the police was the occasion of a serious riot. Immediately on the appearance of the priest at the railroad station the crowd, awaiting his arrival, became violently excited and attacked the constables with stones. The police were reinforced and charged on the crowd, but were desperately resisted, and several persons among them and a number of the police were injured, and it is reported that a detective was taken to the hospital suffering from a concussion of the brain.

Documents Granted.

Justice Andrews granted to-day the demand made by Wilfred Blunt's solicitors for the documents concerning the action taken by the latter at the Woodford trial against Mr. Balfour to compel the chief secretary to state the nature of the information sworn to, which led to the proclamation of the Woodford meeting, at which Mr. Blunt was arrested. Mr. Byrne in behalf of the Crown opposed the demand on the ground that the documents were of a privileged character.

Must Wear the Prison Garb.

Commoner William Lane, who is serving one month's imprisonment under the Crimes Act, was stripped of his clothing by the wardens of the prison and compelled to don the prison garb. Mr. Lane complains that he cannot eat the food furnished him and is forced to sleep on a plank bed with scanty covering.

Not Well Received.

While Chief Secretary Balfour was attending the judges' luncheon on Thursday a crowd gathered outside the building and hooted and groaned at him, and when he came forth smiling and smoking a cigar he was greeted with a perfect storm of yells and cries of "Balfour the liar!"

Interview Refused.

The prison board has declined to allow Wilfred Blunt's solicitor to interview the prisoner in reference to his charges against Mr. Balfour.

Starved Her Husband.

CORK, Jan. 20.—Mrs. Crooke, the cousin of Dr. Crosse, who was recently hanged here for the murder of his wife, has been arrested, charged with having starved her husband to death. At the inquest the coroner's jury returned a verdict holding Mrs. Crooke responsible. She was admitted to bail pending her trial.

Compulsory Abolition System.

BELFAST, Jan. 20.—The Ulster Land company passed resolutions to-day approving of the compulsory abolition system of dual ownership of the land and protesting against the exclusion of Ireland from the proposed local government bill.

Another M. P. Arrested.

Alexander Blaine, M. P. for Armagh, was also arrested to-day with Father McFadden. Blaine was exciting tenants to resistance.

Reason for Arrest.

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—Manufacturer Streisguth, who was arrested at Strasburg, was taken in consequence of a confession he made that he had been recently arrested at Deitz, and had received money from the French government for revealing instructions concerning the railways of Alsace, which were to be acted upon in the event of the government mobilizing troops.

Political Affairs Uncertain.

Emperor William received the president of the Lantag to-day. In replying to the latter's address the Emperor observed that the Prussian finances would be further considerably improved if, as he hoped notwithstanding the existing uncertainty of political affairs, peace were maintained in Europe.

Will Confer With Bismarck.

It is reported that Stourdga, Roumanian minister of public instruction, is coming to Berlin to obtain directly from Bismarck the latter's views regarding political military contingencies affecting Roumania.

The Military Bill.

In the reichstag to-day the committee read for the first time the military bill, and reserved the right to formulate several proposals affecting it before a second reading.

Promise of Peace.

The reports that Bismarck said Germany would be peaceful for the next three years is semi-officially denied.

Quite Confident.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 20.—The police here claim to be certain that there was no organized plot against the Czar's life during the New Year's celebration.

Sickness Among the Troops.

Advices from the frontier state there are fresh arrivals of Russian troops, and that the condition of the soldiers on the Galician border is rapidly growing worse. Typhus rages everywhere among the troops, but its ravages are especially severe in the camp at Ozentoschaus. Numerous deaths have occurred from cold and privation. The opinion of the military authorities here is that it is impossible for men to remain encamped during this weather for two months. The present distressing condition of affairs must, they say, hasten the decision of the Czar, either to active work and thus commence war, or withdraw the troops now assembled on the frontier.

Suspicious Parties Arrested.

STRASBURG, Jan. 20.—Two arrests have been made on the German side of the Franco-German frontier of men of whom the police are suspicious. One is a manufacturer named Karl Strissguth, who was arrested here on returning from a branch of his works at Nancy. The other is M. Spreckel, agent of the French Eastern railway, who was arrested at Avrincourt while on his way to Paris.

Enough on Hand.

VIENNA, Jan. 20.—The Austrian forces on the frontier are reported suffering discomfort from the cold and privation. War officials have decided that, in view of the miseries of their own men and sickness and disease among the Russian soldiers, they will order no immediate increase of the frontier forces.

Forced Military Loan.

It is rumored the Russian government contemplates making a forced loan for military purposes.

Peace on Conditions.

VIENNA, Jan. 20.—The *Pesterlloyd* says that if a peaceful understanding can be arranged with Russia, Count Kolnoky is prepared to make great concessions, but solid guarantees will be required that changes in Bulgaria will be effected peacefully.

Seeking Information.

ROME, Jan. 20.—The Duke of Norfolk has had an interview with Mgr. Agliauni. It is stated the government of Ireland was the subject of interview.

Indefinitely Postponed.

MOSCOW, Jan. 20.—The discovery of a new movement, implying insubordination and suggesting nihilism among the students, has led to an indefinite postponement of opening the universities here.

THE GREAT SNOW STORM.

Thousands Suffering in Kansas for want of Food and Fuel—A Large Number of Deaths.

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—The great storm which swept over the entire country last week has been followed by a freeze the like of which has not been experienced since the memorable winter of 1864. Extreme suffering is reported from all directions, especially in Minnesota, Dakota, Montana and Nebraska, where many lives have been lost. In Kansas thousands are suffering for want of food and fuel. The storm, while less severe in the southern states, still found people there unprepared for it, and much suffering has resulted. Dispatches from the northwest report 125 fatalities already. At Aberdeen, Dakota, Bessie Stanfield, a pretty, 19 year old teacher, three miles distant, left the school during the storm to go to a farmer's house thirty yards distant. Her dead body was found nearly a mile from the school house. Four children were frozen to death in a school house at Mellette. The teacher left them to get assistance and her body has not yet been found. Miss Steubierner, another teacher, twelve miles northeast of Aberdeen, was out all night in the blizzard. When found she was barely alive and died shortly afterwards. William Morrell, six miles west, went out of the house on Thursday evening to go a few rods to the barn. He became confused and was found dead two miles away. S. S. Chapin, a collector for a threshing machine firm, left Kerthville on Thursday morning with a liveryman to visit some farmers near by. They have not been heard from and are probably dead. O. F. Ownes and wife, of Wentworth, Dakota, were lost on the prairie on Friday night, and when found, Mrs. Ownes was dead and he was badly frozen.

REVISED LIST OF FATALITIES.

MANDAU, Dak., Jan. 16.—The mail driver was frozen between New Salem and Stanton. The three day blockade on the Northern Pacific was raised this morning. The *Journal's* revised list of blizzard fatalities show 97 deaths in Dakota, 19 in Minnesota, 6 in Iowa, 17 in Nebraska and two in Montana, total 135, beside 55 reported missing.

RELEASED FROM PRISON.

Editor O'Brien Released From Tullamore Jail—An Immense Crowd to Receive Him.

Great Excitement in Dublin — Torchlight Procession Escorts Him Through the Streets.

Houses Throughout the City Illuminated—He Addresses the Crowd From a Balcony.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

DUBLIN, Jan. 20.—Wm. O'Brien was released from Tullamore jail to-day. He went immediately to the house of a parish priest. The large crowds that followed him were enthusiastic but orderly in their demonstrations.

Mr. O'Brien arrived in Dublin this evening. Immense crowds of people, including many priests and members of parliament, met him at the railroad station, where they had waited some time for his arrival. He was greeted with deafening cheers as he alighted from the train and appeared in sight of the multitude, and can be entered the Lord Mayor's carriage the enthusiasm of the people was a white heat. He was driven to the Imperial hotel and escorted by a big procession with bands of music and torches, while houses along the line of march as well as in other parts of the city were illuminated, and bonfires everywhere. Arriving at the hotel, Mr. O'Brien appeared on the balcony and addressed the people. "He rejoiced," he said, "that in spite of Chief Secretary Balfour, the Irish people were stronger than ever, and though the English were slow in joining them they would be slow in deserting them after they had joined them. The Irish would not resort to outrage, but would follow Parnell and Gladstone, trusting in the democracy of Great Britain to make Ireland a nation."

Mr. O'Brien, addressing a meeting at Tullamore shortly after his release, said it was with the greatest difficulty that he could find words to express adequately the gratitude for the kindness of his countrymen, especially Moorhead and Eagan, without whose assistance in his lonely duel with his jailers there might have been a different event to celebrate from the one his hearers now rejoiced over. Referring to Mr. Blunt's charge against Mr. Balfour, O'Brien said he had heard them from Mr. Blunt long before there was any likelihood that Mr. Blunt would be one of Balfour's victims. It was owing to Mr. Blunt's statement, in fact, that he told Moorehead and Eagan that he believed he had been brought to Tullamore prison to be murdered, for he knew that Mr. Blunt would allow his right hand to wither in the fire before he would tell a lie. Apart from Mr. Blunt's revelations, O'Brien and his fellow prisoners had a right to infer the worst from Balfour's secrecy in immuring them in what they supposed would turn out to be Tullamore catacombs. It was fair, however, to say that the prison officials had performed their odious duties with the least possible harshness.

Mr. O'Brien's appearance indicates that his health is much impaired. His physicians insist that he shall spend a season of recuperation in the south of France but he has not yet decided to heed their advice. The people of Tullamore presented him with an address to-day which embodied a declaration that they cared nothing for the coercion law, but regarded Mr. Balfour's execution of it extremely brutal and in all respects a disgrace to the Government.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—If Hon. Mr. Beaven's utterances at the late public meeting were correctly reported in the *Times*, he must have made some glaringly incorrect statements.

To premise: Mr. Beaven made the remark that at the time of his relinquishing office the province still had the graving dock and the 6,000 acres of land, since ceded to the C. P. R.

Does Mr. Beaven regret the possession of the dry dock? Was it not under his administration the swallower-up (to coin an expression) of all the spare revenue, and a great deal that could not be spared, of the province? Was it not the cause of loud-spoken complaints on the part of the mainland? From its incipiency was it not ludicrously mis-managed? The then premier went to England and secured from the Imperial Government a promise of $250,000, a notable and substantial boon, I grant. But did he not, at the same time, invest in an incredible quantity of cement (and this was afterwards nearly doubled) and $30,000 in machinery, besides freight and £600 ($3,000) to the Provincial agent in London. This cement was, through bad stowage here, largely damaged by water.

Well, the cofferdam was built and accepted. We all know the McNamee affair, the ruin of the local contractors, the lost cheque episode, and the McNamee claim, a portion still unpaid, and the day-work system. Was it right or wise to get rid of this incubus?

Did the Beaven government leave the country virtually bankrupt and compel the Elliott government to borrow of their ostensible enemies, the Dominion government?

Was not $100,000 required, when they left, for the repair of the Cariboo wagon road? When Mr. Beaven was urged to repair it, did he not meet the remonstrants with the remark, "My information is different from yours," though valuable teams had fallen into the river?

Did not the Beaven government try to kill the goose with the golden eggs, by capitalizing the $100,000, allowed annually by the Dominion government and permanently diminish the same by spending large sums uselessly?

Did not the same Government spend $114,000 on the Hope-Yale route, never used to the value of $114—and now and long since untravelable?

Did not the Beaven Government stoop so low as to borrow $30,000 from the late Sir J. Douglas and pay therefor $600 commission to their henchmen, A. De Cosmos?

Did not the same Government neglect to pay their said henchman and delegate to England, though I believe he worked well for them and us, (for which he certainly charged enormously), and let him come almost in *forma pauperis* to the Smithe Government for payment?

Did not the same Government, as wisely said at a public meeting, not only borrow from the living, but robbed the dead by using the sum of $18,000 received from the sale of 100 acres of coal lands at Nanaimo, late the property of a small candy dealer in Yates street, deceased?

Did or did not Hon. Robert Beaven, as head of the Government, say to outlying settlers who complained of the paucity of the sums spent in the district: "How can you expect to have improvements (or words to that effect) when you vote against the Government?"

I have done, but will add that the province is probably too wise ever again to trust its government in the hands of wreckless and misguided men, such as Mr. Beaven and his followers. If not removed when they were, they would, in my opinion, have penetrated and poisoned every fibre of the body politic, though some of the rootlets may occasionally show above ground and feebly cry, "More Beaven."

And now we have Hon. Mr. Humphreys, who declares the present government the most corrupt on the face of the earth. Since Mr. Humphreys lost office under the Elliott government, all opposed to Mr. Beaven are nefarious schemers. But it will be remembered that when appointed minister of finance, there were none so zealous, none so charmed at finding and proclaiming with uplifted hands $500,000 indebtedness of the Beaven government.

VINDEX.

Victoria, 20th January, 1888.

AMERICAN NEWS.

The Inhabitants of a Town in Minnesota Have Not Seen a Railroad Train in Three Weeks.

The People in Dire Distress—No Coal or Wood—Shut Out from the Rest of the World.

A Young Man Shoots His Wife and Himself—Fatalities Caused by the Cold and Accident.

Delayed by a Wreck.

FREEPORT, Ills., Jan. 19.—The Illinois Central passenger train from the west was several hours late to-day in consequence of a bad wreck yesterday afternoon near Apple River, Jodavviss county. A steel rod under one of the coaches broke and the car went over a thirty foot embankment. In it were eleven passengers, but no one was killed: Injured are Mr. Birmingham, Galena, hurt severely in the arms and back; Mrs. E.C. Bedford, severe injuries in the back and head; Robert McLeod, Grant county, Wisconsin, left side injured; Miss Jennie Ransome, Avery, Ills., bruised about the head and shoulders; Arthur Transom, Coatesville, Ind., fracture of a rib; A. C. Travers, Iowa Falls, Iowa, badly bruised; Mail Agent Comstock, injured badly.

A Number of Fatalities.

YANKTON, Dak., Jan. 19.—The third victim of the blizzard in Yankton County died this morning, named J. Millbyer, who was frozen at Lesterville. At Flandran, Dakota, a Mr. and Mrs. Owens were found frozen near Wentworth. The woman was dead, but the man may recover. The corpse of a child, partly devoured by wolves, was also found. Harold Baker, who left Yankton on the day of the blizzard to return to his ranch in Nebraska, has not been heard from. Two men are missing at Willow City, Dakota. Several lives were lost and there has been great damage to stock in the neighborhood.

A Race from Honolulu.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19.—Information was received here to-day that the barkentine W. H. Dimond and brig Lurline left Honolulu in company on January 6th, and will race to this city. Both the racers are expected any moment, and the result of the race is anxiously awaited.

Cleared for Liverpool.

The British ship Reliance, 2,568 tons burden, cleared for Liverpool this afternoon with a cargo valued at $150,000.

Caused by the Strike.

At a late hour this afternoon J. M. Pike, Market street restauranter, failed on account of the strike. Liabilities, $6,000.

Two More Deaths.

One death from smallpox at the pest house to-day. Dr. Tyrell, physician for the Sutter Street Railroad Co., became very ill from smallpox yesterday and died to-day in

Matrimonial Discontent.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 19.—Frank Faulkner, aged 21 years, shot his wife Addie, aged 20 years, Wednesday afternoon, inflicting three wounds in the head which will doubtless cause her death. He then shot himself in the head and died instantly. The wounded woman was taken to a hospital. The shooting occurred at the residence of Mrs. Faulkner's mother, where Mrs. Faulkner had been living for some time, having left her husband on account, it is said, of his ill-treatment, caused by his extreme jealousy. The couple had been married but a short time when they separated. Faulkner called at the house in the afternoon and an angry interview occurred, the exact nature of which is not known. The tragedy described was then enacted.

Shut Out From the World.

BROWN'S VALLEY, Minn., Jan. 19.—The people of this valley are in dire distress. They have had no communication with the rest of the world for over three weeks. The last train to arrive here came in on December 26th. There is not a lump of coal or stick of firewood in the market. The people have confiscated all the fuel of the Manitoba company and torn down and burned the railroad buildings. Men have been carrying coal in sacks across the country eight miles from Beardsley. Great indignation is shown toward railroad officials for not trying to open the road from Morris, forty miles northeast of here.

Experimental Farms.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—In the house of representatives a resolution was adopted calling on the secretary of the interior for information as to what legislation is necessary to protect forest lands at the headwaters of navigable rivers, and to put within reach of settlers a legal method of providing themselves with timber. The house also passed a bill appropriating $685,000 to establish agricultural experimental stations in connection with the colleges already in operation.

Schooner Wrecked.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Jan. 19.—The schooner Sylvester, engaged in the mackerel fisheries, while trying to make the Cape in a thick snowstorm last evening, struck a sunken ledge about half a mile outside Thatcher's Island. The crew of fifteen men landed safely, but the schooner will be a total loss.

Decline in Prices.

JOHNSTOWN, P., Jan. 19.—The Cambria Iron Co. has posted the following notice: "To enable the company to meet a great decline in the selling prices of its product, it is forced to make a general reduction of about 10 per cent. in wages, to take effect February 1st." This order affects 11,000 employees, of whom 7,500 are at Johnstown.

GOVERNMENT MEETING.

The Progressive Policy of the Government Fully Vindicated.

Thomas B. Humphreys' Baseness Clearly Shown up by the Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir.

Opposition Falsehoods Exposed and Refuted with Hard Facts.

The Great Mass of Electors Fully in Accord with the Government.

On Saturday evening last every seat in the parquet and dress circle of the theatre was filled with an audience gathered to listen to the speakers at the discussion of public matters called for by Mr. Simeon Duck, Government candidate in the election to be held on Wednesday next. Hon. Robert Dunsmuir arrived on the stage by coming down the centre aisle, and was loudly welcomed. On taking their places on the stage, Mr. Duck and his friends were also received with applause. On the platform were Hon. Dr. Helmcken, Lieut.-Col. Baker, M. P. P., Hon. R. Dunsmuir, Hon. Thos. Davie, S. Perry Mills, Coun. Braden, Chas. Hayward, Wm. Lorimer, Coun. D. Harris, Chas. Wilson, ex-M. P. P., W. Mortimer, J. McDowell, W. Cherry, and several others.

On motion of Mr. George Byrnes, Mr. W. Lorimer was appointed chairman, who was will received on accepting the post. He stated that next to the honor of the election of a candidate came the presiding officer of a successful campaign meeting. He did not intend to say anything further than to request that each speaker be accorded a fair hearing, and to ask that the same fair play prevail as that which was given Wednesday evening last.

After Mr. J. Griffiths had been appointed secretary, the chairman called upon

MR. SIMEON DUCK,

who was received with applause. He said he was glad to see that the voters of Victoria by their presence showed their deep interest in the affairs of their country. He saw in it a good omen of success. (Hear.) It might seem, from his remarks, that he desired to dictate to them as to whom they should vote for. Far from it; he had no such egotism or presumption. The presence of so many justified him in saying that it was a happy omen, as it inspired him with a great hope of success (Applause.) Having been defeated at the last general election, it was not his intention to again contest this city in the provincial interest, but he had looked forward to a trip to Ottawa. It was not his desire to make a change of climate, for he was satisfied with that of Victoria, and it was an old saying, that it was best to look for our laurels where we lost them. However, Mr. Prior had been selected by his friends to contest the seat for Ottawa, and he had no doubt that gentleman was in a better position than he to represent Victoria's interests in the Dominion parliament. As he said before, it was not his intention to contest Victoria, but he had been solicited by a requisition of Victoria's citizens, among whom were represented all professions and trades, and he, in answer to their desire, had decided to come before them again for their approval (applause). He would first take into consideration some of the questions in which the future prosperity of the province depended, and briefly pass under review some of the measures which had made the policy of the present government popular throughout the province. First he he would touch on the finances. It was a saying of his friend Mr. Bond, and this was also endorsed by Mayor Grant at the last meeting, that it was impossible to run the government without a supply of "the needful." The finances were under the direction of an able financier, and the public need be under no apprehension in regard to the financial status of the province, or permit their imagination to carry them forward to the time which may never come when they might be called upon to choose between excessive taxation and hopeless bankruptcy. There was but one of three courses to pursue when governments desired to carry on extensive works and had not the money at their command. They had either to borrow, increase taxation, or permit the country to remain in *statu quo*. The present government had decided to borrow money. Through a proper expenditure of the money borrowed the area of taxation would be extended, and the alternative of increasing the existing rate of taxation avoided. Who will say that the extension of the C. P. R. to Coal Harbor and English Bay was not a wise and statesmanlike transaction? It increased the value of lands along the line, and would give homes to thousands and tens of thousands in order that they might add to the population, assist in the development of the country, and cultivate the social and practical sciences of civilization (applause). The government were to be congratulated rather than condemned for promoting the extension of that railway (hear, hear.) The relieving of the country from the drydock was an act of wisdom, and the securing of the building of the Island railway was also a boon to the island (applause). True it was that the railway could not be taxed until ten years after its completion, but when that limit had expired the revenue would be increased by the taxation of five millions of dollars. The purchase and settlement of the lands within the railway belt at present made them subject to taxation. The population of the province had nearly trebled since 1882, which was shown by the receipts from provincial revenue tax. Who will then say, on the strength of this rapid advancement that the government were not justified in borrowing a million dollars? The fact that they were able to float it on such good terms as were secured showed that our financial standing was high in the money markets of the world. The receipts from the C. P. R., there was good reason to suppose, would be sufficient to meet all the demands in connection with the province's indebtedness. This bugbear of financial depression that has so long haunted the opposition only existed in the diseased minds of those who preferred a do-nothing policy to one of life and action. (Applause.) He had said that people do not find fault so much with taxation itself, as they do with any misappropriation of the public funds. So far nothing had been spent except that which had been voted by the legislature. It was, therefore, with the assent of the people that such expenditures were made. He would ask whether the construction of colonization roads, and the opening of the country to settlement was not desirable? (Applause.) Whether the appropriation of $20,000 for a Jubilee hospital was not a generous act, when the citizens of Victoria had contributed themselves an equal amount, (applause) and then to be accused of prodigality in this generous act was, to say the least, a little ungrateful. It was contended that the subsidizing of the Okanagan & Shuswap railway was squandering the funds of the Province. If this was the case then the province of Ontario was prodigal indeed. The building of railways was one of the greatest means whereby the province could be rapidly developed. The appropriation of the money for the development of the gold mines could not be said to be an extravagance. It was to the gold mines that we owed our existence, and if it were not for them the country would still be in its primeval state, and nothing would be heard of life other than the rustle of the Hudson Bay Co.'s trains from post to post and the stealthy tread of the red man (applause). But the assistance to quartz companies was hedged around with such conditions that it could not otherwise than result in benefit to the province. He would like further to ask these gentlemen if the construction of 71 schoolhouses throughout the country, and especially in Victoria, and providing necessary instruction to their children was an act on the part of the government which could be condemned? He would not like to accuse them of dishonesty in their condemnation of the government, but for his part he thought they ought to be satisfied with what the government had done, and still were doing. He would like to refer to the "chestnut" that had so long been a "gag" in the mouths of the Opposition in regard to the so-called "flop." He had been accused of "flopping" by the Opposition, who, having no legitimate ground for opposition, erected this man of straw. They, with the gallantry of a Don Quixote, made a strong assault with the vain hope that in its downfall they would secure his defeat. The word "flop," as applied to politics, meant the desertion of one's own party and going over to the support of another. There were many strangers present, and it was just as well that they should know the real facts of the case. He had not declared himself in favor of any party when first elected, but had entered the legislature as an independent member and pursued an independent course until he had entered the cabinet. The charge of "flopping," as applied to him must, therefore, be withdrawn, and it was simply owing to hypocrisia or "pure cussedness" on the part of the opposition that the charge was persisted in (applause.) [Mr. Duck here read an extract from his address to the electors in 1882, where he amply stated that, if elected, would support all measures for the general benefit of the province and vote at all times without regard to party.] Continuing, he said that Mr. Beaven had "flopped" from the representation of the interests of the city to a representation of his own at Port Moody (applause.) He (Mr. Duck) had taken the stand that the building of the Island Railway was of immense benefit to Victoria. He was opposed in this by Mr. Beaven, whose chief interests were at Port Moody, and who, if his scheming had succeeded, would have been several times a millionaire, while Victoria would have been reduced to the status of an Indian village (applause.) Referring to the claim of the opposition that there was an increase of taxation, Mr. Duck stated that so far as the real estate tax was concerned it was not under the control of the government. The merchants of Victoria were not taxed a fifty per cent. increase on personal property, but in some cases where they before paid on $10,000 now paid on say $20,000, being not an increase of taxation but of wealth (hear,) showing that the government were really progressive (hear.) The increase in the taxation of wild land was one of fifty per cent., but this was not a burden on the shoulders of the workingmen, but was a tax upon the speculators in lands. (Applause.) Mr. Williams was an extensive owner of wild lands, and this was probably why he squealed. (Laughter.) The holding of these lands at a high figure prevented the poor man from securing a home. In the matter of the appointment of a sixth minister, Mr. Beaven was himself to blame, for his government had introduced the bill making such an appointment possible. (Hear.) His in government was also the first to fill five of the appointments, and that when there was little doing in comparison with the present time. The Ballot-Act was also mentioned by Mr. Beaven, who tried to make capital against him for having been found in company with a man who was opposed to the use of the ballot. He (Mr. Duck) was the first to bring it before the legislature, and Mr. Beaven in his speech on Wednesday evening admitted that fact, but had asked what was his position now. He would say that, as a supporter of the government, he was not bound to endorse the private opinion of any one of the ministry. He would only support their opinions when fully matured and presented to the house in the form of a bill, and only then when he could do so feeling confident that it would be in the interest of the province (applause.) Should any government try to do away with the ballot, he would oppose them to the utmost. Mr. Duck stated that Mr. Fell was the arch-enemy of the ballot system, he having stated at a meeting of the school trustees that he had always been opposed to the ballot as being a cloak for sneaks and hypocrites (laughter.) The only live questions at the meeting on Wednesday evening were those referred to by Messrs. Grant and Williams, which were in regard to the finances. Mr. Beaven had stated that when the Smithe government came into office the country was in a prosperous condition, and now was in a deplorable state. He (Mr. D.) had prepared a note of the financial condition of the province when the Smithe government came into power. It was as follows:

Debentures outstanding, 1883	$ 760,000
Liabilities over Assets	325,000
Sinking Fund	$1,085,000
	91,000
Total Indebtedness	$997,000
Debentures outstanding, 1886	$ 747,000
Liabilities over Assets	187,000
	$ 934,000
Sinking Fund	156,000
Total Indebtedness	$ 778,000
Decrease over 1883	$ 219,000

He would not detain them any longer, but would simply thank them for their presence and attention, and also request them to vote for him at the coming election. But before taking his seat he would state what he had previously accomplished for Victoria while in the legislature. He had secured to the city the James Bay flats, Bastion square where the new court house was being erected, some thirty lots in James Bay, and Cedar Hill. Had he been re-elected he would have used his best efforts to have a road constructed along the sea shore to Cedar Hill, the finest natural observatory on the coast (applause.) If elected next Wednesday he would endeavor to have an amount placed on the estimates for that purpose.

Mr. Duck then retired amid enthusiastic applause.

HON. MR. DUNSMUIR,

who, on coming forward was received with loud cheers, said, when they subsided: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—This is the first time I ever stood before a Victoria audience, with one exception—the night when this house was opened. I will not detain you very long, not being what is called much of a speaker. However, one politician has gone a little too far; I myself am not a politician, although I am in the cabinet just now (laughter). I don't live by it; I only pretend to be a business man, and I want to have a business talk with you (cheers). You will remember, gentlemen, that last Wednesday evening I was made a target of (laughter). I am not very big, yet I am big enough to stand a good deal of abuse anyhow (laughter); and to-night I am not going into politics, to speak of what has been done in the house, because there will be abler hands than mine to come after me that will do so. Neither do I want to say anything about myself at all. I have never been in the habit of cracking myself up, and do not wish to do it to-night; and bearing this in mind, you will pardon me for saying a few words that may seem that way. It appears by the Opposition members of the house and opponents of the Government that this Settlement Bill is the bugbear of every election that has taken place since that measure passed. Well, gentlemen, I have been accused of engineering that bill; and have been accused in a great many ways with it. So I think, in putting myself right before the people of Victoria as to the way in which I was mixed up in it, I am only doing justice to myself this evening. (Cheers.) You remember last Wednesday evening that my friend, my honorable friend, Mr. Thomas Basil Humphreys (hisses) said that I had gone to Europe and that some of my friends had put before the House an infamous bill for me to build the Island Railway. You remember he spoke of the Clements bill at the same time. He told you that the bill I had put in was so iniquitous that he could not support it but preferred the Clements bill to the one I had before the house. Gentlemen, here is the bill in my hand. I forgot what I paid for the sending of this (producing telegram) from Ottawa; and it was to get —what do you think?—it was to get a company of my friends and myself to build a railway from here to Seymour Narrows! (Loud cheers). We asked, gentlemen, neither for money nor lands at that time. I was on my way to Europe when I caused this to be sent to Mr. Ward of the Bank (Bank of B. C.) to give to my solicitor, Mr. Pooley. Here is the telegram. Anyone can see that I asked nothing at all; and the telegram was sent entirely by the advice of Sir John Macdonald, the premier of the Dominion of Canada (cheers). I went on to Europe after I sent this, never dreaming for one moment but that the company I was in could get incorporated by the legislature. But they threw out the bill and adopted that of a bogus company instead (cheers). I was told when at Ottawa by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Chas. Tupper that it was the eve of an election and they did not want to do anything until afterwards, but to call at Ottawa on my way back, when the bill would be sanctioned over here, and they would make arrangements as to how it was to be built. I received a telegram, however, that my bill was defeated, and that the so-called Clements bill, which had not anything to recommend it, had passed and that they were to build the road from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows. Well, that was all right,—I was very glad of it; but sitting at my breakfast table in Paris one morning, I got a telegram,—and what do you