

## THE FRASER.

When the Fraser river delegation waited on Minister Tarte to ask for Dominion aid in the matter of flood remedies, the answer returned by that gentleman was a little out of the usual order. He said at once that an exploratory survey would be made, that a sum would be voted for preliminary expenses and that the government would at once send a competent engineer to look after the work. The minister's promptitude in thus responding to the request for aid has been rather displeasing to some of our Conservative friends, who would apparently have preferred an opportunity to find fault. Fortunately that spirit does not find a place with the great majority, or even with any large number of the Conservatives. As to the public in general, they will undoubtedly agree with the following from the Columbian: "The prompt, definite and satisfactory answer of the minister of public works to the Fraser river delegation, and the assurance that an engineer will be sent out at once to begin the preliminary survey, must have an important effect in restoring confidence in the minds of those both directly and indirectly interested in the important work of the conservancy and reclamation of the Fraser river and the lands of the valley; and, as these two classes include the great majority of the people, in the cities as well, and especially of Westminster city, the beneficial effects must be generally felt, and will be greatly increased when the work gets actually under way." The Columbian hopes that the provincial government will also find it proper to co-operate in this matter, as it undertook to do once before but withdrew. There has been very good evidence furnished that piecemeal reclamation will not answer, but that some wider, well-considered scheme must be adopted to successfully cope with Father Fraser.

## KILLING A SALMON STRIBAM.

A report from Alberni states that the salmon have reached the head of the canal in great numbers, and in their ineffectual attempts to surmount the dam at the paper mill are battering themselves to death in thousands. Some time ago a fishway was placed on this dam, but with the stupidity worthy of a government job, it was so constructed that at certain seasons no water passed through and consequently it was useless. A second ladder, upon an improved principle, was to have been placed there, but for some unknown reason it has not yet been put in position. Inspector McNab would be able, if disposed to explain. The Sonas river, as a result of this impediment to the passage of salmon, has become denuded of fish, and Sproat and Centre lakes, formerly spawning grounds, are no longer frequented by this valuable habitat of every other British Columbia stream. The cost of a fishway or ladder is a mere bagatelle, and there is absolutely no reason for official neglect as in this case unless it be official incompetency or downright laziness.

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

In his report to council relative to the large batch of Queen's counsel appointed by the Tupper government just before its retirement, Sir Oliver Mowat gave some interesting statistics. He said: "The undersigned has had under consideration an order-in-council dated July 8, appointing 173 members of the bars of Canada Queen's counsel. These are in addition to 481 appointed since confederation, of which number 84 were appointed between July, 1867, and Nov. 5, 1873; and 397 after October 16, 1878. No appointments were made during Mr. Mackenzie's administration. Thus the number appointed previously to the recent order had been enormous, and the addition to it now of 173 more, is startling." In England it appears from the law list of 1895 that the total number of Queen's counsel there at the time of making up the list was only 217, and it appears that the total number appointed for 22 years up to 1895 inclusive, was only 254, while the number of barristers in England exceeds by several times the number in Canada. No commission has yet issued under the recent order, and the undersigned is of the opinion that the order should not be acted upon and should be rescinded on account of the excessive number of names, and for additional reasons which he will now mention." It hardly seems necessary to advance any other reason than the statistics quoted. Sir Oliver points out, however, that there is a dispute as to jurisdiction between the Dominion and provincial authorities, pending which it would be well to refrain from making appointments and cancel those made by the late government. This further extract from the report must be of interest to the general public as well as to the legal fraternity:

"The undersigned is informed that the publication of the names contained in the recent order has created a sensation among members of the profession and others, that the list has been very generally disapproved of, and that the disapproval is shared by some who are named on the list, as well as by the gentlemen previously holding the rank of Queen's Counsel, and by others. An examination of the list shows that the selection of the names was not made on the basis of professional or personal merit. On the contrary, there are names in the list of gentlemen, in regard to whom there could be, no pretence or supposition of their having any claim on that ground, and on the other hand many gentlemen have been omitted from the list whose professional merits exceed that of many of those named. Queen's Counsel have precedence in the courts over other barristers, and obviously there is great injustice in the bestowal of the honor and respect due upon inferior barristers to the pre-

judice of those better entitled thereto. Such a wholesale and indiscriminate selection as was recommended to Your Excellency is a degradation of the office and is a grievance as regards the bar generally, instead of being a merited honor to those appointed. The existence of the degree is useful if the jurisdiction to make the appointments is reasonably exercised. In England the appointments are made by the lord chief chancellor, and it is stated in a recent legal publication that an applicant for the appointment has to communicate by letter to barristers of longer standing than himself (not being Queen's Counsel) his intention to apply, and that before making any appointment the lord chancellor submits to the judges the names of the applicants whom he thinks of appointing. If in this country the power of appointment belongs exclusively to Your Excellency-in-Council, it will be well to consider hereafter whether some checks may not and should not be devised to confine within proper bounds the recommendations made to the governor-general."

## HOW NOT TO DO IT.

City Engineer Willmot proposes to extend the sewer now terminating at Pemberton's property on St. Charles street, down that street to Foul Bay and then to a ravine running through city property into Ross Bay on the east side of the cemetery. The sewer, as it now exists, is a nuisance in the most important residential section of the city, and its extension as above would remove that nuisance to a less populous locality and ultimately it would disappear altogether by the continuation of the sewer to the main sewer on Moss street. The sewer on Belcher and St. Charles streets (on the hill), although constructed with a view of forming a part of the city system, is not as yet connected therewith, the outlet at the present time being, as stated, on St. Charles street. The cost of the proposed extension is to be borne equally by the city, the provincial government (on account of Government House), and the property owners, each having agreed to contribute \$1000. The morning paper points out that "by taking the drain by Richardson street to Cook street, the council would have a proper sanitary drain," and in its innocent ignorance of the engineering difficulties expresses surprise that a thing so clear had to be pointed out to the engineer and aldermen. There is no doubt if the sewer were practicable it would be the best one, but it is not practicable for the reason that sewage will not run up hill. The east end of Richardson street is lower than Cook street and as a falling grade is necessary the sewer would require to be built on trestles for fully half the distance. Furthermore, Richardson street is not extended to St. Charles street and these trestles would cross private property. It would be possible by tunnelling through the rock on Government House hill to connect with Cook street, but the cost would be enormous. Taking the sewage down St. Charles street to the sea may not be the best scheme devisable, but it is at least practical and economical, whereas the alternate route suggested by an unscientific critic is impracticable, as the sewer would have to operate by a reversal of the laws of gravitation.

## THEY SPEAK FROM IGNORANCE.

From the report of the discussion raised by Mr. Maxwell in the house of commons some judgment may be formed of the ignorance which prevails in the east in regard to the Chinese question. For the benefit of such well meaning but misinformed gentlemen as Mr. D. C. Fraser and Sir Henri Joly it seems necessary to quote Mr. Cleveland's famous aphorism: "It is a condition, not a theory, that confronts us." Mr. Fraser's fine theorizings and Sir Henri's chivalrous sentiments are admirable in their way; but they leave untouched the disastrous condition which unchecked Asiatic immigration imposes on this province. These charitable, philosophic and chivalrous eastern gentlemen are simply unaware of the facts, else they would talk in a different strain. If the Pictou coal mine owners and other capitalists of Mr. Fraser's district were to import two or three thousand Chinese miners and coolies, to replace as many white men now employed, Mr. Fraser would have some realization of the evil which troubles British Columbia. If Mr. Fraser further knew that these miners and coolies were virtually in a state of slavery, imported under contract and owned, as the Six Companies, his Christian sentiments might be led to take alarm in a different direction. And if Sir Henri Joly were surrounded by similar conditions he might come to the conclusion that Canada owed something to herself and her civilization as well as to that smooth old Chinese diplomat who seems to have pulled the wool over his eyes. As a matter of fact these men know nothing of the true situation, and, unfortunately they, and others like them, refuse to learn. Otherwise they would be grateful for Mr. Maxwell's efforts to enlighten them, taking account of neither time nor place. We fail to understand how any man who has concern for the welfare of Canada can look with complacency on the importation of Chinese slaves, whose work benefits only their owners and a few selfish capitalists.

Ottawa Journal: Sir Richard Cartwright has taken a practical step in consulting the boards of trade throughout the Dominion as to the best means of promoting the export of Canadian products. In this way he will get the benefit of the experience and opinions of business men in all productive and transportation enterprises in brief accessible form. By comparison of these he can form a pretty accurate estimate

of the present condition and future prospects of our export trade, as well as a comprehensive idea of what is required of government in the way of creating facilities and removing obstacles.

## COOKED REPORTS.

The Colonist's Ottawa dispatches of yesterday contained the following: "Hon. Mr. Prior elicited the important information in reply to a question that Dr. Duncan's appointment as quarantine officer, which was made by the late government, was approved by His Excellency. Hon. Mr. Fisher said the present government could not interfere." In our Ottawa specials to-day appears an exact copy of Hansard's report of the debate referred to. In two important particulars Hansard does not sustain the dispatch published in the Colonist, which was evidently cooked in Ottawa or Victoria. First, Hon. Mr. Prior did not "elicit the important information" about Dr. Duncan's official position; it was Hon. Dr. Montague who asked the question. Second, Hon. Mr. Fisher did not say that "the present government could not interfere"; he said nothing about the right or power of the government to cancel Dr. Duncan's appointment.

The official position of the Superintendent of Quarantine will not be improved by misrepresentation; although it is to be expected when a point has been gained by sharp practice—as for instance the liberation of smallpox suspects to vote—that it will be sustained if need be by similar artifices.

## ILLEGAL CONTRACTS.

Ex-ministers and their fellow Conservative members of parliament are very solicitous these days that the interests of the country should be conserved, the constitution strictly adhered to and the public business transacted with the strictest regard for law and order. All this solicitude appears rather odd in the light of the exposure made with respect to the militia clothing contracts. In May last certain favored Conservatives, among them Messrs. Shorrock, of Montreal, and the Sanford Company, of Hamilton, were given contracts for the supply of such clothing, one contract in each case to commence on July 1st, 1896, and last for one year, while a second one was to commence next July and run for two years. In this action the late government was guilty of a double breach of the law, for it had no power to make a contract covering more than one year, nor had it power to make a contract for even one year before the necessary money had been voted by parliament. The Liberal government, of course, promptly declared the contracts null and void as contravening the law, but it has decided to allow the firms mentioned to supply the clothing for one year. What a high regard for the law and the public interest the deposed ministers must have entertained when they thus concluded an illegal agreement for the purpose of helping political favorites. How much of this sort of work was done during the late regime the country may never know exactly, but from the exposures that have already been made it should be able to estimate with some approach to accuracy.

A prominent London firm of produce dealers has in a letter offered the following tribute to the creamery system: "Since the Australians have adopted the creamery system and sent us good lines of choice quality, our people have, except in extreme cases, given over buying dairy butters, and the Canadian and American ladies or store-packs are also discarded. At the moment there is absolutely no trade for it in London, although, unfortunately for shippers, there is plenty about. Our advice is—do not buy any for shipment to London no matter how tempting the price may seem. On the other hand, where Canadians have adopted the creamery system and have sent to the United Kingdom fine regular quality, then ready sale has been found and money made. If the Canadian farmer wishes a steady and regular outlet for butter in London, he must adopt the Australian plan and send us butter uniform in flavor, color, texture and packing."

While admitting the desirability of having the Crow's Nest Pass railway built into Kootenay the Globe says: "The question of a Crow's Nest Pass line cannot be considered independent of the broader question of allowing the only possible highways between the east and west to pass under corporate control. In the excitement of a rapid scramble for wealth in a district of phenomenal growth that broader question will receive but little attention, the railway by hook or crook being the all-important demand. But the natural barrier between the Pacific Province and the east raises problems of a serious nature, and the only passages available for public highways should not be alienated without careful consideration. For the government to build a short line which would be really at the mercy of the Canadian Pacific railway would not be the part of wisdom. But some method should, if possible, be devised for retaining the only available mountain pass under public control."

Montreal Shareholder: At the general election in June last, Mr. John Clark, the Liberal candidate in North Grey, Ont., was elected, but shortly after his election his death occurred and the seat became vacant. The Hon. William Patterson, controller of customs, who was without a seat in parliament at the time, was nominated as his successor and was elected. It is now announced that Mr. Patterson will hand over his sessional allowance, which will amount

to one thousand dollars, to Mr. Clark's widow. Such an action is entitled to the highest praise, and stamps its author as generous, manly, and setting an example of liberality which deserves mention on the page of history.

On examination of the first division list of the new parliament one is struck with the "splendid isolation" of Messrs. Prior and Earle. The cool shades of opposition were bad enough, but now that the bar is abolished our Conservative friends must feel much like the clam which believed the tide had gone out and would never come in again.

E. B. Osler, M.P. for West Toronto, when speaking to Mr. Foster's motion of censure on account of the issue of warrants, said he felt bound to vote for the motion. But he added this little frank confession: "I would very much rather have cast my first vote in this house on a more important question than this one."

Toronto Star: Had the Tupper view of the gubernatorial warrants prevailed, the employees of the Dominion of Canada would have gone for two months without their wages. It is a poor constitution which will permit of such a state of things.

There is nothing new in the information alleged to have been elicited by Col. Prior from Hon. Mr. Fisher in reference to the position of Dr. Duncan, acting superintendent of quarantine, to the effect that the Governor-General had signed the order-in-council appointing that temporary official permanently to the office. It will, however, be "news" if the government can do nothing to relieve the service of an official who has shown himself in another and similar capacity utterly unfit to discharge, without fear, favor or affection, the duties of such an important office.

Mr. Sidney Low has given the opinion that "we (the people of Britain) are in the full flood tide of protectionist reaction, and it is a tide which did not begin to flow yesterday, and shows no signs of ebbing to-morrow." To him Bystander in the Toronto Weekly Star, thus pays his respects: "So says Mr. Sidney Low, singing his song of triumph over 'The Decline of Cobdenism.' Just as he was writing, Canada, after eighteen years of bitter experience, was declaring against protection. New South Wales, after a brief relapse into protectionism, had reverted to free trade. The Americans are wedded, if any nation is, to protectionism, though it has been their economical and social bane, helped to sweep their marine from the seas, and filled their legislature with corruption. But the election of Cleveland was at all events a sign of ebbing; and certain it is that the McKinley tariff will never return. . . . Mr. Sidney Low has been taking his turn to throw a handful of mud on the statue of Cobden. Cobden was mean, sordid and vile, because, instead of furnishing nobility and gentry with sublime jingo sensations, he gave bread to a famishing people. 'Polksomus' is the epithet bestowed by Mr. Sidney Low on a policy which in fifty years has trebled the wealth of Great Britain, and probably doubled the number of Englishmen living in plenty and comfort."

The Rossland Miner offers the following contribution to the discussion on liability of shareholders in mining companies: "To set at rest any uneasiness which eastern people may feel on the subject the Miner will briefly recite the method of incorporating mining companies in Washington. A organizer of a company to acquire the B mineral claim from C. Articles of incorporation and a temporary board of trustees are agreed on and these after filing their articles of incorporation and receiving their charter enter into an agreement with C for the purchase of the B mineral claim. C takes the entire capital stock of the company in fully-paid and non-assessable shares in lieu of cash, and gives to the company a bill of sale to the B mineral claim. The stock held by C is all fully paid and non-assessable. He has taken it at par and he cannot be assessed for one cent on any or all the shares he owns. When he donates a portion of that stock to the treasury of the company, or sells it to anybody else at one cent, 10 cents or 50 cents a share it is still fully paid and non-assessable stock. Neither the company nor anybody else can levy an assessment of a single cent against a single share of this stock. If this were not so a number of Washington companies operating mines in this district would soon have got out of the troubles they got themselves into by exhausting their treasury stock. All they would have had to do was levy an assessment on their stockholders, but this of course they could not do." The Miner speaks with great confidence, but it really does not know what view the British Columbia court would take of the question. It is admitted that in the case of companies incorporated in the province there would be liability on the shares to their full face value. What then? Is there to be one law for foreign and another for domestic corporations doing business in the province, side by side?

## ASIATIC CHEAP LABOR.

To the Editor: The Asiatic labour invasion is beyond all others the greatest menace that threatens the white race. It is pregnant with dire evils, and will, if not stopped forever, inevitably overwhelm our people and our institutions. In order to simplify the matter I propound a few pertinent questions for the consideration of the public generally.

1. Can white laborers or artisans hire healthy tenements, live on plain, wholesome food, dress decently and discharge

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their obligations as respectable citizens on the wage Chinese and Japanese laborers and artisans will work for?

2. If while laborers, artisans and others are forced, through hunger, to compete in the labor market with Asiatics, who will herd together in any filthy hovel, live on food whites would not touch, wear foul, disease-breeding raiment, and practice unnatural habits, are not the inevitable consequences obvious?

3. If the labor demand is supplied by Asiatics, will landlords, tradesmen, merchants, professionals, manufacturers and producers be benefitted?

4. If ranchers, farmers and others cannot realize living remuneration from their outlay of labor, capital and skill, will it induce immigrants with capital to purchase and clear land and develop the natural resources of the province, and increase its revenue?

5. If white immigrants are not encouraged and rigorously protected in every possible way against what is manifestly an absolutely unequal competition, what prospect is there of our citizens thriving, of manufactures being established, of employment being found for our children?

6. Who are the enemies of this province and the white race on this question? Are they not some of those who neither toil nor spin, yet thrive on the superstitions of the credulous?

7. Did not Bishop Perrin state at one of the meetings of the Y. M. C. A. that Victoria was immoral beyond any other city in Canada? What do Bishop Perrin and the clergy propose shall be done with the white children of British Columbia if they are to be kept in forced idleness by Asiatics? Are there not throughout the province many highly respectable men and women, also strong, healthy boys and girls, who would be only too pleased to have the work now given to Asiatics? Are not hunger and misery the most fruitful breeders of crime and immorality? Are not the clergy, who are persistently taking part with the Asiatics against their own race, responsible for much of this crime and immorality? Why do not the clergy who are working for the Chinese obtain their stipend from them? Is it honest to draw their stipend from the whites?

8. Who benefit by Asiatic labor in Canada? A few combines, principally the C. P. R. and steamships; the last dumps them in British Columbia, the first transports them to where they can be smuggled across the line. Lord Russell, lord chief justice of England, is doing his best to unite England and the United States into adopting a healthy progress and the peace of mankind. Thousands of English and Americans would do their best to unite their nations to work in harmony for the progress and peace of the world. What has the late government of Canada been doing for years? Allowing a combine to swamp the U. S. with Asiatic laborers and opium.

9. Have not the Dominion and provincial governments been guilty of criminal neglect in allowing the invasion of Asiatic laborers to continue for so many years?

The foregoing questions are written from the standpoint of humanity. If they are wrong, the writer begs that one of the clergy, Bishop Perrin for choice, will demonstrate through the press from the standpoint of Christianity wherein they are wrong; also why the persistent and continual actions of the clergy on behalf of the Asiatics, obviously against the best interests of the province and the public weal, should not be most seriously condemned.

H. J. ROBERTSON.  
Victoria, 11th Sept., 1896.

The executive council of the association will offer this resolution: "That a memorial be presented to the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, urging his attention to the slow progress made in carrying out the request of the Ottawa convention for cable communication between the colonies and the Mother Country, and as to subsidizing a line of fast steamers between England and Canada." The Bradford Chamber would introduce the American "C. O. D." system into the British parcel post. The Leinster Chamber urges the adoption of the metric system, and the Wolverhampton Chamber complains that the freight rates between the United Kingdom and South Africa are higher than between South Africa and the United States by the same steamers, and Wolverhampton demands that the United Kingdom be put on the same level as the United States. An attempt will also be made to draw public opinion to the necessity of improving the canals of the United Kingdom. The South Scotland Chamber will suggest that a commercial union between the colonies and the Mother Country would tend to promote the permanence and prosperity of the British Empire, and that, therefore, this association would urge Her Majesty's government to take every possible opportunity for furthering this question.

The Bristol Chamber of Commerce will take up the question of the naval reserve in the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this association, Her Majesty's government should without further delay deal with the very urgent question of the naval reserve, which is absolutely essential, not only to protect our commerce and the food supplies of the nation, but also to insure the naval supremacy of the British Empire."

There was a warm debate over the resolution introduced by the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce regarding the commercial union between the colonies and the Mother Country. The motion, after being attacked as favoring protection, was eventually withdrawn. The motion of the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce, regarding freights to South Africa, also aroused much discussion. They read: "Whereas, the associated steamship companies carrying between the United Kingdom and South Africa continue to control the rates of freight between the United States and South Africa and whereas, such companies in many instances charge a higher rate of freight for merchandise carried by them from the United Kingdom to South Africa than is charged for the same class of goods from the United States to South Africa.

Resolved that in the opinion of this association such action is unpatriotic, and detrimental to the manufacturing interests of this country."

2. Having regard to the fact that the associated steamship companies carrying between the United Kingdom and South Africa, carry only as far as the Suez Canal, and that Canada is further north than Durban, which is not competitive with the rates quoted by the German African Co., from Germany, it is the opinion of this association that the rates should be free to avail themselves of lower freights from South African ports north of Durban without sacrificing any of the benefits they are accustomed to receive from the associated companies.

Both the above clauses were defeated. The resolution of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, referring to the naval reserve, was carried after it had been supported in a long speech by Lord Charles Beresford. In the course of his speech Lord Beresford urged his hearers not to forget that Great Britain was isolated in Europe. He fully appreciated, he said, the efforts of his hearers, but Great Britain's present fighting forces were unequal to the risks of war with a combination of the powers. Nothing in history would be so terrible and bloody and shocking as the adoption of resolutions in favor of improving the existing status and for the formation of public trusts for the acquisition and working of water ways, with power of compulsory purchase of canals now under the control of railway companies, the meeting adjourned sine die.

**A POLITICIAN SUICIDES.**

Henry F. Plympton, a Leading Republican Quits the Strife.

Wellesley, Mass., Sept. 17.—H. F. Plympton, chairman of the executive committee of the Republican state central committee, committed suicide at his father's house at Wellesley Hills by shooting himself in the head with a revolver. He was about 31 years old and a remarkably energetic politician. He had been actively at work in the campaign. This is the second year Mr. Plympton secured from the Republican party his official position, and his ability as a manager was recognized by the leaders of his party. He leaves a wife and two children.

Wilkins—Hallo, old man, didn't know you were back in town.

Bilkins—Don't speak of it. I beg you. It would break my wife's heart, but I fact it is. This is the second year I have been back in town.

Wilkins—Hullo, old man, didn't know you were back in town.

Bilkins—Don't speak of it. I beg you. It would break my wife's heart, but I fact it is. This is the second year I have been back in town.

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## LISTER V.

The Aggressive Lambton Around the Ex-

A Battle Over the Alleged Co-

Ottawa, Sept. 14.—

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