Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1885.

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

Are we hearing the end of the Afghan trouble! was a question which many readers of *The Colonist* asked themselves on perusing the dispatches that were laid before them yesterday morning. It would really seem that the question may be answered in the affirmative, and that the northern frontier line of Afghanistan will be defined on the lines laid down by British engineers, and strongly fortified. Russia is inextricably poor. Financially speaking she is an empty shell, which needs only to be struck to give back a hollow sound. She reminds us of some men, who go on year after year adding to their real estate, and denying themselves and their families the commonest necessaries so that they may pay the interest, and who at last die land poor, *i. e.*, with any amount of land but no money. Russia is not in a condition to go to war. She can overcome the effete tribes of Central Asia, and would pulverize Afghanistan in a single campaign. The expenditure of money would not be large, and great armies and fleets would not be necessary to contend with the worn out, barbaric nations. But when she has to face the tremendous resources of Great Britain—the richest and the most powerful and warlike nation on the face of the earth—she can neither put an army in the field nor equip a fleet without exhausting her already impoverished treasury. The last war with Turkey added nearly £200,000,000 to Russia's indebtedness; and what advantage did she gain! Is she any nearer the Bosphorus than before she made that terrible sacrifice of lives and dollars! Germany is the only nation in Europe wherein Russia could have hoped to float a loan for the purpose of a war with Great Britain; but since Germany has composed her difficulties with Great Britain by the reconcilement of their colonial policies, Russia cannot rely even on that country for aid. She must either agree to the British demands or go to war terribly handicapped for want of funds. She will choose the first course and remain at peace. The policy of the Gladstone government—so weak and vacillating in other matters—has been most decided and manly in this Afghan business. The "old land" has sprung to arms with a clang, and men and money, in unlimited number and quantity, are available to protect the Gateway of India against the danger of a Russian invasion. The Duke of Argyle has recently published a letter on the Afghan question on which subject—having been secretary of state for India for five years, and as author of two volumes on the eastern question—he is regarded as an expert. In the course of his communication he says: "The conquest by Russia of the Tekke Turkomans, and all the khanates of Central Asia has been inevitable. No civilization, no commerce could be established in those regions until the conquest was accomplished. It is useless and undignified our perpetually remonstrating against advances which we could not prevent, and in the interest of humanity ought not to regret. But none of these considerations apply to any advances of Russia across the border of Afghanistan. We must insist on the independence and integrity of that country being respected, and so far as Afghanistan shall be under any predominant influence we must insist that this influence be ours. All parties are agreed in this doctrine, this policy, and in desiring that the government shall carry it into effect with firmness." Thus far the British government have won a great diplomatic victory over the Russians.

RELIEVED SHIPOWNERS.

The war in the Soudan is a fortunate relief to British shipowners. A recent number of the Liverpool Mercury contains a summary of the steam shipping trade, the status of which is still unfavorable. The total launch in 1884 was 730,659 tons, against 1,116,556 in the previous year. In the Wear, Tyne and Tees districts the total decline was 300,000 tons, while the Clyde shows a decrease of nearly 115,000 tons; but as this was divided up amongst fifty builders the loss has not been so severely felt. Very few steamers are now being built, except for special purposes, and the output for 1885 will probably show a considerable decrease against the past year. Of the tonnage lying idle, some is so hopelessly in debt to bankers and others that it will never be sailed again by the present managing owners. Freights show scarcely any improvement and it is difficult to keep vessels employed in any trade yielding any profit. The government has, however, already taken up some 50,000 tons of steamers, mostly consisting of the pick of vessels belonging to large companies, at a rate of 17 shillings 6 pence per ton and under. This rate, as compared with the Egyptian war of 1883, is fully 5 shillings less than the average on that occasion. Upwards of 800 steamers have been placed at the disposal of the admiralty and the shipowner is envied whose vessels have been accepted. Builders have lately accepted very reduced prices to enable them to keep their yards open, and several cargo vessels, carrying 3,000 tons on a moderate draught, have been contracted for at the rate of £8 to £8 5s. per ton, dead weight capacity. Iron and steel sailing vessels of large tonnage are still in fair demand and several orders have been placed at £9 10s. to £10 5s.

WOLSELEY'S TACTICS.

The American newspapers are poking fun at Lord Wolseley's tactics in the Soudan, asserting that his expensive water trip up the Nile to Korti was a huge military blunder which cost the English taxpayers $7,000,000 without any good results. These critics assert without reason—abuse without considering all the circumstances surrounding the case. Wolseley's army set out to rescue Gordon. They ascended the Nile to Korti, whence Gen. Stewart's force was dispatched across the desert to Gadkul which lies on the Nile almost in a straight line from Korti. The desert trip was taken to avoid a loop in the river and two cataracts which it would have been necessary to surmount had the Nile above Korti been followed. At Gadkul three of Gordon's steamers were found and in them a rescuing party started immediately for Khartoum, only to find that place in the hands of the rebels and Gordon slain. The expedition was ten days late. Had it left England ten days sooner Khartoum might have been saved and Gordon rescued; but Wolseley can scarcely be charged with responsibility for the delay, which clearly rests with the ministry. However, that the British commander's strategy was not at fault is evidenced by the success of the movement across the desert.

COAL HARBOR TELEGRAMS.

For the past few weeks the eastern and American press have, every now and then, contained telegrams of a more or less truthful character, in regard to the present position of affairs at Coal Harbor. One was to the effect that as the result of the action of the company in "abandoning the road down the inlet a number of the private speculators, unable to meet their next payments, would be compelled to make assignments. The man who circulates such damaging reports, especially when he has good reason to know them to be untrue, is altogether untrustworthy. It is very generally understood that the editor of *The Colonist* is the associated press agent in this city.

The above is from the last night's Times. Our contemporary is probably unaware that there are two telegraphic news agents in this city. The association for which reports are sent from *The Colonist* office is represented by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Oregonian and the Post-Intelligencer. No dispatches of the nature referred to have appeared in either of those newspapers, and none of that character were sent by their agent here. No telegrams are sent from this office to the eastern press. If this statement is doubted the originals of the dispatches sent from this office may be examined at the telegraph office in this city. The editor of *The Colonist* is not responsible for and has nothing to do with any dispatches save those that appear in the Chronicle, Oregonian and Post-Intelligencer. The agent of the news association known as the California associated press is in town and is abundantly able to make his own explanation.

MAIL SERVICE TO ALBERNI.

It is to be hoped that the many topics suggested by Mr. J. C. Mollet, J. P., in his interesting letter in this issue will attract the attention of those whose duty it is to look after such matters. Especially would we urge on the postal department the necessity for the establishment of regular mail communication with the settlement by trail or steamer. The district is rapidly filling up with the right sort of people—hardy, adventurous, industrious—for a new country. Many of these have brought their families with them, and intend to spend the remainder of their days in the province. Climate and soil are all that can be desired; but the settlers are sadly put about by the delay that always occurs in receiving their mail matter, which accumulates at Victoria far many days before a chance carrier is found to take it on to the settlement. There should be an immediate reform in this respect. There is nothing so satisfying to a settler in an outlying district as the regular receipt of letters and newspapers. Alberni's mail interests should be looked after.

NOT A GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

The Columbian goes out of its way to state that it is not a government organ. We can see no reason for the explanation. On the contrary, when the benefits which the policy of the existing government has conferred on the country are considered, it is a matter for surprise that all the newspapers in the province are not found giving that policy a generous advocacy. The Columbian we have always regarded as much a government organ as *The Colonist*. Before the change of government it advocated the policy with which the present government came into power, and why should it not continue to support that policy wholly and unreservedly!

ANOTHER SURRENDER.

At 2 o'clock this morning the telegraph announced an extraordinary change in the Egyptian policy of the government. It has suddenly been decided to abandon the Soudan and return to Egypt. General Graham's army has been recalled to Suakim, and the whole costly expedition is at an end. The brave garrison of Kassala will be abandoned to its fate, all the blood and money spent is worse than useless and another disgraceful page in the history of the Gladstone government remains to be written. The reasons which have led to this strange, unexpected and humiliating course will probably be learned to-morrow.

A Card.

To the Editor:—It seems strange that the Free Press of Nanaimo should be ignorant of the past rates of passage on the east coast route, when he states that the old rates were $4.50 to Nanaimo from Victoria. Such rates were never in existence either in Mr. Spratt's time or the C. P. N. Co.'s. If the editor had only stopped to think he would have seen his error; and the reduced rates were not brought down by the People's Navigation Co., as he states, but by the C. P. N. Co.

G. Rudlin, Captain.

Alberni Notes.

April 4, 1885.

To the Editor: I have written a small sketch of the news from the Alberni settlement. I left Victoria for Alberni March 18, by way of Nanaimo and Qualicum, then crossed over the mountain and down into the settlement, where I found harmony and peace the order of the day. I shall be as brief as possible, as I have on previous occasions called on you to give space in your worthy paper to several communications.

The first pleasing sight that caught the eyes when we arrived in the settlement were the walls of a new sided log house that Mr. Peter Merrifield was in the act of raising after the old Canadian style, with ten or twelve of his good neighbors busy helping him. When we left yesterday the walls were raised and the roof erected. Further on we found others busy gardening and cleaning up land to follow the fruit-trees all white in blossom; everything I believe is as far advanced as it is in and around Victoria city. I am sure that all will be glad to hear that there have been about 14 new locations made since New Year. After I got the parties I took in last properly settled I had a few days to spare before I should come out to meet the steamer at Qualicum; so to explore for more land I started with my blankets and grub, assisted by Mr. McKenzie's son Hector, a smart young lad of 16 years. We started up the Stamp branch of the Somas river, but only went a short distance till we had to abandon the canoe and shoulder our packs and traveled up one and a half days till we came in sight of Central lake, which is about 25 to 30 miles long, the land at the lower end of the lake being rather rough for farming purposes. We then turned back and surrounded a piece of very good farming land. This land is situated north of Sproat's lake, the north branch of the Somas river, runs off to quite a distance, turns westward and bears on that course for several miles, then curves round to the southward, then taking an almost easterly course homeward caused us to surround this upper valley. This valley is well worth intending settlers to take a look at, the Sproat lake valley as we will call it for the present. It may yet be called the Wilson settlement inasmuch as a Mr John W. Wilson, late of Walkerton, Ontario, has taken up 160 acres fronting on Sproat's lake. Mr. Wilson has opened the ball for quite a fine settlement if the government will just give $250 to cut out an old road which was made 22 years ago by the sawmill company, only a distance of 3 miles from the bay to the head of the south arm of Sproat's lake, then from the end of this road there would be about 5½ miles to the north side of the lake, that water stretch can be made by canoe or scow for the present. Now we hope that the government will help the opening up of this upper valley on the north branch of the Somas river; this road will pass by several more locations on the south side of Sproat's lake. I might say in conclusion that a little money laid out on roads and trails in the next six months up about Alberni will never be regretted by our worthy present local government. I shall venture to say that it will do more general good to the province and the Dominion of Canada.

Truly yours,

W. M. Halpenny, Government Guide.

ROBBED BY ROAD AGENTS.

The Experience of Four Drummers in Arizona.

M. W. Griffin, L. Siebenhauer, George Borradaile and Mr Elsercer, all San Francisco drummers, and well known in Victoria, were robbed on the 23rd of last month, when two masked men, with six-shooters, covered the driver and passengers of the stage, about one and a half miles from Pinal, Arizona Territory. The robbers made the driver, Charles Miller, break open Wells, Fargo & Co.'s treasure box with a stone, the passengers meanwhile holding up their hands. The driver was required to put the contents of the box into a sack, and afterwards to throw out the mail bags and cut them open. They got little for their trouble, and relieved the passengers of their valuables, after which the driver was ordered to turn back a mile, from which point he was permitted to drive into Pinal. Citizens started in pursuit, and suspicion rested on two young men named Henry Girard and Andrew Dorsey, who were found in a cabin near the foot of King hill. They were taken into custody. The plunder was found in the cabin, and the robbers confessed. Dorsey is about twenty years old, half Mexican and half American. Girard is twenty seven years old and was married about six months ago to a girl of fifteen. The plunder amounted to about $140 in money, three gold watches and pocketbooks. Most of the money was taken from Mr. Griffin and Mr. Borradaile.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

[From a special Correspondent.]

Ottawa, March 21.

The next civil service entrance examination takes place on the 12th of May in all parts of the Dominion except British Columbia, where it will be held on the 26th of May. Applications must be filed on or before the 15th of April.

INSURANCE.

During the past two or three weeks the banking and commerce committee have been considering the insurance bill, dealing with the co-operative or assessment line of insurance. The old line of companies have made a big fight to keep the provisions affecting these latter companies out of the insurance act of 1877, their contention being that legislation for the assessment companies should come under a separate bill. The committee have arrayed themselves on the two sides, and some lively sparring has resulted. It has been contended that many companies insure with the assessment companies not knowing what they are really committing themselves to. Sir R. Cartwright, in his pompous manner, said yesterday that there could be no difficulty on that point, because if parties could not see their own policies they could see the policy of some other person. Your worthy representative, Mr. Baker, got up and quietly said that after three years' acquaintanceship with the worthy knight he had not had the pleasure of seeing his (Cartwright's) policies yet. The commit tee were convulsed with laughter, and the opinion was freely expressed that Mr. Baker had got off one of the best things of the session.

VALUE OF SETTLERS' EFFECTS.

The following table shows the value of cash and effects reported as brought into the Dominion by settlers since the year 1875, the date at which the record was commenced:

Years.	Value.
1875	$1,344,573
1876	686,205
1877	632,269
1878	1,202,563
1879	1,152,612
1880	1,295,565
1881	4,188,925
1882	3,171,501
1883	2,784,881
1884	4,614,372

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The value of agricultural products exported from the Dominion for the last fiscal year is shown by the trade and navigation returns to have amounted to $12,397,843. This is, however, only the produce of the soil, and is exclusive of animals and their products, which amounted to $22,946,108, making altogether a total of $35,343,951, or over one-third of the whole exports of the Dominion. It is anticipated that the bountiful harvests of last autumn will probably swell the total amount of the agricultural exports during the present year to still larger proportions.

The value of cattle and sheep exported in 1884 is estimated at $8,402,345, an increase of $76,996 over 1883. The total number of imports through the Point Levis Quarantine during the year was: Canada, cattle 323, sheep 303, swine 20; United States, cattle 1,284, sheep 170, swine 65. Total—cattle 1,607, sheep 473, swine 26. The report states that the large number of pure-bred cattle imported during the last five years has already created a perceptible improvement in Canadian herds, and cattle shippers generally are beginning to realize its consequent value.

PATENTS.

The fees received for patents in 1884 have been less than in 1883. This is accounted for in the report by the small number of patents for which the full fifteen dollars fee has been paid since 1883, after the amendment in the patent act came into force, by which all patents were deemed to be granted for fifteen years, and which allowed payments of fees to be made in five yearly periods. The number of patents on which the fee of $60 for fifteen years was paid, during the year 1883, was 184; and for the year 1884 the number fell off to 84.

The Rotation of Crops.

At Flushing, Mich., about the middle of January, there was held a very interesting meeting under the auspices of the Michigan Farmers' Institute, and among the valuable papers read was one on "Rotation of Crops," by R. C. Kedzie of the American Agricultural College, in which appears the following: "The growth year after year of one kind of crop upon the same soil exhausts the kind of plant food needed to raise that class of plants. It has been asserted that nature does not practice rotation of crops, but this is a mistake. The oak forests of France have changed to beech; when our pines are removed poplars spring up; many of our weeds are importations, and some of them thrive because they are importations. Seed brought from a distance often produces a better crop. By a change of crops we are enabled to occasionally use a cleaning crop, and thus get rid of weeds and in some instances accumulate humus. Some crops leave long roots, others short. By alternating them nutriment is drawn from different parts of the soil Some crops store up nutriment and leave it in the soil. We may grow a leguminous crop and then grow a better crop of wheat than we could have done had we sowed wheat first. We are apt to think of all crops as coming from the soil, while some of them receive 95 per cent. of their nutriment from the air. Crops with a few narrow leaves, as wheat, oats, corn and most grains, and the grasses, are very exhaustive to the soil while those with numerous broad leaves as clover, peas, and beans, derive most of their sustenance from the air and leave it in an excellent condition to raise an exhaustive crop. An excellent plan for sandy loam is: First year meadow; second year, fallow; third year, wheat; fourth year, corn, and out on all the decomposed manure. At the last cultivation sow rye. It will keep down weeds, use up plant food that would otherwise be lost and make an excellent pasture. Fifth year, oats or barley, and seed down." In reply to an inquiry Professor Kedzie said he did not think it would pay with the present low price of sugar to raise amber cane, except as a forage crop, for which purpose he considered it excellent, especially so on light, sandy soils. Beef fattened on it was most excellent.

Central America.

Mexico (via Galveston), March 31.—The Mexican government has news of a battle between the Guatemala and San Salvador forces. General Barrios, after making an unsuccessful attack, withdrew.

Japan.

From the Japain Mail, March 11th; Emperor, accompanied by his suite, is about to visit the western provinces of the empire. The event will be celebrated by imposing military pageants along the route.

Recent statistics show that there is one physician to every 382 inhabitants in Japan.

The Nokasendo Railway is being rapidly pushed forward to completion. Trains will be running shortly to Isobe.

The latest official census of Japan reports a total population 38,442,966, of whom 18,492,807 are females. The number of houses in the country is 7,674,224.

THE BOUNDARY LINE.

Between Alaska and British Columbia.

(Special Correspondence of The Colonist).

Ottawa, March 23.

The following important discussion, of much interest to your readers, took place in the house of commons to-day:

Mr. Gordon moved for:

Copies of all correspondence having reference to the appointment of a joint commission with the United States government for surveying the boundary line between the province of British Columbia and the United States territory of Alaska.

He said: It is very important that the territorial limits of Canada should be clearly defined at the earliest practicable date. You are aware, sir, that the boundary line between British Columbia and the United States territory of Alaska is practically undefined. Questions of jurisdiction may arise at any moment, which may cause trouble between the two governments. For my own part, I do not anticipate any trouble as likely to arise, so long as the people who go into the Alaska territory are from the law abiding classes of the two countries; but other persons may go in, of a different character, who may cause trouble, out of which questions of jurisdiction will be sure to arise. Other considerations to which I need not refer, point to the desirability of having the boundary line clearly defined. The old adage, that you must travel from home to get the news, has, strange to say, been brought into practice to-day. Some trouble seems to have occurred between the United States and Mexico, with regard to the boundary, through military parties of the one or other nation crossing in to each other's territory in pursuit of horse-thieves and marauders, and with your permission I will read the article, taken from the New York World, dated the 15th inst.:

"I don't clearly see what sense there is in making such a fuss about Mexicans and Texans crossing an imaginary boundary line after horse thieves and murderers. We have established precedents enough for it British Columbia. A military expedition was sent from Washington Territory to Alaska, across lots, as late as 1883, by order of the department commander and in defiance of British law and rule. The same year Lieut. Schwatka crossed for nearly 1,000 miles on British soil, with an armed party of United States troops, by order of Gen. Miles. Schwatka might have had the flimsy excuse that he didn't know where the boundary was, because it had not then been surveyed; but expeditions have since been ordered over the same route, and there is at this moment an expedition in Alaska under Lieut. Allen, with orders to cross over to the Yukon and follow it for three or four hundred miles into British territory.

This is a wanton invasion of neutrality, but our Canada neighbors have got used to it and seem to like it."

That is news to British Columbia. We have been under the impression that no trouble whatever has been between the two governments on that coast since the settlement of the San Juan trouble. For my part, I have never heard that any permission was asked, granted or taken, to cross with a military expedition through British territory to Alaska, and I must say that, if there had been, it would have been very hard upon the military, as far as my knowledge of the country goes. The Montreal Herald, commenting upon the above, states that:

"Such statements can scarcely fail to attract the attention of the Canadian government and elicit explanations in parliament. If a foreign power has been making such free use of Canadian territory, without permission asked or received, it is well we should have the information from some official source, and learn the whys and wherefores. When Canada was sending troops from the east to put down the Red river rebellion, our government asked permission of the United States government to be allowed to pass the force through the Sault St. Marie canal and the favor was refused. As a consequence the troops had to follow the Dawson route, at a great cost to the Dominion treasury. Under these circumstances it would have been only proper for the United States authorities to have acted somewhat differently from what the World represents them as having done. It is possible that the World is mistaken and that the United States government is innocent of the gross discourtesy of which the World appears to boast."

So far as my observation has led me, the government of the United States and Canada on the Pacific coast have been working in the greatest harmony, and I am sure the friendship existing between the two peoples is of the most cordial character. We had an instance of the courtesy between the two governments in the case of the naval force of each government, on different occasions, rendering aid to the citizens and subjects of the other. In one case, one of Her Majesty's ships was sent to Sitka, when the United States citizens were afraid of an Indian rising and prevented any trouble amongst the Indians as against the citizens of the United States; on another occasion when there was a report got up in the papers of British Columbia that dangers of an Indian rising at Metlakatla was imminent, the United States sent their revenue cutter Oliver Wolcott to the scene promptly, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the feeling which was exhibited on that occasion by the two governments finds hearty sympathy amongst all classes of the people on both sides of the line, and I am sure that the article in the New York World cannot possibly have any foundation in fact. The government will be able to explain whether there is any foundation for such statements, and I am sure, if there is any correspondence upon the subject of the boundary, they will bring it before the house. I also believe they will deem it their duty, in the interests of Canada, to have a practical survey of that boundary established as early as possible, in order to avoid any complications arising in future.

Mr. Homer—As seconder of this motion, I will say that we, in British Columbia, consider it very important that the boundary line between the United States territory of Alaska and British Columbia would be surveyed and marked out as early as possible. That country is supposed to be rich in mineral wealth on both sides of the line, and in the case of rich discoveries being made, a large influx of miners and other people would take place, over whom it would be necessary for this government to extend its jurisdiction; but, in the absence of a boundary line being established, it would be quite impossible for these miners and other people to know whether they were occupying United States territory or the territory of the Dominion. Complications might therefore possibly arise, of a very serious nature. We all know, and I believe our hon. friends from the province of New Brunswick particularly, the disastrous results occasioned by the delay in the case of the northeast boundary, which was finally settled under the Ashburton treaty; and I hope the Dominion government, in connection with the government of the United States, will, at the earliest possible moment, take steps for the purpose of surveying and marking out the boundary line between the United States territory of Alaska and British Columbia.

Sir Hector Langevin in reply said: I have listened with attention to the remarks made by the mover of this resolution, and especially to the extract he read from an article or correspondence in a United States paper. That article had already received the attention of some of the ministers. I had seen it myself and had enquired about the truthfulness of the statements made in it. We find no trace of any such statement being correct. This matter never came to our cognisance, and therefore we must consider it as not being founded on fact until the contrary is proved. On the other hand I must say that, so far as the relations between the United States government and Canada are concerned, the most amicable relations have existed and exist now. Whenever the United States government have wishes to cause some of their troops to pass over our territory for survey, or for some other reason, special permission has been asked and has been granted, in the same way as the request has been made, and I have no doubt that, if a similar request were made on the part of our government, the same permission would be given. Of course there was an allusion made to the time when we had to send troops to Manitoba, and to the fact that these troops were not allowed to go through the Sault Ste Marie canal. That may be, but things at all events have changed since that period, and I must say that the relations between the two governments are of the most friendly nature possible. The hon gentleman says that a survey ought to be made, and another honourable member from British Columbia, who has spoken has dwelt upon the necessity of having a survey of the boundary line between British Columbia and the United States territory of Alaska. Well, this matter has been brought to the attention of the government several times, and I have no doubt that one day a survey will have to be made. But the absolute necessity of such a survey has not yet appeared; and as the government had to make a great many other expeditions of a more pressing nature, we have thought this matter might be delayed. However, the government will not lose sight of the matter. There is no objection to the address.

Mr. Mills said—This matter was under the attention of the government some years ago. After some correspondence with the American government on the subject, it was found that the survey of of this boundary would cost between $3,000,000 and $4,000,000, and on account of the very serious expense it would entail, neither governments was disposed to carry on the delimitation of the boundary between the American possessions and British Columbia. I think, in 1877, a Mr. Hunter was appointed by the government to mark the boundary, according to the treaty of 1825, at certain important points. That was done, and the American government agreed to accept that, for the time being, for all practicable purposes, as the limitary line between their possessions and our own. There is no doubt that if the country is occupied by miners on both sides, in so far as the territory is occupied, it will be necessary to ascertain where the true boundary is; but considering the very large expense that will be required for the purpose of laying down the boundary, I do not suppose that either governments are disposed at the present time to undertake that survey.

The motion was agreed to.

A GLOOMY SITUATION.

Newfoundland Politics—the Religious Trouble—Scene in Parliament.

Halifax, N. S., March 23.—Newfoundland politics are still in a very exciting condition. Advices from St. John's represent the feeling between Catholics and Protestants as increasing in bitterness rather than being allayed. Trade is thoroughly demoralized; added to this is the probable failure of fisheries owing to enormous quantities of ice on the coast, and the consequent semi-starvation among the people in the outlying districts of the island that must ensue from the short catch of fish this year, and the outlook is very blue. The enormous catch in Norway increases the gloominess of the commercial situation. The real gravity of the political crisis has been suppressed in Newfoundland papers. There are twenty thousand Catholics in St. John's to ten thousand Protestants. Private advces say the Catholics were exasperated during the passage of the ultra-Protestant resolutions through the legislature, and it was only by the exercise of the greatest forbearance and calmness of the part of the Catholic leaders that the mob was prevented from taking charge of the parliament building and its members. Feeling had risen to such a pitch that one unfortunate word would have "set the whole city ablaze, and the lives and property of the Orangemen would not have been worth twopence." A leading Catholic ecclesiastic says "Things will be a great deal worse before they are better."

A lively fracas occurred in the Newfoundland legislature the other day. Hon. Francis Winton, a member of parliament for Bonavista, and late editor of the Morning Chronicle, had been expelled from the government and the position of Financial Secretary. He then joined the Opposition. Next day Winton entered the Surveyor-General's office and met there George M. Johnston, law adviser to the legislature and law partner of Sir William Whiteway, the Premier. An altercation ensued, and Winton flourished a stick and finally spat in Johnston's face. The result was that Winton was so badly punished that he could not attend to his parliamentary duties for several days.

Distribution of the Sense of Taste.

Taste, however, is not equally distributed over the whole surface of the tongue alike. There are three distinct regions or tracts, each of which has to perform its own special office and function. The tip of the tongue is concerned mainly with pungent and acrid taste; the middle portion is sensitive chiefly to sweets and bitters; while the back or lower portion confines itself almost entirely to the flavors of roast meats, butter, oils, and other rich or fatty substances. There are very good reasons for this subdivision of faculties in the tongue, the object being as it were, to make each piece of food undergo three separate examinations (like "smalls," "mods," and "greats" at Oxford), which must be successively passed before it is admitted into full participation in the human economy. The first examination, as we shall shortly see, gets rid at once of substances which would be actively and immediately destructive to the very tissues of the mouth and body; the second discriminates between poisonous and chemically harmless food-stuffs; and the third merely decides the minor question whether the particular food is likely to prove then and there wholesome or indigestible to the particular person. The sense of taste proceeds, in fact, upon the principal of gradual selection and elimination; it refuses first what is positively destructive, next what is more remotely deleterious, and finally what is only undesirable or over-luscious.—Grant Allen in Popular Science Monthly.

The Corpse Evidently Not a Lawyer's.

(Newman Independent.)

Smith: "Here is something peculiar. This paper says a man who was buried in North Carolina a few months ago was disinterred last week and was found lying on his face."

Mrs. Smith: "How strange! I wonder who he was!"

Smith: "I don't know, the paper does not give his name; but I should judge he was a farmer or merchant—at any rate, he wasn't a lawyer."

Mrs. Smith: "How do you know he wasn't a lawyer, my dear?"

Smith: "Because if he had been a lawyer he would have been found lying on one side or the other."

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Pacific Mail Steamer.)

Montreal, March 23.—Montgomery, Blondin, Howard and Brown, four western crooks, who broke into a hotel at Longue Point and carried off a safe, were each sentenced to fifteen years.

Alexander Goudrar, a student in Victoria Medical College, got his arm poisoned by a body he was dissecting and will not recover.

Archbishop Lynch lies ill here. He attended the 50th anniversary of Mgr. Larocque. Nothing serious is anticipated.

Toronto, March 23.—The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has appointed a commission, with power to fix ratings, at Port Arthur, Rat Portage, Keewatin and other distant points.

John Elliot, proprietor of the Elliot House, has been served with a writ for $5,000 for breach of promise damages, at the instance of Widow Smith, formerly of the Brighton Hotel here and afterwards in Winnipeg. This is the second writ upon Elliot within a few weeks.

The Grand Trunk has awarded contracts for 3,700,000 tons of coal, fifty-five thousand tons to be delivered at Detroit.

Society circles are scandalized over the doings of two prominent members which have been kept quiet here out of respect for the family of the lady implicated. For months past an undue intimacy existing between Roger Lamb a tea broker, and Mrs. Furlong, his sister-in-law, a daughter of W. A. Murray, a prominent drygoods merchant, has been well known and talked about, and resulted in a legal separation between Furlong and his wife. Furlong went to Winnipeg, and Lamb continued his attentions to Mrs. Furlong. Some days ago Mr. Murray left with his daughter for Europe, but on the arrival of the vessel at Liverpool she eluded her father and returned by the same boat. Lamb left here a few days ago, it is supposed to join her. Lamb married Furlong's sister, so the affair is all in the family.

John Brown, confectioner, one of Quebec's oldest landmarks, died last night, aged ninety. He was taken sick on Saturday, and when found yesterday was stillalive, had his nose, ears and toes eaten off by rats. He was at one time a wealthy and prominent citizen.

Kingston, March 23.—The Scott Act petition for an election in this county was filled on Saturday.

A house-breaker named Brown received five years, which the judge said would have been ten only he was convicted since his arrest.

Belleville, March 23.—James Ross collector, is said to be short in his accounts to a considerable amount and it is charged that he has practiced frauds and sworn to false entries. His bondsmen, will secure the city against loss. Mr. Ross has been for several weeks dangerously ill. He is a leading member of the Methodist Church, and has hitherto borne a very high character.

A sensation was created here to-day by the announcement in a local paper that James Ross, one of the city tax collectors, was short in his cash on the tax roll for last year, the books are in such a muddled state it is impossible to arrive at the exact amount of the shortage. There is about $4,000 yet to be returned on the roll. Part of this has been collected, but was not paid over to the City Treasurer. Ross' sureties, Horace Yeomans and J. J. B. Flint, will make the loss good to the city. Ross collected large amounts of taxes and gave receipts, but made no entry in the books. Several weeks ago he was attacked with an epileptic fit and has since been lying dangerously ill. The deputy collector issued distress warrants against all the ratepayers who, according to the books, had not paid their taxes, when it was discovered a large number of them held Boss' receipt.

St Thomas, March 24.—Public interest in the murder of Marshall Piggott, of Malahide, is daily growing. On Sunday, Havelock Smith was gaoled here on suspicion of being the murderer. Smith is a young and wealthy farmer, unmarried, and lived with his brother on 1st con. of Malahide. It is stated that several days before Piggott's disappearance Smith hired a boat at Port Bruce, and on Dec. 2 returned it. The condition in several places leads to the belief that Piggott had either been killed on shore, then bound with ropes, carried out in the boat and sunk to the bottom of the lake, or else first enticed out in the boat, then knocked on the head and thrown overboard.

After R. Marshall Piggott's disappearance Smith handed a note for $300 to Wm. Piggott, for endorsement which note, he said, Marshall Piggott had given him just before he went away.

St. Catharines, March 24.—The safe of James W. Keating, insurance agent, was blown open last night. The burglars secured eighty dollars in cash and eighteen dollars in notes.

Belleville, March 24.—The matter of Collector Ross' alleged defalcation was brought up in the city council last night. Mr. W. E. Holton, who is acting as collector during Mr. Ross' illness, stated that there would be no deficit in the accounts. Mr. Ross had in perhaps half a dozen cases given receipts and neglected to make returns. Mr. Ross it was stated is suffering from softening of the brain, which had probably led to his forgetfulness.

Quebec, March 24.—The investigation into the case of the two suspected dynamiters arrested here Saturday still continues at the police court, and is being conducted with great privacy. It is stated that the only clue upon which the men were apprehended is a telegram dated Montreal, 21st, March, to A. B. Clark, South Quebec: "Received goods from first firm but did not get the cheap lot. Leave here at ten to-night (Signed) E. D." Beyond this there appears to be no other cause for the arrest.

Montreal, March 23.—The Progress de Valleyfield tell of a man named Heriault, of Riviere Verte, near Petit Sault, Madawaska, who, when out of his senses, hung one of his children only sixteen months old. Another child in the room cried out to his father when he saw him drawing the leather cord round the child's back that "he was choking the baby." Four brothers of the same family were mad, and the murderer was for a time previous to hanging his baby shut in a lunatic asylum, but set at liberty as being not dangerous.

Hamilton, March 25.—The fast St. Louis express on the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk last night ran into a freight train that was standing on the siding at Harrisburg. The collision made kindling-wood of the two hind box cars on the freight train. The cowcatcher and headlight of the engine on the express were also badly broken. The express messenger and brakemen were slightly hurt, but fortunately none of the passengers were injured.

Montreal, March 25.—P. X. Beaudry, a native of Montreal, and one of her wealthiest citizens, having amassed two millions and a half to three millions by speculation and investment in real estate, including nearly half a million inherited from his late father died last night. Deceased's career was not worthy of imitation either early or late in life. After his youthful indiscretions he had no other object during his later career but to make money, no matter how he ground it out of his poor tenants, most of whom were the lowest of the low and debased inhabitants up to late in life deceased lived miserably and spent nothing on his home or self that he could help, his average outlay being estimated at seventy-five cents per day. His residence was in a disreputable street, where he owned nearly all the houses, and was one of a class that would let at fifteen dollars per month. He was always in the courts defending himself against the civic assessments for being too high, and also nearly all the time in the Recorder's Court for keeping his hovels in an unsanitary and tumble-down condition, it being proverbial that he never expended a dollar in repairs or rebuilding until the house fell. The almighty dollar was his god until three or four months before his decease, when he realized that he was gradually sinking from infirm health. He then turned over a new leaf, a Catholic clergyman assured your correspondent, went regularly to confession, and as a climax of his repentance and sorrow for his former life gave the Sulpicians a deed of property in a central part of the city to build an orphanage on and endowed it with $300,000.

Kingston, March 25.—The trouble in the Salvation Army has reached a climax. For some time Captain Scott has refrained from dancing, but last night he broke loose again, when a crowd rushed up to the stage, off which he was hustled and then surrounded by the mob. He rushed out of the door where a crowd was waiting for him. He was seized and kicked and cuffed for about fifteen minutes. Cries of "murder" attracted the police, and two of them escorted Scott to his home, a howling mob following. Residents in the vicinity of the barracks are becoming alarmed, as windows were broken and benches in the building smashed. Scott's shins and others portions of his body were badly bruised, and the soldiers who attempted to protect him were also buffeted. There were fully 500 persons in the crowd that chased him, and cries of "Kill him" and "Hang him up to a lamp post" were heard on all sides. The affair has created a sensation among the citizens, who hold Major Coombs responsible for the disgrace that has been brought upon Kingston's fair name. If he does not remove Scott at once serious results may follow; in fact it is whispered to-night that the barracks will be in danger if he does not go.

THE AFGHAN DIFFICULTY.

The Russian Navy.

London, April 2.—Russia is taking active steps to place her navy on a better war footing. In addition to five heavy ironclads, seven half plated cruisers and five torpedo rams recently mentioned by the Vossische Zeitung as being built for the Black and Baltic Seas, a number of cruisers and torpedo rams are being rapidly fitted out at Nicolieff, the station of the Russian Admiral and fleet at the confluence of the Ingal and the Regs. The cruisers are of from 5000 to 8000 tons burden and will be fitted with from ten to fourteen cannon, about one half of which will be of large caliber. The vessels are expected to attain a speed of at least sixteen knots an hour. The torpedo rams have a displacement of about 3000 tons and are estimated to go about fifteen knots per hour. They will be armed, in addition to two torpedo apparatus, with six 9-inch and four smaller guns.

The Emir of Bokhara has agreed to allow the passage of Russian troops and supplies through his territory in the event of war with England.

THE AMEER INCENSED.

London, April 2.—Dispatches received from Cabul to-day report that Sir Peter Lumsden has decided to favor the establishment of a frontier line which violates the integrity of Afghanistan, and that the Ameer is much incensed at the decision.

LOYAL INDIA.

Rawal Pindi, April 2.—The chiefs and princes of the whole Indian Empire are now represented here in person or by deputy. They have all, without exception, earnestly tendered to Earl Dufferin, the British Viceroy, troops and money without stint to uphold England in any possible difficulty with Russia.

China.

From the China Mail of March 3d: Details of the fall of Langson are still wanting. Lunchow, some fifteen miles from Langson, is also said to have been occupied by the French. Over 4,000 French reinforcements have passed through Singapore on their way to Tonquin and Formosa.

It is stated that French men-of-war have seized the island of Pootoo, one of the Chusan group, with the view of converting it into a base for the vessels operating in the north.

A large torpedo boat has been launched for the Chinese at Shangahi. It is said she will steam 19 knots.

Additional torpedoes have been placed by the Chinese in the river below Canton.

The number of Chinese killed and wounded at Langson has been stated on good authority to be less than 10,000.

Honor for Earl Spencer.

London, March 24.—Earl Spencer, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, is to be created a duke after the return of the Prince and Princess of Wales from their Irish tour.

The Prince of Wale's Visit.

Dublin, March 24.—Lord Mayor O'Connor has procured another British flag for the Mansion house to replace the one stolen by a party of students, and the new flag is strictly guarded by policemen. The feeling over the coming visit of the Prince of Wales is becoming warmer every day. It is probable that the whole city will be divided into two fierce factions by the time of the Prince's arrival.

Syrup of Figs.

Nature's own true Laxative. Pleasant to the palate, acceptable to the stomach,