NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Writ for Vancouver Island District Issued—Spring Salmon Run Improving.

Vancouver Liberals Preparing Their Platform—Gold Strike at Lytton.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, April 15.—A letter has been received by his former parishioners of Christ church from Rev. Mr. Hobson, dated Toronto, in which he intimates that he will not return to Vancouver.

Richard Whyte, of Windsor, Ont., brother of Mr. Stephen White, who was killed in the recent C. P. R. accident, arrived yesterday to take steps to recover, if possible, the remains of his brother.

Capt. Ross, of Portland, who went to Japan to make arrangements to put the steamer Zambesi on the Honolulu and Puget Sound route, says that the steamer could not be got ready in time, and she was put on the Asiatic coast trade. With the political changes on the Island, they did not think it a suitable time to inaugurate the line.

Mr. S. R. Brown submitted a platform last night at the meeting of the Liberal club—tariff for revenue only; reciprocity with the United States; reduction in the annual expenditure; manhood suffrage, one man one vote; land for settlers only; the Senate to be elected; no taxation of the necessaries of life; and the right of Canada to make commercial treaties. After discussion, the meeting adjourned for one week, when the debate will be continued.

The ladies of the First Congregational church will hold a bazaar in the school-room of the church on the 27th inst.

For three months the Lytton syndicate have been prospecting their ground which adjoins the Van Winkle ground at Lytton. Mr. George de Wolf, manager of the syndicate, has received word that they have struck at this depth the same old channel that the Van Winkle struck on their ground, the gold being of a regular coarse channel nature. They find the gravel averages $5 a cubic yard. It is confidently predicted that untold amounts of gold lie in this old channel, which at this point is enlarged by the old Thompson river channel, the two rivers having joined here long ages ago.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, April 15.—Inkerman Lodge Sons of St. George will give a supper in the Foresters' Hall, Saturday, April 22nd, and the following morning, Sunday, the members will attend St. Albans.

Yesterday and to-day were pay days for the employes of the New Vancouver Coal Company. The pay roll amounted to $105,000.

The contractors for the Free Press block and A. E. Johnson & Co.'s frame building, commenced operations yesterday.

The new Presbyterian church will be started next week; when completed it will be the handsomest edifice of the kind in the city.

The electric tramway system now in operation in Nos. 1 and 2 levels of the Esplanade shaft is to be extended to No. 3 level. Electrician Wyse is now engaged in installing the line.

Government Agent Bray has received the writ for the election for Vancouver Island District. The local Liberals are agitating for the nomination of a representative candidate. On Monday evening a meeting will be held in Good Templars' hall for that object. On Wednesday evening William Marchant, of Victoria, will deliver a lecture on the Liberal platform in the Opera House.

The ship Tacoma sailed this morning for San Francisco. Arrived, steamship Bawnmore.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 15.—The hardware merchants have fallen into line with the dry goods merchants, and after May 1 will close every evening, except Saturday, at 6 o'clock

The spring salmon run continues to improve, and the daily shipments are becoming large. The Port & Winch Co. will ship 20,000 pounds to New York early next week.

Speculators are preparing to boom Langley townsite. A large section will be cut up into town lots and placed on the market as soon as railway construction reaches the village.

At a meeting of the local branch of the Canada Mutual Loan and Investment company, yesterday afternoon, the following directors were elected for the ensuing term: President, M Sinclair; Vice-President, D Robson. W. Law, A. E Wood, F. Browne, N. O. Schou and R. McFarlane. Mr. A. Phillips was elected secretary and Mr. A. Morrison, solicitor

UNION

UNION, April 13.—The weather for the greater part of last week was very cold, and to-day a slight fall of snow occurred, which melted very soon.

The arrival of the San Mateo on Sunday last was hailed with pleasure. Work was resumed on Monday and everything is running as brisk as ever.

The new store for J. McKim is expected to be ready for occupancy in two weeks. The boisterous weather has somewhat hindered operations, but the contractors are making all haste to complete the building. The contract for painting the exterior woodwork has been let to Mr. Thomas Milne, Nanaimo

Mr. Milne has just completed the hospital and the excellent work done has been admired by all.

Steamer Rainbow arrived Friday morning; after loading steam coal she proceeded to Comox.

The funeral of Miss Rennison, daughter of Mr. W. Rennison, Comox, took place at Vancouver on Monday last. Miss Rennison was a young lady of much promise, eighteen years of age. She was a general favorite in Comox and will be much missed.

Mr. J. V. Nicholls has returned from a visit to Denman Island. Whilst there he was the guest of Mr. Pickett, of Mount Pleasant. Amongst other visitors at the Mount were Messrs. W. F. Piercy, J Seargent, J Watt, F. Sutton and D. McNeil.

Steamer Joan arrived yesterday, having made the passage from Nanaimo in four hours fifty minutes net steaming time.

A large electric pump for the Union Colliery Co. arrived by the Joan yesterday. It will be used in No 4 slope, in place of the one at present in use.

Mr. Little, superintendent of the Colliery, arrived by the Joan. His youngest daughter is now out of danger, and steadily recovering

Mr. A. Dick, Government inspector of mines, and Mr W. B. Walker, J.P., were among the passengers by the Joan.

Mr. F. A. Anley has not entered partnership with Geo. Howe, as stated last week, but he has been engaged as bookkeeper.

The San Mateo loaded a cargo of 4,500 tons of Union coal, and left this morning for San Francisco.

Rev. Jno. Robson, B.A., is appointed to preach at Denman on Sunday next. He goes down by steamer to-morrow. During his absence his place here will be taken by local preachers.

A large organ for the Union lodge I.O.OF. is expected by next week's steamer.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

HONOLULU, April 8.—The steamer Alameda, which arrived here yesterday, brought among her passengers Paul Neumann and Prince David Kawananakoa, the deposed Queen's envoy to Washington. Wm. R. Castle, one of the Hawaiian commissioners, and Harold H. Sewell, the former United States consul-general to Samoa, were also on board. Mr. Neumann and Prince David were met by a delegation of the Hui Kalaaina and were escorted to the royal carriage which was in waiting and driven rapidly to the residence of Liliuokalani, where they explained the results of their mission. Mr. Neumann said subsequently: "I went to Washington in the interest of the Queen to prevent, if possible, an injustice being done. I favored the appointment of a commissioner to examine into the state of affairs before judgment was pronounced and have secured my point. I have brought back no assurances to the Queen, but I believe her best assurance lies in the fact that Mr. Blount has been appointed and sent here. If annexation were possible, I should be in favor of it, but I do not consider it possible at present. I don't think it practicable; indeed, I don't believe the United States would annex the Islands unless it was practicable, and if it is possible I am rather in favor of a protectorate, which I think would settle the question once and for all. However, I have done my duty and shall now leave the problem in the hands of people here to work out."

ATLANTIC FLYERS.

LONDON, April 15.—The new steamer Campania, built for the Cunard Company had her trial trip on the Clyde to-day. She obtained a maximum speed of 23.50 knots, or fully 27 miles an hour. This is the greatest speed ever attained by any steamship and justifies the hope that she will be able to make the run from Fastnet to Sandy Hook in five days and a half. The Campania is scheduled to leave Liverpool for New York on Saturday next on her first voyage. She will attempt to break no records, but will steam along easily to allow of her engines getting into first-class working order. The Lucania, the sister ship of the Campania, will be launched in about six weeks, and will begin her regular sailing some time in July.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

The Canadian Commissioners and Surveyors Will Leave Here on the Quadra April 25.

Plenty of Men Available to Make Up the Party—The Programme Not Complete.

So far as arrangements have been made up to date, the Alaskan Boundary Commissioner and the party of surveyors who are to do the work for the Canadian Government will leave here on April 25, going North on the Quadra probably to Port Simpson, from which point they will begin their work, the parties going to their different stations at once.

The Canadian Commissioner, Prof. W. F. King, chief astronomer of the Department of the Interior, will consult and as far as possible work in accord with the American Commissioner, Prof. Mendenhall. The former, whose arrival here was chronicled yesterday, is accompanied by A. H Worden, secretary, O. J. Klotz and H. H. Robertson, surveyors. The plan of operations is yet to be completed, but it has been decided to do the work in seven parties of eight men each, under the leadership of the following surveyors: O. J. Klotz, J. J Macarthur, W Ogilvie, A. S. Cyr, A. C. Talbot, James Gibbons and A. J. Brabazon. Two Canadian surveyors will go along with the expedition, but they are to accompany the Americans. Their names are H. H. Robertson and J. Driscoll, the the latter being a British Columbia man, who has been resident at Chilliwack. The whole of the Canadian party will go north on the Quadra, but Prof. King will return on her and get a smaller boat for use during the summer.

Since the arrival of the party in the city there have been dozens of applications for positions on the staff, plenty of men being available. Those who are engaging the men are the heads of the different parties, and while all the vacancies are not yet filled, it is not for lack of volunteers, the work being an extensive one and meaning good money to those who go along, with limited opportunities for expenditure.

It was expected that Prof. Mendenhall would have been over from Port Townsend last evening to have a consultation with Prof. King. Owing, however, to the delay to the steamer he did not arrive, but will no doubt be over next week. The U. S. S Patterson, which is to take the American party north, will not reach Port Townsend for several days.

F. A. Young, of the United States coast and geodetic survey, is the first of the American party to arrive.

"It was the expectation," says Mr. Young, "to start about the 15th of the month, but there will probably be some delay. I do not expect that Prof. Mendenhall, the United States commissioner, will be with the expedition in the field this summer, though the Canadian commissioner, Prof. King, will. Messrs. Odgen, Tittman and McGrath, principal assistants of the commission, will be here shortly, and the Government vessels Hassler and Patterson will arrive from San Francisco within a few days. There will be a number of astronomers with the expedition, among them Messrs. French and Putnam and Mr. Morse, of San Francisco, and Professor King, of the Ohio State university, who is specially employed on the work. We shall make surveys of the Taku and Stickeen rivers this summer, but the work will not be completed. The work to be done is all preliminary and for the purpose of finally settling the boundary."

"Mr. McGrath, of the party, has done considerable work in Alaska, and spent two or three winters on the Yukon in '89, '90 and '91, I think. Last summer he was engaged in work near the base of Mt. St. Elias."

M. QUAD'S HUMOR.

The Kicker on Snide Shows and Plans for Booming up Its Circulation.

The American Goat on Jokes and Jokers in Which Time Works Few Changes.

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THE ARIZONA KICKER.

DRAMATIC.—Major Hope yesterday notified the coroner of the finding of a dead body between Turkey Bend and Red Hot Crossing. It was that of a long haired young man about 23 years of age, and from the dress he believes it to be one of the members of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company who played here early in January. It will be remembered that a theatrical company calling itself the "New York Ideal" started in here one evening to play "Uncle Tom" with only three people in the cast and with only a bearskin, two blond wigs and a pair of handcuffs for an outfit. The audience happened to feel captious that night and raised a row. The "Ideals" got out by the back door and started on foot for New Mexico, but all probably got lost and perished among the hills. As soon as a thaw set in the coroner will institute a search for the other two bodies. In this connection it might be well to drop a word of advice to the so called "Fifth Avenue Theatrical company," which is advertised to play a play entitled "Polish" next week. There must be more or less high kicking to make a play go here; also at least one 4-round setto with the gloves, with hard punching. No callow youth with hair parted in the middle and a voice like a schoolgirl will be accepted as a villain. The villain must be knocked down two or three times, and virtue must triumph over vice as often as the players can make it convenient without extra charge to the audience. Our people don't insist on a leading lady wearing $5 000 worth of clothes and jewelry, but when she faints away at the top of a flight of stairs she's got to roll clear to the bottom and bump every step. Any stopping half way will be promptly resented because it is unnatural. If there is a pirate in this play, the chap who takes it has got to ask for raw meat, be able to shin over an alley fence and stand off at least four policemen.

WOULDN'T WORK HERE.—In another column of this issue we publish a letter from a valued correspondent asking why we don't try the New York plan for

WE PROMPTLY BOUNCED THE AGRICULTURAL EDITOR.

booming THE KICKER. We have given the subject very serious thought and have concluded that it wouldn't work here. If we were to claim a circulation of 5,000,000 copies a week, some cantankerous cuss would soon figure that our old press couldn't print that many copies in five years if worked night and day for 365 days in the year. If we claimed to be the greatest advertising medium on the face of the earth, we'd have to keep half a dozen liars around the office to prove it by swearing to false affidavits, and we can't afford the extra salaries. Should we put a fat woman in a show window and offer a free trip to Europe to anybody who guessed her correct weight, she'd have an offer of marriage and throw up her job within 10 minutes after the show opened. We could perhaps gain a few new subscribers by giving away $16 worth of books with every $2 subscription, but we can't exactly figure where our profit would come in. If we were to insure every subscriber against death or accident, old Jim Thompson and Utah Bill, both of whom are lying low to get a bulge on us, would start out with their guns some morning and bankrupt us within two hours. As soon as we can pick up a "guessing hog" somewhere for about $5 we'll tie him to a post in front of the office and offer a 40-acre farm over in the Jim River valley to any new subscriber who hits his pounds and ounces, but we shan't have much faith in it as a draw. The New York way may be all right for New Yorkers, who have queer ideas on most all subjects, but we are satisfied that it would be n. g. here.

EXPLANATORY.—While we were over at the capital last week assisting to run the affairs of state our agricultural editor was temporarily placed in charge of the paper. As he had been with us about a year we supposed he was familiar with our general policy and could be trusted. He took advantage of the occasion, however, to make various editorial experiments on his own hook, and in this issue we wish to apologize:

To the common council for calling that body a band of robbers and a disgrace to the west.

To the Mexican nation for asserting that the United States could lick Mexico in 10 days.

To the governor of the territory for asserting that he was born without a spinal column.

To the postmaster of this town for calling him a "chuckle headed ignoramus who didn't know enough to walk out of Sing Sing with the front door wide open."

To at least 50 different citizens of this town who were grouped under the head of "Liars and Deadbeats" and who were advised to hunt for a change of scenery.

To President Cleveland and his cabinet for referring to them as "The Great American Fakirs" and predicting the bankruptcy of the nation within two years.

It is needless to say that we promptly bounced the agricultural editor as soon as we got back and that we shall make it impossible for any such event to occur again. Further apologies next week, and the week after, and all summer long, if necessary, to square ourselves with the public.

AN AMERICAN LEGEND.

Once upon a time as the Sage was traveling about the country to listen to the complaints of the people and advise them to the best of his knowledge he was approached by the Goat, who laid a funny newspaper at his feet, choked back his emotion with a great effort and began:

"O wise man, but I have stood this this thing until I am very tired, and I want to know how it can be stopped!"

"I TUMBLE" REPLIED WILLIAM.

"Is it your liver?" kindly inquired the Sage as he laid his paternal hand on the Goat's head.

"Liver be hanged! Look at that—and that—and that! Here are more'n a dozen jokes on me, and every one of them a wild eyed falsehood! I am mentioned in connection with old oyster cans, discarded corsets, joints of stovepipe, broken down bedsprings and thrown away mattresses. I am made to upset a washerwoman, knock the underpinning from a policeman, do up various small boys, and exhibit a general recklessness regarding human life. I want this thing stopped!"

"How long has it been going on?"

"About two years—two years of ridicule, abuse and slander! What can I do about it?"

"You can only have patience and wait. The joke man changes his subject once in five years, as you will observe by the following schedule:

"From 1855 to 1860 the stovepipe joke.
From 1860 to 1865 the mother-in-law joke.
From 1865 to 1870 the railroad sandwich joke.
From 1870 to 1875 the tramp joke.
From 1875 to 1880 the hand organ joke.
From 1880 to 1885 the baldheaded joke.
From 1885 to 1890 jokes on the iceman.
From 1890 to 1895 the goat joke.

"In 1895, my dear William," continued the wise and good man, "you will be dropped with a heavy jar and with great suddenness, and the joke man will pick up the"——

"O Sage," interrupted a man who drew near at that moment, "I fain would beg for thy advice! My case"——

The Sage motioned him to silence and winked at the Goat.

"I tumble!" replied William as he returned the wink. "From 1895 to the year 2000—the bow legged man joke! 'Tis well. I vanish!"

HE RECOLLECTED.

It was the noon hour, and I was sitting with the colonel in his store, with front and back doors open, when I saw a colored man slip in from the alley. The colonel reached over the counter for his revolver and called upon the man to advance. A negro about 60 years of age, ragged and barefoot, slouched forward, and it was plain that he had something hidden in the bosom of his shirt.

"What were you doing back there, Moses?" queried the colonel.

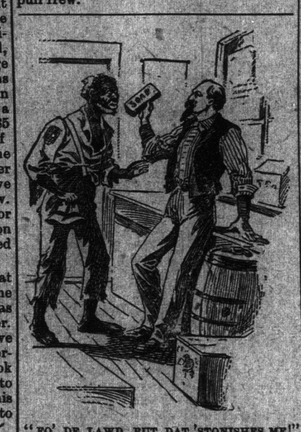
"I dun got in de wrong place, sah. I thought dis was de gunshop."

"Oh, you did? I see you have a swelling on your chest?"

"Yes, sah—powerful bad swellin on my chist; can't sleep nights on account of dat swellin."

"What does the doctor say about it?"

"Shakes his head an looks mighty sad, sah Reckon he thinks I ain't gwine to pull frew."



"FO' DE LAWD, BUT DAT 'STONISHES ME!"

"That's too bad! I'll look and see if I can do anything for you."

The colonel pulled the man's shirt open and took out a pound bar of soap and continued:

"Moses, how did you come by this?"

"Fo' de Lawd, but dat 'stonishes me half to death! I nebber dun seed dat soap befo'!"

"Moses, I want you to try and think where this soap came from."

"But I can't, sah."

"I think you can. Give yourself a little time. You were in the war, Moses?"

"Yes, sah."

"You sometimes had soap?"

"Yes, sah Hold on, Kurnel Purdy—hold on a minit! It sorter scart me when you pulled dat swellin off, but I'se got de key to it now. I swallowed de bar of soap in Jinuary, 1864, when I was in de war, an it has bin all dis time workin out frew my chist! Yes, I remember all 'bout it now."

"I'm glad you do," replied the colonel as he laid the soap aside and turned the darky around. "If you hadn't remembered, I should have sent you to jail, but as it is I"——

But before he could kick the second time Moses went down the store and out of the back door like a rocket, and he still had a scared look on his face when I met him four hours later.

HE WAS FIXED.

I was sharing my seat with a farmer looking man about 50 years old, and when we were within about 10 miles of Indianapolis he queried:

"Be you goin to stop at a tavern in town?"

"Yes."

"Some tavern whar they use gas?"

"Yes."

"Do you know how to turn the blamed thing off when you go to be bed?"

"I have done it several times. Don't you know how?"

For reply he reached down into his satchel and brought up six tallow candles and a blue box of sulphur matches and displayed them on his knee.

"What are those for?" I asked.

"I'm also goin to stop at a tavern whar they use gas."

"Yes."

"A bets B a 2-year-old steer ag'in a last spring's lamb that I blow out the gas and am found dead in the mornin. See? A is goin to git skiped. Ha! ha! ha!"

"I see. You will use the candles in place of gas?"

"Exactly."

"How did you happen to think of it?"

"Waal, I'm nacherally purty cute on my own account, and then I belong to a fam'ly which has lost five members by blowin out the gas at different taverns. Nuthin dangerous about taller. When she's blowed, she's blowed, and that ends it. Hayseed in my hair and turnip tops a-stickin out of my coattail pockets, but I don't blow out no gas on this trip—not if my name is Joshua H. Sanderson, and I guess she is!"

BUT HE HAD FLED.

They stood together on the tavern verandа in the soft moonlight of evening. It was only a dollar a day tavern, but the best in the town and always furnished rainwater for guests to wash in. It was also convenient to the depot and the public hay scales. They had not been long acquainted—only three days—but as he caressed her beautifully arched shoulder he said it seemed as if he had known her 23 years, 8 months and 29 days. She leaned toward him and replied that she loved him from the moment he entered the dining room and said he prefered mashed potatoes to any other brand. He must not think her unmaidenly because she betrayed her love so quickly. Her motto was "I hustle," and she was only living up to it. Then there came a long silence, broken only by the soft, sad notes of a mother cricket singing her twins to sleep in the May weeds across the dusty street. She finally broke it by softly asking:

"George, does your heart tell you that you truly love me?"

"She do!" he replied as he stole an arm around her.

"And you want me to become your wife?"

"Betcher life!"

"But you already have one, together with three children."

"Yes, I know—blame the luck!"

"But you will take her on a trip to Niagara Falls, push her off the bank above the whirlpool rapids, and then I will be a mother to your dear, sweet children."

"I—I don't know!" he stammered. "I would be rather risky."

"But are you not willing to run any risk for my sake?"

"Most any, but—but"——

"You hesitate!" she exclaimed, drawing away from him and bringing her eyes to a focus on the end of his nose.

"I'll try and let her catch the cholera or typhus fever or smallpox, but I—I"—

"All is over between us!" she hissed as she moved away. "You have thrown off the mantle of hypocrisy and now appear in all your baseness! Farewell, sir! I am the girl who waits on your table. Morning will come, even though the night be long, and at breakfast I will have my revenge—my reveuge!"

But ere the summer sun rose again he had fled—gone out on the midnight accommodation. He realized what her threat implied. He had heard the sounds of her chopping hash in the kitchen.

M. QUAD.

$25,000 IN REWARDS.

Seventh Half-Yearly Literary Competition of The Canadian Agriculturist.

In accordance with their usual custom for some years past, the publishers of that old and reliable publication, The Canadian Agriculturist, now present its 7th Great Half-Yearly Literary Competition to the people of the United States and Canada. The competition will close May 30, 1893, (15 days thereafter being allowed for letters to reach us from distant points). The following is the prize list:

1st Grand Prize	.....	$2,500 in Gold
2nd "	.....	1,000 in Gold
3rd "	.....	500 in Gold
4th "	.....	250 in Gold
5th "	.....	100 in Gold

5,000 Elegant Silver Tea Services, Pianos, Organs, Gold Watches, &c., &c., making a total of over 10,000 prizes.

HOW TO SECURE A PRIZE.—Take a few sheets of paper and make all the words you can out of letters contained in the words, "COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION," and send them to us, enclosing one dollar for six months subscription to the Agriculturist or the Ladies' Home Magazine—two of the best home monthlies in the world.

RULES—1. Foreign words not allowed. 2. Letters cannot be used oftener than they appear in the two words, "Columbian Exposition." 3. Names of places and persons barred.

All lists containing over 100 correct words will receive a valuable special prize Send postal card for list of prize winners in former competitions. Address,

THE AGRICULTURIST PUB. CO., Peterborough, Canada.
ja22-sa-wk

DYSPEPSIA CURED.

GENTLEMEN—I was troubled with dyspepsia for about four years. I noticed an advertisement of Burdock Blood Bitters, so I started to use it and soon found that there was nothing to equal it. It took just three bottles to effect a perfect cure in my case.

BERT J. REID, Wingham, Ont.

"SECESSION!!"

Excited Vancouverites Listen to Inflammatory Speeches from Clergymen and Others.

Adopt a Bill of Rights and Appoint a Committee to Take Action.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER, April 15.—A large audience turned out to hear the Secession agitators at the Market hall to-night. William Templeton took the chair, and said he had heard that Premier Davie would attend the meeting and if he came forward would be received courteously as their Premier. There being no response,

Mr. J. C. Brown, M.P.P., the first speaker, said he had come over because he had heard that Premier Davie was here and he never missed an opportunity to meet him. Mr. Brown went exhaustively into statistics compiling a long speech from his former utterances. He appeared to draw ridiculous conclusions from the Dominion census, and stated that the Government had used the chance given them by the mistake in the enumeration of the Indians to delay redistribution, and were guilty of a trick as deliberate as it was dirty. He continued that British Columbia was governed by a little clique at Victoria, and concluded by saying that Vancouver Island had 30,000 whites and the Mainland 47,000; that the delay in redistribution was a gross and glaring wrong, and no Government should sleep until they had done justice to the Province.

The declaration and appeal to the Mainland of British Columbia was read by Rev. G. R. Maxwell. It covered seven closely written papers of legal cap, the following sentences occurring: "In fine we see the finances and credit of the Province brought to the verge of an abyss from which nothing can save us but the most determined and vigorous action on the part of the Mainland. The Mainland is represented in the Legislature in nothing but name. The Mainland should have 37 members and only has 17. One-fifth of the votes of the Province return the majority of the representatives. The laws of God and Nature have been grossly disregarded by the Government in refusing rediatribution, and the welfare of the Province is imperilled. The Government is no longer worthy of the confidence of the people. The termination of a gross outrage on a large body of people is demanded. It is hoped the people of the Mainland will make a determined stand against those outrages. The Government desired a vote of $600,000 for a pile of buildings that in magnificence outshine the capitol in the British metropolis and then dared to belch in the faces of the majority of the citizens of the Province the insult that the buildings would attract capitalists to Victoria. Let mass-meetings be held in every city, village and district; let the consensus of opinion be taken on the issue, and let an appeal be made to the Governor-General to remedy the evil according to that opinion. We have no more right to allow our country to be ruined than to watch a fellow man mutilated and murdered. There is no time to be lost. If the Government has another session it may be too late, let every man consider whether it is not better that the mainland have self Government and secede from the Island. Let every man consider this and act before the Government ruins us." After reaching the quasi declaration of independence, which was greeted with wild applause,

The rev. gentleman delivered a harangue if possible of a more inflammatory nature than his famous quarantine oration, among other things saying "it would be better for the Province if all the Davies were—were—" (and the rev. agitator pointed down and added) "or in" (and the audience again cheered the divine to the echo, who added) "it was better that all our taxes were thrown into the Fraser river than that they should be spent for the benefit of Victoria."

Rev. Mr. Pedley followed, and said some rough things about the Premier and his followers, but they were mild in comparison with the intense utterances of the Rev. Mr. Maxwell.

The following resolution was passed "that a constitutional league be hereby organized for the purpose of defending our political rights, and that the following delegates be appointed to act in the name and in behalf of the citizens of Vancouver in conjunction and in co-operation with committees, which may be appointed from other parts of the province Wm. Templeton, Geo. Walker, Geo. Polley, Dr. Carroll, Jno. M. Duval, G. Magee, R. Anderson, W. Shannon, C. Coldwell, J. C. Keith, F. C. Cotton, Maj.-Gen. Twigge and the clergymen."

Maj.-Gen. Twigge and Mr. Duval proposed a further resolution that the Governor-General be requested to veto the act appropriating $600,000 for the Government buildings.

The small guns then took the platform and the crowd dwindled away.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, April 15.—(Special.)—T. D. Phillips Stewart, a poet of some renown, died recently, leaving $20,000 to the Law Society, provided the society could legally accept the bequest; but if not, the amount was to go to the sick children's hospital. The society cannot legally accept the bequest, but will seek power at the present session of the Legislature. The hospital trustees will oppose the measure.

A telegram cable from Paris says that Sir Charles Tupper is still confined to bed from an attack of LaGrippe. His physicians decline to allow him to leave his room or to in any way participate in the work of the Behring Sea Court of Arbitration. They say that there is no cause for alarm.

John Anderson, aged fifty-two, was arrested last night for erasing postmarks on stamps so that they could be used again. Hundreds of stamps showing the erasing process were discovered. The business was evidently not very profitable as Anderson was in the direst poverty.

A call for a prohibitionist rally to consider the plebiscite matter has been issued. The meeting is called for the 20th inst.

BLAKE'S SPEECH.

LONDON, April 15.—Mr. Edward Blake took part in the Home Rule debate last night, speaking for over an hour. He dealt fully with Mr. J. W. Russell's recent speech, in which the latter contended that the alleged evils in Quebec province, arising from the "domination" of the Roman Catholic majority over the Protestant minority, would be repeated in Ireland as between the Ulster Protestants and the Roman Catholic majority. Mr. Blake took the opposite view of the question, and with much earnestness, and many citations from eminent men in both political parties in Canada, showed his reasons why the Protestants in the North of Ireland, assuming the two cases to be of a similar character in many respects, should have no reason to fear the ascendancy of the Roman Catholics. The speech was concluded at midnight, too late for much comment on the part of the London press.

The Chronicle says Mr. Blake's address was really a remarkable piece of reasoning, that it was eagerly listened to by Mr. Gladstone and was worthy of delivery at a much earlier hour.

THE COLUMBUS CARAVELS.

HAVANA, April 15.—The three Spanish war vessels, La Reina Regent, L'Infanta Isabel and La Nueva Espana, started from Havana at noon to-day, having in tow the Columbus caravels Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina, La Reina Regent towing the Santa Maria, L'Infanta Isabel towing the Pinta and La Nueva Espana the Nina, on their way to take part in the great naval review at New York on April 27. The wharves were crowded with spectators and a large number of sail boats and other kinds of boats accompanied the vessels of war and the caravels for miles outside the harbor.

Divorce Suit.

SEATTLE, April 14.—Mary Steele, who brought suit against her husband, David H. Steele, on March 30, to have certain deeds executed by her to him set aside on the ground of fraud, began action yesterday for a divorce, alleging cruelty and refusal to support. She claims that she was married to her husband at Brockville, Canada, on February 21, 1865, and that since marriage they have acquired real property in this city valued at $20,000; about $22,000 worth in Montana, and $23,000 worth of land in Kansas City, Mo., and Vancouver, B. C.

MAIL CONTRACTS.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday the 19th May, for the conveyance of the mails on proposed contracts for four years in each case, between Alkali lake and Clinton, Blue Springs and Vernon, and Comox and Grantham, and until noon on Friday the 26th May, for the conveyance of the mails between Golden and St. Eugene Mission, all from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts may be seen, and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices mentioned, as well as the Post Offices of Big Bar Creek Dog Creek, White Valley, Galena, Windermere, Fairmont Spring, and Fort Steele, and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
P. O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
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