THE WEEKLY WORLD.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14.

JUSTLY APPRECIATED.

A Montreal gentleman, well-known in financial and business circles on both sides of the Atlantic, who has been a constant reader of The World since its establishment, in addition to sending his subscription for the daily a few days ago, remited that for the weekly for another year, remarking: "I was surprised at the appearance of your Weekly World. Its style and general get-up is everything that could be desired, and certainly your subscribers are to be congratulated on obtaining so much for $1.50. In the East here we expect that luxuries in the West are sold at three or four times the price that they are here; but if the Weekly World is to be taken as a criterion they are quite as low—if not lower. The quality of paper, the vast amount of reading matter and the skill and taste showed in the grouping of news, and in the printing, places The World right in the very first rank of weekly newspapers in America. You certainly deserve the loyal assistance of every reader, wherever located. If each one would pay the small amount due in subscriptions—which are so small that they would not be missed by the individual—you would undoubtedly be placed in a position to do even better work than you have been doing for your glorious and promising Province, and ultimately your subscribers and the people of British Columbia generally would reap even a greater benefit than yourself."

Letters such as the above are always acceptable and very encouraging to those who have to toil early and late in the production of a newspaper such as The World is, now admitted to rank amongst the best in the Dominion, if not on the continent. We trust the hint thrown out that delinquent subscribers should remit the amount of their arrearages without delay will be regarded. To those who have already responded to our appeals we are grateful, and those who have yet to be heard from will confer a great favor upon the publishers by giving prompt attention to the accounts they have been receiving from time to time for the amount of their indebtedness. Every inducement has been offered to those who are in arrears to pay up. The publishers will regret to be compelled to resort to drastic measures; but as money is required to carry on the business this step will be rendered necessary in order to enable us to pay our just and honest debts. A word to the wise is sufficient.

NO PARTYISM HERE.

It can only be regarded as extremely unwise to introduce Dominion politics in the bye-election for the Legislature in the new Attorney-General's stamping ground: the issues are entirely different. We find Government supporters like Capt. Irving, Mr. Booth and Dr. Walkem favoring the Laurier candidate, while in the Opposition men like Messrs. Semlin, Cotton and Williams are fighting for the the Conservatives, while Messrs. Sword, Kitchen, Forster, Kennedy, Kidd and McPherson are ardent Liberals. The fight is quite unique, and it is difficult to see how it is inconsistent to support the Turner Government and oppose the Bowell Government or to oppose the Turner Government and support the Bowell Government. We do not know whether Lieut.-Col. Prior was responsible for raising the question of reciprocity and free trade at the Cedar Hill meeting, though from a perusal of the reports we should judge so—but whoever did showed bad taste, and in the public interest such conduct is to be deprecated. Partyism as a Federal sense may in time characterize our British Columbia politics, as it does those of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, but until the occasion arises we may very well to follow the example of New Brunswick and the Territories. In the campaign now upon us it is only necessary to know whether a man is a Liberal-Conservative—that hybrid term—or a straight Liberal, which sounds honest.

HOW IT WORKS.

Our readers will remember that when the Wilson bill was pending in the United States Congress the high protectionists, or McKinleyite prohibitionists, made a loud outcry against the proposal to reduce the duty on tinned plate from 2-1-8 to 1-1-5 cents per lb. and to abolish the duty of 4 cents per lb. on the metal tin. They all agreed that this "free trade" legislation would utterly destroy the infant American tin plate industry, and throw thousands of people out of employment. Until very recently, if not to this day, their organs have adorned their pages from time to time with thrilling pictures of closed tinned plate factories falling into decay, and hollow-cheeked and sunken-eyed workmen and their families scattered about in attitudes denoting starvation and despair. Nevertheless, the news columns of the papers have contained announcements from time to time of the opening of new mills and the projecting of others. And now we find two dispatches, under date of February 28th, side by side in a Chicago high-tariff organ which furnish no suggestion of these pictures of want and woe, at least as far as tinned plate workers are concerned. One of these, from Baltimore, announces that "three large tin plate mills are to be put into blast in this community this year." It also conveys the information that the largest of these mills will be erected and operated by Upton Bros., of Chicago, who will invest $300,000 or more in buildings and machinery. Another of the three mills will be built by the Stickney Iron Company, and an idea of the extent of its contemplated operations is conveyed by the statement that the company has given orders for a 1,000 horse-power Corliss engine for new works. From all this it appears that the infant tinned plate industry of the United States is doing finely in spite of the fact that a Democratic Congress deprived it of nearly one-half of its tariff nourishment. The other dispatch comes all the way from Swansea, Wales. It states that "the South Wales tin plate board of control" have decided, in view of the depression in the trade, to run only 397 mills, and to restrict the production to only one-third of the present output. In view of these statements the pictorial tinKinley organs should revise their art work and the accompanying literature, and expend their sympathies upon the unhappy operatives of Wales. But then what will become of their oft-repeated assertion that Democratic Free Trade has ruined the American tinned plate industry, and reduced many thousands of once happy working people to the last extreme of destitution?

WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT.

The Imperial Government has at last taken in hand the matter of disestablishing the Welsh church, thus redeeming a promise repeatedly made to the people of that principality. The Welsh delegation in parliament, 30 members, is too important to be trifled with. Twenty-eight of the 30 members for Wales have been accustomed to act on all questions with the Liberals, and disestablishment was promised to them in the famous Newcastle programme, as one of the first measures to be considered after the Home Rule bill should be passed. The Welsh delegation has nagged the Ministers to the point of introducing the bill, and it is intimated that the Government will endeavor to carry it through the House of Lords once more on record against a popular measure. The bill may pass. The entire Welsh delegation, calling itself Liberal, is for Home Rule, and the solid Home Rule vote, however it might be divided on other questions, would have to be cast for the Welsh bill. The Tories promptly took up the gage thrown down, and have begun a campaign against the bill in and out of the Commons. In a population of 1,343,000 only 217,000 persons in Wales are members of the Established Church; nevertheless, all are taxed for its support. The bill is along the lines of that introduced in 1892 by the Liberals, and called the Suspensory bill. Its object was to prevent for a limited time the creation of new interests in Church of England bishoprics, dignities and beneficiaries in Wales and Monmouthshire. The whole force of British aristocracy, social, political and commercial, will be combined against the bill. The church in Wales is an immense private trust for the benefit of British hereditary patrons. For their profit there is a tithe tax amounting to $20,000,000 a year. The bill introduced extinguishes the church and applies the residuary moneys to charity and technical education. The first to leave the Reformers on account of this measure of simple justice is Lord Northbourne, formerly Walter Charles James who was created a Baron in 1884. Doubtless others of his ilk will follow the example, a good riddance of rubbish for progressive Liberals.

CONFLICTING REPORTS.

One cannot tell from day to day what the latest rumor from Ottawa will be. Everybody felt satisfied that a general election was impending when the intelligence comes that a session may be in order and that everything points in that direction. That the Government are in a state of uncertainty, betokening weakness, goes without saying, and each day increases the Liberal strength. It would seem that the breaches in the Ministry cannot be healed and that drift is the policy. However, something must be done at once or the stampede will be general. Meantime Laurier is doing yeoman work, while his opponents are considering the chances. He spoke to a thousand people at St. Jerome the other day, and never was more enthusiasm. One of his good points was the following:

You will shortly see statistics which demonstrate that the number of shoemakers, the number of blacksmiths, the number of men engaged in the leading trades has actually decreased in this country during the last decade. The men have deserted their trades, when they did not desert the country, because they could no longer make their living at it. That is a singular kind of prosperity. But it is a kind of prosperity which seems to have been specially favorable to one class. The number of people given as employes of the Government has increased from 4,519 in 1881 to 13,034 in 1891. Had the population of the country increased in the same proportion we should have now fourteen millions of inhabitants in the country, and we have not five. It is easy to understand how this increase in the number of employes of the Government has happened. By the Electoral Franchise act alone 215 names were added to the list. Now it has been said that I will be the premier of Canada within three months. I believe it. (Applause.) And in that case I promise you, and I say it that friends and foes may know it, when I am Premier these 215 employes will look for work elsewhere.

This has the proper ring about it, and is one way of making revenue meet expenditure. Mr. Laurier's itinerary is as follows: Lachute, Argenteuil, March 7th; Quebec East, 8th; Lorette, 12th; Alexandria, Glengarry, 19th; Prescott, 20th; Brockville, 21st, and Kingston, 22nd. He is a true Canadian and is welcomed everywhere. Quebec or Ontario, it makes no difference to him—how about the other side? That is the spirit which the Liberal party is trying to inculcate unity, and until it is obtained we cannot hope to reach the sun-kissed heights of national greatness.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

A despatch to-day states that the Progressive and Moderate parties, who are tied with 59 elective members each in the London County Council, have agreed that each shall nominate four of the five new aldermen, the Duke of Norfolk for the one, and Sir John Hutton for the other, having been appointed a committee to select the remainder. The officers will then be chosen. The metropolis is practically governed by this Council, and it is now on trial before the Parliament of Great Britain, which is considering a bill to plan for better municipal administration. The body and its methods are elaborately defended in a recent article of the Contemporary Review. Besides weekly meetings of the whole body, when the reports of each of its 28 committees are considered and acted on, there are on an average 40 meetings of committees or sub-committees every week, and frequent inspection by committees of parks, sewers, slaughter-houses, markets, asylums, schools, fire department, buildings, public health and other subjects in their province. With the care of over 3,000 lunatics, costing over a million and a half a year; of 600 inmates of the industrial and reformatory schools; of over 30,000 men and women with no homes; of 386,000 living in one-roomed homes, and 828,000 living two or more in a room, gives plenty to do. The council has established a model lodging-house in the heart of London, and whole colonies of workingmen's dwellings are rising up in the suburbs, by the help of good building laws and by increasing the facilities for getting from one end of London to the other at cheap rates of fare. There are over 200 sanitary inspectors at work enforcing public health laws. The water supply of London is now made to serve 78 per cent. of the houses, an increase of 100,000 receiving water from the public works having been made in the last three years. The London parks have been largely increased, amounting now to over 6,000 acres, and these distributed far and wide in every part of London, and though there are provided cricket and football and tennis courts, gymnasia, lavatories, refreshments, music, has been made at an average cost of six cents a head on the whole population; over $40,000 is paid for music alone. The Fire department costs about three-quarters of a million of dollars a year, and is very efficient in spite of the division of authority, with the police under one administration, eight competing water companies, and other relics of the old method still in force. The Council is now asking Parliament for authority to buy out the private water companies, so as to organize one great system for water supply. There are over $10,000,000 worth of property in its care for charitable and other purposes; there are the finances to be cared for, and this has been so well done that city loans are nearly as high as consols; there are over 1,800 separate annual contracts for supplies; and the council after a long contest has secured from the passenger railway companies a revenue of over $5,000,000 for the relief of the taxpayers. Technical schools have been added to the regular public school course, giving instruction both day and night in science, classics, art and domestic economy, cooking, dressmaking, laundry work and hygiene, for girls and boys. There is a special board of education, made up of representatives of the council and of the leading educational institutions of London, so as to enlist all interested in securing the best training for London's 5,000,000 population. Public work is largely done by its own workmen, under its own engineers and builders, and at a large saving in cost, by means of a rate of wages agreed on with the master builders and the building trades' organizations. All this has been done, it is claimed, with a positive decrease of taxes during the last six years, although, in spite of every effort, to secure an equal assessment, the rich quarters of London still pay a smaller rate than the districts occupied by working men. The council claims that the net increased cost of all these great improvements is less than two cents a month for each resident of London, and yet there is an earnest effort to abolish the present system of government and to establish in its place one of purely local boards.

STARVING NEWFOUNDLAND.

Intelligence from the lonely colony is of a most dispiriting character. The stories of famishing people, hungry for hours, giving thanks for meagre food, appeal to the sternest heart. Our distress is nothing to be compared with theirs, for here the actual want of enough to keep life in their bodies is confined to very few. It would seem as if the Imperial authorities had not acted quickly enough, that in a catastrophe demanding urgency there was much red tapeism. While Downing street is debating the matter, human beings are suffering and perhaps dying. The mind can picture the scenes to be witnessed, the anguish and the misery, and the sobbing of children, the tears of women and the utter helplessness of their natural protectors. Boston responded nobly to the appeal sent out by the heads of the churches, and its contribution was gladly received. We do not know whether anything is being done in the Provinces by the Atlantic, but liberal assistance should be forthcoming. It will be observed that the Premier is proceeding to Canada in connection with the long standing question of the admission of Newfoundland into the Dominion. Would it not be well to aid our distressed kinsmen liberally in their sad affliction? It would be bread cast upon the waters.

TRADE IN BRITAIN.

Were anything necessary to convince protectionists of the error of their ways as regards high and low tariffs, it is to be found in the returns which are now being published concerning the trade and commerce of Great Britain for the past year. The New York Scottish American is devoting considerable attention to commercial matters relating to the old country. In a recent issue, referring to the growth of Dundee the following paragraph appeared:

The real rise of Dundee into prominence dates from the introduction of Free Trade. In 1845, when the modern Free Trade policy of the country may be said to have commenced, it had a population of 62,873. The last official census figures place it at 153,066, and it is expected that the next census will find it beyond the 200,000 mark. Before the advent of Free Trade the whole place was a close corporation. Under its influence it began to "briz you!" in every direction, and it was not long before it could boast of its merchant princes, and its rapidly-increasing trade with the world. The town got a renewed lease of life, and the people acquired higher notions about what constituted greatness in a city than mere antiquity. Of course, they were proud of the past history of Dundee—they are so at the present day—but old buildings, no matter how full of history and reminiscence, do not attract the bawbees, and even the hallowed memories which once caused Dundee to be called the Scottish Geneva, were not held up as modern gods. The opportunity came with Free Trade, and the Dundonians, with a degree of enterprise, sagacity and business instinct, generally associated with the Western Capital, took full advantage of it. As the community grew in wealth so did a desire to beautify the city take possession of the people. One of the earliest modern enterprises was to enlarge and beautify the town hall, and not long after an infirmary was erected at a cost of £15,000, and in quick succession followed a royal exchange and a corn exchange. Indeed, it may be said that, since 1850, Dundee has been in a great measure re-built and that the memorials of her antiquity which still remain are comparatively very few.

It was stated that the trade for 1893 and previous years had greatly improved during 1894. The following is interesting in that connection:

Last year shipbuilding in Scotland, though not booming, was decidedly brisk, and this year it has commenced very well—the output during January having been 11 vessels of 21,963 tons, against 18,086 in January, 1894, and 12,800 in January, 1893. Of course, the great bulk was produced by Clyde shipbuilders, and their prospects this year appear very bright, for during January last alone they secured orders for 54,000 tons. Last year the output of the various shipbuilding yards of the United Kingdom exceeded that of 1893 by over 210,000 tons, while the proportion of steam to sailing vessels was greater than ever before. The production last year was decidedly the best in five years, though it did not reach the output of 1889. Last year 614 merchant vessels, of over 1,000,000 tons, were built, while the colonies and all foreign countries combined only produced 318 vessels of 270,000 tons. Yet the output of 1889 exceeded that of last year by no less than 12 1-2 per cent. In that same year the cotton industry is still one of the most important, and, notwithstanding the low prices, it also shows a marked improvement last year over 1893. It would seem, indeed, that low prices (of raw material or manufactured goods) have comparatively little influence upon trade. They, no doubt, have a material effect upon the profits of the employer, or capitalist, but, notwithstanding, he has no good ground for complaint either, for not only is his raw material cheapened, but he produces far larger quantities of goods than he was wont to do. At the present time there is twice as much cotton imported into Great Britain annually as there was 20 years ago; and beyond question it is all worked up. That the volume of trade must therefore have vastly increased is evident; and it is the volume of trade which forms the point of greatest interest to the employe. So many more millions of pounds of cotton imported and worked up simply means the employment of so many more thousands of people. While prices of the manufactured goods are much lower than they were 20 years ago, wages are not higher now than then; so the employes must now be reaping a much larger proportion of the profits on the goods produced than they did in former days. In 1893 there were 12,600,000 cwts. of raw cotton imported, but last year there were 15,965,000 cwts. imported. Then in 1893 there were 206,000,000 pounds of cotton yarns, and 2,000,000,000 pounds of cotton manufactures, exported, while last year the quantities exported were, respectively, 236,000,000 and 1,700,000,000. Though there was a large increase last year in the exports of cotton yarn, the exports of cotton manufactures were nearly the same in both years; but last year the values in both cases were larger. But the statistics of pauperism also clearly demonstrate alike the improved state of trade and of the working classes, notwithstanding the depression at present existing. It will scarcely be credited that though the population has vastly increased the percentage of pauperism now is only about one-half of what it was about 40 years ago. In 1851 the percentage of pauperism to population in Britain was 4.5 per cent., and now it is only 2.4 per cent. The percentage of pauper children under 16 the year mentioned was 5.7, now it is only 2.3. Of paupers between 16 and 60 the percentage was then 1.4, while now it is only .5. Then, too, the percentage of old-age paupers (over 60 years) was 21.5, and now it is only 13.7. In 1849 the mean adult pauperism was 13 per 1000, and now it is only 2.4. These statistics abundantly testify to the continuous growth of the people in comfort and abundance.

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Mr. Laurier intends standing for Saskatchewan, in addition to Quebec East, in which latter at the general election he was returned by acclamation. No doubt if successful the Liberal chieftain would resign his own constituency and retain the new one, thus representing the great Northwest in the Cabinet.

LEAVING FOR THE EAST.

Rev. P. McF. McLeod, the well-known and popular Presbyterian clergyman, of Victoria, accompanied by Miss McLeod, left on to-day's Atlantic express for England and Scotland. A large number of friends accompanied them to the steamer at Victoria last evening, and the travelers were made the recipients of substantial tokens of the esteem in which they were held by their acquaintances and well-wishers at the capital. They expect to be absent a few months.

Rev. E. D. McLaren leaves next Monday for the East on a business trip in connection with church matters. He will go by way of Chicago. Miss Pringle of Brampton, Ont., who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. McLaren for some time, leaves for her home also on Monday. She is a very popular young lady and will leave behind her many warm friends, who will be pleased to hear of her future welfare.

The London Advertiser says that there are converts to the Liberal policy of a tariff for revenue only with free raw material, for manufacturers are appearing on every hand.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The museum of the Women's College, Baltimore, has, after many failures, recently acquired samples of red snow from the high altitudes of the Rockies. The first sample received was collected last summer at the request of the curator by Dr. A. C. Gill, formerly of Johns Hopkins University, from a snowdrift near the summit of Clermont mountain, Cal. This appears to be the first sample of American red snow ever obtained for scientific use. It was collected in a handkerchief by permitting a quantity of the spore-bearing snow, which had taken on a delicate water-melon tint, to melt therein. The minute red crysts of the organism were thus strained out of the ordinary snow, and after being slowly dried were forwarded by mail. Another sample was collected by J. E. Lemmon, of Pomona, Cal., whose interest in natural history led him to take considerable trouble to secure it. The organism was found near the summit of a neighboring mountain, where it appeared in the snowdrifts which formed its habitat a delicate crimson color. A quantity of this was collected in a jar and allowed to melt. The red spores settled to the bottom as sediment. This, with some of the snow water, was forwarded in a mailing case. Microscopical examination shows that the sediment also contains considerable pink pollen. The size of the pollen grains is several times that of the spherules of red snow, the latter being scarcely visible to the naked eye.

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Sir Robert Hart, and not Sir Gerald, is the name of the eminent gentleman who has been mentioned as one of the plenipotentiaries appointed to conduct the peace negotiations with Japan. Sir Robert Hart, Bart., of Kilmorlairty, county Armagh, Ireland, and Pekin, China, is his full designation. He joined the British consular service in China just before the Crimean war broke out. He has served in many positions with great distinction, and has been for the last 30 years Inspector-General of Chinese Customs. As a Chinese Minister, he has the red button (first-class), the peacock's feather and the double dragon (second division), the breast, and the ancestral rank of first-class of first order for three generations, by Chinese letters patent. He has also a large number of Swedish, Belgian, Roman, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Austrian orders; is a Fellow of various English and other learned societies, and, according to Vanity Fair, is highly honored. He is an integral part of China, and every book that is written of the Empire contains frequent allusions to the opportunity came with Free Trade, and the Dundonians, with a degree of enterprise, sagacity and business instinct, generally associated with the Western Capital, took full advantage of it. As the community grew in wealth so did a desire to beautify the city take possession of the people. One of the earliest modern enterprises was to enlarge and beautify the town hall, and not long after an infirmary was erected at a cost of £15,000, and in quick succession followed a royal exchange and a corn exchange. Indeed, it may be said that, since 1850, Dundee has been in a great measure re-built and that the memorials of her antiquity which still remain are comparatively very few.

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When were cigars first smoked? According to a French authority who has been making investigations in this subject the weed in this shape was not introduced into France till the return of the Duke d'Aumay from Spain in 1823. This fact is on the authority of Hippolyte Augur, the dramatic author, who writes thus in his memoirs: "Our reception in Paris was by two days. In 1893 there were 12,600,000 cwts. of raw cotton imported, but last year there were 15,965,000 cwts. importedpounds of cotton manufactures, exported, while last year the quantities exported were, respectively, 236,000,000 and 1,700,000,000. Though there was a large increase last year in the exports of cotton yarn, the exports of cotton manufactures were nearly the same in both years; but last year the values in both cases were larger. But the statistics of pauperism also clearly demonstrate alike the improved state of trade and of the working classes, notwithstanding the depression at present existing. It will scarcely be credited that though the population has vastly increased the percentage of pauperism now is only about one-half of what it was about 40 years ago. In 1851 the percentage of pauperism to population in Britain was 4.5 per cent., and now it is only 2.4 per cent. The percentage of pauper children under 16 the year mentioned was 5.7, now it is only 2.3. Of paupers between 16 and 60 the percentage was then 1.4, while now it is only .5. Then, too, the percentage of old-age paupers (over 60 years) was 21.5, and now it is only 13.7. In 1849 the mean adult pauperism was 13 per 1000, and now it is only 2.4. These statistics abundantly testify to the continuous growth of the people in comfort and abundance.

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Postmasters are provided with forms for notifying publishers of undelivered papers. Often these come in with simply the "refused" on them. Generally the person refusing owes a year or two's subscription, and he takes this way of settling the bill and starts in to beat some other confiding office. The following from the Stratford, Ont., Herald shows that not always is that the case. A postmaster up north advises us that the Herald addressed to "A——B——" has not been taken out of his office for the "following reasons": "Removed to Kingston penitentiary." This is the only known case where the Herald has failed to "follow" a subscriber to a better man of a constant reader. When it is considered that even ministers sometimes fail in their efforts to reform individuals, our record is not to be laughed at. If "A——B——" or any of his relatives or friends, pay up the arrears, we will be pleased to send this highly edifying journal to the offender's temporary place of residence, where he has ample time to meditate upon the misuse he made of past opportunities.

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The Imperial Federation Defence Committee, of London, Eng., is issuing a series of pamphlets giving reasons why an Imperial Federation scheme should embrace provisions whereby the colonies shall contribute to the defence of the Empire. The latest of these pamphlets has just reached The World. It gives some interesting figures regarding colonial interests in Imperial trade. The total commerce of the British Empire amounts in value to five thousand million dollars a year. Of that, the commerce of the self-governing colonies as distinct from the rest of the Empire is seven hundred millions, or about one seventh. In other words, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa do about one dollar in seven of British trade. The naval protection of the British Empire costs bout 90 million dollars a year. Of this the United Kingdom pays 89 millions. The self-governing colonies pay one million, or one-ninetieth of the whole. Of every $90 spent on the British navy and naval defences, Canada, Australia and South Africa give $1. In short the colonies do one-seventh of the Empire's business and pay one ninetieth of the cost of protecting that business.

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The pilot chart of the North Pacific ocean for March, just issued by the United States Hydrographic office, indicates by the great increase of information contained, that Western mariners are co-operating with the Naval Hydrographer as heartily as those who have assisted in making the Atlantic chart so valuable. Numerous derelicts are plotted on the present issue, most of them appearing off the coasts of Washington and Oregon, though a dangerous junk is shown off the Japanese Islands and a floating wreck is indicated half way between San Francisco and Honolulu. A valuable feature is the pointing out of fishing banks in the Pacific investigated by the Albatross, which demonstrate the presence of good fishing grounds at convenient distances from all the coast ports and give promise of a great industry when properly developed. It appears that cod, halibut, and red rock fish are abundant along the American coast, and that the character of the fishing banks in Alaskan waters promises a greater source of wealth than the fur seal herds.

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The present year will be a remarkable one, both from an astronomical and a religious point of view. On Good Friday next, April 12th, the heavenly bodies which gravitate around the sun will be in exactly the same position that they occupied in the firmament on the day that Christ died on the cross. It will be the first time such a thing has occured since the great day, just 1862 years ago. That was the 33rd year of the Christian era, which dates from the birth of Jesus Christ. At 4.20 in the morning, Paris time, the moon will pass before Virginis (Spica), and hide that constellation from view for over an hour.

GOLD MINING AT YALE.

Writing to a friend in this city William Teague, J. P., of Yale, conveys the following interesting news: Doubtless a few lines touching the subject of gold on the bars in mid-river of the Fraser, just above the town of Yale, will interest you. I can assure you the scene is a busy one. There are whites men, Chinamen and Indians thickly studded over the bar, numbering 47 men, busily engaged rocking for gold, reminding one of earlier days, when the developments along the course of the Fraser were almost a continuous feature of mining and "buckskin purses" and "yeast powder cans" were the repository of the miners' gold won by their daily toil. Such is the case. Everything seems to point to the fact that the prospects on the neglected bars contain a valuable channel of auriferous pay gravel. Several companies are making preparations on hand, while others are doing $5 and $4 per diem to the man. The general result in gold by all hands throughout is good and, indeed, very satisfactory. In my opinion there are many more bars of this character along the course of the Fraser worthy the attention of the prospector's pick on account of commercial value. The reason, perhaps, this bar has been left so long without working was owing to its surface appearance in not having the favorable bigger-head boulder mash" to be seen over its surface, which the old time prospector considered an inevitable characteristic for success in finding pay underneath. Experience will no doubt this find will ultimately lead to the development of the numerous other bars which can be worked most advantageously at low water mark. This is convincing evidence, as far as yet gold to be won from the bars of the Fraser if energy and attention are rightly applied.

GOOD NEWS, IF TRUE.

One of the most serious things that wharf owners have to contend with is the teredo. The renewal of piles every few years is an expensive matter, and added to this is the risk of such collapses as occurred at the C. P. R. wharf a short time ago when a large section of it collapsed carrying down a portion of the shed and a quantity of freight. Many preventives have been tried—there are over 1,000 devices patented at the United States office in Washington—but the teredo keeps on just the same. At San Francisco some piles were driven years ago and when taken up recently they were found to be still capable of sustaining weight and good for another seven years. The theory underlying their construction is that when the teredo will not cross a seam, and one teredo will never burrow in the same hole as another. This particular pile has a central core of extra thickness and round it layers of timber are built with over-lapping joints, and some kind of composition is put between each layer. After they had been down several years it was found that only the outer layer had been bored, and as there are two other coats the pile is good for 14 years more. The fact that such could easily be tried here, Mayhap the end of the trouble has at last been reached.

CHIEF JUSTICE DAVIE.

His Lordship Chief Justice Davie came over from Victoria on Saturday and left by the Atlantic express for Ottawa and other eastern points, expecting to be absent about three weeks or a month. Those of his numerous friends who met him congratulated him upon his elevation. A deputation from the local Bar interviewed him concerning judicial matters. It is understood that upon his return he will enter upon active work, Vancouver no doubt being the first place to receive his attention. It is the purpose of the local bar to entertain the Chief Justice in a fitting manner on the occasion of his taking up his residence in Vancouver, and be in keeping with the office of the distinguished guest and the standing of the bar in this city. He takes with him to the east his nephew, the eldest son of the late Hon. A. E. B. Davie, Premier of the Province, to be placed in an educational institution, and his own son, Harry, who is to return with his father.

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The Victoria Times has the following: The Columbian of Friday last states that "on Wednesday evening a meeting of the executive of the Conservative association was held with nearly all the district members present. Mr. G. E. Corbould, M. P., was elected president in place of John Hendry, resigned." This has reference to a matter which for some weeks has caused no little comment on the Mainland among the politicians who knew what was going on. The resignation of a gentleman who truthfully may be said to stand at the head of the lumber interests of British Columbia and who is identified with many other large enterprises in the Province, from the presidency of the Conservative association of New Westminster, is a matter which attracts more than a passing notice. Mr. Hendry had held the office for several years and at election times exerted the greatest individual influence of any man in the city. Resignation, it is quite certain, was not permitted without an effort being made to prevent it, and the fact that it has been ultimately accepted is due to a fixed determination on the part of Mr. Hendry, for the reason that there is no one left who can fill his place. Apart, however, from the office of president there has been a striking repudiation of Conservative principles all the way down the ranks. The nomination and election of several of the officers and committee of the New Westminster association were made in the absence of the persons elected. One of the vice-presidents has since published an open letter in the press asking that he be excused from service for the reason, which he gives, that he is on the other side. Just as in Victoria some of the old Conservative committee who were appointed have refused to act and have joined the Liberal ranks. Now what does it all mean? It means that the independent thinkers of the party in New Westminster (as in Victoria) have grown tired of corruption, of departmental muddling and of having a sort of stage stick for a representative, to say nothing of paying $10 into the Dominion treasury for everyone they take out.

BUSY SEEDING.

L. W. Paisley came in to-day from Chilliwack. He reports farmers there as busy ploughing and seeding and that a larger area than ever before will be put under crop this season.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder Most Perfect Made.

OUR PROVINCE.

Summary of the News Culled from the Inland Exchanges.

KAMLOOPS AND VICINITY.

The report is current in Revelstoke, says the Sentinel, that another cut is about to be made in the wages paid C. P. R. employes, and that some changes will be made in the accommodation afforded on passenger service whereby the dining car will be changed from its present run. —Mission Valley is to be incorporated as a municipality. —Lequime's saw mill at Kelowna has resumed operations. —Hull Bros. & Co., cattlemen, Kamloops, and Calgary, have dissolved. —Kamloops is to have a race track. —J. Shannon, contractor for hauling ore from Arrow Lake to Wigwam, has assigned to J. J. Carment. —The receipts of the Inland Hospital fell $1,100 short last year. —A bicycle club has been organized at Kamloops with the following officers: Hon. pres., Mayor R. S. Lee; pres., J. L. Brown; vice-pres, H. Duhamel; sec., D. E. Whittaker; treas., A. S. McArthur; capt., J. M. Harper; 1st lieut., M. J. McIver; 2nd lieut., J. H. Russell. —More teams are to be sent to haul ore from Trail Creek mines. —The Revelstoke Mail says that it is informed on good authority that a Chicago syndicate is making application for leasing the Revelstoke smelter. —John Goddard and his sister Jennie left Kamloops for England, where they have been left a fortune.

NELSON.

Wm. Newton, of Rossland, says the Miner, has entered suit against Ross Thompson, E. Johnson, J. F. Ritchie and J. Anderson for damages in the sum of $2,500 for alleged breach of engagement by the defendants by cancelling a power of attorney issued to him before the expiration of a year from date. —The excise department at Ottawa has provisionally approved of the issue of a license for a brewery at Rossland to J. Murphy. J. Miller, of Vancouver, inspector, will go up to superintend the installation of the pant and works. —The concentrator at Pilot Bay is now running night and day. About 80 men are being employed. —The Dominion Government proposes to place a light to indicate the direction of the mouth of the inlet on Pilot Bay. The site has not been selected but the most suitable appears to be on the point of rock on the south side, immediately at the corner. There is a bank lying about 200 feet off this with boulders on it, which is the principal danger and every book that is written of the to be avoided. Combined efforts are being made at Kaslo to guard the town against the spring freshets. —The Kaslo Comique is again running and making money. —W. J. Goepel has been appointed auditor of the City of Kaslo by Lieut.-Governor under section 137 of the Municipalities act. He is going over the old workings of 1893 and has struck a ledge which appears to be of an exceedingly irregular nature. —The number of mining claims recorded in the New Denver district since the Payne mine was discovered in 1891 are as follows: In 1891 119 were recorded; in 1892 63; in 1893 398; in 1894 491, making a total of 1,071. Of this number rather more than half, 717, have been abandoned or run out owing to failure of the owners to do the necessary work. In the early months of 1893 and before the present law was in force to minerals in place came into force a large number of wild cats were staked which accounts for the large diminution in the number of claims recorded last year as compared with 1893. —The Little Phil and Black Diamond claims near Ainsworth are making a good show. Seven men are working on the joint properties, which have sent out 255 tons to the smelter at Great Falls, Montana, since the beginning of the year. The smelter returns gave the high return of 700 ozs. to the ton for some picked ore. —It is rumored that the C. P. R. will build a large hotel at Nakusp. —Wilfrid Jevons, well known in Nelson and Ainsworth, committed suicide on a ranch in Wyoming by shooting himself. —The management of the Silver King mine is about to be changed.

VERNON.

The postal authorities at Ottawa have decided to at once institute a semi-weekly mail service between Penticton and Kettle river, says the News. —Hobson and Conklin, of Okanagan Mission, have shipped four tons of hops to London, Eng. —The steamer Fairview will be ready for business on the Okanagan river in a few days' time. —H. Leydel has petitioned the council, which of the Spallumcheen council and will be succeeded by R. S. Pelly.

REVELSTOKE.

The placer diggers on Lardeau creek are doing fairly well, the Mail says. Charles Matheson found a nugget worth $15 a few days ago. J. Knowles has nuggets valued at $300. —The consolidated mine at Big Bend is doing well. The dividend for the last two months was about $6,500. 2 oz. nugget was found which is worth $36. —The Downie creek bridge is finished.

AT LADNER'S LANDING.

Social Gossip and General Happenings—A Successful Affair.

Ladner's Landing, March 11.—The weather still continues fine, sunshiny days and frosty nights.——Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham leave here about the end of the week. They will in future reside on their farm above Chilliwack.——The basket social came off on Friday night and was as usual a decided success. Just who the committee were it was hard to find out, as some of the young folk at Gulf-side wanted any credit for bringing the entertainment to a successful issue. However, your correspondent managed to find out one of the leaders in the affair and this was Miss Annie Honeyman. She said the total receipts would be about $50. When time was called all were in their places. The chairman, A. Gilchrist, ascended the platform and stated the object of the gathering in one of his characteristic speeches. He then called the following numbers. Delta String Band music; F. A. Howay recitation; the Misses Harrison and Harris vocal duet; Mr. Archichoiffe, son; Mrs. Watson and Miss Harrison, piano duet; H. N. Newton, song; Miss Coleman, banjo selection; Mrs. Howay, song; Mrs. J. Honeyman, song; Miss McBlaine, recitation; Delta band, musical selection. No comment is needed as all who took part are well-known to be able to take their part in contributing to the enjoyment of an audience anywhere. I may mention, however, that Miss Coleman is a stranger and I think made her first bow in this vicinity. She received an enthusiastic encore. This part of the programme being ended T. E. Ladner mounted the rostrum and assumed the role of auctioneer. After stating the terms of sale he offered the first box which was knocked down at 50 cents. From this on the prices fluctuated with the last one going, going gone, at $7. This over, over the various partners the purchasers of the baskets had secured. This over, dancing was recommenced and lasted till 2 o'clock in the morning. The music was first class and the entire performance adds one more laurel to our winter's social functions.—I just learn that a son of Wm. Savage, of Westham Island died yesterday of diphtheria.

NOTES FROM ASHCROFT.

Ashcroft, March 9.—It would be in order to sing an air to March, but fortunately Ashcroft is not a healthy place for spring poets. There are no stormy lashes of retreating winters tail, no melodious pitter patter of summer's melting showers; no furious blasts of expiring winter, no slush, no mud, no anything in which spring poets revel in, for the weather is so exasperatingly delightful that the bard of spring weather must seek other fields and pastures new, or else sicken, droop, and pine away for lack of inspiration. But though budding poets may fade under such a disheartening climate every other occupation continues even more lively than ever.—There have been a very large number passing through Ashcroft en route to Cariboo. The stages are loaded with passengers and even then more than 20 miners started off this week to foot it.—Hewitt Bostock's circulars are being distributed among the voters of this district and we are hoping to see our Liberal candidate himself soon.—The Presbyterian church social was the principal function of interest this week and it was indeed a great success. A large crowd assembled to enjoy it and a very pleasant social evening was spent on Wednesday. Rev. Mr. Hutton gave an interesting address in addition to an excellent programme of songs and recitations. Then the crowd were turned to an abundance of toothsome refreshments, after which games were played until all too soon the evening had sped with winged feet and the crowd returned homeward aglow with pleasant memories. The proceeds of the social went towards defraying some expenses in connection with the church.—Chipman Smith and bride have at last returned to Ashcroft. Mr. Smith, more familiarly spoken of as "Chip," who is known and therefore liked by everyone residing in Ashcroft, left for the East three months ago and there married Miss King. She was formally teacher in Ashcroft school and by her many charming qualities won the hearts of all Ashcroft. "Chip's" especially. Mr. Smith, however, though so gladly welcomed here does not seem to have had enough of traveling yet for he has taken a trip into the interior.—Mr. Bryon who was at the coast for a visit has returned accompanied by his sister-in-law Miss Currie, and his little child who have come up for a holiday.—S. Tingley, of the express office, went to Vancouver for a few days.——Owing to the absence of the school teacher this week Miss Katie Newland taught the youg idea how to shoot for a few days. It is unfortunate that she has not yet applied for a teacher's certificate as she has a natural aptitude for the profession.

SCRIBE.

MISSION CITY NEWS.

A considerable amount of seeding has already been done among the high land farmers. It seems to be the general idea that after such an unlooked for spell of weather at this season, matters will be straightened up again by an extra long visit from Jupeter Pluvius and therefore they are taking the bull by the horns and act on the principal that its better too soon than not at all.——The Mission municipal Liberal