

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1892.

A DISINTERESTED OPINION.

Interest is taken in the Behring Sea question on the other side of the Pacific. The news of the seizure of British and American sealing schooners in the North Pacific by a Russian cruiser created quite a sensation in the English colony in Yokohama and the telegram sent from London conveying the information that a British man-of-war was to be despatched to Vladivostok with instructions to demand the release of any Canadian sailors held prisoners by the Russian authorities was hailed, with unfeigned gladness. The English in Japan were pleased to find that Lord Rosebery had determined to pursue a vigorous foreign policy. The Japan Mail, in an editorial on the subject, after expressing its satisfaction that the British Government had taken prompt action in the matter, goes on to say:—

Reuter announces that a British man-of-war is to be despatched to Vladivostok to demand the release of any Canadian sailors who may be detained there in connection with the sealing vessels seized. Meantime no doubt the case of the seizures is being investigated. The Russians seized one or more American vessels at the same time, the crews of which complain bitterly of ill-treatment. Probably the Washington Government will join in any remonstrance against these high-handed proceedings, but however that may be, the British Government cannot tamely submit to such treatment without loss of prestige both at home and abroad. If, on investigation, the sealers are found to have violated Russian waters or regulations, they will of course have to take the consequences, but even that will not afford cause for the brutal treatment of the crews. Possibly this may be due to the action of some local officials, but none the less it calls for explanation and apology. Lord Rosebery is fortunately not like Lord Granville; he knows his mind and will not hesitate to speak it.

The Mail is wrong in supposing that the American Government would resent the outrages committed on United States citizens and demand immediate reparation. It, on the contrary, appears to be well pleased that Russia has asserted its sovereignty in the Pacific, even though its own citizens have been among the victims. American politicians seem to think that in some way the action of Russia will strengthen the American case before the arbitrators.

THE HONEST TRUTH.

There is, after all, a good deal of independence in the press of the United States. Newspaper editors will say what they believe to be right in spite of the pressure of authority and the still more powerful force of national partiality. We have seen that the most forcible arguments against the claim of exclusive sovereignty over Behring Sea have appeared in American publications, and that even American officials have been so impressed with the absurdity of the contention of their Government and with the inconsistency of their position that they could not, as it were, help protesting against their nation being helped in its position not only false but ridiculous. And now we have an American newspaper, the Boston Herald, showing, in a slightly sarcastic way, why it is that the American people submit to outrages and insults at the hands of the Russians which they would promptly and fiercely resent if they had been committed and offered by British subjects.

The Herald, in a recent number, says:—

Of course the Russian claim to extraordinary jurisdiction in Behring Sea rests upon the same grounds as the pretensions that we have put forward, we drawing ours from the alleged rights which Russia transferred to us at the time of our purchase of Alaska. The Herald has more than once indicated its entire disbelief in the soundness of these pretensions, and in anticipation of the finding of the international tribunal has never hesitated to condemn the action of the state department in resting what could easily be made a good and equitable case upon such an archaic and worm-eaten foundation. It hardly needs to be stated that if we did not have a seal fishery controversy of our own, the seizure of certain American sealers by the Russian authorities and the barbaric treatment which the crews of the vessels have had to endure, would arouse the indignation of our people, and if it were practised by the English instead of by the Russians would be used to fan up a feeling that would demand a declaration of war if reparation was not instantly made. But this line of spirit has to be suppressed, first because if the feeling were made upon a certain part of Behring Sea we have any force and effect, the Russian sealers are fully justified in seizing these American sealers, while, curiously enough, it is very much easier when American citizens are maltreated to evoke sentiments of hostility if the persecutors are English officials than in the case when the barbarity is practised by representatives of the Russian Government. This, too, although the latter is the greatest and most intense despotism that exists upon the face of the earth.

It is evident that the Herald not only sees the inconsistency of our neighbors in patiently and uncomplainingly submitting to injuries from the Russians, but is amused at the spectacle. We have a notion, however, that in this matter our neighbors have graciously yielded the virtues of forbearance and humility in vain, for the arbitrators will consider the questions submitted to them on their merits, without any reference to what the Russians did this summer in the Pacific Ocean, to either British or American sealers.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Every intelligent Canadian, and particularly every public man and newspaper editor, should read, and read carefully, "Imperial Federation, the Problem of National Unity" by George R. Parkin. Many Canadians have fallen into the habit of sneering at Imperial Federation and of speaking contemptuously of its advocates. The great majority of those who do this, we venture to say, have thought very little about Imperial Federation, and have not

read what has been written in its favor. It is their ignorance of the subject that causes them to speak lightly of it and to condemn those who advocate it as enthusiasts and impracticable dreamers.

But the subject is a practical one, and one that is certain, sooner or later, to force itself on the attention of all thinking men, both in the Mother Country and the colonies. What is to be the future relations between Great Britain and her dependencies is a question that affects every subject of Queen Victoria, whether he lives in Great Britain or in one of her numerous dependencies. Mr. Parkin shows this in his book very clearly. He makes it evident that Great Britain and her colonies are more closely connected and more dependent on each other than superficial thinkers are apt to imagine.

The position of the Mother Country is very peculiar. She has become the manufacturer for the world. Comparatively few of her people are occupied in producing food to sustain themselves and their fellow countrymen. They must depend upon foreign countries and the colonies for food, and also for the greater part of the raw material of their many manufactures. Deprive Great Britain of her outside supply, both of food stuffs and raw material, for six months and the whole of her population would be on the borders of starvation, and more than one-half of the working classes would have nothing to do.

To a country so situated unfettered commerce is a necessity, and to keep that commerce free she must, when circumstances require it, have command of the seas, or rather she must be in a position to protect her ships and her traders wherever they may be. In order to do this effectively she must have possessions in all parts of the world. She must have seaports in countries friendly to her, in which her steamers can receive supplies of coal and other material and in which they can refit if they are in any way damaged. If in word, colonies are a necessity to Great Britain. Without them she could not be the great commercial country that she is and without them she could not maintain the maritime supremacy on which her very existence now depends.

But the colonies need Great Britain as much as Great Britain needs the colonies. While they were young and struggling communities were not for the protection she extended to them they would have become the prey of every ambitious nation which desired to extend its dominion. All the colonies of Great Britain need that protection still. Not one of them is in a position to maintain its independence in the face of powerful and ambitious neighbors. And such has been the relations between the colonies and the Mother Country that none of them desire independence. The colonies are much chafed at the times, but it has not been found to be galling, and there is no colony that desires its severance.

The question then comes up, is not a closer alliance possible? Cannot the colonies change their status from that of dependencies to parts of a federation of sovereign states? Cannot Great Britain be transformed into a Greater Britain which shall include the whole of what is now the Empire of Great Britain? Cannot Canada, for instance, become an integral part of the British nation with an adequate representation in her councils? Cannot Great Britain and her colonies be so united that each member of the Union shall contribute to the strength and the wealth and the greatness of the whole? This is the problem which Mr. Parkin would like to see solved, and to the solution of which he, in our opinion, in no small degree contributes.

His book is remarkably well written. The reader sees at a glance that he has carefully studied the subject, and that his heart is in his work. He, too, will rise from its perusal impressed with the importance of the subject of Imperial Federation, and, whether he agrees with the author or not, with a respect for him and for those who labor with him in the cause of National Unity.

STILL BEWILDERED.

We find that all our American contemporaries are as greatly bewildered in trying to form a reasonable opinion as to what will be the result of the presidential election as we are on this side of the line. It is the large element of admitted uncertainty that puzzles the calculators. In this the presidential election closely resembles the British general election of a few months ago. In trying to make forecasts for the use of the public, the large number of doubtful counties and boroughs vitiated every calculation made by either Conservatives or Liberals. A similar element in the United States appears even the partisan editor, and causes him to refrain from confident predictions of victory for his side. In this he is wise, for the 8th of November is so near that his prophecy would not be forgotten, and he does not like the idea of being represented by triumphant opponents as a fool or a senseless braggart if the election—as it is as likely as not to do—should go against his party. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, which is moderately but firmly Republican, accounts for the reluctance of the politicians to make predictions in this way:—

The main cause of this growing uncertainty that marks our presidential contests is the great growth of the country. It is too big a nation to be carried about by any body or controlled by any committee. The task of estimating in advance its probable action is too stupendous for any mind to assume or any organization to carry out. The event of November 8th depends on the free determinations of about 13,000,000 voters, and 1,000 of them, more or less, may settle it one way or the other. It is simply beyond the reach of any political agency to say in advance what such decision shall be. Of course there are elements of certainty. Nobody questions for whom the vote of Vermont or that of Mississippi will be cast. But the doubtful list is large enough, and it is increasing in length

with every campaign. The great State of New York alone, the center and pivot of uncertainty, will cast considerably more than 1,000,000 votes. To keep tally of these prior to their casting is an impossible task. To all this is to be added the effect of the Australian ballot law, now in force in three-fourths of the States. The secret ballot vitiates nearly all committee calculations. A man may make up his mind or change his mind at the last moment, and not until he has come out of the polling booth can he be counted definitely. With all these influences at work, the increasing frequency of independent political action, the secrecy of the reformed ballot and the enormous problem that is to be dealt with, speculation in advance is unprofitable. It is a country too big to be managed or run according to schedule any longer.

THE NAKUSP APPLICATION.

We see that an attempt is being made to induce the Government to make a large unauthorized expenditure of public money in the Kootenay District. A road is needed from Nakusp to New Denver, and thence to the mining camps. Those applying for the construction of the road do not say how much it will cost, but the Government has ascertained that it will take from \$25,000 to \$35,000. This is a very considerable sum for the Government to take out of the Treasury without authority, to further, as some will be sure to say, the designs of a few speculators in townships and mining lands.

But this is not all. The applicants for the building of the Nakusp and New Denver road are not the only persons who are mining in that region. There are others who want roads quite as much as they do, and who have quite as strong claims on the men in power. If then the Government should take out of the Treasury without authority from the Legislature a sum sufficient to build the North Denver and Nakusp road, they will be required to build roads from mining camps to Kaslo Lake and to other points. If the Government gives to one set of men, we cannot see how it can refuse to give to other sets. Reasonable people will see that it is not safe or proper to open such a door to unauthorized expenditure, and to an improper use of the public money, as these applicants for public aid would have the Government do. If the Government made such a use of their power as they are petitioning for in order to favor other speculators and other miners, they would be the first to complain. Is it not best, in every way, then, for the applicants to wait until the Government can constitutionally and regularly apply to the Legislature for the sums required to open up the district?

Besides, it is not now known whether the road if built, at a very considerable expense, would be of much use after it is made. If the mines are as productive and as rich as they promise to be, they cannot be developed without a railroad. We see that a charter for a railroad line on this same route was asked for last winter, which, through some informality, fell through. The application will, no doubt, be renewed at the next session of the Legislature. If the mines turn out well the road made at such cost will be simply a tote road to aid in the construction of the railroad and will be of little or no use to the public. It can hardly be expected that besides giving the railway the grant of land which it will not doubt ask for, the Government will also build a road solely for its use and benefit.

A road is projected to Kaslo Lake of about the same length as the Nakusp road. If the Government builds a road for the Nakusp people it must also build one for the Kaslo people. But the Kaslo Company are, we believe, building their own road without assistance from the Government. In two or three months, when the applications for aid are before the Legislature, all these matters can be discussed and aid can be given where it is most needed, and the money expended in a way which will be most to the public advantage.

The parties interested will not have long to wait, and they may depend upon being dealt with by the Government liberally. This is, we are sure, the intention of the Government to aid to the utmost of its ability the development of the mineral resources of the Kootenay country.

It is amusing to see the organ of the Opposition urging the Government to spend the public money without authority. If it had any desire to do its duty it would discontinue the spending of a single dollar of the people's money without authority or manifest urgency. But it is only consistent in being inconsistent. It is sure, too, to attribute some petty and improper motive to the Government whether it does right or wrong. In declining to spend a large sum without authority the Times knows that the Government is doing right, but instead of giving it credit for determining to act constitutionally from a sense of duty, it is silly enough to say it pursues what it must admit is the proper course to be revenged on Mr. Kellie.

Our contemporary, too, expresses itself with its usual foolishness about the sale of the New Denver title. The writer in the Sentinel does not venture to assert—and he would if he could—that the Government made any promises to the purchasers of land there, that it did not perform. What he says about that matter is in effect a full admission of this. "Purchasers," he affirms, "bought upon the faith of the town-site being owned and held by the Government, and inferred—and naturally too—that the influence and support of the Government would be directed towards building up a town of their own creation." If these persons had anything stronger than their own "inferences" to build upon, it would, no doubt, have been mentioned by the Sentinel. Yet it was on so unauthoritative a ground as these inferences that the Times bases a charge against the Government of blundering.

Buckingham's Dyke for the Whiskers can be applied when at home, and is uniformly successful in collecting a brew or a black. Hence its great popularity.

NOT A QUESTION.

Harper's Weekly commences an article on the "Question of Annexation" by saying: "To many Canadians, the question of the annexation of the Dominion to the United States is one of great importance; to very few people of this country it is a matter of any importance whatever." The number of persons in the Dominion to whom annexation is a question of importance could very easily be counted. Political union with the United States, Harper's Weekly ought to know, is really not, properly speaking, a question in Canada at all. There is no party on this side of the national boundary line which has annexation for a plank in its platform. More than that, there is not a party in Canada that does not expressly, and in forcible terms, disavow annexation. The few annexationists that there are in the country are not strong enough to maintain a newspaper organ to advocate their views. They have not a single representative in the Dominion Parliament; neither, as far as we know, have they a representative in any of the provincial legislative assemblies. For a man publicly to avow a leaning towards annexation is in all the provinces the surest way to political extinction. The people of Canada do not want to be represented by annexationists in any of their public bodies, federal, provincial or municipal. These facts seem to us to be proof positive that there is really no such question as annexation before the people of Canada. If, as Harper's Weekly asserts, there is in the Dominion an annexation party, it must be searched for with a magnifying glass, for no indications of its organization can be discerned by the naked eye.

The "gentleman" who holds a commission in the Canadian militia, who lately went to the United States for the purpose of consultation with the annexation party that he expected to find there, is evidently one of those peculiar people who exist in every community, who delight in doing things which they consider startling, not because they are right, but because they are uncommon and likely to bring them into notoriety. That "gentleman," except for his annexation escapade, would in all probability be never heard of outside the little clique of his associates in his native town. Now, his name has been published in nearly all the newspapers of Canada; and in a few of those of the United States; and he has also been distinguished by having had his name struck off the roll of officers of the Canadian militia. It is not likely that he will ever be heard of again by the public of Canada or the United States. He is a nobody and he represents nobody.

These public men and journalists in the United States who have been led to believe that a large proportion of the Canadian people are pining for political union with the United States, have been grossly misinformed. They are in pretty much the same position as those Canadians who are persuaded that there is a large and powerful party in the United States who are only waiting for a good chance to gobble up Canada, body and bones. Harper's Weekly assures the world that there is no such party in the States, and we are satisfied that it says not only what it believes to be true, but what is true. The public men of the Great Republic have enough to think of without bothering their heads about the annexation of Canada. Not being seriously considered in the United States and having no party organization in Canada Professor Goldwin Smith and his handful of Canadian disciples must be convinced that they have fallen upon evil days and that the chances of its annexation booming of importance in either of the two countries within a measurable distance of time, are very few indeed.

DANGER STILL.

The special correspondent of the London Times does not believe that the danger from cholera is over in Western Europe. It is still lingering in Russia, in Hungary, in Poland, in Germany and in Holland. The sickness in Hamburg is declining day by day, but yet there are ominous signs that the cholera in Europe is not dead but sleeping. Those signs, he says, "mean that the cholera is doing just what it has always done on former occasions, and is creeping quietly onwards, sowing its autumn seeds in new ground, and a wide area which will burst into more or less luxuriant flower with the advent of summer. It begins, so to speak, where it left off." This writer, who is evidently a man of experience and well read in the history of the disease, tells us that when the cholera wakes up next spring the people of the country places have more to fear from it than the inhabitants of the large towns. The "great scourge of human life in Russia," he says, "has been in the rural districts, the villages and small towns; and so it is likely to be in the countries further west, where the conditions are similar." In 1872-3 there died in the rural districts of Hungary 190,000 persons, and he does not see what is to hinder the same thing happening again, if the disease gets a foothold. In those flat countries the water gets polluted, and then the plague spreads like wildfire.

This writer believes that Great Britain is not free from danger, and that as great vigilance must be exercised this autumn and next spring as was necessary last summer. "Every place," the Times' correspondent says, "thinks it is prepared until the enemy is within the citadel. We have escaped hitherto by virtue of our beautiful island position; and the vigilance of our port sanitary officers; but at any moment that line may be broken through and then it will be the same story as elsewhere."

What is true of England is also true of

Canada and the United States. They escaped this year through the goodness of Providence and the watchfulness of the health officers, but they cannot make sure of a similar immunity next year. The cholera will in all probability be again brought to the shores of America, if it does not revive in New York, and it will require the utmost vigilance in town and country to keep it away or to make it harmless if unhappily it should be imported. The very intelligent writer in the Times has warned us not to rest in false security, and if we in Canada are wise we will profit by his warning.

A SHAMELESS FRAUD.

The manner in which the voters' lists of San Francisco have been stuffed is most extraordinary. It is said that as many as eight thousand names have been fraudulently placed upon the list. Every one committed to know that the fraud was being committed, but no one appears to be able to put a stop to the rascally work. The stuffing is complained of by the honest voters of both parties. The Republicans protest against it as vigorously as the Democrats. The work is done by the bosses and their creatures, who seem to be the real rulers of the city. The Examiner, denouncing this fraud, exclaims: "Will the Citizens allow this? Will they have their honest votes overwhelmed by this mass of crime and corruption? Will they divide in the face of this threatening horde of the worst and most dangerous element and allow the city to be turned over to a gang of hungry plunderers?" The call is almost as emphatic in its denunciation of the crime. But in spite of the exposure made by the newspapers and the indignation of honest voters the work of the bosses goes merrily on. They contemplate the coming election confidently and cheerfully, and may be imagined putting their fingers to their noses and asking honest men with a leer, "What are you going to do about it?"

AGAINST EVACUATION.

Captain Lugard almost immediately on his return to England wrote a letter to the Times, in which he gives many reasons why Uganda should not be abandoned. He shows that from a commercial point of view Uganda being the key to a great part of Central Africa and being surrounded by countries in a high degree productive, is of no small value to Great Britain. Although Uganda itself is at present impoverished it has great capabilities, and can be made to supply the British market with commodities which are there in great demand. He also shows that Uganda and the countries near it, if once a trade were opened, would be large consumers of British manufactures.

The political advantages of the occupation of Uganda, too, he describes as important. He suggests that the nation which possesses Uganda, if it knows how to use its advantages, can be master of Egypt. The sources of the Nile are in that country, and what the Nile is to Egypt everyone knows. If Great Britain should abandon the country there is nothing to hinder any other nation desirous of obtaining territory and influence in Central Africa, seizing it and availing itself of all the advantages of its position. It is well known that both Italy and Germany are ambitious to extend their respective spheres of influence in Africa, and had it not been that the Imperial East Africa Company had occupied the country in the interests of Great Britain, one or other of these two powers would be in position of the region to-day. More than all this, Capt. Lugard contends that Great Britain is bound in honor and by the pledges to the natives that have been made in her name, to remain in Uganda. What he says on this part of his subject is important. It is this:—

There are again, other arguments urged by those who maintain that the Government of this country has an obligation which it is impossible to let go, and with regard to Uganda. These are the fatal blows to British honor which would be the result of evacuation; and, indirectly, the cognate to some extent the Government must take of the pledges made to natives by a chartered company, which the company alleges it can no longer fulfill. To what extent the Government should take cognizance of those pledges it is for Government and public opinion to decide. I, as the accredited agent of the chartered company acting within my instructions, gave pledges; and my action in this matter has never been criticised or even discussed—pledges which I am naturally anxious to see fulfilled for the honor of the company in whose name I made them, and of the nation whom that company represents.

How far the British nation is bound by the pledges made by Capt. Lugard as agent of the East Africa Company depends entirely upon the relation in which the Company stands to the Government of Great Britain, and the understanding it had with that Government when it extended its operations to Central Africa. It is contended by some that the Company went to Uganda more than in the interests of the British Government than to enlarge the sphere of its own operations, and that it did so at the suggestion of men in authority in Great Britain. If that is the case, the Government are bound to see that the occupation of Uganda by the Company will not be to the injury of those who placed faith in the promises of Capt. Lugard and who acted on the assumption that that occupation was to be permanent. H. M. Stanley, who writes for the Information of British editors, is of this opinion. He is, by the way, corrected as to matters of fact by some of the British public whom he undertook to enlighten. But the corrections did not affect the moral aspect of the case.

Capt. Lugard shows that from a moral and humanitarian point of view, the abandonment of Uganda would have a most deplorable effect. It would take from the Christian converts the protection which is now necessary to their very existence. For

not only do the Protestant converts require the protection of Great Britain, but that protection is as urgently needed by the Roman Catholic converts. Mr. Hith, who criticises Capt. Lugard's acts with great severity, at the same time protests vigorously against the evacuation of the country by the British. If the country was left to native and Mohammedan rule, the slave trade would receive a fresh impetus, and the suffering of the unfortunate natives, both Christian and Pagan, would be greatly increased, not only in Uganda, but in the whole region of Central Africa.

Capt. Lugard's representations will, no doubt, have considerable influence on public opinion in Great Britain. The result of the agitation, in which he is taking so prominent a part, will most likely be not only the abandonment of the design to evacuate Uganda, if it has been entertained by those in authority, but the adoption of measures to make the occupation of the country more complete and more effective than it has been hitherto.

WONDERFUL SPEED.

The last trip of the Italian line steamship City of Paris was made in 5 days 14 hours and 24 minutes from Queenstown. This beats her own record, which at the time was the best, by 1 hour and 34 minutes. In this voyage the City of Paris made, for four consecutive days, runs of over 503 miles. Her average speed on this voyage was 20.7 knots an hour. This is wonderful going. And when it is considered that this extraordinary speed was kept up, night and day, during the whole voyage with perfect safety the marvel is all the more marvellous. It is known now that great speed is combined with perfect safety. The passengers felt as easy and unconcerned, and the machinery ran as smoothly, while the noble steamship was rushing through the water at that rapid rate as if she was gliding at half the speed. The exactness with which the immense engines of these boats are constructed and the accuracy with which they do the work for which they are made are among the wonders of modern mechanical science. Naval architects can now build a vessel and equip her with machinery to go at a given rate of speed, and when the trial is made, she seldom goes below the rate for which she was constructed, although she may at times slightly exceed it. The man who built the City of Paris knew that he was putting out of his hands a vessel that would cross the Atlantic in less time than any up to that time built. There was no time she was modelled into what she was completed, a problem of science.

ITALY'S NEW DEPARTURE.

Italy has been of late years living beyond her means. Her debt has gone on increasing and her people have been taxed to their full tax-bearing ability, and somewhat beyond it, and now the time has come when she must retreat and practise economy. But it is not so easy to do this in Italy as it would be in some other countries. It is the representatives of the people themselves who place the greatest and indeed the only formidable obstacles in the way of cutting down expenses.

There is in Italy a whole army of public officials, very many more than are needed. But the members of Parliament are opposed to diminishing their numbers. The patronage of these places is almost entirely in their hands, and if their number were lessened to any considerable extent the influence of the members would be proportionately diminished. It was an attempt on the part of the late Prime Minister, Signor Crispi, to get rid of some six hundred of these unnecessary civil servants that hastened his downfall.

In the same way the representatives of the people are opposed to diminishing the appropriations for local public works. Getting as much of the public money possible to spend in their several constituencies is the great ambition of many members, and what they depend upon for a continuation of popular support. The minister, then, who pares down the appropriations to the lowest point possible, is certain to lose support, and many who are not opposed to him on principle are glad to embrace the first opportunity that presents itself to embarrass him, and it may be, to defeat him. Then the state of Europe makes it extremely difficult for an Italian Premier to lessen to any great extent the expenditure on the army and navy. The sums expended on the war establishments of Italy are enormous, considering the population of the country and the amount of its income. Even in initiating a policy of retrenchment and economy the Finance Minister is obliged to calculate for the next two years on deficits of seven and ten millions of dollars. A surplus is a thing unknown to Italian finance in these days.

The Italian Legislature has been dissolved and the elections for the Chamber of Deputies take place on the sixth of the present month. The Government is very frank with the electorate. It does not paint the situation in rose colors by any means. The Premier Giolitti, in his address makes a candid statement of the financial condition of the country, and promises to do what he can to bring about a better state of things. He is not responsible for the embarrassments with which he is struggling, for he has been in power only six months, and when he took office it was predicted that his Government would not last six weeks. He has, however, kept his hold of the reins of power, and feels himself strong enough now to appeal to the people. What his prospects are we have no means of knowing. Manhood suffrage does not obtain in Italy. There is both an educational and a tax-paying qualification. The elector must be 21 years of age, be able to read and write, and must pay taxes equivalent to \$3.75 of our money. The condi-

tion, educational and otherwise, of the Italian people may be inferred from the fact that out of a population estimated at 30,168,408 there are enrolled 2,825,055 voters, and of these in 1890 1,477,173 cast their votes. In the United States, where manhood suffrage prevails, the voting force is calculated to be about one-fifth of the whole population. In Italy, as we see, it is not one-tenth.

It is generally supposed that the rural population of Italy, ground down by taxes, is in a miserable condition. This, according to the London Times, is not true. Its Italian correspondent says "The general condition of Italy is satisfactory, and there is nowhere, out of the great cities, any indication of the misery so much talked of as an indication of the condition of the rural population."

FANCIFUL CHARGES.

We regret that our contemporary should so far forget itself as to expatiate upon subjects of which it is profoundly ignorant. The Nakusp road controversy is a case in point. In a leading article in last evening's issue it very reluctantly admits that the Government has acted rightly and constitutionally, but goes on to mislead its readers by fresh misstatements. That article contained the following passage:—

What we said was that the Government sought revenge on Mr. Kellie by cutting down the West Kootenay appropriation last session, not by refusing to build this road. We further said that if it had not acted thus unworthily it would have been able to help in a legitimate manner the Siccan miners and the people who bought New Denver and Nakusp town lots.

This statement cannot be justified. At the time the appropriations were set apart for the different districts the value of the Siccan mines was in a great measure unknown, but a good trail was made this year at a cost of some \$5,000 between Nakusp and New Denver. With the Nakusp townsite the Government have nothing whatever to do, as it is entirely in the hands of private parties. What representations the townspeople may have made to parties purchasing we know not, but with regard to the purchasers in the New Denver townsite we do know for a fact that the construction of a wagon road this year from Nakusp was not at the time of the sale even thought of. The purchasers of lots in this latter place took the same chances that purchasers of lots have taken in Vancouver, Hastings, English Bay, North Vancouver, Hope, Yale and many other places. The Government constructed a good trail to New Denver to commence with, and later on, as the mines develop, doubtless on legislative authority a wagon road and a railroad will follow. The Times states what is a deliberate untruth when it says:—

The purchasers of the New Denver townsite bought them under the impression that the road was to be constructed. Where they got that impression we know not, but what is plain is that the Government knew that impression was abroad, and that its lots were sold at high prices on the strength of it.

The construction of the wagon road this year was never spoken of until months after the sale of New Denver, and the agitation has since been created.

The idea of "taking revenge" on Mr. Kellie never entered the mind of any member of the Government. Those who compose it are doing their best to assist in the development of the country in a constitutional manner, and they would soon to take revenge on Mr. Kellie or upon anybody else for doing what he believed to be his duty. What they are intent upon, is to do their best to advance the interests of the Province, no matter what the political position of those who represent particular districts may be. They propose to mete out even-handed justice to all. The Times gains nothing by making fanciful charges and imputing improper motives to the gentlemen who are entrusted for the time being with the duty of administering the affairs of this Province.

AMERICAN NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—Ex-Minister E. J. Phelps, of Vermont; Mr. J. C. Carter, of New York, and Judge Blodgett, of Chicago, counsel for the United States in the Behring Sea case, were called before the Secretary of State Foster all day at the State department. The sixty days within which the United States must file its counter case, in whose name the suit is brought, expires on the 27th inst., and the consultation was over the draft of the United States reply.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 2.—The Journal to-day received the following special from Des Moines, Iowa: Details of the selling out of the third party Prohibitionists to the Democrats have been made public here and have caused a great political sensation. The Democrats, it is said, paid \$3,500 to the chairman of the state central committee.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—The Democrats are so confident of victory that they are offering two to one on Cleveland's success in this state without finding Republican takers while bets are even as to the general results on Cleveland \$50,000 were offered, of which \$25,000 were taken up in small bets the balance being neglected. It is now claimed that Cleveland will carry New York, Indiana, Connecticut, W. Va., and that Weaver will get anywhere from five to 45 electoral votes in the west.

BORN.

EBERTS—At Victoria on the 28th instant, the wife of D. M. Eberts, of a son.

MARRIED.

HAYNES—CARTER—In this city on the 28th inst. Mr. John Haynes, of Victoria, B. C., to Miss Margaret Carter, of Crofton, Surrey, England.

DIED.

McDONALD—In this city on the 2nd of November, John McDonald, aged 31 years. Native of Roxburghshire, Scotland.

REMOND—At the family residence, No. 87 Henry street, on the 28th inst., Miss Rebecca, the beloved wife of Edward Remond, a native of Liverpool, England, aged 45 years.

FRANCE AND

Two Hundred Whipped Natives—Africa by the

King Behanzin P. Crimes—Defence

Paris, Nov. 2.—A

Novo states that a has been captured by the Dahomeyans and dressed white men. He many Belgians and G says that after K Abomey, another K zin, who was put to Mail addresses state gunboat Opale was r September 30th, it near Donkoi by 90 with quick-firing French on the gunb more were wound all the villages along day 200 sharpshoot The Dahomeyans fl behind them. Trau valids and wounded riving at the coast d Porto Novo were ch roadstead had been the wounded. If the dispatch before the of Deputies to-morro try of the French tr capital of Dahomey, for the striking of a the campaign. Colo of the French forces will be promoted to be made an Officer of

CONDENSED

The Offback of robbed of documents one thousand marks. Judgment in the in Paris, has been de the Superior Court. Dr. Weismann, a letter written by the denying that Bismar at a meeting of the been approved par who took part in the is believed this will a tion.

Leigi Lunzatti was appointed to represe national Monetary c have resigned, being advocated by the Go tion.

The failure of the to unveil the Columb ment has caused int sum had been spent the royal party, and the King's illness did no tnight people gat near the monument short conference in the neighborhood was burned and the monument. The Conserva party's attempt made to fire, were provided with they had intended to arrived from Madrid learned of the rioting the capital. The cre throughout the city triumphal arches he and the crowd of People are shouting lie. The police ha repeatedly and many

THE PRE

Sir Charles Tupper London Declin

MONTREAL, Nov

London correspond on Sir Charles T says since and asked accept the Premier under any circumst plied: "No; when did my name was st of the Liberal party positively declined to brought forward, an aided on that point work is here in Lond that at the time he been very satisfactory Abbott resign, and shortly, the person of the John Thompo position by seniority

CATTLE RE

The Demands of Ex Growing Stron

TORONTO, Nov.

says: "The deman Canadian live stock count of the alleg pneumonia, and in S find ample cas meetings of the Fd held during the ensu of the trade is very Agriculture has not the actual nature of any further suppleme ment will certain cattle."

QUEBEC