ALIENS IN THE PLACERS

Provincial Editors' Opinions on Proposal to End the Freedom Now Enjoyed.

Why British Subjects Alone Should Be Privileged to Secure the Canadian Gold.

Contrary Argument That Aliens Are as Profitable to the Province as Other Strangers.

A short time ago the editor of the Colonist sent to the editors of the British Columbia press generally the following self-explanatory circular note:

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 14, 1898.

Dear Sir,—The Colonist would be glad to hear from you on the following question:

Is it desirable to amend the mining law of British Columbia so as to prohibit the ownership of placer claims by aliens?

Enclosed are extracts from an editorial in the Colonist on the subject. We shall be glad to print a signed letter from you. Yours truly,

EDITOR COLONIST.

(From Colonist Editorial.)

PLACER MINES FOR BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Hitherto there has been a general consensus of opinion that the mines of Canada should be thrown open to all nationalities without distinction. At one time this seemed very good policy but circumstances have changed. The rules that held good in the Cariboo days do not apply now. Men can now make Seattle, Portland or San Francisco their headquarters and exploit the mines of British Columbia and the Yukon. We are all very much wiser on this subject than we were a year ago, and it seems time to put the lesson learned at the cost of so much disappointment into practical effect.

British Columbia ought to retain her placer mines for British subjects.

It would, perhaps, not be desirable to make any restrictions as regards lode mining. It does not make so much difference who develops our lode mines, because what is paid out of the country in such cases is only in the form of dividends. The cost of operating is spent chiefly in this province. Rossland is prosperous, although none of the dividends from its greatest mines have gone to foreigners; but Dawson cannot be called prosperous any more than you would call a farmer prosperous if his neighbors should come in at night and rob his orchard. There would be busy times while the process was going on, but mighty little property for the unfortunate owner.

We desire to live on the most friendly terms with our neighbors, but if the price of closer friendship is more than now exists is the surrender of all that makes a large part of British Columbia worth owning, it may be too dearly purchased. But the proposed change in the law can be defended even to those who urge the plea of international amity against it. British Columbia has probably the most extensive gold mining field in the world. It has gold, silver, lead, copper and iron in enormous quantities. The province administers the law which make it possible to exploit this great wealth with safety to life and security to property. It constructs the roads and trails, without which the miner would be helpless. It bridges the streams. It aids in the construction of railways to make the country the safest and best of all the mining regions in the known world. It invites all the world to come and participate in this great natural wealth. It can surely make one exception. It can fairly retain its placers for its own people, and these it ought to retain, because when once a placer has been worked out the province has nothing of value to show for it, if the supplies are bought in a foreign country and the gold sent there. The proposition is wholly a reasonable one and can be defended before any reasonable men.

The several replies which have been received make very interesting reading. They are as follows (the headings placed over them, for convenience of readers, being supplied by the Colonist):

MAKE THE COUNTRY POORER.

Aliens Bring Their Outfits With Them and Spend Next to Nothing in Canada.

Wellington Enterprise.

The Colonist, by circular, invites a general and free expression of opinion, through the medium of its columns, as to the wisdom of a mining act which would restrict the right to mine our placer claims to British subjects.

The principle involved in a proposition of this kind is of the most important character, internationally and otherwise. From a British Columbian point of view, we certainly think that placer mining should be restricted to British subjects. The history of the Klondike excitement has gone to prove that of the large number who joined in the rush to the gold fields, the majority have been of alien allegiance, who outfitted in alien cities. These outfits were provided with the view of residing a year or more within British territory, during which time these aliens expend no money in the necessaries of life (for in other ways it is impossible), render no service to the state, and depart again to their alien homes, carrying with them the gold for which they paid nothing, beyond a paltry fee for a license and some customs dues, and the total value of which represents but a small fractional amount of the wealth of which they have deprived our country and enriched their own.

The foregoing is a simple statement of the case as it relates to the alien in the northern territory which borders on our own province of British Columbia. The Atlin, and other placer claims yet to be discovered in the near and remote districts of British Columbia, will surely excite the lust and attention of the world, and will be followed by a similar influx of aliens under the same circumstances as those who sought the Klondike and the branches of the Yukon. We have seen with what reluctance these invaders paid the ordinary duties on their supplies imported from a foreign country, and how little they appreciated the privilege of being permitted to mine and carry away with them the gold of a neighboring state, to the citizens of which these same people, except perhaps in one instance, securely bar the door to their own gold fields. These aliens enjoy the protection of our flag and of our laws, their lives and property are guarded by our efficient police, at a great expense; and what do they give us in return for all this? Nothing. But on the other hand, they are generally among the foremost in raising noisy objections to any enactment by which the government might endeavor to obtain some return for this expenditure in the government of the country. The province is none the richer by the presence of these aliens, but infinitely poorer in the end. It is only fair to those of our own country that the natural resources of the province should be reserved for them. They serve and do their duty as citizens in open to doubt that their effects would the many ways in which their citizenship imposes upon them. They purchase their supplies and necessaries of life within the province, and they find and develop the mines for the benefit of themselves, their fellow-citizens and the province within whose confines their residences for the term of their natural life are fixed. From an economic point of view, every argument is in favor of protecting our own citizens against those who are a loss and a detriment to the wealth and ultimate progress of the country. In the consideration of a subject of this kind, our aim should be to adopt that policy which is in the best interests of our province, irrespective of sentimental considerations as to international goodwill.

NO BRITISH PREFERENCE.

Alien Just as Valuable to This Province as Miners From Eastern Canada or England.

The Rossland Miner.

The editor of the Colonist asks the editor of the Miner the following question:

"Is it desirable to amend the mining law of British Columbia so as to prohibit the ownership of placer claims by aliens?"

The Miner is opposed to the enaction of any law which would place the slightest restriction on the exploration and development of the province. The placer miner is the pioneer of the mining industry. He is generally a man of limited means, and is induced to undergo the severest hardships and privations in the hope of finding diggings that will quickly make him a rich man. Thus it is that districts far removed from the centres of civilization are explored and the pathway is made for permanent settlers and the consequent extensive establishment of the more lasting industries. It matters little who takes the placer gold if through the efforts of the placer miner others are induced to follow him and place the more enduring resourses of the country on a permanent and profitable basis. So far British Columbia has been slow of settlement, but nothing stimulates accession to the population so much as the discovery of new mining territory. It cannot be denied that the development of the province is mainly attributable to the activity and enterprise of alien prospectors. It is largely owing to aliens that Cariboo was made famous, and the trail blazers of Montana and Washington have made the Kootenays what they are today.

Supposing only British subjects are allowed to own placer claims, it is not to be expected that the man who wins a large fortune from the auriferous alluvial deposits of the Atlin wilds, or the Peace River district or the Omineca country, is not going to spend any more time than he can possibly help in a mining camp. He will, in four cases out of five, return to his former home in the East or in the Old Country and take his money with him and live in comfort and where the good things of this world are within easy reach. In doing this he is no greater benefit to the province than the alien. The alien is just as likely to make his permanent home in British Columbia as the man from Ontario or the English immigrant.

The number and importance of finds would be greatly minimized if prospecting, either for placer or quartz, were confined to British subjects. This being the case it would greatly retard the development of the country were the legislature to pass a law prohibiting alien ownership of claims.

WOULD ADMIT THE ALIENS.

Because They Do Not Take Out So Much Gold as They Spend in the Country.

New Denver Ledge.

If people from other countries come into Canada, dig up and carry away more gold than they bring in, the country quits loser, and aliens should be barred out. In spite of the opinion, however, that upon the whole aliens do not take out of the country as much gold as they spend in it, and for that reason I would not like to see aliens debarred.

R. T. LOWERY.

FAVORS THE "OPEN DOOR."

"Subjects" for Purposes of Mining Rights Would Be a Very Questionable Gain.

Kootenay Mail.

The interesting question raised by the Victoria Colonist, of reserving all rights to work placer mines to British subjects only, is one of these very vital subjects which the peculiar position of British Columbia presents for solution. It is a question of such immense importance and of so far-reaching consequence upon the destiny of a country like this that it should be discussed with minds perfectly open to conviction, and anxious only to reach the most desirable conclusion. It is in this spirit that the Mail approaches it, and records its opinion in favor of the present policy of the "open door." Such a doctrine can be defended on sentimental grounds as distinctively British, and creating a condition of things a Briton loves, "a fair field and no favor;" but it certainly can be supported by practical reasons as well. There is usually a big grain of practicality in British sentiment, and this will probably be found to be no exceptional case. Gold generally, the public is led to understand from practical men who have been "excitements" and "rushes" in this and other countries, costs fully as much to get it out as it is worth, perhaps even more than its value if the attendant privations and dangers are included in the bill of costs, and this is in itself a good argument for inviting into the country as many as wish to try their luck. We all hear of the fortunate one who has made his "pile," but what of the thousands who try placer diggings that make no more than a living, and the very many who, not even making that, turn to quartz mining or other more permanent callings and save their money in the country. Much is said of the great amount of American currency in circulation in this province, so much in parts of it as to be the chief medium of exchange; does it not show a good practical result of the "open door" policy, representing as it does a large addition to our wealth, which is augmented in a hundred different ways. Again, placer mining is a particularly ephemeral kind of business, and the placer miner is a bird of passage of a most migratory or cosmopolitan character. He is usually in a hurry to be rich, and whether British or otherwise he travels light; a "pile," instead of weighing his wings, but inclines him to a further flight. In no sense can he be considered a permanent settler, any more than his employment can be called a certainty, and to restrict his numbers is to restrict whatever benefit to the country there is in his trade, and the market he makes is not inconsiderable. California's "rush" of '49 populated and made world-famous the Golden State, and the Cariboo excitement of '59 settled British Columbia, raising it from a fur country to a mineral one. It is doubt that their effects would have been nearly so beneficial if they had not been open to all the corners of the earth; and though many left the scenes of these golden exploits to look for other fields, some stayed behind where fortune favored them, and, casting their lot with the people around becoming subjects or citizens from choice and inclination. The result in citizenship would be much the same, except for the great loss of dignity, under the proposed reservation if opened to aliens by the "declaration of intention" expedient, for though the number of subjects would possibly be increased by it, they would be of such questionable permanency (the declaration involving no surrender of nationality that may not be recovered) and of such doubtful value, "one volunteer is worth ten pressed men," that if other reasons hold good, the present policy of "open door," which asks no man to even temporarily surrender a birthright for a doubtful consideration, should be retained as not only dignified, but sensible.

EXCLUSION ANTI-BRITISH.

Let the Aliens Work But If Necessary Make Them Contribute in Taxes.

New Westminster Columbian.

The Victoria Colonist has lately expressed itself as strongly in favor of reserving all right to work placer diggings in the province to British subjects. This is one of those suggestions which many voters are prepared, unthinkingly, to support, and it is possible that a majority of the members of the new house, though it was not by any means made a question at the election, may be inclined to favor the suggestion.

It would be such a radical change in the system heretofore in operation in the province, that those who advocate it should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with what is likely to be the effect of the change, if made, and weigh carefully the arguments, for and against, before committing themselves by supporting legislation to carry out their present views.

During the last session of the legislature, Mr. Braden attempted to bring in a motion, restricting the issue of free miners' licenses to British subjects or those who had declared their intention of becoming such. The ruling of Mr. Speaker was, that such a motion, as affecting taxation, could only be introduced by the executive. Without expressing any opinion on the correctness of this ruling, it is certain that legislation to carry out the purport of the resolution could not be introduced by a private member. The effect of the ruling was that no expression of opinion on this subject was given by the last house.

Mr. Braden would refuse aliens the right to take up either placer or mineral claims. The Colonist does not propose to interfere with aliens taking up mineral, but does object to allowing them to take up placer claims—the reason given for the distinction being, that mineral claims require the expenditure of a large amount of capital for their development, and nothing should be done to hamper the investors of such capital.

The Colonist seems to think that the relatively permanent nature of quartz, as compared with placer, mining justifies a more liberal treatment of the foreigner who is willing to invest his money in that pursuit.

The argument based on the desirability of reserving our mineral resources for those who will become permanent settlers may be dismissed very briefly. No free miner, whether from the older provinces, Great Britain, or the United States, intends spending his life in a mining country. Every one proposes to make his fortune as speedily as possible, and to go somewhere else to spend it.

The idea underlying this objection to any but citizens being allowed to become miners seems to be that it is a very valuable privilege, the benefits of which should not be bestowed on aliens; that the individual gets something from the province without giving an adequate quid pro quo. Supposing, for argument's sake, this to be the case, who is the loser? The province—meaning, of course, the people of the same and those who are likely to make it their home in the future. All placer miners, however, are mere birds of passage, and there is no more reason why the province should give something for nothing, to any individuals among its own citizens, to the residents of other provinces or of other parts of the British Empire, than to aliens. In justice to its people as a whole, the revenue of the province should benefit to the extent of whatever the market value of the concessions it makes may be.

As a matter of fact, it has been stated that all the gold taken out of a placer mining country does not amount to the money spent in getting it. Perhaps, in some cases, this statement may be too sweeping, but there can be little doubt that, in every case, if the surplus over the actual outlay had been distributed equally among all who started in as miners, the daily wage coming to each would have been a very trifling amount.

The country, as a whole, benefits from the influx of gold seekers, by the market thereby created for the farmer and other industries, and, if this is not held to be enough, let the miners, citizens or foreigners, contribute a larger portion of their return to the provincial revenue.

It is not likely that the agitation for the reserving of the exploitation of our gold deposits for our fellow-citizens would ever have arisen, had it not been meant as a retaliation on our neighbours to the south; but we ought not to let our natural irritation at their refusal to allow Canadians to take up claims in their territory hurry us into any action that might be injurious to our own interests.

Some of the advocates of this change argue that we would secure a larger number of citizens if we made naturalization a condition precedent to the granting of any mining privileges, but those who so argue do not seem to realize that to be a citizen of the British Empire is something to be proud of, and that there is no reason why we should hold out mercenary inducements to the citizens of any other nationality to throw in their lot with us; recruits so won are more likely to lower us to their level than to show themselves worthy of citizenship with ourselves.

Perhaps after all, the wish to hit back, to show ourselves in no way superior to those to whose conduct we take exception, may prove too much for the majority of us, and the clamor for something in the nature of retaliatory legislation may prove too strong to be resisted. If so, the inducement to commit perjury, and the risk of lowering the standard of our national character, might be minimized by providing for aliens paying a higher rate for licenses than British subjects. Our exhibition of narrow-mindedness would still cost us something but not so much as if we absolutely prohibited aliens from profiting by our placer deposits.

Lastly, the exclusion proposal is anti-British (distinctly opposed to the "open door"), anti-Canadian (in our Yukon gold fields, we treat all alike) and certainly strikes a jarring note in the present and growing cordiality, which promises so much for civilization and the world, between the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race.

SHOULD PROTECT OUR OWN.

If Foreigners Want Canadian Gold They Should Become British Subjects.

Nanaimo Review.

Our placer mines should be owned by British subjects solely. It is neither right nor fair that aliens should be allowed to come into this country and take our wealth for the benefit of a foreign nation, for that is what it really amounts to. Though we are really on friendly terms with our neighbors to the south of us, suppose for the sake of argument, that hostilities were to break out between us, we should "de facto" be supplying them with the means, or in other words, they would be fighting us with our own weapons. This one reason alone should almost be sufficient. A law against aliens, perhaps, would be a ticklish thing to deal with, but still we cannot be blamed for protecting and upholding our own interests. As you, Mr. Editor, very sensibly say in your editorial—"we provide bridges, trails, roads, and laws to protect the miners"—but what may we ask, does the alien miner give up in return? Simply nothing, but a patch of worked-out ground. It may urged that the alien discovered the prospect and that through his discovery we, or rather our miners, profitted. Granted. But if our laws were amended so that the alien would have to become a British subject before he could even prospect, this contention would be done away with. Friendship is all very well, but business is business and I do not believe the amity between the two nations would be impaired by our protecting what is our own. Self-preservation is the law of nature, and if we allow the alien to work our most valuable assets to his advantage, and our disadvantage, we are doing our best to impoverish ourselves. We have not the same privileges in the United States as we give in this country. Suppose, for example, if I go into the United States and desire to take up a homestead. I must become a citizen of that country before I can do so. It may be said that the farmer who takes up the land spends what he obtains from the working of that land in that country. He does, as long as he is on that land, but he must be a citizen before he can obtain that land, which in itself, is an asset of that country.

Supposing that he could take the land without becoming naturalized; after he has done with it he would leave it in better condition than when he first found it, but it is not so in placer mining, for the miner takes out all that is in it and only works it (in nine cases out of ten) so as to be able to return to his own country, and his own people, and spend what he has made out of us.

In regard to quartz mines, you say: "Rossland is prosperous." Quite so, but would it not be more so, or rather would not the Dominion at large benefit more, if the dividends declared from its great mines were kept amongst our own people? Has it never occurred to you the enormous sums of money that go out of the Kootenay country to the United States? It must have; and do you not think that though a large amount of spent in the country, in regard to those mines, it is not proportionate to the amount that goes out?

British mines for British subjects, and if the alien likes our mines, and our laws, which are made for the protection of the miner, better than those of his own country, and he comes here solely for his own benefit, then he should be bound to contribute to the support and defence of that country that supports and defends him. If I come into your business to work, to better myself, and work entirely for my own intrests, which you will repeat the parrot cry, "Get out, new labor; it is cheap." They don't care for what we go through, for the hardships of prospectors, the icy winters, the snow-surrounded log huts. They say, "Dividends! What care we for who gets them so we can spend?"

Labor, Mr. Editor, "the laborer is worthy of his hire," but that laborer in British Columbia must not be Chinese, Hindostani, Japanese, Italian, Pole, or anything of the nature. He must be British or American.

KENNETH FFARINGTON BELLAIRS.

AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE.

Placer Miners Work No Advantage to Country if He Carries Off the Product.

The Kamloops Standard.

In principle it is undoubtedly a mistake to exclude any able-bodied person from the benefits of the country, provided he be neither a criminal nor a pauper. But there are exceptions to every rule and this is surely one of them. Placer mining is unlike any other industry, in that a man does not leave behind him the results of his labor, in fact he actually leaves the country the worse for his exertions, and if he takes his accumulations out of the country his presence has really been a detriment.

It would be well also, if the terms of residence necessary for an alien to become naturalized were made longer, in order to exclude an undesirable class who would take the oath of allegiance for no other reason than to acquire the wealth of this country to spend in their own.

EDITOR KAMLOOPS STANDARD.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

For use in examining the mouth and throat a new mirror has the frame hinged to a handle, with a screw running through the handle and engaging the ring frame to hold it in any desired position, making one glass do the work of all the glasses with fixed angle frames

Fishermen will appreciate an improved reel which is contained in the handle of the pole, instead of being attached to the outside, a number of cog-wheels gearing the reel up so that the line spool revolves rapidly when the crank being the only portion that is visible.

The arm, chest and back muscles can be developed by a new exerciser, composed of two pieces of spring wire formed into a straight central portion, with coils at each end, the wires being then extended in a straight line and ending in handles at the outer ends which are grasped to bend the coils.

A Swede has designed a combined cane and pistol, having a firing mechanism concealed in the curved handle, the hammer being set by bending the handle, the return motion throwing the trigger into view ready to be pressed by the finger and discharge a ball through the cane barrel.—Chicago News.

POULTRY NOTES.

Do not forget that cleanliness is the road to success in raising good poultry.

If your chickens do not have free range supply them with fresh green stuff every day.

The well-fed pullet is an early layer, provided she has not been too well fed or fattening food.

Now is the time to get in the winter scratching material such as straw, chaff, leaves, clover chaff and other such things.

An experienced poultry raiser says he has no trouble with delicate young turkeys since he adopted introducing new males each year.

Dusting can be done by the hens themselves if they are given an opportunity, by having at their disposal sifted dry dirt. Keep the poultry house clean and the hens will keep their bodies clear of lice.

CANADIAN MAIL NEWS

Quebec Contrasts the Present With the Time When Her Voice Was Not Heeded.

Mr. Gooderham Controls Temperance Assurance Co.—Champion Shot Killed While Hunting.

Liberals Signing Pledge to Fight Mr. Tarte—St. Catharines Lady's Great Age.

QUEBEC'S TURN NOW.

Montreal, Nov. 16.—The Patrie, Mr. Tarte's paper, takes advantage of the fact that to-day is the thirteenth anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel at Regina, to again raise the race question. The people of Ontario, whose sons faced death in order to put down the rebellion led by Riel, will do well to ponder over what the organ of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's chief has to say of the hero.

"It is appropriate to give a thought," says the Patrie, editorially, to-night, "to this victim who paid with his head for the crime of vindicating the rights of the Metis, and for having demanded justice in their name. It suffices to recall that Riel was executed after a judicial farce, and contrary to British traditions, that a political prisoner should not be hanged. The scaffold of 1885 was erected by the intolerance and hatred of the Orangemen, and by the bad elements that dominated the Tory party of that period."

The influence of this bad element, the Patrie adds, was so strong at Ottawa that the voice of the province of Quebec was not heard, and, to the disgrace of Canadian civilization, Riel was executed. The Patrie adds that Mr. Bergeron, Dugas, Desjardins, and other French Canadians who pleaded for Riel, have joined forces with Clarke Wallace and the bad element, and are soiled with the blood of 1885.

TARTE REPUDIATED.

Montreal, Nov. 18.—The revolt of the old time Liberals of this city against the Tarte section of the party has reached the stage of spurges and proceeded to action. The Club Geoffrion before which Mr. Beausoliel, M.P., made his attack upon the administration for awarding patronage to Conservatives rather than to Liberals, has passed this resolution:

"The Club Geoffrion in public meeting assembled, repudiates the minister of public works as being a traitor to the Liberal party and the members of this club bind themselves together to fight him for the greatest good of the Liberal party."

INSURANCE DEAL.

An insurance deal which has been under way for some time past has just been consummated at Toronto, by which Mr. Gooderham has secured a controlling interest in the Temperance & General Life Assurance Co. of North America. Mr. Gooderham has been quietly buying up all the stock of the company offering for sale, and is now believed to be absolutely the control of the company. The Temperance & General was organized about thirteen years ago. Hon. Geo. W. Ross is the president of the company, and Mr. Henry Sutherland is managing director. It is believed that Mr. Gooderham has in contemplation an amalgamation of the Temperance & General with the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Co., of which he is president. Mr. Gooderham did not succeed in obtaining the majority of the stock of the Temperance & General without opposition. Another insurance company it is understood, also desired to absorb the Temperance & General and there was keen competition for the stock. Mr. Gooderham paid for some of the stock a high price, and some of the stockholders made a very good thing by disposing of their holdings.

Apropos of the profits of old-time insurance companies, the Toronto Star says: "The Berlin gentlemen are considerably better off by the recent transactions of Mr. Geo. Gooderham with the Temperance & General Insurance Co. Mr. T. Bowlby, Q.C., owned 100 shares, on which $9,600 was paid up; he got $38,400 for his stock. Dr. Bowlby and Mr. Fred Snyder realized $1,200 and $2,400 respectively for their stock, on which $300 and $600 respectively had been paid up."

QUEBEC TO THE POLE.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen were given an opportunity in Monday recently of listening to an interesting lecture by Captain Bernier on the subject of his proposed voyage to the North Pole. Among those present were Hon. Sir Henri Joly, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. Dr. Borden, Hon. J. I. Tarte, Hon. Thos. Duffy, Hon. R. Dandurand, Mr. R. Lemieux, M.P., Mr. L. Gouin, M.P.P., Mr. R. Bickerdike, M.P.P.

Hon. Mr. Fisher was chairman. Captain Bernier believes that the only way by which the North Pole can be reached is for a party to place themselves on the ice off the coast of Siberia, and permit itself to float with the current right across the Pole to open water in the North Atlantic. Captain Bernier proposes to charter a sealing vessel or whaler to carry him as far as 78 degrees N., in the neighborhood of the Lena river, either by the Behring strait or by Norway. He will start on the frozen surface of the Lena with provisions for two years and a half. He believes that the route over the polar sea will be practicable at the proper season. A number of raindeer will be brought along to assure a supply of fresh meat. With a crew of eight men, sixty or seventy-five dogs and about a hundred reindeer, a house boat, different kinds of sleighs, an india rubber skiff, kayaks, iron wire for bridge making, and provisions, Captain Bernier believes the expedition practicable.

GIFT TO WEST INDIES.

The latest order-in-council which Lord Aberdeen signed before leaving Canada was one granting $25,000 from the Canadian government to the fund which the Lord Mayor of London is getting up in behalf of the sufferers in the West Indies caused by the recent storm which swept over the islands

The first order-in-council which Lord Minto signed was one accepting the chapel at Rideau Hall, which Lord Aberdeen presented to the Canadian government. The chapel was erected at Lord Aberdeen's own expense.

A REMARKABLE AGE.

St. Catharines, Nov. 14.—The oldest resident of this district passed away Sunday at the home of her son near Jordan station, in the person of Mrs. Margaret Davis, relict of the late John Davis, aged 110 years, eight month, and ten days. She had, by her extreme age, obtained more than a local reputation. Mrs. Davis was born on Lord Downshire's estate in the country of Down, Ireland, where 13 children were born to her. When 85 years of age she braved the Atlantic to join her son Thomas in St. Catharines. Until a few years ago she was very active, and in the warm weather she would do some of the chores around the farm. She lost the sight of one eye some years ago through an accident, but the sight of the other was good until the time of her death. She was seldom ill. Deceased was a staunch Presbyterian.

A HUNTING TRAGEDY.

Mr. George M. Sinn, of the city ticket office, C.P.R., St. James street, returned to the city on Saturday, after a short business trip to the Temiscamingue district, with the story of the thrilling experience of a hunting party. It was in connection with the accidental killing of Mr. Edward Miner a wealthy manufacturer of Kingsville, Ont., highly respected in Montreal and throughout Canada, and the champion pigeon shot of the Dominion. The story of the accident is a particularly sad one. Early last week Mr. Miner his brother, and Mr. Bennett Squire, of Windsor, Ont., set out on a hunting trip, and were soon buried in the woods, thirty miles from Temiscamingue. On Wednesday they commenced the sport. Mr. Squire fired at a fine moose, wounding it, and the enraged animal charged the hunter, who attempted to fire a second time with his repeating rifle. Something was wrong, however, and the weapon did not go off. Seeing the danger of his friend, Mr. Miner stepped forward, and was in the act of raising his rifle to fire at the beast when Mr. Squire's gun went off, the ball passing directly through Mr. Miner's head, and killing him instantly. The brother and unhappy friend became crazed with grief. They were thirty miles from the nearest railway station, and there was absolutely no means whatever of conveying the corpse thither except by carrying it. For twenty-five miles they carried the body through the terrible wilderness, and, finally exhausted and half famished for want of food, they reached the track at a small signal station, seven miles from Temiscamingue station. It was here that Mr. Sinn found them.—Montreal Herald.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONTEMPT.

The Vancouver World's View—How They Talk About Judges in Great Britain.

From the Vancouver World.

Victoria has on hand another batch of libel cases. Messrs. Ellis and Lugrin, of the Colonist, are asked to appear before the courts for the expression of opinion appearing in that paper as to the advisability of a judge, who has been an active partizan in the provincial elections before his elevation to the bench, sitting on some of the election protest cases. Our esteemed contemporary was of the opinion that it would not be expedient for him to do so, not that any partiality would be shown to the party of whom he was an ardent supporter during the recent campaign, but simply that it would not give the opposition an opportunity to express their doubts as to his impartiality should he decide in favor of the government candidates. We cannot see that such an expression of opinion calls for a libel suit. If it does, where is our boasted freedom of the press? We have heard opinion expressed in this city on more than one occasion by supporters of the government, in discussing the prospects of the by-elections, that in having them tried by the judges recently appointed the benefit of the doubt, if any, in giving a decision, would be in favor of the government candidate. This we maintain could not be so, but there are nevertheless a large number of rabid partizans who cannot see that the elevation of a man to a judgeship makes him a paragon of perfection as far as having politics which might influence him in giving a decision is concerned. Were these cases tried by an older judge, no doubts could be expressed as to the justness of the judgment. The libelling of the Colonist is certainly uncalled for and we predict that the charge will not be sustained. This jumping on the press on the slightest pretext is a relic of the dark ages.

From the Law Times, Dec. 18, 1897.

We have been hoping to see Mr. Justice Darling removing professional disapproval of his promotion by tactful conduct and fulfilling his promise to uphold the best traditions of the Bench; but he has disappointed the profession. His appearance at the Kensington parliament has put him outside the bar of polite comment. If local parliaments are to incite and secure a judge to hear their approval of the Queen's action in his selection, if people are to welcome the views of the local parliaments, if judges are in the local parliaments to make jokes about appointments, even referring to their alleged personal defects, where will our judicature be landed? Mr. Justice Darling believes that other great lawyers have established their reputations by as sorry methods as the enumeration of law books, which they have read. He declined the work of supererogation of which he was capable. The golden value of silence was never more painfully demonstrated.

Law Times, Feb. 12, 1898.

If all we hear of the proceedings of the courts over which this judge presides, be true practitioners and suitors have by no means a pleasant time. Discourtesy and vanity are said to go hand in hand.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

The average duration of a pope's reign is seven and one-half years. Pius IX occupied the papal throne longest—his reign being 32 years. St. Peter reigned 25 years and Leo XIII has been in office 20 years. The average reign of a European sovereign is 21 years, and of a sovereign of England 23 years.

The distinction of being the oldest singing master in the world is claimed for the veteran Manuel Garcia, who, at the mature age of 94, is still giving lessons. He is the only surviving brother of the famous singer Malibran, who was the chief star in the musical firmament in the earlier part of the century.

Woolrych Perowne, in his recent book on "Central Asia" gives an interesting description of the tomb of Daniel at Samarcand. The Mohammedans believe that Daniel continued to grow after death, and so year by year they lengthened his tomb till it was 60 feet long, which was apparently regarded as a proportion great enough for even the most holy of saints.

Sieveking, the pianist, had a curious experience recently in Irchil just after he had given a concert for the benefit of the poor of this famous Austrian health resort. It seems he was shortly reprimanded by a priest for not saluting him when he was carrying a crucifix to a dying person. Sieveking answered with equal sharpness, a great crowd gathered, Sieveking threatening to shoot them, and he was finally arrested.

Do not crowd the young at night. Arrange so that their roosting places are cool and airy, but not such that they will be subject to any drafts of air, as they will catch cold and thus be retarded in growth.