

The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1899.

CAREY CASTLE.

If any structure in Victoria could claim to be historic, Carey Castle would be entitled to the honor. To the older residents there will be a sentimental side to the destruction of the well-known building, where for so many years the Union Jack has waved as the emblem of British authority. It was an old-fashioned, and from a modern standpoint, an inconvenient house, but its quaintness compensated in a large degree for its imperfections. It would be difficult to find anywhere a government house or official residence more admirably located as far as the outlook was concerned. It has seen many phases of official life in its day been the home of many distinguished people. The visitors' books contain many names which will long be remembered.

We assume that the government will take early steps to replace Carey Castle with a more modern edifice. The insurance will meet a portion of the necessary expense, but we submit that the new government house ought to be one in keeping with the wealth and importance of the province. The people will not begrudge the outlay necessary to put up a suitable building.

THE DECOMOS SCHEME.

No exception can be taken to the general tone of the meeting called at the Board of Trade rooms on Wednesday night to discuss the putting on of a ferry between Sidney and English Bluff and the construction of a railway to Chilliwack. There was manifest a strong disposition on the part of those present in favor of a determined effort being made by the citizens of Victoria to solve the transportation problem which promises well for the future, whatever may be the result of this particular movement.

It was impossible to listen to the discussion without being impressed with one thing. Here we have a proposal that the citizens shall subscribe \$200,000 in stock and the city shall give a bonus of \$500,000 to secure a ferry and railway, which they might have had for nothing, if the plans of the late government had not been overturned by a piece of outrageous bad faith on the part of the present cabinet. The principal movers in this matter are gentlemen who were in political sympathy with the violators of the contract with the V. V. & E. railway company, and whose voices were never raised in protest against the repudiatory legislation of last session.

When the Colonist was laboring to prevent the repeal of the Subsidy Act, and when it was using every effort to hold the government to the contract for the construction of the railway, which would have given the city a railway ferry to the Mainland and a direct road to Kootenay, the gentlemen, who now ask \$700,000 from the citizens and the city to enable them to put on the ferry and run a road up the Fraser, were either openly hostile to this paper's efforts or negative so. It is true that one of the gentlemen in question endeavored to make the point on Wednesday night that the V. V. & E. people promised to sell or lease the road to the C. P. R.; but the public have no guarantee that if he and his associates succeed in their efforts they may not enter into a lease to some one of the transcontinental lines. They are in no better position to give a guarantee that the railway and ferry, if built by them, will be and remain independent of the C. P. R. than are the promoters of the V. V. & E. The fact is that a project immensely in the interests of Victoria was treated in a most outrageous manner by the political friends of the promoters of the present movement. We are not writing in opposition to the latest proposal, which has many merits, but it is just as well that the public should know the facts of the case.

The people of Victoria have surely a sufficient variety of projects before them. What we fear is the danger that the diversity of interests may lead to nothing being accomplished. One of the obstacles to the progress of the city is found in the apparent impossibility of bringing the people together as a unit on any subject whatever. We think, however, that just now popular opinion has reached that stage when something may be accomplished, if a common ground can be discovered upon which all concerned can unite. It can be fairly said that the mere matter of taxation will not be an obstacle to the adoption of any reasonable proposal, even if it should involve a million dollars. This at least seems to have been demonstrated by the discussion of the past few weeks.

THE AMAZON.

The despatches say that the United States navy department will make public the results of the voyage of the American cruiser on the Amazon, and it is expected that the facts disclosed will create new interest in this great river and lead to the stimulation of commerce upon its waters.

A few facts regarding this mighty river may be of interest in this connection. Its length from the source of its longest branch to the sea is about 4,000 miles, and its source is within 90 miles of the Pacific Ocean. At its mouth the Amazon is 150 miles in width and the tremendous stream may be traced fully an equal distance into the Atlantic Ocean. The volume of water discharged by it is not so great as that discharged by the St. Lawrence, but the Amazon takes the second place. It is worth

mentioning that the volume of water discharged by the Canadian river is estimated to be equal to the discharge of all the other rivers in the world except only the great South American stream. The various tributaries of the latter river give an estimated length of 50,000 miles of navigable waters, and the basin drained by them has an area of 2,330,000 square miles. The tide ebbs and flows for a distance of 500 miles from the sea, although no ocean water ever enters the river. The longest stretch of direct unimpeded navigation is 3,390 miles. Every country in South America, save only Chile, derives direct benefit from this great river, and it is claimed that its effects are felt far beyond the confines of the continent. Its waters sweeping northward after they have entered the ocean are said to be an active agent in the formation of that great river of the ocean known as the Gulf Stream. Possibly in the same way the great rivers of China, the Yang-Tze-Kiang and the Ho-ang-Ho, contribute to the Japanese current, whose beneficial effect is felt all along this coast. Thus wonderfully are the great geographical facts of the world knit together. An interesting matter in connection with the Amazon is the interlacing of its waters with those of the Orinoco, which makes it possible to sail from one into the other. The region drained by this great river system is probably the most prolific in animal and vegetable life to be found on the globe. For example, until Professor Agassiz spent five months on the Amazon river the total number of species of fish in the world was put at 600. Agassiz found in the waters of the Amazon no less than 1,200 species, of which more than 1,000 were new to science. How many more species remain to be discovered is a mere surmise. Animal life in the forest is multitudinous and varied. Vegetable life is luxuriant and owing to variations in altitude and latitude found throughout the basin, it may be said that there is scarcely anything which cannot be grown somewhere in this favored district. Very much remains to be learned concerning the inhabitants of the Amazon region. They are numbered by millions, and are principally of aboriginal descent. Some of the tribes are fine specimens of mankind, and from the unexplored wilderness around the base of the Andes, come occasionally reports of the existence of people who are superior to those with whom Europeans are familiar. How much of this is pure myth and what foundation there may be for it in fact must remain temporarily a secret. The story is, and it was received with considerable credence a few years ago, that the survivors of the ancient Peruvian empire yet live in the remotest recesses of the Amazon valleys. The mineral wealth of the great basin is past computation. It is known to be great, but no means can be found of securing it. Vast regions have never been visited by white people, and other immense tracts have received the most superficial examination. There really is a great world here awaiting exploitation at the hands of a people possessing business instincts. For these reasons the report of the United States officer will be received with a great deal of interest. It is hardly necessary to mention that the greater part of the Amazon basin is under the dominion of Brazil, but so enormous is its extent and such a comparatively small part of it has been occupied by civilized people, that we may look forward to an invasion from the United States and Europe, somewhat similar to that which has led to the partition of Africa into spheres of influence. The future of the Amazon is likely to give diplomats many a hard nut to crack, for it is inconceivable that so vast and valuable a portion of the globe will be allowed to remain long in the hands of a people who do not know enough to utilize its enormous advantages.

THE LUDGATE CASE.

The failure of the Attorney-General to appear and prosecute Mr. Ludgate for the alleged trespass committed in Deadman's island is an admission that the case could not be sustained, and is the closing act of one of the grossest persons of the process of the law that has recently come under the notice of the people of British Columbia. A few days ago we saw Mr. Ludgate, a lessee of the Dominion government, a gentleman who believed that he was within his rights in entering upon the island and proceeding to cut the timber thereon, set upon by officers of the law and grievously treated. It is true that he might have avoided rough usage by submitting at once to the officers, but he saw fit to compel the officers to exercise force, as he had a right to do. A man who relies upon a lawful bona fide claim of right may properly compel those who interfere with his exercise of that right to use force to compel him to give way. The degree of force, which he may require, is a matter upon which a jury may inquire if a question ever arises. As a matter of judgment, we should say that Mr. Ludgate resisted more than was necessary for a full assertion of his claim, but not having been an eyewitness of what occurred, we are hardly in a position to form an opinion. The fact remains that after a scuffle in which some slight injury was done to Mr. Ludgate, he was handcuffed, and taken to prison. When the time came for the hearing of the charge, the first officer of the crown, upon whose direction arrest was made, failed to appear and the complaint was dismissed.

When we say that such proceedings as this is calculated to bring the administration of the law into contempt, we think we state the case in the mildest possible form. If an ordinary police officer, acting on his own mere motion and in a case where the person arrested could not possibly have an idea that he

was justified in the act for which his arrest was made, should fail to appear open to the gravest possible censure and to dismissal. Surely the fact that the responsible person in this case is the highest legal adviser of the crown with- in the province, the officer charged with seeing that justice is properly administered, and the person arrested is a man who cannot be charged with any criminal intent, and who every one knows was a perfectly legal title, does not make the case any the better. If the police officer in the supposed case would be justly treated by dismissal, what penalty ought to be imposed upon the Attorney-General?

At the very outset the Colonist failed to see how Mr. Ludgate could be held to be criminally responsible for what he did. Originally presupposes intent to trespass, which is unlawful. But Mr. Ludgate's reason to believe that what he did was lawful. We do not say that he had a good reason. He appears to have been acting under the advice of counsel, and it also appears that one of his counsel up to a day or two before his arrest was the Attorney-General himself. We do not say that a man may not lay himself open to arrest on criminal process by an act done under advice. That is a matter for a jury to determine. But surely the Attorney-General, who was Mr. Ludgate's counsel, ought to have known whether his client was animated by criminal intent or whether he only intended to assert what he believed was a legal right. The Colonist in speaking of the arrest expressed at the time a doubt as to its propriety. In fact there are several matters in this connection in respect to which the Attorney-General and the Attorney-General have differed. The Colonist held that it was improper for the Attorney-General to act for a private client in a case of this nature. The Attorney-General held otherwise. The Colonist held that the province was the real owner of the island. The Attorney-General held that the province had been sold to the Holy Scriptures will surely concede that one of the lessons lying upon the face of the matter is that the domain of the occult is, to all intents and purposes, illimitable. Take the account of creation. What an infinite ocean of mystery is indicated in the verse with which Genesis opens: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The mystery locked up in this single sentence is vaster than the whole sum total of human knowledge. Take up one after another the verses of this first chapter, and mystery confronts you at every turn. Read the Mosaic law, with all its types and symbols, and try to set bounds to the mystery, which they are intended to illustrate. Read the Psalms, and note how full they are of occult suggestions. What are the Prophecies, if not a series of mysteries? And when we come to the New Testament and read the story of Christ, must we not join with the Apostle in saying: "Great is the mystery of Godliness—God manifest in the flesh." So our correspondent will see that instead of any mental courage being requisite to enable a writer to take the position referred to, he would be bold to the point of extreme rashness who would aver to the contrary. There is not a sphere of human thought and research of which it may not be truly said: "We see as through a glass, darkly." Indeed, unless they had very much poorer glass in the days of the Apostle than we have now, the simile does scant justice to the obscurity which surrounds us. Most of us are as if we were wandering in a fog weighed down with a burden of chains, which prevents us from looking up to catch the glimpses of the sunlight of truth disclosed by occasional rifts in the cloud.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The opening of the peace conference at The Hague yesterday is an event with precedent in history. What measure of good will result from it no one can undertake to say, but we are hopeful that something permanent will be accomplished. If nothing else comes of the meeting, there is no act which he could do in office, which would make the public interests, than to write out his resignation and place it in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor without delay.

E. & N. OFFER WITHDRAWN.

The majority of the citizens will regret that the E. & N. Company's offer regarding a ferry to Vancouver has been withdrawn. The terms of Mr. Dunsinuir's letter do not preclude the possibility of arrangements being made with the company at some future date, but it is hardly likely that as favorable terms can be obtained for such a service as was contemplated by the offer that has been withdrawn. The E. & N. Company and Mr. James Dunsinuir are both able to do very much for Victoria, and it is satisfactory to have an assurance that they are prepared to co-operate with the citizens upon certain lines of action.

THE TYRANNY OF WORDS.

The Colonist had a letter last week expressing gratified surprise that the newspaper would make the statement that the domain of the occult is the largest and most difficult of investigation. There was really no occasion for this, for the observation commented upon was only equivalent to saying that more is unknown than is known; nevertheless, so great is the tyranny of words that possibly more than our correspondent thought such a statement unusual. Half the subjects over which men debate, and very many of those that have caused the lighting of fires around the stakes of martyrs have been little else than a controversy over mere forms of expression. Time, the progress of science and discovery and the general broadening of human thought are breaking the verbal fetters, which have for so many years crippled the free movement of mankind, but we

are not yet wholly liberated from them. They bind us in social, political and religious life to a greater degree than we can be conscious of until we have set ourselves to think about the matter.

The scientific investigator, who goes so far in his invasion of the secrets of nature that he finds "No Throughfare" written across his path, thereafter he is apt to write force and law with a capital F and a capital L. He might with propriety substitute God for the name of the deity, which he thinks he has discovered, but is prevented by the tyranny of words. The religious thinker, who follows with halting steps the trail of the scientist, is so hampered by his verbal fetters that he makes very slow and unsatisfactory progress and usually stops in utter despair before he reaches any point worth attaining. Politicians are almost absolute slaves to party phraseology, which they repeat over and over again, as though it really meant something, and was not simply a convenient cloak under which their leaders hide their plans, or the lack of them. In a very large field we have lately seen the effect of a word. Thus the great new departure in the policy of the United States was primarily due to the harping of public men and the newspapers upon the word "Americanism," or some synonym of it. Yet the expression meant nothing in particular, or rather everyone understood it to mean what he himself wanted, and thus we had over seventy millions of presumably sane people carried away by a phrase from a policy followed by their forefathers for a century. It recalls the case of the good old dame, who said that there was nothing in the whole Bible from which she derived as much comfort as from that blessed word, "Mesopotamia." In social affairs so great is the tyranny of words that many excellent and intelligent people have their lives made a burden by it.

Reverting to our correspondent's letter, and taking the meaning of it which he doubtless intended, we may say that every person who is at all familiar with the Holy Scriptures will surely concede that one of the lessons lying upon the face of the matter is that the domain of the occult is, to all intents and purposes, illimitable. Take the account of creation. What an infinite ocean of mystery is indicated in the verse with which Genesis opens: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The mystery locked up in this single sentence is vaster than the whole sum total of human knowledge. Take up one after another the verses of this first chapter, and mystery confronts you at every turn. Read the Mosaic law, with all its types and symbols, and try to set bounds to the mystery, which they are intended to illustrate. Read the Psalms, and note how full they are of occult suggestions. What are the Prophecies, if not a series of mysteries? And when we come to the New Testament and read the story of Christ, must we not join with the Apostle in saying: "Great is the mystery of Godliness—God manifest in the flesh." So our correspondent will see that instead of any mental courage being requisite to enable a writer to take the position referred to, he would be bold to the point of extreme rashness who would aver to the contrary. There is not a sphere of human thought and research of which it may not be truly said: "We see as through a glass, darkly." Indeed, unless they had very much poorer glass in the days of the Apostle than we have now, the simile does scant justice to the obscurity which surrounds us. Most of us are as if we were wandering in a fog weighed down with a burden of chains, which prevents us from looking up to catch the glimpses of the sunlight of truth disclosed by occasional rifts in the cloud.

It is scarcely worth while while for the Peace Conference to remain in session now that the Skagway Chamber of Commerce has sent out its invitation in re the Alaskan boundary. It is indeed somewhat strange that the Czar did not send out to Skagway to ascertain what the people of that highly influential locality thought about the desirability of bringing the white-winged dove of peace out of the hen house for a brief flight in the sight of man. Skagway has got rid of Soapy Smith, but his spirit seems to influence the views of its people as to the proper way of dealing with international questions.

Since Kruger is to meet the British Commissioner there is reason to look for a peaceful solution of the Transvaal question.

PASSING COMMENT.

The London Saturday Review thinks that an Anglo-Spanish alliance is possible for the exploitation of South America. Where does Spain come in in such an arrangement? She does not own enough of South America to make a graveyard out of.

We observe that the Ottawa Citizen swallowed in perfect good faith the Washington yarn that the Anglo-American Commission was dead and buried. It went on to preach quite a funeral sermon. What nonsense it is for a party to parrot a statement that it cannot distinguish between a Washington cent and the genuine truth. Not a single paper in this part of the world on either side of politics was deceived by the story.

The Boundary Creek Times, which has been rather disposed to look favorably upon the acts of the provincial administration, says that the Attorney-General must surely have found out by this time that his instructions to coroners are unsuited to the circumstances of a mining country. They are unsuited to the circumstances of any country. We decline

to believe that Mr. Joseph Martin's notions are preferable to the wisdom of centuries.

The Port Angeles Democrat-Leader says that Mr. Dunsinuir would never have made his ferry proposal if the Port Angeles railway had not made one first. This is a mistake. Mr. Dunsinuir made his proposition because he was asked to do so. He has been prepared for some time to make a proposition whenever the citizens desired him to do so. The Port Angeles project will not be strengthened by attacks upon the good faith of other projects.

The Rossland Miner gave its readers the other day an article on the "Consolidations of British Columbia." Have things reached that stage in the great mining camp?

The Province is troubling itself very greatly these days about public opinion in Victoria. The Province has not yet reached that stage when it has any opinion of its own.

The Nanaimo Review remarks that the government deserves no credit for enforcing the eight-hour law. Our contemporary need not worry. The government is not getting any.

The Times thinks that Mr. Sorby can give an idea of the bottom of Victoria harbor by "analogy and probability." No man can do that where rock formation is irregular. It would be otherwise in a country where the rocks are stratified and undisturbed.

The Columbian says that the Attorney-General acted like a Spartan hero against Mr. Ludgate. What particular Spartan hero our contemporary has in mind? There was one, a boy, who stole a fox, which he hid under his robe, and although the creature was tearing out his vitals, he lied to the last and swore he never stole it. Is this the kind of Spartan referred to?

The Seattle Times is usually a very serious paper—almost as serious as the News-Advertiser, whose processes, rumor says, would stop dead if anything approaching a joke crawled into its columns, but even the Times does not carry and bells for a moment. Thus referring to the statement that a diet of carrots and cream is good for the hair, the Seattle paper says that it has already heard of carrot hair and does not like it.

The Kamloops Sentinel tells the managers of the hospital there that it is useless to ask the government for any more funds. The new plan of putting hospitals on a per capita basis is peculiarly Martineque, and like everything else of that nature its effects are exactly the opposite of what its inventor professed to expect.

The Vancouver World says the Colonist obtained the correspondence in the Deadman's Island matter from "the provincial archives." For a moment we hesitated between accepting the credit for the research implied in this and the obligation to veracity. But truth is mighty and will prevail—that is sometimes—and especially when by allowing it to prevail you can put the other fellow in a hole. The other fellow in this case is the Attorney-General, and so in the interests of truth and for the sake of showing how little that gentleman regarded his official duty, we may mention that no research of the archives was necessary to discover the correspondence, in the Sessional Papers, as was known by a good many people besides the Colonist. In fact every one seemed to know it except the man who ought specially to have been in possession of the information.

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Celebration...
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Carey Castle

An Early Morning
the Lieutenant-
Resident

Firemen Fight His
Only Ballroom
servator

Planned by a fresh breeze
vest, a fire which had
smouldering all night in
Castle, the picturesque
denise of the Lieutenant-
province, succeeded in
ceasing that building yester-
whole of the original cast-
that the fire left standing
and reception room and
It was no surprise to
ceive a call to Governor
have been there before,
less than seven times; but
occasion the fire had been
it had made such headway
terday morning. A defect
responsible for the fire, a
la well warranted, as all
started near the chimney
furnace room and in the
Mr. T. R. E. McInnes,
private secretary, was the
cover the fire yesterday
on his way to breakfast
a crackling noise, as though
was on fire. Making inven-
that the space between the
was in flames. The fire
the shingles were catching,
given and the fire depart-
though not slow in movi-
Governor McInnes had to
falling embers as he pas-
main hallway, the fire
way to the shaft which pe-
the corridor into the main
was eating its way down
The Lieutenant-Governor,
staff immediately set abo-
they could, but already por-
portion of the building was
flames, and it was only
the furniture in the room
floor. With the exception
which was thrown out the
first given, the Lieutenant
his things, including his
pers. His Honor places his
A lot of the furniture be-
in the building belonging
Governor was saved, and
had won their victory over
was stored in the ball room
it was 845 when the fire
the main fire station, and
Chief Deputy, J. A. Cox,
chemical engine "Atax," the
scene. In seven minutes
had been stretched to the
Belcher and St. Charles
was playing on the fire
from the hydrant and that
cal were taken through the
and up to the attic. The
of the central portion of the
fire, and burning timbers
around the housemen. Miss
to endeavor to save an
was hurried by the fire
than the roof fell and the
floor. He was pulled out
E. Freeman, St. Charles
Seeing that his men were
they could better fight the
the building and stationed
of the ball room, from which
they could better fight the
In the meantime the Chief
more hose, two men were
used in laying the line from
St. Charles and Belcher
sage had been sent to the
pumping station to send
possible in the highest
engine "John Grant" was
stream through a line of
corner of Belcher and
there was one hundred foot
somewhat of an advantage
given up as lost the main
Castle, including the kitchen
ments, dining room, kitchen
they turned but they were
wing and the conserva-
of the ball room roof were
there is nothing in the
the exception of the furniture
portions of the building now
to show that there had been
the glass in the corner
broken, but all the valuable
shrubbery was saved.

The heat during the prog-
was intense, some of the
ground being affected by it
ions of coal in the woods
taking fire. Despite this the
to their posts, remaining in
ing until recalled, although
the ball room roof were
the ball room roof were
the fire and the fire
guard of their own safety
to prevent the fire from ap-
a half of the ball room
little blaze into a conflagra-
With the exception of the
and the round tower show-
of loose the building was
wood, with shingle roof and
side walls. It was a veritable
had been restored to the
the Governor's family had aw-
little doubt but that they
burned in their beds.

"Carey Castle" was built in
Carey, then was reconstructed
at a cost of \$30,000, to re-
house, which had been long
burned down a few months.
Mr. Carey's residence in the
tempt was made to burn it, a
was arrested, but escaped.
Bastion street gate. The
grounds later fell into the
Miles, who sold to the govern-
of the Queen to reside in the
the succeeding crown colony
made it their home. When
was brought about it was
the provincial government,
of Lorne and Princess Louise
Bastion street gate. The
all made the historic Castle
during visits to Victoria. So
which yesterday gave way to
many jolly scenes, and altho
Government House had long
seems hard to part with the
The building was insured by
the government furniture for
impossible to estimate the
the exception of the loss of
personal effects, the insurance
over it.

Foreman W. T. Smith, of
engine, had a very narrow
death. He was removed
before having opened the re-
let on the gas. The fire was
passed within a few inches
Mr. E. B. Gosnell narrowly
struck by a falling fragment.
Langley narrowly escaped be-
falling wall.

The firemen kept water on
the embers all day yesterday
until all night, but on the
second outbreak.

Although a great deal of hose
was but one break during the
The firemen wish to extend
to Mrs. McInnes, the Misses
other ladies who so kindly
the fire, offered to refresh
their fight with the fire.

One of the hose wagon
the crossing at the corner of
Pandora street and was "la-
short time.

In taking down the chandel-