

THE LEPERS.

A happy solution of the leper problem has been reached by the Dominion government. In their native land the unfortunate will receive the treatment as would have been impossible while they remained immured upon Darcy Island. It is true that while they were in charge of the authorities of this city the lepers were not permitted to suffer for lack of anything that could add to their material comfort; but nevertheless our common humanity revolted at the idea of men in their condition being compelled to linger in their sufferings without the care and attention the civilization of to-day exacts on behalf of the lower orders of creation in like extremity. The Orient, being more accustomed to the dread disease of leprosy, does not shrink at the unclean contact with the unclean. In China there are institutions for the treatment of leprous subjects, and into one of these the late denizens of our lazaretto will be admitted, the government of Canada being responsible for the attention bestowed upon them. Consequently the history of the leper colony on this coast has been closed and a happy disposition made of a very perplexing question. It is possible that, notwithstanding close medical supervision, other cases of the disease may develop in the province. But such a contingency will become more remote with every year that passes, because the Mongolian population is steadily decreasing and the exclusion laws now in force. In view of any eventualities, however, Darcy Island will be retained as a place of temporary detention until means of transportation, which cannot be secured on the ordinary liners running to the Orient, can be procured.

The curtain being now rung down upon the tragedy of British Columbia's lepers—because anyone who has visited the doomed settlement on the island knows well that there were pathetic and tragic elements in connection with their incarceration—it may be well to remind the public that the federal government of Canada assumes no responsibility for the treatment of diseased persons once they have passed the frontier of the country. Under the terms of confederation that is a duty which falls upon the provinces and upon municipalities. The Dominion guards the gates at all ports of entry. Once immigrants have run the cordon at such places, they are beyond federal jurisdiction. The efficient and vigilant officials who maintain the frontier at William Head by the Dominion government. Every appliance that sanitary science has invented and considers necessary has been established there, and within recent years there is no question that the western gateway of the Dominion has been most effectively guarded against the entrance of cases that are said to be constantly raging in the Orient. But leprosy is slow of development, and there are almost insurmountable difficulties experienced in keeping those in whom the germs of that terrible malady have been planted from gaining an entrance. Experienced medical men hold that as long as the Chinese remain among us in any considerable numbers, sporadic cases of leprosy will be discovered and will have to be dealt with. Under a previous federal administration and up to a certain point in the career of the present administration experienced medical men hold that the experience of Victoria with her Chinese leper colony and the injustice pointed out of our people being compelled to bear the cost of their isolation and maintenance. The case of the Tracadie lepers in the East, the cost of whose maintenance in isolation is borne by the Dominion, was cited as proof that in British Columbia they were being discriminated against. The answer was that the Tracadie leper colony was in existence previous to confederation and was taken over under a special arrangement; that the British Columbia government received a portion of the tax collected from Chinese seeking entrance on this side of the continent because they were recognized as immigrants in a sense of an objectionable class, and that therefore the question was one between the provincial government and the municipalities. Finally the representations of the present members for British Columbia in the Dominion Parliament prevailed with the Ottawa government, and the result is that the city of Victoria and the other municipalities which incurred expense of the maintenance of leprous Orientals have been reimbursed for all their outlay and the colony has been deported to the country from whence it came. Just at the present time when an envious Iago is winning that no vibrant vote is raised conspicuously in Parliament on our behalf and that no great work is being accomplished for British Columbia, it is well to bear in mind the facts with respect to the Darcy Island lepers and with respect to other things it may be necessary to discuss later on.

WHEN DOCTORS DIFFER.

As readers of the newspapers are aware, the doctors have been differing again—and great is the turmoil they have created in the world. We allude of course to the controversy that has long raged, and which promises to continue while that much abused and by many greatly distrusted, article, alcohol, continues to be manufactured and mingled with the various beverages we consume. Very little attention has been paid to the subject in British Columbia, probably because it is assumed we have fixed and inflexible

opinions on the matter as exhibited in the per capita consumption of liquor of various brands by the population of the province, although that idea must be considered as to some extent controverted by the vote cast when the prohibition plebiscite was taken. Be that as it may, our readers are doubtless aware that a certain number of medical men in Great Britain recently issued a manifesto with respect to the virtues of alcohol when taken in moderation. They held that it was beneficial alike to the persons when in good health and when afflicted by fleshy ills, provided the limits of discretion were not transcended. Of course this pronouncement created an uproar and a contrary expression of opinion. The advocates of total abstinence attended to that. Now the question has been raised as to the anti-teetotalers. Why did they affix their signatures to the mischief-breeding document at all? Why did they, experienced men as they are, and of discretion beyond question, raise the issue, when they might just as well have gone on practicing their own with their belief, leaving others of the profession of a contrary mind to do the same thing? It is suspected that there was a political plot behind the whole thing, and that if it could only be unearthed the world would be greatly enlightened. Finally we have an explanation from the lawyer who drew up the document, and after the manner of a good many legal statements, it does not seem to convey a completely satisfactory explanation. He says his signatories had no thought of politics, that the thing arose out of a dinner-table discussion, and the original draft was much stronger than that ultimately published. As it was carried from one physician to another by his signature it underwent many modifications. This one was for toning it down; the next was for heightening it; a third was for fine distinctions between malt liquors and spirits; a fourth, a Scotsman, insisted upon a particular reference to "whiskey and water, and so on. At last, so great was the difference of opinion in detail that it was agreed to reduce the now bulky defence of alcohol to a brief general statement to which none of the signers could possibly object. Many more signatures might have been had if the word "harmless" had been substituted for "beneficial." However, it was too late now to make the change and so it came the manifesto with sixteen respectable doctors openly declaring their belief in the usefulness of alcohol. Some of them seem to be sorry they spoke. Doubtless they had never anticipated the terrific storm and it took them by surprise. Some even began to apologize in a mild way. "I would certainly not have signed it," said Sir William Dewar, "if I had known that it originated with the lady," and "I certainly thought," said Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, "Mr. Williams was a doctor. I was also under the impression that Sir Lauder Brunton had signed the declaration when it was presented to me." "I might say," said another of the signers, "that had the drafting of the document been left with me I would have made it less general in its meaning." These apologies are all very well, but no one was obliged to sign the document, and, moreover, if it had not originated with the lady? would it therefore have been true? This, from the point of view of the doctors, is more to the point: "I don't care a rap who it originated with. It makes no difference to me whether Mr. Williams is a medical man or not, so long as I am putting my name to a scientific truth. . . . I signed because I do not think the medical profession ought to describe alcohol universally as a 'poison.' It is no good telling people a lie like that in order to frighten the few to whom it is a poison into total abstinence."

Some of the arguments produced in England and in this country for and against alcohol are instructive, says the New York Sun. One notable authority on nutrition is said to go so far as to deny that alcoholic beverages have anything to do with gout, and an opinion which will perplex the experienced. He says he once had a patient, a woman, who was a martyr to gout but never touched a drop, while her husband, a confirmed toper, never suffered at all. Still, there was subtle connection between the drink and the gout, which the doctor explains as follows: "Every time this woman's husband came home drunk she had a violent attack of gout. I always knew for his wife generally came to the hospital the next day. This could be easily accounted for. She was so strongly opposed to drink that her anger and resentment at seeing her husband under the influence of drink would simply overcome her, her digestion would naturally be affected and gout would be the result."

This may be well enough for married men, but it is a poor consolation to those who have no wives to bear the consequences of their dissipation. We shall never be satisfied till the medical men have declared by manifesto that alcohol is beneficial to all gouty bachelors.

IT IS MARCHING ON.

It is beginning to appear as if the old age pension idea cannot be curbed or checked. As we have already pointed out, Germany has a pension scheme in operation of limited scope, but which is accomplishing a great deal for the relief of a deserving but

unfortunate class of her teeming population. France is wrestling with the question and will assuredly adopt some measure that will go farther than that of her neighbors the Teutons for the succor of the aged portion of her people. Two of the states of the Australian Commonwealth lead the whole world in making provision for the old age of their citizens, without any restrictions whatever, except comparative affluence. New Zealand is at the head of the state philanthropic procession, leading the world in this as in all social problems. Great Britain has established the nucleus of a fund which will be the basis of an old age pension scheme, provided another party does not come into power of reactionary tendencies, which is not at all probable. In Canada the question has not yet passed the academic point; but there is little doubt that now the subject has been introduced by Sir Richard Cartwright, one of the Ministers of the Crown, it will again be introduced and will be continued to be discussed until something tangible results. The undemocratic democracy of the old age of us is the one advanced community in the world that lags behind in this matter of making provision for the declining years of the aged and infirm. This condition of affairs may be partly due to a doubt respecting federal as opposed to state jurisdiction. Evidently the Empire State of New York has concluded that it must set a salutary example to the other states of the union, as the representative of Brooklyn in the assembly at Albany has introduced an old age pension bill, which provides that every man or woman over the age of sixty years who has no income and is incapable of working to produce an income shall receive assistance to the extent of twelve dollars a month. In explaining the purport of his measure the representative in question stated that in the state there are over sixty thousand people who have reached the span of life at which they ought to be in receipt of state assistance. "Think," he said, "of the hundreds of old people now in poor-houses who ought to be living in their own homes on a small pension from the state." Contrast this state of affairs in a wealthy country like the United States with the conditions in Germany, in comparison a poverty-stricken land, where there is scarcely a person but possesses all the necessities of life free from all the degrading influences of the deplorable poor-law. England herself has but slowly felt her way to the position which she at present maintains with respect to her colonies. "First came control by the mother country; but this has now been abandoned. Then the right of intervention in the domestic affairs of self-governing colonies was dropped; and now we are following the precedent, local independence joined with loyalty to the Empire, but a connection of a sort which really makes a greater solidarity of feeling and a more powerful whole than could result from any hard and fast system. All this is most instructive for a country just embarked on a colonial policy."

CANADA AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The great hall was hushed in absolute silence except for one smooth, quiet voice. Yet it spoke of common things—things of the mart and the market-place, and the trade the merchant brings. But, "if business be business," there is a sentiment behind that mere commercial interest has never engendered, "though we do not fall on the neck and kiss when we come to meet. And the grand old of a free people rise through the appeal for closer union. 'We do not come here as supplicants.'"

THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

One of the most remarkable features of political life in Canada is the complete subversion of two of the chief Conservative causes of complaint against the present Dominion government. We refer to the demand for "adequate protection" for Canadian industries and the claim that in instituting a preference for British goods we gave something for nothing and that our representatives insisted when the duties on British products were reduced reciprocal advantages might have been secured from the Imperial government for the products of Canada. It was contended that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced that the preference was granted unconditional, leaving to the people of Great Britain an absolute freedom of choice as to whether they should grant a corresponding advantage in their markets, the cause of this country had been betrayed. But circumstances have completely vindicated the course of the Canadian government, and to-day we find one of the most aggressive of Conservatives and strenuous advocates of Imperial preferential trade announcing that in this matter he and Sir Wilfrid Laurier are absolutely in harmony. We refer to Sir Charles Tupper, at one time a leader of the Conservative forces and the first Canadian High Commissioner in London. Sir Charles, in announcing his opinion at first hand, is now agreed that in the interests of Imperial unity it is essential that if the Empire is to be united in stronger commercial bonds, the consummation must be brought about by the free will of the British people and without pressure from the colonies. This is the only safe path to follow. It is easy now to see what Sir Wilfrid Laurier perceived from the beginning, that if the people of the Motherland had been induced to depart from the traditional free trade policy at the instance of the colonies and hard times had followed, not necessarily as the result of the adoption of such a course, but incidentally because of conditions beyond the control of statesmen, the effect upon the relations of the various sections of the Empire would have

been mischievous, possibly dangerous, to the cause of Imperial unity. As it is the matter has been left to the judgment of the British people themselves and the course of the Canadian government has been completely vindicated. But while the situation is what it is, it is satisfactory to note that the preferential seed sown by Canada is beginning to germinate. Whether it was cast upon stony ground or upon fruitful soil that promises an abundant harvest is a matter that the future alone can determine. The leader of one of the great political parties in Great Britain has made a definite announcement with respect to his attitude. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has taken strong ground on the other side, and however our sympathies may be, there can be no question that in the light of the recent elections he is justified in doing so. It is certain that from this time forward the battle will rage furiously. Issues of the most momentous importance are involved—issues involving not only the relations of the colonies with the central government but the relations of foreign countries with the Empire at large. The eyes of all the nations of the world have been intently watching the progress of events in London in connection with the sessions of the Colonial Conference, and it is probable that the views of foreign nations could not be more disparagingly or frankly stated than in the following from the New York Evening Post: "Another point which outside nations can but consider with great care is the final decision of the conference in the matter of preferential trade. If England should depart, even but a little and only for Imperial reasons, from her settled policy of free trade, the event would be of great world-wide importance. For wrapped up in preference is retaliation. One of the Colonial Premiers frankly admitted this, but declared England could retaliate upon the retaliators in this way to bring them to their knees. This however, is not so certain. Nations will suffer as much for trade rights as for any other, and a commercial war might easily be as prolonged and disastrous as one with guns and ships. Fortunately, there is no sign whatever that the Liberal ministry will assent to the proposal to tax the products of other countries in order to swell the exports of the colonies. That path is too untrod and perilous; and, besides, the government contends that it had a plain mandate from the electorate not to place a tax upon food. Now, without a food-tax, preferential trade with the colonies is a dream. It is expected that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will to-day explain to the conference how impossible it is for the government to accede to the demands of a Premier 'Deakin of Australia.'"

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Making new blood. That is just what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are always doing—actually making new blood. This new blood strengthens every organ in the body, and strikes straight at the root of anaemia, and the common ailments of life which have their origin in poor, weak, watery blood. Mrs. A. H. Seelye, of Stirling, Ont., tells what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills did for her fourteen year old sister, Miss Annie Sager, after other treatment had failed. She says: "For some years Annie had never been well. She would take spells of dizziness and headaches that would last for several days, and her whole body would become dry and hot, though she was burning up with fever. Her lips would swell until near the bursting point, and then when the fever would leave her the outer skin of the lips would peel off. She doctored with to different doctors, but they did not succeed in curing her, and the trouble seemed gradually to be growing worse. Then we began giving her Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and under this treatment she has recovered her health. The headaches and dizziness have gone, her color is improved; her appetite better, and she has had no further attacks of the fever which baffled the doctors. We are greatly pleased with what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done for her, and recommend them to other sufferers."

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FATAL LEAP FROM TRAIN.

Prisoner on Way to New Westminister Killed by Jumping From Window.

Ashcroft, May 9.—Paul Manarino, a prisoner from Nelson, on his way to New Westminister to serve a life sentence, in charge of Constable Webster, jumped through a car window on train No. 97 yesterday afternoon. The train was running 40 miles an hour when Manarino made his fatal leap. He landed head first on the rocks 40 feet below, was picked up insensible as soon as the train was brought to a standstill and died in a few minutes later. The body was left at Ashcroft. Constable Webster continued his journey to New Westminister in charge of the other prisoners.

YUKON MINING CASE.

McLean Brothers Win Appeal Against the Dominion Government.

Vancouver, May 9.—McLean brothers have received word from Ottawa that they have won in the appeal in the Supreme court of Canada against the Dominion government, regarding the ownership of the miles of Dominion creek in the Klondike. McLeans in 1887 secured a lease for five miles of Dominion creek from the government and spent \$50,000. They found the next year, however, that the entire property had been divided and taken up in claims by individual miners. The plaintiffs allege that the property was worth \$3,000,000 to them.

The total number of school boards in Scotland is 980, while the population of Scotland is something like 4 1/2 millions.

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THE BODY. Hare, who died on April 30th. day. The fun. B. C. funeral where the ser. Rev. T. W. G. grave. The de. early in Janu. health, but fin. away most pe. nephew of de. city Saturday. the nation and. a brother in t. in Brockville, Kingston.

THE FUNERAL. line Smart too. noon. There's feeling engendered by the spirit of cynicism that those who indulge in it must live in an atmosphere of mental nauses. They are like little cur dogs, which get behind a fence and bark violently at everything and everybody that passes by. They are like carrion crows, which go around on search of something particularly unpleasant. They are like slimy snakes, which crawl around in the hope of being able

WEEKLY Victoria The week just past... At Victoria... At Vancouver... At New West... At Kamloops... At Port Simpson... At Dawson... LOCAL... The total... Next Tues... church an... by Mr. G. J... be assisted... Hon. H... Secretary... J. Hinton, F... there until... the contemplation... A meeting... quimal branch... held a meeting... the scores... James Thomp... routine busine... and important... the London... the annual re... sented at the... and approved... A number... were discuss... of Baxter H... Tuesday after... preliminary... for a concert... ing, May 21st... colists society... city will be... and the ladies... to help along... entertainment... ple's hall, Vic... The Victo... tend to start... week a... seating about... ped with two... the machine h... hour, and will... the hills in... the schedule of... ed upon for... it is expected... hour and a ha... each day over... which they c... WHY THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF THE SUNSHINE FURNACE. Its the contagion of the Sunshining Vapor a lung food. It is a cure. Because safe. Because safe. Because safe. THE BODY. Hare, who died on April 30th. day. The fun. B. C. funeral where the ser. Rev. T. W. G. grave. The de. early in Janu. health, but fin. away most pe. nephew of de. city Saturday. the nation and. a brother in t. in Brockville, Kingston. THE FUNERAL. line Smart too. noon. There's feeling engendered by the spirit of cynicism that those who indulge in it must live in an atmosphere of mental nauses. They are like little cur dogs, which get behind a fence and bark violently at everything and everybody that passes by. They are like carrion crows, which go around on search of something particularly unpleasant. They are like slimy snakes, which crawl around in the hope of being able