The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1893.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

It is most unfortunate that there are a number of unemployed men in this city. There is in our opinion no man more entitled to the sympathy and the help of his fellow-citizens than the honest industrious man who needs work and cannot get it. We are very sure that if any scheme could be devised to give the men without work in the city the employment they are looking for and that they need so badly, there is not a well-disposed citizen, high or low, rich or poor, who would not do what he can to advance it and to make it effective. It is to be regretted that the promoters of the meeting were not prepared to suggest some feasible plan by which the men wanting employment in Victoria might have something to do. The resolution submitted to the meeting does not appear to be as practical as it might have been. What the men want is work, and they want it now. Complaints about the inducements that had been held out to them to come to British Columbia, however well grounded they may be, can give them no immediate relief. It is the old unprofitable lament of crying over spilt milk. The milk may have been the best ever yielded by a cow, but crying will not bring it back again; neither will denunciation of booms and land laws, whether reasonable or unreasonable, help the unemployed in the slightest degree. Those who to men suffering for want of work offer reforms that will, even if they are as beneficial as their advocates represent them to be, take years to bring about and as many years more to produce the promised results, occupy the place of those who offer a starving man a stone instead of bread. If the theories of the land reformers were unquestionably sound, ventilating them at a meeting convened for the express purpose of devising ways and means to relieve unemployed workingmen appears to us a stupidly heartless way of treating men who are really in trouble for want of work. Even ventilating the Chinese grievance is at this time a most unsatisfactory substitute for the work and wages which the men, to help whom the meeting was convened, need. What those men wanted was not talk, but such assistance as self-respecting men could accept without being lowered in their own esteem. What they got was a number of speeches which had very little bearing on the matter before the meeting, but no help whatever. This is not the way in which men who really feel for the troubles that afflict their fellow-citizens express their sympathy.

We trust that practical men will direct their attention to this matter with the view of doing what can be done for the men out of work. Such men would take some means of ascertaining the number of the unemployed there are in the city who would work if employment were found for them. They would inquire if there is any actual distress among them, and they would set about devising some means to alleviate that distress at once. A committee would be formed whose duty it would be to find out whether work could not be found for the idle men from private persons, from the Corporation, and from Government. This committee should be composed of men of action and not of mere talkers.

We trust that men of ability and influence will take this matter in hand with the view of seeing how many unemployed persons there are in the city, and what can be done to help them. It is very difficult to get accurate information as to the number of the unemployed and as to their condition. But if the distress is as it is represented to be something should be done and done at once.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

We are glad to see that Colonel Prior has made a motion which will have the effect of convincing the people of the Eastern provinces that British Columbia has not been fairly treated by the Dominion. As this Province pays to the general revenue three times as much as the other provinces and gets only its pro rata share according to population of the appropriations, it can be seen at a glance that she is very far indeed from being justly dealt with. If British Columbia paid into the Federal Treasury only as much in proportion to the population as the other provinces of the Dominion she would have more than a million dollars every year to spend for local purposes. Why this Province should be forced to pay proportionately three times as much as the other provinces towards the maintenance of the Dominion Government no one can see. In strict justice every dollar she pays more than the average should be returned to her either in the shape of hard cash or in public works of one kind or another. A cash refund would, however, while it would be only just, be preferable. When the representatives of the other provinces consider that this young and weak Province pays to the Dominion *one million dollars a year* more than her fair share they will see that she is entitled to more than liberal treatment at their hands. It is to be hoped that the Colonel will not lose any opportunity of reminding Parliament of the true financial position of the Province he represents with respect to the other members of the confederation. It is only by being persevering, and even pertinacious, that he can hope to make any impression on the members from the other side of the Rocky Mountains. British Columbia being so far away and having so small a representation in the House, those members are apt to look upon her as insignificant, and to regard her presentation of her claims as somewhat of a bore. But it is the business of the British Columbia members to disabuse their minds of this idea and to make them understand that, from a financial point of view, a British Columbia member is as good as three members from some of the provinces, and as five or six from others.

HOW IT COMES TO PASS.

There are a good many ways of accounting for the fact that there are some men in British Columbia who are able to work and willing to work but who can find no work to do. It must not be forgotten that the same complaint is made in every state and province and city on this continent. Even on the Pacific Coast, where it might be supposed there are work and wages for every man and woman able and willing to work, there is a dearth of employment in many places. We see that a San Francisco paper is disturbed over "the anomaly of an army of unemployed men and women," and patriotic Californians are seeking for a remedy for this unfortunate state of things. In the state of Oregon men are seeking work, and in too many cases finding none, and in Washington state the same unhappy condition of things exists. It, therefore, must not be supposed that Victoria is the only city on the coast in which the supply of labor exceeds the demand.

It is, after all, not surprising that this should be the case in British Columbia. This Province is comparatively young and its population small. Although the field for labor here is practically unbounded, the available part of it just now is small and easily supplied. The immigration which a community of one hundred thousand can readily absorb is necessarily limited. If more people come into the Province than can get employment in the industries that are already established it can easily be seen that there will be temporary disturbance. Where there are four people to do the work that can easily be performed by three, one of them must be idle until work is found for the fourth man in the extension of an old industry or in the establishment of a new one. This has to a certain extent been the case in this Province. Although it is progressing at a rapid rate, as the last census shows, many people, attracted by the good accounts, not by any means untrue, that are given of its resources, its climate, and the wages earned by mechanics and laboring men, have come to it expecting to find work. But the community being, as we have already said, small, has not readily adjusted itself to the new condition, and there being at the same time a temporary depression in business, work is difficult to be had, and the new-comers complain that they have been deceived. But if they think over the matter they will have to admit that nothing has happened that could not have been foreseen by intelligent and reflecting people. The fault, it is easily seen, is not in the Province, for if British Columbia had been an undeveloped Eden, it would have, under the same circumstances, the same difficulties to encounter. The history of other new countries is repeating itself here. In a little while the present stringency will pass away; those now unemployed will find work and hundreds of thousands besides will make British Columbia their home. Any man who looks about him with an eye of intelligence must see that the resources of this Province can as readily support and give work to a million of people as they do now to one hundred thousand. But the change will be made gradually and with many ups and downs. The downs will, however, be only apparent, for the progress of this Pacific Province will be steadily upward and onward.

CONFIRMATION STRONG.

There has been a good deal of discussion as to what did really take place in Washington in February, 1891, when Sir John Thompson, Hon. Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. George E. Foster went there to confer with the U. S. Secretary of State on several matters, a reciprocity treaty being one of them. During the election campaign a month afterwards, when the Government supporters affirmed that the United States would not agree to any reciprocity treaty which did not discriminate against Great Britain, the Liberals affected not to believe them, and stoutly maintained that deception had been used as to what had taken place in Washington. On the 7th inst. the minutes of the proceedings of the February conference were laid on the table of the House of Commons by the Hon. Mr. Foster. These minutes confirm what the Ministers had said in every particular, as the following extract from them will show:

Mr. Foster opened the discussion by stating that the suggestion made by Canada in December, 1890, was for a renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1854, with such modifications and extensions as the changed conditions might make necessary.

Mr. Blaine, with the treaty of 1854 before him, said that article of the treaty relating to fishing might be left for separate consideration, and taking up the list of free goods established by that treaty, remarked that all these goods are produced by the United States.

Mr. Foster reminded Mr. Blaine of the several natural products of the United States which now obtain a Canadian market in large quantities, and which would be received in far greater quantities if admitted free.

After considerable discussion on this point, Mr. Blaine stated that a proposal for a treaty based on natural products alone could not be discussed, as it would lack the essential element of an arrangement for reciprocity as far as the United States is concerned. If a proposition could be made for "taking down the bars" it would be quite another question.

Gen. Foster said that Mr. Blaine had replied to us that a treaty for natural products only could not be discussed. He wished to know from us whether we were prepared to discuss a treaty which would include American manufactures generally.

Mr. Blaine added that American manufactures must be included in order to give the United States any benefit from the treaty. He would like to receive a proposition from the Canadian Ministers on this basis.

Mr. Foster, while combating the proposition that the United States would only receive benefit from a treaty from Canada which would include manufactured articles, proceeded to say that before considering what proposition might be made on the part of Canada for including such articles, the Canadian Government would require to know whether the United States would insist on differential treatment, or whether Canada would be free to accord the same terms to other countries.

Mr. Blaine replied that the treaty would be of no benefit to the United States if the like treatment were given to other countries, especially as Great Britain was in active competition with the United States in almost every line of manufacture. He added: "We should expect to have the Canadians to compete in manufacturing, but no one else."

He admitted that such a proposition affects Canada differently from the way in which it would affect an independent country. He said: "We experienced the peculiar difficulties a short time ago of negotiating a treaty with a country which has a sovereign arm extended over her."

LOOKING TO GOVERNMENTS.

Great dependence is in these days placed upon Governments. Many people believe that Governments are all-powerful. They imagine that they have some mysterious influence over the world of commerce, and can, as they decree, make times bad or good. We often see Governments credited with the prosperity of a country and we more frequently hear them blamed when people feel the pressure of hard times. But if the whole truth was known it would be found that it is a mistake either to commend Governments for the prosperity that countries enjoy or to condemn them when depression makes its appearance.

The people of Germany are just now greatly discontented. The inhabitants, particularly those of the rural districts, are not doing well. They find that the times are hard and they have taken it into their heads that the Government is to blame for the inconveniences they feel and the hardships they suffer. They have in their discontent made a complete right-about-face movement in politics. While times were favorable and they managed to get along in the good old way without unusual privations and difficulties the German farmer and agricultural laborer were good Conservatives. They were ardently loyal and always ready to give their support to the powers that be. Now, when they find markets dull, wages low and money scarce, they lend a willing ear to the Socialist agitator, who throws all the blame of their sufferings and trials on society and the Government that upholds society. They have become out-and-out Radicals and threaten to vote for the Socialist candidate at the next election. Commenting upon this extraordinary change the London Times says:

Germany is passing, like ourselves, through one of those periods of general depression which the great medicine men of politics know as little how to avert or explain as do our doctors how to avert or explain an epidemic of influenza. Nations have always been liable to alternations of prosperity and depression, but they were formerly accustomed to take their misfortunes more patiently. Our troubles now-a-days are so copiously described and tabulated and expatiated upon and generally rubbed in that we suffer them all several times over. There has been no time to form a sound judgment upon the actual effects of the German commercial treaties which have been in operation over twelve months. . . . The agriculturalists, however, refuse to listen to arguments of this kind. They will not stop to consider that they must very speedily benefit by any increase of commercial prosperity. They look at nothing except the low prices of agricultural produce, and will hear of no remedy except instant imposition of duties to stop or restrict the supply of foreign grain, already taxed at, what we should think, a high rate. They are, moreover, exceedingly violent and imperious in their demands.

All this shows that human nature is pretty much the same everywhere. When men suffer they are not always able to find out what hurts them. They must, however, have a victim. Someone must be punished. The evil that has come upon them must have a cause, and without taking the trouble to inquire very deeply or to reason very closely they conclude that "Government" is to blame, and consequently they proceed to make it feel the effects of their vengeance. After a while, perhaps, they may see how foolish and how blind they were in making a scapegoat of the body which was doing its best to befriend them, and which might, if it had been let alone, have found a remedy for the evil from which they were suffering. But the discovery is generally made too late. The mischief has been done. The worst of it is that in too many cases the country is not benefited by the experience for which so much was paid. When the same condition of things comes round again the people act in the same blind, unreasoning way. The government of the day is held responsible for the hard times.

WHY OBJECT?

Some of those who oppose the construction of the parliamentary and departmental buildings speak of them contemptuously as "piles of stone and mortar" erected for no use whatever. This may be an effective way of creating a prejudice against the erection of better buildings than those of which every intelligent British Columbian who has seen anything of the world is ashamed, but no sensible man will pay the slightest attention to such arrant nonsense. The buildings in which the public business, legislative and departmental, of the Province is done are just as useful as any dwelling house or place of business in the country. The British Columbia Board of Trade has just erected a handsome building for its purposes. A great deal of money has been spent on it. This fine building is not an "absolute necessity," for the Board of Trade could have held meetings for an indefinite time longer in some unfurnished loft in an out-of-the-way part of the city. But does any intelligent or enterprising British Columbian blame our business men for building a structure worthy of themselves, of the trade of the Province and of the City of Victoria? There are such things to be considered by communities and trade and other organizations as appropriateness and proportion and respectability. Mean and insignificant public buildings are outward and visible signs of a sordid, narrow-minded and uncultivated State or Province. Visitors are certain to judge the whole people by the buildings they erect for public uses. Those buildings ought to be handsome as well as commodious.

Our public buildings will be worth to the Province every dollar they cost. They are built not for the present generation alone, but also for future generations. It is, therefore, right and just that our children and children's children should pay their fair share of the cost. The interest on $600,000 is not a great deal to pay for buildings constructed to last for a century or more. The men who erect those buildings are not going to take them away with them. They are to remain the property of the Province as long as one stone remains upon another. Why not, then, build them as soon as they are needed, and why not have them handsome and substantial?

AN OTTAWA REGULATION.

We venture to predict that the attempt of the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell to manage the salmon fishery of the Fraser River from Ottawa will not be a very brilliant success. The men who have been fishing and canning on that river for years ought to know almost as well as any Ottawa official how to conduct their business. If canners could have made a profitable use of the offal, it is fair to presume that they would long ere now have done so. The attempt was made by these shrewd business men, but it failed. It has not been proved that allowing the offal to be consumed in the river by the scavenger fish or carried out to sea by the current is destructive to salmon life or injurious to the health of those who live on the banks of the river. The weight of evidence is all on the other side. But Ottawa officials, who know almost as much about salmon packing as they do about elephant hunting, must be allowed to lay down the law to the Fraser River fishermen. The officials may perhaps find that the enforcement of their offal regulation will be followed by consequences very different from those they expect. The canning business is by no means a bonanza to those who are engaged in it, and if the Government regulates it in such a way as to make it unprofitable they will injure the Province and the thousands of poor people to whom the fishing season is a harvest, without doing anything towards preserving the salmon. It is surprising that the Government will persist in regulating an industry so important as the salmon fishing of British Columbia by a number of civil servants thousands of miles from where the salmon are caught. Why is not the supervision of that fishery placed in the hands of a local commission?

NOT A SETTLEMENT.

One of the principal objections to the Home Rule Bill, is that it is not a final settlement of the Irish Question. It is contended that there will be quite as much room for agitation in Ireland after it is carried as there has been in the past. Mr. Chamberlain made this very clear in his excellent and most ingenious speech, and this is one of the principal objections that the Times takes to it. That influential organ of British public opinion, says the following on this phase of the subject:

The question to be put before the country, is what the people of Great Britain are to gain by the passing of the extraordinary bill which Mr. Gladstone has thrown down on the table of the House of Commons. It does not promise any finality. It offers no hope of even temporary relief. We are to have the Irish Question present with us as of old. We are to have the Irish members holding the balance between rival parties in the House of Commons. We are to retain in theory, but to renounce in practice the right of exercising any control over the dealings of the Irish Legislature with the rights of Irishmen. We are to allow this novel body, for which no parallel is to be found in any colonial or federal constitution, to enjoy a domination over the Irish Loyalists in Ulster and elsewhere, which will be used as Mr. Davitt and his Irish-American friends have told us it will be used. We are to purchase these advantages by an enormous pecuniary sacrifice, coupled with a permanent crippling of our whole fiscal system.

This is looking at the measure from an English standpoint. Will it be at all more satisfactory when looked at from the point of view of the ardent Irish Nationalists? Mr. Gladstone's Bill does not give Ireland one single one of the peculiar attributes of a nation. If that measure becomes law it cannot negotiate its own treaties with foreign powers. Its Parliament will have no control over the trade of the country. Ireland must accept the trade policy, whatever it may be, of the Imperial Government. The new Legislature will have no more to do with the British army or with questions of peace and war than has the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. If the Imperial Parliament wills it, Ireland will have to go to war with its warmest national friend and to enter into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the country with which it has the least sympathy. In short, Ireland, under the Home Rule Bill now before the House of Commons, will be no more a "nation" in the proper sense of the word than Canada or Australia—in fact, not so much. Many of the provisions of that measure seemed formed expressly to crush whatever hope any Irishman may cherish of seeing his country take a place in the family of nations.

When we remember how much used to be said not long ago in the speeches of the Home Rulers about Ireland's becoming a nation, and about her having an "independent" parliament of her own, we find it hard to believe that they will quietly take the subordinate place to which they are relegated by Mr. Gladstone's Bill. They will be sure to chafe under the restrictions of Gladstonian Home Rule, and it will not be long—that is, if the present Bill becomes law—before the agitation for the repeal of the Union will be as bitter and as general as ever it was.

We are not surprised to hear that Irish Americans are disappointed with Mr. Gladstone's Bill. It is not what they expected and not what they hoped for ween they subscribed to the fund to advance the Nationalist movement. This, it may be said, ought to please the British Unionists. So it would if they believed that Mr. Gladstone's settlement of the Irish difficulty would settle anything. But this, they are satisfied, it will not do, as it does not realize the hopes or meet the expectations of the men who have been agitating for Home Rule for the last half a century. If the leading Home Rulers have not greatly changed, and if their followers have not renounced their aspirations they must look upon the Bill now before Parliament only as a trifling instalment of what they hope to gain by renewed and persistent agitation.

From the DAILY COLONIST, March 16.

THE CITY.

Public Expenditures.

Ald. McKillican gives notice that he will, at the next meeting of the Council, move for a by-law to raise $65,000 for city lighting, city hall, city market and fire department expenses.

Terra Cotta Work.

J. W. Keller, corner of Yates and Quadra streets, has on view in his establishment a handsome mantel bracket of French design in terra cotta, specially got up for Mr. W. J. Macaulay's residence.

Soloist at the World's Fair.

Miss Zippora Monteith, who is to favor Victorians with a concert on the 23rd inst., has received a flattering offer from the management of Theodore Thomas' orchestral concerts at the Auditorium during the World's Fair. She will, in all probability, visit Chicago for about four weeks, returning immediately to this Province.

In Chambers.

Mr. Justice Crease, in Chambers yesterday, ordered that the case of E. G. Prior & Co. vs. Lumsden Bros stand over for seven days. It was on application to sign final judgment. Duncan vs. Roper, for change of venue, was also adjourned. A commission was ordered to issue in the case of Culverwell, Brooks & Co. vs. Penney.

A Collision.

In running away, a horse drawing a grocery wagon came into collision with a hansom on the hack stand in front of the COLONIST office yesterday afternoon, the accident resulting in the horse being thrown to the ground, when he was easily captured. The hansom was but slightly injured; a little paint scraped off being about the only damage done.

Good Templars.

A very successful concert was given in the Temperance hall last night under the auspices of Perseverance lodge, No. 1. The hall was crowded with Good Templars from all the city lodges and their friends, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. In addition to excellent music, vocal and instrumental, there was an exhibition of club swinging and a number of good recitations.

Sunday School Children Entertain.

The anniversary entertainment given by the Sunday school children of the James Bay Methodist church last evening, was largely attended and much enjoyed. The programme was rendered almost solely by the little folks, whose exercises during the evening thoroughly pleased the audience. The reciting of a number of the juveniles was highly creditable and showed good training as did also the signing.

The Oratorio Messiah.

The Victoria Musical Society again presented the oratorio Messiah at the residence of Mrs. R. Day, Rockland avenue, last evening. This oratorio was rendered by the society at the residence of Mrs. D. R. Harris some time ago and was such a pronounced success that the members and friends insisted on a repetition. Those who had the pleasure of attending the performance last night were highly delighted with the musical treat afforded them.

Point Comfort Hotel.

At a meeting of the directors of the Point Comfort Hotel company yesterday afternoon a building committee was appointed to let the contract for the hotel, the tenders received being opened yesterday and the figures running up to $13,000. The wharf contract will also be let this week. The Point Comfort company have issued a handsome map of their property, compiled and drawn by Mr. Gottfield Jorgenson and illustrated with three sketches by Mr. T. Bamford.

THIRTEEN A LUCKY NUMBER.

A largely attended meeting of the committee of the Protestant Orphans' Home was held last evening at the temporary office of Mr. R. Mackay Fripp, F.R.I.B.A., Trounce avenue. President Worlock occupied the chair, and the business of the evening was the consideration of the competitive plans prepared upon the basis of plans and suggestions kindly furnished by Mr. R. Owen Allsop, of Norfolk street, Strand.

After fully considering the various designs, of which thirteen were submitted, the committee decided upon the awards as follows:

"First—No. 13 (conditional upon price coming within the stipulated $20,000).

"Second—No. 6 (similar conditions).

"Third—No. 11 (similar conditions).

"Fourth (in abeyance)—No. 7 (similar conditions)."

The selections having been made, the sealed envelopes containing the names of the competing architects were opened and the names of the successful ones announced.

First choice was found to be Mr. Thomas Hooper, who will hereafter refuse to consider 13 an unlucky number. Mr. Thomas C. Sorby (No. 6) comes next in order, Messrs. Soule & Day (No. 11) and Mr. S. Maclure (No. 7) ranking in the order of mention.

The first prize will be the superintendence of the work on the usual conditions; the second being $100, and the third $50 each.

Tenders will at once be invited upon Mr. Hooper's plans, which provide for the accommodation of one hundred little ones in a handsome three-story brick building, thoroughly modern in all its arrangements.

CAMPING IN CABINS.

How the Men Who Are Occasionally Workingmen Are Managing to Live.

Victoria as Good as Any—Tales Told by Those Who Make Them.

The result, or rather lack of result, of the meeting of the "unemployed," held in the Council Chamber last Monday evening, has been to call out a considerable amount of comment from those who have the general prosperity of the city of Victoria at heart.

"How many really unemployed workingmen have we in the city; how do they exist, and what is their future?"

These are questions naturally asked first of all by anyone who desires to go deep enough into the matter to hope for any practical results. It was for the purpose of furnishing this information in some more systematic manner than has before been attempted that a representative of the COLONIST was recently detailed to make a more or less thorough investigation into the matter.

The results of this have been so many sided that it would be almost impossible to treat the entire subject with any degree of fairness from any one point of view.

"The man who quits the table after a good meal, and who carries with him as an encouragement to digestion a definite knowledge of where the next one is coming from, views the world from an entirely different standpoint to that occupied by the same individual a week or a month hence, when he sits down to wonder how long he can keep up his fruitless search for work with a very demonstrative vacuum under his vest."

Such is a summary of the reply made by one of the workingmen to questions as to why the unemployed often resorted to what would appear foolish measures in their endeavors to secure relief. And in that answer lies an idea which should not be lost sight of in dealing with questions of this kind.

As a result of careful inquiry it is safe to say that the number of men in Victoria who may be classed as unemployed in the strict sense of the word, are really few. The men who are willing to work at whatever may turn up and are still unable to find employment for any considerable length of time will not number over one hundred. There is, however, a much larger class of those who by securing odd jobs from time to time manage to "live somehow." Of this class there are probably some five hundred now in Victoria. How do they live? Let them answer for themselves.

"I have been living during the winter," said one who was building a fire in his cabin stove with an eye to dinner, "by all kinds of odd jobs, but mostly by watching the incoming steamers for a chance to handle freight. The steamers pay 40c. per hour for day work and 50c. per hour for night jobs. Well, they are generally good for from 75c. to $1.50 per week, sometimes much more. If the worst comes to the worst we manage to live on that."

"Would you mind telling me what bill of fare you can put up on that amount?" queried the reporter.

"Well, let me see," was the answer, "I would put it this way:

7 loaves of bread	
Tea	
Boiling meat	
Potatoes	
Sundries	
Total	

"Of course you know" continued the man, "this is rather short commons but it keeps one alive."

"But do many have to live on as little as that?"

"Well that depends, generally they have more, sometimes less, the average of course is rather higher."

"What other expenses have you," was the next question.

"Well a cabin will cost from $2 50 to $3 50 per month. The regular price ranges from $3 to $3 50. Lights, fuel, etc., will run up to from 50c. to 75c. per week, no matter how careful one is. On $2 per week one manages very well, provided one is satisfied to exist and don't care very much for the rest of it."

In another cabin several men were gathered; as might be expected the labor question was the principal subject being discussed.

"That meeting the other night," said one, "made me very tired. I don't care just now why I came here, how I came, or who is doing the work I expected to get. The Chinese question does not trouble me just now. Give me some work, and I will think of that later on. Like many other men of my class who are not skilled laborers, I have drifted about for years, first in one town and then in another. A short time in a place is generally sufficient to tire me of it and the news of good times or plenty of work at some other point will put me on the road at almost any time. I came to Victoria when times were better, and I stay here because I can't hear of another place where I think I could do any more. I have friends all over the Coast and from what they tell me I can't see the use of jumping from the frying pan into the fire by moving just now.

"I want work of course. I must live, now I am in the world, but I don't blame anyone in particular because I don't get as steady work as I should like. Start public work in Victoria to-morrow and the dozens of unemployed now in the city would grow into hundreds and the hundreds into thousands. The word would pass down the Sound, and in they would flock until further orders."

"That's it," said another, "Its the floating men, who drift anywhere, who gather in a place and make times hard. But how can you draw a line? We must all live, and if some of the 'jawsmiths' who like to air their opinions at public meetings, would only give us picks instead of palaver, things would be better."

"But see here," chimed in a third, "I am hungry, let's get something to eat."

To this the remainder assented and before the reporter left the rough table was spread with an ample supply of bread, butter, boiled potatoes, some tinned meat, cups of tea, and a pot of jam. Not so bad.

The next stopping place was a small grocery store in the corner of a row of cabins.

"Well, how are times with the boys?" was the first question.

"Pretty hard just now," was the answer. "But looking up a little. You see the sealers took 500 or 600 men out of town, who made their living by short jobs, and that has given those who remain a better chance. This is specially true of those who depend on handling steamer cargoes for a dollar now and then. In my place I meet all kinds of men, workingmen, real and so-called. They are coming and going all the time. The trouble is that most of them seem to have no thought for the future. Last summer, when times were good the waste among some of them was shameful, but there is not much to waste now I can tell you. Of course some kind of public work would temporarily relieve the pressure, but in a short time things would be just as bad. Times are too poor elsewhere to hope for any local move to have any lasting effect."

"How are the men living now? Well, some of them pretty hard. More men are living in cabins on $1.50 to $2 and even less per week than most people have any idea of. Bread, potatoes, tea, and occasionally a little boiling meat is the bill of fare for the most of them. The quantity of these depends on the man's luck in picking up an occasional dollar."

"Bad? Yes, it is bad, of course, but where are things any better? My belief is that Victoria gives as much work to unskilled labor as any town of its size on the coast. Times are bad everywhere just now. The men of this place need work, and they need it bad, but I have known a number who have gone away to try their luck in other places to come back. If a man really means business it is unusual to have to go very long here without getting a chance to make a little something. Getting steady work is, of course, a different thing."

In short, the facts appear to be that the unemployed are living, it is hard to say how, but their number is fortunately few. The partially employed are managing to exist by close economy, and there are many who are better friends to their saloon keeper than to their grocer. Outside of a few men who must talk or die, and who are never satisfied under any circumstances, most of the men seem to be bearing the hard times as cheerfully as could be expected. There is no pronounced or general tendency to run down the country or find any specific fault, but they want work, and they want it badly. It remains to be seen what can be done for them.

From the DAILY COLONIST, March 16.

THE CITY.

The Judges Meet.

There was a meeting of the full court yesterday morning, according to previous arrangements. Their lordships having formally opened the court, it was adjourned until Monday next.

Mr. Hunter in the Field.

It is understood that, in compliance with numerously signed requisitions and the wishes of many friends from all parts of the district, Mr. Joseph Hunter, M.P.P., has consented to be a candidate at the forthcoming election for the Dominion House.

Information Wanted.

Information is sought by his relatives concerning the present whereabouts of Jas. H. Sullivan, a painter by trade, who was last heard from in Victoria last summer. Any news of the lost one will be gladly received by E. V. Madden, Amherstburg, Ont.

Home Manufacture.

A new departure in the field of sign writing now adorns the entrance to the COLONIST office. The combination of burnished plate and enamelled letters is highly attractive, and the sign is the first of the kind made in Victoria, having been executed by Mr. B. Taverner of the COLONIST office. The workmanship speaks for itself.

In Association Hall.

"Slum Life in a Great City" was fully [illegible]

Lost in the Snow.

An old man named Cracow, who resided with John Terents, a North Saanich farmer, has disappeared very mysteriously, not having been heard from for over a week. On Sunday the 5th, about midnight, the old man, whose mind was not as sound as it might be, got out of bed and left the house without the slightest warning and since then has not been seen or heard from. It is thought he has either been drowned or has perished in the snow, which about that time was so deep, in fact, that it was almost impossible for a man to wade through it for any distance. Search parties have been sent out, but so far all efforts have been fruitless.

Sale of Fire Brigade Horses.

At Cuthbert's weekly auction, at the city market yesterday, there were put up for sale two horses which have done good public service. Seven years ago the animals joined the fire department, and in the work of the brigade have been broken down. Charlie is an old grey who has done good work, and, with the exception of a couple of weeks' sickness, has enjoyed excellent health. Dixie, the other horse, is a little sorrel, as sound as a bell, but like his brother Charlie advanced in years. He has never missed a fire since he entered the service, although more than once he has sustained serious injuries. The firemen were well represented at the auction, and seemed determined not to part with their faithful old friends unless they fell into good hands. The first bid for the grey was $15, and by twos and fives it ran up to $40—the latter bid being on behalf of the brigade. Five dollars more and Charlie was knocked down to George Cowley, an expressman, who it is expected will prove a kind master. Bidding for Dixie was started at $45 and was run up to $60, at which figure he was bought in by the firemen.

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