Weekly Colonist

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THE EXHIBITION OF 1888.

Exhibitions, county, provincial, national and international, are characteristic of the age we live in. Their influence has been for good. They have given an impetus to industries of all kinds; they have brought into closer union the different parts of nations and they have made the countries of the world better known to each other. They have been great object lessons for the children of larger growth of all civilized nations, and they have contributed in no small degree to make the civilization of the nineteenth century both broader and higher than that of preceding ages. There is nothing like emulation and competition to stimulate the energies of mankind, and a practical knowledge of what other countries can do and are doing prevents those who possess it from becoming narrow and insular in their ideas. To a new country exhibitions are of peculiar value. Besides stirring up its inhabitants to make fresh and greater efforts to improve and to make the best of the resources of their native or adopted country, it shows strangers, almost at a glance, what that country is capable of producing, and whether or not it possesses the qualities necessary to make it desirable as a home. From this point of view the exhibition at Beacon Hill is everything that can be desired. To the stranger the questions whether this year's exhibition is better than that of two years ago, or whether this or that district is as well represented as it ought to be or could be, are matters of no importance. The question with him is, "Does this exhibition show me that British Columbia is a good country to live in? Does it convince me that I would do well to come here myself and advise my friends to come also? Can I learn from what I see here that life on the Pacific coast can be made enjoyable?" It seems to us that the answer which a reasonable man who has carefully and intelligently examined the products of the country displayed in the exhibition hall and on the grounds must give to these questions is an emphatic YES. He sees as he looks around him that the arable soil of the Province of British Columbia is fertile, and that its climate admits of its yielding a large variety of the finest products. He sees in one of its divisions cereals of the best quality. No better wheat, oats and barley can be raised in any part of the world than are now on exhibition on Beacon Hill. There are besides peas, buckwheat and tares of a quality which shows that cattle-raisers need not go outside of British Columbia for the coarse grains necessary for feeding purposes. The display of vegetables, both for quality and variety, will convince the visitor that it will be his own fault if the settler has not a kitchen garden as productive as can be made in any part of the world. He will be convinced that the soil and the climate are peculiarly adapted to the growth of vegetables, both of the field and the garden. The fruit on the shelves will assure him that he can raise here all the fruits that the temperate zone is capable of producing, and some of them of peculiar excellence. The pears and plums cannot be excelled either for size or flavor, and he will see peaches of a very fine quality that have been grown in the open air. There are, besides, apples, quinces, and grapes, and he will learn that the small fruits particularly strawberries, raspberries, and currants thrive well in the province, and are of the finest flavor. In fact, the man who is fond of gardening, or who is any judge of either vegetables or fruits must from what he sees at the exhibition conclude that British Columbia is a very paradise for the gardener. He will be confirmed in this conviction when he comes to examine the flowers at the exhibition. He will see all his old friends and favorites growing vigorously and with a wealth of bloom only to be seen in the most favored situations in other countries in the same parallel of latitude, and he will find others, raised in the open air, which require careful attendance as exotics in Eastern Canada. The amateur florist cannot but be happy in British Columbia. He will enjoy more successes and be made miserable by fewer failures than in any other part of this Dominion of Canada. The appearance and condition of the horses and cattle will satisfy him that the country is favorable for stock-raising. He will see, too, that attention is being paid to that branch of rural industry. He will observe on the grounds fine specimens of pure-blooded stock and he will conclude that if ordinary care is taken there is nothing to hinder British Columbia, becoming famous on the Pacific coast and beyond it for its breed of horses, cattle, and sheep. Before the visitor reaches the poultry show he will be certain that there is nothing to hinder the finest breeds of fowl of all kinds flourishing in the climate of the province. The specimens displayed will not disappoint him. They are all so fine of the different kinds that he will not fear if he makes up his mind to settle in British Columbia that he will ever have occasion to long for the flesh pots or the roasts of any eastern country. He will find too, in the exhibition, samples of the wealth that abounds in the sea that washes the shores of the province. These samples are, it must be confessed, inadequate to give him an idea of the variety of the fish to be found in British Columbian waters, but as far as they go they are excellent. No one needs to be told that salmon are to be found in great abundance in British Columbia bays, straits and rivers, but the black cod which many think a richer and more delicately flavored fish, is not so well known. This fine fish is certain to become one of the delicacies of the west. Whether he examines the products of the land or the sea, the visitor to the exhibition cannot but be favorably impressed with British Columbia as a place of residence. And the exhibition being chiefly agricultural does not give him anything like a full view of the resources and the capabilities of the province. Two of its great sources of wealth, its minerals and its timber, may be said not to be represented at all at the exhibition. There are, it is true, some specimens of ores and a little coal on the ground, but very little prominence is given to them. The visitor, therefore, must be put on his guard against concluding that the exhibition is intended to give him an adequate idea of all British Columbia's resources. From the specimens of the manufactures of the province which the visitor sees he will conclude that the province has made considerable progress in the useful arts, and that the man who makes it his home need not want any article of either comfort or luxury of as good a quality as he can find in any part of the world. He will see that to the settler who has money, the days of "roughing it" are past in this province. We cannot conclude this article without making an allusion to one of the concomitants of the exhibition, and that, too, a very important one, which the visitor will not find in the catalogue; and that is the delightful weather. In no part of the world will he breathe more balmy air and enjoy brighter or more stimulating sunshine. These autumn days are literally perfect; there is not the remotest suggestion of winter in the air.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Although the enemies of capital do their best to lead workingmen to believe that the man who has accummulated capital is their enemy, they do not venture to say that a man has no right to what he earns. This is what they mean and what their wild and loose talk leads to; yet they have not the courage or the honesty to say so boldly and openly. It is easier to denounce the capitalist and to call him a tyrant and a monopolist than to tell the honest, the industrious, and the prudent workingman if they had their way he would never be allowed to become a capitalist. The workingman who by carefulness and self-denial, saves a hundred dollars is to that extent a capitalist. If by industry and economy he adds to that first hundred eight or nine hundred more, the anti-capitalist would not allow him to lay it out for his own benefit, or for that of his wife and family, by making a permanent investment. If he bought a building lot with it he would become a bloated landholder. If he expended it in the purchase of stock in a mine a railroad, a steamship company, or a manufacturing concern he would become the associate of capitalists and monopolists and would, according to the anti-capitalist agitators, join the ranks of the enemies of labor. Even if he deposited his hard-earned savings in a savings' bank it would be used with the capital of other and richer men in keeping up and promoting establishments in which workingmen are employed and the interest which he expects to receive would be part of the product of their labor. So that if he does not put his money in an old stocking or other receptacle and hide it he cannot help being one of the capitalists against whom those who profess to be his friends speak and write so bitterly. But if to please them he left his little capital lie idle it would not increase a single cent and neither he nor the world would get any good of it until it was needed to supply his daily wants. The anti-capitalists, if they had their way would set up a tyranny which all honest, prudent and ambitious workingmen would find to be intolerable. They would reduce the whole body of workingmen to a dead level, and would keep them all, the industrious and economical as well as the idle and wasteful, with their noses to the grindstone. Their tyranny would be quite as oppressive as that of those eastern despots who, when they find out that one of their subjects has saved a little money, make some pretext to take it from him. It is needless to say that countries cursed with this kind of rule are always poor, and business, as we understand it, is not known within their boundaries. But in this free country the workingman knows that what he earns and saves is his own, and he is at liberty to make such disposal of it as in his opinion is best calculated to advance his own interests. The socialists, communists, anarchists and other anti-capitalists may talk and threaten, but they have as yet no power to do him harm. He can, by the exercise of intelligence and enterprise, make his one thousand dollars become two thousand, and if he has brains enough he can by the judicious use of them and by taking advantage of circumstances as they arise cause them to grow to tens and hundreds of thousands and even millions without any one having the power to hinder him or to take from him the fruits of his industry. This would not be the case if the anti-capitalists get the power they are seeking for. He would be interfered with at every step. He, as soon as it was known that he had become well off, would be regarded with jealousy and dislike, and laws would be made to prevent his bettering his condition. He would be called the "lord and master" of those, who, by the aid of his money, were enabled to earn their living, and the working class would be exhorted to root out the "nest of vampires" whose money was being spent in developing the resources of the country and in creating employment for labor. Any one but a fool can see that it would be a bad job for the country if such "vampires" were rooted out. It is the interest of every class, and of the working class more than any other, that every man should have the very fullest right to his earnings, that the poor man should have before him the prospect of bettering his condition and that the rich man should be encouraged to invest and spend his money in the country. What the country wants above all things is capital. It abounds in wealth but capital is needed to make it available. The capatalist who advances to the working miner or farmer or fisherman or mechanic, say, a thousand dollars to enable him to go on with his work is as much his partner as if he took off his coat and went to work alongside of him, and as well entitled to a share of the product. A good man is true to his partner no matter what his luck may be. It is only a mean creature who, after getting his help, turns upon him, abuses him, and endeavors to cheat him out of his share of the earnings. The real vampires are the anti-capatalist agitators who are trying to set the workingmen against those who are supplying them with money, without which their work cannot be carried on, and who are doing their very best to drive capital from our shores. These men, who are the workingmen's and the country's worst enemies, have the impudence to pretend to be their friends. They are traitors of the worst kind, who, under the guise of friendship, are stabbing the men whose bread they eat.

WOMAN'S HIGHER EDUCATION.

The right of women to cultivate their minds is now generally acknowledged. The old-fashioned people who contend that a woman goes out of her proper sphere when she devotes her time and energies to the acquirement of knowledge are every year becoming fewer and fewer. What woman's "proper sphere" is is even becoming a matter of doubt. Every one can see that that sphere as time advances is becoming wider and wider. Women are to-day doing, and doing well and becomingly, what not many years ago was pronounced by men who were considered wise, to be beyond her powers. In educational institutions where men and women study together and where they are subjected to precisely the same tests, the women seldom come off second best. Those who maintain that women are inferior to man in intellect had their faith in man's superiority broken when Miss Ramsay, a student of Girton College, Cambridge, England, had distanced all the men in the University in the race for classical honors, and that Miss Hervey of the same college had won a like distinction in the department of mediæval and modern languages. The London *Times* said that "Miss Ramsay had done what no senior classic has ever done. Miss Ramsay alone has been placed in a division to which no one but herself has been found deserving of admittance." There have been instances even in Canada, where the higher education of women may be said to be in its infancy, in which woman students have come out first in studies in which it is regarded as an honor for men to excel. It is becoming recognized that whatever a woman has the capacity to do she has a right to qualify herself for doing it. If a woman has more brains than a man, no valid reason can be advanced why she should have as many and as good opportunities of cultivating them as a man. The very fact of her possessing strong powers of mind is the best possible proof that they were intended to be improved and made the most of. The parable of the talents applies to women as well as to men. It has been found that study and other kinds of mental occupation do not injure the health of female workers. Miss Ramsay, who did as much brain work in four years as many men do in fourteen, kept herself in vigorous health. When she had completed her examinations she showed no signs of overwork. And the same may be said of other women who passed through a course of difficult studies triumphantly. Neither have these lady students lost their womanliness. They have rather added to the virtues, the graces, and the accomplishments of their sex a brightness and an intelligence which make them more charming. There is no earthly reason why a highly educated woman should not make as good a wife and mother and housekeeper as one whose education has been neglected, and who has spent the earlier years of her womanhood in frivolous pursuits, devoting herself to what is called "society." It is encouraging to see that women are almost everywhere taking a higher position in intellectual and business circles, and that while doing this they are still cultivating and exercising the domestic virtues.

A GREAT COMPANY.

It might be thought that Great Britain's land hunger would be satisfied by this time, but is not. She has land in every continent and on every sea, but she is still making fresh acquisitions. The last addition to Great Britain's territory has been made not exactly by its Government but by a company. A charter has been granted to a great company formed entirely of British subjects to enable them to possess and exercise jurisdiction over a large region in Eastern Africa. This company is called the Imperial British East Africa Company. It has procured from the Sultan of Zanzibar a strip of territory along the eastern coast of Africa ten miles broad and one hundred and fifty miles long. Back of this it has obtained more territory from the native tribes, the area of which is some 50,000 square miles. Theri possessions of the Company extend more than three hundred and sixty miles inland to Lake Nyanza. They include vast plains and almost boundless forests, and are estimated to be inhabited by about two millions of people. Part of this territory lies comparitively low and can yield tropical products, and part of it is high land on which wheat can be grown. The whole of it except the strip near the sea is said to be salubrious. We find from a description of the country that "besides wheat it is capable of producing tea, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, pepper, tobacco, opium, carob beans, cinchona, wines; while among the native products there are Indian corn, hides, rubber, cotton, copal gums, wax, honey, aloes, fibres, oil, seeds, orchilla." This land, flowing with milk and honey, in its present state produces very little, chiefly owing to the intolerant and brutal nature of hordes of savages which roam over it and rob the peaceable inhabitants of other races of the fruits of their industry. Before the new company can begin successfully to cultivate the fertile plans within its jurisdiction it will have to settle with this fierce nation. It will no doubt do this. If the Masai, as they are called, are not amenable to peaceful regulations, force will be used to keep them in order or to extirpate them. The new company is rich and influential. Its first issue of capital, $1,250,000, has been privately subscribed by thirty-five gentlemen, and there will be more forthcoming when it is required. The leading men in this enterprise are Sir William Mackinnon, Lord Brassey, Sir Donald Stewart, and Sir John Kirk. It is quite clear that they mean business, and that they and those who are associated with them will be able to carry out what they have begun.

COFFEE DRINKING.

People in these days, with regard to eating and drinking, if they listen to their many pretentious advisers, will be in the same state of bewilderment as poor Sancho Panza was on the island. There is hardly an article of meat or drink which some wise and learned man does not touch with his wand, proclaiming it to possess deleterious qualities, and forbidding its use. One school of hygienists would banish animal food of all kinds from one's table; another forbids us, on pain of suffering the direst evils, to touch either wine or strong drink. One long-faced sanitarian tells us to beware of the water we drink, and another warns us that there is danger in the cup that cheers, not to inebriate. Still another informs us that the germs of disease most likely lurk in the milk pitcher. And now a savant comes along and tells us that if we drink coffee we endanger our eyesight. He is evidently serious and believes what he says. His name is G. M. Halliday and he writes for the *North American Review*. This is what he says in the opening of his ominous essay:

I am satisfied that defective vision and blindness will pretty soon become a characteristic among the American people, the same as rotten teeth has been during the last two hundred years. I make this assertion without having seen any statistics whatever on the subject of blindness. I found out long ago that a cup of coffee leaves a night shade on the brain which continues longer than an eclipse of the sun. For some time past I have been consulting with different persons in Council Bluffs, who are suffering with failing sight, and in each instance I have ascertained that the unfortunate person was and is a regular coffee-drinker. I had long noticed that the eyes of old coffee-drinkers had a dry and shrivelled appearance.

What do veteran coffee drinkers think of that? Let them take a glance at themselves in their looking glasses to see if their eyes present a dry and shrivelled appearance. But there is worse to come. The eye, according to Mr. Halliday, is not the only organ that is injured by coffee drinking, nor is defective sight the only infirmity that it causes. The effect that coffee has on the system, and the diseases that it induces are thus described:—

Coffee has a magical effect on the heart and circulatory system, and for a while produces the intoxication which approaches that of opium or cocaine. It causes a swift growth and swift decay. It produces beauty and exhilaration, but not endurance. It gives a sentimental strength—the strength that pertains to rustic. The best thing that can be said of coffee is that it has a tendency, like opium, to make lawless persons tame. It leads not to additional irregularities like whisky. While coffee causes a temporary activity of the digestive system and mind, this is a circumscribed activity—a sentimental or sympathetic fantasy—and not a muscular inspiration or prowess. Coffee eats into the digestive membranes, forcing their glands to pour forth their reserved juices, thus drying up the fountains of life and leaving in these little urns of vitality the seeds of rheumatism, catarrh, kidney ailment, heart disease, lung infirmity, and abdominal degeneration. Coffee drinking exhausts the mouth and throat, leaving the face a grinning skeleton, while the body is honeycombed. The penetrating and stimulating qualities of coffee are excessive as well as insidious. But nature abhors anything that leads nature, and will gradually withdraw from it, leaving in the temple of life nothing but a shadow and a name.

Seeing that coffee is such an enemy not only to health, but also to beauty, what young lady after this will indulge in her matutinal cup. Would she not sacrifice much more than the aromatic decoction, grateful as it is to the palate and cheering as it is to the spirits, rather than that her face should become "a grinning skeleton." Mr. Halliday, like every other enthusiast, makes light of the objections that may be brought against his theory. You may know hundreds of inveterate coffee drinkers who have lived to a hale old age, whose eyesight is as little impaired as time permits, whose health continues good, and who maintain their good looks; but he makes light of your experience. Facts are nothing to him when they are adverse to his theory. He can explain them away in a no time. This is how he does it:—

Plenty of apparently robust persons will rise up serenely when they read this dissertation, and exclaim: "I have drank coffee forty years, and I am as stout as an ox." Many of the arsenic-eaters of Asia are said to live to great ages, but this is not the case with a majority of them. It is claimed that opium may be used with very beneficial results by persons who have well-balanced judgment and self-poise. Indeed, morphine was regarded not long ago as the long-desired balm of life, the golden specific for a world of ailment. Some men, who simply excel in constitutional vigor, may feel themselves benefited and refined by burning up their daily surplus of vitality with coffee or opium, as they have no taste for spending it for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and wisdom. But the coffee-drinker, however robust he may be, will put on a pair of spectacles at a comparatively early period of his life. Besides, he is all the while enslaving himself to a habit—a fact that is full of foreboding. Again, he is surely approaching a time when his reserve force of vitality will all be prematurely used up—a period in his career that will begin a new volume in the coffee-drinking habit, for every cup of it will now fill him with fire, while his helpless desire for it continues to increase.

It is singular how people will keep on using what, according to the theorist—we had almost written cranks—is most injurious to health. If they are right, there would be hardly a single human being left alive and in good health upon the earth. Just think of the list of things which they declare it is ruinous to the health of mind and body to eat and drink!

An Epidemic of Smallpox.

TORONTO, Oct. 6.—Smallpox is threatening to become epidemic. The local health board started a corps of physicians yesterday to enforce compulsory vaccination on all who have not been innoculated within five years.

HOME RULE FOR SCOTLAND.

There are men in Scotland who want home rule for their country. They contend that the domestic affairs of Scotland should be managed by Scotchmen. They believe that Scotchmen know what they want and are well able to govern themselves. At present the Imperial Parliament attempts to do a great deal of local work which ought to be done in Scotland. If a tramway is wanted in any Scotch town the projectors must apply to the British Parliament for leave to lay it. A committee is appointed and witnesses must be sent all the way to London at great expense to convince the English members that the road is needed and that no vested interest will be injured by the construction of the work. The same thing must be done if waterworks or gas-works are needed, or a change in the school system or better arrangements for regulating the liquor traffic are required. Legislating for all these purely local matters gives the Imperial Parliament a great deal more to do than it can properly attend to, and consequently makes such legislation very tardy and very expensive. It is no wonder, then, that there are people in Scotland who are tired of waiting for necessary improvements and changes until the members of the British Parliament can find time and inclination to attend to such apparently unimportant matters. The Scotch Home Rulers want for Scotland something like the same measure of self-government as the provinces of the Dominion of Canada exercise and enjoy. They want Parliament to delegate to a legislative body in Scotland power to manage all matters that are purely provincial. They have no desire to encroach upon the Imperial jurisdiction of Parliament. They declare they are loyal to the Union; they have no thought of secession. As the Municipalities Act passed at the last session of Parliament does not extend to Scotland, the desires of the Home Rulers do not seem to be at all unreasonable. As it will be generally admitted that local matters will best be attended to by local bodies, there seems to be no valid reason why so intelligent and prudent a people as the Scotch should not enjoy the widest powers of self-government consistent with the unity of the empire. The agitation, as far as it has gone is neither Liberal nor Tory. It is promoted by men of both parties but seems as yet in an embryotic state. It will, no doubt, as time progresses, assume a more definite form and will take the shape of a party organization. As a very considerable measure of home rule has so recently been extended to England and Wales, it is to be expected that similar privileges will not long be withheld from Scotland. The Irish question, however, now overshadows everything and until that is settled it can hardly be expected that the British government will pay any very great attention to the question of Home Rule for Scotland.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE socialistic agitator is by no means the product of modern times. Envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness are, sad to say, almost as old as the human race itself. In almost every age of the world there were men who envied those who possessed more of this world's goods than themselves, and were ready to promise great things to those who would aid them in robbing the rich. The laws which enabled men to enjoy what they had earned in safety were hateful to these anti-capitalists of an early age, and they exhorted the workingmen to rebel against them. Shakespeare, whose knowledge of every phase of human character was both profound and accurate, makes Jack Cade thus address his fellow-socialists about the prices of things:

"Be brave then, for your captain is brave, and vows reformation. There shall be seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny; the three hooped pot shall have ten hoops; and I will make it felony to drink small beer; all the realm shall be in common."

The great difference between Jack Cade and the anti-capitalists of these days is that Jack was not afraid to say all that he meant; while the communists of our country are too cowardly to speak out plainly.

THE London *Times* greatly admires what it calls Canada's Great Reserve. It is deeply impressed with the vastness, the richness and the variety of the resources of the great McKenzie Basin. It had no idea before the Commissioner's report was published that within the territory of the Dominion, and outside what is generally considered the limits of settlement, there is such a large extent of habitable country. A few years ago the region through which the McKenzie River runs was almost a *terra incognita*. It was supposed to be a land of perpetual winter, in which it would be impossible for civilized men to exist. Instead of this it is found to be a country capable of producing food for man, rich in timber and abounding in minerals of many valuable kinds. Its immense lakes are stored with fish, and its coasts and bays supply seals, whales, walruses and porpoises. The *Times* thinks it by no means impossible that the "Great Reserve" will become in in time the home of a flourishing community. There is, however, no hurry about settling it. There is no one to contend with Canada for its possession and the Dominion has many waste places yet to fill up before the attention of its people will be turned in a practical way to this northern region. It is just possible that the *Times* may overestimate the value of Canada's Great Reserve. But this is a mistake in the right direction for it is not so long ago that the leading organs of public opinion in great Britain were contentedly ignorant of the extent and the resources of British North America. It is pleasant to see that their eyes are at last being opened and that they are disposed to find out what is Canada's real value.

MR. BLAINE'S speech at St. Thomas on Tuesday was most judicious. It would be evidently out of place for him to make a campaign speech on a foreign soil, but he did well to speak in a kindly and neighborly way to the Canadians who welcomed him. We are satisfied that Mr. Blaine in saying that "the ties and the sympathies between the United States and Canada are very strong" expressed the opinions and feelings of ninety-nine out of every hundred of the citizens of the United States. There are hundreds of reasons why Canadians and Americans should be good friends and there is hardly a pretext on which to found a disagreement. It is to the interest of both people to live on terms of good neighborhood and there is nothing to be gained by either bickering or quarreling. Mr. Blaine is in this as in many other respects a representative man. He, and not the tail-twisting and retaliationist politicians, voice the sentiments of the American people towards Canada. Mr. Blaine saw that the American politicians who assume a threatening attitude towards Canada make a very serious mistake. He knows that a high-spirited people like the Canadians are not to be bullied or bulldozed into political union with the United States and he wisely told the Canadians whom he addressed that if the relations between Canada and the United States are to become closer than they now are the change will be brought about by the volition of Canadians. This is the right attitude to take. Canadians are desirous to be on friendly and neighborly terms with the citizens of the Great Republic. They have no desire for any closer relation, and it is well for Americans to know that hard words and harsh measures on the part of American citizens so far from forcing Canada to seek annexation will cause her to cling more closely to British connection.

IT is a reproach to civilization that there is not a better extradition law between Great Britain and the United States. Owing to the defectiveness of the treaty arrangements there is a mutual interchange of scoundrels between the two nations. Canadian thieves fly for refuge to the United States and Canada is made an asylum for the rascaldom of the Great Republic. Such singular relations ought not to exist between two nations calling themselves civilized. We are glad to know that neither Great Britain nor Canada is to blame for this disgraceful state of things. They are willing and indeed most desirous that British territory should not be made a refuge for criminals. A treaty more in accordance with common sense and the principles of justice than the one now in force was agreed to some time ago by the British Government, but because some of the United States politicians feared that by sanctioning it votes would be lost to the Republican party, it has been, by a majority of the Senate, thrown aside. We are pleased to see that there are journalists in America who can see where the blame of the present state of things lies, and are honest enough to acknowledge that the United States and not Great Britain is in fault. The Philadelphia *Times* says:

Cashier Pitcher, late of the Union Bank of Providence and now of Montreal, cannot be extradited and punished for the crime of stealing the bank's available funds. For this impossibility the country owes thanks to its demagogic statesmen, who would rather twist the British lion's tail at a safe distance than encourage the negotiation of a sensible treaty for the protection of American business interests.

This is the truth tersely told.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

TO THE EDITOR:—Referring to the communication from the "Plumbers of Victoria" in a recent issue, we consider that it is a step in the right direction for mechanics of this country to have the Saturday afternoon as a holiday.

As the matter stands at present the men are working from Monday morning at 7 a. m. till Saturday evening at 6 p. m. On Sunday you will see them going off to the hill to play baseball, or in boating parties for pleasure, fishing, shooting, etc., whereas we believe that if the men had Saturday afternoon as a holiday they would then attend their respective places of worship on Sunday.

As you are aware, the eight-hour movement is actually in force in many places along the Pacific Coast. This we consider an injustice to all parties, both employers and employed. So if the granting of a half-holiday on Saturday will satisfy the men, we are sure it will be more satisfactory to all parties than the popular move on the other side.

So far as we are concerned we shall allow our men what they ask.

BRADEN & STAMFORD.

TOBACCO SMOKING.

TO THE EDITOR:—I noticed in a recent issue some remarks upon this practice, and which has been brought recently so prominently under notice in the columns of the London *Times*. What first led to this notice arose from the discovery of many new forms of throat disease, and which were traced to the use of cigarettes, more especially those of Egyptian manufacture. The discovery of these ailments naturally opened up for consideration the whole subject of tobacco smoking. The editorial notice of the *Times* treats the subject somewhat gingerly, and lets tobacco smokers off easily, pointing out that to some constitutions it may be hurtful, but not generally prejudicial. What may be the practice at the present time in England in the indulgence of this habit I am not aware, having been many years away from the Old Country, but some 50 years ago the pipe called the "Churchwarden's pipe," with its long stem and ends carefully covered with sealing wax, was in general use, and resorted to perhaps say twice a day, after mid-day meal, and again in the evening, and as thus used was not perhaps hurtful; but so far as we of this city are concerned, a change, a mighty change has come over the practice. The long pipe is a thing of the past and in its place there is the meerschaum, and become so universal that, so to speak, almost every one you meet in the morning going to business, and oftentimes in business, has got a meerschaum stuck in his mouth, and very frequently not a particularly clean one, as should he have some confidential matter to impart and brought his mouth in close contact you would be sure to discover. Not being a smoker I am not going to indulge in sweeping denunciations of the habit, but reserve to myself the opportunity of saying that the practice of smoking at the present time has grown into a habit that, to say the least of it, is disgusting. As to whether the immoderate use of it has already begun to tell its tale upon the rising generation, resulting from the parent's use, I offer no opinion, but I frequently notice now, what in my young days I never did—that is, boys and girls wearing spectacles—and whenever I meet a group of children and see amongst the number one with face pale and attenuated, I say to myself (and I hope smokers will forgive me), if I could see the father of that child I would see him with a meerschaum stuck in his mouth. I can easily imagine that oft resort to the pipe has a soothing influence, but may not that soothing charm be at the expense of the energy of the individual? Its excessive use amongst the Turkish people has caused them to become so effete that they have been termed the "sick man."

As to present practice of the cigarette amongst the rising generation, words of advice would be thrown away upon those given to the indulgence, but to those who have not yet begun, I say abstain! abstain! as you value your health and happiness. With reference to this universal habit of smoking, we have one saving point; our women do not smoke, and if the time should ever come when they indulged in it, in the same manner as the men now do, it would be about time for another flood.

JUNIUS.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

[Correspondence of THE COLONIST].

Very much has been said in reference to the development of the country. You cannot take up a newspaper, nor listen to the conversation of a public man, but you hear the same old story, set to the well-known tune. It is interesting, and sometimes amusing, to hear or read the various statements made. The *Empire* records one now as saying that "the great industries of the province are, and always must be, mining, fishing and lumbering." But surely, these are not the only great industries? Why ignore the main staff of the country? Have we not had a long experience in gold mining? Doubtless coal mining is a source of wealth and prosperity. Then add to this the fishing and lumbering industries, and yet you obtain an inadequate summary. Agriculture must ever be a chief industry of every prosperous country. Manufactures, backed by a protective tariff, will follow by degrees.

Twenty-five years ago, British Columbia was so much engaged in gold mining that any surface that did not contain the precious metal was passed over as of little worth. Few had time or inclination to settle on the finest land the country could offer. And when the diggings were "played out," the thousands passed on, and cursed as they went; yet the country was in no sense improved, except by their room.

Decay in the gold mining industry and, more recently, progress in railway construction, led many to turn their attention to "mother earth." The axe of the pioneer began to be heard on every side, and in many instances right well has he done his work. In some localities that sturdy race has given place to what we may term the "gentleman farmer,"—to men of intelligence and education, but with not over-much practical knowledge of "mother earth."

It is very easy to find fault with a man's "farm"—to say that this and that ought to have been done; that a mistake has been made here or there. Why not have cleared this or that? Why not burn off this? Then, again, men do not like to have faults pointed out to them; yet if by any indirect way you can open their eyes to faults, they will copy and improve. Much might be done in this respect by agricultural societies and by classes in schools.

We know that a great portion of the surface of this Island is at present unproductive; that even timber fit for milling purposes is in limited quantities—in patches, or unreachable. These lands are not in the hands of speculators, but belong either to the government or to the railway company, and no doubt both would be glad to see them occupied.

In order to facilitate this object, let us inquire into the use of this tract of earth. But, on the outset, I am met with the objection, that there is so much waste and mountain. If nature had a voice which the objector could understand, he would hear her scornfully cry, "Waste, what do you mean by waste? If you are ignorant of its value, yet that does not prove it worthless. Every acre of land would produce a crop if you knew what is adapted for each particular spot."

But as this fact has not been ascertained, and the settler dare not risk the experiment, thousands of acres lie dormant, unremunerative, and would-be settlers go elsewhere. We need not wonder that such is the case, when we consider that older countries have had overcrowded populations, yet at the same time thousands of acres of swamp and waste. It is only a few years ago that Prussia conceived the idea of utilizing her swamps and wastes.

The United States has always looked upon her agricultural interests as a chief source of wealth. Canada is slowly taking timely warning. It is not a good sign when husbandry is pushed to one side; when there is little inquiry for land; when vegetables and fruits are imported; when chicken feed is grown in a neighboring state.

The experience of settlers on this island proves that a vast variety of the most valuable products rewards the labours of man. Experimental farms, if started within reasonable time, would be of great benefit to the surrounding district in which each one is established.

British Columbia is a very extensive country—too vast to derive good from tests on one farm. Vancouver Island has a different climate to that of the mainland, also a very different soil. Each locality requires different tillage. Again, the island is humid, with summers and winters temperate, while the mainland has greater extremes. The climate west of the Cascades is different to that on the east of that range. Experiments tried in one place would mislead in each case. I know from experience that cattle from the Similkameen deteriorate on the Fraser. The fauna and flora differ on island and mainland. Experiments at Agassiz will be of no benefit to Vancouver Island, nor east of the Cascades, but doubtless of utility to the neighborhood of Chilliwack.

An experimental farm is needed immediately on the island and one east of the Cascades. In the selection of an experimental farm I would like to know what is chiefly aimed at. Is it local or general benefit? Where it will be as much self-sustaining as possible, and in view of which, to get the best land, and ready for the plow?

I would prefer that the promoters, to some extent, begin with the forest and virgin earth. In fact level prairie does not meet the case required. Every person knows that good soil will produce a crop, but many want to know about indifferent soils and the various kinds of soils; how to work these to advantage, and what is adapted for each. The writer, in the early days, was no stranger to Agassiz farm. He remembers on one occasion ordering his Indians to pull up at the mineral springs (now St. Alice's Hotel) and shaving with the hot water flowing at his feet; all that region then unoccupied; but as it is many years since, I am not familiar with the exact spot selected, so that I cannot form an opinion. Hence, I may inquire, Does the spot selected give that variety of soil, etc., necessary for experimenting in order to benefit a locality having different soil, etc.? I maintain that a farm with one kind of soil can not meet the case required. There must be variety, otherwise how can it be ascertained how certain kinds of grain will grow on different soils on the same farm? Again, some persons may wish to know what grasses are best for gravelly soil; peat, alluvial deposit, vegetable deposit, swamp, beach (gravelly and shale); also what clovers. A natural stream is also required to prove the effect of irrigation, also a winter overflow, by freshet or otherwise, on a few acres; also, we may wish to know what roots and plants are most adapted for each of these soils.

The experimental farm ought to have different levels, in order to ascertain what to grow on each flat and side beach. It should have various aspects, especially in experimenting on the growth of fruit trees. We would like to know the effect of the same kind of fruit trees planted in different levels and aspects; for instance, apple trees, etc., planted on side benches, facing southeast, southwest, northeast, or any other point, and what kind prosper best in each locality. But this cannot be done unless the farm possesses the natural formations.

Again, it is not difficult to grow a crop on good land, but some one may wish to know what will grow to advantage on certain spots of this island, which no settler with small means dare test. Another important item for demonstration is, what land ought to be cleared, and what should grow shrub, scrub, or brush; how can shale land be made most remunerative? Is it good for cultivation? It is not good for even pine trees; but if the experimental farm has no shale how can this be known. Many other practical matters might be renumerated; insects, bugs, and pests will be found more or less everywhere.

Rust and smut in grain require deep investigation to meet with satisfaction in reference to seed and soil.

Disease in potatoes can easily be produced, but plant on different soils and tell us what kinds are least subject to disease; what kind to plant on high land and what more safely on low. Any kind will be good on some soils and in some localities.

It will be seen that to have successful experiments there are required variety of soil, elevation, aspect, also water, on the same farm; and then you can instruct to a certainty such localities possessing the like kind.

A settler can then set to work reclaiming his land, sowing his seeds, and planting his orchard without buying his experience at a ruinous rate.

There are thousands of acres of land on this island adapted for something, but what that good thing is ought to be found out. Nature's bounties are distributed—Nature knows nothing of waste; she cannot be responsible for the ignorance of man; yet poor men, and especially those with families, who have to depend on the product of their hard toil, aim at something certain. They would be blameable, to say the least, to try experiments. Hence land lies unoccupied. Surely the owners of these lands, if only for their own benefit, would be wise in taking such an important matter in hand.

Let the government go vigorously to work and carry out the conditions of her charter—"*subdue it.*" The railway company might be induced to join in the operation. It is no use waiting for Canada in every matter, she can afford to wait, but the Island can ill afford to wait a season. Let an experimental farm be established on the Island, and let a parcel of land be selected, such, as has been pointed out, such spots exist, although they are rare; the work might be commenced this autumn, without waiting a season.

The writer trusts that these suggestions may be taken in the same spirit in which they are written, and if they will in any measure arouse the readers of your valuable paper to a sense of the importance of the question involved, he will feel fully repaid for the feeble scratch of his rusty pen.

D. H.

FROM THE ARCTIC.

Arrival of the "Rush" in San Francisco—The Thetis on Her Way to Victoria With the Late Archbishop Seghers' Remains—The Sealing Schooner Vanderbilt High and Dry at Sank Harbor—The Yukon Miners Brought Down from St. Michael's.

The San Francisco *Bulletin* of the 2nd instant contains the following interesting news from the Arctic region:

From the United States revenue steamer Rush, Capt. Shepard, commanding, the following news is brought from the Arctic: The vessel left Oonalaska Sept. 18th and Choumagin Island September 21st.

On or about Sept. 5th at Land Point, Papoff Island, Louis Sharp shot and killed Wm. H. Dingley, a native of Maine, aged 65. He also at the same time shot and seriously, although not fatally, wounded James O'Brien, agent in charge of Lynde & Hough's fishing and trading station at Sand Point. O'Brien was shot below the eye, the ball passing out at the neck, just grazing the windpipe. He was taken to Unga Island and treated by Dr. Call of the Alaska company's steamer Dora and thence to Oonalaska. On his recovery he will probably return to San Francisco by the Alaska company's steamer St. Paul.

The United States steamer Thetis, Captain Emory, from the Arctic, arrived in Oonalaska Sept. 17th. All hands were reported well. The Thetis coaled ship at Oonalaska and sailed on the 20th of September for Sitka to land Governor Swineford of Alaska Territory; thence she sailed to Victoria, B.C., to land the body of the late Archbishop Seghers, murdered by Frank Fuller on the Upper Yukon in the winter of 1886-87.

The schooner Vanderbilt, owned by Dodge & Brun of this place, is reported high and dry at Sank Harbor. She parted her anchor chains during the heavy northwest gale of September 12th to 15th and was beached. No lives were lost.

The schooner Helen Bluhm has sailed for San Francisco, and the schooner O. S. Fowler sailed from Sand Point September 21st for this port and will land some Indian hunters on the downward trip. Captain Munson is suffering from a severe injury of the hand.

The Rush brings down Captain Furgerson and crew, ten men all told, of the schooner Angel Dolly, from San Francisco, which vessel was hauled on the beach at Ounalaska as unseaworthy.

The Thetis brought from St. Michaels seventy-one miners who had drifted down the Yukon from the gold fields and who were unable to get away from St. Michaels. Fifty-three were taken to Juneau and eight came to San Francisco on the Rush. The arrival of the Thetis at St. Michaels was fortunate, indeed, as only four months' food remained for the nine months of winter which was upon them, and but for the timely arrival of the ship much suffering must have ensued.

John Bremner, who went into the Yukon country with Lieutenant Allen's party, U. S. A., was murdered by Indians last June. The miners captured and lynched his murderers in the following month.

The Thetis left the Arctic September 1st, and all were well on the whaling fleet. The steamers are to the eastward and the sailing