Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1885.

THE SPEECH.

The govenor's speech, read yesterday, differs from many which have preceded it, in that it is lengthy and enters with more minuteness into explanations of matters which the government had in hand during the recess. Without wishing to cast reflections on previous speeches, we may venture to remark that the document now under discussion is far and away the fullest and most comprehensive of the kind that has yet been placed before a British Columbia legislature. After several efforts a government has been formed which do not shirk duty, who are bold and aggressive where the rights of the province are invaded, yet who discuss every question with a proper regard for facts and with consideration for the decencies of life and the feelings of those with whom they are brought into collision. Take the Dominion Liquor Act, for example: Observe the calm yet firm attitude of the government; and mark the result! A complete overthrow of the pretensions of the Dominion and the rehabilitation of the province. In the speech reference is made to the early completion of the Canadian Pacific railway, the actual commencement of work on the Island railway, and the rapid settlement of the public lands along the lines of those thoroughfrres. No fact more forcibly indicates the industry and vigilance of the government than the statement that they have drawn the attention of the Dominion government to the necessity of enlarging the dry dock if that can be done without delaying the work. That it can be effected without entailing a day's delay is a fact patent to everyone; and that it will be enlarged so as to admit the largest ship now afloat, we confidently believe. The eastern and western boundaries of the province, still in doubt, are referred to, and the steps taken for a speedy settlement of the lines will undoubtedly meet with the approval of the house. The unsatisfactory condition of Indian affairs has been brought to the notice of the Ottawa government; the result not being of an altogether satisfactory character. The "hurried and imperfect inquiry" of the Chinese commission is referred to in language which is just saved from being condemnatory. Any one who has watched the efforts of the government to restrict Chinese immigration will readily excuse the feeling of vexation that will make itself manifest. The country asked for and had a right to expect that the fullest investigation would be accorded. In may be that the report of the commission will meet with the approval of this province by acknowledging the evil and suggesting a remedy; but the "hurried" action of the commission would seem to indicate any but a pleasant solution. A clear and concise statement of the reasons that led the government to grant lands to the Canadian Pacific railway connecting their line to Coal Harbor is given. The extension of that line will bring a large tract of government land into the market at prices that will ultimately afford sufficient revenue to discharge the entire debt of the province and place within the control of the government for public improvements the large sums that now go to meet interest and sinking fund. Is not that a dainty dish to set before the taxpayers? Moreover, the terminus is brought 22 miles nearer Victoria than if it had remained at Port Moody; and no islander will find fault with that. The rapid filling up of the country during the past year and the opening of the Kootenay mineral lands is commented upon. Regret is expressed that the Dominion government has not yet recognized the claim of the province to a share of the Halifax fishery award, and in view of the expected termination of the [fishery provisions of the?] Washington treaty the government have asked to be consulted before any new arrangements may be made. We have bracketed five words that are probably a typographical omission. Several important public matters are foreshadowed—among others a new gaol in the city of Victoria—and the welcome announcement is made that the revenue is in excess of the estimate. Taken altogether, the speech must be regarded as a powerful exposition of the policy of the government and a harbinger of the better and brighter days in store for the people of this vigorous and prosperous province.

THE LATE JAMES BETHUNE, Q. C.

Was the son of Angus Bethune, police magistrate for the town of Cornwall. He was born in the county of Glengarry, on the 7th of July, 1840; thus he was only in his forty-fifth year at the time of his death and in the full vigor of manhood. He was educated first at Queen's College, Kingston, afterwards at University College, Toronto, at which latter he graduated as L. L. B. in 1861. In this year he married Elizabeth, daughter of the late Dr. Charles Rattray, of Cornwall, by whom he leaves four children, and in the Easter term of 1862 he was called to the bar for the province of Ontario. He immediately started the practice of his profession in Cornwall, where he remained until 1870. During the last five years of this time he was county crown attorney for the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, a position which he resigned to join the firm of Blake, Kerr & Bethune, Toronto. Afterwards he formed the firm of Bethune & Hoyles, and on the elevation of the late Thomas Moss to the bench he became the head of the extensive firm of Bethune, Osler & Moss. About two years ago this firm was dissolved, and he then formed a partnership with Mr. Marsh, a former partner of Sir John A. Macdonald. In 1871 Mr. Bethune unsuccessfully contested the county of Stormont for the local legislature with Mr. Colquhoun, the former member, who was elected by a majority of five. Mr. Bethune contested the election in the courts under the new election law, and succeeded in unseating Mr. Colquhoun. This was the first election trial before a judge under the new Election Trials Act, and was the beginning of the remarkable success which Mr. Bethune achieved in various election trials afterwards held throughout Ontario. In the new election ordered, which was held in January, 1872, Mr. Bethune was returned, and was re-elected at the following general election in 1875. At the last general election in 1882, for the Dominion, he was prevailed upon, much against his own inclination, to contest the county of Stormont, including Cornwall, against Dr. Bergin, but was unsuccessful. In politics he was in general accord with the liberal party, but while in parliament he showed that he was too independent to give the government a slavish support, and always expressed his convictions in a clear and forcible manner. Had he been spared until the liberals came into office in the Dominion parliament he would undoubtedly have had a choice of a seat in the cabinet, for which he was eminently qualified. The true liberal and broad spirit which he at all times displayed would have been of great assistance to his party. At the bar, by hard work and great natural talents, he rapidly rose until he stood in the front rank among the able professional men of his native province, and he had few peers in the Dominion. In the profession he was a general favorite, and many of his brethren to-day throughout the country will call to mind the kind words of advice and assistance given them while they were mere students or young barristers struggling for a remunerative practice. This advice and assistance were invariably given to those seeking it in a kind and fatherly manner. There is no doubt that had his life been prolonged, in a few years he would have graced one of the highest positions in the judiciary of his native country. He was counsel on either side for the most important cases which have been recently carried to the privy council, one of which was the celebrated case of Caldwell vs. McLaren, which he successfully conducted through its various stages, and the Thrasher case. This case was connected with the streams rights bill and provincial rights. The last celebrated case he conducted was acting for the Dominion government before the supreme court at Ottawa on the question submitted to them as to the jurisdiction of the license system, whether it was in the Dominion parliament or the local legislation. The country by his death loses one of her best and ablest sons. He was a true friend, a dutiful son, a faithful father. In every way he "wore the white flower of a blameless life," remarkably hospitable, genuinely kind, very unassuming and thoroughly gentlemanly in all his instincts. During his too short lifetime he was universally beloved and respected, and leaves behind an uncommonly wide circle of sorrowing friends. We tender his family and immediate relatives our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement, and trust that strength may be given them to bear the heavy trial with which for them the old year has ended.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

Lord Northbrook has been driven into projecting a large naval expenditure by the vigorous attacks of the Pall Mall Gazette upon the present condition of the navy. Lord Northbrook proposes to spend. £5,525,000 on the navy over and above the expenditure contemplated a few months ago. The Pall Mall Gazette instituted a comparison between the English and French navies. It pointed out their relative strength according to a system of classification which it gave. Lord Northbrook went into a discussion of the whole subject. His speech is very full, and it would seem to be very satisfactory. He says that it is true the French are building more war ships than usual, but that it is because they discontinued only recently building wooden ships plated with iron, a kind of ship the construction of which was abandoned by England many years before. Of modern built ships fit for fighting the English have 30 of 210,430 tons burden, and the French 19 of 122,-826 tons. Of obsolete ships the English have 16 of 115,520 tons, and the French 12 of 56,096 tons, and these facts Lord Northbrook states on the authority of the Lords of the Admiralty. Lord Northbrook declared that the English have been spending more money in strengthening the navy under the present government than was spent under its predecessor. And of the sum which we have named Lord Northbrook proposes to spend £3,-100,000 on new ships, £1,600,000 for new naval guns, and £825,000 in fortifying coaling stations. It is proposed with the first of these sums to build four ironclads of over 10,000 tons each with armor plating 18 inches in thickness on the side, and carrying two turret guns of 110 tons each, one eighteen tons rear gun and 12 six inch guns in a steel protected battery. These ships are to have a speed of fifteen and a half knots an hour. It is proposed to build two torpedo rams of 5,000 tons each; five belted cruisers of 5,000 tons each, having power of steaming seventeen knots an hour; ten scouts of 1,500 tons each, and 30 first-class torpedo boats. The navy of England is equal to that of any two powers, and many think it should be equal to the naval strength of all the rest of Europe combined.

THE DOMINION LIQUOR ACT.

Our exclusive dispatches from Ottawa brings good news for the liquor dealers. The Dominion liquor act has been declared *ultra vires* in so far as it applies to the retail trade. The result of the appeal will show to the province how sound the views of the government were when they decided to oppose the act, and how ably the couse of the province was upheld at Ottawa by Attorney-General Davie. Having been the first newspaper in the province to denounce the act, *The Colonist* takes occasion to congratulate the country on the outcome of the appeal.

THE MUNICIPAL NOMINATIONS.

A list of the candidates nominated at the city hall for Mayor and councillors will be found on the usual page. Of the candidates for mayor it was clearly seen that Mr. Rithet is the favorite, and that he will beat Messrs. Carey and Fell on Thursday—perhaps have a majority over both. This opinion, however, should not lull his friends to inaction. Every laudable effort should be made to roll up as large a majority as possible for Mr. Rithet. The larger the majority the more pronounced the verdict against filthy streets, unequal taxation and other civic abuses.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We regard the contest for city sewerage and a revision of the municipal assessment as practically at end. The nominations developed the singular and gratifying fact that every candidate who has placed himself before the electors is an avowed of the two essentials of health and prosperity. All admitted that the city is in a deplorably filthy condition and that malarial fevers abound. Some favored an inexpensive system of harbor improvements; but it was an enormous responsibility. (Hear, hear.) It was a responsibility from which many others have shrunk. It was a responsibility which very few men would have undertaken. (Hear, hear.) But we got hold of the right men, and we made a contract, under which the road was to have been completed by 1891. So earnest are these gentlemen in their work, so anxious to make it a great success, though not obliged to complete it by 1889, they will finish it by the spring of 1885. (Loud cheers.) In March, 1885, it is confidently expected the road will be running from Montreal to the waters of the Columbia river. (Cheers.) By the autumn the road will be running to the Pacific ocean; and by the spring of 1886 we may consider that we will have railway connection direct from Quebec in summer, and from Halifax in winter, to the Pacific, over lines running through Canadian territory from one end to the other—(applause)

In conclusion I have to return you my heartfelt thanks for this unequalled demonstration. As long as memory holds its seat this reception will remain in my mind. My children will look upon it as the culminating event in their father's career. (Cheers.) Proud as I am of the honour conferred upon me by my Sovereign, which she placed with her own hand upon my breast as a recognition of my services, all must yield to the overwhelming expression of the approbation of the people of Ontario as represented by you on this occasion. My time cannot be long, but I can depart in peace with the consolation and comfort of feeling that the Conservative cause, that is the cause of the country, is safe in your hands, and in the hands of those who will be governed and influenced by you. I appeal to the young Conservatives of the country to put their shoulders to the wheel. We old men are disappearing from the stage, but we leave behind us young and vigorous men who will fight the battle as enthusiastically and successfully as we have done, although I shall not be here to see it. I shall rest my head upon the pillow to-night with the confidence that for long after I have gone the Conservative cause is safe; the country is safe in the hands of men like these I have now the honour of addressing. [Loud and prolonged cheering.]

Notices of Motion.

The following notices were placed on the board at the house on Monday:

Mr. Duck—To move for an endorsement of the anti-Chinese petition now in the hands of Mr. Shakespeare, M. P.

To move that it is advisable that the James Bay flats be conveyed to the city for municipal purposes.

For a select committee to inspect and report on the condition of Victoria gaol.

To ask for information concerning the title of Alex. Garvin to 160 acres of land on Baynes Sound.

To ask under what authority did the government dispose of by public auction certain town lots situated in James Bay ward, in the city of Victoria, during the past year, and under what statute were they enabled to grant bona fide titles thereto?

To ask if steps have been taken to secure a transfer of Mount Douglas reserve to the city of Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Smithe—On Wednesday next, to move the following resolution: That this house approves of the agreement which the government have entered into with the Canadian Pacific railway syndicate relative to the extension of the railway to, and the establishment of the terminus at Coal Harbor and English Bay.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD.

CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION

To Celebrate the Premier's Return

And the 40th Anniversary of His Entry Into Public Life.

(Toronto Mail, Dec. 18.)

The Conservative gathering yesterday was probably the most notable Canadian political event of recent times. The occasion was an extraordinary one. It was a greeting to a great political leader who has served his country in parliament for forty years, who has led a united and victorious party for thirty years and who has occupied a cabinet position for a quarter of a century. No public man of modern times has been so prominently before his country—and for so long a period—as was the Premier of Canada. No statesman has been connected with so many great measures having for their object the improvement of the condition of the people as has Sir John Macdonald. * * * * The delegates to the convention commenced to arrive in the city on Tuesday night. They came in such great numbers from as far west as Winnipeg and as far east as Quebec, that by evening the entire available hotel accommodation of the city was taken. It is estimated that there were six or seven thousand delegates in the city and about four thousand in the crowded opera house. The audience was an enthusiastic one. Mr. D'alton McCarthy opened the proceedings by nominating Mr. M. R. Meredith, leader of the Opposition in the Ontario legislature, chairman of the convention. The nomination was received with cheers and the chairman then spoke at length on the object of the present gathering, which was to honor their great chieftain and also to arrange for the formation of a Liberal-Conservative Association.

Hon. J. B. Plumb then came forward to move the adoption of the address to Sir John from the Conservative party.

M. A. E. Clarke, M. P. P., seconded the resolution. The motion was adopted unanimously with loud applause.

The Chairman—While we are waiting for Sir John I will ask that the addresses from the different constituencies be handed in now, so that we may save time.

Addresses were accordingly handed in from the various constituencies. Many of them were beautiful works of art, more particularly those of Algoma and Cornwall.

SIR JOHN'S ARRIVAL.

Shortly after two o'clock Sir John Macdonald entered the building, and his appearance on the platform, accompanied by Sir Hector Langevin, Sir David Macpherson, his Worship the Mayor, and other gentlemen, was the occasion of indescribable enthusiasm. The vast audience cheered itself hoarse, hats were thrown up, delegates rose in their seats, the banners from the dress circle fluttered, while, to add to the interest of the occasion, the fair ladies in the boxes waved their handkerchiefs as demonstratively as any of those in the audience. The cheering was again and again taken up, it finally subsiding after a venerable looking farmer in the audience had stood up and called, "Let's give him a tiger." The tiger was given in due course, and then the audience resumed their seats.

The Chairman addressing the Premier, then said—Sir John Macdonald, I have been directed by the unanimous voice of this meeting to present to you this address:—

To the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, M. P., P. C., K. C. B., D. C. L., Q. C. B.

RIGHT HON. SIR,—At the close of the fortieth year since your entrance into public life, your friends and supporters in Ontario—assembled in convention from every constituency of the province, and representing alike those who have followed your fortunes from old time and those who have grown into manhood and impressed in political knowledge during your career—desire to address to you this public expression of their cordial congratulation.

* * * *

It is with the pride becoming to British subjects that we find this happy event coincident with the increase in those distinguishing honors by which the Crown has on this as on many former occasions, recognized and rewarded the services of a life devoted to the advancement of British interests and the strengthening of the bulwarks of British power on the continent, by the foundation, government and development of the Dominion of Canada.

The address then reviewed with expressions of admiration and esteem, the many public services of Sir John during his long public career, and concluded thus:—

And we, your followers, your friends, counting our years from old time, and counting them only long enough to qualify us for giving you the support of citizenship—wish on this occasion to express to you our joy in your remarkable health, our gratitude to the Crown for the honors bestowed upon you, our prayers to Heaven for length of days for you and yours, for continued health and prolonged power, and renewed opportunities of benevolent and brilliant statesmanship. We conclude by expressing our conviction in language which it was your privilege of genius to employ, "that there has never been in this land a man who has given more of his time, more of his health, more of his heart, and more of his intellect, to the service of the people of Canada."

THE PREMIER.

Sir John Macdonald—Mr. Meredith and gentlemen, I would indeed be unreasonable if I did not receive this address and this cordial greeting with feelings of the deepest emotion. I can assure you, gentlemen, that during my long and varied career no moment of my life can approach to the culmination of all the various kindnesses and all the honors that have been bestowed upon me from crown and people—no instance in my life, I say, can at all approach to the gratification with which I receive this greeting. (Cheers.) To have been in parliament and in public life for forty long years; to have fought the various battles of the party; to have struggled with strong, able and earnest opponents; to have been the object of attack, of insult, of contumely and of obloquy; to have, with all this, and after all this, at the end of my career a greeting such as this; to receive such assurances of your kindness—I may say, of your affection—(loud cheers)—to hear the eloquent language in which my services have been spoken of in the address you have just read, make me indeed a proud man. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, Mr. chairman and gentlemen, I must say, that my feelings are commingled. This is not only a great and glorious incident in my career, but it is also a very solemn one. When I look back through my forty years of public life; when I remember how few remain of those who with me entered full of hope, life, and the earnestness of youth; when I bear in mind that those who do remain are like myself, feeble old men—(cries of "No, no")—when I think I am now approaching, if I have not already approached, the culmination of my career—(cries of "No, no," and a voice, "You'll never die, John A.")—when I think of all this, feelings of a most solemn nature are awakened in my mind. But if most of the friends of my youth have departed I still have the gratification of knowing that they are succeeded by their sons and their grandsons—and that in addressing these I speak to men thoroughly imbued with the feeling of patriotism, the devotion to liberal-conservative and conservative-liberal principles which marked the characters of their ancestors forty years ago, and I have the further consolation as a Canadian and as a party man of knowing that the country and the party are safe in the hands of such men and of those other supporters of mine who are so nobly represented in this present meeting. (Cheers.) I heard a cry just now from one of my friends saying "you will never die." (Laughter.) Gentlemen, I really do believe that those who are in political opposition to me think so too—(renewed laughter)—and I fear though they pray for me and all other like sinners, that in their supplications there is no pious expression of the desire that my life may be long spared. (Loud laughter.) They have no objection that I should go to another and a better world, and that I should not prolong my stay in this one. (Loud laughter.) I am happy, gentlemen, to state to you that your good wishes, with respect to the renewal and the continuance of my health, have been to a very great extent realized. (Loud cheering.) Thanks to a good conscience and to Sir Andrew Clark, I come back to you nearly as good as new—(cheers and laughter)—a little the worse for wear to be sure—(laughter)—but still able to stand the battle for a few years longer. (Cheers.) I was much amused, gentlemen, when in England to read a sentence in a Toronto newspaper, stating that the position of the opposition was simply this, "If John A.'s stomach gives in, then the opposition will go in—(loud laughter)—but if John A.'s stomach holds out, then we will stay out." (Continued laughter.) You will be glad to know that there are strong indications that they will stay out. (Hear, hear.) I think, gentlemen, it will be admitted that since 1844, when I entered parliament, Canada has made some progress. (Hear.)

Sir John then entered into a synopsis of the political history of the country, the many changes and improvements that had taken place and discussed at length the present condition and interest of the country. He showed that during the 40 years of his public life, the Liberals had only been in power thirteen years, so that the progress of the country must be attributed in great part to the wise government of the Conservatives.

The French Canadian troubles of Sir John's early days were then spoken of and the present cordial relations contrasted. The great increase in population was noted—from 1,600,000 to 5,000,-000; the progress in education; the increase in the wealth and credit of the Dominion; the improvement and increase in the merchant marine and the general advance in all branches of trade. In 1884 the imports and exports of the provinces now constituting Canada amounted to $33,000,000; in 1883 the aggregate trade was over 230 millions. The total amount of manufactures exported in 1844 was $6,220; in 1883 it aggregated $3,500,000. On the subject of commercial relations with the United States Sir John said:

I may here speak of the approaching abrogation of the fishery clauses of the Washington treaty. There is a feeling, a very considerable feeling, in the Maritime Provinces that the cancellation of the fishery clauses will greatly affect them, and you hear some people in their despair and their apprehension talking very foolishly, I think, of going down on their knees to the United States and asking for a continuance of that treaty. Now, gentlemen, the moral of our past experience is this, that the fishing interests of the Maritime Provinces, though they may be temporarily affected if the Americans persist in their course, will not be so for long. (Hear, hear.) It may for a short time compel them to use middlemen in the sale of their fish, and that will be all, while we will have secured to us the exclusive right to fish in British American waters. (Applause.) No course is more suicidal; no course shows a more absolute want of common sense in any negotiations with so astute a nation as the people of the United States as to show anxiety. (Applause.) If we go down upon our knees to them in supplication they will unless we have reciprocity, and that without reciprocity annexation would follow, the Americans, who are a proud people and who believe they have a mission to govern this continent, will say, "Very well, the best way of making Canada a part of the United States is simply by refusing you what you ask; you therefore, cannot have it." (Applause.) I believe the course of my government is the proper one. We say to the Americans, "We would be happy to continue our reciprocal relations; we would be happy to increase our commercial relations. We are willing to discuss the question of a Reciprocity Treaty on the most liberal terms consistent with our own interests. We know perfectly well that you will not do what is contrary to your own interests; you cannot expect us to do what is contrary to ours. Let us sit down and see if we can make an arrangement. If we can it is well; if we cannot, there is no harm done. You can take your course, we must take ours." (Hear, hear.)

In regard to the Canadian Pacific railway, after vindicating the course of the government Sir John said: "Well, gentlemen, we not only carried the National Policy but we had to take up the almost abandoned threads of the Canadian Pacific railway. You know what we have done. Instead of fiddling about the Neebing hotel or about lake St. Francis we made a contract with a company of capatalists whom we knew would build the road. True we gave them liberal terms; but it was an enormous responsibility. (Hear, hear.) It was a responsibility from which many others have shrunk. It was a responsibility which very few men would have undertaken. (Hear, hear.) But we got hold of the right men, and we made a contract, under which the road was to have been completed by 1891. So earnest are these gentlemen in their work, so anxious to make it a great success, though not obliged to complete it by 1889, they will finish it by the spring of 1885. (Loud cheers.) In March, 1885, it is confidently expected the road will be running from Montreal to the waters of the Columbia river. (Cheers.) By the autumn the road will be running to the Pacific ocean; and by the spring of 1886 we may consider that we will have railway connection direct from Quebec in summer, and from Halifax in winter, to the Pacific, over lines running through Canadian territory from one end to the other—(applause)

The Metlakahtla Commissioners.

The report of the Metlakahtla commissioners was laid before the house yesterday. It is a bulky volume and contains the evidence taken by the commissioners and correspondence relating thereto. The commissioners consider the causes of disquietude may be classed under the following heads:—

1. The claim of the Indians to have recognized their title to all the land.
2. The severance between Mr. Duncan and the Church Missionary Society.
3. The fact that the two acres at Metlakahtla, known as Mission Point, is not part of the Tsimpsean Indian Reserve; that it is at present in the occupation of Bishop Ridley as temporary agent for the Church Missionary Society, to which Society it was promised some twenty years ago by Governor Douglas, at the instance of Mr. Duncan.
4. The Indian Council at Metlakahtla.

The report proceeds that the idea of the existence of an Indian title and of its non-extinguishment in British Columbia originated in remarks made by Lord Dufferin when, as governor-general, he visited British Columbia in 1876, to discuss the claims of British Columbia against the Dominion. Those remarks, which the commissioners believe were wholly foreign to the mission of the governor-general, have been sedulously inculcated in the Indian mind by some of the missionaries, who appear to have been ignorant of the constitutional law upon the subject. For a long time Mr. Duncan's teaching was against an Indian title; but after the severance of his connection with the church missionary society, an impetus seems to have been given to the question of the Indian title. Care is taken to state that Bishop Ridley's adherents have not been parties to any of the disturbances and to Mr. Duncan's influence is ascribed the absence of alcoholic stimulants among the Indians. The Indian council at Metlakahtla is denounced as illegal and productive of trouble. The story of Bishop Ridley having been shot at is declared to be incorrect. All the recent troubles on the northwest coast are traced to the Metlakahtla difficulty. Two courses are stated to be open to the British Columbia government.

1st. To ask the Dominion to buy out the interests of the church missionary society, in their improvements, upon Mission Point, and upon the ground, with a view of turning the two acres and the improvements over to the Indians, as part of the reserve. If this course be adopted, the Indians should be given plainly to understand it is purely a concession, and before it be resolved upon the government would have to consider whether the Indians generally would not interpret the concession as a recognition of the Indian title to lands throughout the country.

2nd. To assert—and if necessary, by force of arms—the right of the province to the two acres, by the survey of it a government land.

The commissioners beg to express the opinion that the survey of Mission Point by the direct instruction of the Lieutenant-Governor, will be resented by the native mind as the assertion of the Province; and they urge, as a matter of necessity, and in the interests of the province, the prosecution of that survey.

Should the government decide to adopt the second course, it will be expedient that the survey should be conducted with the presence of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war at Metlakahtla, and that the officer in command should have specific instructions to land an armed force in the event of the survey being obstructed, so that it may be accomplished, and life and property protected.

The commissioners consider it highly expedient that the management of Indian affairs should be transferred to the British Columbia government and conclude: While the present Indian law exists, every effort should be made to see it carried out. The Metlakahtla Indians should not be allowed to defy the authority of the Indian Act, or reject the supervision of an Indian agent. It is remarkable that this has been allowed upon the coast of the northwest, when in the interior of the province and elsewhere on the seaboard little difficulty has been experienced with the Indians. The evidence disclosed upon the enquiry leads the commissioners to believe the Metlakahtla Indians were advised to reject the Indian Act and the Indian agent.

The Metlakahtlans and the Bishop.

TO THE EDITOR:—To judge by the extract from the Parish Magazine in your columns this morning, the ecclesiastical authorities, after a long and judicious seclusion, are coming to the front again, though, I fear, in the same haughty, inflexible spirit as ever. They should surely, in common decency, have waited for the report of the commissioners before repeating worn-out calumnies and disproved accusations, and vilifying the men whose name they were once glad to conjure with when they wanted to get money out of the pockets of church people in England.

The present article is in direct sequence with what I have before stated, namely, that the church authorities here are the real effectual cause of all the troubles at Metlakahtla, beginning with the fatal gift of a bishop to that simple-minded community.

Here is where the shoe pinches the ecclesiastical foot. If Bishop Ridley is removed what becomes of the fundamental principle on which the edifice of the church is sought to be reared? The "successor" is nowhere. Church people who, years ago, thought this dogma mere *brutum fulmen*, have since felt that it was a serious turn of the ecclesiastical screw, and a real parody of the famous mot of Louis XIV, "L'etat, c'est moi." L'eglise, c'est moi, the bishop is the church, is the key note to all the trouble. The Metlakahtlans dare to think otherwise. Hence the hint and encouragement from headquarters to Bishop Ridley to stand his ground; and hence the appeal to the government to back him up with a "firm hand." More men of war! I should think the government have had enough of this kind of prompting.

Are these the days to invoke the secular arm to prop up spiritual power? What a frightful page of history does the suggestion of bringing "this misguided people to a better mind" open up! Their swords are softer than oil yet be they drawn swords.

The time is surely gone by for recognition of any absolute *Ego*, whether in church or state, even though the victims are only Indians.

But every thing else pales before the latest revelation of the ecclesiastical mind. Not content with fomenting religious discord, they must strike a blow at the *industries* of Metlakahtla. Oh! how do the ecclesiastics pant for the very dust on the heads of the poor. Oh! ye boasters of church privileges and church preeminence, whose mouths are full of the name of Him who once worked at the bench, would ye blow up the very workshops of Metlakahtla? Unhappy Indians! Your troubles are not yet over. Every day a new engine is forged for your destruction. Cease your efforts after the blessings of civilization. Your bitter foes will never cease to hunt you down. They would rather see you idle, starving, lawless vagabonds, than industrious law-abiding Christians on whose foreheads their mark is not.

A.

9th January, 1885.

Lord Randolph Churchill.

TO THE EDITOR:—Noticing this rising statesman, now on a trip for improvement of his health, will shortly arrive in San Francisco, would it not be well if arrangements were entered into for extending an invitation to him to visit this province; and during his stay amongst us favor our public address upon that closer alliance of the colonies with the Mother Country advocated in the consolidation of the British empire, which so many at the present time have at heart and the successful accomplishment of which has now become the subject of such interesting discussion?

W. K. B.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

KINGSTON, Dec. 26.—On Sunday Cook's church will be opened. It is a handsome stone structure, which cost $12,000, and the Irish Presbyterians are very proud of it.

OTTAWA, 25.—Information of further robberies of mail's along the Rocky Mountain Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been received by the Postoffice Department, but the Government and railway company think that the publication of particulars will tend to thwart their efforts to catch the robbers.

The thermometer marked 45 degrees below zero on Tuesday morning at Winnipeg.

Paris is agitating for the removal of the county seat to that place from Brantford.

It is understood the customs department will order the restoration of Mme. Mandelbaum's jewelry.

TORONTO, Dec. 12.—John C. Fyfe & Co., general storekeepers, Woodbridge, assigned to W. E. Ainge, of this city, this afternoon. Liabilities heavy.

Rev. Kennedy Creighton, pastor of the King Street East Circuit Methodist Church, and his wife, celebrated their golden wedding to-day. Amongst those present were Rev. John B. Creighton, Wauneta, Wis., and George Creighton, (sons), Montreal, James Creighton, (brother), London, and Mrs. Ald. Harvie, (daughter). The old couple received many handsome presents. Mr. Creighton entered the ranks of the Methodist ministry nearly half a century ago.

Another sensation was caused at Winnipeg by the reported disappearance of Ald. Wilson, ex-chairman of finance. It has been stated that he feared to appear before the commission which sits this week. Wilson was confined to his house by illness, and was not present at the committee meeting on Saturday.

John Gillespie, one of the leading wholesale merchants of Toronto, will be ordained shortly in the Church of England, and will work in Trinity Church.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—George Kingswill, of the editorial staff of the Sun, died last night of heart disease, aged 45.

MONTREAL, Dec. 25.—The City and District Savings Bank has distributed $10,800 to the city charities.

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—John Grey was brought from the central prison this morning to the police court to receive sentence for escaping from prison in May last. (He was recaptured in September.) Grey in February last was sentenced to six months by Mayor Frost, of Perth, for vagrancy. He stated in court to-day that at the time of his arrest he had $85 in his pocket and owned 45 acres of land, and that Mayor Frost had sentenced him to a long term out of spite because he (Grey) had assaulted a friend of the mayor's. The police magistrate remanded him till Dec. 19, and will make inquiries as to the truth of his statement.

The remains of the late Rev. Dr. Carroll, one of the oldest Methodist ministers, who died Saturday, was taken from here to St. Catharines for interment.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—This morning at the session of the county judge's criminal court, before his Honor Judge Elliott, the charge against Rev. Timothy O'Connell of being insane and incapable of pleading came up for hearing. His Honor expressed his opinion that Mr. O'Connell is not insane, and that he is not a fit subject for the asylum, and upon these grounds he granted a certificate and issued an order to the jailor ordering his discharge forthwith.

OTTAWA, Dec 24.—Mr. Charles Weber, of the Finance Department, died at his residence this morning.

MONTREAL, Dec. 27.—The harbour receipts for this year are $240,000, only $8,000 less than last year, notwithstanding the practical abolition of dues on grain up to the 1st of September.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—Osborne, convicted of manslaughter at the Aylmer Assizes, has been sentenced to 14 years in the Penitentary.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 28.—James Balfour dropped dead while attending Christmas service in the Methodist Church at Meadow Lee, Man.

Patrick McCormack, a butcher, of St. Boniface, Man., shot himself on Friday night owing to financial difficulties. Some hope is entertained for his recovery.

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—The Rev. Dr. Rice died at his residence, St. Mary street, yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

CAYSLER, Dec. 23.—About five o'clock last evening Henry McCabe, while chopping in the bush half a mile distant from this place, was instantly killed by a tree falling on him. His skull was split open and both arms broken.

HAMILTON, Dec. 57.—The will of the late Bishop Fuller, of the Diocese of Niagara, is offered for probate. The bulk of his property, over $425,000, is bequeathed to his wife, Mrs. Fuller, and she is made the sole executrix of the will.

MONTREAL, Dec. 26.—The liabilities of Kemp & Co., whose assignment was announced yesterday, will amount to $50,000, or double what was at first expected.

TORONTO, Dec. 27.—The janitor of the Amherstburg public schools, Mrs. Louisa Green, was found dead on the floor of the schoolhouse at midnight Tuesday by her son, who went into the building to see what detained his mother. Mrs. Green was 58 years of age and and had been subject to attacks of heart disease for some years.

John Greenfield, a lad 19 years old, son of Mr. George Greenfield, residing near St. George, was leading a colt Monday afternoon, when coming to a creek the animal refused to cross. Mr. Greenfield, the lad's uncle, who was with him, then hit the colt when the animal gave a sudden jump, striking young Greenfield in the chest and knocking him down. His breast was completely crushed in and his skull broken. He only survived his injuries or an hour.

TORONTO, Dec. 18.—Deputations from the Toronto and Hamilton Boards of Trade waited upon Sir John Macdonald this morning with reference to an insolvency act. Sir John stated that he was in accord with them, and advised them to bring the matter before Parliament, when his Government would give it early and careful attention.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—It is rumored that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has now got full control of the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Railway.

The death of Senator Muirhead leaves six vacancies in the Senate, four of which must be filled from Ontario, one from QUEBEC, and one from New Brunswick.

HAMILTON, Dec. 23.—Rev. Chas Hamilton, of Quebec, and Dean Carmichael, of Montreal, are spoken of as a successor to the late Bishop Fuller. The clergy favor Hamilton; the laymen Carmichael.

OWEN SOUND, Ont., Dec. 31.—Mrs. Alex. McKenzie, of the township of Keppel, committed suicide last night by hanging.

TORONTO, Dec. 23.—Phillips & Lean, builders, have failed. Liabilities $10,-000; assets not yet known.

TORONTO, Dec. 19.—The Special Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church considered today the emergency which has arisen through the death of Rev. Dr. Rice, and decided unanimously to fill the vacancy without incurring the expense of calling a special session of the General conference.

Rev. John A. Williams, D. D., was accordingly appointed senior general superintendent to the next regular meeting of the conference.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland was appointed to supply Dr. Rice's place as delegate to the next session of the British Conference.

HALIFAX, Dec. 18.—J. R. McDonald & co., jewelers, of Halifax and Kentville have assigned.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—Three or four weeks Mr. J. A. Bouthillier, a well to-do merchant of Longueuil, was arrested at the instigation of Mr. A. Froideau, a farmer of the same place. He alleged that Bouthillier had stolen $50 from him. The jury returned a "no bill," and Mr. Bouthillier is now taking action for $10,000 in the superior court as damages for false arrest.

The returns of the Canadian Pacific railway are of a most satisfactory nature, notwithstanding the fact that in the early months of the year there was a considerable falling of the traffic. Up to Dec. 21 the receipts were $5,758,-010, against $5,186,021 between the same dates last year, being an increase of $571,989.

MONTREAL, Dec. 16.—A large seizure of dynamite has been made by the customs officials for non-payment of the full duty. The amount seized was twenty tons of dynamite from the Noted co., of Glasgow, to Messrs B. & S. H. Thompson. The value of the shipment is $12,000, and duty $3,000. The Messrs. Thompson have protested.

Duncan McIntyre, since his return from England, has been seriously indisposed through a cold caught on the voyage.

A 9-year old boy named Blanchet died suddenly yesterday from nicotine poisoning caused by excessive use of tobacco.

LONDON, Dec 15.—The MaClary Manufacturing company have dismissed over two hundred employes for thre weeks.

INGERSOLL, Dec. 23.—J. F. Macdonald, barrister, who levanted a few days ago, converted over $40,000 of client's money to his own use.

TORONTO, Dec. 16.—Early this morning the residence of James Allen Farrier, McCaul street, was burglarized, and a gold watch and chain and jewelry valued at about $1,000, was carried off. The burglars left a letter signed "Paul Pry," "Dick Turpin" and "Boston Bill," stating that the police fondly imagined that Garner gang was broken up, but three of them were still at large, and prepared to make their presence felt.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—A sad accident occured on the bay this afternoon. Six children were playing on the ice when it gave way, three of them being drowned. Their names and ages are, Patrick Corbett 9, Robert Corbett 8, who were brothers, James Fallon 9. Much sympathy is felt for the parents of the brothers Corbett, as they have lost five children within eight months.

The amount of customers duty collected at this port for Dec. is $176,929, being a decrease of $45,532 as compared with December 1883.

Burrow Raymond, an old resident died Monday and was buried this afternoon. Almost immediately after the coffin was taken out of the house his widow, who was apparently in good health, dropped down dead. A daughter fell into hysterical fits and her life is despaired of.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—Benjamin Cowan, formerly of the firm of B. D. Tucker & Co., was drowned yesterday.

KINGSTON, Dec. 17,—Mrs. Gregor charged with bigamy, was found guilty yesterday, with a recommendation for mercy.

QUEBEC, Dec. 17.—The residence of Mr. Bolduc, M. P. P., was burned yesterday morning, the family narrowly escaping with their lives. Loss $2,-000, insured.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—The tin stamping factory of Thomas Davidson, of St. Henry, was burnt down this evening about seven o' clock. The building was in ashes in an hour. Loss on building, plant, and stock about $50,000; insurance, $30,000, in the Royal, Western Union, and Commercial companies. About 150 men are thrown out of work.

The Canadian Pacific authorities agreed to regrade the wheat at Port Arthur about which the Farmers' Union raised the objection. The Union has brought an inspector from St. Paul who will proceed to Port Arthur today, and his inspection will be accepted.

SANDWICH, Dec.