

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

To THE EDITOR.—The floods that have been pouring in over the Fraser river lands during the past few days, causing destruction to property and even to life itself, while bringing loss and misery to many unfortunate settlers on the flooded lands, cannot but be regarded as a general calamity, of a most serious character.

For many years the farmers in Matagui, Chilliwack, and other parts affected, have patiently plodded along under the most trying difficulties, chiefly owing to the ever-existing danger of floods.

It is of course well known that various schemes for dyking and reclaiming the flooded lands have been tried, and (save to often) found wanting. Absolute ruin to many, disheartening and discouraging to others, sufficient to deter them from making any further efforts to accomplish a task which can now only be looked upon as hopeless, a very grave matter is thus presented to the country. It goes without saying that our agricultural lands, so far as development are quite inadequate to the requirements of an increasing population.

Large tracts of land in the flooded districts can only be effectively brought into cultivation by a thorough and complete system of dyking, not "sinkerling," but upon a scheme well defined by the most competent experts. The cost of such work, even if considerable, would in time prove a sound investment for the Province, and my object in calling attention to it, is to suggest that an opportunity has now arisen whereby a large and important section of the country can be materially benefited.

Legislation, no doubt, would be necessary to deal with the existing laws pertaining to dyking, but the Government, recognizing a serious responsibility, might seriously consider a scheme for dealing generally with the large sections of land affected by the floods; and to enable it to carry it out could readily borrow its requirements on the districts benefited, by the imposition of a tax for interest and sinking fund.

While fully realizing the fact that the consummation of such a scheme could only be attained by the consent of the property owners, and subsequent legislation, I feel confident that if the matter were taken up and dealt with in a broad and liberal spirit, with that object in view, the benefits to the Province and particularly to the sections interested, would be incalculable. I am confident therefore the country would hail with satisfaction an intimation that early action in this important matter is in contemplation by the Government of the Province.

The above letter of our highly esteemed correspondent contains a timely and very valuable suggestion. He does not waste time in deploring the loss to property and life which the floods are causing. With the courage and the enterprise characteristic of the true Briton he, before the waters have ceased their destructive work, looks about him to see if anything can be done to prevent a recurrence of the misfortune. He fears that private enterprise will not readily undertake to reclaim the flooded lands and build new barriers against the future invasions of the river. He considers that the work can be done most speedily and most effectively by Government, and that, too, without materially adding to the burdens to be borne by the people of the Province. The flooded lands, if properly drained and made safe from inundation by scientifically constructed dykes, would be very valuable indeed, and could now be made to pay the full cost of all improvements. This appears to us a feasible scheme. As the object of the work is not only to add to the cultivable land of the Province, but to preserve property and life from threatened danger and from destruction, it should we think be done by the Government or under the direct supervision of Government.

It is evident that all dykes built to keep out the waters of the Fraser should be built as strong and as well as the skill of man can build them. Those engaged in their construction should not be exposed to the temptation of making money by slighting the work. Capacity to resist the pressure of the water when the river is at its highest point and rushing with the greatest force, should be the only object of the constructors of future dykes. Every part of the work should not only be designed by the highest skill but constructed with the greatest possible care. This can only be done by men who have no commercial interest in the work. It seems to us that such work can be done in such a way by none but the very best men that the Government can employ. It must be borne in mind that this mode of building dykes is not only the best as far as strength and durability are concerned, but the most economical. In view of the damage now being done, the intelligent reader must see that it would have been good economy to have paid a great deal more for building dykes of greater resisting power at Matagui than was paid for those that have just given way.

We believe that a very large majority of the people of this Province, when they think the matter over, will be of opinion that the construction of new dykes as barriers against the encroachments of the Fraser should be undertaken by the Government. And we believe, too, that if the right men are returned to the next Legislative Assembly—men of intelligence, of enlightened views, of enterprise and of experience in carrying out great undertakings—the dyking of the Fraser will be made a public undertaking, and will be carried out in such a way as will ensure to the future inhabitants of the valley of the Fraser river safety both of life and property.

PLATFORM-MAKING.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser appears to be engaged in constructing a new platform for the Opposition. Whether or not it has authority to engage in this work we do not know, but we have no doubt that it sees the necessity of the Opposition having

some kind of policy before it asks the electors to support it at the polls. The Advertiser's scheme of representation contains nothing startlingly original. It is not representation by population, and it is not proportional representation. Its divisions are arbitrary and give the amplest scope for future gerrymandering. In Wednesday's issue it publishes to the world its plank on the Chinese labor question. Here, again, its want of originality is the principal feature. It simply gives its adherence to the state of things that now obtains with regard to employment of Chinese. It excludes them from all works undertaken by Government or to which Government gives its aid, but it leaves private individuals and corporations at liberty to employ them as often and as freely as they see fit. What will the Nansimo Oppositionists think of this part of the News-Advertiser's programme? With regard to representation, the News-Advertiser ignores one of the principal planks of the Union Hall platform, and in the matter of Chinese labor it flies in the face of the Nansimo Opposition programme. It is possible that the editor of the News-Advertiser is assuming the role of dictator to the Opposition? Does he presume to lord it over both the wage-earners of Vancouver and the Oppositionists of Nansimo?

IS IT A REFORM?

One of the changes agitated by persons who think themselves reformers is biennial sessions of provincial legislatures. The provinces of the Dominion, they say, are suffering from too much legislation. They could do very well with fewer laws than they have, and money would be saved by convening the legislature only once in two years. It seems to us that it would be a rather dangerous experiment to permit the governments of provinces to run two years without the wholesome check which the meeting of the Legislature affords. Besides, in a province like British Columbia, where the Legislative Assembly is obliged to do the work which in most of the other provinces is done by municipal bodies, it would be exceedingly inconvenient to allow matters to run for two years without any other authority than that of the Executive Council. Too much, we think, is said about the expense of annual sessions of the Legislature, and too little stress is laid upon the abuses which biennial sessions would be sure to create, and of the inconvenience which the people would suffer from being compelled to allow so long a time to elapse before they could appeal to the Legislature for help in emergencies, and for redress of grievances. Besides, crowding the work of two sessions into one would be the cause of much crude and hasty legislation and an excuse for neglect as well as haste. It seems to us that the money which would be saved by convening the Legislature only once in two years would be more than counterbalanced by the inconveniences and the abuses to which the infrequent meeting of the representatives of the people would be sure to give rise.

SENSELESS POLITICS AND OAMPAIGN LIES.

The Times and the Opposition ought to have better sense than to try to impose upon a sensible public such transparent nonsense as they are regaling their readers with, so as to make points against the Government. They should reflect that the people are not fools, but thinking men and women. For instance, when Mr. Brown found that he must quit politics or the position of postmaster, his retirement was immediately ascribed to the influence of the Local Government.

Then as to the imprisonment of their leader, Mr. Cotton, for contempt of court, in refusing to disclose, upon the demand of his judgment creditor, Mr. Gordon, who are the true owners of the News-Advertiser, a journal edited and published under the exclusive control of Mr. Cotton, it is sought to be laid at the door of Mr. Davis and the Government.

So, with Mr. Yates, who has recently retired from the position of school trustee in Victoria, the public is informed by a correspondent of the Times, last evening, that "a paternal government has declared that School Trustee Yates is unfit and disqualified to render service any longer upon the school board of the city." The truth is that the Attorney-General at the request of the Board of Trustees has given a decided opinion that Mr. Yates is fully qualified to serve as a trustee. The school law very properly provides that a school trustee must be a resident of the district for which he is trustee. If this were not the law, a school trustee for Victoria might reside in Vancouver or Nansimo, and vice versa. With Mr. Yates the case is that he has two locations which may both be termed his residence, one in the city where he carries on his business and resides during the day, the other just outside the city, where he retires with his family after business hours.

Under these circumstances it stands to reason that Mr. Yates is fully qualified for a trustee for Victoria city, under a law which requires that a trustee must be a resident of the city. This is the kind of stuff which Opposition scribblers write up and call their "campaign literature." Some people call them "campaign lies,"—anything for the time being, which may delude the unthinking. But they forget that the unthinking are largely in the minority. This is what accounts for the Times and its party being invariably "sniped under" by the good sense of the people, when election times come to hand.

One might think that the "campaign lie" would hardly be trotted out for service, when dealing with the facts relating to the

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, JUNE 1.

MAY STATISTICS.

Figures Showing the Number of Vessels That Last Month Entered Victoria Harbor.

The Police Court Record—Births, Marriages and Deaths—Customs Returns—Fires.

The figures representing the shipping business of the port of Victoria for the month just ended, are, partly in consequence of the celebration very large. A notable feature of the month has been the inauguration of two new steamboat connections with the city—one by the placing of the George E. Starr on the run between here and Paget Sound ports in opposition to the City of Kingston, and the other by the opening of a second service to Alaska with the steamer Romalis as the competitor for the excursionist business. Steamboasting will no doubt be unusually brisk before this month closes, as vessels on nearly all of the foreign competing lines will be put on faster schedules. The Chinese trade will be fairly active before the end of June, and as passenger traffic may also be expected to pick up in the next few weeks, the prospects for a busy month are bright. Owing to the northern canneries starting up in short time, there is already a strong demand for small steam craft. The returns for May are appended:

Table with columns for Customs Returns, Imports-Dutiable, Free, Total, and Exports-Products of Canada.

The fire record for May is as follows: May 4—7:05 p.m., box 31, fire at one-story frame building, No. 16, Gordon street. Cause, unknown; loss on building, \$400; loss on contents, \$400; total loss, \$800; uninsured.

May 4—7:30 p.m., box 64, fire at West-side, two-story brick building, Government street, Cause, electricity; value of stock and building, \$80,000; loss on building, \$250; loss on stock, \$14,400; total loss, \$14,650. Extinguished with chemicals.

May 14—3 a.m., fire at one-story frame residence, Byron street. Cause, unknown; loss, \$800; outside city.

May 14—8 p.m., still alarm, fire on roof of two-story frame building, No. 16, Douglas street. Cause, sparks; no loss; extinguished with chemicals.

May 23—4:45 p.m., box 15, fire on wharf, property of Muirhead & Mann, Constance street. Cause, unknown; no loss.

Fires during May, 5; loss in city, \$45,450.

The cases dealt with by the city police during the month are described and enumerated under their several heads, below, the list including "annoyance cases" as well as those following arrests made by the members of the force: Drunks, 41; breaking windows, 1; fighting, 2; for lodgings, 9; vagrancy, 6; begging, 2; removing a land mark, 5; Indians in possession of intoxicants, 5; supplying intoxicants to Indians, 3; attempting to do so, 3; necessary witnesses, 3; in possession of stolen property, 2; pocket-picking, 1; malicious injury to property, 1; criminal libel, 1; concealment of birth, 1; of unsound mind, 1; robbery, 3; assault, 7; assaulting the police, 1; using threatening language, 2; refusing to pay car fare, 1; breach of the Revenue act, 1; breach of the Medical act, 1; breach of the Trades Marks act, 2; and breach of city by-laws, 13.

Below are given the vital statistics for the month of May: Births, 64; Marriages, 10; Deaths, 17.

THE SOUTH WARD SCHOOL.

An official visit was paid the new South ward school yesterday afternoon by Dr. Pope, superintendent of education, Mr. W. Ridgway Wilson, the architect, several members of the Public School Board and others interested in the cause of education. General satisfaction with the design and construction of the building was expressed, and the trustees party congratulated each other and the city upon the acquisition of a building so desirable for the accommodation of the school-going children of the South ward. It is expected that the closing exercises of the High and Central schools will this summer be held in the fine assembly room of this new school, where also several of the summer examinations are to be held. The North ward school will not be completed for some weeks yet.

When asked yesterday if he was satisfied with the execution of his design, and if so would give some description of the completed school, Architect Wilson said: "Now that the much abused South ward school building is complete and able to speak for itself to the non-professional mind, a few remarks would not I suppose, be inappropriate. In the first place the number and cubical contents of the various rooms and the total cost of the building having been practically settled by the trustees, I was manifestly to any practical mind that even with the rooms grouped in the most economical way, there were but two courses open to the architect—a comparatively plain building with simple but first-class construction and finish in every detail, or an ornamental building with construction and finish of the cheapest. It seemed to me that the former was the only proper course to pursue, and I noted upon it accordingly. Another important point, which practically formed the key to the whole problem, was that I decided that every classroom should be equally lighted on two sides, and so arranged that in every room the light should be behind and to the left of the pupil, and also that the assembly room—which is estimated to accommodate 500 people—must decidedly be upon the ground floor, and as easy of exit as possible. I might also add that each floor has an entirely separate entrance, and also for cases of emergency there are other exits at either end of the building. There is a separate cloak lobby for each class room and two drinking fountains on each floor, as well as in the playgrounds. There are covered playgrounds for the different sexes under each end of the building, open all round, so that they form a cool shelter from the sun in summer and the rain in the wet season. The centre of the build-

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

ing is devoted to fuel room, warm air furnace and sanitary accommodation, the latter being kept entirely separated for the two sexes. The closets are automatic flush trough closets, thereby preventing any possibility of being put out of order by the children.

"As to the heating arrangements, so much has been said already that I need only say that the system of heating and ventilation is what I looked into most thoroughly, which I looked into most thoroughly before recommending to the trustees. I feel satisfied that with ordinary care it cannot be but a success, and it has at least this advantage, that there is no water in connection with it to freeze just when it is most needed; the system is one that has given general satisfaction in a large number of schools throughout Canada and the United States, including three in the city of Vancouver.

"The question of style is so largely a matter of opinion in a plain building of this kind, that I will not venture to present my view as pleasing an exterior as the funds will allow, and I leave it for the public to form their own opinion as to how well I have succeeded. The contract has I believe been very faithfully carried out by Mr. J. G. Brown, and it is the conclusion of all practical men that a better has not been executed in Victoria. I would say in conclusion that I have been ably assisted by Mr. Thomas Bryce, the clerk of the works.

THE CITY.

VEN. ARCHDEACON SCHUYER, John Anderson, B. A., Rev. P. McF. Macleod and Rev. W. D. Barber have been appointed to act as examiners at the examination of public school teachers for the current year.

Mr. MURPHY, a gentleman discharged from the city sanitarium yesterday morning after ten days' retirement, was so pleased with his treatment that he immediately "lifted" a shawl, and four hours later was back in the same old cell.

The ladies of the St. Andrews Roman Catholic church are arranging a bazaar to be given in aid of the cathedral fund. The date will be somewhere near the 20th of the month, and a specially fine selection of attractive articles will be displayed for sale.

In the provincial police court yesterday afternoon the case of Edwards, charged with assaulting Mr. Reid, came up; the difficulty grew out of a "scrap" on Craigflower road. Edwards was adjudged guilty and given a choice between \$20 or two months.

SEALED tenders, properly endorsed, are invited by the Deputy Minister of Lands and Works up to noon of June 14 for the construction of a public school house at Sidney, North Saanich. The plans and specifications are on view at the residence of Mr. Henry Brethour, and at the Lands and Works office.

The election of officers of Victoria lodge, No. 17, K. of P., took place last evening for the ensuing term, and resulted as below: C. C. J. Randolph, V. C.; G. K. Gilbert, Prelate; F. Robinson, M. of W.; The Lawrence, M. of A.; Wm. Stamer, Trustee; A. MacPherson, the newly elected officers will be installed at the meeting in July.

Application has been made to the courts by Mr. A. R. St. George, acting as the resident representative of the Globe Furniture Co. of Walkerville, Ont., for an injunction to restrain the public school board of the city of Victoria from making use of certain desks purchased from making use of the local firm of Muirhead & Mann, for use in the ward schools. The affidavit of Mr. St. George states that the desks are an infringement upon patents controlled by his firm, and he is authorized by the statement that will be at once taken against Muirhead & Mann and against the Albion Iron Works company under the Patent act. The application for the injunction is to be heard and disposed of Monday.

SOME forty or fifty of the friends of Mr. W. F. Blight, the lacrosse player, assembled at the house of Mrs. Jackson, Cadboro Bay road, last night, to give him a farewell reception prior to his departure for the East. Mr. Blight has accepted a position in his father's piano business, and will give his entire attention in the future. The genial class of the High and Central schools will this summer be held in the fine assembly room of this new school, where also several of the summer examinations are to be held. The North ward school will not be completed for some weeks yet.

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the chairman and friends for the evening's entertainment. Several inmates of the Home expressed their pleasure at being present, and thus ended one of the most pleasant evenings in the lives of all present.

The case of Richard Morrison, M.D., charged upon the information of Stephen Graham Campbell with criminal libel, was not gone into in the police court yesterday, being adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon by request of counsel. Mr. J. P. H. D. Holmcken for the prosecution and Mr. E. H. Holmcken for the accused, who was again admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,000, his surety now being Mr. Timothy Tobin, of James Bay. The letter received by Mr. McAfee is only one of several lately posted in the city bearing libellous inscriptions on the covers, the majority of which have been forwarded to the dead letter office at Ottawa in accordance with the rules of the post office department. If the prosecution establishes that the particular letter in question was sent by Dr. Morrison, other actions against him will follow the present one.

SUCH A NICE MAN.

For the second time in the past few days residents of Victoria have suffered from the apparently unrestricted work of the burglar with which Seattle appears to be infested. This time the victims were Mina and Amanda Anveck, two young Norwegian sisters, who were on the way back to their old home in Norway.

The story of the robbery begins in Victoria, dating from Queen's Birthday, when at Bescon Hill the girls met a very nice gentleman, who spoke to them, and in some way learned of the contemplated trip. When the girls left Victoria they carried with them some \$400, the savings of several years. With this they proposed to go East and across the Atlantic.

They had reached Seattle and were in the depot making enquiries regarding an expected train, when they were surprised to meet again their affable acquaintance of the 24th.

"Yes, it was very singular, but he was delighted," "Could he introduce a friend?" "Well, yes," and in a few minutes the quartette were seated in a room and refreshments all round were ordered. There was an hour or so to spare before the train was due; why not take in the sights? "Trouble! Oh, no! Only too happy to show the ladies around."

The party reached Myra's cannery wharf and were taking in the view a third pleasant gentleman appeared. His name in life was to amuse people by a little clever sleight of hand and at the same time pay them well for looking on.

One of the gentlemen thought he saw through the game, and a few dollars was lost and won. Now it was a card game, and no objections to ladies trying their luck. "Had they any money?" "Why, yes! Here in this valise was a roll—\$200."

A swift grab at the money—a swifter clutch of brawny arms, hardened by years of toil and the game, and the roll was on. Heavy odds might have been laid on the girls when two "officers" appeared behind the scene. Plainly the money must be restored. It was counted out and the girls retired satisfied.

It was an hour or more before they discovered that they had received counterfeit in place of their good money. The aid of the law was invoked, and at the Northern depot one of the men was nabbed just in the act of taking a train.

Chief of Police Rogers recognized the man as one of a bunko gang, and in a few hours L. J. Jones, E. Wilson, G. W. West, W. Patterson, Kid West and J. J. Malone, were behind the bars. It is thought that enough money has been collected to convict the entire gang.

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

At dusk last evening the sealing schooner Beatrice, in command of Capt. Macaulay, entered port. With a favorable tide she sailed up to the head of the harbor and made fast to her owner's (Capt. Grant) wharf. She is direct from the Coast sealing grounds, in which she secured 254 seal skins before meeting H.M.S. Albatross off Cape St. Elias on May 9. It was early in the morning when the meeting took place, and as Capt. Macaulay had noticed the wharf's smoke long before she came up to him, he did not attempt to lower his schooner's boats until he ascertained the man-of-war's message. This was to the effect that any vessel found hunting seals after May 1, and before August 1 would be destroyed. Capt. Macaulay at once headed his schooner for Masset with the expectation of making connection there with a Victoria steamer. On his arrival there, however, he met Rev. Mr. Keene, a missionary, who informed him that such a steamer had not touched there since November and that he had no reason to look for one before July. Mr. Keene also informed the captain of quite a severe shock of scurvy he felt there in April. The shock caused no damage, but was sufficiently severe to shake all the houses of the residents. From Masset Capt. Macaulay started for Victoria, calling on his way at a West Coast point last month, where he had gone for water. Capt. Macaulay heard of the wreck of the schooner Undaunted, which is now a complete wreck, ice and gales of wind having destroyed her entirely. The Beatrice reports the Victoria steamer had gone to Yakutat by missionary steamer had gone to April to bury the cook of his schooner, a married man whose home is in this city, and who died at sea.

"NOT SO

The Coin Which Had to Be Rather C

But the Jury Thought Burglar Ju

Same.

The third day of the Sp with the consideration of burglary, the charge being day of May the prisoner of G. A. Morphy and some articles of value, among watch and chain and some Thompson, John Hunt, Al Skinner, Thomas Adams, James Tegg, W. Sullivan, J. C. Richards, James Bry were selected as a jury. Mr. with a review of the case, a Patterson, bookkeeper, and Blanchard street, where it committed. Witness had 4:20 on the morning of the turning round in his bed had ing in the room at the time was turned to a profile and witness in getting out, a slam witness got up, went saw a man running down the made no noise. Witness and went out to look for the man return had searched their pe had missed money to the cents, 25 cents of the Jubilee mintage—an unmana coiled the day before. Then all heads had gone o again. Over toward view a man. This man paused at the crowd being to stage turned down the street to a minion hotel. He tried to Dominion hotel but failed, do the street. He paused Jeffrey's store window. A agent Levin and Officer Palm street. The man walked all time. The prisoner went in ver house and was followed by in a moment they came out I was halted by Sergeant I again entered the saloon and was asked to produce his m the coins was the shilling whi knew. Mr. Morphy had loo place, and such a piece was fo coins. At the police station was searched, \$1.15 being fo some Japanese toothpicks, at the house at the time.

Returning to the house Levin, attention was called price under the window, made by a large of book. The cross-examination by the defence hinged first on tion of the coin. This was counsel for the defence and jury, then handed back to the again thought it was the s Herman-Hill's grace and rapid air began to talk, and the air, his sleeves, pockets, the storm of them poured in. F that the coin handed to the not the original, now mixed These were handed to the jury with curiosity.

Mr. David Dolt, teller of N. A. was called about \$500 money passes through his ha Outside of the Jubilee coin v had passed under his obser half dozen in all.

Henry N. Howard, one of 111 Blanshard, gave in the story to that of the first at this point the court took a rec p.m.

On re-assembling, G. A. Mo chair and recited the story of gold watch and chain, valued 70 cents in money. Had visited the store where the prison was empty. Regarding the al had visited several banks, such coins resulted in none b Mr. James Mulockay, bart Vancouver, described the prisoner to his bar and the e the shilling which was tendere for a class of beer and refuse the officers came in.

Sergeant Levin then took described the arrest of the g had given confused statement movements on the night in g stated first that he had slept donis hotel, and afterward char donis collector. He stated, th lings as the on-produced were coined from 1857 to 1892.

Wm. Hurd, barkeeper at the saloon, stated that he had given ling to the prisoner a few days arrest. He had also taken m ones over the bar.

Under cross examination by witness admitted that he had been about three years ago for inter the police in the line of their dut H. Haynes, clerk at the Bank Columbia, had often noticed us the shilling produced; had four recently in connection over the bank.

J. C. Vass, of the Empiro knew the prisoner; he had tak the restaurant. The tooth-pick the same as those found on the p The prisoner Halley was the the bar. He had received the e the bartender at the Caladonia the night in question had be went to bed, could not sleep, a walk, while returning met th nesses.

Cross-examined: Slept that Caladonia. Have been in Vic month. Came from Port Towns card have various addresses, S O'Brien, Jackson, S. O. B. S. C. W. R. 165, Yates; W. R. J. 78 were produced as being four prisoner. Witness explained the partnership in a furniture po repairing business, and these w randa of places they had agree should visit.

After a brief argument the cab the jury, after a charge o judge favoring rather strongly oution. At 6:30, no verdict ha reached, the court adjourned until the court reassembled at 8 o'cloc a few minutes the foreman of the nounced that they would like to evidence relating to the arrest of

LEVI'S BRANDS COPPER RIVETED OVERALLS AND SPRING BOTTOM PANTS EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED. ADDRESS SAN FRANCISCO CAL.