

man's qualifications for the office he holds be true, it would not be a bad idea for him to seek the seclusion which a cow-ranch grants. This, however, is a matter for the City Engineer and the Water Committee to figure on, and does not particularly concern us, except in so far as it affects the efficiency of the public service.

THE HORNET is very much gratified at the action taken by the evictors of the shack-dwellers in allowing them to retain possession of their cabins until May of next year. This is, at least, a concession on the part of the evictors which amounts to a partial admission of the inhumanity of driving them out without any just reason, and THE HORNET feels justified in claiming some credit for bringing about this result by its outspoken words on the subject. Those poor people will have a further tenure of their humble homes, of seven or eight months longer, and we are not without hope that the process of eviction will cease and determine, until, at least, the Dominion Government is able to show that it proposes to put the vacated foreshore to some use. THE HORNET heartily congratulates the shackites on the result, and hopes for still better things in the future. It was a significant fact that none of the other city papers said a word on the subject.

The report that the Northern Pacific Railroad is, if not in the throes of insolvency, at least on the verge of bankruptcy (which is pretty nearly the same thing), is agitating not a few of our alleged capitalists in Vancouver, and causing the people of the city to put their thinking-caps on. We do not, for a moment, believe that the Burrard Inlet & Fraser Valley Railroad will go on, in the face of the grave financial disaster which has befallen its backer. And what will be the result? Why, that the rival of the C. P. R.—or competitor, rather, let us call it—will not come into Vancouver. What then? Will Jim Hill's big road venture to attempt what the N. P. R. broke down before doing? We think it altogether likely, from what we know of Jim Hill, that he will try. But we give him fair warning that, in making the attempt, he will have to be content without a bonus. We do not believe that the people of Vancouver would again vote a bonus for anything less important than laying the foundation stone of the New Jerusalem—and, we fancy, they would hesitate even about that.

To any one who doubts the autocracy of the President of the United States, and has heretofore labored under the common delusion that the United States is a republic, the letter of Cleveland to Governor Northern, on the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman Law, must have come as a revelation. Anything more dogmatic, more in the shape of an *ipse dixit*, could not well be conceived, and it gives the clearest indication yet vouchsafed by "The Man of Destiny," that he considers himself the dominant power in the United States. There is a "brutal candor" about Cleveland that is apt to please the superficial student of his character, but when you come to analyze it you find it founded on a basis of self-sufficiency which is not far removed from the ruling spirit in the utterances of Kaiser Wilhelm. With this sort of pyrotechnics, the President may be able to fool the people of the United States, but he will fail, we believe, in bulldozing the friends of silver into submission to his will.

We like to give the Police of Vancouver a tip occasionally. Here is one, and it is straight. By diligent enquiry they will find that, not a hundred miles from the Sugar Refinery, there is an illicit still, run by Italians for the benefit (?) of the Indians. The liquor, which is sometimes called whiskey and sometimes gin, is manufactured from

alcohol such as is used in spirit lamps, and the effect on the siwash and klootchman may be more easily imagined than described. It is bad enough when reasonably genuine fire-water is given to the siwash, but it is a good many degrees worse to sell to him—at an exorbitant price, too—stuff that even a copper-lined stomach could not stand. We should like to see the Chief make a capture among those Dagos and put an end to the manufacture and sale of the poison.

The *World* thinks it was "an unprecedented and most undignified" action on the part of Messrs Brown and Kitchen to have gone to Clinton after Mr. Davie, to give him a "heckling." Hoity-toity, Mac! Is it not quite a usual thing even for greater men than Mr. Davie to find political opponents withstanding them to the face on the occasions of their public appearance? Don't be too abject in your worship of your idol. The course adopted by Messrs. Brown and Kitchen was not at all "unprecedented," but we are not sure but it was open to the charge of being undignified—at least if they were chasing a "wild goose," as the *World* says they were. It is not a nice name to give the Premier, and it is a grave blunder as regards the gender.

Of course Mr. Gladstone, in addressing his Midlothian constituents, last Wednesday, made an ingenious and skillfully phrased defence of the action he has taken in pushing the Home Rule Bill. He is too accomplished a public speaker, and he has had such a long and varied experience in the exercise of the art of making the worse appear the better cause that nothing less was to be expected of him. Equally of course he made a bitter attack on the House of Lords, where his ship has struck a snag, and that his assault upon it was venomous and spiteful, was just what one could have predicted with absolute certainty, for the old man can be very caustic when his blood gets up. But the amusing part of the whole proceedings was that he posed throughout as the friend of his country. On the hollowness of this pretense there could be no better comment than the remark made to Mr. Lecky, the historian, by a distinguished foreign diplomat: "It seems to me," he said, "that this matter can be settled by a very simple test. You cannot name me a single newspaper nor a solitary politician in either Europe or America, who hates England and wishes her downfall, that is not in favor of Gladstone and Home Rule." Comment is unnecessary.

We wonder what kind of ruction would have got up in the Independent meeting if the following resolution had been sprung on them as it was fully intended to have been? "Resolved that, in the opinion of this meeting, it is deemed best not to send delegates to the proposed Constitutional League at Kamloops, as it is undesirable that the Opposition on Vancouver Island, which has not been invited to participate in the proceedings, should be antagonized."

By the last Australian-bound steamer a consignment of two hundred barrels of beer went to Honolulu. The beer was brought from Seattle because it could be got cheaper there than in British Columbia, for the reason that Inland Revenue duties are not exacted in the United States on excisable goods intended for export, whereas in this country such duties are required to be paid. This seems a foolish thing to do. Why handicap our own manufactures and throw trade in the way of a country where every obstruction is put in the way of Canadians who would compete with the protected manufacturers on the other side of the parallel. It seems to us that this matter ought to be looked into and remedied at once.

In Washington State there is a place named Orting. It is not a nice name. In fact it is suggestive of what John