

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1894.

## CIVIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

We are glad to see that steps are being taken to form a Civic Improvement Association. There was a good deal of talk of what the Association might, could, would or should do at Monday night's meeting. We do not think it matters much what the constitutional powers of the organization are. If its members can only succeed in creating and maintaining an interest among the citizens in civic affairs it will have worked enough to do.

The great bar to civic improvement in this city of Victoria has hitherto been the indifference, amounting at times to apathy, of the great majority of its citizens. They have never yet, it appears to us, realized the immense benefit that good city government would be to them—how it would add to their personal comfort and convenience, and how it would conduce to the growth and the prosperity of the city. Most people realize the immense difference there is between a clean and tidy and ill-managed one. Well, there is really almost, if not quite, as much difference to the citizen between a well governed and well regulated city and one that is badly governed and neglected. What odds does it make to a man if the Dominion Government is all that it should be, or if the Provincial Government invariably does the right thing at the right time, if he is forced by the City Fathers to plow his way through the mud, if he is obliged to drink dirty and unwholesome water, if his nostrils are assailed at every other step he takes by a different and more disagreeable smell, if the streets are badly lighted and the town badly drained? He thinks of the Dominion Government perhaps once a week, and he is reminded of the existence of the Provincial Government perhaps, say, twice as often, but he cannot go a hundred yards from his own door—in fact, not half that distance—without having the incivility of the city government forced upon his attention, and that, too, in a most disagreeable manner. Before he leaves home it may be he is worried by the delinquent appearance of an ailing wife, or made anxious by the listless manner and the pale face of his child who ought to be in vigorous health. Bad city government and stupid and ignorant city governors are often the almost direct cause of the indisposition of both wife and child. This is not mere theory. The comfort and health of both ourselves and our families are to a much greater extent in the hands of the rulers of the city than very many of the citizens appear to realize.

We have always maintained that there are few cities that can be so greatly benefited by civic improvements and reforms as this city of Victoria. It could easily be made one of the healthiest cities in the world, and one of the pleasantest places to live in. If it had the advantages and conveniences that could be extended to it by good city government it would be one of the most popular summer resorts and winter retreats that there are on the continent. The summer is delightfully cool, and the winter—if it can be said to have any winter at all—in the Eastern sense of the word—is surprisingly mild. A greater contrast to the Arctic winter weather east of the Rocky Mountains can hardly be imagined. Then Victoria is greatly favored by its surroundings. The scenery in and near it is very beautiful, the country roads are good, and the drives in its vicinity delightful. With these advantages and many others that will come to our readers, Victorians are selling most imprudently in not making their city attractive to the most fastidious of foreigners. It could be made so with a comparatively small outlay of money. All that is wanted is the will on the part of the citizens to make the necessary improvements. The Civic Improvement Association, if it does its work well, will keep the necessity of improvement before the people. It will not allow either the Corporation or the citizens to forget that it is their interest as well as their duty to make Victoria the most desirable residential city on the Continent. It will not allow them to rest content with a slovenly way of doing things, or with improvements half made. It will declare war against dirt in all its forms, and against inconvenience and unwholesomeness. It will not rest satisfied until all that is offensive is banished from every part of the city. This can be done and it ought to be done. If fifty energetic and intelligent men set about the work in earnest it will be done.

## NO TIME TO BE LOST.

We take this opportunity to remind our readers who are householders and lodgers and not owners of real estate that if they want to vote at the coming civic election they must get their names placed on the register this week. Friday is the last day open to them to perform this duty—for it is a duty. They need not make themselves easy by the reflection that they voted at the last election. Last year's register is this year as if it had never been. It is, in point of fact, non-existent. The householders who have voted every year for the last ten years and may have during those years compiled property worth thousands of dollars, but if he does not have his name registered before the 1st of December he will have no more right to vote at the next election of Mayor and Common Councilors than if he had landed in the city only the day before yesterday. This is strange, but it is true nevertheless. Here is the law—Section B. of section 37—referred to by Wm. W. Northcott, Assessor, in the advertisement that has been in this paper for nearly a month:

"Provided, always, that no person shall be entitled to vote under a householders' qualification (s) of section 37 of this Act, nor shall his or her name be included in the annual voters' list of a municipality in consequence of such qualification unless he or she shall, before the first day of December in each year, enter with the Assessor or Clerk of the municipality his or her name as a voter and personally deliver to the Assessor or Clerk of the Municipal Council at the same time a statutory declaration made and subscribed before a Judge, Magistrate or Notary Public in form and to the effect following," &c., &c.

This is clear enough; so the householders and lodgers who want to have a voice in the election of the next Mayor and Council must look sharp, get the necessary papers, sign them themselves, and hand them to Mr. Northcott. As this is the first time that the lodgers are privileged to vote they will be very ungrateful to those who have gone to the trouble to enfranchise them as well as very stupid if they do not place themselves in a position to cast their ballots for the men of their choice at the next civic election.

## A WELCOME VISITOR.

There are many in British Columbia who will be pleased to learn that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will soon be on his way to pay the Province a visit. Personal intercourse with the man engaged in salmon fishing and salmon packing, and inquiries made on the spot with respect to many things connected with those very important industries, will, we are satisfied, have the effect of doing away with many misunderstandings and of bringing about pleasant relations that have for some time existed with the Marine and Fisheries Department. There is no reason in the world that there should be antagonism between the Department and the canners. The interests of both, when seen in the proper light, are identical. There can be no doubt that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has no other object than to preserve the salmon fishery in all parts of the Province. This should be and we believe is the principal object of the great majority of the canners. They are much too shrewd and have too enlightened a regard for their own interests to permit or to practise modes of fishing that are really wasteful and calculated to destroy the productivity of our waters. There have been some differences of opinion as to what are the best means to preserve the fish, but we do not think these differences are so many or so great that they cannot be adjusted satisfactorily to both the Department and the canners. We therefore bespeak for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries a cordial welcome to the Province. We cannot but believe that if he is met in the right spirit by the canners his visit will be productive of advantage to their industry.

The relations between the men interested in the sealing industry and the Department of Marine and Fisheries have been, as far as we know, most cordial. The Minister has always been most zealous in asserting the rights of British Columbia sealers and his exertions in furthering their claims have met with a large measure of success. Before the Parle Board of Arbitration Mr. Tupper (for he had not then won his title) was the able, untiring and most industrious advocate of British claims. Through the whole arbitration proceedings the Victoria sealers had no warmer friend or stauncher advocate than the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. What he was then he is to-day. We are very sure that Sir Charles E. Tupper will receive a hearty welcome from the sealing men of every class. He has worked hard for them and it is evident that he is determined to spare no labor in advancing their interests. We hope that Sir Charles will have a pleasant journey across the continent and that he will enjoy his visit to this maritime Province of the Pacific. It is to be regretted that he was not able to come at a more genial season, but he will have the opportunity of seeing the December roses of British Columbia and of comparing the winter weather on the Pacific Coast with that of Ottawa and Nova Scotia.

## THE NEW TREATMENT.

The "new treatment," as it is called, for diphtheria is fast gaining converts in the Old World. Dr. Boxy, who seems to be the discoverer of the remedy, is now entirely coupled with the preparation of the lymph or serum, and demands for it are pouring in from every part of Europe. It has been tried in some more of the French hospitals with the best results. The mortality has decreased from 60 per cent. to 24 per cent., and the number of cases in which operations have been considered necessary has considerably decreased. Since the serum has been used seven out of eleven have been cured; before it was discovered seven out of eleven died.

"The London Times" says: "The results of the injection of the serum are almost immediately apparent. In a very few hours after the injection of the serum the leaden look of the child disappears, the temperature goes down, the appetite improves, and the throat gradually begins to clear."

The difficulty just now on the other side of the Atlantic is to prepare serum enough to supply the demand. In France the Department of the Seine and the Municipal Council are taking steps to provide stability

for twenty horses, and a sum of \$4,000 has been voted for their keep this year.

## A GOOD BEGINNING.

The resolution moved by Capt. Irving on Tuesday is one of very considerable importance to the merchants and miners of this Province. The Yukon country is, from trading and mining points of view, a region of very great promise. Gold is found there in paying quantities and the development of its gold fields has only commenced.

It is well known, too, that there is more encouragement to trade in a community of miners than in settlements containing many times the population of farmers. The miners in the Yukon River country number only 1,500, yet Capt. Irving tells us that their trade amounts to \$750,000 a year.

The country is somewhat difficult of access and the Americans are evidently bound to create artificial difficulties of intercourse with its population which are harder to overcome than those made by nature. But we find that by opening a new route, chiefly, as we understand it, through British territory, the distance can be diminished by nearly one-half. We believe that the Dominion Government ought to be commended to make this rich territory more accessible than it is. It is not as if they were asked to open a road to a new and uninhabited country, the resources of which are unknown. There is a very considerable population in the Yukon country already, which would soon be greatly increased if facilities of transport were afforded the energetic and enterprising seachers after gold.

The country would yield a considerable and an immediate return in the shape of revenue and business for any expenses that might be incurred in opening it up. That the Dominion Government are about to send a detachment of Northwest police to the country is proof that they have neither lost sight of the isolated community nor are neglectful of its welfare. If the resolution before the House on Tuesday is followed by other urgent representations it is very probable that the beginning will be made by Capt. Irving will have consequences important not to this Province alone, but to the whole Dominion. But it should not be forgotten the resolution is only the first step towards obtaining the route so badly needed. It should be followed, and that soon, by other and longer steps.

## AN ENGLISH DEAN.

Dean Hole, a talented Church of England divine now visiting in Canada, greatly scandalized a number of the good people of Toronto by speaking out in favor of Sunday cars. He said in an interview: "I believe that Sunday should be a day of worship, but there is nothing which tells me that it should not be a day of recreation. If Christians believe that one day a week should be a day of gloom, it should not be the day on which our Lord arose, but that on which he died. That is the justification for setting aside Friday as a fast day. I should like to see a Sunday car service in your city, which would make God's gifts of sunlight and fresh air free to the poor as well as to the rich."

It will be hard to convince a large number of religious people in Toronto and elsewhere that Dean Hole is a good man. They feel sure that a man who can talk in that way about Sunday cars and sunlight—Sunday sunlight—and fresh air must be one of the wicked.

## A COMPETENT CRITIC.

It will have to be admitted that compared with our local financiers of the Grit persuasion the moneyed men of Great Britain are a lot of blunders and ignoramus. The local solons say that Canada has gone so deeply in debt and is so reckless and imprudent that it would be folly to lend her a single dollar, no matter how much she needs it or how fine a story she tells. The British men of money as soon as they know that Canada desires to borrow of them, put their hands deep in their pockets and offer five times as much as she asks for. The contrast between the Canadian calamity howlers, who for the most part find it difficult to get one dollar to rub against another, and the British capitalists whose business it is to lend money and consequently to weigh most carefully the credit of borrowers, actual and prospective, is most striking.

The London Times, which is allowed to be on financial matters pretty well posted, and whose word as to the solvency of a nation or a colony is heard with respect by the men on "change," so far from blaming the English investors for lending money to Canada or for Canada on remarkably favorable terms, notices the latest Canadian loan in words that are highly commendatory. After mentioning the amount called for, and the sum subscribed and the rates offered, the great English journal goes on to say:

"This success has been obtained notwithstanding the fact that for the first time since 1868 the Dominion Budget this year showed a deficit. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by \$1,100,000, and the Opposition in Canada have not been slow to formulate charges against the Government of gross extravagance and mismanagement. Whether any Government is as absolutely economical as it might be is a point which must be left to experts to decide. The Conservative party in Canada has, on the whole, been able to justify its financial administration by an appeal to the charges on the public debt, which have not grown in proportion to the population, and by the fact that the falling off in revenue, which disturbed the balance of last year's budget, has been almost wholly in the customs, a condition of things due in part to the general depression which has affected all trade returns, and in part to the expectations

tion of tariff revision which was forced upon the Government by the Opposition. The investing interests of this country are fortunately able to stand altogether outside the party politics of the colony. The Government of Sir John Thompson will be able to meet its critics with increased assurance as a consequence of the success of the London loan, but the confidence which has really been expressed is not so much in one party or one policy of the Dominion as in the essential soundness of Canadian finances and the prosperous future which lies before the colony."

This is no random utterance of an irresponsible or an ignorant scribbler. On the contrary, it is the carefully expressed opinion of a journal of the very highest class, an opinion arrived at after careful inquiry and mature deliberation. The opinions of the Times on financial matters are all drawn up with the utmost care, for there are thousands who regard it as a reliable authority on matters of finance, and who in making their investments look to it for information and advice. As it has such a high opinion of Canada's credit and the soundness of Canadian finances, the people of this country may listen with indifference or contempt to the senseless jabbering of partisan writers whose sole object is to gain a temporary triumph for the Opposition.

## THE CITY MARKETS.

At the present time the choicest and finest salmon can be caught in the waters of the Canadian Pacific coast, nevertheless the law of the Dominion makes it illegal to take them, and in consequence fish dealers are compelled to apply the demand with Columbia river fish, the consumer having to pay half a cent a pound duty, in addition to heavy freight rates and other expenses consequent on their importation. Moreover, the American fish is inferior to that caught in British Columbia. It comes here principally from Seattle, but it is understood, Dunsmuir, entering into competition with that source of supply. During the present week the steamer *Thistle* is expected from the Northern harbor, and will bring a large portion of the fish which is so freely in demand here. During this week also the first loaded season of hogs coming from the Okanagan district will arrive for the B.C. Cold Storage and Ice Company. Farm produce has not been coming in as freely as last week, but trade is good and shows no signs of diminution. There are no material changes in the prices from those of last week. Butcher's provisions steady with, if anything, an upward tendency.

Current retail quotations are as follow:

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Wheat, per bushel   | 1.00 |
| Oats, per bushel    | 0.50 |
| Barley, per bushel  | 0.40 |
| Flour, per bushel   | 1.20 |
| Butter, per pound   | 0.15 |
| Eggs, per dozen     | 1.00 |
| Chicken, per pound  | 0.10 |
| Beef, per pound     | 0.08 |
| Pork, per pound     | 0.12 |
| Lard, per pound     | 0.10 |
| Ham, per pound      | 0.12 |
| Shoulder, per pound | 0.10 |
| Butter, per pound   | 0.15 |
| Eggs, per dozen     | 1.00 |
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