Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 1888.

CANADA'S POSITION.

It seems almost impossible for our United States neighbors to understand the exact relation there is between Great Britain and Canada. The *Oregonian*, which is one of the ablest and best conducted journals on the Pacific Coast, in an article advocating the annexation of Canada to the United States, says "Canada is but a bill of expense to England." This is altogether a mistake. Canada is self-supporting as well as self-governing. It is true that Canada if it were attacked by a foreign enemy would be defended by the British army and the British navy, but we think that it would be hard to prove that if Great Britain were to lose Canada to-morrow, she would decrease her army by one regiment or her navy by one ship. Great Britain requires every soldier and every sailor she has, and a good many more too, according to some who wish to be regarded as authorities, to maintain her position and her prestige among the nations of Europe. To secure immunity from invasion if she did not possess a single colony, she would be under the necessity of maintaining a fleet and a standing army very nearly, if not quite, as strong as she possesses at present. It was the fashion some years ago with a certain school of politicians to denounce colonies as burdens and to declare that the Mother Country would be better without them. But that day has gone by and is not likely to return. The great English-speaking communities which are proud of their allegiance to Great Britain have become dependencies only in name. They are to her a source of strength rather than of weakness or embarrassment. They are year by year becoming stronger, and stronger and their attachment to what they fondly call the "Old Country," is evidently growing with their growth. The prospect of their becoming more closely united to the parent nation and to each other is now no longer a mere dream. There are indications that they will one day, and that not very far distant, form one of the strongest federations that the world has ever seen. There are but few in these days who are foolish enough to say that Great Britain would possess the influence among the nations of the world or the prestige that she now enjoys if she were divested of her colonies. If, as the *Oregonian* seems to believe, the relations between the United States and Great Britain are so close and so cordial that war between them is almost if not altogether impossible, the only imaginable reasons for Canada severing her connection with the mother country is taken away. If as our contemporary enthusiastically says "They cannot afford to be enemies, they must be friends, for under their flags the best civilization of the world has achieved its greatest triumphs marching with varying speed different roads to the goal of the largest liberty under law for the greatest number," there appears to be a greater probability of the United States becoming a member of the great English-speaking federation of the future than of Canada's repudiating British connection and becoming an integral part of the United States.

AN AUSTRALIAN QUESTION.

It took the Imperial Government a long time to understand and appreciate the nature and the force of the objections which the inhabitants of the colonies exposed to it have to unrestricted Chinese immigration. British statesmen appeased to think that the dislike to have Chinamen as members of their communities was an unreasonable antipathy which would wear away in time. They did not seem to give sufficient weight to the fact that no matter where the country was situated or what its political institutions, its inhabitants who come in contact with the Chinese immigrants disliked them, and were determined if they could, to prevent any increase of their numbers. The anti-Chinese feeling was as strong in California as it was in Australia and British Columbia. It did not seem to occur to them that there must be some deeply rooted cause for this general and strong determination to exclude the Chinese from the societies which they were forming. Time showed that this was not the result of a mere temporary race prejudice, for the longer the Chinese were in an Anglo-Saxon community the more obnoxious did they become, and the more settled the determination not to tolerate their residence in the country. In Australia the agitation against the Chinese became so strong that the Home Government found it impossible to ignore it. The people of all the colonies protested against a continuation of Chinese immigration. The position of their country made the fear that the influx of Chinese would in time become so great that they would be swamped by them appear to be by no means groundless. Restrictive laws were passed and the representations on the subject to the Colonial Office became so frequent and were so strongly worded that the Government felt themselves compelled to take some action in the matter. A convention of the representatives of the colonies met, and stated the conclusions to which they came in a telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. These conclusions were afterwards embodied in a bill called the Chinese Restriction Bill, a summary of which was also sent to the Colonial Office. It was clear that the Australian Colonies meant business, and their views and intentions on the subject of Chinese immigration could not be ignored or safely opposed. To prevent a rupture with the Chinese government with which England was on the most friendly terms, and encouraged by the tone of the negotiations between the governments of the United States and China on the same subject, Lord Salisbury addressed a letter to Sir J. Walsham, the British Minister at the court of Pekin, in which he reviewed the action taken by the Australian governments with regard to Chinese immigration and instructed him to urge upon the Chinese government that they should agree to a convention similar to that adopted in the case of the United States. In this letter Lord Salisbury says "Her Majesty's government see, as you well know, most anxious that all proper regard should be shown to the feelings of the Chinese nation with which this country is happily on a very friendly footing, and that no measures should be adopted in the colonies that could be regarded as at variance with the treaty engagements between China and Great Britain." Here is where the difficulty of legislation on the Chinese question by the British dependencies lies. It may not be very easy to make laws respecting Chinese immigration which will at the same time meet the wishes of the people and be in accordance with the Mother Country's treaty engagements. The Australians seem to have paid but little attention to the latter consideration. The draft bill which was agreed upon by the convention to be adopted by all the colonies is exceedingly stringent. It is, in fact, almost prohibitory. No vessel can bring more than one Chinese passenger for every 500 tons under a penalty of $2,500 for each Chinese in excess of that number. Their passage from one colony to another is subject to the most severe restrictions. The bill provides that no Chinese shall enter a colony by land without first obtaining a permit in writing from some person appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Any Chinese so entering without a permit shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to imprisonment with or without hard labor for any term not exceeding six months. When Lord Salisbury wrote his letter there was a prospect that the severely restrictive laws of the colonies would not be offensive to Chinese Government as it was declared to be the policy of that government to discourage emigration. But as the Emperor has refused to sanction the act of his minister at Washington there is no longer any hope that Great Britain will obtain a treaty from China which will aid the Australians in carrying out their anti-Chinese policy. But from the spirit they have evinced it is evident that the failure of Lord Salisbury's negotiations will have no effect upon them. They will, at all risks, adopt every means in their power and keep the Chinese out of their country. Their right to act in this matter according to their own views of what is their interest has been acknowledged by the Imperial Government.

THE STRUGGLE IN THE STATES.

The time for the presidential election is drawing near. In six weeks from the present date the contest will be over. Yet though the day of battle is so near the excitement in the United States does not seem to be very great, and its issue seems to be as uncertain as ever. The cause of this absence of strong and noisy excitement most likely is that the campaign is almost wholly one of principle. The personal element seems hardly to enter the contest at all. Men may get warm while discussing questions of political economy but they rarely become so excited as to fightover them. But nothing is easier than to get up a quarrel among politicians when the personal qualities and the antecedents of their respective candidates are made the subjects of discussion. There is very little mud-throwing in the present canvass. This is its pleasantest and most creditable feature. It is generally allowed that both the candidates are good men. Previous to his late singular message on retaliation there was not a word said against Mr. Cleveland that was calculated to have the least weight with sensible men, and the worst thing that has been said of General Harrison is that he is a mere figure-head and that Blaine is really the candidate before the country. It does seem as if there was some truth in this reproach. But if General Harrison has been thrown into the shade the fault is not his but the Republican party's. He is a man of ability with plenty of fight in him, but Blaine is the idol of the hour with the Republicans, and although they nominated Harrison as their candidate for the Presidency it is quite evident that it is upon Blaine that they depend to carry the election. It is not fair to Harrison thus to throw him into the background. Once chosen to carry their banner he should have been accorded the first place in the party. The Republicans themselves have done a great deal to leave the impression on the public mind that he is nothing more than a puppet in the hands of Blaine, and this impression is not calculated to increase his chances of election. They have also allowed it to be believed that if Harrison is elected Blaine is to be his Secretary of State. This the enemies of Blaine in the Republican party have interpreted to mean that the Plumed Knight will be *de facto* President. This sends them to the Democratic side, for they would as soon vote for Blaine himself as for a man whom they believe is intended to be a mere creature in his hands. When Cleveland descended to the level of a tricky politician and tried to take the wind out of the sails of the Anti-British Republican demagogues he disappointed and disgusted a great many electors who were, previous to that time, favorably disposed towards him. Whether he has gained more by that manœuvre than he has lost it is difficult to say. If he has gained in votes, which is questionable, he has certainly lost in reputation. But if there has been comparatively little enumeration in the American newspapers and on the platform since the opening of the campaign there certainly has been a great deal of lecturing. The citizens of the United States have during the last six months heard and read more about political economy and the philosophy of trade than they had during the previous six years. The great newspapers have contained many able articles on these subjects, and the leading public men have spoken on them times without number. The little journals and the small politicians have echoed with very little variation what the big guns of the press and the platform have written and said. Whether the people are the wiser for all this instruction, time alone will show. It does appear as if a party with liberal ideas on trade and commerce is being formed in the United States, and if it does not win the day in November next it will be sure to make its weight felt in succeeding elections. The great object of the Republicans is to convince the electors, and particularly the working men among them, that the Democrats have adopted free trade principles, that they intend to do away with protection and thus take the bread out of the working man's mouth. They speak of Democrats as free traders and use against their forty-two-per-cent tariff the arguments that would be applicable to a tariff of free trade. The unfairness of this canvass is palpable, but it will doubtless be successful with a great many who will be led to believe that the Mills tariff means free trade, and that free trade means to the working man "starvation." Canadians will readily see that a tariff which is fourteen or fifteen per cent higher than their own and which is denounced by a great many as being oppressively protective, is very far indeed from approaching the line of free trade. It is uncommonly hard to come at anything like a conclusion satisfactory to the impartial inquirer as to the success of the canvass of the different parties. He sees in the Republican papers accounts of disaffected Democrats leaving their party on account of its free trade policy and declaring their intention to vote the Republican ticket at the coming election, and he reads in the Democratic journals of Republicans who, disgusted with the narrowness of the party's platform, have joined the Democratic ranks and are working hard to secure the return of Mr. Cleveland, the partisans of both sides are boasting loudly. They declare that they are confident of the success of their respective candidates and are ready to back their predictions by their dollars. But prudent men who are observant of what is going on around them are careful how they express themselves about the result of the election and are very shy of offering or taking bets one way or the other. There are of course sanguine partisans of both parties who are ready to demonstrate mathematically that their candidate will be elected, but as one side must lose prudent people place very little faith in their arithmetical forecasts. The simple and honest truth seems to be that parties in the Atlantic States are so evenly balanced and the elements of uncertainty are so numerous that no one, not even the best informed, has any idea of what will be the result of the presidential election.

THE MAYOR AND HIS METHODS.

The board of aldermen have not hesitated to discharge the painful duty that devolved on them in consequence of the auditors' report, and the sudden departure from the city of the Mayor. It was thought that the extraordinary absence of the Mayor from his bailiwick at this important juncture would hamper the action of the board, but having personally inspected the books and had the supposed irregularities pointed out by the auditors, and having taken legal advice, they promptly suspended the treasurer and clerk, sealed up the books and safes, and placed the establishment in the charge of the police. This action of the aldermen was unanimous. The minority, who sided with the Mayor on Wednesday, upon being shown the accounts, were immediately convinced that a strict investigation was necessary; and one of the three moved and another seconded the resolution of suspension. Upon the merits of the case we cannot now comment. The law supposes every man to be innocent until he has been proven guilty; and while for nearly two years past THE COLONIST has strenuously and consistently pressed on Mayor and aldermen the necessity of an audit, it has refrained from expressing the opinion that there was crooked work at the City Hall. We have supported those aldermen who have endeavored to secure an investigation of the public accounts. It was felt that a system that allowed accounts of revenue and expenditure, aggregating nearly one million dollars, to pass unaudited for a period of seven years could not be good. That justice to office-holders as well as ratepayers required that there should be a constant check on those who handled the finances. The motion for an audit cast no reflection on treasurer or clerk, any more than the demand for a receipt indicates a want of confidence on the part of a person who pays money in the party to whom it is paid. The present Mayor, who for two years was chairman of the finance committee and ought to have known the condition of the books for the correctness of which he vouched, has always maintained that an audit was unnecessary. As far back as the winter of 1887 he opposed a motion for an audit submitted by Alderman Braden and through the refusal of the then Mayor to put the question the opposition prevailed, although a majority of the board favored an audit. Had the motion prevailed on that occasion the exposure which was made on Wednesday would have been anticipated by a year and a-half and the city probably saved from considerable loss. The matter was revived by the present board and in spite of the exertions of the present Mayor, and the ravings of his organ, whose assaults on the majority of the aldermen have been indecently personal, the audit has been had and the report—thanks to the independent press—is before the ratepayers. How do they like it? And what do they think of the conduct of the presiding officer in trying to burke the report by shouting down aldermen who sought to exercise a constitutional right by speaking to a question that was regularly before the board? In suggesting, first, that the report should not be read, and, second, that it should not be published? In immediately going on board the steamer and proceeding to Vancouver for junket, instead of remaining at his post at this grave crisis? In leaving to the aldermen, whose laudable efforts he had sought to negative and whose praiseworthy attempts to reform the civic government he had declared to perform a duty which belongs to him alone under the municipalities act? A few weeks ago in referring to the discharge of the water engineer, the Mayor's newspaper characterized the majority of the aldermen as "a ring." Sometime before it spoke of them as a "boodlers' brigade." Far be it from us to say that the Mayor and his minority are "a ring," or that they have got away with "boodle," as we have reason to believe the aldermen who voted against the audit did so conscientiously, but there are people in this world who imagine that no person can differ with them from honest motives. The Mayor and his organ belong to that class. Every public man who may decline to accept their *ipse dixit* is a ringster or a boodler, and is held up to public ridicule or scorn. The Mayor and his organ have had their innings, and the other side—who have bided their time patiently—must now be heard from. Never before since this city government was organized has there been such an exhibition as that of the Mayor at the city hall on Wednesday night. It is not likely that he will ever repeat the indiscretion in the face of the universal outburst of public indignation with which it has been met, but its effect will not soon fade from the minds of men who feel that if the Mayor had done his duty when he was first appointed chairman of the finance committee the city finances would to-day be improved in the sum of at least $14,000. In April last his worship—who has always plumed himself upon his knowledge of book-keeping—vouched for the correctness of the books by saying that an audit was not necessary, and now he is confronted with 14,000 solid witnesses to prove that he either never examined the books, that if he did examine them he did not understand them, or that, understanding them, he did not consider it worth his while to take steps to have the mistakes and irregularities explained. On which horn will his worship elect to impale himself on his return from the mainland? The *Times* credits the article in yesterday's COLONIST to Mr. Higgins, and attributes our strictures on the Mayor to the fact that Mr. Higgins was defeated by Mr. Grant last winter. Dust for the people's eyes! Springes to catch woodcock! Mr. Higgins neither suggested, dictated, wrote nor read the article until it appeared in print in these columns. But, suppose he had written it—what then? He would have only voiced public opinion which everywhere condemns the Mayor and his method to smother an investigation and strangle a careful and able auditors' report. Should our contemporary still imagine that the Mayor and his suspended officers are "on top" in this controversy let him refer to the action of the board yesterday, when the three aldermen who had always voted with his worship, originated the resolution of suspension and voted for it, too. Let him, further, "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the well-considered article in last night's *Standard*, on the same subject. The least the Mayor's organ has to say of elections the better, perhaps. The close season for audits, inaugurated by the Mayor, is now at an end and game of all kinds is in season. Suppose the municipal voters' roll for 1888 were audited? Some big birds might be bagged. A few persons try to explain and palliate the Mayor's misconduct by urging that he had not read the report before Wednesday night. That is really no excuse; for it reached his hands several days before the meeting. He ought to have read it if he did not, and it was stated publicly yesterday that much of the information contained in the report was furnished to the Mayor nearly three months ago by one of the auditors! Is this true? And if true, why did he not act? Heretofore, the financial branch of the city government must have reminded the public of Dickens' circumlocution office, where people who applied and "wanted to know, you know," always came away in a denser state of ignorance than when they went. Yesterday's action by the aldermen gives rise to the belief that the veil has been lifted and that it will not again be suffered to hide official acts from the public eye.

A COAL FAMINE.

The prospect is that there will be a coal famine in California during the coming winter. The reason of this is that the supply from Australia has been cut off for no one knows how long. The miners of Newcastle, New South Wales, have struck, and there is no telling how long the difficulty between them and their employers will last. The coal on the way from the Australian mines will soon be consumed, and then California will have to depend upon the Coast mines and a little from England. In South Australia the price of coal has already advanced from eight to thirty-one shillings a ton, and there is prospect of it going up higher still. Melbourne has only one month's supply, and is already making arrangements to get coal from England. In San Francisco some of the men in the coal trade who know what the requirements of the market are, confidently declare that coal will, before long, be $25 a ton. And so it would be if all who have the command of the supply were determined to make the most out of the necessities of the coal consumers of California. Grasping men would seize the present chance with avidity to screw every dollar that they possibly could out of the citizens of San Francisco. But Messrs. Dunsmuir, the proprietors of the principal mines of the coast, have signified their intention of charging no more for their coal in San Francisco than the price at which they have been selling it for the last three months, which is sixteen dollars a ton. This very commendable moderation on their part will have the effect of keeping down the price of coal in the San Francisco market, for no one will give any other dealers twenty-five or thirty dollars a ton for coal when they can get it from Dunsmuir & Sons for sixteen dollars, which is the jobbing price. No one seems to know how long the coal famine in California will last. The Australian miners appear determined to hold out and the mine owners have resolved not to yield. Both parties seem to be equally firm. The trade appears to be at present completely disorganized and until matters when the difficulty between the miners and their employers may be adjusted, it will be some time before it resumes its wonted course.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Capital and labor are ill these days as necessary to each other as the right hand is to the left. Capital needs labor no less than labor, to produce the best results, needs capital. There should be the closest and most cordial alliance between the capitalist and the laborer for they are mutually helpful. It is not difficult for anyone who takes the trouble to think to see that this is the case. What would the world's armies of industry do without the sinews of war? A country, we will suppose has great natural resources. There may be vast mineral wealth in its rocks, its seas may teem with fish, it may have great manufacturing capabilities, its soil may be capable of yielding abundant crops, yet for the want of capital it may remain poor and undeveloped. Capital is required to dig its mines, to prosecute its fisheries, to build its factories, to till its soil and to afford the farmer the necessary facilities to take the fruits of his industry to the markets of the world. If men had not saved, if no one had anything more than his capacity to labor to begin with, the progress of the country would be very slow indeed. Its inhabitants would for a long time remain miserably poor, living from hand to mouth, and they would be compelled to endure much hardship. It is difficult to imagine such a state of things as this, for in these days and in civilized lands there is always money to be had to start new enterprises from which a reasonable return may be expected. If a mine is to be opened the man who has only his muscles to depend upon may know that the mineral is under his feet but having no means to support him until he strikes it, and nothing to give his fellow laborers for the assistance he needs, the wealth of mineral under the ground is of no use to him or to the world. But the capitalist makes things easy for him. Believing that there is a chance of employing his capital to advantage, he commences to sink the shaft, giving the miner work and wages at once. He takes all the risk. If the vein is not found or is not workable when found, the laboring man loses nothing and the capitalist everything. If the venture turn out well then there is work created for the original workingmen and many more workingmen. By the successful use of capital a happy, thriving, busy community is formed where before all was desolation and barrenness. Without the application of capital the place would have continued in its original state of unproductiveness until the end of time. Capital, too, is required to construct railroads and to operate them, and to build ships and sail them in order that the men who labor in the mines may have the opportunity of earning an honest living. All these workers in the mines, on the railroads, in the ships, and the other workers in town and country who supply them with what they need, find employment through the judicious use of capital. This illustration could be multiplied a hundred-fold. The thoughtful and intelligent reader can supply many for himself. Reflection will show him that capital is the life's blood of industries of every kind; that without it the world would relapse into barbarism and that no one would suffer more than the workingman from its destruction or its withdrawal from business enterprises. Yet there are men in the world—some of them in this community—so stupid or so unscrupulous as to try to create an antagonism between capital and labor. They are doing their best to make the working men believe that the capitalist is his enemy and to create illfeeling and jealousy between the two classes. To talk of the capitalist living in idleness at the expense of the workingman is the most mischievous drivel. Capitalists are as a class hard workers. It is by hard and constant work that most of them gained their capital, and they have to use all their faculties and energies to keep it. When the working man is with a peaceful mind enjoying the rest that he has honestly earned the capitalist is often wakeful and anxious, painfully considering how he can keep in operation the concerns and enterprises which enable him to give employment to, it may be, hundreds of workingmen. He has a thousand cares, and is exposed to a thousand dangers that the unthinking man never dreams of. Changes in the markets, in the policy of his own country and in its relations with other countries, which to the ordinary citizen are unimportant, may make his accumulations insecure or mean to him the loss of all he possesses. Some of the men who are trying to set capital against labor do not know what mischief they are doing. Others of them know very well, but for the sake of gain, or of popularity, or of gratifying their malice, they are ready to provoke a war of classes and to throw society into confusion. They are acting the part of the man who burned down his house that he might have a coal with which to light his pipe. There are no more dangerous members of the community than sentimental socialists and disguised anarchists. The teachings and exhortations of those who are endeavoring to set labor against capital, and the employed against their employers, are, if listened to and followed, as sure to lead to socialism and anarchy as that effect follows cause.

An Explanation.

What is this "nervous trouble" with which so many seem now to be afflicted? If you will remember a few years ago the word Malaria was comparatively unknown,—to-day it is as common as any word in the English language, yet this word covers only the meaning of another word used by our forefathers in times past. So it is with nervous diseases, as they and Malaria are intended to cover what our grandfathers called Biliousness, and all are caused by troubles that arise from a diseased condition of the Liver which in performing its functions finding it cannot dispose of the bile through the ordinary channels is compelled to pass it off through the system, causing nervous troubles, Malaria, Bilious Fever, etc. You who are suffering can well appreciate a cure. We recommend Green's August Flower. Its cures are marvelous.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE seventeenth of the present month was the tenth anniversary of the National Policy victory. It is seldom in these days that a statesman enjoys so long a lease of power as ten years. After a year or two the defeated opposition gains strength and the policy of the party in power ceases to be popular. But this has not been the case with Sir John Macdonald's administration. The opposition, never strong, appears to be weaker and more divided now than it was six years ago, and the confidence of the people in the Conservative Premier and in the policy which he inaugurated is to all appearances as strong to-day as it was on the 17th of September, 1878.

THE surplus in the United States Treasury is simply enormous. The country must be extremely rich when the withdrawal of such an immense sum of money from the circulation does not produce a serious financial crisis. In 1887 the balance in the treasury was $512,851,434. This was after redeeming all the debt that was redeemable and buying bonds to a large amount that were not yet due, besides making lavish appropriations for pensions and public works. The people of the United States must be very patient indeed to see so large a proportion of their hard earnings taken from them by a government that does not need the money and thrown into the Treasury where it can do no good.

SIR DONALD A. SMITH and Sir George Stephen some time ago presented Montreal with one million dollars for the endowment of a hospital on the condition that the city would grant for the institution a suitable site. The site was selected, but fault was found with it, and the magnificent gift was received with great coldness by the majority of those for whose benefit it was intended. Anything more ungracious than the manner of some of the recipients can hardly be conceived. It is no wonder that Sir Donald in a recent interview said that both he and Sir George Stephens were disappointed at the spirit in which their gift had been received, particularly as they had taken every precaution to protect the health of the city by obtaining the opinion of the best experts.

THE *Times* knows no middle ground. It is either sickening in its adulation or disgusting in its abuse. A few months ago it was so overwhelmed by its admiration for the President of the E. & N. railway that it advocated his public reception at the city boundary. One of its editors presented the President with the freedom of the "gates," and rode with him in a triumphal car through the principal streets. In but one respect have circumstances changed since that memorable occasion. Mr. Dunsmuir is neither better nor worse in September than he was in March. He is as public spirited now as he was then. But he has withdrawn his advertisements and stopped his subscription, and the *Times*, which six months ago would have blackened his boots, is now engaged in endeavoring to blacken his character.

THE little war in Sikkim may develope into something more serious. Sikkim is in the hill country in the northwest of India. It is a small territory but it lies near and commands a large and valuable tea-growing country. Great Britain claims to have treaty rights over Sikkim which the people of Thibet will not acknowledge, and they have occupied the country in force. Their army is estimated at 15,000 men. There is a British force under Col. Graham of 1,800 men and four mountain guns. This is considered sufficient to deal with the Thibetan army. There has, it appears, been at least one engagement lately in which the Thibetans were badly beaten. If there is no other enemy to contend with Col. Graham will soon bring the Thibetans to reason, but it is feared that China may espouse the cause of Thibet and then the war will assume a more serious aspect.

IT is encouraging to see that the efforts of the Premier of Quebec to stir up discord between French Canadians and their English-speaking fellow subjects, as wel as between Protestants and Catholics, have signally failed. When he made the disallowance of a bill on purely constitution grounds the pretext to raise the race prejudices and religious jealousies of his compatriots he deserved to fail. We feel quite satisfied that a large section of the Liberal Party in Quebec and elsewhere are, under the circumstances, quite as well pleased to see Mr. Mercier's candidate defeated as are the Conservatives themselves. No one in this Dominion wants to see race and religious animosities imported into our political contests. Politics are generally acrimonious enough without adding to them those irritating ingredients. Mr. Mercier and his co-agitators have been fittingly rebuked by the result of the election in Montreal East, and it is to be hoped that they will profit by the lesson.

THE Germans have of late years made great progress in both commerce and manufactures. They have found their way into every market of the world, and are Great Britain's keenest competitors. Their admirable system of education has had much to do in bringing about this result. The young German enters the counting house better equipped than the lad of any other nation. He has been educated for his work. His knowledge of other tongues than his own makes him peculiarly effective. In the same way the German boy does not go into a strange world when he enters the workshop. He has been taught in the technical school, of which there are 250 in his native land, how to use his hands, and has been made acquainted both with the materials he has to use and the processes they must undergo in order to become manufactured products. His taste too has been cultivated, and he speedily becomes a skilled and an intelligent workman. Other countries are realizing the importance of training of this kind.

THE *Times* has at last been obliged to confess itself deceived, in the matter of accused civic officials. If it had taken a more moderate and reasonable stand at the first it would not be in the humiliating position in which it now finds itself. In opposing the audit and in abusing those who advocated it, it showed a recklessness and a disregard of the interests of the ratepayers, for which there can be no excuse. We confess that we are a little surprised to see that it admits it has been in the wrong. A full retraction of what it has published against the advocates of a pure and honest civic administration is now in order.

OUR Yates street contemporary is so mendacious and so unjust as to accuse us of rejoicing over "the downfall of a hitherto honest citizen." Our readers can bear us witness that we did nothing of the kind. We defy the *Times* to produce a single sentence from any article that we have written on the audit which exhibits the slightest indication of the spirit which it attributes to us. We were particularly careful to say as little as possible to the prejudice of the men implicated in the alleged defalcations. The article in yesterday's *Times* is greatly more damaging to them than anything that has appeared in our columns. Our contemporary could not eat its dish of crow quietly and humbly. It must have its snarl at THE COLONIST by way of consolation.

THE value of Canada's catch of fish was last year $18,386,000. This was, in round numbers, $300,000 less than it was the year before. As to value, codfish stood first on the list; the catch of that fish being worth $4,315,000; then come herring $2,443,000; next salmon, $2,007,000; lobsters, $1,471,000. Not more than $187,000 worth of oysters is accounted for. The number of men engaged in the fisheries of the Dominion is 59,933; and they earned, one with another, a little more than $300 a man. There were 1,168 vessels and tugs engaged in the fisheries. Their tonnage was 44,489, and their value estimated at $2,000,000. There were also 28,092 fishing boats, valued at 875,000. The value of the vessel's boats and gear is calculated to be $6,750,000. The product of the fisheries of Canada have greatly increased during the last twenty years. In 1869 the value of the season's catch was $4,376,000. Last year, as we have seen, it was $18,386,000., a pretty fair development most people will say.

THE consumption of spirituous liquors and beer in Great Britain for the four years succeeding 1883 showed a gratifying decrease. The temperance people rejoiced at this evidence of the growth of their principles. But the year ending March 1888 shows a slight increase. This may be because times were getting better and the people had more money to spend, or that as this was the Jubilee year an extra quantity of strong waters was consumed in drinking the Queen's health. The people of the United Kingdom drink nearly three quarts of spirits per head—man, woman and child. The precise figure was this year .704 of a gallon, last year it was .702. In Scotland, singularly enough, there were drunk 97,866 gallons of spirits less in the year 1887-88 than in 1886-88. The increase was in England and Ireland, but chiefly in England where it was 2.97 per cent. The consumption of beer in the Old Comtry is simply enormous. The duty alone on the beer consumed amounted last year to $44,372,550. This is said to be the highest point to which the British beer duty ever reached.

THE MUNICIPAL AUDIT.

TO THE EDITOR:—The extraordinary proceedings on Wednesday evening last, at the council meeting decidedly created genuine surprise all round, particularly the gurgious efforts of the presiding officer, to keep back from public scrutiny a document prepared by the auditors specially appointed by by-law to carry out certain functions of the deepest importance to the ratepayers.

To suggest that the auditors should have appended dates and other details in giving a summary of their labors is hardly less than childish. No doubt the auditors have all the data on which their report is based, and those officers of the Corporation affected in any way by the findings of the auditors will, of course, have an opportunity of refuting or explaining the serious charges involved.

It seems unaccountable, however, that the Mayor, who for two years held the position of chairman of the finance committee, possessed (as he claims) more knowledge of finance and accounts than all the auditors put together, should have given silent approval to what is generally admitted to be, at least, a loose and slovenly system of keeping the accounts of the Corporation.

The mayor has a very serious and important duty to carry out, and that promptly, because we have not only before us a startling Report, of what is alleged to have occurred for several years prior to and up to 31 Dec., 1887, but there is the additional statement of no less astounding character to the effect that the books for 1888 have not been posted. The credit of the city must surely be affected by such a rotten state of affairs, and members of the council also have serious responsibilities in ascertaining and laying before the public a true statement of its accounts, showing that the city's revenue has been carefully and systematically collected, and that the expenditure has been as carefully made in its legitimate channels. As matters apparently stand to-day it is absolutely impossible to ascertain the operations financially during the current year, and without a thorough overhauling with as little delay as possible. Members of the council might find themselves personally responsible in accordance with the provisions of the Municipalities Act.

Sept. 28, 1888. A RATEPAYER.

THE NORTHERN ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR:—Why does the corporation build drains with fir instead of cedar? The former will last three or four years, the latter ten or more.

Why should the corporation offer a hundred thousand dollars to bridge Seymour Narrows? If a railway be designed for Bute Inlet, the hundred thousand dollars will have no effect either in inducing the construction of the railway or extending it to Vancouver Island. A much wiser plan would be, so offer bagsome sum to extend the Nanaimo railway to Seymour Narrows, or better still, to the north end of the island. The Bute Inlet railway would then have a connection with Victoria ready made, and what is more, the corporation would be doing something to colonize Vancouver Island, which means bringing more business to Victoria. I do not mean to go into the question as to whether they have a legal right to do the one or the other.

Is it necessary any more to point out the rapidly growing importance of the north? One would imagine Saunders' bold and noble effort and its deserved success would open people's eyes. If they do not help themselves, the Gods won't, nor the government neither.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 26, 1888. J. S. H.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

TO THE EDITOR:—I would like through the medium of your valuable paper to draw the attention of the thinking public to a question of vital interest to all. I refer to "Saturday afternoon as a half-holiday." This has already been before public notice, but only to be doomed to rejection. Probably the times were not ripe enough for its adoption. The colony was young and required all the time and energy at her disposal. Much had to be done and there were few to do it. These days, however, have gone by, and the Victorian (in a figurative sense at least) can sit under his own vine and fig tree enjoying the fruits of his labour. This is perfectly right and only as things should be. But is there not a duty owing to the boy who is to take his place in after years? This duty is to look to the development of the youth mentally and physically. What opportunity is there of exercising the mental and physical faculties if he is obliged to work 60 hours per week? None in the world. He is in a fair way to become a bar-room or a street-corner loafer. And this danger would be obviated if a half day per week was set apart for purposes of recreation or study. From personal experience, I am in no way inclined either for study or sport after a day's work of ten hours. From a moral standpoint, I can speak more strongly. The fact of not having a set half holiday leads to the infringement of the Sabbath, which by Divine command is to be a "day of rest." This phrase has become a misnomer! Alas, for our so-called civilization! We have failed miserably in our duty regarding the fourth commandment. The strict keeping of which is incompatable with all law and good government. It will be a sad day for us when the sacred privilege is taken away. The harm done to young minds in the pernicious example set them by Sunday pleasuring is incalculable. It is then that they are most impressionable, and when educated to this state of things nothing short of a miracle can alter the impression made. A spirit of greed seems to be growing in our midst, the fostering of which means spiritual bankruptcy. Let us pull ourselves together as one man and root out this evil, as there can be no true, no real progress, if we neglect our duty towards the Creator who gives us all we have.

Nobody can possibly be the loser if Saturday afternoons are devoted to leisure, but on the contrary all would benefit in a greater or less degree (the animal kingdom included). This question comes within the province of the clergy, and I feel assured (should they take it up) that their efforts will meet with the success they merit. VERITAS.

Victoria, Sept. 15th, 1888.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

TO THE EDITOR:—The medical gentlemen attending St. Joseph's Hospital have most earnestly advised the Sisters of St. Ann not to admit any cases of scarlatina or diptheria into the institution.

It is the duty of the corporation to supply a place or places for the admission of the destitute suffering from those contagious disorders. Why should the corporation limit its duties to smallpox?

When the Jubilee Hospital is in process of building it is to be hoped that the corporation will supply means to erect *detached* buildings upon the hospital grounds, and so have a "Scarlatina Villa," "Diptheria Cottage," and so forth.

Victoria, B.C., Sept. 26th, 1888. J. S. HELMCKEN,

OBJECT TEACHING.

TO THE EDITOR:—I asked a boy who was running through "the tables," what a hogshead really was? Answer. "A pig's head, to be sure, you know."

This fact is merely related to show the desirability of supplying the schools with a common set of ordinary weights and measures, or of inducing teachers to show by ocular demonstration what they teach—a sort of objective teaching. It would possibly be advantageous, were schoolboys to visit the museum in the government buildings occasionally, and also the cellars, where hogsheads, puncheons, barrels, etc., are. A GROWN BOY.

Victoria, B. C. Sept. 25.

SIR JOHN ON RETALIATION.

Sir John Macdonald on being interviewed on the Retaliation question, said:

"There is no truth in the widely published statement that the English Government peremptorily ordered the Canadian Executive to maintain strict silence when the fishery question came up, or that Canada was debarred from acting at present. While the whole matter rests in the hands of Great Britain, I am well aware," continued Sir John, "that such statements have been made and that they have gained general credence, but the sober facts are that the Canadian Government has full right and power to act in this matter itself and that it will do so without reference to the Mother Country. The policy of the Canadian Government will be to await developments in the United States. By this I mean that the only question from which trouble can arise relates to the fishing. The fishing season has just closed and it will not open again until May. In other words, it will be fully eight months before the United States will have any chance to bring up that question again. Until that time we will do absolutely nothing unless President Cleveland makes some unexpected move, which is not probable, even if the Senate should grant him the asked for power. Nothing can come of all the present discussion, therefore, for eight months, and before the expiration of that time things may have assumed a quieter aspect."

Consumption Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. address. Respectfully,

DR. T. A. SLOCUM,
37 Yonge street, Toronto, Ont.

A WORD TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind. [591] myOl-eod&w