# Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1885.


## THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The respect which all, and especially all old timers, have for the chief justice, must not prevent a courteous expression of disappointment with the memorandum which he addressed to the commissioners on the Chinese question. The narrative or descriptive part of the memorandum is more or less interesting; but the main illustrations and arguments are not, in our judgment, apposite or convincing. There is no true analogy between the dislike formerly entertained by British workmen to the introduction of machinery and the objection on the part of the people to the immigration of Chinamen. The objection in the two cases, perhaps, sprang originally from similar fears, but it soon was found that, while machinery augments the power of man over the material world its great use is to register and regulate that power, rendering it more largely efficacious. Machinery, moreover, has an internal as well as an external effect. Except in some special departments of industry it increases the opportunities of the laborer and enlarges his opportunities. It is, therefore, generally the friend, not the enemy, of the handicraftsman. The competition of the Chinamen does not thus act; its tendency is to degrade labor and lessen the opportunities of employment; hence there is no true analogy between the two cases. We take leave, also, to suggest that the alleged dependence of the price of labor on the equation of supply and demand is not so absolute as the chief justice supposes, nor is it correct to say that this equation theory is questioned only by those who "work with their hands." The new readings of several economical assumptions which limit their absoluteness without impugning their authority under given conditions notably embrace this particular theory. One school of modern economists argues strongly, for reasons easily stated did space permit, that the competition of workmen in a small minority of cases, but normally, and far more largely, the *de facto* combination of employes when there is no effective counter-combination, are the determining causes of the price of labor. It is true that the employers cannot force the men to take less than the latter can live upon; but employers can and do force them to take as little more than the bare means of subsistence as it pleases them to offer. It is from this point of view that the pinch of Chinese competition is distressingly felt. The employers are enabled by that competition to cut under the subsistence point which otherwise would be maintained. For example, seamstresses in this city received from $1 down to 75 cents a day—a scanty wage which competition among their own class was not likely to reduce. Chinamen now undertake this work for 50 cents a day and the women have to take this reduced rate for common work with fewer opportunities of employment. This is a very serious matter and one that admirably illustrates the subject under discussion. It is not that the Chinaman is more skillful or more industrious; it is simply because, being hereditarily on a lower plane of civilization, he can exist comfortably, according to his habits, below the subsistence point which the preservation of our civilized condition requires. The chief justice here holds his argumentative sword by the point and cuts his fingers with it. How far is he prepared to push his equation theory? In is not probable, when white labor is in full supply, that what has happened to seamstresses will be, if it has not already been, the fate of common laborers and in time of artisans if Chinese immigration continue unrestricted? Is it good policy that these men with the burden of their families and the duties of citizenship on them should be forced to compete with low-life men not bearing these burdens and never likely to shoulder them, and to do this to the hazard of our civilization in deference to an abstract theory questioned by competent economists and certainly not true everywhere and always? What will be the effect on our community—on our civilization—when white labor shall be degraded to the Chinese mark, as it was degraded in the Southern States to the slave mark, producing there the class of "mean whites." But not to press this view—taking simply the economic one, giving full scope to the equation theory as stated by the chief justice, how is it, for instance, if the prevailing motive force from which springs the competition on which the theory is based is interfered with; how is it when the action, sentiments and thought of the individual agent are modified by broader social considerations than those merely personal and peculiar of which alone economists and of the school to which the chief justice seems to belong take notes; how is it when, practically, a system of serf or involuntary labor limits the number of employments or moves among these more perfectly than free civilized labor can move? The mere economic truth, however, whatever that may be, cannot decide the question without reference to other conditions and considerations. We must think that this latter aspect of the question (by which we do not mean comparative personal moralities) should have received more notice from the distinguished writer. Some remarks on the broadly injurious moral effects upon the community of the impending degradation of labor would have come well from the chief justice. He might have shown how rare and occasional in the whole history of the world human progress is—how difficult are the upward steps of a nation—what slight causes may produce stationariness or change a stationary to a degrading state, and how seriously the Chinese question bears on these well-known historic facts. The lucid statement and happy phrases of the memorandum do not compensate for the lack of breadth of view and insight which characterizes the attempt to deal with this question of social statesmanship.

## MR. BRIGHT AND THE NEW ELECTORS.

Mr. John Bright has written to the liberal candidate for the county of Bute a long letter avowedly "to urge the new electors to support the liberal party at the next election." Having claimed credit for the liberals that during the last fifty years they had reformed the House of Commons, abolished the corn laws, removed hindrances to trade, and provided the working classes with good and cheap schools, the right hon. gentleman writes: "And what of the future? What will household suffrage in counties and the new arrangement of seats do for the new voters, and especially for the farm laborers? If the new voters knew their interests, and if the liberals are returned in great power to the new parliament, two things will have a chance of being done. The land laws will be reformed, and much of them reformed out of existence. In past times and now our land laws have been framed to protect the great estates of great families. Great estates lead to great farms, and great farms lead to the result that it is almost impossible for farm laborers to become farmers; and thus the path of the intelligent and hard-working laborer to an improved position and condition for himself and family is barred and blocked. The holding of great estates under entails and settlements, often heavily mortgaged and burdened, makes it impossible for them to be well cultivated, and thus the demand for labor is lessened, and a better rate of wages is prevented. This whole system of land laws must be broken down, and the new and great reform will do little if it does not get rid as far as possible of the mischief of the past. The game laws, too, will come under revision. Parliament may accept the principle that the creatures which live on and from the land are the property, if there be any property in them, of the farmer at whose cost and by whose labor the farm is cultivated. When this principle is admitted in our law then what is called "preservation of game" may cease, murderous conflicts on game preserves may no longer be known, and laborers may not have before them an almost constant and irresistible temptation to become poachers and breakers of the law. If the new voters will help the liberal party, the liberal landowners, the liberal farmers, the liberal shopkeepers and tradesmen in the towns and villages of the counties and county divisions, we may see much good done by a new parliament. If what I have written shall give information or useful counsel, I shall be glad. I have for more than forty years endeavored to press forward in the country and in parliament the changes to which I have referred. They have all, so far as they have been effected, in my view been of great service to the country. The period of reform is not yet ended. It will rest in no small degree with the good sense of the new constituency, combined with what is intelligent and just in the old body of electors, whether, as on the two past occasions, in 1832 and in 1867, a large measure of electoral reform shall be followed by great measures of improvement in the legislation of our country. Perhaps I have written at too great length, but if so you will forgive me, as the subject is too grave to be treated in a paragraph."

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA EXCLUSION ACT.

The Manitoba Free Press of recent date takes a decided stand in favor of the exclusion of the Chinese. Speaking of the action of the legislature of British Columbia, in passing an act prohibiting Chinese immigration, which, it says, might well make the Dominion committee of enquiry blush, if they are capable of such a thing, when they think of their report which has lately been published, the Free Press adds: According to that report only a few ignorant white laborers are in favor of Chinese exclusion; a few more intelligent people have a vague notion that something, they know not what, should be done to restrict the influx of Celestials; but the great mass of the intelligence of the Pacific province are satisfied to leave the question to settle itself, or are opposed to anti-Chinese legislation. At about the same date when the report was setting out these "facts" in Ottawa, the people of British Columbia, through their legislative representatives, were enacting a bill prohibiting Chinese immigration. British Columbia's anti-Chinese Act will of course be disallowed. What are the assertions of the people of a province as compared with the statements of a government commission? We shall be told as serenely and as confidently as though it were not palpably false, that British Columbia is in love with the Chinese, and that only a few demagogues are opposed to them. We say that we have just as much right, as a people, to exclude foreigners, no matter who they may be, from our country as we have as individuals to exclude strangers from our houses. The fact that many of the most highly civilised nations specially, by passport, authorizing strangers to enter their territory shows that they claim the right to withhold that permission whenever they see fit. International law recognizes that right. England, secure in her insular position, has not found it necessary to exercise it. The United States inviting the world to share in their country have disregarded it, although even they have made an exception in the case of Chinese. It is sheer nonsense, therefore, to attempt to maintain that Canada would not be justified in excluding the Chinese if she saw fit, and the British government did not object. It is entirely a question of expediency. If the Chinese are benefiting us they should be encouraged to come. If they are doing no harm, they should not be interfered with. If they are injuring us, they should be excluded. The testimony of those who should know best is to the effect that they are injuring us. The people of British Columbia have asserted this through their legislature. The question, then, is whether the federal government should be allowed to disregard the evidence and frustrate the wishes of a province in such a matter. Let it not be forgotten, however, that Canadians have as much right to exclude Chinese from their country, as an individual Canadian has to lock the door of his house in the face of an individual Chinaman.

## THE ONTARIO FRANCHISE.

Ontario has passed a new franchise bill which alters the qualifications for voters for the legislature. The clauses who will be permitted to vote in future are:

Owners, tenants or occupants of property in cities and towns valued and assessed at $200.

Owners, tenants or occupants of property in villages and townships valued at $100.

Men who earn $300 a year, whether as annual salary or daily wages. In order to vote on income qualification, it shall not be necessary, as it formerly was, to pay the tax on income.

Householders, who live in dwellings worth less than $200 in cities and towns and less than $100 in villages and townships. This does not include dwellers in rooms which form parts of a house, but only those who occupy separate dwellings.

Landholders, whether owners or tenants, of 20 acres of land, or of property worth $400 in cities and towns, or of property worth $200 in townships and villages; the landlord's son, step-son or grandson residing with the landholder during 8 months of the year.

Only resident owners, occupants or tenants shall vote on property. The principle of "one man one vote" is adopted.

It will be seen that nearly all the adult male population comes within these qualifications. Any man who works will earn at least $300 a year, and most men are householders. Students who board are of course still unenfranchised, but that is only temporary, for as soon as they begin to earn money or occupy separate houses they are entitled to vote. The most important result of the new bill is that it does away with non-resident voting. In the past men who had property in different constituencies could vote four or five times, and in many cases small patches of land were held for no other purpose.

## State Rights.

To the Editor:—The above sentence savors of rebellion. It was the watchword of the "lost cause." I had nothing to do with that affair, nor is what I am about to say born of it. If that "cause," whatever it might have been, was lost, the rights of states were not lost. These rights may be buried, or bartered, or given away but they are indestructible. Amongst these rights is that of determining who shall inhabit the territory of the state. The state is the home, the domicile, the castle of its creators.

When the state forms an alliance or political union with other states it can only justly be for the attainment of ends common to all as defence from foreign aggression. Within its own boundaries, and concerning its individual interests it should be supreme. Concerning the British North America Act, I know nothing. If it is contrary to the above requirement of individual state rights it is not founded in equity nor in the spirit of freedom of this century.

If British Columbians signed away their liberty of action as regards their individual interests and rights they deserve commiseration. If so, they had better go on the back track and redeem themselves. We do not demand that the Chinese shall not go to Ontario or Quebec or Nova Scotia, we will even bond and send them there, but that they shall not come to British Columbia. Nor is it incumbent on us to say why they shall be excluded. That is our business, and the other provinces have no right to say that the Chinese shall come into British Columbia, even if we were willing for them to come, much less when we are otherwise determined. What has just been done should have been accomplished at the outset, viz: an act of parliament passed excluding them from British Columbia only, and let the Dominion government show solid ground for presuming to override our provincial authority. E. Stevenson.

## The Chief Justice and the Chinese Question.

To the Editor:—I have read with much pleasure your excellent leading article upon this subject in which you show that all the arguments advanced by Sir M. B. Begbie in favor of Chinese labor are comparatively of little value, inasmuch as the competition of this kind of labor if permitted without any restrictions will paralyze white labor, and as to its effects upon female labor would bring a repetition of the wretchedness alluded to by Hood in his celebrated "Song of the Shirt." Never let it be overlooked that the prosperity of any community is largely dependent upon the well being of the working classes, and if impoverished the pernicious effects would soon be felt. Evidently the chief justice—and with him I may include numbers favorable to Chinese labor—attaches no importance to what the poet has said:

"Take a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

But perhaps it will be argued that the white laborer of the day is not entitled to the consideration involved in the appellation of a bold peasant; but is not the severity of Chinese competition calculated to take out of him every bit of latent goodness? Can you expect excellence or the feeblest approach to it if subjected to such tribulation? You ask in your article, "What will be the effect on our community—on our civilization—when white labor shall be degraded to the Chinese mark?" But these are matters the advocates of Chinese labor never concern themselves about, they are too much enamored with the supposed economy enjoyed by the preference given to Chinese labor to give such matters any consideration. The statement that "equal wages" would be the result have long ago become too fragrant with the good things of this life to engender any solicitude for humbler brethren of their own kith and kin.

But all the arguments embodied in the report of the Chinese commissioners in favor of Chinese labor come too late, for the practical experience of the evils resulting have been too emphatically pronounced, both from Australia and America, to admit of doubt, and surely our province cannot be an exception.

Well, now, to meet the difficulties arising from it the commissioners have made sundry suggestions in their report, to which report the application may be made of the expression once used by the late Sydney Herbert in the house of commons upon some resolution submitted, viz., "That it was an emasculated piece of slip slop." The resolutions passed at our last public meeting were of the same tame character. Not that I mean to say when presented to Sir Jno. A. Macdonald they will have no effect; but what effect? Why, about the same as that of a blister upon a wooden leg. Our government have never shown they are equal to the emergency by shutting the door against further arrivals, for which they not only deserve the gratitude of the community but will also have that of the Chinese themselves, inasmuch as at present there are large numbers of their people unemployed and some of them keeping body and soul together upon one meal a day.

The excuse of Sir Jno. A. Macdonald for delay before placing restriction upon future Chinese immigration on the ground of a large amount of labor being required in railway construction can be easily met with the answer that at present there is an abundant supply of such and every other kind of labor, and that our province will be more fully justified in asking for restrictive measures to be passed this season, and that we should not be soothed into quietude with the lullaby of Sir John's "Sweet Bye and Bye." You speak in your article of "human progress," and the upward steps of a nation." But, as before said, the advocates of Chinese labor don't concern themselves about such enlarged views; but, nevertheless, the question may well be put, how are these railways, when completed, to be made to pay, if the province be inundated with Chinamen? Some alarmists have said the railways when running will never pay enough for axle-grease; but if dependent upon Chinese patronage there will not be enough to grease a gimlet. In addition, this province might be able to find room for a limited amount of Chinese labor, but the coming of these people to our shores in unrestricted numbers will be found incompatible with our happiness and prosperity. You cannot build up a prosperous British settlement in this province upon the basis of cheap Chinese labor; for its accomplishment there is wanting the numerous requirements of the civilization of our own race.

W. K. B.

## Electric Light vs. Gas.

To the Editor:—Following is a comparative statement of the different systems of lighting the city taken from the report of the electric light and street lighting committee.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cost of maintaining the present light under existing arrangements to the end of the term, say: | |
| Six years at $500 per month | $36,000 |
| Purchase of plant at end of term | 12,500 |
| | $48,000 |
| If electric light purchased at once | $12,500 |
| Cost of maintaining, $136 per month | 16,992 |
| | $29,492 |
| If electric light purchased | $12,500 |
| Additional plant (16 lights) | 8,000 |
| Maintainance, $4,000 per annum | 24,000 |
| | $44,500 |

GAS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100 Lamps Maintenance, | 4500 per an. | 6 yrs | $27,000 |
| 125 do | do | 5250 do | 31,500 |
| 150 do | do | 5850 do | 35,100 |
| 200 do | do | 7200 do | 43,200 |
| To which must be added if 250 lamps are required for street lighting: | | | |
| 69 Iron Posts at $15 | | | $ 1,035 00 |
| 181 do at $20 | | | 3,620 00 |
| 180 Lamps at $8 | | | 1,440 00 |
| 250 Lamps 6 years at $750 per mo | | | 54,000 00 |
| | | | $60,095 00 |

A reduction is promised, but the rate not being stated I take the figures as mentioned.

From these figures it will be readily observed that the purchase of the existing light supplemented by additional plant of sixteen lights maintained for six years would cost $44,500, of which the corporation would own $20,500 of plant and by which the city could be lighted annually for $4,000. On the other hand the cost of lighting the city with gas from 250 lights would aggregate during the next six years $60,095, and the corporation would only own $6,095 of plant. The maintenance would, at the rate of $8 per lamp per month, cost the city $9,000 per annum as against $4,000 for electric light. But let us take up the question of city lighting prior to electric lighting.

In 1883, at the beginning of the year the Gas Co. supplied the city with light from 67 lamps at a cost of $4.25 each, and during the year 2 additional lamps were erected at a cost of about $100. The total cost of the year being approximately—gas, 69 lamps, $3,560; coal oil, $600—$4,160.

The actual figures being for this year $4,120.70.

The electric light has had the effect of causing a reduction from $4.25 per lamp in 1883 to $3 in 1885, and even at the reduced rate the city can save some $5,000 a year by the purchase of the electric plant, supplemented by an addition of 16 lights and maintaining the works and lighting in the hands of the corporation. Citizen.

## Fire.

A fire occurred yesterday morning in the rear of the brick building situated on the northwest corner of Government and Cormorant streets, occupied by Lu Chong & Co. It was occasioned by cinders from the chimney dropping on the roof and might have resulted in a serious conflagration, but for the timely application of several buckets of water. The source of the fire is a brick oven with a short chimney, and this is the third or fourth time the same roof has ignited from the burning embers. It is liable to be the cause of an extensive conflagration at any moment. The attention of the fire wardens is urgently requested to prevent any further casualties from the defective arrangements of this hazardous establishment.

## European Mail.

Per Northern Pacific Railway.

An instance of incredible ingratitude of peculiar interest to medical men was recently brought to light before one of the criminal courts of Paris. It appears that a man named Bouyer was dangerously sick about fifteen months ago from a wound in the hand, the consequences of which were intensified by diabetes. Falsely pretending to be a physician, he made his situation known to three of the most eminent medical men of Paris, who with a nephew of one of them gave him the most assiduous care. One of them made him twelve another fifty and a third eighty visits; while the other cared for him day and night. Contrary to their apprehensions they cured him, and on the score of his being a doctor, charged him absolutely nothing. For their pains the cured patient caused their arrest, accusing them of having tortured, mangled and used him as a subject for experiments. It was a sad move, however, for Bouyer, for not only were the physicians acquitted, but he was sentenced to pay each of the four 3000 francs damages.

Among the messages of sympathy received by Mr. Edmund Yates, upon his imprisonment in Holloway jail, was one from "Our James"—meaning, of course, Mr. J. McN. Whistler. "You shall not take this occasion to forget us altogether," he wrote; "so I, for one, knowing from tradition, that others, distinguished under the same conditions of isolation, made for themselves pet companions, in their retirement, of plants and inferior animals—notably in the case of Picciola, where even a spider was his chosen—send you a butterfly that you shall cherish as an emblem of hope and joy. Drive it not from you, my dear Edmund, for it brings my best wishes and loyalty."

The Mudir of Kassala is a sorely tried man. He has been besieged by the Mahdi's forces for nine months, and as if this were not enough, he has had a number of wild beasts in captivity thrown upon his hands by the death of their owner. The trade in animals for menageries and zoological gardens has developed greatly of late years, the Soudan and Nubia, being the main hunting grounds. One of the principal providers of wild animals for show was a Jew of Vienna named Kohn, who has brought to Europe at various times from Nubia a large number of lions, giraffes, antelopes, and ostriches. He had collected a number of these shortly before Kassala was invested, and had them in town at the attack by the rebels. After a short time he died at the age of 72, and history does not yet record what became of the beasts.

The London Times pronounces the new Brazilian vessel, the Raichuelo, the most perfectly constructed ship of war afloat, possessing, in respect to speed, coal, endurance, and arrangement to fire off her guns, special advantages—such, in fact, as are not contained in any other ship. There is a twin screw turret vessel of 6,000 tons and 6,000 horse power, built of steel, 305 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 30 feet deep. She can make fifteen knots an hour, and run at that speed some 4,500 miles without recoaling. Her armor plates are ten and eleven inches thick, and the armament consists of five nine-inch twenty-ton breech-loading rifled guns in two revolving turrets, and six six-inch breech-loaders, besides fifteen Nordenfelt machine guns. In addition to this superb and effective armament, the vessel is also provided with a number of Whitehead torpedoes.

Mrs. Speedy, in her "Wandering in the Soudan," relates the following curious episode:—After a long day's march she was just settling herself down to sleep, when her host, an Arab telegraph clerk, separated from her by only a thin partition, began to say his prayers in a loud sing-song chant. She remonstrated; for a time there was silence; she was falling asleep when the clerk began his prayers again. Again she remonstrated, again there was a brief silence, to be broken, alas! too soon by the indefatigable clerk, who once more began saying his prayers "da capo," this time faster than ever. It was like "speaking by machinery," the wirr and buzz was terrific. We learned next morning that our host belonged to a sect which obliged him to say his prayers aloud and which also enjoined as one of the most stringent rules that the voice of either a woman, a donkey or a dog, if heard at any time during the service, made necessary that the whole of the prayer should be repeated.

Immense quantities of woods are annually sent from India to England, to be manufactured into furniture. One of the most highly valued of these, and universally used, is the toon wood, which is light, soft, and red, having no heartwood; is not eaten by ants, and is adapted not only for furniture, but for door panels and carving. Chickerasi or chikrassi wood is another sort of great industrial value. It is a large tree, with bark of reddish brown and deeply cracked, the heartwood hard, varying from yellow to reddish brown, with a beautiful satin luster, seasons and works well, and is employed for furniture and carving. Nagasar wood has dark red heartwood, extremely hard; it is used for building, for bridges, gun stocks and tool handles, but its more general use is prevented by its great hardness, weight and the consequent difficulty of working it. Kandebwood is light red, shining, cross-grained and moderately hard.

(ORIGINAL)

### RUTH TO NAOMI.

Mother, I will go with thee,
Though dreary be the road,
Thy people shall my people be,
Thy God shall be my God.
For I have learned of thee His truth,
Unknown to me in days of youth.

Mother, seek not thus to move me,
Nor cause my tears to flow,
Urge me not—but if you love me
With thee, oh! let me go.
Though poor and mean thy house may be,
Yet gladly I will dwell with thee.

Mother, thou art old and feeble—
Thou hast known much care;
I, as yet, am young and able,
Thy poverty I'll share;
For darker may thy future lot be,
And friends once known have all forgot thee.

Sister Orpah back is coming
To her mother's home again,
Her eyes with tears are flowing,
Yet, like the morning rain,
Will soon be o'er, and she will be
Forgetful 'mid other joys of thee.

No joy for me with Mahlon dead,
He left me for that home
He told me of, and oft he prayed
That I at length might come.
For Moab's Gods are false and vain
I dare not worship them again.

Thy God is true—His favor free,
His laws will I obey,
Cheer up, my mother, lean on me,
Let us pursue our way.
Oh! it would break my widowed heart
If I were forced from thee to part.

E. Larsto.

Look after your wife and never mind yourself, she'll look after you.

A small stock of health has its compensations, like a small fortune.

A crust in the open air makes more blood than a rost of beef in a close room.

Prejudice is the mildew of mind; it is only found where light does not enter.

## BRITISH NOTES.

### The Gloomy Warning of a Tory—Is Gladstone Insane?

New York, March 7.—The Herald's London cable of the 6th says: A thoughtful member of the house of commons, when asked yesterday by a correspondent his opinion about what the Times called the "existing national crisis," sententiously answered: "It means that Irish disloyalty is more rampant than ever; that South Africa is in confusion; that chaos is in Egypt; that Earl Granville and Bismarck are fighting a diplomatic duel; that the British army is locked up in the Soudan, and that the sultan is holding its key; that Russia is at India's gates and that the Ameer is holding their keys; that the dynamiters are planning more earthquakes and that an increase in the army means an increase in the income, tea and tobacco taxes. These make up the crisis." It is needless to add he is a tory. He then adverted to Cleveland's inaugural, and added: "There is no crisis in America, except the office-seekers' crisis, and I think if aliens are allowed to hold land I shall not seek reelection in Parliament, but in a cattle ranch."

Touching the silver part of the inaugural he added: "If silver ceases to be coined in the United States India will suffer from deep financial distress, and as to your new secretary of the treasury being a bank president, he will doubtless press silver demonetization in congress. On the whole, therefore, let me add to the crisis the possible bankruptcy of India, which last year paid this country in interest on debt and military charges $20,000,000 in gold."

The tories now hope to attack the government with success, as the deficit in the budget, between the revenue and expenditure of the current year, is estimated at $7,500,000 and an equal deficit is estimated for next year. With increased war estimates the chancellor of the exchequer will be obliged to admit that the expense next year will exceed the revenue by £10,000,000. The cabinet has rejected Goschen's plan to meet the deficit by increasing duties on beer and tea. The chancellor of the exchequer and Gladstone favor the suspension of the sinking fund and an increase of the income tax and succession duties.

The St. Stephen's Review says: "Gladstone recently bought one day over 100 hats, and that his mind is giving way under the strain to which it has been subjected is evident."

## STARTLING DISCOVERY.

### Fraud by a Deceased Ex-Judge.

### His Friends Maintain His Innocence.

New York, Feb. 17.—Ex-Judge Henry H. Voorhis, of Spring Valley, N.J., secretary of the Bergen County Farmers' Mutual Assurance Company, died a few weeks ago. An enquiry into his affairs shows that he has been systematically misappropriating funds of the company and other trust funds in his possession. The supposed purity of character that enveloped Voorhis caused him to be widely trusted, and he was sought for as executor of several estates. He was a prominent member of his church and an active worker in prayer meetings, gaining for himself the title of the "godly man." Among the amounts he is alleged to be short are the estate of the late Richard Ackerman, $15,000; the estate of John B. Brown, of Paterson, $6,000; C. G. Vanhorn, of West Washington market, $7,000; the insurance company, $12,000, and $2,000 of the church cemetery funds.

He transacted all the business of the insurance company and read a statement quarterly, which was accepted by the directors without examination. The treasurer was supposed to handle all funds, and the reports indicated a surplus in the treasury of $29,000. Treasurer Demerest says he was ignorant of the fact that the secretary had not turned in the $12,000. The insurance company will be wound up. It is stated Voorhis is also indebted to two or three other estates in Passaic county. The affair has created a sensation in Bergen county. Voorhis' friends cannot account for the utter absence of memoranda of various funds entrusted to him. They assert that if there is any crookedness it is with other, at present unknown, parties. In 1879 his son, Ex-Congressman Voorhis, failed, wrecking the First National Bank of Hackensack, and the Hackensack Savings Bank.

## The Bashi-Bazouks.

The London Standard correspondent, writes from Korti, Jan. 11th, says: The Mudir of Dongola arrived here yesterday afternoon in his steamer. He was received by a Guard of Honor of the Black Watch, with their piper. It was a curious contrast, the pale, thin, shifty-eyed Mudir, followed by his rabble of gaudily-dressed Bashi-Bazouks and soldiers, shuffling past the bronzed stalwart figures of the Highlanders. The same Bashi-Bazouks are the curse of the country, and their is no barbarity or outrage of which they are not capable if they get the chance. Since the arrival of British troops, however, they have had to retain their lawless proclivities. I witnessed an instance of the reckless indifference with which they treat the natives. A few days ago within a short distance of camp, I saw a Bashi-Bazouk hailing a native boat drifting down stream. The man in the boat did not come into the shore quickly enough to please him, so he dropped on one knee, took deliberate aim and fired. The bullet passed close to the oarsman's head, who promptly lay down in the bottom of the boat, too frightened to move. The Bashi-Bazouk reloaded his rifle and marched serenely down the bank as if nothing had happened. They also have a playful habit of raiding on the neighboring villages and carrying off the women. Having kept them on their camp for a week or two, they then sell them back to their husbands and relations. Is it to be wondered at that the unfortunate inhabitants execrate the rule under which they live?

## DIPPED IN ICY WATER.

### The Baptismal Ceremony of a New Religious Sect.

(Cor. Philadelphia Times.)

Reading, March 1.—The novel ceremony of a public baptism in the icy waters of the Schuylkill river took place here to-day. The Mennonite Brethren in Christ is the name of a new denomination which has recently started up in all the small towns in Eastern Pennsylvania. Converts are not members of the church until they are publicly baptized. This must be done immediately after religion is "experienced." This afternoon it was cold and raining hard, but a large crowd of people turned out under umbrellas to witness the ceremony. At 3 o'clock the converts arrived, singing songs. The men were in their stocking feet, going manfully through the slush and snow. There were four man and two women.

Rev. W. B. Musselman, the pastor, waded in and sounded the depth of the water with a long pole. He then bade the faithful to follow him, and they waded in up to their armpits. With the words, "Upon the profession of your faith I baptize you, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost," he dipped each backward, held them in the water for a moment, and then brought them up again. One of the men became "happy" in the water and the pastor had quite a struggle with him to get him out. While the people were in the water large cakes of ice were floating round them in every direction.

These people say they never experience any ill effects from their ducktings, because God takes care of them. They stood on the shore, singing songs, until their clothing was frozen stiff. Frequently the ice has to be cut away with axes before they can get into the water. The church, although of recent origin, has branches in many counties in eastern Pennsylvania.

## Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

Simcoe, March 6.—Hurst's dry goods store and Dobon's book store, were damaged by fire last night. The loss of the former is $7,000, and the latter, $1,000.

Toronto, March 6.—The Dominion Grange to-day adopted the report of the committee on temperance, recommending the grange to support the Scott Act. The grange also condemned the railway monopoly and decided to petition the Dominion Government in favor of having three uniform grades for wheat and barley, to be fixed by statutes, the standard for which should be in possession of all buyers.

The Mail this morning calls for an investigation by the Government into the charges made against Warden Massie of his treatment of Roman Catholic prisoners, his administration being characterized by an intense hatred of everybody and everything Catholic. The Catholic chaplin has resigned, and Hart, a Catholic turnkey has been suspended.

A deputation waited upon Attorney-General Mowat yesterday from St. Catharines, asking relief from the serious financial difficulties the city was in. If the rate required for legal purposes was struck, it would be 28 miles. Mowat promised to consider the matter.

Patterson, Mackenzie & Co., whole sale milliners, have assigned in trust at the request of Finken & Co., who have been dishonoring them, and refuse to do so longer. It is said that the assets will exceed the liabilities.

The cigar manufacturers here protest strongly against the tariff changes, and have appointed a deputation to proceed to Ottawa to interview the minister of customs along with a deputation from other cities.

Montreal, March 5.—Judge Loranger granted an injunction yesterday restricting the sale of the abattoir company's property at Hochelaga, at the instance of the Hochelaga school commission on a claim for taxes. The property, which is valued at $300,000 was to have been sold to day.

Hamilton, March, 5.—While Thomas Kinney was coming down stairs yesterday morning with a lighted lamp, it exploded, setting fire to his clothes. The house also took fire and was extinguished with difficulty. Kinney, who was terribly burned, lies in the hospital in a low condition.

Montreal, March 6.—A man named Chas. G. Bennet, 45 years of age, a native of London, Eng., and at one time moving in a good position and wealthy, committed suicide last night by hanging. Drink was the cause.

The Scott Act was carried in Drummond by over 800 majority.

Winnipeg, March 8.—As Mr. S. Cummins was proceeding homeward along York street about one o'clock on Saturday morning he came across a man lying upon the sidewalk near Carlton street. On gazing into the face of the prostrat man he was horrified on recognizing the features of Mr. Aquila Walsh, Dominion Land Commissioner, apparently dead. Mr. Cummings summoned assistance and had the body removed to a neighboring house. Dr. Lynch was sent for, but his service were required, as upon examining the body he found that life was extinct. The deceased spent the evening at the house of Mr. Mulock in company with a number of friends and appeared to be in very good health. About 12.30 o'clock he left for home in company with Mr. Tedly Blanchard and Dr. Lynch. At the corner of Garry and St. Mary's street the three gentlemen separated, and this was the last time Mr. Walsh was seen alive. Mr. Cummins also spent the evening at Mr. Mulocks but remained about half an hour after the other gentlemen had departed. He took the same course home as Mr. Walsh and found the body of the latter as stated above. The deceased had been a patient of Dr. Lynch, and during the evening he remarked that he had come out without his overshoes and had great difficulty in getting along as the sidewalks were very slippery. As there were no marks on his body whatever to indicate violence or foul play, the theory of medical men is that he must have slipped on the icy pavement, and being very portly, fell heavily the blow causing concussion and death. This was the conclusion that Dr. Newborn, who performed a post mortem examination of the body on Saturday, arrived at, and the verdict of the coroner's jury before Dr. Benson was to the same effect. The remains will be forwarded to Simcoe, Ont, for burial and the funeral will take place from Mr. Holmes residence, 97 Kennedy street to the depot at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

Winnipeg, March 5.—A meeting of secessionists was called to night in Albert hall to take initiatory steps to secede from Canada. There was a large crowd present, the hall being packed. The notorious Stephen, of anti-immigration resolution fame, occupied the chair, and explained the object of the meeting. Mack Howes, who is supposed to be one of the leaders of the movement, spoke at some length, denouncing confederation. Brief speeches were made by ex-Ald. Ham, Ald. Mulvey, and Mr. J. W. Wilson, against dissolving the ties with confederation.

A resolution affirming loyalty to Canada was passed amid loud cheers, the audience standing and singing "God Save the Queen." The chairman was not permitted to read an address he had prepared to present to the Queen, and, on the meeting breaking up, poor Stephen was made the target of half-a-dozen missles. The secessionists were out in full force, probably, a baker's dozen, all told; but the feeling of the meeting was so pronounced that they dare not declare themselves.

Simcoe, March 5.—This evening a fire broke out in Mr. Hursts' dry-goods store adjoining the telegraph office and Dobson's book-store. It quickly spread to the latter place, but through the combined efforts of the citizens' fire brigade it was quickly got under control. It was supposed to be caused by a lamp exploding. Hursts' stock is damaged to the extent of $7,000, and Dobson's about $1,000.

Halifax, N. S., March 5.—The woollen mills of the Union Manufacturing Company, situated at Brookside, two miles from the town of Truro, were destroyed by fire to-night. The fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of wool in the packing room. In an incredibly short time the flames spread over the entire main building, and the operatives, among whom were several girls, saved themselves only by a hasty exit. Burpee Skinner, foreman, and one of the company, went to the upper story, thinking that some of the hands were yet there. Before he had time to return the flames prevented him coming back by the stairway, and he was obliged to jump from the window to the ground, sustaining painful injury to his feet and ankle by the fall. In less than an hour the entire building was consumed with all its valuable machinery and stock. The loss is roughly estimated at about $18,000.

London, March 8.—Mr. John Dawson, township clerk of West Williams and county auditor, died in the City hotel here last night after a week's illness from inflammation of the lungs and bowels. Deceased had been a prominent man in reform politics in North Middlesex for years, and was supposed to be Mr. Waters' nominee for the Middlesex registrarship.

## WHITE HOUSE RULE.

### The New System which will be Introduced by Cleveland.

Chicago, March 8.—An Inter-Ocean special says: Miss Cleveland, who is to be the "first lady in the land," is like Mrs. Hayes in being a temperance woman. She is also like her in believing that the dress and manners of polite society should be such that young girls need not be kept at home from its receptions and dinners, if no other good reason forbids their presence. When Grover Cleveland's father died his presbyterian flock in the Holland patent bought the house in which he lived and made a gift of it to the widow. This incident in a small village whose heart-beats are in the little church and scarcely larger schoolhouse, marks the character of the new occupants of the White House. The President has frankly confessed his wanderings from the standard of life which his father taught. His sister is much as his mother was in mind and moral force. To expect that she has come to preside at the White House without an understanding with her brother, the President, is less than probable. Her influence over him will not be all that a wife could wield, but it will be wiser and possibly stronger in some directions.

Besides all this there are some things to be said of Cleveland himself that go a great way towards promising better for Washington society. The man does not permit to enter into and control his official conduct. Arthur put men into office who gave the best dinners, sailed the best yachts and had the most charming wives. Cleveland will not permit pleasure and business to mix in Arthur's fashion. Therefore society will improve under him, for the money that was spent at high pressure under Arthur to keep out from his favor only those who had the wealth to stand it will no longer be spent. The new President will apply civil sevices reform principles to the social system and the result will be wholesome.

## The Spendthrift Bonaparte.

One of the first things done by the French Government after war was over in 1870 was to appoint a commission to collect, classify and publish the private papers and correspondence of the Imperial family found in the Tuileries after their flight. The commission was appointed in September, 1870, and early in October it had issued two volumes, one of 480 and other of 288 pages which were extensively distributed, but, strange to say, almost immediately disappeared, and have ever since been all but impossible to get. A writer in the January number of the Edinburgh Review seems to have got hold of a copy, and makes a synopsis which certainly contains some facts which no Frenchman ought to be able to read without a blush. The papers show that the French nation in 1851, seventy years after the great revolution, allowed a vulgar adventurer to take almost as complete and as irresponsible control of its treasury as Louis XIV., who had all the traditions of the old monarchy behind him, and who governed in an age when no continental nation had ever voted its taxes or seen a budget.

The private correspondence of the emperor and the memorandum books of his secretaries prove that the Bonaparte family, that is, the emperor's relations, far and near, received from him between 1853 and 1870 in the way of gifts or allowances, and without any services rendered therefor to the state, of $14,000,000. Besides this, the emperor distributed in "allocations, subvention, pensions, gifts succors, indemnities, and encouragements to art, science and literature," over $10,000,000. To this must be added various allocations on "the privy purse," a special fund reserved by the emperor for his personal use. Under this head about $200,000 were distributed annually by M. Thelin, "the keeper of the privy purse." Then there were others distributions of a similar character to Persigny, one of the conspirators of the coup d'etat, when he was Minister of the Interior, making altogether, the commission estimate, about $13,000,000 more. All this $28,000,000 comes under the head of "mere scenes." It has nothing to do with the regular civil list or salary paid to the Emperor, or rather, appropriated by him, as "chief of the state."

The number of smaller pensioners and beneficiaries was very great. His mistress before his marriage, a Miss Howard, received between 1853 and 1855 $1,089,000, Letters were found from her later, in 1855, asking for $500,000 more. There are memoranda showing that in one year, not mentioned, but doubtless soon after his marriage, there was sent to his mother-in-law in Spain, the Countess de Montijo, no less than $1,358,160. The Empress had a regular allowance of $200,000 