Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1886.

INTERROGATORY.

Our opposition evening contemporary obstinately refuses to accept the last balance sheet of the public treasurer as correct, and still attempts to maintain that the provincial deficit is over half a million of dollars, owing to excess of expenditure over receipts. Will our contemporary enlighten us by stating to whom the province is in debt to this amount—who are i s creditors other than the Bank of British Columbia, to which the province was never debtor during the present administration to an amount greater than the overdraft of $140,000 odd? If its transcendental intellect has been able to discover so great a deficit as it claims, it must at the same moment have become apparent to it how the sum was expended. Or does it assert that there has been an executive misappropriation, and that the impeachment of the ministers is imminent? Does it, in its feverish anxiety to exhibit its strictly independent and unbiased attitude, wish to show that the requirements of the country can be met without expenditure? or does it assert that too much has been spent? and if so, will it say in what direction? Has it been upon public works, which will not only be of lasting value, but which have afforded employment to white workingmen? If the waste has occurred in this direction let it name the districts in which the public money has been thrown away, and how? We feel sure the *independent* spirit of our contemporary would not permit it in its answer to name the districts of Kootenay, Cariboo, Yale, Cassiar, Esquimalt or Victoria city. Has too large a sum been spent on the administration of justice? If so, then the Times does not re-echo the sentiment that the majesty of the law must be maintained at any cost. Has any public work been unnecessarily constructed? and is the insane asylum one of them? Surely, the idiocy apparent in the actions of our contemporary is evidence that this latter expenditure was made to fill a long-felt want. Does our contemporary charge that the present government have encouraged largely the splendid system of free education which prevails in this province? If so, it comes with a very bad grace from our contemporary, who is thoroughly able to realize what a drawback in life is the want of a decent education. Why, so far from deeming outlay in this branch of governmental work an excessive, we are inclined to think that an additional sum could have been profitably voted for the establishment of a night school in this city to give our contemporary an opportunity of improving its intellectual condition and compensate for the neglect which circumstances have imposed upon it in the past. Should this project be considered in the estimates that will shortly be brought down, and the Times takes advantage of such an institution, we will consent to draw a veil over its futile efforts to swell a deficit of $159,454 23 to the gigantic proportions of $479,985 28.

AN EVASION.

The Times has asserted that it has 400 subscribers at Nanaimo. *The Colonist* has offered to pay $100 to any charity that its contemporary may indicate if the Times can prove that it has 400 subscribers at that place. The Times has replied by suggesting a comparison of the respective circulations at Nanaimo. To this we rejoin, Settle the point first raised and then we shall compare circulations. There is reason to believe that the Times has not fifty paying subscribers at Nanaimo; but as our contemperary seems anxious to benefit a local charity we will make another effort to bring it to the scratch by agreeing to pay $100 to any charity if it can establish that it has 200 paying subscribers at that place; so it has the benefit of 50 per cent. discount on its first statement to start with. While our young friend is cogitating over this fair proposition attention is directed to the piteous appeal given below. It shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Times is trying to "boom" its circulation by giving credit and by sending the papers to persons who do not order it. It is to be hoped that the response to the "appeal" was a "generous" one.

"Subscribers in arrears for their subscription to the Times will oblige by settling same during the present week. The individual indebtedness is not large, yet when these sums are aggregated the amount is a considerable one. It is to be hoped that this appeal will be responded to in a generous manner."

An editor bold has taken to rhyme;
Namely, his man who's behind the Times,
And who swears by the gorse and the heather
That by fair a-field he'll be able to show,
With an air of bombast a la Furioso,
The anthracite city yclept Nanaimo
Takes of its copies four hundred.
Five gold twenty pieces shall to charity go
If the Times circulation two hundred can show
To exist in the city it attests.
But it never would dream of accepting a bet
Which would lose while 'twas taking—for well
does it know
That the number was wildly o'er-rated.

P. S.—Charity's hand and ear are in eager allocation
To hear the modest sum of the Times' true circulation.

A DEADLOCK.

Last evening five of the city councillors left the chamber in a hurry on the announcement of the mayor that, the city barrister having given it as his opinion that he (the mayor) was entitled to vote as a councillor and also to give a casting vote if required he would exercise the right at his discretion. This action naturally broke up the meeting, the four councillors and the mayor not feeling legally qualified to transact business. It was rumored last evening that the mayor (who claims the power under the act) will to-day order all city work to cease and discharge the employés, his worship feeling that it would be illegal, under the circumstances of a deadlock, to allow any expenditure to be incurred which the council might afterwards repudiate. The difference is much to be regretted, especially as it may result disastrously to the interests of the city. The matter is one that should be taken before the supreme court for its ruling as quickly as possible. If the opinion of the city barrister is incorrect it should be made known. Mayor Redfern and Mayor Rithet claimed and exercised the power which Mayor Fell claims, so that he has strong precedent for his action.

DOMINION RAILWAYS.

The report of the minister of railways shows that of the $25,000,000 subsidy granted to the Pacific railway company all but $465,087 was paid over to the company before the 31st of December last, and of the twenty-two and a half millions of the loan all but $849,300 was received by the company before the end of 1885. In September last the North Shore railway was purchased by the government for $1,500,000, and transferred to the Pacific railway company. The total mileage of railways operated by the government, including the Intercolonial, Eastern Extension, Windsor Branch, and Prince Edward Island railways, is 1,185 miles. The total loss on the working of these railways last year was $125,467. The total cost of building the Intercolonial railway up to the 30th of June last was $43,627,954. The payments on account of subsidies to local railways up to the end of 1885 were as follows: Gravenhurst and Callander, $1,032,910; Quebec and Lake St. John, $135,205; Short Line railway, Nova Scotia, $125,000; Caraquet railway, $105,200; International railway (Pope's road), $144,000; Northern and Western, N. B. $128,000; Napanee and Tramworth, $89,600; Quebec Central railway, $60,342; Pontiac and Pacific (Chapleau's road), $49,090; Kingston and Pembroke railway, $48,000; Great Northern railway, $25,088; Richibucto, N. B., railway, $22,400; Montreal and Sorel road, $47,325; Montreal and Champlain Junction, $15,000.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

A comparative statement of the exports and imports of the Dominion for seven months ending 31st Jan., 1886, laid before parliament shows a decline of $5,204,097 in exports compared with the same months of the preceding year. In exports of fish and fish products there was a decline of nearly a million dollars in 1886; in lumber a reduction of a quarter of a million; in animals and their products a decline of three millions of dollars, while exports of manufactures show a decline of $400,000. The statement of imports shows a decrease of $4,445,123, in seven months ending 31st January, while the customs revenue was $721,328 less than in the same months of the previous year Average rate of duty imposed upon imports, dutiable and free, in 1885 86 was nineteen per cent., compared with eighteen per cent. in corresponding months of 1884 85. Total imports for seven months ending January, 1886, $56,733,344; do. for seven months ending January, 1885, $61,178,467; Revenue on 31st January, 1886, $10,759,481; do. at same date 1885, $11,480,810.

THE DEADLOCK.

Whether it is right that the mayor should enjoy a double vote or be restricted to the casting vote is not a question that enters into the present controversy. *The Colonist* is opposed to the dual principle; but if it exists *in law*, right or wrong it will have to be put up with. In reference to a resolution of the council the city barrister rendered a written opinion (citing authorities) to the effect that the mayor is a municipal councillor and as such is entitled to one vote and a second or casting vote in case of a tie. This opinion with the authorities is given in full elsewhere. Armed with the opinion Mayor Fell exercised his double authority and gave effence to a majority (or, if the mayor is a councillor, "a tie,") of that body who withdrew on Wednesday evening leaving the board without a quorum. The question is a strictly legal one and being so no member of the council (not being a lawyer) is competent to challenge the opinion. The councillor who moved the resolution, upon hearing the opinion read, stated that he should offer no further opposition to the dual power as he was unable to combat it. The matter is now either one for the courts; or the legislature, now in session, may amend the Municipalities act so as to restrict the voting power of the mayor who can scarcely be blamed for laying claim to all the power that the act gives him.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

A drowning man will, it is said, catch at a straw, and the upright and independent (?) Times gloats over what it knows full well was a misprint in our issue of yesterday morning, wherein the amount of liabilities over assets existing up to December 31, 1885, appeared as $129,454.23 instead of $129,454.23. Had the intention of the Times been an honest one, it would not have attempted to make capital out of this typographical error, for the correctness of the sum could have been easily ascertained by a reference to the public accounts, as submitted to the end of last year, wherein there is shown by the balance sheet to exist as the total amount of the liabilities of the province over its assets $129,454 23. But the Times asserts that the amount of the liabilities is $479,985 28, and as it thus professes to have discovered a discrepancy to the amount of $350,531.05, will it be pleased to state to whom this really alarming amount is owing? Or will it decline to give this information and admit that the assertion was but the vaporing of the mouthpiece of a clique of individuals who in their insatiate desire to oust the present government and reign in their stead have discarded all honesty of intention, expression, and action in the unscrupulous pursuit of their one prevailing desire?

THE VICTORIA-SAANICH RAILWAY BILL.

This bill has as good as passed the house and will shortly become law. It has been shorn of some features and others have been introduced which in some respects have changed its original character. On the whole it is presumed to be satisfactory to the promoters, and it is hoped that it will prove profitable to them as well as the public. The bill asks neither cash nor land subsidy; but it is understood that the government will be asked to guarantee for a term of years three per cent. interest on the sum of $250,000. This guarantee might be given with perfect propriety and in the public interest, after the completion of the road, two years hence. The government would really save by the arrangement, as most of the heavy freight—such as coal, wood and farm produce—that now pass over the roads and "cut them up" would be carried by the railway, and the appropriations for road-making and repairing would be correspondingly light. As a commercial enterprise the promoters profess to see a profit in the scheme; and we can only give expression to the hearty hope that they will not be disappointed.

A Monaco Sensation.

(Special to the Mail.)

LONDON, March 10.—On the 24th of last month a sensational report was telegraphed from Nice of the suicide of a young commercial traveler at Monaco, while on his bridal tour. Subsequent investigation established the fact that the entire pathetic narrative was a myth, pure and simple, so that the following story, which has not been confirmed, must be received with caution. It is stated that an English nobleman, who has been staying at Monaco, committed suicide yesterday, whereupon the governess in his employ poisoned herself with laudanum The nobleman referred to is Viscount Dupplin, eldest son of the Earl of Kinnoull, who was born in 1849. He was notoriously wild, and since he obtained a divorce in 1876 from his wife, Lady Agnes Cecil Emmeline, daughter of the Earl of Fife, his career has been one of dissipation. He was a notorious turfite and gambler, and many stories are current in the clubs regarding his life on the continent, marking the downward course of easy descent so frequently taken by the habitues of the gaming tables.

[Lady Dupplin visited Victoria in 1877 with her (alleged) second husband, a handsome young Englishman named Herbert. They occupied apartments on Pandora avenue, and remained in this city several months.]

The Dual Vote.

TO THE EDITOR:—Allow me to correct the statement made in your leading article this morning under the heading "A Deadlock," in which it is stated that I when mayor claimed "and exercised the power which Mayor Fell claims." Such is not the fact; as I never claimed the right to more than a casting vote in open voting, and one vote when a ballot was taken; but in two instances during my term when a tie was cast I was allowed to give casting vote by the special permission of the council. On no other occasion was a second vote given by me, and a second vote was never claimed by me.

R. P. RITHET.

Victoria, 18th March, '86.

Registration of Voters—Victoria Electoral District.

TO THE EDITOR:—Is there any appointed official in the above district, or any one of public spirit, who would, through the medium of your valuable columns, give definite though plain instruction on the above matter to those residing in a country district who have no opportunity or ready means of learning anything on the subject whatever? Many men, no doubt lukewarm, and furthermore, whose time at this busy season of the year is so greatly occupied, will not trouble to hunt the matter up for themselves; but still, if the way was pointed out they would, without doubt, register and interest themselves further in the approaching elections.

CLODHOPPER.

Ayer's Hair Vigor stimulates the hair cells to healthy action, and promotes a vigorous growth. It contains all that can be supplied to make the natural hair beautiful and abundant; keeps the scalp free from dandruff, prevents the hair from becoming dry and harsh, and makes it flexible and glossy. dw

Female Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR:—"The Lady" who advocates female suffrage in your columns is engaged in a noble work in striving to elevate her down-trodden sisters in the scale of progressive humanity. As a radical reformer, with advanced ideas, I am anxious to unite with our member, Mr. Drake, and "the Lady" in their struggle to obtain for women political privileges. The equality of the rights of the human family is clearly laid down in the celebrated declaration of independence; but, strange to state, that although this principle is professedly believed in all over the American continent it is ignored in the cases of Indians and Chinamen and white women. How is this? I ask. Is it hypocrisy, or what is it?

In the latter part of this 19th century, with its wonderful advances in science and its unparalleled material development the time has come when such cries as "improving the Indian off the face of the earth," "the Chinese must go," and "home is the proper place for woman," as if she was like a cat or a piece of furniture, should forever cease. We want an advance along the whole line of progress especially in morals, religion and politics. I hope that I do not appeal in vain to our broad and comprehensive mayor to throw his great weight and influence into our cause. He might do much in the City Council to help us. I neither believe in the superiority of man, nor in the superiority of woman. They are equal by nature and what man can do woman can do. The demarcations of sex which now exist are artificial and are the baneful consequences of an imperfect civilization.

I am glad to see that Mr. Drake, with his logical mind and legal acumen, recognizes this and has taken action in the legislature. Every lover of progress should assist him with ideas and arguments, so that he can overcome the prejudice and ignorance of the provincial members. There is no denying that in modern times women have proved their fitness to compete with men and to eclipse many of them in professions and occupations which heretofore men had monopolized. We have now female painters, sculptors, lecturers, lawyers, preachers, jurors, doctors, drummers, barbers, etc., and there is no reason why all avenues of industry should not be open to them.

Women do as big a day's work in the fields of Germany and other European countries as men, and in some portions of the United States they are largely employed in hoeing and weeding and other outdoor agricultural work, with the result that they are more powerful in physique and stronger in muscle and nerve than those of their sex who lead a life of pampered indolence or who spend their lives in dress and domesticity.

The lusty strength of French fisherwomen, gained by their heavy loads they carry, shows what hard work will do to develop the female frame; and that they are as strong as men many a husband has discovered when a family unpleasantness has arisen.

Those who oppose women being placed on an equality with men and doing their share of the world's work are often driven to make use of frivolous excuses for their actions. Notwithstanding ridiculous statements that women are timid, so much so that a mouse will scare them and that they will scream and jump on a chair if one is seen running about a room, I maintain that women have proved themselves to be just as courageous and patriotic as men, and with hard work are quite as muscular and capable of defending their country whenever the necessity arises. History is full of examples of female heroism. Look at Grace Darling, for instance. The courage and military skill of Joan of Arc have been eulogised by Von Moltke and other male military critics. Burton, in his travels, tells us that the Amazons of Africa are the terror of many tribes which depend upon men for their defence. Among ourselves it deserves mention that Sergeant Kinsella found "our girls" in the Olla Podrida drill made more progress in a few weeks than some of our male volunteers did in as many years. Coming nearer home, numbers of men, notwithstanding their boasted superiority, have been put to ignominious flight by valiant woman, armed with no other weapon than a homely broomstick!

I should like to know what more convincing evidence than this can reasonable men want of women's powers and of their capability to share in the defence of their country. I admit that some women would not make efficient soldiers and sailors; but the same can be said of some men. Speaking generally the army and navy would be popularized and strengthened if composed of both sexes for in "union is strength." What I contend for is that one sex is as good as another and should be treated equally as your intelligent correspondent "a Lady" maintained. To hear ignorant men talk one might suppose that women were naturally domesticated and that house duties were their special *forte*. This is quite a mistake. Nothing can be further from the truth. Do not Chinamen in a few months make as good cooks, washers and house-helps as women? Any housekeeper will tell you that they do.

One great cause of the present distinctions made between the sexes is because when young they are trained and clothed differently and thus habits are formed which override nature to the great injury of society.

It is time a reform movement was inaugurated to make no sex distinctions; to treat them equally and to clothe and bring them up alike. In one generation we should find all differences between them had died out, all the world's work now thrown onto men's shoulders would be halved with women and they would share with us all the advantages of government. With most of us these advantages consist of paying for it, the blessedness of receiving an adequate return not having yet been reached. If your correspondent "a Lady," our member Mr. Drake, and our mayor Mr. Fell, are as earnest as I am in the good cause, and I have no reason to doubt it, and are anxious to unite with me in the advocacy of the reformation I have briefly sketched out, I would suggest as the most practical step for us to take, that we meet and organize and then hold a public meeting to popularize the movement. This I believe is the method adopted by the Anti Chinese society, Knights of Labor and other agitating organizations and it ought to be advantageous to us all.

A RADICAL REFORMER.

Sehl versus Humphreys.

TO THE EDITOR:—Mr. T. B. Humphreys, in trying to make the public believe that he is the innocent and injured party in the above cause, published a statement in *The Colonist* of the 10th inst. which is very far from being truthful from beginning to end. In reply thereto I will give the facts of the case and leave the public to judge for themselves who is the wrong doer. On March 7th, 1878, over ten years ago, when T. B. Humphreys was provincial secretary, he purchased from me furniture, bedding, etc., amounting to $268, and subsequently $54 50 more, making in all $312.50 on terms proposed by himself to pay $75 every month until paid. On the first month he paid nothing, the second he paid $25; nothing again the third; the fourth he paid $40; nothing more for 17 months, he then paid $45. After another lapse of 11 months he paid $25, etc. We finally had a settlement and he gave a note for the balance due, bearing interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum (not 24 per cent. as stated) payable at the Bank of B. N. A. When it came due, instead of paying it he renewed it and did not pay it when it became due again. I finally sued and obtained judgment for the note and accrued interest. I notified him that unless he made some reasonable payment every month I would put the judgment up for sale. He said I could do what I liked; so I exposed it for sale at a discount. On January 19th, 1881, he called a meeting of his creditors, at which he agreed to pay $125 of his salary (then $250 a month) to two trustees to be divided amongst his creditors, commencing on the following month. But, it is needless to say, he kept that agreement like all others. Within the last year I repeatedly asked him to pay off the debt. Finally I instructed my solicitors to proceed on the judgment to recover the debt with interest. They placed the matter in the sheriff's hands. He then claimed that the judgment was not bearing interest, although the judgment was obtained on a note which was bearing interest. The court sustained him in that claim by disallowing interest up to that date. After that he came to my office, saying that a friend would loan him $100, which he would pay me, provided I gave him a receipt in full. This I refused; he refused to pay anything unless he got a receipt in full. His next claim was that he did not possess $500 worth of household goods, which the homestead act allowed him, pointing out to the appraiser some of the furniture as his own; the balance, he said, belonged to his wife and could not be touched.

The above is a correct statement of the facts. It is quite possible that from Mr. Humphreys' point of view that it shows an undeniable anxiety on his part to pay a just debt.

J. SEHL.

DELAYED DISPATCHES.

EASTERN STATES.

CLEVELAND, (O.), March 15.—The boycott of J. F. Selberling by trades and labor assemblies at Akron, Ohio, assumed a new phase to-day when all boarding-house keepers were informed that they would be boycotted if they gave shelter to workmen imported to take the places of the striking molders at the Empire Mower and Reaper Works. A boycott has also been placed on the tenants of every dwelling and business house owned by Selberling in Akron, if not vacated at the expiration of the present leases. The trades assemblies of Chicago have also been notified to take similar action regarding buildings owned by Selberling in that city. Ferdinand Schumacher, owner of the Windsor hotel, who has opposed Selberling in the courts, came to the latter's rescue with an offer to furnish accomodations for all the imported workmen, even if he had to supply them with cots in the halls of the hotel. The feeling on both sides is growing very bitter.

NEW YORK, March 14.—The Sun's Washington special says: Wild rumors of the president's marriage are taking a serious form. They say it is to take place during the summer. This is supplemented by another; they say that Miss Cleveland told somebody, who told somebody else, that she did not expect to be mistress of the White house, another season. As positive evidence they say that the young lady is now in Europe, and will bring home her trousseau.

SHREVEPORT, La., March 16—A rumor that arms were being purchased here yesterday to be used against the strikers at Marshall and along the line of the Texas and Pacific road for the protection of property, created no little excitement.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Richard Ringk, the master, and H. Eyck, the purser, of the steamer Fulda, to day filed a libel in the United district court against the owners (at present unknown) of seven cases and one package of diamonds, which were taken off the steamer Oregon when she struck off Fire Island. The libel states the value of the diamonds to be $200,000.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 16.—In the habeas corpus case of Merroro, the Los Angelos saloon keeper, the supreme court to-day rendered a decision dismissing the writ, and remanding the prisoner. In September, 1885, 1885, an ordinance requiring all saloon keepers to pay a monthly license of $50 was passed. The issue was raised that the ordinance was invalid because it was not legally passed, and that the council assumed powers not delegated by the constitution. The court decided the ordinance was valid.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 14.—Discussion of the supply bill on Thursday revealed the attitude of the new parliament toward the crown in an unpleasant fashion. The result of the vote for royal parks was not a surprise. It is an old grievance that the whole country should be taxed for the benefit chiefly of London society. The charges for royal palaces were opposed for other reasons. Statements that 100 horses maintained at Buckingham palace required the attention of 230 men; that the country paid the duke of Edinburgh's gas and water bill, and that the produce of the Hampton court stud, maintained by the country, found no place in the balance sheet, emphasized the irritation of the radical and workingmen members and others against the shabby treatment popularly supposed to have been dealt out to Gladstone by the queen, and accounts for the majority against the Government.

CHILI

VALPARAISO, March. 11.—At 1:45 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the café Come Rois, on Calls Esmaraldo, and the entire block, including the principal shops in the city, were burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at $1,000,000. The owner of the café has been arrested on suspicion of incendiarism.

Riel's Execution a Proper Thing.

The Toronto Mail referring to John Devoy's account in the New York Sun of Riel's endeavor to form an alliance with the Fenians in 1878 says: "We put it to the race and revenge men if so great a criminal as Riel had been spared with what face could the Dominion have enforced the law against any future wrongdoer. Our contemporary the Globe will doubtless contend that the fact that Riel was constantly plotting against the Canadian authorities and the peace of the Northwest simply confirms the opinion of the medical experts that he suffered from an hallucination on political and religious topics. Perhaps he did, but it is evident that society could not long endure if criminals could escape punishment by pleading that they were somewhat demented on certain topics. Every murderer who imbrues his hands in the blood of his fellow-man labors under confused and perverted ideas concerning the sanity of human life; but that is no excuse. Riel's intellect and conscience were acute enough. He knew right from wrong quite well, and justice cannot go behind the existence of moral sense in a criminal.

Duke of Edinburgh.

LONDON, March 7.—The Duke of Edinburgh, who has been the recipient of a number of dinners given in his honor by the Prince of Wales and members of the nobility, has assumed command of the united Mediterranean fleets. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh's residence at Malta will be the St. Antonio palace, and there her Royal Highness will hold court, and receive among her guests her Russian relatives and friends without evoking the distasteful comments which were only too frequent in the city papers. Prior to leaving the Duke succeeded in securing a tenant for Eastwell park in the person of Mr. Aird for the unexpired term of his lease.

ANOTHER CUT.—Mr. Robt. Irving yesterday received telegraphic advice from headquarters, stating that through freight from Chicago to Tacoma without any regard to classification is 65c. per 100 pounds; and from eastern terminals of the Northern Pacific to Tacoma 60c. per 100 pounds. No further changes have been made in passenger rates from this point to Chicago, it still being $35 for third class.

AT THE CAPITAL.

SOCIAL EVENTS—CHINESE IMMIGRATION—A SIGNIFICANT STEP—A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION—BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION—NORTHWEST CENSUS—THE BOLTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 6th.

Parliament has been successful in getting through its first full week without an evening session. Lent opens next Wednesday, and with a view to utilizing as much of the time as remains before them the people of Ottawa have been exerting themselves in the social line in an unprecedented manner. The event of the week, or what is supposed to be the event, was the ball at government house, which came off on Thursday night. Lord Lansdowne, unlike his predecessors, only gives one "hop," whereas Lord Lorne and Lord Dufferin used to give two, and what is more, they made everyone welcome. Under the present *regime* things are different. It is extremely difficult to obtain an invitation, and when you do get one it is only to meet, after all an inferior crowd. How the lists of guests is prepared is certainly a mystery. The governor-general does not know the people, his aides do not, and accordingly the understrappers in the department have the thing pretty much in their hands. Instead, then, of inviting the best people they are the means of working in a number of civil servants to the exclusion of senators and members of parliament. A far pleasanter gathering was the ball given in the senate chamber by Sir Alex. Campbell on the occasion of the *debut* of his pretty daughter, Miss Mary Campbell. The only objection to it was that it is using a public suite of rooms and at the public expense for private purposes.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

The Chinese immigration amendment bill has not yet been brought down, but I learn that it is chiefly intended to provide for a better system of registration and identification of Chinese. Hon. Mackenzie Bowell has charge of the bill, and I think he is inclined to be rather conciliatory as he has intimated his desire to consult with the B. C. members, all of whom are now here, before laying the final draft before the house.

A SIGNIFICANT STEP.

The publication of an advertisement by the department of fisheries stating that tenders will be received up to the 25th inst. for the charter of six swift sailing fore and aft schooners as marine cruisers is the all absorbing topic of conversation. It is held to be significant of the government's determination not to permit any encroachments by Americans on Canadian fishing grounds. The schooners are to be from sixty to ninety tons register, not over six years old. They will be manned and officered and, in conjunction with such of the Dominion steamers as may be unemployed, will strictly enforce the law of the country respecting inshore fisheries. In connection with this matter I may say that information has just been received from the east that the collector of customs at Digby, N. S., has seized the American schooner E. A. Hortop, of Gloucester, Mass., for infraction of the fishery laws fifteen years ago. The vessel has kept out of the way of Canadian officers during all this time, but her owners having become careless she has at length been nabbed.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

Two of your senators had a lively five minutes in the upper house on Wednesday. Just before the close of the debate on the address Senator McInnes rose and said he took objection to the paragraph referring to the prosperity and substantial progress of the Dominion. In British Columbia, he went on to say, there is a greater commercial and general depression prevailing in that province to-day than there has been at any time for the last twelve years. As an evidence of this he cited the coal trade, two great coal mining companies, the Wellington and the Vancouver, at present only being worked to about one-fourth of their capacity. The laboring classes in particular were in a most pitiable condition, due to the fact that the government had permitted Chinese to come in. The Canadian Pacific railway having been completed, thousands of Chinese were thrown out of work in consequence and were now in a starving condition. The labor market was overstocked, white laborers by the thousands were idle, and it was not possible for them to get anything to do. There was no necessity, he said, to amend the Chinese immigration act, in fact there was very little necessity to have it on the statute book at all, because the country was stocked with Chinese—the evil was already done. He could not congratulate the country on the completion of the C. P. R., and believed it would have been better if its construction had been spread over the ten years. More white people would then have come in, they would have saved money and then settled in the province. Instead of that three fourths of the many millions spent on the railway in British Columbia and the northwest territory had found its way into the states. This was the tenor of the honorable gentleman's observations, to the truth of which your readers will be best able to judge. Hon. Mr. Macdonald immediately followed and expressed surprise at what he had just heard. He had just come from British Columbia, and after inquiring into the condition of trade there, had heard nothing of the depression in business or suffering or want among the laboring classes. On the contrary, trade was in a very fair condition. There was more building going on in the towns of your province than usual; sawmills were running day and night to cut lumber to supply the demand of the building trade, and his observation led him to the conclusion that, on the whole, there was more prosperity in British Columbia to-day than there had been for years. With regard to the Nanaimo coal mines, that industry did not depend on the commerce of British Columbia but on a foreign market, and as there had been a glut in the coal markets of California for some time past, where the Nanaimo coal went to, it was but natural that that trade should be somewhat depressed. I am bound to say that Senator McInnes speeches on British Columbia attract little attention here, and not much confidence is placed in them. For some months' past he has been a resident of Toronto, and it is currently rumored that he would have been better pleased with British Columbia had certain little investments of his come out more to his liking.

BANKRUPTCY AGITATION.

The government has intimated its intention not to bring forward any bankruptcy measure this session. A great difference of opinion exists between the representatives of city and rural constituencies as to the need of legislation on this subject. A special committee thoroughly discussed the question last session and reported a bill which it is optional for any member to bring forward, but the government won't take the responsibility, in view of the opinions prevailing.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The returns of the census taken last fall in the northwest territories have just been brought down. The total population is 48,362; males, 27,113; females, 21,249. In Assiniboia there are 13,324 males, 8,159 females, total 22,083. Saskatchewan, 5,447 males, 5,299 females; total, 10,746. Alberta, 8,342 males, 7,191 females; total, 15,533. The origin of the population of the territories is set down as follows:

Whites	23,344
Half-breeds	4,848
Indians	20,170
Grand total	48,362

THE BOLTERS.

Nothing definite as to the probable action of the "bolters" as the recalcitrants bleus are called, is as yet known. There have been any number of resolutions passed calling for returns in connection with Riel and the rebellion, and the government has not refused one, thus evidencing a disposition to afford the fullest information. Landry, member for Montgomery, has also given notice of motion to the effect that the house regrets the execution of Riel, but it is a significant fact that he is still a supporter of the government and has not swerved in his allegiance. It will, however, be the means of drawing both the bleus and the opposition. The minister of justice in reply to a question intimated that the reason for the third respite being granted to Riel was to give time for the arrival in Ottawa of the medical report of his mental condition.

NOTES.

Mr. McLelan the other day stated that the gross debt of the Dominion on the 1st March, 1886, without deducting the assets of $72,791,837, was $281,314,532.

The new minister of justice, Hon. Mr. Thompson, made his first speech in the house on Tuesday in introducing a bill applying the Torrens system of land transfer to the N. W. T. He is a polished and effective speaker and will doubtless prove a valuable acquisition to the government.

LANDRY'S RESOLUTION ON THE CARPET.

Col. Amyott Speaks Three Hours.

Gov. Dewdney to be Re-appointed.

OTTAWA, March 11.—Landry's motion of censure on the government for the execution of Louis Riel came up this afternoon. The mover read an hour's speech in French, followed by Sir Hector Langevin in English, who gave a history of the rebellion, justifying the action of the government, and concluded by moving the previous question. Mr. Amyott followed in English, making a three hours' speech. As soon as the doors were opened in the afternoon and evening the galleries were crowded to excess. Intense interest in the debate was manifested by outsiders, but very little by the members. Mr. Royal moved the adjournment of the debate at 11 o'clock.

A number of English immigrants left for Manitoba yesterday.

C. S. Drummond left for home yesterday, having successfully floated some Winnipeg schemes in England.

Middleton says nothing is definitely settled regarding the flying column, and it is not improbable the idea may be abandoned in view of the protests of the ranchmen, who fear the Indians may fire the prairie.

The number of land warrants issued to volunteers is 5,096 There are about 100 more claims to consider.

NOTES.

Hon. Mr. Royal, of Manitoba, is being talked of for the lieutenant-governorship of the Northwest territories. But there is a possibility that Dewdney will get another term.

Mr. Philip Landry, M. P., has instituted two actions for damages for libel against Mr. A. Choquette, of Montmagny county. One of the suits is for less than $100.

Major Logan and Capt. Street, two Montana ranchmen, who have been in the city several weeks past, have secured 200,000 acres of land from the government for ranching purposes west of Woody mountain at an annual rental of one cent per acre. They made an application for one million acres.

The answers to Mr. Charlton's questions showed the gross increase in the debt from March to March to be just short of twenty-five million dollars $24,084,778. Part of this debt, however, is claimed to be represented by assets, leaving the finance minister's figures for the net increase at fifteen millions. The information shows that roughly speaking the country's debt has increased thirty millions in the last two years.

THE SALMON MARKETS.

A Bright Outlook for the Coming Season—Prices Already Looking up.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—Under its commercial columns to-day the Evening Bulletin says: An English order is reported to have been recently filled for 60,000 cases of Columbia river canned salmon, pack of 1886, comprising three favorite brands, at $1.10, $1.12½ and $1.15, free on board in the river. Other sales previously made bring the total to 155,000 cases of Oregon canned salmon, pack of 1886, at an average all round of at least $1.10. As the season in the Columbia does not open until April 1, and as comparatively little packing is done before the 1st of May, these purchases indicate a pretty strong market. Of course there are reasons for the movement. The pack last year was several thousand cases short of 1884. In addition, four or five of the salmon laden ships for Europe in the past twelve months have been wrecked, with a total loss of cargoes.

At last mail dates stocks in the English market were moderate and well concentrated, and spot prices were strong at 22@28s per case.

In addition there has been a considerable movement in Sacramento river canned salmon, pack of 1886 at equally good prices, namely $1.12½ to $1.15 per dozen, free on board the car. Usually Sacramento river fish bring less money than Columbia river fish, but as the run is earlier here than in Oregon, canners have been able to do better this year, owing to light stocks abroad, for early supply. It is claimed that there have been orders for early shipment to Australia, at a limit of $1.20. Low freights in all directions is also an important element in the market now. We submit that this shows a strong condition of the market.

"With sales of 180,000 to 190,000 cases at this date, light stock in English, Australian and Eastern markets, and with no carry over stock on this coast, the outlook for the season for canners is an encouraging one. Should the present apparently bright prospects continue, shippers and canners will do their utmost to put up a large pack.

We understand that the Chinese engaged in this work on the Columbia river are not to be disturbed this year, as it is difficult to fill their places. The season on the Columbia river lasts only four months, and other laborers cannot be imported with profit for such a short period.

Chinese in the United States.

LONDON, March 7.—Both the press and the public in Berlin and this city, generally express sentiments of approval of the outbreaks against the Chinese in the Western States and Territories of America. This feeling is largely based upon the hope that the pronounced hostility of a large part of the people of the United States will check the manifest tendency of the Chinese Government to encourage American enterprise at the expense of Europe.

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We carry the largest stock of Blank Books and Stationery in B. C., and having for the last 28 years catered to the requirements of the public we feel justified in saying that our business transactions in the past with those more immediately in the neighborhood of Victoria and others in the most distant parts of the province, has proved satisfactory to our customers and in a measure profitable to ourselves. We propose to continue our efforts in the same direction during 1886, and hope to meet with the same liberal patronage bestowed on us in the past.

T. N. HIBBEN & Co.

A GIGANTIC IMPROVEMENT.

First American Train Run by Telegraph.

In 1850 the Erie road was in operation between Piermont and Elmira. The track was a single one; such a thing as a double track was then unknown in the country.

Two years before, after much discussion and opposition, a telegraph wire had been put up along the line. Superintendent Minot, who was a man a long way in advance of the times, was a strong believer in the practicability of the telegraph as a facilitator of transportation on railroads.

In the summer of 1850 he was a passenger one day on a westbound train over his road. The train he was on, according to the printed time-table, was to meet a through train from the West at Turner's Station, forty-seven miles from New York.

When Mr. Minot's train reached Turner's, he learned that the eastbound train was six hours late, owing to some mishap. Under the system of railroading then governing employes the westbound train had to remain at Turner's until the delayed train had passed the station. In fact, the whole business of the road from there west was at a standstill owing to the non-arrival of the train at the different stations where other trains were awaiting it.

Superintendent Minot saw at once how ridiculous such a system was. There was a telegraph office at Turner's and it was then the only one between that station and Jersey City. The Superintendent went to the office and made the operator's hair stand by sending a message to the station agent at Port Jervis that he intended to run the train he was on from Turner's to Port Jervis on the time of the belated eastbound train. He ordered the agent not to let any train leave that station going East until the train he was on arrived there. He also ordered the agent to telegraph to him how he understood the message.

The answer was satisfactory, and the Superintendent went to the conductor of the train and told him to start on with his train The conductor refused to do so, and the Superintendent discharged him on the spot.

Minot then ordered the engineer to pull out. The engineer said that he would not take the risk, and in the argument that followed the Superintendent dragged the engineer from the cab gave him an elegant dressing out, and mounted the foot-board himself.

He ran the train to Port Jervis and sent it on West as far as Narrowsburg before it met the late train, thus saving the passengers five hours, and settling forever the question of the accuracy of the telegraph in running railroad trains. —[Utica Observer.

Her Laugh Wounds His Conscience.

A Lewiston business man's wife has been away on a visit to the old home in another city. He has lived, during her absence, ostensibly at home, but really has been living on porterhouse steaks at the hotel, and has just been elected president of a new whist club in which he had a young red-cheeked girl for a partner, and while of course he deeply regretted the enforced absence of his own dear wife, he was managing to get along without pining away very rapidly.

The other night he and his roseate partner had just swept the board. They had had a thirteen-trick hand and the rest of the table was nowhere.

The Lewiston man went home at 10:30 Things looked just the same. He composed himself to write his customary letter beginning, "It is now half-past 8 o'clock. I have just come in from my work on the books. I am awfully tired, dear, and miss you so much. I don't want to hurry you home, and I want you to stay as long as you feel like it, this time, for I shall not want to let you leave me again, etc., etc."

He finished the letter and stamped and directed it, and then took a look at the starts evening, and thinking he would finish his cigar (he never used to smoke in the house) walked out to the corner. When he got back he heard a rustle in the dining-room and looked in.

The light had been moved. There was a head bending over the light. His wife's smiling face looked up out of the radiance beneath the shade and greeted him. She was reading the letter. His heart dropped down his trousers' leg. He felt like death.

"I'm reading a charming letter from you," said she. "So kind of you! It sounds like those you used to write before we were married." The lady read it through and she read it aloud.

"If she'd only got mad I'd been all right," said the Lewiston man, Tuesday; "but she didn't; she laughed. Every one of my