The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1891.

A BAD BEGINNING.

The editor of the News-Advertiser is doing his best to convince the readers of his paper that he is unfit to take a part in transacting the public business of the province. He is ready to believe the reports that are raised by the enemies of public men, and to act upon them as if they had been proved to be unquestionably true. The representative of the people who places reliance on every rumor which is circulated to the prejudice of even his opponents is certain to be made a dupe of by every unscrupulous partisan who desires to use him for his own purposes. Giving credence to such rumors, repeating them and drawing conclusions from them, are the surest evidences of a weak mind and an ill-balanced judgment.

The man who, without provocation, in the most offensive language he can command, deliberately insults those with whom he must work and on whose co-operation he must depend properly and efficiently to perform the duties of his position, is too malignant and too impracticable to make an efficient or an influential member of a deliberative body. No prudent man throws obstacles in his own way, or deliberately and without necessity makes enemies for himself or for his party.

The editor of the News-Advertiser will, before he is much older, find that the course which he has pursued with respect to the stupid reports raised by ill-natured and unscrupulous persons, relative to the officials of the Education Department, besides being malicious, is most unwise. Those who read the insulting language which he uses with respect to men who have not offended him in any way, and who have done nothing contrary to the public interest, will be certain to form a very low opinion of his ability to perform his duties as the representative of Vancouver in the Provincial Assembly. Every one knows that an egotistical and a malignant man, who goes out of his way to traduce and misrepresent men of the opposite party never makes a useful member of a deliberative body. And this is the character that the editor of the News-Advertiser is doing his best to earn for himself.

THE COMPETENT MEN.

The canvass for the positions of Mayor and Aldermen will, during the interval between now and election day, be brisk. There are many candidates in the field, and some of them are men who have proved themselves to possess high business ability. We sincerely trust that these men will be elected. The City Council of 1891 will have, besides its ordinary duties, a great deal of special business to perform. It will have to put the work of constructing the sewers in good shape. The preliminaries will have to be arranged for the construction of the market house. The area just taken within the city's limits must be incorporated with the city—made in reality what it is now in name only. Furnaces for cremating the garbage of the city are to be built, and that in such a way as not to create a nuisance. Changes, amounting, perhaps, to a complete reorganization, are required to be made in the arrangements for lighting the city. The finances of the city must be put on a better footing. A better system of dealing with appropriations and of keeping accounts is needed. To do all this, and to keep the regular machinery of the city government in good working order, require all the business ability that ten experienced men possess.

It is quite evident that there is on room at the Council Board for cranks or imbeciles. The system of doing the executive work of the committees requires every councillor to be a clear-headed practical man of business. Even a single obstructionist or an impracticable faddist can make any amount of mischief, and can prevent good work being done.

There are indications that many of the electors are alive to the necessities of the situation, and are determined to vote only for men of proved business ability. We earnestly hope that these form a large majority of the electorate. The citizens of Victoria have seen the folly of voting for men because they liked them as neighbors and fellow-citizens, and not because they esteemed them as upright and trustworthy men of business. Every one knows that a candidate can be in many ways a most estimable man and yet wholly unfit to perform the duties of the office which he aspires to fill. It should not require much argument to convince an intelligent and public-spirited citizen, that to vote for such a man is not doing him a kindness, while it is doing the city an injury. Victoria, like every other city and town on the continent, has not at its command any more brains and business experience than it needs. When there is a chance of choosing a man of talent and experience in preference to a candidate who is known not to have had experience, and who has shown no proofs of possessing ability, personal liking should not stand in the way of voting for the man whose capacity has been proved. We do hope that competency will be made the sole test at the coming election. This is what a man does when his private interests are concerned, and there is equally good reason for his acting in the same way in matters in which the public welfare is involved.

We hope, too, that every person who has a vote will take a lively interest in the election. It is a matter in which not only every elector, but every resident of the city, old or young, is concerned. If the city is well governed, every soul in it is to a greater or less extent benefitted. If its affairs are neglected or badly conducted, all its inhabitants suffer. The health, the comfort and the convenience of every citizen in a very great measure depend upon how the members of the City Council, which is soon to be elected, do their duty. No citizen, no matter how high or how humble his position, can say with any approach to truth, "It is nothing to me who is elected." It is a great deal to him and to any one living in the city connected with him. It may, indeed, be a matter of life or death to him whether Mr. A. or Mr. B. is elected next Thursday. It should be always borne in mind that the sanitary state of the city depends upon the intelligence, the energy and the faithfulness of the members of the City Council. If the right measures are not taken at the right time to preserve the public health, there will be sure to be some victims to the ignorance and the apathy which are the causes of the neglect. Can any one tell who will be those victims? If the intelligent elector will reflect for a few moments he will be convinced that it is of a great deal of consequence to him who will be in charge of the city's affairs for the next twelve months. This reflection should cause him to make it a point to poll his vote and to poll it for the most competent of the candidates.

FROM BAD TO WORSE.

The bill to provide against the contraction of the currency, to make way for which the Force Bill was thrust aside, is, in the opinion of very many, not less mischievous than the Force Bill itself. Its object is to give silver a fictitious value by making the Government a very large purchaser of this metal and there is an amendment which is intended to compel the people of the United States to accept and use an unlimited quantity of silver as money. There are people in the United States who believe that it is no more the business of government to deal in silver than to deal in pork or wheat. But the silver men have much influence in Congress, and they are experts in the art and mystery of obtaining votes. Whether or not they will succeed in engineering this silver bill, which competent men declare is framed in direct violation of all sound business principles, through Congress it is difficult to say. The opposition to it is strong, both in and out of the legislature. This is what the St. Paul Pioneer Press, one of the most influential journals of the Northwest, says about it:

"One cannot, of course, lose sight of the fact that the combination by which this change of programme was accomplished is a combination to bring commercial ruin on the country, as the price of prosperity to a few silver miners. The attack made by the free coinage proposition is the most desperate and dangerous since the resumption of specie payments. In just as far as it can show any prospect of success it will spread consternation through the business and financial world, and promote monetary contraction and panic. But the country still refuses to believe that its representatives will sanction any such suicidal action. Between the nation and the possibility of free coinage there stand the House of Representatives and the President's veto. Free debate killed the elections bill. Now let free debate have a chance at the Senate's precious financial project with its free coinage amendment. All that we ask, all that we hope for is sufficient time for the country to understand the financial question, and to learn what the destruction of our credit means. When that work of education is done, and we still hope that it may be done before the silver conspirators can work their will, the country will reject free coinage as if it were a thousand election bills rolled into one."

It must not be forgotten that the Farmers' Alliance, which has become a power in the United States, is in favor of the free coinage of silver. One of its great objects is to make money plenty in the country, and its members think that if there are only greenbacks enough printed and silver dollars enough coined, every one can have all the money he needs without having to work too hard for it. They have yet to learn that there are many things to be thought of in this currency business that they have not begun to consider. It will, however, take a good while to educate them, and as they have votes, the politicians may not think it safe to wait until their political education is finished. Many of them may support the mischievous silver bill, believing that the farmers will continue some time longer at their present stage of advancement.

Powder Mill Explosion.

A powder mill explosion affects the country for miles round, but dyspepsia, biliousness, constipation, headache, loss of appetite and debility affect humanity the world over. The editor of the Mitchell *Recorder* states that he was cured of biliousness, liver trouble and sick headache by Burdock Blood Bitters. Is it not worth trying on such evidence?

A DEEP LAID SCHEME.

There is talk in Washington and elsewhere about the Nicaragua canal just now. The people are told that the great undertaking is getting along swimmingly. The Nicaraguan Government, which is a little cranky at times, is amiable and accommodating, and has confirmed the company's concession. The reports show that the surveys for the final location of the entire line of the canal have been completed. The engineers who had in charge the surveys of the embankments, dams and locks, have nearly got through their work. As many as 36 buildings have been erected for various purposes, and machine shops and a foundry are in course of construction. Timber is being prepared for wharves, breakwaters, bridges and so forth. The surgeon of the company also reports that the men employed have good health. There is sickness, of course, and for those who are ill hospitals with a staff of physicians and trained nurses have been provided. The mortality among those taken to the hospital has been light, and the proportion suffering from malarial diseases has not been so large as might, considering the climate and the work which the men have to do, be expected. Altogether in Nicaragua everything is lovely and the goose hangs high.

In the same papers that contain these rose-colored reports is published a telegram from Washington, in which information which has been obtained from leaky members of the Senate is retailed. We are told that the Senate has passed a resolution providing for the printing of a thousand maps of the route of the Nicaragua Canal and the contiguous country. The writer of the telegram, from indications that he has obtained and from hints that he has received, has "no doubt that the Senate is preparing to present the country a gigantic scheme involving millions of money and contemplating a stroke in diplomacy that will send the administration with more than the usual amount of glory in the eyes of those who are adherents of the Munroe doctrine."

Of course the Committee on Foreign Affairs is "mum," but they are not so close-mouthed as to keep from the enterprising correspondent the information that it is the intention of the Government to back the company's paper to the extent of a hundred millions of dollars the security which the Company is to give for this immense sum is the "well-kept secret of the Senate." Of course the United States is to obtain many and great advantages, material and political. It is in fact to be made the protector of the country along the route of the canal and of as much more as can be roped in. The ingenious correspondent believes that the people will "endorse" the scheme and support the schemers. There will, he sagaciously foresees, be a number of suspicious, contankerous, evil-minded creatures, who will be sure to declare that the "gigantic scheme" is nothing better than an immense steal—a plan to make a lot of speculators rich at the public expense. Indeed, it does appear to the outsider as if these suspicious, uncharitable people would be more than half right. If the Canal Company is anything like the American railway companies it will hardly be safe to let it have the handling of the people's money, for if its managers get it once into their clutches the United State Treasury will never see it again. But the sanguine correspondent has no such fears.

If it were not for the beautiful reports that have been published, respecting the doings and the prospects of the Nicaragua Canal Company, we would be inclined to regard the Washington telegram as a work of fiction, but the reports and the telegram fit into each other so well that we would not be surprised to find that there is something in this scheme to build the Nicaragua Canal with money borrowed on the credit of the United States.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

The session of the Dominion Parliament this year will evidently be a late one. There is, as yet, no word of it being summoned to meet for dispatch of business. It is not likely that Parliament will meet before the beginning of March. Forty days is the usual notification given, and the proclamation must be issued soon if it is to be convened early in that month. The reason given for the lateness of the session, by an ingenious correspondent of a western paper, is that the census is to be taken this year, and the Government wants to have Parliament in session when the results are known, so that a redistribution measure can be immediately framed. If this is true, a general election may be expected before the close of the present year. There is no necessity for being in such a hurry. The term of the present Parliament does not expire until 1892. Even if Parliament does not meet until the beginning of March, it can hardly be expected that the census staff will be able to get through their work early enough to permit the Government to get its redistribution bill ready before the time for prorogation comes. Then there are voters' lists to be made out for the new constituencies and for those that will be modified by the redistribution. So it seems to us that those who have told the public that the general election will take place between haying time and harvest of the present year have reckoned without the Premier. The Government appear to be in no hurry to bring on a general election. Time is telling in its favor. Its prospects are better now than they were a year ago, and, unless a wonderful change comes over the Opposition, the chances of its getting in a sweeping majority will be greater in 1892 then they are in 1891. We therefore place very little reliance on the rumor circulated from Ottawa that there will be a general election next summer.

SHUNTED.

The Election Bill, to the indignation and disgust of many stalwart Republicans has been cleverly consigned to the limbo of unfinished measures by its opponents. Senator Hoar who had charge of the bill and a number of out-and-out supporters of the Administration were bound to carry the bill through the Senate, although the nation had at the late elections declared against it. A few Republican senators, who regarded the measure as a mischievous as well as an unpopular one, united with the Democratic minority to sweep the obnoxious bill out of the Senate. The manœuvre was executed in this way. On Monday afternoon Senator George got up to resume his speech on the Force Bill. Before he had well begun Senator Stewart moved to take up the Senate bill to provide against contracting the currency. Mr. George who was in an accommodating mood expressed his willingness to yield the floor for that motion. Senator Hoar who seems at once to have understood the object of the motion protested and tried to prevent the question being put. The scene that followed was exciting, but the presiding officer was firm and would permit no discussion, so the question to proceed to the consideration of the bill to provide against the contraction of the currency was put and carried. The yeas were 34 and the nays 29. Eight Republican senators voted with the Democrats. The Election bill was thus disposed of by a side-wind. The rules of the Senate are such that it will be impossible to bring up the bill during the present session, and at the next session the Democrats will have command of the House of Representatives, and a House of that complexion would not entertain such a measure for a single moment. A few extremists in Congress may regret the fate of the Force Bill, but the bulk of the people, both Republicans and Democrats, are pleased to see it out of the way.

THE CONSUMPTION CURE.

The world has not ceased to talk about Koch's cure. People everywhere, professional and non-professional, take a profound interest in the experiments that are being made with the lymph in Europe and America. There are still many who doubt the efficacy of the cure. Certainty in a matter of this kind is very difficult. It requires time to prove the curative powers of the lymph. Improvement, as every one knows, is not cure.

A patient may appear very much better—so much better, that many are ready to pronounce him cured when the disease may break out again, and the last state of that man may be worse than the first. There are, however, eminent physicians who are firm believers in the efficacy of of Koch's cure. They are confident that it will stand the test and that it will effect a permanent cure of consumption. Among these is Dr. Austin Flint. He contributes a paper to the January number of the Forum, the title of which is expressive and shows that he has faith in the discoveries that have of late years been made in medical science. The title he has given his article, which treats principally of Dr. Koch's cure, is "The Revolution in Medicine."

This eminent physician, who knows too much to be easily deceived, either by men or medicines, is evidently a great admirer of Koch, and he believes in him and in the work he has done. This is what he says of the great German scientist:

"The statements made by Koch himself are of a character fully to justify the profound impression they have made upon the public as well as upon the medical profession. Koch's previous career entitles his utterances to the most respectful consideration. A few years since he discovered the cause of tuberculosis, and this discovery at the present day has no scientific opposition worthy of serious consideration. He now states that he probably has discovered a cure for tuberculosis. I cannot but think that this also will soon become an acknowledged fact."

Having shown the readers of the Forum that Koch is a man to be relied upon and believed in, Dr. Flint tells them what he says about his discovery and the results it produces:

"Patients under treatment," says Koch, "for the first stage of phthisis (consumption) were freed from every symptom of disease and might be pronounced cured; patients with cavities, not yet too highly developed, improved considerably, and were almost cured; and only in those whose lungs contained many large cavities could no improvement be proved. Objectively, even in these cases, the expectoration decreased and the subjective condition improved. These experiments lead me to suppose that phthisis in the beginning can be cured with certainty by this remedy. This statement requires limitation in so far as no conclusive experiments can be brought forward at present to prove whether the cure is lasting."

It is seen from this that Koch, before he made his discovery public, had made many trials of the lymph, and had satisfied himself that it was a cure for consumption in its early stages. The experiments which he began are being tried now on a much larger scale, and the world will not be kept much longer in doubt.

Although the lymph is very difficult to procure it has been obtained by the physicians of many hospitals in America as well as Europe. Dr. George A. Bingham has succeeded in getting for the Trinity Medical College, Toronto, a small quantity of the precious fluid, and two patients in the General Hospital of that city have been placed under treatment—a young man for consumption and a woman not very young for lupus. The remedy, as most of our readers know, is administered by being injected by a syringe, made expressly for the purpose, under the skin. The operation—if so simple a process can be called an operation—was performed in the presence of a large number of physicians and others, Dr. Sheard being the operator. The lymph was injected beneath the skin of the back between the shoulder blades. A very small quantity is used, as it is a very powerful medicine, and too large a dose, if the patient is suffering from consumption, might be attended by the most serious results.

The effect produced by the lymph on these two patients will be watched with great interest by nearly every one in Canada. The importance of finding a cure for consumption is fully appreciated by people of all classes and every degree of intelligence. All know how deadly that disease is, and very many have, with aching hearts, seen it slowly sapping the lives of those who were near and dear to them.

Dr. Flint tells us that about ten per cent. of recorded deaths, at all ages and from all causes, is due to consumption. If Dr. Koch has found a means of putting a stop to this dreadful mortality, or even of materially lessening it, he will have conferred a benefit of incalculable value on the whole human race. So great a change, wonderful as it would be, is not without a parallel. Before vaccination was adopted ten per cent. of the deaths from all causes was from small-pox. Now the proportion of deaths from that disease is not the one-tenth of one per cent. If Koch's discovery produces anything like so great a change, his memory will be held in honor through all the ages.

IS IT TRUE?

There is a story abroad that King Kalakaua is "strapped." He is, so to speak, "on his uppers." He is in a foreign land without a dollar to buy him a dinner. He is under the necessity of depending on his friends in America for what money he needs to get along with and to take him home when he is tired of his tramp. When he received the invitation to go to America, so the report runs, he was out of funds. But the chance was too good a one to miss. He drew upon the Treasury of his Kingdom. It was, unfortunately, in nearly the same condition as his pocket. There were in it one hundred and three dollars and fifty cents. This His Majesty put in his pocket and went on board the American cruiser. One hundred and three dollars does not last a humble private citizen very long in San Francisco, and it can easily be understood that the King of the Sandwich Islands soon came to the end of his travelling fund. The ill-natured and wretched reporter insinuates that the great American institution, poker, had something to do with its speedy disappearance. His Majesty was reduced to the necessity of borrowing, and, it is said, that his creditors are already numerous and of many ranks and conditions. Whether or not he "swore off" at the beginning of the New Year, and how he intends to raise the wind to get home again, are subjects on which our informant is silent. We will not vouch for the truth of this story. We give it as we received it. Whether it is true or not it is certain that it has travelled across the continent, and travelled back to the Pacific Coast again.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

A New York telegram to a San Francisco paper contains the following paragraph:—

"Representatives of British Columbian sealers have been officially informed, in reply to their renewed inquiries, that their constituents may proceed with their arrangements for the approaching season, in full confidence that an adequate imperial naval force will be on the ground to extend to them full protection in the lawful pursuit of their calling. This information is based on personal assurances give by Salisbury to Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian High Commissioner, and to Sir John Thompson, the Canadian Minister of Justice, last autumn, and officially renewed since then by dispatches from the colonial office to the Governor-General."

We do not believe that there is one word of truth in these statements. The British authorities are not in the habit of giving British Columbia sealers assurances of protection. When sealers are on the eve of sailing they find that it is useless to ask those in authority whether they will be protected or not. The Dominion authorities declare that they do not know what the intentions of the Imperial Government are, and Imperial officers and officials invariably decline to give sealers the slightest encouragement.

We do not remember to have seen a meaner editorial paragraph than one which appeared in the organ of the Opposition, yesterday evening. In that paragraph a wanton attack is made upon Mr. D. Wilson, Inspector of Schools, one of the most unassuming of men and the most conscientious of officials. He is denounced as "a political attache of the Education Office" and stigmatized as "a spy," merely because he attended a meeting of the Mainland Teachers' Institute. Mr. Wilson was performing one of the duties of his position, and that not the least important, when he attended that meeting. It would be, indeed, singular if a representative of the Department was not present to take part in the proceedings. Not only does the Times fiercely and causelessly attack an efficient and faithful public servant, but it wantonly insults the Mainland teachers as a body, by a good deal more than insinuating that they were coerced by Mr. Wilson to pass, contrary to their honest convictions, a resolution expressive of confidence in the Education Department. This is the secret of the violence and the insolence of the Times. Its hatred of the head of the Education Department is so great that its rage cannot be kept within bounds when it finds that in spite of all its efforts to misrepresent and malign him and the officials of the Education office, they still retain the respect and esteem of the great majority of the teachers.

The statement made by Ald. McKillican at the nomination yesterday to the effect that the letter in THE COLONIST signed "Citizen" was written in the office by one of the staff, is wholly untrue. The letter was not written by anyone connected with this paper. When THE COLONIST has anything to say about the way in which any department of the city government is conducted, it is not afraid to give expression to its views openly. This it has done more than once respecting the manner in which the Lighting Committee has performed its duties. Our criticisms have been too mild, and we now see that we have shown the chairman of that committee, Mr. McKillican, too much consideration.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

Regular Monthly Meeting of the People's Representatives—What they Did.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees was held last night, Mr. C. Hayward, president, in the chair. There were present Trustees Erskine, Hall, Walker and Mallandaine.

After routine,

The secretary read a communication from Miss Armstrong, principal of the Girls' Centralschool, asking for rolls of honor on which would be inscribed the names of the girls as they left for promotion to the High School.

The president thought that these rolls would be desirable to have, but where was the money to come from?

The secretary intimated that he had no money; he did not handle school funds.

Mr. Mallandaine moved that the secretary inform Miss Armstrong that while they approved of her idea, they had no funds with which to carry out the suggestion.

The Secretary said that the attendance for December had shown a slight falling off from the previous month. The attendance during December had been 1,389, compared with 1,475 in November and 1,211 in December, 1889. The excess over December last year had been 178. The daily average in 1890 was 1,243.06, and December, 1889, 956.10. The number of scholars per teacher had averaged 46 04 in 27 school divisions.

The Secretary here read the entire list of schools, remarking that some of them were crowded.

Mr. Hall said that he and Mr. Walker had visited the Hillside school and had found the desks and seats very much damaged. In fact, some of them had to be propped with boxes. Something had to be done at once.

The Secretary—What is to be done?

Mr. Hall The Trustees must make use of the newspapers.

The Chairman—We can't mend desks without money.

Mr. Walker—The teachers understood that a carpenter was to fix them at once.

The Trustees went into Executive committee on a variety of matters. It is said they declined to accept a resignation which had been tendered by Miss Arrowsmith.

A FEAST IN STORE.

Emma Juch, With an Improved Company, to Visit Victoria Early Next Month.

Advance Manager Hennesy, of the farfamed Emma Juch Opera Company, was in conference with Manager Austin of The Victoria last evening, and the result of their having put their heads together, will be the appearance of Miss Juch and her noted company of artists, in this city on the 5th, 6th, and 7th proximo.

Emma Abbott was Emma Juch's only rival in her particular class of opera in America, and, now that she is dead, Miss Juch stands alone and unequalled. Her good work when she last paid this city a visit will long be remembered, and will ensure her crowded houses during her stay in the city. The company supporting this bright operatic star is better than ever, and her Victoria engagement will include some of the best operas in her repertoire. It is expected that the opening will be Wagner's Lohengrin; Carmen will be given at the matinee performance, and Mignon on either the second or last evening. One night's bill yet remains to be decided.

Supt. H. Abbott of the C.P.R., with J. P. Geddes, is at the Driard.

THE LOSS OF H.M.S. SERPENT.

Result of the Court-Martial on the Three Survivors—Verdict of the Court.

The Wreck Attributed to an Error of Judgment of Those Navigating the Vessel.

Lloyd's Weekly, of Dec. 21st., furnishes the following account of the naval enquiry into the loss of H. M. S. Serpent:

The court-martial on the three survivors of the ill-fated ship Serpent, wrecked at Cape Villano on Nov. 10 last, assembled on board her Majesty's ship Black Prince, flagship at Devonport, on Tuesday morning, having been postponed from Monday, for which day it was previously fixed. The three survivors, Frederick Joseph Gould, leading seaman, Onesiphorus Luxon, able seaman and Edward Burton, able seaman, all looking fairly well, were provided with seats in the court, but, in accordance with custom, the provost-marshal, with drawn sword, stood over them. The earlier part of the day was occupied with official statements, after which the three men rescued were called, and agreed that there were no leadsmen in the chains, nor any deep soundings being taken at the time of the disaster. There was half a gale of wind, but the ship behaved well. Staff Commander Henderson, an assistant of the Hydrographic department, who swung the Serpent at Plymouth in July, stated that her compasses were in a satisfactory condition when she returned from the naval manœuvres. Staff Commander Freake stated that on the lost cruiser the "heeling error" was reduced to a minimum, and if the Serpent had approached the land and some disturbance had taken place she would have been thrown off shore. In Spain all the magnetic causes which could have prevailed would have tended to the ship's safety.

On Wednesday Staff-Commander Edwards afforded valuable information in drawing out courses from the position of the Serpent as last seen by the steamship Peninsula. The Admiralty sailing directions for the north-east coast of Spain were read, and showed that every warning is given to commanding officers of vessels, not only to guard against the current, which, with south-west winds, sets in with great strength between the Gisarga Isles and Cape Ortegal, but also to heave the lead frequently, especially in hazy weather, the surroundings giving a warning before the surf of the shore can be heard.

The court, after deliberating for two hours, found that the compasses in use on board the Serpent were in every respect satisfactory and reliable; that the proper charts and all hydrographical notices relating to the service on which the Serpent was to be employed were supplied to her before she sailed from Plymouth; that the ship appeared to have been in every respect seaworthy and properly equipped; that no accident of any kind had happened on board the ship up to the moment of her stranding; that there was no evidence to prove whether the position of the ship had been fixed by the means best available on board; that there was no proof that any unusual or abnormal currents prevailed in the Bay of Biscay at or near the east and north-west coast of Spain during the voyage of the Serpent from Plymouth, beyond those which mariners are warned by the sailing directions to expect. The court attributed the loss of the Serpent to an error in judgment of those responsible for the navigation of the ship, in not having shaped a course sufficiently to the westward, and found that no blame was to be attributed to any of the survivors of the crew in connection with the loss of the ship. The court added that it desired to place on record the fact that orders were obeyed and discipline maintained by the officers and crew up to the last.

A PLASTERER REPLIES.

TO THE EDITOR: I have just had the pleasure of reading the contractor's letter in last Sunday's COLONIST, in which he deplores the fact that in conducting what he is pleased to term our "strike," we have not adopted the "honorable course of remaining idle." In reply, may I be permitted to state our case? Some time ago we decided that we would work no longer in company with Chinese, and gave the contractors due notice that either they would have to let the Chinamen go or we would seek work elsewhere. They preferred to keep the Chinese, and we went. Not being fond of eating the bread of idleness, and being determined to have our allotted share of bread, we resolved to do all the work we could get to do for the public direct. We give house owners the benefit of our skilled labor for its value, and if we do their work as well as ever, and omit the middlemen's profits from our bills, have the reasonable public a right to complain?

WORKING PLASTERER.

INACCURATE.

TO THE EDITOR: The Times has found a mare's nest when it states that freights on sugar from Montreal and Halifax have been raised to suit the Vancouver Sugar Refinery. Many changes are to come into operation on the 1st of February, according to arrangements made by the Transcontinental association. The writer in the Times should study figures and find that decimal 15 is not a quarter nor is decimal 20 a half. The writer might also enlighten us how the Northern Pacific and Union Pacific, both in the association, can be interested in avoiding freight from the East in favor of a British Columbia refinery.

VINDEX.

Nobody Killed.

A run-away horse owned by Walter Milligan terminated his flight at the corner of Fort and Government street, yesterday morning. The buggy to which the horse was attached was turned upside down, the front wheel turned inside-out, and the shafts considerably broken. The animal evidently got frightened by the street car, for as quick as a flash it pulled the bridle from the hand of the driver, who was standing, and bolted down Yates street, passing all the hacks on Government without doing any damage. The excitement ended at the Brown Jug Saloon, where the smash-up occurred.

A VICTIM OF STRYC

John Wild Defeats the Law ing a Dose of Dead Poison.

Regretting His Act, He A Doctor, But Help Co Too Late.

A telegram from Chemainus, Sergt. Langley, of the Provinc late on Monday night, instruct arrest and hold a young man, n Wild, for a few months employ tender at the Driard, upon a ch taining money under false pret Samuel Gray, of Chemainus. The sent out at once to find the man, b obtaining any information as to boarded, until yesterday morni when they went to arrest him, t him dead.

The circumstances of the tragic not very clear yet. Wild came California, where he has a brothe as a second engineer on a coastin about four or five months was a bartender, and foc secured employment at th Afterwards he was given work a and handler of horses. It is that he was a victim of melanch pecuniary trouble. He boarded Kane street, where he occupied room on the ground floor. He home on Monday night, and in ing went down town to get his An hour or so later, he returned, went into his room, telling the la house that she need not make up he was going to try and get a l sleep. Not long after one of the gers came home, and as he w Wild's door, the latter called to b a doctor at once. Wild was at t most screaming, and suspecting thing was wrong, the young open the door. The occupant of was on his bed, writhing with ag

No time was lost in bringing to the bedside, and he at once situation and administered all th known for strychnine poisoning. had, however, done its work of the victim expired in about one property was taken possession police, who also have a letter left, addressed to W. J. Taylor, Taylor. The contents will, no made public at the coroner's in hour for which has not yet been is believed that failing to get he expected, and fearing arrest, tunate man determined to comm Having taken the drug he regre so, and called for a doctor, but Strange to say, when the doctor steadfastly refused to take sev remedies offered by the medical

The deceased was a member don Lodge, No. 215, Sons of St. San Francisco, and also of Sherw M.U.O.F., Nottingham, Eng. born in England, and was about of age.

Late last evening it was stated authority that Wild, meditatin penned a note in which he inferre that disappointment in an affai heart was the cause of his death. not mention any name but said he slighted, and "she" would know, he meant.

THE EARTH.

Rev. J. Wastie Green Delivers the His Scientific Lectures.

Rev. J. W. Green delivered lecture of his series upon the Eart Cathedral school last evening, the being a summary of his remar Earth, he said, having been alrea of as a rotating and revolvi developed on the nebular of Laplace, and consequen in a slowly evolving st may consider it best from an standpoint first. We find that it material is an atmospheric envelo great tenuity in its upper re growing denser naturally from pr we approach the body of the plan to this outer envelope comes anot envelope of greater density in the the ocean, which is constantly sup means of evaporation, the outer with water vapor; and beneath envelope, and in many wide ar ping up above it in the shape of we inhabit, lies the dense bo Earth, which below its surface ret stores of heat, which makes itself f rapid ratio as we descend beneath face. Reversing the ratio and the loss of heat with the ratio ing temperature in ascending the lecturer then proceeded to ex course of the trade winds and winds, and to show on a map on Projection how the variations in stant currents are made intelligi effect of large masses of land in tudes in raising the temperature mense absorption of the solar heat, position of land in relation to the as productive of monsoons, were upon, which thus introduced the laws of climate, of which Mr. Gr North America and Europe as the teresting exemplifications, as show very plain manner the effect of and plain in attracting warmth an cold respectively. The laws of st as yet, too little understood to duced with advantage. We see how rapid is the radiation constant on from the still boiling heat in t of the earth. To-night, however, confine ourselves to the outmost the atmosphere. And, first, ho weigh it? The lecturer here gav planation of the barometer. Seco always the same? No: dry ai heavier than aqueous vapor, and sun is perpetually drawing up vapor from the ocean and from surfaces, it is constantly distur atmospheric equilibrium, and wit constant disturbance the air wou and be unable to support life. stant disturbance takes the form of rents, or, as we call them, wind. us trace the origin of winds, t causes, and the laws that gove They are caused by the intense eva at the equator, produced by the where they do not blow in regular the reasons for their variability ca erally assigned.

Frank Davis, who went East so ago in the interests of Vienna salmon business, returned by the P press to Westminster, on Mond satisfied with the results of his tri Davis visited all the large cities, he will ship this year more fresh s the Eastern market than ever befor umbian.