The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1893.

THE KENNEDY CASE.

Just how much honesty there is in the leading article upon the above subject in last evening's Times, is to be judged by the fact that the force of the point tried to be made by the article in question, depends upon the wrongful suppression of two important dates. Our contemporary says that the bill (the Legislative Assembly Privileges act) brought in by the Attorney-General, and under which the Kennedy case was dealt with "was apparently suggested to Mr. Davie by Dr. Bourinot's opinion that the then existing legislation was deficient," and our contemporary proceeding upon this supposition asks the sapient question: "What do the people think of an Attorney-General who could not discover this fact for himself, but felt obliged to procure an outside opinion?"

Now, we will ask a more pertinent questions as arising upon the facts of the case: What do the people think of an organ which has deliberately suppressed the dates, which conclusively prove the supposition upon which it bases its conclusions to be unfounded? Yet such is the case with the Times in this instance. The date of Dr. Bourinot's opinion, as published on the face of it, which date the Times leaves out, was April 15, whereas the "Legislative Assembly Privileges Bill" was brought into the House at least two weeks before that date and was passed by the House, and actually assented to by the Governor on the 8th April—just a week before Dr. Bourinot's opinion left Ottawa. Further comment upon the subject, on our part, is unnecessary.

INJUDICIOUS INTERFERENCE.

It is not a little surprising that members of Parliament who should be the staunchest assertors of Provincial rights are ready, on almost any pretext, to invoke the interference of the Dominion Government to nullify Provincial legislation which is obnoxious to them. When a Provincial law displeases them or is adverse to what they consider their interests they, blind to the importance of maintaining the Provincial jurisdiction intact, call loudly for the exercise of the vete power.

The Government of Nova Scotia, as it had a perfect right to do, leased the coal mines of Cape Breton County to a syndicate composed of Canadians and United States citizens. The Provincial Government convened the Legislature for the express purpose of obtaining its sanction to the bargain. That sanction was given. The whole transaction was constitutional from beginning to end, and the act which the Nova Scotia Legislature passed was admittedly within its competency.

Although this was well known, and although no one attempted to deny that the coal mines and coal lands of Nova Scotia belong to the Province to dispose of as its Government shall see fit, yet a number of members from Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, headed by Professor Weldon, a New Brunswick member, waited upon Sir John Thompson to endeavor to prevail upon him to advise the Governor-General to veto the Nova Scotia Act sanctioning the deal, and thus compel the Nova Scotia Government to break faith with the men to whom they had agreed to lease the coal mines and lands.

The deputation was quite a formidable one, consisting of some sixty members. But it turned out that they were not all in favor of Dominion interference with the domestic affairs of Nova Scotia. Some went to hear what both sides had to say and some to protest against the interference of the Dominion Government in the matter.

It is pleasant to observe that the Premier taught these men from the provinces a salutary lesson in the maintenance of Provincial rights. He told Mr. Weldon, and others who were so eager to have the Dominion Government interfere in a matter which was exclusively of Provincial concern, that "when a question came exclusively within Provincial jurisdiction, generally speaking, it was held the Dominion Government had no right to interfere. . . In this case they were asking the Governor-in-Council to supervise not only the legislation of the Province, but to supervise a bargain which that Province had made with regard to the disposal of its own property. The Province of Nova Scotia had the same right to deal with its mines as the Province of Ontario had with its timber."

We trust that the members from the different provinces who for one reason or another wished the Dominion Government to veto a law enacted by the Nova Scotia Legislature took to heart the lesson taught them by Sir John Thompson. Those members should, both in the interest of their own provinces and of the Confederation, be the first to protest against the exercise of the veto power with respect to the constitutional legislation of the Provincial Legislatures. They ought to know that it is far better that the provinces should suffer from the effects of foolish and even bad legislation than that they should be kept from making mistakes by Dominion interposition. The power to manage their own affairs has been extended to the provinces by the Constitution of the Dominion, and they should not be interfered with in the exercise of that power. If the Dominion Government is allowed to meddle in Provincial affairs with a good motive, and for an apparently good object, it will not be long before it takes upon itself to meddle in a way which the inhabitants of the Provinces consider mischievous and unnecessary. And when the meddling becomes habitual, and it would soon become so if not resisted and checked, there would be an end to peace and harmony in the Dominion. Sir John Thompson acted as the true friend of the Dominion when he resisted the importunities of the shallow partisans who would have him nullify a constitutionally enacted law of the Nova Scotia Legislature.

We see by the Toronto Empire's report of the interview that it was Mr. Mara and not Mr. Earle who spoke on that occasion. That gentleman very properly said that this Province would resist Federal interference in the matter of the disposal of its coal lands. He must, we think, have been misreported when he is represented as saying that British Columbia is suffering from a coal monopoly. There is no such thing as a coal monopoly in this Province. The Government sells coal lands to all who wish to purchase them, and every owner of coal lands, if he is able to do so, is at perfect liberty to sink shafts and work mines. The Government does not even exact a royalty from coal miners.

A DESERVED SNUB.

Last year the Prince Edward Island Legislature passed a bill abolishing the Legislative Council of the Province. At the close of the session the Lieut.-Governor, instead of giving his assent to the measure, sent it to Ottawa for the consideration of the Governor-General. A few days ago the bill was sent back to the P. E. Island Governor without any action being taken upon it. This snub the Island Governor very well deserved. He should have either assented to the bill or rejected it. He should not have tried to transfer the responsibility that properly rested on him to the shoulders of the Governor-General. The Dominion very properly refused to interfere in the Provincial affairs of Prince Edward Island. If the people of that Province wanted to get rid of their Legislative Council, they possessed both the right and the power to abolish it, it and it was the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor to act upon the advice of his ministers or, if he was ready to take the consequences, to disregard that advice. But it was neither right nor reasonable to attempt to saddle the Dominion Government with a responsibility which he ought to bear. In this matter as well as in the Nova Scotia coal deal Sir John Thompson refused to interfere in matters that are purely and properly Provincial. This is the patriotic as well as the constitutional course.

CLEVELAND'S CABINET.

Mr. Cleveland is very different indeed in many respects from the ordinary politician. He is not afraid to let the world know what his intentions are and what he is doing. He is, perhaps, the most outspoken of living statesmen. When he had made up his mind that the welfare of the United States required a reform of its tariff, he let all the world know what his convictions were. His outspokenness was at the time considered by the great majority of the public men of the United States, both Democratic and Republican, most impolitic. The presidential election was at hand, and all that Mr. Cleveland had to do was to maintain a prudent reticence with respect to the tariff and his return by an immense majority was certain. But he gave free utterance to his opinions. He lost his election, but retained the respect and won the admiration of all honest, truth loving men. And he has continued the same course ever since. He seems to have a strong dislike to unnecessary secrecy, and he has a contempt for those who make a mystery of a matter in order to excite the public curiosity and to enhance its importance.

In choosing his Cabinet, a proceeding which other Presidents-elect kept a profound secret as long as secrecy was possible, Mr. Cleveland has taken the people into his confidence. As soon as any man to whom a position had been offered had consented to his propositions, he let all the world know who the man was, and what office he had been selected to fill. This plain and open dealing surprised the politicians, but it is most likely the wisest course he could have pursued. Every appointment has been discussed as soon as it was made, and the people have had a better chance than ever before to make themselves acquainted with the antecedents and the abilities of each of the appointees.

The first appointment was Mr. Carlisle, who was selected to fill the position of Secretary of the Treasury. He is well known to the people of the United States as a man of splendid talents and high character, whose experience and studies have in a peculiar manner fitted him to become the Finance Minister of the new Administration. He was a Senator at the time of his appointment and had long been a leading man in the Democratic party.

Judge Walter G. Gresham was the next man chosen. His appointment was a surprise to many. He belongs to what is called the Mugwump party. He has joined the Democrats because he approves of their trade policy. His appointment does not please the Republicans, because they look upon him as a deserter from their ranks, and many Democrats think that the office to which he has been appointed, that of Secretary of State, should be filled by a tried and trusted man of the Democratic party who had earned the preferment by long and valuable services. But all, Republicans and Democrats, have to admit that he is a man of great ability and of stainless character, who has given proofs of independence of judgment and unselfishness in his public actions.

Mr. Bissell has been appointed to the post of Postmaster-General. He is known to be well fitted for the office. He has much more than ordinary capacity, and is enthusiastic in his support of Mr. Cleveland's policy of tariff reform. Mr. Bissell is a New York man. Daniel Scott Lamont, who is also from New York, has been appointed Secretary of War. He has a wide experience of party affairs and a close acquaintance with public men, and possesses as well considerable administrative capacity. He will, therefore make a most useful member of the Cabinet.

The new Minister of the Interior is Mr. Hoke Smith, who hails from Georgia. He is one of the self-made men who has had a varied experience of both men and occupations. He has, in his time, been a schoolmaster, a journalist, a lawyer and a politician. By sheer force of ability and energy he has raised himself to a high position in his native state, and his character is above reproach.

Richard Olney, of Massachusetts, is to be the Attorney-General of Mr. Cleveland's Administration. He is a lawyer of repute, and as a politician he stands high with the Mugwumps, who are rather exacting both as to character and ability.

Hilary A. Herbert has been chosen for Secretary of the Navy. He is from Alabama.

J. Sterling Morton is to be Secretary of Agriculture. He is from Nebraska, and is evidently a new man.

The general opinion seems to be that Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet is composed of good men, possessing a large share of ability, who will do the United States good service.

TYRANNICAL.

The vagaries of American State legislation are sometimes exceedingly amusing. Some of the legislators of the State of New York are indignant at the prospect of the re-introduction of crinoline. They are bound that the ladies of New York State and city shall not indulge in such an expansive luxury, so a bill has been introduced into the Legislature of the State making the traffic in the obnoxious article of dress illegal. This is the text of the bill as it appears in the Toronto Mail:

Whereas, it is reported in the public press that the fashion of wearing hoopskirts or crinoline is about to be established in this country, which will result in a great deal of annoyance and inconvenience to the public, to travel, and especially at church, theatrical and all other public gatherings, and to save the additional space which would be required at the World's Fair at Chicago, and the granting of additional and larger appropriations by the Federal Government and the several States, therefore be it enacted that it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, give or furnish to any citizen of this State what is known as and called hoopskirts or crinoline.

The measure was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Navigation. If the members of that committee are at all discreet, and set any value on domestic peace and comfort, they will strangle that tyrannical measure as speedily as possible. If it should, unfortunately, become law, it would not be at all surprising if the ladies of New York, in order to assert their rights and to show that they never, never will be slaves, should take to wearing hoops of the most wonderful circumference. The New York legislators, if they were wise, would have left the suppression of crinolines to the Princess of Wales.

EXPOSED.

The Times instead of admitting that it had accused the Attorney-General falsely tries to creep out of the difficulty in which it finds itself without either acknowledging its error or making an apology. It corrects the COLONIST as to the date of Mr. Bourinot's opinion, which was the 9th of April and not the 15th, as we believed. But our mistake does not make the false accusation any the less false. Anyone can see that a law which secured the assent of the Lieut.-Governor on the 8th of April, could not have been "suggested" or modified or influenced in any way by a legal opinion which was written the day after it had become the law of the land. "But mere statements about dates will not settle the matter," says the Times. But he statements of dates do settle the matter as far as the contemptibly mean question asked by the Times—"What do the people think of an Attorney-General who could not discover this fact (that the then existing legislation was deficient) for himself, but felt obliged to procure an outside opinion?"—is concerned. The dates show clearly that the law was framed, carried through the legislature, and received the Governor's assent, before the Attorney-General could possibly have seen Mr. Bourinot's opinion. The dates show that the false accusation involved in the question we have quoted, had not even the shadow of a foundation.

NOT REHABILITATED.

Mr. Mercier has again made his appearance in the Quebec Legislature. His presence there as a member of a small and not by any means influential Opposition should teach Quebec politicians of all grades, and both parties, that in public life as in business life honesty is the best policy. A very few years ago Mr. Mercier had, to all appearances, commenced a brilliant and a successful career. He was an able man and an astute politician. He, perhaps better than any man living, understood his compatriots, the French Canadians. He was immensely popular with them, and he knew how to retain the favor of the people. He had, too, ingratiated himself with the clergy of the Province from the highest to the lowest. He had, as the saying is, the ball at his foot. But he could not stand prosperity. He was not content to attain eminence gradually but tried to reach it at a bound. In order to increase his influence, he had recourse to questionable practices. He was apparently successful for a time, but he was found out and exposed. After his exposure he fell, and his fall was much more rapid than his rise. Now, a poor man with a tarnished reputation, he has reappeared in the legislative arena. There are some who believe that he may recover the ground he has lost, and may again become the favorite of the French-Canadians. He possesses courage, energy and great ability as a politician, but, although many things are possible in Quebec political life that are considered impossible in the other provinces of the Dominion, it is hardly to be expected that Mr. Mercier, with all his talent and his endowments, will ever be able to reascend the political ladder and gain a high public position, even in his own Province. His past will be too heavy a burden for him, strong man as he is, to carry. He will, in all probability, remain a political wreck, a warning to all public men of great ambition and easy virtue.

TRUE PATRIOTS.

This Dominion of Canada has, we are afraid, more than the normal number of croakers, men who do not believe in the country, who are always ready to disparage everything in it and connected with it, and who have, with respect to it, neither hopes nor aspirations. They sneer at those who profess to love Canada, and laugh outright at the enthusiasts who have faith in her future. The pessimism of these men lowers the tone of political life in this country. They repress the generous ardor of the young and enthusiastic and they discourage and depress those who dare to be hopeful and to aim high. The croakers are to be found everywhere, and the harm they have done and are doing is incalculable.

But there are signs that the pessimists are not to have the whole field to themselves. A new school of Canadian publicists is coming into prominence. It is composed of men who love Canada as their country, who have made its capabilities their study and who have faith in its future. They believe that it is worth working for and they are always ready to say a good word in its behalf.

Chief among these is the Rev. Principal Grant, a man who has a bigger heart and a great deal more brains than the very ablest of the desparagers of the Dominion. He, too, possesses energy, courage, and industry as well as ability, and when opportunity offers he does not hesitate to expose the narrowness and the shortsightedness of the pessimists. He is, also, a believer in purity in public life and in honesty of purpose in politicians, and he is doing what he can to raise the standard of public morals in this Dominion. He, a few days ago, delivered an address before the Montreal Canadian National League on "The Evolution of Canada and the Outlook." This address was both able and eloquent and showed that the speaker occupies ground much higher than the average party politician. In fact we question very much if party politicians could be made to appreciate much of what Dr. Grant said. He spoke in what is to them an unknown tongue, but we are proud to observe that sentiments such as he expressed are understood and admired by an ever increasing circle of Canadian men and women. There are many indications that the best Canadians are becoming sick and tired of what was some time ago called "politics" in Canada, and are looking for something higher and better than what, until very lately, passed under that name. To these Canadians such addresses as those delivered by Dr. Grant in Montreal are most welcome. He, as the following extract shows, is conservative in the widest and best sense. Speaking of the future of Canada he said:

What is within our power? The past says to us, "Beware of revolutionary proposals." It emphasizes the wisdom of the advice given by the member for Bothwell. What we need is the reformation of existing abuses, not critical and revolutionary changes; reforms under the constitution, not a destruction of the constitution itself. We need those changes which intelligent discussion, honest intention, and electoral votes can secure, and not those which can be obtained at this time only by the force of arms. Let us then keep to the path of peaceful reform. It is the safe course, dictated alike by prudence and common sense. Just because there is now a general restlessness, similar to what has usually existed prior to every one of our great changes, there is all the more need for taking this warning to heart. Let us think calmly and clearly, and, above all, define the end we have in view. Then, however we may differ as to details, we shall be in fundamental agreement.

Dr. Grant strikes the proper note when he says, "I am not much concerned about our future, either as to the time when a change shall be or the particular form it is likely to assume. If we do our duty in the present our future will be all right, and at the right time, too." This is how success and perfection are attained. Let the present task, the present duty, be done as well as it can be done, and the future will take care of itself. That there is enough for the best Canadians to do now and in the near future Dr. Grant makes abundantly evident. It is this:

To purify her public life from corruption; to set an example to this continent of commercial freedom, political vigor, industrial peace, and religious unity; to preserve our national honor against pressure from without, and asp and mine within; to prove that the Mother Country did well and did not ill in trusting Canadians at the outset, and that a higher unity can be the result of freedom than of uniformity imposed from without, and to prove that the schism of the Empire that was brought about, not by the will of the people but by the incapacity of a Ministry, can be healed and be the agent that heals, the link binding into an honorable unity mother and eldest daughter. If an outlook such as this can be realized, the evolution of Canada, with all the sacrifices that successive generations have made, shall have served a sufficient purpose in the upward striving of the race.

Talk such as this is foolishness to many politicians, whose highest aim is to get offices for themselves or their friends, and to whom men are everything and principles nothing.

G. C. J. M. Hughes and Sir Knight Col. Behnsen returned last night from a tour of inspection among the lodges of the Mainland. Uniform Rank drill on Thursday evening.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.

"That's all very well," said a small, smooth shaven man who bore the word "actor" in every line of his face—"I don't object to a little innocent fun," and he smiled as one of the gang placed a huge ink spot on the nose of the sleeping man "but I got a lesson on practical jokes that's enough for one man."

"Tell us the story, Ripley," exclaimed several, for his powers in that line were well known.

"Well, I will," said Ripley, and after a moment's reflection he began: "You see our show was travelling through Texas and making long jumps to reach the towns large enough to pay us for a lay over. We had a car to ourselves, and with a bottle and a dollar limit game the boys did very well for the first day. Then things grew rather lumpy, and the question was 'What shall we do to be amused?'

"Well, we worked up a scheme and it was a dandy. The 'prop' box furnished us with a pair of handcuffs and a huge revolver loaded with blanks. I was selected to do the 'murderer' on account of my face, and big Jim got up as a sheriff, boots, slouch hat and the 'gun.'

"At the next station or rather water-tank we hopped off our car, which was in the lead with two or three baggage coaches between it and the 'passengers,' and when the train came to a standstill, the 'sheriff and his prisoner' boarded the train and walked through looking for a seat. By and by we found one and I was commanded roughly to sit down and behave myself.

"Then the other boys went through and worked me up as a man who had killed his wife, family, mother-in-law and several distant relatives with an axe, and had only been captured after a desperate struggle. I was now on my way to the county jail, they explained—if I was not lynched in the meantime.

"Well, it worked beautifully. For a time the number of people who suddenly needed a drink—we were seated near a cooler—was astonishing. One old lady hobbled down, peered intently at me over her glasses, and went away muttering, 'He looks it—the bloodthirsty wretch.' The comments of the men were couched in stronger language, and even less complimentary.

"After a time the fun grew slack and in order to revive it we planned an escape. At the next station the sheriff and his prisoner stepped off the train. One of the boys spoke to the 'sheriff' and he turned his back on me, quite carelessly. In an instant the desperate murderer was off like a shot.

"Well, you should have heard the yells—'There he goes, Sheriff! Look out! Your murderer's escaping!' and by the time I had covered one hundred yards, the crowd was in full chase.

"'Stop!' yelled the sheriff, and bang! bang! went his old revolver. Now, that was funny, very funny, and I could scarcely run for laughing. I knew the blanks were all right and the crowd following showed that the bait was all O.K. Just as I looked around to see how things were progressing I heard a sharp crack and 'bing!' something went by my ear.

"I knew I had been fired on by a 'sure enough' gun, but before I could stop, bing! it went again, knocking off my hat. Down I went from sheer fright. I couldn't fall fast enough. Just in the instant as I looked behind, I saw the Wells-Fargo messenger standing in the door of the express car, with a smoking Winchester in his hand.

"The joke was explained to the gang and especially to the messenger, who made me feel good by saying 'Well, I don't see how I missed you, old man, I have knocked over a rabbit at that distance many a time.'

"Since then my jokes have been confined to a feeble pun or a stale gag—nothing practical I assure you."

A NEW MACHINE-GUN.—Nine hundred shots per minute were fired by a new machine-gun invented by Messrs. Browning Brothers, of Ogden, Utah, and recently tested at New Haven by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. This beats the record of the Maxim machine-gun by about 150 shots per minute. The new annihilator has a water jacket which holds a gallon of water, surrounding the barrel, and when the gun is at work this water supply is evaporated in one minute. In experiments made without the water jacket, the barrel was too hot for safety in less than half a minute. The breech is loaded from a continuous web belt, holding the cartridges in pockets. The representatives of the Krupp, Armstrong and Canet guns have been fighting a wordy but bloodless battle upon the question of the killing capacities of their respective weapons. The initial velocity of the largest of these projectiles new exceeds half a mile per second, and the penetrating energy varies from 200 to 300 foot tons per pound of powder, with a momentum of about 80,000 foot tons, which means that a mass of metal can be hurled forth with a destructive power something like that of the average railway collision. Canet claims to do you as much injury as Krupp or Armstrong for half the money, and with greater simplicity and elegance. These things have a savage and barbarous sound about them, but there can be no question they are among the triumphs of civilization, they are authentic footprints of the march of intellect.—Invention.

TESTIMONY OF AN ANCIENT MINE DISASTER.—The question of the comparative strength and stature of men of the Roman period and those of the present day is about to receive light from an unexpected source. In the Alpine commune of Bovegno an old silver mine has been uncovered by an English mining company, and at the bottom of the shaft were found many skeletons of men of almost gigantic build. The mine seems to have been worked by the Roman hill tribes, a party of whom were buried alive by a landslide. The bones have been preserved for scientific study.

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U. S. MILITARY STRENG[illegible]

Information Calculated to [illegible] Mistaken Ideas—Well In[illegible] formed Opinions.

How the State of Washington is Protected—Members of the Staff.

Who is the student of the times among Canadians and Englishmen, especially residents of Canada, who has not at some time or other figured on the possibilities of war with our big neighbor across "the line"? The wires a few days ago brought the statement that H. M. S. Temeraire a first-class battle ship, had been ordered to the Pacific for permanent duty at Esquimalt. The question referred to above, and suggested by the telegraphic announcement came up again. This time a small knot of Canadians with one solitary American in the party were doing the talking. Some of the statements on the subject were positively amusing to the listener, who knew anything about the subject at all. Especially was this the case when reference was made to the fighting strength of the United States. That fact in particular suggested this article. The writer is an American, but the writing will not be spread-eagle. A few simple facts, many of which are unknown to the general run of Canadians, will be given.

Many mistaken ideas prevail relative to the standing army of the United States, and much injustice is, as a matter of fact, done to the American nation when it is called a weak military power. The United States could in five days time mobilize at any given point nearly 150,000 well drilled and thoroughly equipped troops. How could she do it? Why she has, first of all, 25,000 regulars. Then she has 100,000 well drilled and finely equipped National Guardsmen; and then there are about 15,000 or 20,000 men organized and armed in what are called unattached militia or private companies. These men could take the field at a moment's notice. When you examine the position of the United States in comparison with the military powers of the earth you will see that she has too many men under arms. She does not need them all. She need, as a matter of fact, have no fear from Canada, for in the event of difficulty the attack would come from Great Britain, and she would have ample time to prepare. It is useless to compare any other power on the Western hemisphere, and nonsense to talk of a surprise or catching her off her guard. The wisdom that dictated the disbanding of the splendid Army of the Potomac after the famous review in Washington is still considered wisdom and will be such, for years to come.

But to return, you may say that these 100,000 men are far from good soldiers, that they are not disciplined. I will quote an English authority. The London Army and Navy Gazette says:

"The events of the last few months have taught the Americans a lesson regarding the value of a well organized and powful Militia, which will not soon be forgoten. In New York and Pennsylvania the National Guard system is better developed than anywhere else in the country, and in both of those states it has been found to be the only barrier between an orderly and law-abiding people and temporary anarchy. Without the support of the Militia there would have been no ready means of enforcing the law, and the authority of the courts and all branches of the civil government would have been successfully defied. In Tennessee the Militia was found weak and ill prepared when the miners' insurrection came, and the result was a demoralizing and dangerous period of alarm and confusion in the whole district. Yet even in Tennessee a few companies of State troops were the main instrument in restoring order. It is very clear that the founders of the nation knew well what they did when a clause of the organic law of the land was so made the guarantee of the right to bear arms and a solemn declaration of the necessity of a well ordered Militia was incorporated in the Federal Constitution."

The U. S. Army and Navy Journal says:

"There is no doubt of the advance made in recent years in the great task of organizing the people of this country into a military force. The National Guard is stronger than it ever was before in our history, and it is not only better drilled as a whole but the essentials that form the efficient soldier have received great attention and successful development. While the bodies of troops from the regular army and navy, the marines, blue jackets and cadets were looked upon with admiration during the Centennial parade of April, 1889, their good performances were received as a matter of course, and this is proper. They are the official exemplars of correct bearing. On the other hand the fine appearance of the National Guard was a surprise, for it was the first time when the troops of so many different States were brought together, and their performance could be looked upon as representative not of the military spirit, and faithful drill of one state only, but the whole country. It was not only good in itself, but remarkably uniform in quality, and justified not only the policy of the Government in its efforts to establish a helpful oversight in National Guard matters, but the labors of the many officers who have taken part in carrying it out. One result of this policy and of the detail of officers to schools for military instruction is the growth of an appreciative spirit in the people. A parade nowadays is watched by thousands who have learned to be competent observers and judges of good military form."

The recent World's Fair dedication at Chicago was the occasion for the gathering of many of the regulars and a large number of the state troops. In the reviewing stand were many military attaches of the foreign legations in Washington. They mistook the National Guardsmen from New York and Pennsylvania for regulars, and after they had learned their mistake, said they were better looking soldiers than the regulars. This speaks very higly for the discipline and military bearing of the men. The Seventh Regiment of New York had at the close of the rebellion furnished over 600 officers to the Union army. In the majority of States the State troops or National guardsmen are commanded by veterans of the rebellion, and they know the art of war. The United States troops taught the world some lessons during that long contest. There may have been mistakes, and it is still an open question with many whether the whole thing was not a grave, serious, error, but the fact remains. These enormous armies, guided by the cunning and skill of master minds, clashed, and fought to a conclusion. There was no giving way until the beaten one was completely vanquished and no relenting by the conqueror until the enemy struck their colors. A nation of artisans and farmers became a na-

[illegible]rs, and the transformation [illegible] complete. Equally quick was [illegible] the natural state of affairs. [illegible] who learned the art of war in [illegible]ool are the men in whose [illegible]ional Guard now is. Of course they will not last forever, but many of them are still in their prime.

There was a time not many years ago when the regulars, both officers and men, looked upon the National Guardsmen as amateurs, but now their relations are closer and sympathies far greater. They work in harmony. Regular officers are nearly always at state encampments and they lend all possible aid to perfection in drilling.

Our immediate neighbors—the people of Washington—are among the best protected of any state in the Union as far as land forces go. There are nearly 4,000 regulars in the state, and fully 1,400 National Guardsmen. The regulars are stationed at Fort Vancouver, Fort Townsend, Fort Canby, Fort Walla Walla and Fort Spokane. The state troops are divided up in different portions of the state. The adjutant-general, Ross G. O'Brien, is virtually at the head of the state troops, although the governor is the chief military officer. General O'Brien was a second lieutenant in the 134 Illinois Infantry and served through the war. Col. Harry Landes, paymaster-general, served three and a half years in the war and left as a lieutenant of a Kentucky regiment. Victoria has a staff officer in the National Guards of Washington. He is Col. A. J. Kane of the British Pacific Railway Co. He is Assistant Inspector General. The Colonel has been under fire, too.

Col. Joe. Green, at the head of the First Regiment, which is composed of Seattle and Tacoma companies, has been in the Militia for eigteen years. Washington is very liberal with its guards. Last year they got 1-5 of 1 mill on all the assessable property in the State, an operation which netted $55,000. Then the U. S. apportionment was $3,000, and adding the salary of the Adjutant-General, the total reaches $60,000. All of the State troops have seen riot service, and acquitted themselves nobly. The act authorizes thirty companies of infantry and two troops of cavalry. Only twenty-one companies of infantry have been sanctioned as yet, however. When on duty, whether on holiday parade or field or in annual encampment, the men receive $1.50 per day and the officers $2. The Brigadier-General is A. P. Curry, of Spokane. I believe he, too, is a war veteran. I dwell on Washington so much because she is British Columbia's neighbor, and all readers of the COLONIST will want to know just what the make up is of the 5,200 troops who would be thrown this way in the event of trouble.

The number of men available for military duty in the U. S., based on figures from all but ten states and one territory was 7,695,242. The states omitted are all populous ones, so the figures should properly be nearer 9,000,000. Isolated from other powers and with a sufficient force to meet all needs her military policy is to be commended and not sneered at.

The present strength is 1,388 officers and men, consisting of three regiments of infantry (21 companies) and two troops of cavalry, to be increased to ten battalions (30 companies) of infantry, two battalions of cavalry (4 troops) and one naval battalion, the latter to consist of three companies of seamen, infantry and one battery of machine guns.

The brigade commander, Brigade-General Curry, of Spokane, and the adjutant-general, Brigade-General R. G. O'Brien, of Olympia, served during the late war, and had distinguished records for gallant and meritorious services.

Of the 26 officers composing the general staff of the National Guard of Washington, no less than three-fifths of this number served during the late war, and with the exception of the states of New York and Pennsylvania, no other state in the Union can show a larger number of staff officers with "war records.

Colonel Landes, the paymaster-general, and president of the First National Bank, of Port Townsend, and who recently married a very pretty young lady of Victoria, served four years during the war in a Kentucky regiment of infantry, retiring with the rank of lieutenant and brevet captain.

Lieut.-Cololel A. J. Kane, assistant inspector-general on the staff, is a citizen of Thurston county, Washington, but at present domiciled in Victoria, and well known to many residents by reason of his connection with the projected Canada Western Railway.

Colonel Kane served during the war in the navy as a master's mate and ensign. He took part in eleven naval engagements, was twice wounded in action, and is pensioned for wounds. He was blown up on the gunboat Commodore Jones by a torpedo, below Richmond, Virginia, in May, 1864, all of the officers and crew of that vessel being either killed or wounded. He subsequently commanded a detachment of seamen-infantry on shore. While forming the picket guard of the naval division, and was recommended for meritorious services in action in dispatches by the late Rear-Admiral S. P. Quackenbush, U. S. N. (then a commander), and subsequently to the close of the war, while serving in the West Indies on the U. S. ship "De Soto," was present at Cape Haytian, Hayti, during the bombardment of that city by H.M.S. "Bull Dog" (during which that vessel was destroyed). Mr. Kane was one of five officers of that vessel that rendered signal service in rescuing English and French refugees, passing under the fire of the Haytian batteries, and for which Her Majesty's Government together with the French Government, communicated their thanks to their American Government. Bvt the officers referred to, including Col. Kane, were not allowed to accept any personal recognition owing to the feeling that existed at that period against the British Government for the "Alabama affair," and to the occupation of Mexico by the French troops under Marshal Bazaine.

A SNUG SALARY.—The New York Life Insurance Company has decided to give ex-President Beersan annuity of $15,000. When he was president of the company, he retired himself on a salary of $37,500, in return for "advisory services." The new management refusing to pay this, suit was brought, and Judge van Brunt decided that the annuity was remuneration for advisory services and was to be paid only when such services had been rendered. As they had not been called for, no money was due. Now, however, the company has decided to give Beers an annuity equal to forty per cent. of the salary he had retired on.

An eminent artist, known for his plain speaking, remonstrating with Oscar Wilde on his undue admiration of his own play, "Lady Windermere's Fan," remarked, "I much doubt whether such a work could live after the present season. Now, the 'School for Scandal' has lasted a hundred years, and is as popular to-day as ever it was." "Ah!" murmured Oscar, "but so is 'Bradshaw's Guide.'"