The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1893.

THE WRONG COURSE.

The City Council did not, we think, act in accordance with the interest of the citizens as a whole when they decided to contract a loan on the credit of the city to continue the construction of the sewers. By so doing, they propose, needlessly, to increase the city's debt, and so, to a certain extent, weaken its credit.

The work of draining the city can, we are quite convinced, be more effectively and more equitably done on the Local Improvement system than by a general loan. The plan of making improvements as they are wanted, and where they are wanted, and of compelling those only who are immediately and directly benefited by such improvements to pay for them, has, by the inhabitants of many cities on this continent and elsewhere, been found to work better and more satisfactorily than the old plan of taxing all the citizens for every improvement, no matter where it is, or whether they are benefitted by it or not. Why should, for instance, property within the city's bounds that will not be drained for many years, and which receives no advantage from the sewers constructed for other parts of the city, be taxed to pay for those sewers, or why should the loan contracted for that purpose be a burden on the land that remains undrained? It does not seem fair that property in the extreme east and the extreme west, which may not be built upon to any extent for a long time to come, shall be taxed for the construction of drains in the centre of the city.

Under the general loan system these outlaying parts may want drainage long before the city council can be prevailed upon to appropriate money for the purpose. Everyone knows how it is with streets and sidewalks and other improvements that are needed by citizens in newly opened up parts of the city. The improvements are only obtained with much difficulty and after long delay, and then they are often far from being what are needed. And it will be with the sewers as with other improvements, if they are to be constructed under the old system of begging and praying and petitioning and wire-pulling. Very few having a direct interest in a particular locality being sewered, the requests of the residents can for a long time be safely disregarded by the City Fathers.

But it is very different under the Local Improvement system. The property-owners of the locality have only to agree among themselves to have the sewer constructed, and as they are to pay for it themselves, no one has either the will or the power to prevent them getting what they want immediately.

Objections are being made to the working of the system of Local Improvement, but none of them are at all formidable. Let practical and energetic men take the business in hand, and the greater number of the difficulties that are now conjured up will disappear. There is no reason why a system which has worked well in other cities will not work well in Victoria. What is wanted in the management of our city affairs is more determination, more energy and more intelligence.

Let the ratepayers, to whom the bill to sanction a new loan for the construction of sewers will be submitted, inquire how the Local Improvement system works in other cities. The inquiry will certainly convince them that making improvements under that system is preferable to having them made as the City Council wills under the general loan plan. When thus convinced, they will reject Mr. Styles' by-law and will insist upon the sewer system being continued and completed under the Local Improvement law. If the present City Council are too slow and too tenacious of old opinions and old methods to proceed with the sewer construction in the way the citizens desire, let them, when the opportunity offers, elect a Council which will do the work energetically and in the way which they believe to be most conducive to the general welfare. Most people now see that Victoria needs to complete its sewers and to keep it abreast of the times in other respects, a live Council and a progressive Mayor.

BLAINE'S DISCOVERY.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer gives Mr. Blaine credit for having discovered that it was *contra bonos mores* for British sealers to kill and capture seals on the high seas in the northern parts of the Pacific Ocean. Our contemporary makes the announcement very ingenuously. It says "Mr. Blaine saw that our claim to exclusive jurisdiction over Behring Sea would be rejected by an international tribunal, and more than three years ago he wrote to the British Minister that 'the Canadian vessels arrested and detained in the Behring Sea were engaged in a pursuit that was in itself *contra bonos mores*, a pursuit which of necessity involves, a serious and permanent injury to the rights of the Government and people of the United States.'"

The Intelligencer is right, it was only after Mr. Blaine was convinced that the claim to exclusive jurisdiction would not stand the test of investigation by men who should be both able and impartial, that he had recourse to the argument that the sealing business was contrary to good morals, as, according to his contention, the United States had some kind of property in the fur seals; but he took very good care not to define that right at all clearly. He used expressions that were both general and vague. Instead of saying, as Mr. Coudert said the other day before the Arbitrators, that the United States owned the seals in Behring Sea and had a perfect right to punish those who take them without its authority, he wrote in the following grand but rather hazy style:

To establish this ground it is not necessary to argue the question of the extent and nature of the sovereignty of this government over the waters of the Behring Sea. The weighty considerations growing out of the acquisition of Alaska, with all the rights on land and sea inseparably connected therewith, may be safely left out of view, while the grounds are set forth on which this government rests its justification.

And again:

They are not only interfering with American rights, but are doing violence as well to the rights of the civilized world. Does Her Majesty's Government seriously maintain that the law of nations is powerless to prevent such violation of the common rights of man? Are the supporters of justice in all nations to be declared incompetent to prevent wrongs so odious and so destructive? The forcible resistance to which this government is constrained in the Behring Sea is, in the President's judgment, demanded not only by the necessity of defending the traditional and long-established rights of the United States, but also the rights of good government and of good morals the world over.

Mr. Blaine was seldom at a loss for a specious argument to uphold any position it suited him to take, but the above cannot be very favorable specimens of his special pleading. There is in the sentences we have quoted, a great deal more sound than sense, and if he said nothing more to the purpose than is cited by our Seattle contemporary, we are not surprised that the claim was not regarded as a serious one by either the British Government or the British sealers.

The Post-Intelligencer, however, is slightly astray when it says that Mr. Blaine laid small stress comparatively, upon the right to complete ownership of Behring Sea beyond a distance of three nautical miles from the shore; on the contrary he never seriously tested the strength of his case on the theory of exclusive jurisdiction and the untenable theory that Behring Sea was a closed Sea."

An examination of the diplomatic correspondence will show that Mr. Blaine insisted as strongly as he could insist, on the right of the United States to sovereignty over Behring Sea, and that he did not weaken on that claim until he found, as our contemporary says, it was untenable. It was then that the idea of claiming some kind of ownership over the seals occurred to him. This claim is so clearly an afterthought that we are surprised that it is not frankly admitted to be so by the American side.

BIMETALLISM.

From what we read and hear about bimetallism it might be supposed that only one metal is allowed to be used as money in most civilized countries. This, as we all know, is not true. Bimetallism and even trimetallism obtain in most countries. We have gold money, silver money, copper money and nickel money. Coins of all these metals have been found convenient, if not necessary, in civilized countries. The question is, to what extent are these metals to be used as a circulating medium with advantage to the community or nation. No one that we know of, advocates the disuse of any metal now used as money. The general verdict is that they are all good in their places. But what is their place? is the question about which there is so much controversy just now.

The general opinion is that gold is the only metal that can be used as money to an unlimited extent. Silver and the other metals are useful, but they can only be used to a limited extent, is the verdict of European economists.

In the United States the attempt has been made to make a more extensive use of silver as a money metal than is considered necessary or safe in Europe. There would be no objection to this, some of the contraversialists say, if the silver coins were intrinsically worth their face value. Let the silver dollar be worth one hundred cents, and no harm will come of circulating as many of them as the people will consent to use. The dollar will then be a true dollar, and will not have to be bolstered up by the State in any way. But, the monometallists contend, it is folly to expect men to take sixty-five cents worth of silver for a dollar, if that dollar has to make its way through the world on its own worth. The coin may be called a dollar, but, unless it has got the credit of a rich nation at its back, no one, even in its own country, will give a hundred cents worth of gold, or any other commodity, for it. This is where the difficulty in the States comes in. To keep the dollar up, the Government must have gold at its back, so the bimetallism of the States is not a genuine bimetallism, it is really monometallism slightly disguised.

There are people in the United States who want to take away this disguise, and who declare that the dollar, or rather any number of dollars, should be put in circulation, and that people should be obliged to accept them in payment of debts at their face value. If this should be done, financial men declare, business would be thrown into confusion and gold would disappear from the country altogether. Neither the citizen of the United States nor the foreigner could by any law that might be enacted or by any arrangement that could be made, be brought to consider sixty-five cents equal to one hundred cents. The American dollar would be taken outside the United States at its value as bullion, and prices in the States, would jump up so as to accommodate themselves to the change in the currency. As to the unfortunates who were compelled to take in payment of debts or as interest on money, but sixty-five cents, instead of a hundred, they would have to bear the loss as best they could.

There are silver men who see this difficulty, and who think it can be met by putting silver enough in the dollar to make it worth one hundred cents gold. As the price of silver has of late been continually changing, it would not be easy to make the value of the coins to correspond with the market value of the metal they contain, for any length of time. But cannot this difficulty be surmounted? If it cannot, it is certainly impossible to make people of any nation take coin which can be coined to an unlimited extent for more than its intrinsic value. The silver men of the United States hoped at one time to be able to do this, but they must now see that they have attempted the impossible and that they cannot expect to establish bimetallism in the United States on any other basis than by giving the people silver money that is worth, as metal, as much as is demanded for it as coin.

THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE.

A good deal has been written about the power of Congress to pass an act driving aliens, whom the United States has bound itself by treaty to protect and who have committed no crime, out of the country. The discussion seems to be unnecessary. It is difficult to limit the power of a Government within its own bounds. It is said to be practically impossible to assign limits to the power of the British Parliament, and it is not reasonable to suppose that the Congress of the United States is much less powerful than the Parliament of Great Britain.

The British Parliament has, no doubt, power to violate the most solemn treaties and to enact laws which are both cruel and unjust. But it is one thing to have a giant's strength and quite another to use it like a giant. The British Parliament is a law unto itself. It has a conscience whose promptings it obeys, and there are proprieties which it invariably observes. No sane man in these days would submit a proposal to the British House of Commons which required the nation openly and boldly to violate a treaty solemnly entered into with any other nation, civilized or savage, Christian or Pagan. As soon as its nature was exposed, the motion would be thrown out without ceremony. No one would think of denying that it had the power to pass such a resolution, but every one in the kingdom would be convinced that it would be practically impossible to prevail upon it to exercise its power in such a way.

Why is it that there is not such a feeling among Americans with regard to the United States Congress? Is it because that Congress does not represent the conscience of the nation. The Geary Act is, we are satisfied, condemned as iniquitous and a reproach to the Republic, by the great majority of the American people. It is denounced by the leading organs of American public opinion in the most scathing terms. No enemy of the United States could condemn it more strongly or more bitterly than United States journals and United States public men, about whose patriotism there can be no question. The Supreme Court judges who affirmed the constitutionality of the law studiously refrained from saying anything about its moral aspect, and those of them who declared it to be unconstitutional, did so chiefly because they believed it to be wicked and unworthy a civilized people. There are Americans who openly declare that the law was passed by unprincipled men for the purpose of gaining political support from certain sections of the Union. At any rate it is evident that the moral sense of Congress is not by any means as delicate as that of the people it is supposed to represent, or it would not pass a law in direct contravention of the express and explicit terms of a solemn treaty.

U. S. TARIFF REVISION.

The business of revising the tariff in the United States is not all plain sailing. The revisers have some difficult problems to solve and some serious obstacles to surmount. How to revise the tariff and not do irreparable injury to many thriving industries is a problem that will need much painful study. Then, in taking off duties, the necessities of the revenue must be considered. The Government must have a large revenue, for the expenditure which cannot be avoided or materially lessened, is very great. Robbing Peter to pay Paul, is not satisfactory to any of the parties concerned. Again, in imposing new duties in place of those that are abolished, care must be taken not to burden the people unnecessarily, or to impose taxes which will be felt to be more galling than those that are remitted.

It is proposed to take the duties off the raw materials of manufacture and off the necessaries of life. The duty on wool in the United States is very heavy, so heavy that it contributes nearly eight millions of dollars to the revenue. The woolen goods pay all round a duty equivalent to 96 per cent. The duty on wool and woolen cloths added about $42,000,000 to the revenue last year. Let the duty be taken off wool altogether and the duty on woolen goods reduced to 35 per cent. This reduction, with the loss of the duty on wool, would make a pretty big hole in the revenue. Then there would be other reductions and other remissions, for the proposal is to add timber and coal to the free list. Assume that the reductions and remissions will cut down the revenue some sixty or seventy millions; how is the deficiency to be made up? The Government must go on spending. It will be simply impossible to make wholesale reductions in the expenditure. The revenue must be kept up to its present point, for we are told that the United States will have nothing to spare next year—or will have rather to face a deficit.

Well, the revisers will have to go to the present free list. On that list are some tempting items. Sugar, tea and coffee, are all fine revenue producing commodities, and if the duties are to be imposed for revenue purposes only, these are the very commodities that are to be taxed. But how will the people like to have their tea and sugar and coffee taxed again? Would they not rather continue paying their present taxes than have the prices of these necessaries raised by taxation. There is not a family in the country who would not feel the change, and would not the new taxes raise such an outcry from one end of the country to the other as would at the next election cause the tariff revision party to be driven from power. The Democrats have a hard task to perform, and it is not surprising that they are in no hurry to commence the work. Let them take what course they may, they will be sure to give offence and to make enemies.

The Dominion Government, though not embarrassed by election pledges to any serious extent, have the same difficulties to face. If they attempt to reform the tariff in any direction, except in that of taking off and reducing duties, they will be apt to make as many enemies as friends. Taking off the sugar duties was popular, because it was not necessary to impose others in their places. But if the proposed revision necessitates the imposition of new duties in the place of those that are to be taken off, the Government may look out for squalls.

A DISTINGUISHED POLITICIAN.

Almost everything which the Emperor of Germany says or does now will be regarded with unusual interest, not by the German nation only, but by the whole civilized world. Germany is just entering upon an important crisis of her existence, and as Germany is one of the great powers of the world, whatever affects her seriously is likely to have an influence that can hardly be considered indirect upon every other nation.

Appearances indicate that the Emperor of Germany has already entered into a political contest with a party in the Empire whose strength is as yet unknown, but which is regarded by all intelligent men as not by any means insignificant. A spirit, too, is manifesting itself in Germany, which is not at all in accordance with the traditions of the Empire. The Emperor foresees the impending struggle, and he does not affect to be neutral. He does not say to the parties in Germany: "Fight out your battles among yourselves. I am above party and cannot be expected to take an active part in a political campaign." On the contrary, he frankly and openly takes a side. He tells the people what he wants and what he believes is best for the fatherland. He is, in fact, the first in the field and has already made two speeches intended to aid the side he has taken. The first was addressed to the officers of his army, and for that reason was, according to British ideas of constitutional government, most objectionable. The second was addressed to a mixed audience on the occasion of a peaceful and patriotic demonstration. It was an appeal to the patriotism of the people of Germany, and was, therefore, entirely constitutional.

The Emperor believes that the well-being of Germany requires that its army should be increased. Parliament has refused to give him the increase he requires, and he has appealed from it to the people. Nothing could be fairer and more legitimate than this. His address at the unveiling of the statue of his grandfather, William I, is said to be even solemn. There is no doubt that he is sincere and in earnest. He firmly believes that the policy he favors is necessary to maintain the existence of the Empire of Germany, and he is most desirous that the people shall see it in the light that he does. This is why he reproached the majority of the Reichstag in his speech to the Generals with being unpatriotic, and this is why he insisted so earnestly at the late banquet on the importance of increasing the army and on the necessity of the people of Germany being united.

The speech will, no doubt, make a deep impression on the people of Germany. It did not contain one word to detract from its force. There was not in it, as far as can be seen, a trace of bitterness. It did not contain a single expression calculated to rouse antagonism, or to intensify opposition. It was an earnest and dispassionate appeal to the German's love of his country, and every true German, whether he agrees with him or not, will like him the better for having made it. In this sense it was a politic speech, though the young Emperor most likely had no thought of policy, in the ordinary sense of the term, when he delivered it.

It can hardly be doubted that the speech will have a very great effect, both in winning converts to the Emperor's side and in disarming opposition. It will be interesting to observe how far the Emperor's open advocacy of the cause which he favors will strengthen his party in the country. Will he be able to prevail upon a majority of the people to continue to bear the great burden of militarism patiently and cheerfully. Can he, by his influence exerted in any way, induce the people to elect a Parliament willing to give him the addition to the army he needs and the addition to the taxes necessary to support the new levies? What he wants is an annual addition of eighty-four thousand recruits and a yearly increase of taxation amounting to some fifteen millions of dollars. This, or some slight modification of this, is what the Emperor of Germany wants the people to give him, in order that his Empire may keep its position among the powers of Europe.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CHAMBERS.

(Before Mr. Justice Drake.)

May 18, 1893.

Culverwell, Brooks & Co. v. Penny—To fix day for trial. Adjourned by consent.

Vowell and Bole v. New Westminster Southern Railway—To examine plaintiff Bole. Application dismissed.

Re Lot 204, Group 1, Kootenay District—To alter map 204. Adjourned; to be heard before Mr. Justice Walkem.

From the DAILY COLONIST, May 19.

THE CITY.

June Sitting of County Court.

The June Sitting of the Victoria County court will be held on Thursday the 1st of June.

New Coroners.

Sibree Clarke, M.C.P.S., and Frank McGowen, have been appointed coroners for Kamloops and Vernon respectively.

"The Commonwealth."

F. Bourne has been appointed official liquidator to wind up the affairs of the Commonwealth Co., Ltd., of New Westminster.

Still Waiting for the Money.

Collector of Customs A. R. Milne expects to receive by early mail the money to pay off the sealers' indemnity claims, but up to last night he had not received the cash. The owners and captains are still waiting anxiously.

U. S. Consulate Flag.

A new flag has just been received by Consul Myers from Washington, which will first fly over the consulate on Government street in honor of the Queen's Birthday. The flag is of the latest pattern, with forty-five stars, the recently admitted states being included. It is of large size, and the colors are exceptionally bright.

Donation's to the Woman's Home.

The committee of the W. C. T. U Womans' Home return thanks to the following friends who have sent donations during the months of February, March and April: Mrs. Humber, Mrs Hart, Mrs J. McGregor, Mr. Schell, Mrs. Goodacre, C E. First Presbyterian church, Mrs. Pemberton, Mrs. J. Fiett, Mrs. D. Spencer, Mr Knowles, W. C. T. U., Mrs H. C. McDermid, Mrs Munroe, Mrs. Tate, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Crothier.

Benjamin O. Burnes.

The friends of the family will be sorry to learn that Mr. T J Burnes of the Burnes house, has lost his third son Benjamin, who succumbed to an attack of brain fever about midnight. The deceased was well known in this city where he was born and reared. He had the misfortune to be a deaf mute; despite which disadvantage he had numerous friends by whom he will be much missed.

Campbell-Clark.

Miss Grace Clark, daughter of Mr T. W. Clark, of Melville street, Vancouver, and Mr. Frank Campbell, of Victoria, nephew of Mr. John Hendry, of Westminster, were married yesterday at Mr. Clark's residence. The bride wore cream cashmere with chiffon lace and silk trimmings. Friends from Victoria, Westminster and Vancouver, were present at the ceremony, and afterwards sat down to the wedding luncheon.

Mrs. Margaret Harmon Dead.

Mrs. Margaret Harmon, wife of the late L. C. Harmon, died of heart disease Wednesday evening, at the residence of her son-in-law, E H. Fisher, in Seattle, aged 65 years. Mrs. Harmon has resided in Seattle for thirty-four years. She owned the New England hotel property, at Main and Commercial streets, and other valuable real estate. At one time she was a resident of Victoria. She leaves two children, Mrs. W. B Drown and Mrs. E. H. Fisher, formerly Mrs. Samuel Willey.

Victoria Prize Winners.

Among the prize winners at the Seattle Bench show, now in progress, are the following: Dr. G L. Milne's "Russell," first in the greyhound puppy class; Dr. G. L. Milne's "Capt Hunter," first in the black cocker spaniel class, Dr. Milne's "Mount Tolmie," second in the same class; Dr. G. L. Milne's "Eva May," first in the black cocker spaniel bitch class; Dr. G L Milne's "Baby Mine," first in the black cocker spaniel puppy class; Charles Dempster's "Claremont Gurry," first in the collie class; J. B Carmichael's "Metchley Flurry," second in the collie bitch class; J. B Carmichael's "Metchley Flurry," second in the collie puppy class.

Tyndall's Latest Fad.

A Spokane dispatch of the 17th reads: Alexander Tyndall, the young mind reader, who expects to be buried for thirty days and be resurrected alive at the World's Fair, was attacked with catalepsy, and now lies in a cataleptic condition at his room in the Hotel Spokane. He had just finished a particularly difficult test of his powers before a private audience, when he fell to the floor unconscious and exhausted. He was taken to his room and soon recovered. Manager Leonard left him alone for a few minutes, and found Tyndall lying on his back in the middle of the floor, with his feet pointing toward the ceiling. He was put to bed, but all efforts to arouse him are fruitless. At Los Angeles, a short time since, the doctors pronounced him dead when in a similar condition, and were anxious to have a post mortem examination, but he awoke too soon. To prevent future mistakes, Tyndall carries a letter which explains that he is not dead when in a cataleptic condition.

Work for the "Victorian."

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer says: "The rumor, founded on strong evidence is given out that the steamship Victorian will be put on the Seattle-Whatcom route in connection with the Canadian Pacific railway. The reason for this move is apparent in the fact that now the Great Northern is almost ready to compete in the trans-continental traffic business, its present arrangements with the Canadian Pacific over its line as far as the border junction must cease. The Canadian Pacific will therefore be obliged to make connections from Seattle by water, and the Victorian, formerly belonging to the O. R. & N. Co., is mentioned as the boat for the service. The Victorian is a splendid steamship, but though the rumor points to her as the likely boat for such service she may prove too expensive. In this case, the Islander is mentioned as a possible alternative. No official statement can be obtained upon this proposition."

San Francisco Coal Market.

J. W. Harrison writes as follows with reference to the present condition of the coal trade: "During the week there have been the following arrivals: From the Northern mines, 13,650 tons; from foreign sources, 10,103 tons. Although the consumption of fuel for family uses is falling off, there seems to be a largely increased demand for steam purposes, which is keeping business active with the jobbers. Values are well sustained by reason of light arrivals for the past six days, and stocks in yards are being noticably run down in some grades, especially Australian gas and steam coals. Cables just at hand report an advance of one shilling per ton in all Cardiff products. This, doubtless will become general, as colliery proprietors all through England complain of prices being too low, hence their recent attempts to reduce all miners wages, which have led to general strikes in some of the coal counties in England. The recent disturbance in wheat values here has caused a cessation of charters for future, as the difference in the wheat cost here for December delivery and the present Liverpool quotations would not leave the carrier fifteen shillings for transportation, and this is handicapping coal shipments likewise."

Highest of all is Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR:—Your criticism on my "Local Improvement" letter re sewers are not very severe, nor are your views as explicit as they should be. You say:

"It would be obviously inequitable to assess any person to the full cost of the large main passing his lot for the purpose of carrying the sewerage from distant localities, when the small pipe would equally serve his purpose."

And then you go on to say what appears to be a contradiction of the foregoing paragraph, in the following words:

"In dealing with the cost of the mains, it would seem to be fair that, as they are for the purpose of carrying the accumulated sewage of a certain area, that area should pay for them, while the cost of a lateral sewer should be based on that of the smallest permissible pipe, and should be charged to those whose position enables them to connect with the existing sewer."

My contention is—that not only the mains, but all the sewers should be carried out under a general loan, and not under several loans, for the reasons given in my first letter—in which case no one would be inequitably assessed. I would sewer the most populous area first, but pay for them by a general rate.

If your opinions and mine are placed in double columns, like a debtor and credit account, the discussion will be more easily followed by those who take an interest in the subject. I will therefore arrange them in that way:

THE EDITOR'S OPINIONS.	MR. MACDONALD'S OPINIONS.
1. The rate should be fixed so as to provide for the existing loan, and relieve all parties from any further taxation for sewerage purposes other than that called for under the Local Improvement Act.	1. This could not be done under the local improvement plan, as the existing loan is provided for on the credit of the whole city, the interest and sinking fund on which will be a charge on every man's property for fifty years.
2. If a property holder pays at once the full cost chargeable to his property, he would naturally be relieved from further taxation, and the amount would be paid into the sinking fund.	2. No property holder is likely to pay fifty years' rate in a lump sum; to do so would be no relief or benefit in any way.
3. We do not understand that it is proposed to procure small loans on small areas, but to negotiate the sale of debentures for the requisite amount, such debentures to be issued from time to time, as funds are required.	3. I understand it is the intention to raise loans on certain areas under the "local system," because the Mayor and some of our Aldermen, on account of the defeat of last year's loan, are under the impression that the people would not sanction a general loan for sewers. The reason for the defeat last year was that no one believed in the sewer being properly constructed. The aldermen disagreed on the subject, the people had no confidence, and, under such circumstances, declined to ratify another loan. Now, things are different; the sewers have been tested, and many believe in their fitness, and it is highly probable the ratepayers would carry another loan say of $300,000, spread over two or three years—completing the system in that time.
4. There would be a local annual tax on each lot, and there is no reason to suppose that this tax would be harder to collect than any other is now, or has been.	4. and 5. There are defaulters now in city taxes and water rates, how much more will this be the case when taxes are cumulative, in other words, when the general rate, the local improvement rate the sewer connections, water rate and other charges are heaped on the poor man's head. Sales for arrears there must be, as the only means for their recovery, and which will surely lead to complications and destroy the security of many persons who have loaned money on land, and who cannot always watch to see that the mortgager keeps his taxes paid.
5. Defaulters would have to be compelled to pay; though why there should be defaulters as regards this tax more than any other we fail to see.	6. That is just what I and many others hope the council will not do, but adopt the plan of a general rate raised as at present, with interest and sinking fund provided for out of the General Revenue.
6. We understand that it is proposed to pay for the whole sewerage system under the Local Improvement plan, in which case the question of using General Revenue for the purpose cannot arise.	7. I will go further than you have done, and say that not only all blocks, but the whole city is interested and should not be treated piecemeal. If it is inexpedient to treat blocks or areas separately, then it is no longer a Local Improvement system, but a general one, such as is best suited to the requirements of Victoria. W. J. MACDONALD.
7. In dealing with the question of Local Improvement it would be unnecessary and most inexpedient to treat each block separately; all blocks being equally interested, the majority should rule.	

Since writing the above, I am pleased to see a mention in your journal of the intention of the Council to make small loans for separate areas, and I hope the Council will go farther, and make no loans excepting for sewers, water extension and kindred purposes. Street repairs and such work should be done out of the yearly revenue.

THE ABERDEENS.

NEW YORK, May 19.—The Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, who came to this country purposely to attend the opening of the World's Fair, returned to this city from Chicago to-night, and are staying at the Brevoort House. The Earl said he had been much pleased with his experiences in America, and was enthusiastic over the merits of the big fair. The party will sail at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning for England on the Cunard Line steamship Aurania.

HULL, May 19.—The conference to-day between the committee of the striking Hull dockers and that of the employers was futile and the strike therefore continues.

BISHOP PERRIN.

Impressive Thanksgiving Service Held After His Arrival Last Evening.

He Drives to the Cathedral Immediately on Landing—To-Morrow's Reception.

Shortly before 7 o'clock last evening, the ringing of Christ Church Cathedral bell and the hoisting of the new flag of the Diocese (a red St. George's Cross and a St. Cuthbert's cross of the same color on a white ground) for the first time on the tower, announced that the steamer Islander, on board of which was Rt. Rev. William Wilcox Perrin, Lord Bishop of Columbia, was in sight.

Soon afterwards the boat tied up at the C. P. N. wharf, where Mr. Justice Crease and Mr. Justice Drake met the party as they landed and welcomed the Bishop to the scene of his labors. Bishop Perrin was accompanied by his sister, Miss Perrin, and Rev. C. E. Cooper, of Surrey, England, who came across the Atlantic with him. Ven. Archdeacon Scriven and Rev. Canon Beanlands also arrived with the Bishop, having gone to Vancouver to meet him.

The party at once entered carriages and were driven to Christ Church Cathedral, where a large congregation had gathered to attend the *Te Deum* service, to return thanks for the safe arrival of His Lordship. To the music of a processional march a few minutes after the cathedral was reached, the choristers entered the chancel followed by the clergy of the city and Bishop Perrin in his episcopal robes. In the chancel the white robed choir and clergy stood in the form of a cross, Ven. Archdeacon Scriven standing in front of the centre of the altar.

The service began with the intoning of the creed after which Archdeacon Scriven offered up prayers of thankfulness for the safe arrival of the Bishop, and asked the Almighty to bless and assist him in his new work. Then the beautiful words of the "Te Deum" were chanted, the people's voices joining in with the choir, the scene being particularly impressive.

At the close, the congregation bowed their heads as the Bishop took his place in front of the altar and pronounced the benediction on his flock.

Bishop Perrin is an active, vigorous-looking man of medium height, with a bright, cheery manner that will make him very popular with his new charge. When asked how he liked the idea of living in the West he smiled and said he was delighted to come here.

"I have never been in the West before," he remarked, "but I have been in Eastern Canada once before, and I must say that I was greatly struck with the brightening effect the railroad connection with the West, has had on the people in the East."

Since arriving at Quebec by the Sardinian, Bishop Perrin, Miss Perrin and Rev. Mr. Cooper, have visited Montreal, Toronto, Niagara, Winnipeg, and finally stopped at Banff for a few days before coming on to their destination. Bishop Perrin was much pleased with the cordial reception accorded him in Westminster and Vancouver.

Asked if he would say anything about the general policy he would pursue, the Bishop replied:

"I have had the advantage of a great many conversations with Bishop Hills, and though I have decided what line I shall pursue, I am not going to try and force my ideas on any one."

"Yes," he remarked, in answer to a question, "I am a strong temperance man, but I fear my position on this question has been greatly misunderstood. I have been a temperance man for twenty years, but I don't consider a man who drinks in moderation worse than any one else. I believe in example, however, and I personally abstain from wine, having regard for the weaker members."

From the cathedral the Bishop and Miss Perrin drove to the residence of Archdeacon Scriven, whose guests they will be until they take up their residence at Bishop's Close.

The programme for to-morrow's reception at the Odd Fellows' hall has been arranged. The hall will be open from 8 to 10 p.m., when all members of the Anglican church are invited to be present. They will be met at the door by ushers, who will be distinguished by a rosette. The Bishop will be received on his arrival by the executive committee of the diocese, and an address of welcome will be presented by one of the senior members of the committee. His Lordship will then have an opportunity of replying, and possibly there may be other speeches afterwards.

On Sunday his Lordship will preach at morning service at the cathedral, and will also preach on Sunday evening, but whether at St. James or at the cathedral is not yet decided.

PRESIDENT VAN HORNE.

WHATCOM, May 19.—P. B. Cornwall, president of the Bellingham Bay Improvement company and Bellingham Bay & British Columbia railroad, which is reported to have been sold to the Canadian Pacific, has arrived here from San Francisco. He declined to say anything about the railroad deal, except that the sale had not yet been made. He would not say that the sale was not contemplated and likely to be concluded soon.

President Van Horne, accompanied by other railway magnates, will arrived here on Thursday, May 25. He will be met by President Cornwall, of the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia railroad, and the deal by which the Canadian Pacific secures control of the latter road will be closed. It is understood that the Canadian road only acquires a controlling interest in the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia railroad. Elaborate preparations will be made for the reception of President Van Horne and party. The flowers and plants of an entire conservatory have been secured to decorate the depot and hotel, and every provision will be made for the entertainment of the officials while here.