The Colonist.

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BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SANSOM. } ELLIS & CO.

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A PAIR OF BEAUTIES.

The Times and the News-Advertiser keep on hammering at the arbitration clause of the Attorney-General's Railway Bill. It is easy to see that neither of them has the slightest idea of how the clause will work, and they cannot comprehend the principle on which it is based. Still they have the impudence, on their sole authority, to require their readers to believe that the railway committee of the Dominion Parliament and the committees of the different provincial legislatures are composed either of knaves or fools who are not as well fitted to draw up a workable railway law as the wiseacres who write the editorials for those sheets. The Dominion law has been revised by the best legal talent of the Dominion. It has been examined and re-examined by men who understand the circumstances of the country and who are at least as capable and as honest as the editors of these two newspapers or the men who contribute to their columns and who inspire them. Its arbitration clause is precisely the same in principle as that of the railway bill now before the provincial legislature of this province. Yet these solons who know nothing whatever about law, and who have no experience in legislation, take upon themselves to condemn the law made by men of ability and experience. They certainly are examples of the truth of the saying that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

Not content with displaying his ignorance of the working of the arbitration laws of the Dominion, the News-Advertiser becomes insolent and offensive. It boorishly asserts that the Attorney-General is the COLONIST'S "master," and we are sorry to see that the Times, of which better things might be expected, becomes a participator in the inexcusable breach of good manners by quoting the offensive passage. No one but a boor or a ruffian wantonly insults those with whom he comes in contact. The insult does no harm to the person against whom it is directed, while it stamps the insulter as a person devoid alike of good sense and good breeding. There are, we are sorry to say, some men who, when they find themselves in the editor's chair, consider that they are under no obligation to observe the amenities of decent society. The scribe of the News-Advertiser is one of these. It was newspaper men of this kind whose conduct and language disgusted President Eliot, of Harvard College, and caused him to speak of them as he did.

There is not, of course, a particle of truth in the News-Advertiser's taunt. The Attorney-General is no more THE COLONIST'S master than is the proprietor of the News-Advertiser. But the truth, or the falsehood, of his insulting remark gave the editor no concern whatever. He was bound to be offensive, and for his purpose a lie was quite as acceptable as the truth.

OUR ENTERPRISING NEIGHBORS.

It appears that there will, before very long, be lines of steamships running between the cities of the Sound and China and Japan. The example of the Canadian Pacific is contagious. Our American neighbors did not disguise their jealousy and annoyance at witnessing the establishment of a Pacific steamship line in connection with the Great Canadian railroad. They declared that the Canadians were about to take from them the China trade, and they appealed to Congress for help. But they did not waste much time in complaining. They took measures to establish a competing line. We are told that the Pacific mail will soon establish a line of ocean steamships in connection with the Northern Pacific, and that the Union Pacific is to have another line, whose Pacific port is to be Portland. The Sound cities are bound to keep well in the front. Those cities are naturally sanguine as to the results that are to flow from these enterprises. One of our Seattle contemporaries says: "Once diverted to this section, the trade between this and the Asiatic countries is bound to grow with immense strides, and the Sound cities will occupy the profitable position of intermediaries. In the fulness of time immense shipping and commercial firms are bound to spring up in Seattle, for instance, wholly engaged in this trade, and it is not saying too much to predict that with the legitimate development of this trade, the time will come when Seattle will become a second Liverpool."

There is one thing that we admire in our neighbors, and that is their unbounded faith in their own country. There are very few croakers and prophets of evil among them. They see the bright side of things and predict great things for the state or city in which they happen to cast their lot. These predictions do a very great deal towards bringing about their own fulfilment. Believing that their city is destined to become another Liverpool, the citizens of Seattle, one and all, will do their best to show that their faith in their city is well grounded. They are to be commended for this, and if British Columbians had this faith in their own country, and in its future, it would be better for them and better for the province.

AN ERRATIC STATESMAN.

Lord Randolph Churchill is not to be depended on as a party man. He evidently has no regard for the interests of party and he cannot be depended upon in an exigency to say a word in favor of the one to which he nominally belongs. Lord Randolph is a man with ideas of his own, which he will not suppress to please any one or to help any party. When his assistance is needed that is evidently the very time that he chooses to leave his friends in the lurch. It so happens, too, that his opinions are often directly opposed to those of his leaders, and are very far from being in accordance with the traditions of the Conservative party.

He has become of late years ultra-democratic. He is on some questions more radical than the radicals. Just now he affects socialism, or something that is very closely related to socialism. He favors the interference of the State in the labor question. He believes in regulating the hours of labor by law. A few days ago a deputation of miners waited on Mr. Gladstone and on Lord Randolph Churchill. They wanted Parliament to enact a law making eight hours a day's labor underground. Mr. Gladstone expressed his sympathy with the miners. He believed that an eight hours' shift was quite long enough, but he was cautious in what he said about invoking the aid of the law with respect to the relations between employers and workpeople. But Lord Randolph Churchill, though professedly a Tory, expressed himself without qualification in favor of an eight-hour law. He considered that this was a matter that called for the interference of the State, and he will, no doubt, advocate the passage of a law limiting the hours of labor, for miners at any rate, to eight hours a day. Then this erratic, Tory nobleman has expressed himself in favor of temperance legislation. He has become a convert to the principles long held by the Radical reformer, Sir Wilfred Lawson.

When Lord Randolph becomes a convert to a theory he is not content to enjoy his new opinions quietly. Like proselytes generally, he is loud in the advocacy of the views he has embraced, and is bound to gain converts to his new opinions. And being a man of considerable ability and much force of character he exercises a good deal of influence among the younger and more active-minded members of his party. Lord Randolph Churchill is a force in the politics of Great Britain which must be taken into the calculations of the leaders of both parties. He has a following already. The Tory democrat is now much more frequently seen in England than he was some years ago, and the natural leader of all men of this tendency is Lord Randolph Churchill.

The stand he took on the debate on the report of the Parnell Commission is calculated to increase the influence of this rising and irrepressible statesman. That Report was difficult enough for Lord Salisbury's Government to deal with before Lord Randolph spoke; it will be still more difficult now. That speech does not seem to have had very much effect on the House of Commons. Very few speeches have. Members have generally made up their minds how they intend to vote before the discussion begins, and their determination is hardly ever altered by what they hear during the debate. But it is different in the country. The speeches of members on subjects of far less importance than the Report of the Royal Commission are eagerly read by independent and intelligent electors. The study of those speeches goes far to help this class of electors to form opinions on public questions. The very circumstance of a leading Conservative having taken the side of Parnell and his associates will go a long way towards predisposing thousands of electors to hear what there is to be said in favor of the Irish agitators. And the speech, to judge by the telegraphic abstract of it, is one that will take with the masses. We do not think that we are mistaken when we say that Lord Randolph Churchill's speech will do more to help the Gladstonian party in the country than all the others that were delivered during the course of the debate, not excepting that of Mr. Gladstone himself. Lord Randolph's speech will be made to do duty at every by-election to be held in Great Britain previous to the general election, and at the general election itself it will be widely distributed among the constituencies. The arguments are not new, the sentiments can hardly be said to be original, but the materials of the speech are skilfully arranged and the points are all put in a taking way.

It will be singular if, after this, Lord Randolph is considered a member of the Conservative party. He is really not a Conservative theoretically or practically. He does not possess the Conservative temperament. He was a Conservative by the accident of birth and early association, but he has for years been breaking through all artificial restraints and the radical in the man has been asserting itself until at last it has become predominant. Let Lord Randolph Churchill call himself what he will, and let his political associates be whom they may, it has been abundantly evident that he is in grain the very reverse of a Conservative.

The Vancouver post office site is still vexing the citizens of that place. A public meeting is to be held on Saturday night to protest against the Granville street site for the structure.

HEAVILY BURDENED.

We hear every now and then lamentations about the debt of the Dominion. Opposition financiers declare that the national debt of Canada is becoming dangerously large, and that the Government is recklessly plunging the country into debt. But when the matter is considered coolly and rationally it will be found that the Governments of Canada have been very prudent in the matter of incurring obligations, and that there is to-day very much to show in the way of public works of different kinds for the debts they have contracted.

Compared with Australia the Dominion may be almost be said to be unembarrassed. Australia contains somewhere about three millions of inhabitants. The Colonies of which it is composed have within the last fifteen years contracted fifty-five Government loans, amounting in all to the enormous sum of $795,000,000. The floating debts, the municipality debts, and the debts on harbors, docks and tramways amount to $350,000,000 more. These three millions of colonists at the Antipodes have to bear a burden of debt of over one thousand millions of dollars. This is an immense load for such a small number of people to bear, and it is said that the fiscal system of some of the colonies is not such as is calculated to enable them to bear the burden easily. The country is, however, very rich, and its resources are practically inexhaustible. Its inhabitants will learn to be wiser as the colonies grow older. They may have to pay dearly for their experience, but there is no fear of a country peopled by Anglo-Saxons, which possesses great resources, waiting to be developed, going to wreck and ruin, because one generation has been improvident and has adopted a vicious fiscal policy. Australia, in spite of its immense debt and the mistakes which some of its colonies are making, is destined to become a great country. There is a movement on foot to confederate the different colonies. Once confederated they will feel that union is strength. Mistakes will be corrected and the country will make immense strides in material progress and international importance.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

A Captain Accused of Poisoning a Boy at Sea.

The schooner Lillie L. has arrived at Port Townsend after a cruise after seals. Soon after the vessel's arrival a report gained currency that a young man named Sturgis, one of the crew, had been poisoned while the schooner was cruising off the Cape, and a reporter of the Morning Leader interviewed two of the crew regarding the matter. The story they told is as follows: Jesse H. Sturgis is the name of the young man poisoned. He was less than twenty-two years of age and is believed to have left his home, near Portland, and gone to San Francisco, where he was taken aboard the Lillie L. His parents are said to be well-to-do farmers near Portland, who are not yet aware of the fate of their boy.

"We were cruising along the coast for some time with little success, encountering much rough weather. Young Sturgis was taken sick on January 27th, his sickness being the effect of sleeping in a wet bunk, from which he contracted a severe cold and rheumatism. The captain was told that the boy was sick, but he did not go to see him. When the captain refused to move Sturgis we took him aft, where he could be given better care.

"The captain was drunk most of the time, and was very disagreeable. He was always cursing and swearing at everyone and threatened several times to sail into port and leave the boats in which the hunters were out in the Strait, till finally the hunters threw overboard five gallons of his whiskey. The captain finally grew tired of the complaints of the hunters, and as he wanted to get as many skins as possible before returning he told the hunters that he would put ashore and get the boy out of the way. Finally, on the 12th of February, the complaints became so loud that the drunken captain told the men that he would 'fix' it about the boy.

"I was on watch that night, and about half-past eleven o'clock was surprised to see the captain staggering from the boy's room, as he had never been to see him before. Sturgis was then proving rapidly and would soon have been up, and I remarked to the captain that the boy was almost well; he said, 'Oh, no, he won't last any longer,' and then told me he knew the boy would die soon, adding, 'I have smoothed the way for him.' I did not think much about it until the boy died, about two hours afterward. Then the cook, who is an Italian named Antone Miller, told me a story that subsequent to the Captain Moorhouse was a murderer.

"The cook told me the captain went with him to the boy's bunk, with the purpose, as he said, of giving him some whisky. The captain poured out what he said was forty drops of the liquid, but being drunk his hand was unsteady and he really poured out much more than that amount. According to orders the cook repeated the dose a short time afterwards and then noticing the boy growing rapidly worse, went to the captain, who assured him the boy would soon die, as it was laudanum, instead of whisky, that had been given him.

"'Good God!' exclaimed the cook, 'did you give that boy laudanum?' 'Yes,' answered the captain, 'and we will soon be rid of him.' When the cook told me his story I took down every word of it, and have since given it to one of the officers on the Wolcott, and want to get a warrant in the hands of the United States marshal.

"The day after the boy died he was sewed up in a canvas bag and the mate ordered his body thrown overboard, but we first made him read the burial service over it. I am thoroughly convinced that the captain of the Lillie L. is guilty of a cold-blooded and premeditated murder, and I am determined that he shall be brought to answer for the crime. I saw the Indian agent at Neah Bay, who advised us to come to Port Townsend at once and place the matter in the hands of the authorities. Capt. Moorhouse did not want to come to this port, but we insisted on his doing so, and hope the matter will be inquired into. I was told that the captain was seen to give the cook some money this morning, and that since that time the cook has disappeared, but I don't know how true this is.

"Jesse Sturgus was one of the most agreeable young men I ever met, and was liked by everybody on board the schooner, excepting the captain, who treated the boy shamefully. In fact I have never, during the eighteen years I have followed the sea, seen anyone more grossly mistreated by a captain."

Consumption Can be Cured.

By proper, healthful exercise, and the judicious use of Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites, which contains the healing and strength-giving virtues of these two valuable properties in their fullest form. Dr. D. D. McDonald, Pictodiac, N. B., says: "I have been prescribing Scott's Emulsion with good results. It is especially useful in persons of consumptive tendencies." Sold by all druggists, 50c. and $1.00.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, March 13.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Freight and Trade.

The steamer Islander last night brought one car of sugar, one car of bacon, and three cars of merchandise.

The steamer North Pacific last night brought two carloads mixed merchandise as freight.

From the North.

The steamer Boscowitz arrived from the north at 7 o'clock yesterday morning with a light freight and the following passengers: J. Braden, W. Smith, Sergt. Langley and Capt. Fitzstubbs. The northern canneries have commenced getting their tins and nets ready for the coming season, otherwise everything is quiet. Mr. Braden and W. Smith went up for the purpose of taking up land at Fort Simpson and on the Skeena river.

The Glad Tidings.

The steamer Glad Tidings, which was reported wrecked up north, has arrived at this port. The steamer wintered as Kitsat, where the missionaries are building a sawmill, and on account of the rough harbor at that place she put into a little stream for protection, where she grounded. An Indian happening to go down to Chinas Hat about the time circulated the report that she was lost. The Glad Tidings will stay here for a few days to undergo repairs, and then proceed north again.

Police Court Notes.

A lone drunk having been dealt with in the usual way, the crowd who had assembled to listen to the Riley case straightened up, expecting to see a little fun, but were doomed to disappointment, however, as Mrs. Kelly, Riley's mother-in-law, and his wife did not appear. His Honor therefore dismissed the case. Riley said that he had tried to make up with his wife, but she would not leave her mother, and he did not intend to keep the whole Kelly family.

Supreme Court.

The case of Heard vs. Howe, in which the plaintiff sued for $106 for oats sold and delivered to plaintiff, was heard in the Supreme court a few days ago, and judgment for $100 given for the plaintiff, each to pay their own costs.

The case of Gilespie vs. Black was up before Mr. Justice Walkem yesterday, and remanded until Friday, his lordship ordering a jury to be impaneled for it.

The suit is brought to set aside a conveyance of a lot at Vancouver, made by Gilespie in favor of Black.

Along the Docks.

The Albion Iron Works have received the contract to build boilers and machinery for D. J. Munn's new cannery boat.

Steamer Louise will sail for the north on Saturday.

Steamer Walla Walla is due from San Francisco to-day.

Steamer Umatilla sails for San Francisco on Saturday.

Bark Archer is unloading her cargo of blacksmith's coal.

Tug Falcon is being repainted.

Schooner Wanderer left last evening for the sealing grounds on the west coast.

Steamer Vigilant, commanded by C. Todd, Indian agent, will leave for the North at the end of the week.

Two Accidents.

Robert Clayton, a boiler maker working at the Albion Iron Works, had his back painfully hurt yesterday morning by a heavy boiler falling upon him. Clayton was working on the boiler, which was in an upright position, when it toppled over, knocking him down; but before it struck him heavily it caught him in a rope which saved his life. The injured man was immediately taken to the Royal Hospital, where on examination it was found that his injuries were fortunately not as serious as at first thought. F. Galloway, who was working with Clayton, also had his hand badly smashed by the heavy weight of iron.

A Live Association.

Since their incorporation a couple of months ago nothing has been heard of the James Bay Athletic Association, or their intentions until last evening, when they applied to the city council for permission to use a portion of the city's water front along Belleville street, in constructing an approach to club and boat houses and gymnasium, to be erected on pile foundation in the harbor at the end of Menzies street. A twenty-five years' lease of the land required is asked for and will in all probability be granted to the enterprising young athletes; and as soon as they obtain the required permits from the harbor commissioners commence to build a club house that will be a credit to not only the club and the city but the province will be commenced.

Pauline Mesher.

Christ church cathedral was crowded to overflowing last evening, the occasion being the marriage of Mr. F. A. Pauline, of Messrs. J. Piercey & Co., to Miss Charlotte Mesher, eldest daughter of Geo. Mesher, the well known contractor. The bride wore a costume of white satin, trimmed with orange blossoms, and was given away by her father; the groom being supported by Mr. Chas. Brand. The bridesmaids, of whom there were six, were dressed in pink cashmere, prettily trimmed with flowers. After the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. A. Beanlands, the wedding party adjourned to the residence of the bride's father, where a large number of guests had assembled to take part in a splendid supper and extend congratulations to the newly married couple. The bride was the recipient of numerous and costly presents.

Jubilee Hospital.

Yesterday afternoon the building committee of the Jubilee Hospital met at the corner of Government and Fort streets and proceeded to the new hospital, which they inspected and expressed themselves much pleased with, although suggestions for a few clerical alterations were put forward by different members. The building had been previously heated by means of hot air furnaces, and the temperature was noticeably even all over the large edifice. After the committee had spent about two hours looking over the place, they were photographed by Mr. Jones. Those present were: T. R. Smith, W. M. Chudley, E. A. McQuade, J. Davies, Drs. Milne, Davie and Jones, J. S. Yates, T. Gore, R. Ward, Geo. Byrnes, Jas. Fell, Wm. Wilson, J. Teagus, the architect, and Messrs. Elford and Smith, the contractors. There is a good deal of minor work to be done on the building yet, but it is expected to be taken over shortly. Tenders are to be called in a few days for lighting, and it is expected electric light will be utilized.

The Mendelssohn Quintette Club.

The above club, which is about to visit our city, should receive a hearty reception at the hands of true lovers of music; there is no doubt that a great treat awaits them. The Boston Advertiser says: "It was not only the fair debutante, but the Mendelssohn Quintette Club which attracted a representative audience to Chickering Hall last night. The boy who had first a new blade and then a new handle put his jack-knife, yet maintained that it was the same knife, was in the same plight that the musical critic who preserves his allegiance to the Mendelssohn Quintette Club ever since it was the pioneer of orchestral music; but there is still one rivet of the old knife left, in the shape of the imperishable Mr. Ryan, who has done so much for Boston's music. The club as now organized seems in excellent condition, judging by the one number played by them, a single movement from the Schubert Quintette, op. 166, which was given with commendable heartiness. The violinist, Herr Wilhelm Ohliger, seems to be a worthy artist. He played that cheval de bataille of all great violinists, Bach's Chaconne, and in the proper fashion, without any instrumental support.

Interference With Justice.

Police Magistrate Richards received a letter yesterday from an interested party endeavoring to prejudice the magistrate as to his decision on some Chinese cases now pending. The letter was immediately forwarded to the Attorney-General for his consideration.

Improving the Fraser.

The Columbian says: Latest soundings go to show that the channel of the Fraser is steadily deepening, and it is expected that by the time the work of improving and narrowing the channel is completed, that at least 25 feet of water will cover the sandhead bar at low tide. This will give a depth of water at half tide sufficient to float the largest vessel that plies on the Pacific ocean.

Vancouver's Fire Alarm System.

The News-Advertiser of Vancouver says: It is understood the collector of customs will take into custody the fire alarm apparatus now in use in this city unless the duty according to the full valuation of the goods be paid. The goods were put under seizure at the time the entry was made, but proceedings were delayed, pending instructions from the customs department at Ottawa."

Europe on Canvas.

Rev. E. G. Wheeler again pleased a profitable audience with his illustrated lecture on a ramble through Europe, at the Calvary Baptist church last evening. The tourists were shown through Southern Europe, the art galleries of Italy, and the picturesque ruins of ancient Greece; the scenery exhibited being of more than usual beauty and the descriptions full of interest.

Street Railway Extension.

Within the next thirty days the Street Railway Co. expect to commence the extension of their service up Pandora street to the Fernwood road. The cars on this line will pass the Central School, and no doubt many school children will be numbered among their patrons. The city council last evening decided that they could not grant the company permission to run to the Park bandstand. In all probability the Beacon Hill line will be forced to terminate at the end of Michigan street.

George Francis Train's Trip.

George Francis Train, who is booked on the Abyssinia on her outward trip for a race against time around the world, will be conveyed from the Ledger office, Tacoma, with a flourish of trumpets to a vessel in that harbor and from there will speed over the waves and board the Abyssinia after passing San Juan Island. The report that a Miss Rothschild, from Port Townsend, would start over the C. P. R. the same day and go the other way is now denied.

Everything Quiet.

Among the passengers by the Boscowitz yesterday morning were Sergt. Langley and Capt. Fitzstubbs, who went up Alert Bay to bring the Indians who had resisted Constable Redgrave to justice. When the Indians met here in respect to the conduct of public school teachers: Hon. Mr. Richards said that he had attended several special meetings on this case, and he did not wish to come again.

Mayor Grant said that if the lawyers for Mr. Escalet were sure to be ready in two weeks it would be all right, but positively this would be the last adjournment.

PUBLIC MEETING AT SAANICH.

A large and enthusiastic meeting, called by Mr. Sandover, president of the Saanich Agricultural Society, was held at the Agricultural hall on Tuesday evening, 11th inst., to consider the advisability of an early extension of the National Electric Tramway to Brackman & Ker's mill, North Saanich.

The president, on taking the chair, called the meeting to order, explaining the advantages to be derived from the extension of the line.

Moved and seconded that Mr. W. D. Auckland act as secretary.

The proposed charter of the company having been read by the secretary to the meeting,

Mr. Sluggett, Mr. Haldon and several others addressed the meeting on the desirability of an early extension of the line.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Wm. Thomson and seconded by Mr. George Harrison:

Whereas the National Electric Tramway Company of Victoria, B. C., has proposed to obtain a charter from the Provincial Government for the extension of their lines of road to Shoal Harbor, North Saanich, B. C. And whereas the residents of Saanich, in public meeting assembled, seeing the benefit to be derived from the early extension of the same; therefore be it resolved that we, the undersigned, humbly pray that the Lieutenant-Governor in council grant such aid to the said company as they may deem necessary to extend their lines of road to Shoal Harbor, North Saanich, B. C.

(Signed) STEPHEN SANDOVER,
W. D. AUCKLAND,
AND OTHERS.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fifth Parliament—Fourth Session.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 1890.

The Speaker took the chair at 2.05 p. m.

Prayers by Venerable Archdeacon Scriven.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The select standing committee on private bills reported the preamble proved of the bill to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act. The bill to amend the Vancouver Water Works Amendment Act had been withdrawn. Amendments had been found necessary and had been made to the bill to incorporate the British Columbia Electric Co., as the privileges asked by the promoters of the bill had been deemed excessive by the committee. The preamble of E. E. Olcott's bill was reported proved, but as the committee had already recommended the bill of the Fraser River Gold Gravels Syndicate, which involved the ownership and mining of the same land, they did not feel justified in reporting favorably upon Mr. Olcott's bill. The report was received.

OUT OF ORDER.

The Speaker ruled out of order the petition of the residents of Cowichan in respect to the lowering of Somenos Lake, as it asked for an appropriation.

PROVINCIAL SEAT TURES.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Beaven, seconded by Mr. Orr: "That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, requesting him to cause to be placed before the House copies of all orders-in-council and correspondence between the Dominion and Provincial governments, not printed in the provincial sessional papers, with reference to the disallowance, amendments or otherwise of the statutes of the province passed in the sessions of 1885, 1888 and 1889." Carried.

THAT JAIL ENQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved, seconded by Mr. Ladner: "That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be placed before the House copies of all orders-in-council, documents and letters which preceded the appointment of Mr. Justice Drake as a commissioner to enquire into matters connected with the Victoria jail, together with a copy of the evidence taken and the report of the commissioner. Carried.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Mr. Cunningham introduced a bill respecting the encouragement of Agriculture and Horticulture. Read a first time, second reading on Monday.

WATER RECORDS.

Mr. Semlin moved for a return of all water records (for irrigation purposes) between Harrison river and Sicamous. The resolution carried.

A QUESTION ANSWERED.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked the hon. Provincial Secretary: Have you or any officer of the department over which you preside, or its branch, the education office, any knowledge of the facts referred to in the following letter published in THE COLONIST newspaper on 28th February, 1891 in respect to the conduct of public school teachers:

WANTS TO KNOW.

TO THE EDITOR:—Can you inform me which one of your public teachers was it that is said to have distributed himself at the panorama on Saturday evening last, by making himself conspicuous, as I hear, in creating repeated disturbances amongst the audience, thus setting forth anything but a laudable example to the many school children present. ENQUIRER.

Hon. Mr. Robson—No. I know nothing about the matter; nor am I aware whether the officers in the department have any knowledge of the facts referred to. The department has more important duties to fulfil than that of taking cognizance of anonymous scandal-mongers.

MUNICIPAL ACT.

On the further consideration of the report on the Municipal Act, Hon. Mr. Beaven moved the insertion of a clause providing that the plans of all new buildings should be submitted to the building inspector. The amendment met with no opposition. Hon. Mr. Beaven moved also to insert as a new sub-section to section 96, the following:

"(98a.) To make, preserve, improve, maintain, alter, level, raise or lower streets, or bridges, or sidewalks, and no person whose real property shall be injured or may be injuriously affected by reason of any street, or bridge, or sidewalk having been levelled, raised or lowered shall be entitled to any compensation or damages therefor, notwithstanding any law to the contrary."

"The council of any municipality may pass one general by-law annually, which shall apply to all the streets, bridges, and sidewalks within the municipality, for any of the purposes coming within this sub-section."

The amendment met with vigorous opposition from Hon. Mr. Turner, who deemed it class legislation that would be very unjust to the individual rights of citizens.

Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that the rights of citizens would still be protected by the act if the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Haslam thought that the amendment would involve the sacrifice of private rights for the benefit of the city as a whole.

Hon. Mr. Robson could see that something should be done to protect the corporation, in the execution of public improvements, from the demands for exorbitant compensation from every taxpayer. He was afraid that the change proposed in the amendments, however, was too radical, and thought that if a happy medium could be struck the interests of all would be served.

Mr. Cunningham contended that the principle of arbitration, at present in use, the fairest that could be adopted for the settlement of disputes between the city and the citizens.

Mr. Green explained the necessity of some legislation of the character of the amendment for the benefit of Victoria. He entered fully into the difficulties experienced by the Victoria Aldermanic Board in the matter of indiscriminate suits for damages arising from civic improvements.

Hon. Mr. Davie would not be guilty of supporting the amendment, and God preserve the country from ever being governed by men who would originate or support so outrageous a law. He referred to the Mayor of Victoria and those members of the board of Aldermen, who proposed this measure, as men who by accident and circumstance had been clothed with a little brief authority, and were actuated by the desire for the power and pleasure of spending other people's money. Under the plausible plea of conserving the public interests, they cared not what private rights, except their own, they wrecked. They were like Artemus Ward who was willing to sacrifice all his wife' poor relations for the good of the country. The too confiding ratepayers entrusted them with money only to find it squandered and misappropriated, as an example of which Mr. Davie referred to the work of desecration going on at Beacon Hill. The people had trusted the council with $25,000 for the purpose of beautifying these grounds, but instead of fulfilling their trust, by limiting themselves to the amount voted, they had betrayed it by wasting the $25,000 so as to open the way to limitless expenditure, and then had the coolness to turn round on the ratepayers and ask for more. But the ratepayers were not to be twice deceived. They had also squandered money in spoiling comfortable homes near the gorge of public improvement. If they went to the extent they had gone, when there was the check of having to pay compensation hanging over them, what would these men do if they could ruin private property without compensation? The proper plan in these matters was to do what the special act of incorporation of New Westminster and Vancouver provided, and that was to lay out a general grade and line for all of the streets, then every one wishing to build had, in the first place, to get the street grade. If he did not do so he could not afterwards complain, when the street was graded according to the general plan, but if the general plan was departed from, or if no general plan was laid down, the city had to compensate. The present proposal would allow the council to improve a man out of his property, which was little better than plunder and robbery.

Mr. Semlin charged the hon. attorney-general with assailing in this amendment a principle exactly similar to what he had supported in the railway bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Will the hon. gentleman show in any singular particular how any clause in the railway bill compares with the proposal now before the House.

Mr. Semlin, continuing, said the Hon. Attorney-General was raising a tempest in a teapot, and was most inconsistent, although in this particular instance, he (Mr. Semlin), agreed with the views of the Hon. Attorney-General, but he thought that with that hon. gentleman it was a case of "whose ox happened to be gored."

The amendment was lost on the following division:

Yeas—Grant and Beaven.

Nays—Semlin, Ladner, Orr, Smith, Cunningham, Nason, Mason, Baker, Duck, Haslam, Martin, Vernon, Turner, Thomson, Davie and Robson.

Further consideration of the bill was adjourned.

UNIVERSITY BILL.

Mr. Duck said, in moving the second reading of this bill: "I may inform the House that it is not intended to ask for an appropriation at this time, although it is hoped the day is not far distant when the Government may see their way clear to contribute something in aid of so important and desirable an institution as a provincial university. It has long been the wish of our people that some effort should be made in this direction, and as the country increases in population and wealth the necessity for such an undertaking becomes more and more apparent. There is, I believe, no other province in the Dominion that has not one or more universities. Even the young province of Manitoba has one, besides a number of minor colleges. Of course, one of the principal difficulties with which we will have to contend in establishing an institution of this kind will be to provide the ways and means for its construction and maintenance. In some other countries such institutions are partly endowed by the state, but derive their principal support from personal endowments, donations and fees. If we are to have a university in British Columbia I take it for granted that it will have to be supported in a similar way, and I have no doubt that when a beginning has been made future developments will carry it forward to a glorious success. We have many wealthy people in this province who, I think, would contribute liberally to its support and cheerfully devise so that at death a portion of their wealth would become available to the advancement of so worthy an object. There is perhaps no one man in British Columbia who is possessed of sufficient wealth, or, if so, who would be willing to advance all the capital required for the construction of a university and endow it with the means of future support, although this has been done in other countries. As a witness, the Girard College of Philadelphia, the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, the magnificent gift of Leland Stanford in aid of a university in California, and others that might be mentioned. Unfortunately the facts have not been forthcoming for millionaires are not so plentiful as they are elsewhere, and even there it is seldom, very seldom indeed, that one rises to the position of a true philanthropist. It is not said that one free university system provides all the advantages necessary for the acquirement of an education suitable to the wants of the province, but while admitting the value of our public schools as being superior in one sense and of greater usefulnes, covering, as they do, a more general want than that which it is proposed to meet through a higher branch, all will admit that if we are to keep pace with the onward march of the world's progress, we should put our shoulder to the wheel and never cease our efforts until we have secured for British Columbia a position that will be a credit to our people and an ornament to the province. We have many young men and women here who are sufficiently advanced for matriculation, and who desire to obtain a university education. This they cannot do except by repairing to one of the other provinces, the United States or Europe, which necessitates their absence for the time being from home associations at of life when parental restraint and influence is most essential to their present and future well-being. Nor is this all. Their attachment to their native country becomes, in a manner, alienated during their absence, while the money it costs to educate them abroad, and which goes to build up and enrich similar institutions in other countries, would go a long way towards supporting a university of our own. The action we take in this will prepare the way for the introduction of an institution where our sons and daughters may acquire a higher education than is attainable in the province at the present time. An institution that shall be conducted on wholly secular and non-sectarian principles, where no religious dogma or creed shall be taught, and where the highest morality, from a natural and scientific standpoint, may be inculcated. There are a number of public spirited people in this province who desire to take this matter in hand and carry it forward to a successful completion, and that they may start on a safe and permanent basis it is necessary that their efforts should be sustained by an act of the Legislature. And hence I have much pleasure in moving the second reading of this bill, feeling satisfied that hon. gentlemen will assist me with it through its various changes, and rejoice to know that at last there is a prospect of realizing for British Columbia an important and long felt want."

Mr. Duck's remarks were received with applause from both sides of the House.

The bill passed its second reading, and was committed with Col. Baker in chair

The bill was reported complete without amendment.

COLUMBIA AND CARBONATE RAILWAY.

The Columbia and Carbonate Mountain Railway bill (Col. Baker) was recommitted with Mr. Mason in the chair. The committee rose reporting progress.

OKANAGON AND KOOTENAY.

Mr. Martin moved the House into committee upon the Okanagon and Kootenay Railway bill, Mr. Cowan in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

ASHCROFT AND CARIBOO RAILWAY.

The Ashcroft and Cariboo Railway bill passed its third and final reading.

GOLD GRAVELS SYNDICATE.

On motion of Mr. Cunningham, the order for a second reading of the Fraser River Gold Gravels Syndicate bill was discharged, and the bill was referred back to the Private bills committee with power for them to report to the House.

LONDON AND CANADIAN INSURANCE CO.

Mr. Anderson moved the second reading of the London and Canadian Insurance Co. bill. He referred to the necessity of encouraging the investment of foreign capital in the province, and remarked that the names of the promoters of this bill were sufficient guarantee of the stability of the company.

Hon. Mr. Beaven claimed that there had not been sufficient care taken for the protection of the public in demanding a guarantee or deposit from the company. He was surprised that the Private Bills Committee had not referred to this.

Mr. Martin, chairman of the Private Bills Committee said that they had compared the bill with the Act of the B. C. Fire Insurance Co., in which no guarantee was demanded.

Hon. Mr. Davie endorsed the contention of the hon. leader of the opposition, and stated that he could not support the bill in its present form.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that a former insurance bill had been laid over, as $5,000 guarantee was deemed insufficient. This company offered no guarantee at all, and he did not think their bill could receive consideration.

Mr. Anderson explained that the promoters of the bill would have no objection to providing suitable security, and on motion of Hon. J. H. Turner the debate was adjourned until Friday.

A RETURN.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return in reference to the 45,000 acres of land, commonly known as the Sumas dyking lands.

NANAIMO TELEPHONE CO.

Mr. Thomson moved the second reading of a bill to incorporate the Nanaimo Telephone Co.

The bill passed its second reading and was committed, Mr. Grant in the chair. The bill was reported complete with amendments, and the House adjourned.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA.

The Ordinary Spring Meeting Opened Yesterday with a Full Attendance of Representatives.

The ordinary spring meeting of the Presbytery of Columbia opened yesterday morning at 10 o'clock in the First Presbyterian church, Rev. Alex. Tait, moderator, in the chair, and Rev. D. McRae, clerk.

The other members of the Presbytery present were: Revs. A. Fraser, Comox; E. D. McLaren, Vancouver; J. A. Jaffray, North Arm; Thos. Scoullar, New Westminster. Alex. Dunn, Wharncck; Geo. Murray, Nicola; W. W. Warren, Ladner's Landing; P. McF. Macleod and D. Fraser, Victoria. Elders Hon. John Robson, J. C. Flett, Victoria; and D. C. McMorris, Kamloops.

Rev. E. D. Mc