

THE WAR.

We are on the eve of stirring and critical events in Natal. The British are said to be ready to advance, and it is stated that a force of 3,000 Boers is advancing on Estcourt. The latter movement would, we suppose, be rather favorable than otherwise to our troops, because Col. Hillyard ought certainly to be quite capable of taking care of 3,000 Boers, and while they are south of Colenso there is a certainty that the railway will not be so destroyed that our relief column cannot use it, for the Boers will leave it intact so as to be able to retire before our troops.

The absence of news from Ladysmith would cause some anxiety if it were not that the line is now working from Mozambique to Lorenzo Marques, which has direct connection with Pretoria. If the Boers had made any material progress towards the reduction of Ladysmith we should have heard about it. The Pretoria despatch of the 15th published in last night's Times bears evidence upon its face of having been manufactured very much nearer Victoria. We do not mean that the Times manufactured it, but simply that in these days of close censorship and extraordinary dearth of news, no one would wire from Pretoria rubbish about shells "turning the quiet darkness of the night into a lurid inferno." This is a pure piece of fiction which might be written at any time and in any place.

The distressing incident of the armored train, in which some Churchill is concerned, was due wholly to the recklessness of our men and that contempt of danger, which is a splendid thing in battle, but leads to trouble in reconnaissance and matters of that kind. The loss of men is not great, and probably the death list will not be found to be long, but it is very sad to see fine fellows put hors de combat when there was really no good reason for them to be exposed to danger.

Our telegraph despatches give two estimates of the number of our men in the hands of the Boers at Pretoria. One of them puts the number at 1,352; the other gives it as 811. The latter goes so fully into details that it is probably official and therefore accurate. The number is smaller than we supposed. In fact the larger number is by no means greater than we would have expected.

QUEBEC AND THE EMPIRE.

Events having brought it about that Canada has been called upon to take part in the great work of Imperial defence, the attitude of Quebec towards Imperial problems becomes of great interest. If we may judge from articles that have appeared in certain Quebec papers, and they are not all of the same political party, there may be some doubt if the people of that province fully share the aspirations and sentiments of their fellow Canadians of British origin. We do not mean that there is any lack of loyalty to the British crown, as loyalty has been hitherto understood, but there is unquestionably a failure to recognize what the other subjects of the Empire, as a rule, consider a new duty cast upon us by the development of the Imperial idea. We do not think this feeling is due to any preference for France, but is the natural outcome of conditions existing for upwards of a century, and purely local in their nature.

In the few years immediately following the cession of New France to Great Britain and while Gen. Murray was administering affairs, the anglicization of the scattered French population fairly and satisfactorily began. Murray's policy was gradually to substitute English laws and customs for those prevalent in the St. Lawrence valley, and in the archives of the British parliament are preserved much evidence that the effort was meeting with success. One of the French leaders testified before a committee of the House of Commons to the greater security felt under British laws and said that if they were allowed to continue in operation the people would gradually become accustomed to them and learn to esteem them. He also said that they were already regarded very favorably by the peasant classes of French. The opposition to Murray's policy came in the first instance from the seigniors, or the old Canadian noblesse. These men had all the arrogance which marked the aristocracy of old France during the last century. Their ideas may be gathered from the evidence given by one of them before the above mentioned committee. He said it was intolerable that gentlemen of position should have their affairs passed upon by juries composed of men who made shoes or sold goods at retail. It is quite reasonable to suppose that this exclusiveness struck a responsive chord in the breasts of the Tory aristocracy at that time in the ascendancy in England. At what stage in the negotiations the Roman Catholic clergy came upon the scene is not apparent from the records as preserved in the archives of the Imperial parliament, but so far as the evidence goes the original movement does not appear to have been inaugurated by the church, but to have been a struggle on the part of the noblesse against the democracy. The church has no occasion to interfere. Her rights were unimpaired. By the treaty with France, George III. promised that freedom of religious worship should be accorded to such of the French population as declined to avail themselves of the permission given them to leave the country, and that no new legislation was necessary to protect the church is shown by the fact that she retained all her influence and power among the French population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to which provinces the Quebec Act did not apply. The result of the agitation started by the noblesse was the restoration to the people of Quebec of the customs of Paris, which form the basis of the civil law of that province, and the preservation of French as an official language. Nothing is said about the language in the Quebec Act, if we remember aright; but later the language question became a disturbing element and after several experiments and changes the dual system of the B. N. A. Act was finally adopted. This system gives the people of Quebec greater advantages and privileges in respect to the use of their language than they ever enjoyed under any previous legislation.

The Quebec Act really established an imperium in imperio, and the ruling spirit in it was the Roman Catholic clergy, whose loyalty to the British crown was never questioned, being indeed strengthened by the fact that the French Revolution showed that religion was no longer safe under the flag of France. At one time there seemed to be a likelihood that the only place where the ancient Roman Catholic faith of France would be preserved by a people of French descent and speaking the French language would be Quebec. To the Roman Catholic clergy the "Union Jack" became the symbol of religious conservatism, and in the closing years of the last century it seemed as though only in the St. Lawrence valley and upon the gulf shores of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would be preserved the laws, language and religion which were the boast of Frenchmen before the revolution. We need to understand these matters in order to form a correct idea of the relation of the people of Quebec to the Empire. Their unquestioned loyalty was based upon their conviction that British allegiance meant the preservation of all they held most dear. In other words, the dominant idea in Quebec was conservatism, no matter how political parties may have called themselves, and the sentiments of the people were never attuned to the note of Anglo-Saxon aggressiveness, or as we say nowadays "Expansion and Imperialism." Two centuries ago the ambition of the French adventurers was to establish on this continent an imperial domain under His Most Christian Majesty of France; but the rising tide of infidelity at home and of democracy everywhere, following upon the cession of New France to Great Britain, caused the Church to gather around her the small contingent of loyal priests, and first to hold fast of the bounty of the British parliament permitted them to enjoy, and second, gradually to extend the influence of their sacred religion and scarcely less sacred laws over as large an area as possible. The dream of French imperialism died, as far as Quebec was concerned, with Montcalm, and the spirit of Anglo-Saxon imperialism has not yet taken root in the minds of the great mass of the people.

Therefore it is easy to see that in denying the loyalty of the people of Quebec we may be doing them a great injustice. If only a comparatively few of them share the Imperial instinct with English-speaking Canadians, we can understand why this may be so, and why to them the suggestion that the Dominion must hereafter take part in the wars of the Empire comes in the nature of a surprise. It is something which they have never thought of. It is directly opposed to the spirit of conservatism and isolation that has been cultivated for a century and more. Perhaps the greatest task before the statesmen of Canada is to reconcile the French to the obligations which attach to our relations to the Empire. It is a problem that will not become any the easier from being ignored. It is one that may be rendered infinitely more difficult by the excitement of racial distrust. We have formed a partnership with the people of Quebec, and it has become our duty to show them that their interests are in all respects the same as ours. We have heard of late many severe things concerning their disloyalty, and a notable thing about it is that the rest of us did not up to a very recent date appreciate the full nature of the duty, which we charge them with disregarding.

ISLAND MINES.

The wealth of the coal deposits on Vancouver Island is one of the established facts to be taken into account in connection with the development of the Pacific Northwest. No one pretends to put a value upon our coal deposits, for the very simple reason that it is impossible to approximate their extent. We know enough about them to feel assured that for a practically unlimited period they will meet any demand that may be made upon them. The possible expansion of our coal trade is beyond calculation, but in general terms it may be said to be equal to the requirements of all places likely to depend upon us for a supply. The supply of iron ore is extensive. How extensive it is remains to be demonstrated by thorough prospecting, but what is already settled is that the iron mines of Vancouver Island will at no distant date be a factor of very considerable industrial importance. The same observation holds good in reference to ores of copper and gold, with the additional fact that these have already entered into the producing stage. It is of these that we wish to speak more particularly to-day.

Metalliferous mining on Vancouver Island is rapidly getting on a business footing. Even two years ago the Doubtful Thomases were in the great majority. Some self-styled experts had condemned the whole island. They represented the formation as so faulty that continuous deposits of ore were out of the question. About that time some experienced miners from other countries examined the Island deposits, and their conclusions were more encouraging. The Colonist printed some of them, and, characteristically enough of the city, it

received considerable quiet censure for so doing. We were told that it was wrong to create the impression that profitable mines could be found on this island. Even a month or two ago, when editorial mention was made of the prospects of the Lenora mine at Mount Sicker, several of our citizens declared it was a prostitution of the columns of the paper. We mention these things to show how very slow our own people have been to believe that any good thing could come out of our local Nazareth. During the last year there has been a very great change in public sentiment, however, and now we think most people have arrived at the conclusion that the metalliferous mines of the Island will be some very important in the near future. A few people have shown their faith by their investments, but as a rule most of the money that is going into the development of properties comes from other localities. It is no part of our province to criticize the action of the majority of our own people in this particular, for each man has a perfect right to employ his surplus capital exactly as he pleases, and the Colonist will not presume to tell him that he does wrong. We only mention the matter because it shows that if mining on the Island proves as profitable as now appears likely, the profits will for the most part be paid to residents of other localities. Victoria will certainly derive great benefit from the trade to be built up.

We wish specially to speak to the business men of the city and all others interested in advancing the commercial prospects of Victoria, in regard to the necessity of taking every necessary step to prevent as far as possible the diversion of Island trade to Mainland points. The danger is not an imaginary one. We had a paragraph from Vancouver yesterday to the effect that the business men of that city were endeavoring to arrange for a fast steamer service to and from Comox. Victoria used to consider Comox, and the whole Island, in fact, as its own exclusive ground. We must expect competition. This is the great point to be kept in mind. We can not hope to prevent competition; therefore we ought to prepare ourselves to grapple with it. The best way to do this is to secure the early construction of a railway to the north end of the Island, with branches to the West Coast and to the southern connection with the United States railways. This will place Victoria on a main highway of travel, which of itself will do more than anything else to help us hold trade.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

An Ontario paper has raised an interesting question as to the power of the Governor-General to dismiss his ministry. It takes the position that, if the Laurier cabinet had not agreed to the sending of a Canadian contingent to South Africa, the Governor-General would have had the right in response to public opinion to have dismissed them and called in new advisers. That he would have had the power to do so is quite another matter. The power to dismiss a cabinet at any time is necessarily vested in the Crown. It is one of the rules that lie at the very basis of our system of government. But the circumstances under which this unquestioned prerogative right may be exercised greatly limit its scope. No hard and fast rule can be laid down; but it is safe to say that no Governor-General would care to take the course suggested in the above hypothetical case, unless an extremely grave emergency had arisen. The cause which he would probably take would be to suggest to his ministers the early summoning of parliament.

It is very well to have matters of this kind discussed frequently, because many persons lose sight of the rules of constitutional government, and the consequences of the Crown in Canada are dragged into political matters in a manner which is calculated to prejudice good government, for the Crown or its representatives must always be regarded as belonging to no political party. Col. Minto may recall that when Lord Minto spoke at Montreal concerning the sending out of the Canadian contingent, saying that the contingent was sent in response to public opinion, we said in comment that he might be presumed to have taken counsel with his advisers as to what he should say. This view is borne out by what has since transpired. We now know that this is the view which the government wish to be taken of the matter; namely, that the exceptional line of action and the outlay, which was not ordered by any parliamentary vote nor within the original meaning of the statute authorizing the payment of money by Governor-General's warrant, were taken and made in response to public opinion. In this case it is to be assumed that His Excellency was advised by his cabinet that public opinion demanded the outlay. Perhaps as a matter of fact the Governor-General may have so advised his cabinet. That is, presuming that the relations between His Excellency and his advisers were entirely cordial, he may have used his influence with them to secure a compliance with the popular will. This may easily be the case at any time, for the country has a right to the exercise by the representative of the Crown of the best judgment he is capable of bringing to bear upon any public question. We have no reason to suppose that Lord Minto found it necessary to impress his own views upon the cabinet in this particular case, and speak of the possibility of his having done so only for the purpose of illustrating in what way the representative of the Crown may impress his personality upon the policy of his advisers. He is not obliged by precedent or constitutional usage to sit still and

wait until his advisers tell him what ought to be done, but may very properly impress his own views upon them by argument, if he is able to do so. This brings us to an interesting point. Can the representative of the Crown dismiss his advisers, if they do not take such a course as he deems advisable? We answer that while he has the power to do so, it is almost impossible to suggest a case in which he should exercise it. Only a very grave emergency would warrant it, for if it should turn out that such a dismissal was not supported by the popular vote, his further tenure of office would be impossible.

There are cases in which a Governor-General or a lieutenant-governor may properly get rid of a ministry. For example, personal misconduct which makes it impossible for him to give his confidence to a minister. In such a case his proper course would be to suggest the resignation of the objectionable minister, which would be at once forthcoming. If the objectionable person were the premier, his resignation would of course imply that of the whole cabinet; if a subordinate minister, then it would rest with the premier to say whether or not he must accept the dismissal of his colleague without himself resigning. It is impossible to do justice to this whole subject in a newspaper article, but a few salient points may be dwelt on from time to time with advantage.

VICTORIA EXCLUSIVENESS.

A correspondent draws attention, in a somewhat severe letter, to the exclusiveness of the people of Victoria, and says it is a drawback to the progress of the city. We do not print the letter because it will do just as much good to mention the matter in this way. Victoria has a wide reputation for exclusiveness, and the effect is not good. It unquestionably deters some people from coming here, or at least influences them against the city if they are halting in their choice between Victoria and some other locality. A business man, who carries on a very prosperous mercantile establishment in the city, mentioned yesterday in a casual way to the Colonist that he had been attending a certain church with some regularity for a year, and that not one person connected with it had thought it worth while to speak to him. He added that he thought this a mistake from a financial point of view, because he was always willing to do his share towards the support of the church he attended, but since no one thought it worth while even to say "Good Morning" to him, he had not felt called upon to volunteer a subscription. These matters are small in themselves, but they are worth mentioning, now that so much is being said about the best way in which to advance the interest of the city. It is a good plan to make visitors and new residents feel welcome.

Michael Davitt has moved and a meeting composed of creatures like himself has carried a resolution expressing admiration for the mules which stampeded with the gales. We suppose a fellow feeling makes every jackass quite in sympathy with a mule.

That was a cruel rumor about the Willapa. The Colonist heard it on Sunday and set on foot every means at its command to ascertain what there was in it. The result was that we were able to announce yesterday morning that the steamer was safe on Saturday, and as the report was that she had been wrecked in a storm on Friday night, this disposed of the whole matter.

And now the Ballaric Isles are claiming semi-independence from Spain. These islands are in the Mediterranean. Poor Spain is in a bad way. It is a country of great resources, and most people will be surprised to learn, very largely undeveloped. If Great Britain owned it, there would be no portion of the world more prosperous.

The proposed Soldiers' Wives League, referred to in our Ottawa despatch, may be made a very useful institution. If there is a hearty co-operation on the part of the women, irrespective of the military rank of their husbands. A very large proportion of our militiamen in Victoria are unmarried, yet probably a branch of the league would be of value here.

Mr. Clute, a Toronto Q. C., has been appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the complaints of the Slovan miners in regard to the alleged importation of alien labor. We do not object to such an appointment being made or to the proposed investigation; but it does occur to us that the time when inquiry should have been instituted was before the eight-hour law was passed. Of course the Dominion government was not called upon to make any such investigation, for it had nothing to do with the legislation. The inquiry ought to have been set on foot by the provincial government. If it had been, there would have been no interruption of work in the Slovan, and next year we would have been able to get legislation that would have been fully satisfactory to all concerned.

There is no joy in this world equal to that of the motherhood. A woman's health is her dearest possession. Good health, good times, happiness, love and its continuance depend on her health. All the sickness of women is traceable directly or indirectly to the neglect of the organs distinctly feminine. Troubles of this kind are often neglected because a very natural and proper modesty keeps women away from physicians, whose insistence upon examination and treatment is generally as useless as it is common. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will do more for them than 50 doctors in 100. It is a natural and powerful remedy, and Dr. R. V. Pierce, who for thirty years has been consulting physician of the World's Dispensary and Invalids' Hotel, at Buffalo, N. Y.

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LAND REGISTRY ACT.
IN THE MATTER OF THE "Land Registry Act," and in the matter of the application of Marion Henrietta Baker, of the City of Victoria, Province of British Columbia, for a Certificate of Indefeasible Title to all that piece or parcel of land situate in the City of Victoria, and being Lot Sixty-five (65) and part of Lot Sixty-six (66), Yates Estate, forming part of Section twelve acres (12) more or less.
NOTICE is hereby given that it is my intention to issue a Certificate of Indefeasible Title to the above lands to Marion Henrietta Baker on the 27th day of January, 1891, unless in the meantime a valid objection thereto be made to me in writing by some person having an estate or interest therein, or in some part thereof.
S. I. WOOLTON,
Registrar General.
Land Registry Office, Victoria, B. C.,
25th October, 1890.

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Somebody Was
Body of John Duncan Found
Freeing His Dis Possibility of With Bin
Some five or six four days prior to Bings and Mr. M. city, J. Duncan employ of the Tye Sicker—disappeared circumstances, while possibly, from the order to attend the He was quite far the path through the defined one, and Duncan experienced w circumstances and it very low he could be as it appeared he b As weeks went the search of the count any discovery or Duncan's whereabouts as to how he had present themselves ward a number of who practically the theory of accident, construction upon pearance.
One of these was that he had seen t walking along the r Victoria, another had seen Duncan's morning before the of Mrs. Bings; a vential Officer falls in Seattle.
All these circum junctions of crime had left something t hind him, and took cate with his anxio to it or to assure to many dark conje son for his withdra friends, and the la to the man's unbel press confidence the cleared some day, a emerge without dis This prediction ha people who were rat to their positiveve th mistaken—and that at first supposed, w Victoria or yet Sea His body was fou river early yesterda about three-quarters railway bridge, cr ably distended, b identified by Mr. Keast and others coroner's inquiry la day afternoon.
FOUND D
Coroner's Inquest
John Duncan's Return of an
Beyond fixing the recovered from the inquest held at Dunc no new light upon of the young teamster referred to at some of yesterday morning tion even was circum direct, for the body in the water that re was an impossibilit In height, build, respects, however, I ponded with the dis covered the boots of a knife, a pocket bo from the body reco were sworn to by the Alderlie hotel, and Mr. H. Keast, missing Duncan's. Corroborating this body by these artic kins, a boot maker, repaired the boots of caused—and know Duncan's, a piece also borne out by The other witne Crepamit, an India body, and who de stances of his discov ted, who had taken prompt notification; deposed that there violence, and the death had been caus The verdict was this expert testimo (the jurors) exami Duncan's, and the death by drowning stances we cannot d Accepting the case ident, residents of t who knew Duncan a loss to account fo was well acquainted was a sober, indust could wander from mately into the river prehension.
It probably never but remain as one mysteries.
"THE TWO V
Not up to the Usu Grau Operanc ances
The Grau Opera "The Two Vagabon the Victoria theatre The opera is a very fair, with very little toning and a novel Apart from some il Laques Siroop (Stan number song and ch coition, there is no production beyond a opera was very pret seldon that a more presented than that second act. Diss the "Two Vagabon honor so far as went, and she filed Indeed, the opera chon, an inn-keeper too young for such graceful in it, and ment than used in a little singing she h done. The remaini for no special ment A matinee will which "Paul Jones and-to-night the com very successful wai liers."