

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 1895. PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY BY THE COLONIST PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED LIABILITY.

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direction. The next ultimatum which the Sultan gets will very likely be a most important one, and may virtually decree his banishment from Europe.

NEWFOUNDLAND SMUGGLING.

Smuggling seems to be a regular, though not a legitimate, business in Newfoundland. The vicinity of the French island of St. Pierre affords the smugglers great facilities. The goods smuggled are chiefly liquors, tea, sugar and tobacco. The duty on rum is \$2 a gallon. The dealers in St. John's and elsewhere can buy smuggled rum for \$2.50 a gallon; the price in St. Pierre is \$1.25. Consequently the legitimate trader has no chance as against the smuggler. The Customs House officers even in St. John's are not by any means vigilant. Small craft carry the rum in small casks from St. Pierre, land the liquor with hardly a pretense of concealment in open day at the wharves, and then are off again for another cargo which is run in generally successfully. At the outposts the illicit trade goes on briskly. This is the modus operandi as described by the very able St. John's correspondent of the Montreal Gazette.

Tea, sugar and tobacco are taken out of bond in Halifax and shipped to St. Pierre, where there is almost no duty. An agent receives them there and tranships to various points along the Newfoundland coast. This trade is found to have numerous ramifications. The profits made are immense as the duty here on sugar is nearly 100 per cent; on tea five cents per pound and thirty per cent ad valorem; and on tobacco manufactured 5 per cent. The duty on rum is 30 cents per gallon, \$9 per thousand and 20 per cent ad valorem. It will thus be seen that the temptation to smuggle is very great. A vessel can run in to St. Pierre, load with rum, gin, sugar or tea and in a few days the reaches a port in Newfoundland. From Halifax the distance is greater via St. Pierre, but not more than three or four days. There is nothing surprising there to find smuggling carried on with such facilities as St. Pierre offers.

It is calculated that the revenue of the colony is defrauded by the smugglers out of from \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year. We would not be surprised if the secrets of the trade were made known, the loss so the revenue would be found greatly to exceed these figures.

Notwithstanding the smuggling and the very hard times that Newfoundland has seen and suffered from, the revenue keeps well up to the figures of former years. Times are getting better in Newfoundland. "Ten months ago," says the Gazette's correspondent, "we were in the slough of despond. Business was arrested; we had no currency; importations ceased; the shops and stores were deserted; industries of all kinds collapsed; thousands were idle and on the brink of starvation. To-day business is established; the shops and stores present their former busy aspect; importations have almost reached their former dimensions, and the revenue is but little below its former level."

It is cheering to see that the "Old Colony" has got so well out of its troubles. In its day of distress and disaster the faint-hearted among its inhabitants declared that the colony was ruined, that it would never get over the shock it had suffered or out of the troubles into which it was immersed. But the event has proved that they were false prophets and that it was the courage and the hopefulness which took the right view of the situation that saved the colony in the Newfoundland and in almost every other crisis who were mistaken.

THE BELFAST STRIKE.

The strike of the shipbuilders in Belfast and on the Clyde is likely to prove calamitous to all concerned. This is what Harold Frederic says of it in his London letter of the 2nd instant:

It would not be easy to exaggerate the calamitous nature of the shape that the shipbuilding crisis has now assumed in international politics, especially when they are boiling as at present, have such a fascination for the British press and the reading public that up to now small attention has been given to this really serious domestic matter. Next week, however, it will be certain of its full share of notice, for, with the look-out ordered on the Clyde for Tuesday, the most important industrial fight that the British have known will be in full blast. In the number of men involved, the deadlock will not compare, of course, with many others of recent times, but in value to the nation, of interests involved, and in the danger of irreparable damage to the country it has no parallel. The great builders of the Clyde and of Belfast say that they are forced to stand together, because if one began to cut the other out, the other matters it would be impossible for either to maintain himself against foreign competition; hence an agreement of masters under which the Clyde firms withdraw from the association and keep their yards open, but, even if they do, this will affect the situation only slightly. The experience of London shows that shipbuilding is the most difficult of industries to get back, once it is disestablished, and the possibility that the enormous business of the Clyde and Belfast, incomparably the greatest in the world, is to be ruined and dispersed may well frighten the whole nation. As was obvious it would happen, the English Tories are beginning to write to the papers, pointing out bitterly that it is for the sake of these Belfast strikers that the Unionist Party got ten years ago against home rule, which they now repudiate, doing the best that they can to destroy irretrievably the greatest and most vital of British industries. Efforts at mediation are still proceeding in Belfast, but the sides display the characteristic Ulster stubbornness, which gives small scope to the peacemakers.

Honest Help.

Thousands of men are suffering because they lack the courage to make known their early errors and to endeavor to remedy them. Nervous weakness, loss of manhood and the many ills due to early indiscretions, excesses or overwork can be quickly, successfully and permanently cured, if you will only let the right people know what ails you. Write to me in confidence and I will tell you, free of charge, how to get cured. I have no selfish ends, but am desirous of honesty by which you can be assured. Describe your case and address with stamp—L. A. Edwards, P.O. Box 55, Jarvis, Ont.

THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

Closing Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting—Debate of Peculiar Interest.

The Countess of Aberdeen in the Chair—Kindergarten Training for the Young.

The first annual general meeting of the Council of Women of Victoria and Vancouver Island was brought to a satisfactory conclusion with an especially profitable afternoon session yesterday, at which the Countess of Aberdeen presided. There was a large attendance of delegates, in addition to whom His Excellency the Governor-General, Colonel the Hon. James Baker, the Bishop of Columbia, several of the resident clergy, and many ladies were present as interested visitors. The light blue of the Women's Council was everywhere to be seen, and the delegates from affiliated societies, in discussing the various resolutions on the afternoon's programme, showed themselves keen and capable debaters, ready to meet fact with fact, argument with argument, and statistics with statistics; and also quick to realize and take advantage of any weak point in the opponents' line of attack or defence.

routine business having been disposed of, at least two months before the date of the annual meeting; this agenda having been discussed by the affiliated societies, should by the rules be returned with suggestions to the corresponding secretary of the council in time to allow of a final agenda being issued before the date of the meeting. The resolutions already considered having had set upon them the seal of unanimous approval, the point did not so much arise in connection with the agenda as a result of the resolutions still to be considered. It was, however, to call for a division of opinion, it seemed necessary for Her Ladyship to point out that these resolutions could not legally be put to the vote, not having been submitted before the date of the meeting. The resolutions of the affiliated societies, so that each might have opportunity of instructing its delegates how to act and vote. The omission to comply with all the formalities set forth in the rules was regretted, but it must not be forgotten that this was the first annual meeting of the council and the members had hardly had time as yet to familiarize themselves with the constitution and regulations laid down by the National Council for their guidance. Under existing circumstances it was plain that the attending delegates could only consider the resolutions placed before them in the capacity of individuals, not as representatives of the various affiliated societies, and Her Ladyship suggested therefore that the papers and arguments prepared on the several resolutions still remaining to be considered be heard, but that no action be taken upon them. Her Ladyship also felt called upon to remind the delegates and members present of the extreme importance of their proceeding very fully and in accordance with the rules, and to specify that the deliberations of the council at this their first annual meeting would be watched with peculiar interest, and for this reason as well as in view of the interest of the subjects treated it was necessary to move with care.

EDUCATION OF CHINESE.

Miss Bowes' Resolution Upon This Subject and the Slavery Question.

The consideration of the remaining resolutions upon the agenda was then proceeded with by Miss Bowes, on behalf of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, moving that: "Whereas Chinese children are growing up in the cities of British Columbia without instruction, education or training, resolved that education for the Chinese and other foreigners in British Columbia be compulsory; and whereas slavery among Chinese girls on Canadian territory exists, resolved that if the law bearing on slavery be clear and definite, it be enforced; if not, that it be so amended and enforced that no Chinese girl or other foreigner can be held as a slave on British territory."

The mover explained the scope and tenor of the resolution in her hands, and pointed out that while the Chinese and other foreigners in British Columbia be compulsory, the fact remains that they are here, and while they meet all the obligations of the country, they are not permitted and the country is not benefited by some consideration. At the present time a great proportion of the Chinese residents remain, as do their children, in absolute ignorance, receiving no education of any kind. It is the right of the British people that the State should take no step toward presenting to the Chinese living amongst us the advantages of education? Was it not a disgrace that the British Empire should grow up in subject ignorance? As to the second portion of the resolution, it was an incontrovertible fact that slavery was an actuality among the Chinese of this province and that existing legislation was insufficient to meet the difficulty.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Shepherd, who briefly endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker, and was immediately changed by an attending delegate with the following words: "There can be no question but that our existing law against slavery is ample and sufficient: have you not only to bring your profits to have the remedy applied?"

To this the mover replied that it was very difficult to secure profits among the Chinese, and that having brought the matter into court those who interested themselves in the Chinese found many obstacles thrown in the way of securing a conviction.

Mrs. Gordon Grant held that at the present time the Chinese were on the same level in regard to educational advantages as the white children of our own country; they both had the same footing and are free to attend the public schools. Long more before, she asked for them? In her experience the Chinese were quick to take advantage of educational opportunities, and if they preferred they would be educated in schools of their own race. It was not to let their enthusiasm overreach their judgment.

Mrs. Renouf, in seconding the amend-

ment, directed attention to the fact that San Francisco, a much larger and more wealthy city than Victoria, had seen fit to leave kindergartens to her local philanthropists, rather than undertake their operation as a portion on the public educational system.

Mrs. Day quoted numerous statistical reports relative to the growth of the kindergarten system, and to the thorough practical nature of kindergarten training. It was impossible, as well as unnecessary, to make attendance at a free public kindergarten compulsory.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

A Difficult Subject Upon Which to Legislate With Satisfaction to All.

Passing to the next door of business, Her Ladyship called upon Mrs. Siddall to propose the resolution standing in the name of the Local Union of Christian Endeavor. Mrs. Siddall in so doing explained that she came as the representative of upwards of three hundred young people acting, not for themselves or for their families, but for the good order of the city of Victoria. The resolution was seconded by Miss Jessie Cameron and read as follows: "Whereas the government of this province in passing a law for the observance of the Sabbath, excluded the island of Vancouver from the working of such law; therefore, we respectfully ask that the Women's Council do use their influence with the members of the provincial government in this city and province, urging them to have the island of Vancouver included under the workings of said act so soon as possible with same conditions as the rest of the province."

Miss Bowes inquired whether or not the motion of Vancouver Island from the operation of the act referred to, resulted in the working of the law in question.

Mrs. Siddall replied that only Victoria had been omitted. Hon. Col. Baker, by request, explained that it was the old law of England with regard to Sabbath observance that had years ago been introduced in this province and that there were many who held that it should not apply to Vancouver Island. Few perhaps were aware of the fact that by this law it was enacted that every poor man must go to church, while the rich man was exempted. This was but one feature of doubtful desirability. Sabbath observance was under consideration every year by the provincial parliament, but as yet none of the bills had been passed here. No doubt the question would be again before the legislature when it was next summoned for the dispatch of business, and the women's council, if they so desired, might formulate a bill embodying their views on the question. He would warn them, however, that it was extremely difficult to get any body of men—women might be in advance in this particular—to agree upon a Sunday law.

KINDERGARTEN TRAINING.

A Most Interesting and Profitable Debate on This Form of Primary Education.

Mrs. Spofford then continued the debate upon the introduction of kindergarten training into the curriculum of the public schools, dealt with in the following deferred resolution presented by the executive:

"Whereas the school law does not allow children under the age of six to attend the public schools of this province; and whereas it has been, and is being, proved in the States and elsewhere that for children of such tender years the kindergarten system is both more and intellectually superior to any other additional school system; therefore be it resolved, that the Council of Women of Victoria and Vancouver Island do petition the government to forthwith amend the school law, making no restriction as to age, and to speedily establish kindergartens in connection with the public schools of this city and the province of British Columbia."

As a seconder of the resolution, Mrs. Spofford had fortified herself with a vast array of statistics relative to the success of kindergarten work in Boston. She quoted Colonel Parker as authority for the statements that while the teachers of Boston (ban whom there are no more progressive educationalists in the world) for a while opposed the introduction of kindergartens, they had been speedily forced to realize their efficiency, and there were now kindergartens in connection with all the primary schools of that city. The Boston teachers, too, were a unit in pronouncing the kindergarten an invaluable aid in the imparting of primary education. While she had nothing against the school system of British Columbia, she thought it still capable of improvement, and when the primary system was brought into harmony with the kindergarten system, she believed that better and more practical results would be obtained.

Mrs. Jenkins, while heartily in favor of kindergarten training and believing it to be the broadest, deepest and best preparatory educational system, was not prepared to say that there should be no limit as to age. She therefore moved that the words making no restriction as to age should be struck out.

This was seconded by Mrs. Leiser. As an amendment to the amendment, Mrs. William Angus moved that all words direct the attention of those with a superabundance of means to the desirability of establishing a free kindergarten in this city.

While she had nothing but praise for the kindergarten system and entertained no objection to a free public kindergarten, Mrs. Angus held that there were fortunately as yet no slums and no slum children in Victoria, and that therefore the state would not be justified in undertaking at the present time the heavy additional expenditure necessary to establish and carry on a system of free kindergartens. The state was not a benevolent old gentleman with inexhaustible pockets, and this fact should not be lost sight of by anyone having at heart the interests of the country. To provide kindergartens as proposed would not make these kindergartens free; they would be on exactly the same footing as the present schools, paid for by the taxpayers, but a correspondingly increased expense. As organizations of women had been supposed in these kindergartens free; they would be on exactly the same footing as the present schools, paid for by the taxpayers, but a correspondingly increased expense. As organizations of women had been supposed in these kindergartens free; they would be on exactly the same footing as the present schools, paid for by the taxpayers, but a correspondingly increased expense.

Mrs. Batis spoke for the women breadwinners, in supporting the original resolution. She thought that the loudest complaint in regard to taxation came from the rich, who, having no children of their own, were not paying any portion of the expense of public education. She did not think the increased cost of establishing free

kindergartens would be at all commensurate with the importance of the good to be obtained. Any measure for the advancement of the moral welfare of the little tots had her hearty support and she hoped that during the twelve months which must elapse before definite action could be taken upon this subject, all present would give it their careful and most serious consideration.

Mrs. A. W. Taylor referred with pleasure to the lessons in regard to the efficiency of the kindergarten that she had learned while attending the National Council of Education in Toronto in 1892. Since that date the system had spread and grown and commended the favorable attention of all educational bodies, until at the present time there were free kindergartens attached to all of Toronto's public schools, while at Ottawa a special school had been provided for the training of kindergarten teachers. The experience of Ontario, of England and of Germany fully justified the confidence thus expressed in the kindergarten for the production of good pupils and good citizens. As to the expense, she held that the State owes just as much a duty to the child from four to six years of age as to the child from six to ten.

Mrs. Scuffs in closing the debate also presented the authority of numerous educational experts, including Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Ontario's Minister of Education, in support of the kindergarten system for the young. She would not, she said, have advanced the kindergarten in her resolution, had she known of any other system equally advantageous for the training of the young. She did not object to the amendment dealing with the age limitation, and her objection in presenting this matter for the consideration of the educational authorities had been to give the State the first opportunity of moving in so good a matter and so desirable a direction. In the event of the State being unwilling or unable to answer the call upon it, the appeal to the wealthy people of the city to form a kindergarten association would be in order.

The Countess of Aberdeen noted that the debate had demonstrated the wisdom of the decision arrived at not to dispose of any of the resolutions without their first being submitted to the affiliated societies according to the general rule. It would not, she pointed out, be proper, if possible, to pronounce upon so important a question without the delegates receiving instructions from their several societies. The general opinion as expressed during the debate seemed to be in favor of the kindergarten for the education of the young, but there was a considerable diversity of opinion as to the method of its establishment—whether it should be taken up by the State as a feature of the public school system, or whether it should be provided by private enterprise or philanthropy—as expressed by Mrs. Angus in her resolution, "by those with a superabundance of means." She hoped the delegates would bring the matter before their societies. The questions found in the question box were then opened and answered by Her Ladyship, and the meeting came to an end with the unanimous passage of a vote of thanks to the Countess for presiding, the consideration of the balance of the agenda being deferred until the next public meeting.

Lady Aberdeen in responding to this vote, expressed the pleasure that it afforded both herself and the Governor-General to be kept in touch with their friends in Victoria, with the good work being carried on here through the medium of the Women's Council. She could not refrain from taking this opportunity of again congratulating the council on the possession of so able a president and officers. She hoped to have another opportunity of meeting some of the ladies, as she proposed being at home next Friday afternoon from 4 to 6, as a sort of farewell reception for any friends who might find it convenient to attend.

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