Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 1888.

IMPERIAL CONFEDERATION.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy in a letter to Lord Rosebery explaining why he could not attend a council of the Imperial Federation League, lately held in London, says some things about the scheme of Imperial Federation which are well worth considering. One of the objections which the opponents of that scheme urge against it, is that it is too indefinite, that there are no details. They ask the Federationists to produce their scheme of government in detail, to let them know what is to be done and how it is to work. When the advocates of Federation decline to do this their opponents regard the refusal as a confession of weakness and as an admission of the impracticability of their theory. This is what Mr. McCarthy says on this part of the subject;

"I quite agree with you that it is as yet impossible to formulate any scheme which would be at once practicable and at the same time likely to command that general assent from the various parts of the wide-spread British Empire which such a proposition ought to have in order to secure its acceptance, and a mistake in prematurely attempting to construct a platform could not be otherwise than injurious to the great scheme which we have at heart."

"Hasten slowly" is evidently Mr. McCarthy's motto. He thinks that the League should confine its exertions to disseminating the principles on which it is founded—the time for devising details, of filling in the outline as it were, will come by and by. This mode of procedure is both modest and judicious. Those heaven - born statesmen who are ready at an hour's warning to produce an elaborate constitution for any country or any federation of countries invariably find the result of their easy exertion perfectly worthless. On another subject Mr. McCarthy is at some pains to correct an erroneous impression. He says:

"It cannot, perhaps, be too often repeated that in the proposal for Imperial Federation it has never been contemplated that the colonial dependencies are to surrender the rights of self-government which they now enjoy; but the common defence of the Empire is a matter in which not merely the Mother Country but every colony is interested; to which in justice and fairness, every colony according to its means, regard being had to its comparative stake in the interests to be protected, ought to contribute and it is impossible to doubt that a great country like Canada, for example, must ere long, in one form or another, assume the burden of that national life to which she has grown."

The knowledge that Canada will not be required under Imperial Federation to give up the independence she now exercises will reconcile many to the scheme who, under their present impressions, feel disposed to oppose it, as all must acknowledge that the time must come when she must undertake, either in whole or in part, the burden of her defence. There may be differences of opinion as to the precise time when Canada must take upon herself the burdens as well as to exercise the powers of a nation, but that it must arrive some day no one doubts. Is it not well, then, to keep this contingency, which may be delayed but cannot be avoided, in sight?

THE AYERS' CASE.

The Dominion Government has decided not to appeal from the judgment of the Canadian Court of Exchequer in the celebrated Ayers' case. In consequence of this decision the Government must pay over to Ayers and Co. some $130,000 and law costs to the amount of $20,000 and more. The Government were led into this case by the officiousness and misdirected zeal of certain customs house officers. The Chief Justice, in giving his decision, spoke in very severe terms of the methods of some of the customs house officers. Their conduct in this case was very far from being fair to the parties accused of attempting to defraud the revenue. His remarks lead to the conclusion that the complaints made by the mercantile community as to the inquisitorial practices of the officers of customs in the Dominion are well grounded and that giving the officers a share in all the seizures they make places a temptation to oppressive and unfair dealing in their way, which many of them are unable to resist. They also showed that the decision of disputed cases should be taken out of the hands of the heads of the Customs Department. It is too much to expect strict justice to be done when men are judges in their own cases. If a Customs Court had been established when the dispute between the Ayers' Company and the Customs Department first arose it could be settled quickly and without much loss or inconvenience to either side. The question at issue was a comparatively simple one which a competent tribunal could have readily pronounced upon. As it was, it was pending for years, and then it was not settled until after tedious and expensive litigation. Disputes as to what interpretation should be given to the Customs laws are now very seldom decided satisfactorily to the merchant. They often believe that they are harshly and unjustly treated, and there have been cases of great hardship which had the parties aggrieved the privilege of a recourse to a court would, in all probability, never have arisen. The Ayer's case has also brought another unpleasant feature of the present system into prominence, and that is of permitting those who are believed to be engaged in trying to defraud the revenue to continue what are considered their improper practices until the prize, in the opinion of the Custom House officers, is rich enough to pluck. The Ayers were suffered to go on for years making up their medicines in a way that was regarded by the Customs House officials as illegal; and there have been similar cases in other places. Merchants were permitted to go on in fancied security, when suddenly they were pounced upon and their books for years previous searched for evidence of fraud and irregularity. If it were not for the practice of giving the officers an interest in the seizures, every irregularity would be adjudicated upon as soon as it was discovered. It is to be hoped that the experience of the government in this Ayers' case will lead to a reform in the manner of collecting the revenue from customs and in the settlement of disputes with the customs department.

FROM A BRITISH STANDPOINT.

The Chinese question wherever it is raised is one that closely affects the people of British Columbia. The people of this province are keen and interested observers of whatever is done with respect to Chinese immigration in either the United States or the dependencies of Great Britain. They know that any action taken by an English-speaking nation with regard to it affects them more or less closely. How the question is regarded in Great Britain is of much consequence to every colony which is exposed to the evils and the annoyance of Chinese immigration. The subject is one that has created no little agitation in the Australian colonies. Action has been taken there both by the colonial legislatures and by the people which cannot but affect the relations between China and the Imperial Government. So obnoxious are the Chinamen to the Australians that they have enacted laws with regard to Chinese immigration which may be regarded as prohibitory. They are not permitted to come into the country to work on the land, and the labor unionists have decided that they shall not be allowed to work in ships trading to the Australian colonies. Intercolonial steamers have long ago given up hiring them, and the attempt is being made to boycott foreign vessels employing Asiatic labor. The Seamen's Union refused to permit one of the mail boats—the Almeda—from San Francisco either to load or unload at Sydney because Chinamen were employed on board of her as stokers, and the captain was obliged to make a compromise with the Union. Another vessel—the Mariposa—was treated in the same way, but her captain outwitted the unionists. The labor unions say that they will boycott any vessel, no matter where she comes from, in which Chinamen are employed in any capacity. There is a large party in Australia that strongly disapproves of the course pursued by the seamen's union, and it does not appear that the miners are willing to co-operate with the sailors. The course pursued by the Australians with respect to the Chinese has attracted the attention of the British public. The *Times* in a leading article discusses the question with much moderation. It evidently cannot understand how it is that the Chinese are so obnoxious to the Australians, but it very properly concludes that the people of the colonies are the best judges in a matter of this kind. It says: "The wearer of the shoe knows best where it pinches, and if Australian's have persuaded themselves that the future of their civilization is prejudiced by the intermixture of a Chinese element, no one can blame them for taking measures to avert the danger. The utmost that the Imperial Government can ask or expect is that the measures they take for the purpose should be consistent with existent treaties, and framed with a reasonable regard for the susceptibilities of the Chinese Government." It being the business of the Imperial Government to deal with foreign nations, and it being also responsible for the manner in which the treaty engagements of the Empire are kept, it is not surprising that the leading organ of public opinion in Great Britain should give prominence to this feature of the Chinese question. The *Times* seems to think that the Government of China will not be very difficult to deal with in this matter, but it may have changed its mind since it has found that that Government has refused to ratify the treaty with the United States, to which its representative in Washington appeared so favorable. "The Chinese Government," the *Times* says, "is not altogether unreasonable in the matter. It appears to care very little whether Chinamen are admitted into Australia or not. But it cares a great deal for its own dignity and its right to be treated with the same consideration as other civilized powers. If Chinamen are to be excluded it demands that they should be excluded not as Chinamen, but in virtue of some general disqualification which, nominally at least, applies to the subjects of other powers." The *Times* then suggests that if Chinese were prevented from landing on British territory under a law excluding paupers of all nations, the purpose intended would be accomplished without an invidious distinction being made. As the great bulk of Chinese immigrants are to all intents and purposes paupers when they come to a new country, they would come under a law excluding destitute immigrants. That some such law is required in all the colonies is every year becoming more apparent. Emigrants sent out by parish authorities, or aided by governments or companies, do not often make desirable settlers. And to enact a law applicable to all that no emigrant shall be permitted to enter the country who is not only strong and able to work, but who has the means to support himself and those dependant on him for some months after he lands, would not only put a stop to Chinese immigration, but would have a tendency to prevent the Dominion being made a refuge for the paupers and the criminals of older countries. The colonies owe a very great deal to the Mother Country and it is unfair and ungrateful in them to pursue a policy which may embarrass her in her relations with foreign nations, and make it appear that she is unwilling to carry out the treaties she has made, in good faith. It is difficult for foreign governments to understand the relation that exists between Great Britain and her colonies. They have no idea that dependencies can be allowed the freedom of action that they enjoy, and consequently, she is held responsible by them for the acts of colonies which she has not only not consented to but of which she highly disapproves. When this is considered we think that the hope expressed by the *Times* in the following passage will not appear unreasonable. "In point of fact China, while it does not ask, and certainly would not obtain, what is known in the language of commercial treaties as most favored nation treatment, strongly objects to anything like the least favored nation treatment. We trust that the Australian governments will bear this in mind, and that, while they pursue a very legitimate object, and a very intelligible policy—namely, the preservation of Australian civilization from degradation by alien and incompatible elements—they will not forget that China is a power whose susceptibilities are entitled to respect and whose friendly relations with the British Empire are not to be lightly impaired."

These sensible and just remarks apply as forcibly to the Dominion of Canada as they do to the Australian colonies.

UNMASKED.

A telegram sent to the Toronto newspapers by Mr. Erastus Wiman will open the eyes of Canadians to what has been going on for some time behind the scenes in Canada and the United States. Those who were opposed to a commercial union between Canada and the United States contended that commercial union was intended to be but a step towards political union; that it would be in fact political union very thinly disguised. The commercial unionists denied this very emphatically and with apparent sincerity. They went further, and declared that commercial union would be a bar to political union—that Canadians having a zollverein all the commercial advantages they required the opposition to annexation would grow stronger and stronger. Some may have been deceived by these professions and protestations, but clear-sighted and loyal Canadians continued to maintain that the object of the commercial unionists was annexation, nothing more nor less. Mr. Wiman's telegram proves to a demonstration that they were right. The following is the full text of the telegram,

"NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—I deem it my duty to say that information from Washington reaches me of a reliable character to the effect that the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs have, during the past few days, in furtherance of the views of its chairman, Senator Sherman, been discussing the question of inviting the Dominion of Canada to join the United States. So far have matters progressed that it is not at all unlikely that a resolution will be reported for the concurrent action of both Houses, declaring it to be the duty of the President to open negotiations with Great Britain looking to a political union between the English speaking nations on this continent. The condition attending the invitation of Canada is understood to be that the United States would assume the entire debt of the Dominion, estimated at three hundred million of dollars. Commercial Union was urged as the basis of the proposed negotiation, on the ground that while a large majority might be secured for it, only a small minority favored political union; but the sentiment of the committee was so strong in favor of proposing at first political union that it was impossible to contend with it.

"ERASTUS WIMAN."

The last sentences of this message lets the cat out of the bag and shows what the commercial unionists were driving at all along. It states that commercial union was urged as the basis of the proposed negotiations on the ground that while a large majority might be secured for commercial union a very small minority could be prevailed upon to favor political union. So Canada was to be inveigled into annexation on a false pretence! It was doubtless thought that when the Dominion was deprived of its fiscal independence, when it would have to look to the United States for every dollar it would have to spend for public purposes, when the Federal Parliament would have no other power than to levy direct taxes, the people of the Dominion, as would most likely be the case, would get sick of the semblance of political power which it possessed and would be glad to to seek full union with the United States. But it appears that the members of the Senate who favored annexation were too honest to adopt the deceptive policy of the commercial unionists. They would not descend to such meanness and duplicity. They would openly and honestly make Canada an offer which she might accept or refuse. They would put no gilding on the annexation pill, they would not be parties to a scheme to cheat Canadians into annexation. They, as we see, made political union with the Republic a matter of bargain and sale openly and, as far as they were concerned, fairly conducted. They deserve credit for this. It may not be consistent with the good neighbourhood or amicable relations or honorable dealing in the strictest sense of the phrase to invite the subjects of a friendly power to throw off their allegiance and sell themselves to a foreign government; but the transaction though of a questionable morality in a national sense, would not be deceptive. There was no false pretence about it. The proposed action of the Senate committee compared with the doubled dealing and the pettifogging trickery of the commercial unionists was fair and honorable. We are not surprized that Mr. Wiman was not long in discovering that he was by this telegram placing himself and his fellow commercial unionists in anything but a creditable light before the world. The only wonder is that he, while he was penning the telegram, did not feel how contemptible and how dishonest the contrast between the course they pursued and the one the Senate adopted made them appear. How it was that he did not see at a glance that the refusal of the annexationist Senators to adopt the policy of the commercial unionists did not bring out the ugly features of that policy in strong relief, passes our comprehension. When the truth dawned upon him or was suggested to him, he withdrew the telegram, whereupon the following note was sent to the editors to whom it had been sent:—

"To EDITORS,—We are now requested by Erastus Wiman to withdraw his communication with reference to the doings of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Senate. Will you please do this, and greatly oblige,

"G. N. W. TELEGRAPH CO."

But the request came too late. The editor of the *Empire*, seeing how completely Mr. Wiman's own telegram exposed the designs of the Commercial Unionist conspiracy published the telegram in full. By doing this he deserves the thanks of all loyal and fair-dealing Canadians. The message contains evidence of the intentions of the plotters over Mr. Wiman's own signature, which it is impossible either to contradict or to explain away. As for the invitation alluded to in the telegram, we hardly think that Congress will be foolish enough to agree to send it, and if it is so forgetful of its own dignity and of its obligations to a friendly state as to pass the proposed resolution, the "negotiations" which it authorizes will be as short and as emphatic as official routine and regard for international courtesy permit. The purport of the answer both of Great Britain and the Dominion will be "Canada is not for sale."

A MANITOBA MUDDLE.

The dispute between the government of Manitoba and its whilom supporter and advocate, the *Free Press*, has reached the acute stage. The *Free Press* roundly accuses Mr. Greenway of having made a corrupt bargain with the Manitoba Central Railway Company, of having deceived and humbugged its representatives and left them in the lurch after all. The story is a long and a complicated one, and as yet but one side of it has been told. The *Free Press* affirms that in consideration of the sum of $2,500 being paid to Mr. Greenway himself for his own election expenses, and $10,000 for general election purposes, he would carry through the Assembly certain legislation favorable to the Manitoba Central. For a time the Manitoba premier kept to his agreement and he and the Manitoba Central people were the best of friends. Then, according to the now opposition organ, Mr. Greenway commenced a course of double-dealing with the company, making promises and breaking them and continuing negotiations which he knew would never come to anything. It does not appear, however, that the Manitoba Central paid the $12,500 which it promised. After a while the company was thrown over and then a bargain was made with the Northern Pacific. The *Free Press* concludes its formidable indictment of Mr. Greenway and his colleagues with the following words: "Mr. Greenway may feel himself injured by the foregoing. The *Free Press* will be happy to meet him in any court of competent jurisdiction to give him such satisfaction as may be adjudged by twelve good men and true." Even if matters are not so bad as the *Free Press* tries to make them out to be, it is evident that Mr. Greenway has made a muddle of it, and that he will find it even more difficult to retain power than he did to acquire it. The *Morning Call*, of course, does its best to arouse popular indignation against Mr. Greenway and his methods. It repeats the story told by the *Free Press* with variations on the depravity of the "Grits." It is, however, hardly fair to pronounce upon the charges until it is known what Mr. Greenway has to say for himself. He is at present in the East, and when he comes back he must clear himself of the charges brought against him, or be disgraced in the estimation not only of the Manitobans but in that of the people of the whole Dominion.

Since the above was written a telegram has been received which informs us that Mr. Greenway has accepted the *Free Press* challenge, and entered an action for criminal libel against its managing director, Mr. W. F. Luxton. The quarrel appears to be a very pretty one as it stands.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE idea of a working man saving money and using his capital to employ labor and to develop the resources of the country is most distasteful to our socialistic neighbors. According to them, every one who has capital and employs labor is a "tyrant" and a "monopolist," who must be blackguarded and legislated against. They call the profit of capital "spoils" and rave at the suggestion that it is possible for a workingman to acquire capital and to invest it profitably. But we see that this has been done in every community in America, whether large or small. Everywhere the capitalist of to-day was the workingman of yesterday, and any one who has eyes to see will discern in the wage-earner of to-day the capitalist of to-morrow. There is no such thing as the one-man power in this Dominion or on this continent. The road to wealth and independence is open to all. Millions are travelling on it. The only men who place obstacles in the way of the travellers are the Socialists and Anarchists who, unable and unwilling to walk in it themselves, are bound to do all they can to prevent its being travelled by others. They pursue a dog-in-the-manger policy, and would if they could put a stop to all progress. They are working to reduce the country to its primitive condition. When they have legislated capital out of the country British Columbia will be in the state in which it was when it was discovered. The Indians who then inhabited it had no capital and they employed no labor. It is to reduce the country to this state of poverty and savagery that the enemies of capital are working. We quite believe that they do not see the tendency of their own teaching. To do this requires some thinking capacity, and it is abundantly evident that they are devoid of that.

THE Dominion Cattle company has wound up its affairs. It has been a most unfortunate concern for those who had shares in it. Some $800,000 capital stock has been completely lost. The shareholders do not get a single cent. The company has settled with its creditors for 79 cents in the dollar. The ranch has been bought for $250,000 by W. D. Ives who was, if we mistake not, secretary of the company. The shareholders smarting under their losses say some very hard things about the way in which the business of the company was managed.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Oct. 10.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Resignation of the Chief of Police.

It was stated yesterday that C. P. Bloomfield would resign his position as chief of the city police. The cause for such a step is not learned.

Appointment.

Mrs. Morley, relict of the late John Morley, has been appointed stamp vender at the Victoria post office. The stamps will be sold at the usual wicket for the present until suitable quarters are provided in the lobby.

Stealing Flowers.

A number of choice flowers have been stolen from the garden of the Lord Bishop of Columbia. The thieves are known and the police are on their track.

Members' Meeting.

There will be a meeting of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association at the rooms to-night at 8 o'clock. There will be brief reports from the Seattle convention, some matters of business, refreshments and a general good time.

The City Treasurer.

Mr. Simeon Duck, M. P. P., assumed the duties of city treasurer yesterday, and the civic offices are once more being placed in working order. It is understood that an excellent system of dealing with the civic finances will be inaugurated and that hereafter there will be no need of special audits. It is also stated that Mr. Duck will retain his representation of Victoria city in the legislature.

Assaulting a Bailiff.

Charles Zoelle, proprietor of the Bavaria Brewery, will appear in court this morning on a charge of assaulting a bailiff. It appears that yesterday Deputy-Sheriff Langley, acting under a warrant of distress, during Zoelle's absence placed W. Henry, as bailiff, in possession of the premises, and when Zoelle returned he assaulted the bailiff and forcibly ejected him from the premises.

Music and Merriment.

The Society for the Investigation of Spiritualism gave the inaugural dance of the season in Harmony Hall last evening. About sixty couples were in attendance, and dancing to the excellent music provided by Prof. Sharpe's orchestra was kept up with spirit until a seasonable hour, when the pleasant affair broke up, everyone well satisfied with its complete success. Supper was served at midnight in the large dining room adjoining the hall by the ladies of the society.

City Council vs. Cow Nuisance.

The roaming of cattle at large within the city limits has been a subject which the people, particularly the residents of James Bay, have repeatedly condemned as a nuisance. Numerous complaints have recently been made against the common practice of owners of cattle being allowed to make a commonage of the most beautiful portion of the city. Scarcely a day passes without some depredation being committed by cows and horses destroying valuable trees and shrubs or playing havoc with the leaves. Plant shade trees and keep your fences low, has been mooted by the city fathers as a step in the right direction to improve and beautify our surroundings, but has it ever occurred to them that, where tasteful owners of property have so far agreed with them as to adopt their suggestion, they are subjected to loss and annoyance every year by the roving bovines, which appear to hold the fort, by breaking fences, mutilating trees and destroying vegetable gardens. This is not all, the sidewalks are broken and so bespattered with filth that it is disgusting. Look to it at once, gentlemen; stop it immediately, and thereby save the growing condemnation of your friends who wish you well, if you only do what is right.

Took a Drop.

An amusing though unfortunate incident occurred to a drayman on Monday evening. He was delivering a load of coal to a resident at the head of Pandora street, who is the possessor of a grassy lawn, which he prizes highly. He also has a tank for holding water in the attic of his house, placed there when the water supply was erratic, and the overflow from this and the refuse from the house drains into a large pit near the lawn. The drayman arrived, and was warned by the lady of the house not to cross the lawn. When she retired the drayman consulted with himself and came to the conclusion that he would cross the "darn grass," for he wasn't going to carry coal sacks half a mile. Accordingly he drove his team in the gate and right on to the covering of the pit. Not being able to bear the weight of a ton of coal and dray and horses, the structure gave way and horses and coal disappeared into the pit. The drayman was at first speechless with astonishment, and finally managed to articulate a few western expressions, and then bethought himself how to get out of the dilemma. Luckily for him, a good Samaritan happened along, and with his assistance and that of a couple of others, with extreme difficulty the outfit was raised from the depths without injury. This accomplished, he was profuse in thanks, and with tears in his eyes, promised the worthy citizen that he would "never do it again." The probability is that he will keep to his promise.

THE FOREST FAIR

A Successful and Interesting Event—The Many Attractions of the Fair.

The rain fell steadily all yesterday, and in consequence the attendance at the Forest Fair in Philharmonic Hall last evening was not what it would certainly have been had not the bad weather kept many away. At seven o'clock Mrs. Nelson formally opened the Fair to the public, and the magnificent band of "C" Battery, under the leadership of Prof. Agius, gave the first number of the splendid programme of music which had been prepared for the opening night. Philharmonic Hall was a scene of brilliancy and beauty, the good taste of the ladies of the church being everywhere apparent in the tasteful decorations.

In the centre of the hall, an immense Japanese parasol, from which was suspended a large number of many colored Chinese lanterns, marked the ice-cream and cake stand, where these luxuries were dispensed with a liberal hand by Mrs. Blaiklock and Mrs. Wilson, in demure Quaker costume, as odd as they were charming. At the right entrance the table of substantial refreshments was presided over by Mrs. Renwick, Mrs. Byrne, and Miss Gowen in their usual graceful manner. Adjoining the lunch table, a pretty little stall, in the decoration of which the Virginia creeper played a prominent part, marked the spot where Miss Powell and Miss Eagan were always ready to supply their patrons with candy or fruit. The stall of the Reapers, a marvellously constructed bower, decorated with wheat and oats, a sheaf of golden grain forming the background, proved the headquarters for artistic fancy work, of which the exhibit is finer than at the late Provincial exhibition. The stall was in charge of Miss M. Finlayson, Miss Graham, and Miss R. Jenns, who, appropriately costumed, took pleasure in showing their many beautiful articles of fancy work to the visitor, who might purchase if he chose.

The colossal wedding cake was something as entertaining as it was original. It was in charge of a Gipsy maiden, who handed out the magic cake to all applicants with a pleasant smile.

The doll stand proved a very attractive spot to the little ones and, with Miss Woods in charge, to the adults as well. The mermaids grotto was the climax of the whole; with seaweeds, and shells, and illuminated with a soft, green light, nothing could give a better effect. The two little mermaids, Miss Lily Renwick and Miss Lily Kettle, were pretty as pictures, and acted well their part in the evening's entertainment. The woodland booth, a bower of roses, sweet smelling evergreens and rustic grass, enshrined three as charming wood nymphs as could well be found, in the person of Misses Harvey, M. Jones and S. Jenns.

Last, but not least, the table of useful articles, in charge of Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Johnston, was well worth a visit. Here, there and everywhere, the four gipsy maidens, Misses Fisher, Grieves and Keast and Mrs. Hammond, made themselves and others happy, flashing about amid the gathering like rainbows in their appropriate and bright costumes. Everyone who attended the Fair spent a delightful evening, made all the more so by the fine music provided, and no doubt to-night will be even more enjoyable.

At any rate all who go may be sure they will not regret it. The ladies of St. John's Church have left nothing undone to ensure everybody's pleasure.

INCENDIARY FIRE.

Determined Attempt to Burn a House—Coal Oil and Rags Placed in a Couple of Rooms and Fired.

Shortly after ten o'clock last night Mr. Douglas McConnell and Mr. W. G. Simpson were walking along Superior street, when they noticed a bright light shining through one of the windows of Mr. Powers' house on Superior street. A moment later they heard a heavy fall, and thinking something was wrong entered the yard. Looking through the window they saw that the floor of one of the bedrooms was in flames. Mr. Simpson at once sounded the nearest alarm at the head of Bird Cage Walk, while Mr. Dorman procured a garden hose, and bursting in the window soon had the fire under partial control. The firemen arriving promptly completed the work of extinguishing the flames, which had spread to the roof. The fire was confined to one bedroom and the roof, and was entirely extinguished in a few minutes. The amount of damage is estimated at $200, partially covered by insurance. The house was deserted at the time the fire originated, Mr. Powers being in Whatcom, and Mrs. Powers having gone out to sleep at the residence of a lady friend. The firemen had a little trouble with the horses when the alarm was received at the fire hall, one of the team being new to the work, but got to the fire in remarkably good time considering the distance to be traversed.

After extinguishing the fire in the bedroom, Officer Abel discovered a fire in a cupboard in the dining room, a bundle of rags saturated with coal oil burning there. A further examination of the premises by Chief Deasy and Officers Lavin and Abel revealed the fact that coal oil had been strewn in several places, and other circumstances noted pointed to the conclusion that a most determined attempt had been made to burn the premises. Mrs. Roberts arrived on the scene in a hack, and said that under a trunk in the room where the fire started was some $200 in bank notes, and asked permission to remove it. The trunk being lifted nothing was discovered but some charred paper. On the stove in the dining room the water in the kettle was still warm, showing that someone had lately been in the house.

A watchman was left on guard, and an inquiry into the affair will be at once made.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board was held in the Police Court room last evening.

There were present Mr. Hayward, in the chair, and Messrs. Wolfenden, Harris and Heisterman.

A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Heywood, complaining that his fences had been broken down, his trees ruined and other property destroyed by the pupils attending the public schools.

On motion of Messrs. Heisterman and Wolfenden, the secretary was instructed to communicate with the principal of each of the city schools, requesting them to see that the pupils do not misconduct themselves on their way to and from school.

A communication was also received from the janitor of the Central School, asking for an increase of salary.

Col. Wolfenden endorsed the justice of the request, and advised that the letter be forwarded to the educational department with the recommendation that an increase of $10 per month be granted.

Tenders for supplying coal were received from Mr. Walker and from the Victoria Coal and Lumber Yard.

On motion of Messrs. Wolfenden and Harris, the tender of the Victoria Coal Yard, being the lowest, was accepted.

Mr. Walker's account of $11 was, on motion, referred to the finance committee for payment.

The Secretary presented the usual school report for the month showing the average daily attendance to be 1007·22, or an average of 47·96 to each teacher, the highest attendance ever reached in the schools of Victoria. One teacher is at present absent through sickness, his place being supplied by a duly certificated teacher.

Mr. Heisterman referred to the fact that it was currently announced that Mr. Ferguson had left the city, in which event a vacancy would exist in the board.

On the suggestion of the secretary he promised to write Mr. Ferguson, and in the event of his not intending to return to the city secure his resignatirn and proceed to fill the vacancy in the usual way.

Col. Wolfenden called the attention of the board to the fact that the drain leading from the Central School to Fort street was in a very offensive condition. He had written the council, and had been by them informed that the drain was on Government property. He had then written the Government officials, and they were now in communication with the city council, and the nuisance would be done away with at once.

On motion of Messrs. Heisterman and Wolfenden, the secretary was instructed to communicate with the Government requesting that the sum of $20 or $25 be spent in planting shade trees on the school grounds.

On motion the board adjourned.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. my21-eod-dw

Sam Peterman, working as a street car driver in Toronto, is laid up with smallpox at the village of Stouffville, and the villagers are greatly terrified.

W. C. T. U. CONVENTION.

The Second Day's Proceedings—Several Important Topics Discussed—Patent Medicines Condemned Owing to the Large Proportion of Alcohol Contained Therein.

The W. C. T. U. Convention resumed its session in Temperance Hall yesterday morning at 9:30 o'clock, when the proceedings opened with devotional exercises, led by Mrs. D. Spencer. At 10 o'clock the meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. James Cunningham. After singing and prayer, the minutes of Monday's session were read and adopted, and by-laws discussed and arranged. The superintendents of the different departments of work next handed in their reports. The report on hygiene was very instructive and interesting. All alcoholic drinks prescribed by physicians were considered harmful in their results. One of the ladies said that, from statistics it is found that one-half the children of the drinking population of the United States are weak in intellect. Some of the patent medicines were condemned on account of the large proportion of alcohol contained in them. Jamaica ginger was especially mentioned as containing so much as to revive the appetite for drink. Sal volatile in the proportion of one teaspoonful to a tumbler full of water is an equivalent for brandy in cases of exhaustion.

Extremes of fashion was discussed and many instructive ideas with regard to the deplorable habit of tight lacing and high heeled boots were talked over and disapproved.

The report of the corresponding secretary was read and adopted, and the morning session closed.

The afternoon session began with the hymn "Go Work in My Vineyard," followed by prayer. An invitation was read by Miss McDougall from the convention now meeting in Sarnia, Ont., and an answer was sent by telegraph with loving greeting. The president of the Y. M. C. A. and Rev. Mr. Rugg were introduced and expressed their sympathy with the work. Encouraging reports were read of visits to the jail and of work among the Indians, and the juvenile societies encouraged to persevere in their work. The report from Vancouver showed united work between the different temperance societies on the mainland.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

THE LAURIE BUGLE.

The final competition between teams of ten members of each of our city militia corps to decide the ownership of this trophy for the ensuing year will take place on Saturday afternoon next at the Clover Point range. The distance will be 200, 400 and 500 yards; five shots at each range. The firing will commence at 2 o'clock sharp.

The "Fleming Cup" will be fired for at the close of the bugle competition, at 300 and 600 yards ranges, and as the terms of its presentation included members of the active militia of the province, the corps at New Westminster will fire over the Brownsville range at the same time.

WILL NOT PAY.

The Agricultural Society have decided not to pay the $150 prize to the Amities, because no outside clubs competed as was promised. The baseball games were an attractive feature of the exhibition, and it is to be regretted that no outside club showed up. The Amities carried out their part, and some compensation for their efforts should be given them.

AFTER THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 9.—It is announced here that Teemer and Gaudaur will challenge Kemp, the Australian sculler, and if one is defeated the other will endeavor to wrest the world's championship from him. Teemer and Gaudaur will row for a purse of $500 near St. Louis early in November, and the winner will make the first attempt to defeat the Australian.

THE ROAD SCULLING MATCH.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9.—The road sculling race is proving a dismal failure. Teemer and O'Connor have given up the laborious task of propelling their machines. The others drag painfully along. It is very cold and unpleasant in the garden and spectators are few. The score at midnight was: Gaudaur, 268 miles; Ross, 258 miles 2 laps; Plaisted, 258 miles 1 lap; McKay, 251 miles; Lavgan, 236; Bubear, 231, Hamm, 210; Conley, 192; Lee, 186.

JAKE KILRAIN AND THE UNKNOWN.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9.—Final arrangements for the fight between Jake Kilrain and the unknown were made to-day at the *Clipper* office. The fight will come off within 200 miles of New Orleans. The unknown will not be named until the articles of agreement are signed.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

There will be a general meeting of the Victoria School of Arms this evening, at eight o'clock, at Wiatt's Rooms, Government street.

The *Times*, whose staff, it is said, ventured a good deal of their spare cash in tickets, published the large prize numbers of the Louisiana lottery. It was but the other day that the Yates street sheet was deprecating the fact that so much money went out of Victoria monthly to the lottery people. The publication of the prize list is an infringment of this law, and is simply advertising the evil.

The police have information that Edwd. Hodge, who escaped from the lock-up some months ago, has been in the city during the past week, and has been seen in several saloons.

The charge against City Clerk Jas. D. Robinson will again come up for hearing in the police court this morning.

It is reported that a barber who was located on Government street near Yates, has been missing since Saturday. He left a wife and family behind him.

A couple of semi-intoxicated individuals made night hideous on View street, at about eleven o'clock last night.

The wreck and cargo of the Cariboo Fly will be sold at public auction at noon on Friday next by W. R. Clarke, auctioneer.

A Warning.

The modes of death's approaches are various, and statistics show conclusively that more persons die from diseases of the Throat and Lungs than any other. It is probable that everyone, without exception, receives vast numbers of Tubercle Germs into the system and where these germs fall upon suitable soil they start into life and develop, at first slowly, and is shown by a slight tickling sensation in the throat and if allowed to continue their ravages they extend to the lungs producing Consumption, and to the head causing Catarrh. Now all this is dangerous and if allowed to proceed will in time cause death. At the onset you must act with promptness; allowing a cold to go without attention is dangerous and may lose you your life. As soon as you feel that something is wrong with your Throat, Lungs or Nostrils, obtain a bottle of Boschee's German Syrup. It will give you immediate relief.

Constipation

is nearly always induced by neglecting to keep the bowels regular, and is also a frequent sequel to dyspepsia or indigestion. Regulate the stomach and bowels by using Burdock Blood Bitters, which is certain to promptly relieve and ultimately cure the worst cases of constipation. tu-th-sat-dw

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

MARINE.

Steamer Princess Louise came off the dry dock yesterday.

Steamer Isabel had her new boilers from the Albion Iron Works placed in position yesterday. She is receiving a general overhauling at the C. P. N. Co.'s Wharf.

Tug Alexander leaves this morning to take in tow the bark George from Esquimalt to Moodyville.

Steamer Barbara Boscowitz will leave for the west coast to-day.

Steamer Quickstep sails for Tacoma to-day.

Steamship Idaho is expected to leave for the north to-day.

Bark Hope arrived at San Francisco from Yorluk, Kodiak Island, Alaska, on Monday morning with a cargo of salmon. She was twenty days on the voyage down. Nothing of any consequence occurred on the trip.

Schooner Helen Blum, Capt. A. F. Carlson, arrived at San Francisco on Monday morning, from Peterson's Harbor, Alaska, with a cargo of furs for Leon Blum.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 9.—Arrived: Steamer Mexico, Victoria. Cleared: State of California, Astoria. Sailed: Bark W. W. Case, Port Townsend; Barkentine C. C. Funk, Astoria.

McKAY, C. P. R. ticket swindler, is wanted at Montreal on a charge of forgery.

M. Dorans, ex-M. P. for Nicolet, has been appointed agent of the public works department at Sorel in connection with the deepening of the St. Lawrence canal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NOT A PIMPLE ON HIM NOW

Bad with Eczema. Hair all gone. Scalp covered with eruptions. Thought his hair would never grow. Cured by Cuticura Remedies. Hair splendid and not a pimple on him.

I cannot say enough in praise of the CUTICURA REMEDIES. My boy, when one year of age, was so bad with eczema that he lost all of his hair. His scalp was covered with eruptions, which the doctors said was scald head, and that his hair would never grow again. Despairing of a cure from physicians, I began the use of the CUTICURA REMEDIES, and, I am happy to say, with the most perfect success. His hair is now splendid, and there is not a pimple on him. I recommend the CUTICURA REMEDIES to mothers as the most speedy, economical, and sure cures for all skin diseases of infants and children, and feel that every mother who has an afflicted child will thank me for so doing.

MRS. M. E. WOODSUM, Norway, Me.

A Fever Sore Eight Years Cured.

I must extend to you the thanks of one of my customers, who has been cured, by using the CUTICURA REMEDIES, of an old sore, caused by a long spell of sickness or fever eight years ago. He was so bad he was fearful he would have to have his leg amputated, but is happy to say he is now entirely well—sound as a dollar. He requests me to use his name, which is H. H. CANON, merchant of this place. JOHN V. MINOR, Druggist, Gainsboro, Tenn.

Severe Scalp Disease Cured.

A few weeks ago my wife suffered very much from a cutaneous disease of the scalp, and received no relief from the various remedies she used until she tried CUTICURA. The disease promptly yielded to this treatment, and in a short while she was entirely well. There has been no return of the disease, and CUTICURA ranks No. 1 in our estimation for diseases of the skin.

REV. J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, D.D., Raleigh, N. C.

From Pimples to Scrofula Cured.

CUTICURA, the great skin cure, and CUTICURA SOAP prepared from it, externally, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, the new blood purifier, internally, are a positive cure for every form of skin and