

situation, so far as he is concerned, the administration of which he is a member will not hesitate to rectify mistakes. He severely denounced the "strike" of the post-office employees, but was prepared to admit that they, although ill-advised, had a good show of reason for their demands and so far as they were found to be consistent with right and justice would be fully satisfied. At present Postoffice Inspector Sweetnam is here obtaining information on the entire subject, and when the facts are all before the administration immediate action will be taken. If, as reported, there is reason to believe that matters were precipitated by the interference of a well known demagogue, who has upon more than one occasion sought public advancement and who appears never to be happy save when he is stirring up political strife, it is much to be regretted that the parties concerned allowed an irresponsible individual the opportunity of aggravating trouble which was already bad enough without being turned into so called "politics."

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Ontario potato crop is reported to have been lighter than usual, but rot is almost totally absent. This, it is anticipated, will fully make up for the falling off in the yield.

The steamer Arawa, which took the place of the Miowera, after the latter's mishap at the entrance to Honolulu, has been chartered to run on the Oceanic line to San Francisco in connection with the Monowai and Mariposa.

The convention between the United States and China prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers and generally regulating the conditions of the citizens of the one country residing within the jurisdiction of the other has been duly proclaimed and has gone into effect.

In regard to the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, which was made the subject of so much controversy at and prior to the elections, Government Engineer Mohun in his annual report states that though much of the work had been very heavy he regards it as one of the cheapest roads ever built on the coast though it had cost more than had been anticipated.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has once more met the Congress of the United States and his annual message has been laid before the members. Its most important announcements are in connection with the financial situation which it is proposed to improve by a divorcement of the Government from the business of banking. The banks are to be empowered to issue notes, within, of course, safe limitations, and these notes are to be secured by a fund which they will be required to place in the hands of the Government.

As was only to have been expected, the Tacoma National Bank, which closed its door during the panic of July, 1893; but reopened them in the succeeding December, has again suspended. Its liabilities are but small, and it is said will be fully covered by the assets, between \$200,000 and \$300,000, and will not, it is believed, exceed \$300,000. This Bank appears to have been one of the many lame ducks, the prospects of whose restoration were very remote. We shall not be surprised to see a number of them go under before business resumes its normal conditions.

ALTHOUGH reports from Washington have been received announcing that there would be considerable trouble in Congress over the President's recommendation to pay to the British Columbia sealers \$425,000 in satisfaction of all claims for seizures in 1886, 1887 and 1889, those who are interested do not anticipate that

there will be any repudiation of this legitimate claim upon whose settlement the adjustment of sealing matters by the Paris arbitration depended. It is further understood that Great Britain will grant an additional \$100,000 as compensation to the sealers for the different extensions of the *modus vivendi*.

The fact that through lack of information at the Department of Marine and Fisheries and the wilful pernicketedness of Mr. Samuel Wilmot, it has been made unlawful to take salmon in British Columbia waters, has been brought to the attention of Sir C. H. Tupper, and there is reason to hope that the result will be the removal of the embargo, rendering it possible to take our own fish, which are as good in quality as they ever are, without the consumer being forced to purchase the U. S. Puget Sound product at a high figure, besides paying a customs duty upon it. It is needless to say that Government action in the direction mentioned will be one means of removing the existing dissatisfaction.

At the last meeting of the council of the B. C. Board of Trade, a communication was received from Chief Deasy of the Fire Brigade pointing out the requirements of the force in order to enable it to prevent the occurrence of such disasters as had been experienced in Seattle, Vancouver, Spokane and Winnipeg. These were: 1, an improved water supply; 2, a full paid force; 3, more engines; 4, protection for Victoria West and the eastern section; 5, inspection of electric wires, and 6, an interest on the part of the property owners in the safety of their lives and belongings. A resolution was adopted urging upon the Dominion Government the great necessity of an extension to this Province of the aid granted in the other provinces, in the establishment of the co-operative dairy system.