

THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST THURSDAY JANUARY 14 1897

be divided into two classes, the direct and the indirect." We are happy that we can accept without reserve that strikingly novel proposition. But we are shocked at what may be a deduction from his further observation that indirect taxation in the form of customs duties is not honest. Does Alderman Marchant know that a good Liberal Federal Government does not scruple to perpetrate such a dishonest method of raising a revenue, and that good, genuine Brits are reported to be tumbling over one another in their efforts to secure positions with fat salaries in a service the sole occupation of which is to collect the duties, the result of a dishonest system of taxation? Evidently when Alderman Marchant's ideas of fiscal policy prevail, there will be neither Customs duties nor Customs officials devaluing the earnings of the happy people who will live under the genial influences of the new Marchantian system of finance.

We must unfortunately defer until another occasion the consideration of Alderman Marchant's method of dealing with "the abolitionists" of the system of direct taxation with which the present Provincial Government afflicts the weary souls of British Columbians. Perhaps we may be inclined to ridicule his crude proposals; to expose his fallacies; to point out the singular errors into which his apparent ignorance of the different spheres of Provincial and municipal taxation has led him. It may, perhaps, seem to some that we have given undue prominence to one who is evidently a chronic sufferer from "a diarrhoea of words." But it is well to root up the weeds so soon as they appear; to eradicate the evil before it can spread. That such stuff should find a place in a newspaper is not a good sign.

TWO MINISTERS—TWO MINDS.

When Hon. Mr. Davies, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, was on the Coast, a few weeks ago, he delivered an address in which he pointed out to the benighted people of British Columbia that the most solemn covenants are not binding when either of the contracting parties feels that self-interest may induce it to secretly make friends with the common enemy who will not be conducive to the peace of Europe. The old proverb, that false friends are worse than open enemies, applies to nations as well as to individuals.

THE BISMARCK REVELATIONS.

A short time ago telegrams appeared in all the newspapers concerning the revelation of a secret treaty which existed between Germany and Russia from 1886 to 1890. The disclosure was made by the Hamburger Nachrichten, but the real author, or at least inspirer, is said to have been Prince Bismarck. A writer in the December number of the Fortnightly Review contends that the treaty was an act of treachery and that there was good reason for the indignation and alarm with which the revelations were received. Soon after the recent visit of the czar to Paris some of the German editors considered that the statement of that country had blundered in allowing France and Russia to become such close friends. The blame of the coldness between Russia and Germany was thrown upon Prince Bismarck. It was true that the Russian statesman, Prince Gortschakoff, hated Germany, but Gortschakoff died seven years before the ex-chancellor retired from power, and a reconciliation might have been effected in that time. Bismarck had desired it. An answer to these revelations appeared in the Nachrichten, which declared that between 1884 and 1890 both empires were completely agreed that if either of them were attacked the other would remain benevolently neutral, and that Count Caprivi, on becoming Prime Minister of Germany, refused to continue this arrangement, although Russia was willing. No one has officially denied the truth of the statement of such a treaty existed, and it has since been discovered that it was not an informal understanding but a written compact, signed by Prince Bismarck and M. De Giers on behalf of their respective sovereigns.

FORMATION OF MINING COMPANIES.

We are glad to see that the Board of Trade has given some attention to the methods in vogue in connection with the organization of mining companies under the laws of this Province, and also in regard to the conditions under which companies organized in the United States are permitted to carry on their operations in British Columbia. There can be no question that there are many details connected with the present methods which require amendment, and the Board of Trade has done good service in bringing the subject formally under the notice of the Government and thus drawing public attention to it before the meeting of the Legislature. At the same time there are some points in the recommendations of the Board of Trade, about the wisdom or advisability of which we have considerable doubts. In any case it is well that they should be discussed with the object of eliciting public opinion upon them and obtaining the views of those who are interested in the matter, whether directly, as owners of mines, promoters or investors, or merely indirectly as residents of the Province and solicitous for anything which concerns her progress and welfare.

SLEEP.

Induced by the use of opium, cocaine or narcotic compounds is bad, decidedly bad. They undermine health and shatter the constitution, and the patient is steadily growing into a worse condition—often resulting in the terrible slavery and misery of the cocaine and opium habit. Sleep induced by the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla does not perhaps come as quickly, but it comes more surely and more permanently through nature's great restorative and rejuvenating channels—purified, vitalized and enriched blood. This feeds the nerves with life-giving energy and builds up the system and constitution from the very foundation of all health and life—the blood—pure, rich, red blood.

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ability of such legislation being detrimental is not very real. It is not, we presume, the intention of the recommendation that any legislation of that character should be retrospective in its application, and therefore it would not affect American companies already registered. As regards the effect of such legislation on future investments of American capital, we do not think it would have any of a prejudicial character. In the first place, we believe that by far the largest portion of new capital which will flow into the province for investment in our mines will be either British or Canadian, and that even that already invested will be largely replaced by money from those two sources as the result of sales by American holders. The province has already commenced and is likely to go on in a still larger scale. Even, however, on cases of American investments still occurring, there is but little reason for anticipating any obstacle to them being caused by such a requirement. The Provincial law in many respects is superior to that of many of the States, and the security afforded by it to investors, and the fact that it makes difficult, or even impossible, some of the practices followed by American promoters, is rather an argument in favor of it as regards honest and bona fide American investors. Still, as we have said, this recommendation will doubtless arouse some hostile criticism.

Granby Rubbers.

It is no wonder that rubbers, which are not the same shape as the boot, should be uncomfortable. It costs money to employ skilled pattern makers but the result is a satisfactory fit. Each year new patterns are added, to fit all the latest shoe-shapes, and Granby Rubbers are always "up-to-date." They are honestly made of pure rubber, thin, light, elastic, durable, extra thick at ball and heel. Don't Draw the Feet They Fit the Boot.

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THIRTY-THREE ARBITRATION.

Opinions of the Health of the and Au German Syndicate Japan's Warlike—Advices From

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The Daily News expressed its opinion yesterday, in council Mr. Bayard, and the two ex-gratulations on the ar

A Vienna dispatch says the Anglo-American likely to revive the movement against military newspapers more of a great international opinions they express widespread feeling of armaments of Europe of the dawn of a better The Volks Zeitung, the archbishop of Armagh and of West of Anglo-American

The correspondent Berlin remarks upon displayed by the Norwegian Zeitung, which occasion of the signing point out that it serves the Anglo-Saxon race, and the quarters of the globe. According to the sa the clerical koinonische success is calculated to If the aims of the peace in 1888 should be peace for 120 millions of North and South millions of other Eng

The Chronicle's West to a question of the M. Kotschue, as to w tion treaty with Eng and defensive or any of an alliance might be answered by the ordinary diplo It was not an alliance Monroe doctrine, whi nized by the terms of American arbitration ratified." Mr. Olney makes Great Britain maintenance, and er Monroe doctrine.

The correspondent commenting upon "Mr. Olney recognizes the more natural ally of Russia, whose hitherto hatred of England, Russia will do her best Senate not to ratify it.

The Daily News Be the Nord Deutsche Al sarcastically observes American arbitration grist to the mill of Democrats who have that parliamentarism should decide peace Anarchists will applaud success for their cause Referring to the Ch Secretary Olney's sian Minister, M. E. he was asked to qu no question might be and or the St. Jam

Somewhat later, that the United States her traditional friend a close general alliance would be prepared ericans anything in re get the two great nati geth against the Austri A Chronicle dispatch that Greece has order from an Austrian firm. A Rome dispatch to that the British and logical society has op son, Commander L the lecture, and Hon. U. S. ambassador, as happy allusion to the the society of the sign American arbitration voked great applause.

The Standard's Ro reports that the Pope commend the greatest an even temperature f dling him on eggs as repaired at once, an ance: "His bowed standing has been lately."

The Russian bark B at Cardiff yesterday reports that on Dec. 28 North, and long 47 spoke the British ste which had broken her assistance as the dam repaired at once, an Edward Wood, of C treaty.

A dispatch from Times says: "The concerned the exten yard at a cost of £250