The Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1893.

THE BEHRING SEA PATROL.

The more our American neighbors reflect upon the award of the Behring Sea Arbitrators the less they like it. They find that it is not nearly so favorable to them as many of them at first imagined. It restricts them in many ways, and before it can be enforced a costly patrol must be maintained, not only in Behring Sea but all along the Pacific Coast, from California to Alaska. If, after the close season begins, the seals in the Northern Pacific are not to be touched they will have to be well guarded, and to guard them well will be an expensive business. The Americans seem to think that the United States will have to take upon its shoulders the burden of keeping off poachers. It is suggested that Great Britain should take a part in this work of convoying the seals in their journey to their breeding grounds, but very little dependence seems to be placed on their cooperation. It is very questionable whether the benefit which the United States will derive from the possession of the Pribyloff Islands will compensate them for the expense of acting as policemen of the sea. The work of the patrol will be all the more difficult as it has been decided that Behring Sea is not a closed sea. If the Americans possessed the sovereignty of that sea they could drive sealing and other vessels out of it, no matter where they might be found. Now British and foreign vessels sailing outside the sixty mile zone may laugh at either American or British cruisers. Their right to sail unmolested on the high seas has been secured to them. We are not surprised that the Americans do not like the work of policing the sea cut out for them by the Arbitrators.

URGENCY NECESSARY.

There are some of our readers who perhaps believe that we attach too much importance to sanitary matters—that we make too much fuss about the perversion of surface drains and about keeping the city clean. But if such persons would realise that these are really and truly matters of life and death, they would see that we could not be too urgent about them or say too much. And this is just what they are. Every intelligent person now knows that the health of the inmates of a house or the inhabitants of a city depends in a very great measure upon the state of its drainage.

As soon as there is a case of illness in a house—typhoid fever, scarlet fever, dysentery, diphtheria, or what not, the very first enquiries that are made, are what is its situation? and what is the state of its drainage? for it is now known if the situation is unfavorable and if the drainage is defective the probability is that these are the causes of the sickness. Disease is now traced to these causes with as much certainty as that a shower will make those who are exposed to it wet, or that heat will stimulate perspiration. There is no room for mistake. The foul gases that exhale from filth-sodden soil or from an exposed drain, are as certain to produce disease as that an emetic will cause a disturbance in the stomach, or that opium or arsenic, if taken in sufficient quantities, will destroy life.

This is so well known in these days that there are diseases, and diseases that are very common too, which are called "filth diseases." They are caused by dirt and are continued by dirt. The only effective cure for them is to remove the dirt.

Unreflecting persons, because they do not see this poison in the air, and because it is not taken in pills or draughts, imagine that it does not exist, and they conclude that those who are afraid of it are full of whims—are, in a word, cranks. But they are not. Experience has shown that the insidious poison which men, women and children take in with every breath they draw, is deadly, and does infinitely more harm than recognized poisons, such as arsenic, belladonna, opium, prussic acid, and the rest. It not only takes away life, but it undermines the constitution, and where it does not kill outright it makes life miserable.

There is no use in hiding the truth. The men who are responsible for allowing a house or a city to be exposed to these deadly gases are as much poisoners as if they mixed arsenic with their food and drink. This cannot be denied, and there is no excuse in these days for being ignorant of the unwholesome nature of dirt in all its shapes and forms. A man is not fit to be a master of a house, much less an alderman, who is not alive to the evils consequent upon allowing decomposing filth to be exposed to the atmosphere which men, women and children are compelled to breathe. The women and children are the greatest sufferers from the foul air, which is generated in and near the houses in which they live. They must remain indoors the greater part of the time. If the air is poisonous, they are continually taking doses of it, unconsciously, it may be. The consequences of this slow poisoning are soon seen in the pale cheeks and languid bodies of the sufferers, even when they are not stricken down by a filth disease.

It is the very first duty of those who have the management of the city's affairs to take measures to have the air which the citizens breathe made pure and kept pure. Nothing should prevent their doing this duty. Cleanliness, in a civic sense, is not next to godliness; it is godliness. To neglect it is wickedness, for the consequence of that neglect is the destruction of life. The aldermen of this city would be appalled if they knew how many lives are annually sacrificed in this city of Victoria through neglect of sanitary laws on the part of the Corporation. Let the city be well drained, let it be clean in other respects and let it be supplied with pure water, and there would be immediately such an improvement in the public health, such a diminution in the death rate as would fill the intelligent observer with wonder. This is what has taken place in cities of the Old World, and, as like causes produce like effects, this is what would take place here.

Being convinced, then, of the deplorable effects that follow disregard of the laws which are known to be necessary for the preservation of the public health, and knowing the beneficial consequences of observing those laws, it cannot be surprising that we condemn the neglect and perversion which we see almost everywhere, and that we insist upon sanitary reform. When we consider the necessity of such a reform and reflect upon the lamentable consequences that neglect and ignorance are producing, we feel like condemning ourselves for being too cold and too slack. There is no political reform that can be mentioned that is half so important to the citizens of Victoria or that would affect them so closely and so beneficially as a reform in the sanitary condition of this city.

WHAT NEXT?

The question now is what will Mr. Gladstone do? Will he resign at once, or will he hold on to office and defer an appeal to the people on the Home Rule question until resignation is forced upon him? It appears that the Queen is of opinion that the proper thing for Mr. Gladstone to do is to resign now. She, of course, has the power to ask him for his resignation, but Her Majesty has always been exceedingly discreet in the exercise of the Prerogative. She may always be depended upon to act in a way strictly constitutional, and also in a way which will not tend to make monarchy unpopular in Great Britain. The probability then is that she will leave it with Mr. Gladstone himself whether to resign or to remain in office, and this we believe will be decided by the nation to be the proper course. To dismiss her ministry, as she has the undoubted power to do, would be to give the radicals and republicans and the whole riff-raff of malcontents a handle against her which they would not be slow vigorously and noisily to use. This is the crowd which is now denouncing the House of Lords for rejecting the Home Rule bill. But the outcry is a senseless one, for if the House of Lords is ever to exercise its constitutional power it could not do so with better reason or greater propriety than in taking the action it did on Mr. Gladstone's measure. The bill was in the first place carried by a very small majority; in the second place the people knew nothing about it at the general election and in the third place even at that election a majority of the people of Great Britain decided against Home Rule in any form. The Lords had, therefore, very good reason to doubt that the nation was favorable to Mr. Gladstone's bill. There are hundreds of thousands in Great Britain today who honestly believe that if it were submitted to the people now it would be rejected by an overwhelming majority. The action of the House of Lords is, we believe, approved by the great majority of the people of all parties and opinions. There are, we have no doubt, large numbers of Liberals who are pleased that the people will have a chance to decide directly on the measure. They believe that no interest will suffer by a little delay.

It is evident that Mr. Gladstone does not intend to resign just now. He is planning to go on with the work of legislation just as if nothing unusual had happened. Meanwhile all parties will be preparing for the appeal to the people. It is said by some that the Home Rule agitation has ended, that very little will be said about it in the future, and that the next Home Rule campaign will be a silent one. We are not of that opinion. We believe that when the next general election comes on in Great Britain the nation will be agitated as it has never before been agitated. The struggle will be regarded by millions as one of life and death, and men who believe that they are fighting for national existence will not likely be calm and dispassionate.

COUNCILLORS AND CONTRACTORS.

Our readers will be greatly surprised to find that ex-Alderman Baker has been nominated to the seat in the Council which he found it necessary to resign a few days ago. Why he resigned is well known to the electors. If all the members of the Council become interested in contracts, if they use their position to advance their own personal interests and to fill their own pockets, how is the city's work to be done? The law very properly fines a Councillor very heavily who votes after he has disqualified himself. Such a law was enacted in order that City Councillors should have no object or interest except the welfare of the citizens in casting their votes. The heaviness of the fine ($2,500) shows what the legislators thought of the nature of the offence. And they look upon the matter in the right light. The man who, when he undertakes to perform the duties of a City Councillor, becomes interested "either directly or indirectly" in any contract with or for the municipality, commits a serious offence. If the majority of the Councillors did this the citizens would be at the mercy of a ring who would be perpetually scheming how they could use their office to make money for themselves.

The electors of the North Ward will, we hope, remember this, and will teach Mr. Baker that they elect men to the City Council to do their business and not to fill their own pockets. Self-preservation, which is the first law of nature, requires them to do this, for if they do not show their disapprobation of every form of city jobbery there is no knowing where the evil will end. The civic corruption in New York that grew to such gigantic proportions in Boss Tweed's time had very small beginnings. At first the law in apparently trifling matters was violated with impunity. The electors were careless and allowed the law-breakers to continue in office and the whole corporation from top to bottom became in course of time completely rotten. The people themselves were mainly to blame for this.

Jobbery has made its appearance in the Victoria City Council. Bargains have been made between contractors and Councillors. Let the electors do what they can to put a stop to this. One of the bargaining contractors is before the electors of the North Ward for re-election. Let them show by promptly rejecting him that they understand both their own interests and the nature of his offence.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The ordinary demagogue cannot resist the temptation to declaim against the British House of Lords. The idea of hereditary legislators appears to him absurd, and he delights to enlarge upon the failings and the weaknesses and the incapacity of some of the members of that body. But does it not seem singular to him that, in spite of its admitted defects, the House of Lords has continued to maintain a high place in the esteem of the British nation? The British are a practical people, and if the House of Lords is the useless thing which the demagogues have been for a very long time representing it to be, they surely must ere this have discovered its uselessness and have utterly destroyed it. But they have not done this and are not likely to do it.

The truth is the House of Lords has done good work for the British nation. It has deserved the place it has held in the respect of the people. The idiots and the imbeciles and the "blackguards" among the peers as a rule take no part in the work of legislation. There are now, and there always have been, men among the British nobility who possess uncommon ability, and who considered it their duty to devote that ability to the service of their country. Besides, the peerage is being continually recruited by men from among the masses who have achieved eminence in different walks of life. The working lords, it is well known, do not in the least resemble the men who form the staple of the diatribes of the denouncers of the aristocracy. Lord Carnarvon in the debate on the reform of the House of Lords, of which he was an advocate, concluded his speech with the following passage:

In the age in which we live, when practical utility is almost accepted as the only standard, the House of Lords is a very remarkable institution; it is unique. For nearly a century the clearest thinkers have noticed the curious contrast of hereditary right to sit here and the practical work which has been achieved. Mr. Pitt even in his day ventured to give a short life to the House of Lords. Lord Macaulay more than a generation afterwards repeated the same prediction. In the opinion of those two eminent men this House seemed doomed to a short existence; it seemed to be incompatible and inconsistent with the new ideas that were springing up at the end of the last and the beginning of this century; and yet as a matter of fact this House exists, in honor and in public respect. And why? What is it that has enabled it to sustain itself so long? This House has genius, high learning, great honor, accomplished eloquence and a great fund of administrative capacity, and it welcomes within its ranks eminence of every kind; and the foundations of this House, I believe, have been laid deeper in the individual character of its members. Stainless conduct, high moral qualities, the desire of the good of others, wholly irrespective of party, have been the foundations and the pillars of this great institution. I entreat your lordships not to allow any doubts, or scruples or timid counsels to mar the unanimity of the vote which I now ask you to give on this question.

There are good sense, truth and eloquence in Lord Carnarvon's peroration. The British House of Lords still lives and the noble lord showed why it has been allowed to exist.

Has it ever occurred to the denouncers of hereditary legislators that it would be very difficult indeed, perhaps impossible, to destroy the influence of the aristocracy in the British Halls of legislation. They do not we presume propose to cut off the heads of the aristocrats or strip them of their possessions. If they succeeded in abolishing the House of Lords as one of the Estates of the Realm they could not prevent the people electing them to Parliament. This they would surely do, for the nobility of Great Britain in spite of all that has been said against them have a deep hold on the respect and affection of the people. No one who knows what stuff the British aristocracy is made of doubts for a moment that its members would be able to hold their own in the legislature of the nation. Their patriotism, too, is of the healthy, stalwart kind. If the House of Lords were abolished and they were deprived of their hereditary privileges as legislators, it is not to be supposed that they, either as individuals or as a class, would sulkily retire into private life and take no part in the management of the affairs of the nation. Would they not rather enter the arena of public life and make the most of their political rights and privileges?

The demagogues point to the United States to show how a people can govern themselves without a privileged class. Well, what do we see there? An Upper Chamber, in which seats are for sale. Millionaires know how to buy those seats, and they are, in these days, not slow in making use of their knowledge. At this very day members of a class are obstructing legislation in that Chamber, which is ardently desired by the majority of the people. The prospect, not very long ago, was that they would be successful in defeating the legislation of the people's representatives, and as it is they are doing what they can to lengthen out a crisis that is every day doing an immense amount of harm to the nation. The influence of the plutocrats in the United States has become very great indeed, and it is used without scruple for purposes the most selfish and ignoble. What is going on in the United States is teaching men, capable of thinking, a lesson. They are beginning to see that a plutocracy can be far more dangerous to a nation than an aristocracy. For our part, when the choice is between a plutocracy and an aristocracy, we choose, without a moment's hesitation, the aristocracy.

"DANGEROUS NUISANCES."

We see by a late number of the Ottawa Citizen that surface drains can become "dangerous nuisances." That paper complains bitterly of offensive smells that exhale from the drain gratings at the corners of the streets. The sewage, in the dry weather, accumulated in the drains, and when the rain fell the "foul emanations" became intolerable. The Citizen speaks of the drains as an "evil" which, "like any other dangerous nuisance, should receive immediate attention." The surface drains of this city, used as sewers, would be precisely such dangerous nuisances as are the Ottawa drains, yet there are members of the City Council so obtuse that they cannot see that this must be the consequence of the perversion which they would permit, even in the face of the opinion of the city barristers, that it is illegal.

UNTEACHABLE.

There are some men whom experience cannot teach. In this respect they occupy a position lower than the "fools" of the proverb. When Alderman Robertson at the meeting of the Council on Monday evening said that "it was time enough to build a contagious diseases hospital when an epidemic came," he showed that he had forgotten the terrible experience of this city during the late smallpox visitation, not very much more than a year ago. When the epidemic came, Victoria had no contagious diseases hospital, and the consequence was that the disease was allowed to get a foothold in the city, valuable lives were sacrificed, and the pecuniary loss was sufficient to have paid for building a village of contagious diseases hospitals. It is disheartening to think that the electors will send to the Council men capable of talking such mischievous nonsense as that which Alderman Robertson uttered with regard to the contagious diseases hospital. It showed that he is utterly unteachable and hopelessly incapable and ignorant. What have the citizens to expect of the City Council when men of Mr. Robertson's calibre have the power to vote on questions of importance, and are in a position to perpetuate abuses and to put a stop to improvement and reform.

A DEPLORABLE CHANGE.

The days of surpluses in the United States are past, at any rate for a time. The expenditure of every month is now greater than the receipts, and there is every prospect that this state of things will continue until the end of the year. The receipts of the United States Treasury for July and August were $54,796,661, and the expenditure was $72,981,117. This left a deficit of $18,184,456. By far the greater expenditure of the States is under statute, and consequently there is not a very large margin for economy, even if Congress were disposed to be economical. But it shows no signs of desiring to cut down the expenditure. It is, therefore, safe to calculate upon a deficit at the end of the year of somewhere about $108,000,000. This will leave the Treasury at the end of the year a good deal worse than empty. The gold reserve will have disappeared and there will be nothing to draw upon except the silver that has been stored away. This is not a very pleasant prospect for a country, even so rich as the United States. The necessity for raising a large revenue must interfere with the plans of the tariff reformers, for it will hardly do for the Government to cut down taxes, with a big deficit staring them in the face. The situation, as the New York Times says, is serious, and one which Congress will be obliged to consider and act upon before very long.

A PATRIOTIC CANADIAN.

Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston, is a Canadian whose loyalty is both intense and intelligent. He is a firm believer in a Greater Britain than now exists. He desires to see included in one great commonwealth the Parent Islands and all their colonies and dependencies. In one of the speeches which he made in his late visit to Manitoba he said:

One of the first duties of Canadians is to make Canada a nation, and that is possible through its being one of the family of nations that constitute the British Empire; we want to have a full grown nation from top to bottom. That aim can be reached through Canada being one of the constituent parts of the greatest empire on the face of the earth. He felt that as a Briton he should visit the mother Country and other self-governing parts of the empire, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. One of the many lessons learned in his tour was that the British flag floats over the strategic points of the world, and it is the flag of liberty and religious freedom.

There are some who declare that Principal Grant's idea is an idle dream—an utterly impracticable theory. Well, it is a glorious dream, and there is no harm in ardently desiring that it may one day be realized. There is this, too, to be considered: this dream, if it is a dream, does not seem so wild to-day as it would have appeared twenty or thirty years ago. A close union—the closest kind of union—of the different parts of the British Empire does not appear so improbable now as it would have appeared in 1867 and the years immediately succeeding that date. Principal Grant is doing good in fostering a wide and an elevating patriotism. We very much regret that he was not able to continue his journey to the Pacific Coast. There are many here who would have heard him gladly.

LAYING A PACIFIC CABLE.

A Foreign Company in Control and Freedom of Communication Menaced.

Canada Invited to Assist in Securing a Line Under British Control.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SYDNEY, N. S. W.
August 17, 1893.

Under auspices not favorable to the long cherished idea of a Pacific cable from Canada to Australia free from the risk of interruption through connection with the territory of any European power other than Great Britain, the French ship Francois Arago will this week set out from Moreton bay to lay between Bundaberg, in Queensland, and New Caledonia, the eight hundred miles of cable which formed her cargo from France. The project has been undertaken by the Societe Francaise des Telegraphes Sous-marins, of Paris, France, who are to receive a guarantee from the governments of France, of Queensland and of New South Wales, of £12,000 a year for thirty years, over and above the expense of working the cable, the French Government's share of the guarantee being £8,000 and that of each of the others £2,000, up to which amount Government messages are to be transmitted free. The agreement with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland does not specifically bind them to this New Caledonia line as part of the only cable to North America to be laid from their shores, but there are two paragraphs in the agreement which are evidently understood in that sense by the French company. This agreement was signed in April, 1892. The agent of the French company, Audley Coote, in the correspondence leading up to the contract said:

"The following route has been decided upon, viz: From Queensland to New Caledonia, then Fiji, thence Samoa, thence Fanning Island, thence Honolulu, thence San Francisco or Vancouver, either of the two last named places to be decided upon by the Australian Governments.

"The approximate cost to complete the main cable is about £2,000,000, upon which a sum equal to 4 per cent. guarantee will be most likely asked, which means about £80,000 a year, of which Canada has promised to give her share in proportion to population, and the Government of Hawaii have passed a special act of parliament giving as her share an absolute subsidy of £5,000 a year. The King of Samoa has given the absolute right for landing cables into and out of that archipelago, and we have every reason to believe that England and Germany will assist on behalf of that place toward a guarantee. The authorities of Fiji have recommended and asked that the Imperial Government give £5,000 a year, and the last Congress of the United States of America gave £5,000 towards completing the survey from San Francisco to Honolulu, which was finished about two months ago.

"I undertake, on behalf of the Societe Francaise des Telegraphes Sousmarins, to immediately carry on the next section to Fiji, and upon that section being finished, to the third section, viz., Samoa, and so on, until Honolulu and Vancouver are reached, provided that an equitable guarantee is subscribed by the Australian colonies, and other interested parties."

A letter from Sir John A. Macdonald, dated Ottawa, January 24, 1891, appears in the printed correspondence, addressed to the Hon. Audley Coote, M.L.C., Hobart, Tasmania. In this the then Canadian Premier states: "I lose no time in informing you that your communication is very gratifying;" and he promises to submit the matter to the Cabinet and write more fully later.

OBJECTIONS TO THE ROUTE.

As soon as the Government of Victoria became aware of the terms of the contract made by New South Wales and Queensland, a letter of friendly remonstrance was addressed (19th November, 1892,) to the Premiers of those colonies, but without result. The objections are outlined in a letter which Hon. J. B. Patterson, Premier of the colony of Victoria, forwarded to Sir John Thompson, Premier of Canada, on the 8th May, 1893, in which the writer says:

"The subject of a main Pacific cable for telegraphic communication between Australasia and Canada has recently engaged the attention of the Australasian governments, and there is a point in connection with it which I desire to bring under your notice.

"The project in question has for some years been under consideration; but I would particularly refer to the discussion which took place at the Colonial Conference held in London in 1887; vide pp. 212 et seq. of the Proceedings of the Conference.

"The proposals of Mr. Sandford Fleming formed the basis of the discussion; and the principle enunciated by him, that any cable between Australia and America should pass through British territory as exclusively as possible, was cordially endorsed by the other members of the conference.

"Recently, however, the colonies of Queensland and New South Wales have entered into a contract with a foreign company—the Societe Franpaise des Telegraphes Sous-marins—for a cable to New Caledonia, which is not a British possession, and the formal contract of the New South Wales Government with the company contains the following clause, viz.:

"The said cable shall form part of the main Pacific cable connecting Queensland with Vancouver, San Francisco, or other such places in North America as may hereafter be determined. The published correspondence of the Queensland government shows the same understanding.

"I do not dwell upon the point referred to in the correspondence that the engagement has been entered into by the two colonies independently, further than to remark that the other colonies, not having been consulted, are, of course, not responsible in the matter. But the feature of it, which I desire more particularly to bring to your notice, is that the principle so much pressed in the Colonial Conference, of adhering as far as possible to British territory in the laying of this cable, has been quite abandoned in the contract with the Societe Francaise des Telegraphes Sous-marins. Not only is the cable to pass—quite needlessly—through New Caledonia, but even the American terminus may be foreign territory as well.

"Canada having, not only in its great railway but in its advocacy of a Pacific cable, always supported the maintenance of a connection with British territory, I now lay the matter before you, and beg to state that the undertaking in question is one for which this Government has no responsibility, and that it does not view with favor the route which has been chosen or the contract entered into."

From the above it will be seen that the arrangement of a Pacific cable scheme with the several governments of Australasia will involve some difficulty, as in all probability the smaller colonies will side with Victoria in the stand taken. The present company appear from the records to have had five or six years ago to face a rival association of gentlemen who were then promoting a route excluding New Caledonia. The sanction and approval of the Canadian Government was at that time claimed by the representatives of the distinctly British route, who proposed that the line should go via New Zealand, Fiji, Fanning Islands and Hawaii, to Vancouver.

THE SEALING AWARD.

TO THE EDITOR:—I was amazed at the article appearing in last Saturday's evening Times, headed "A Babbling Ass," referring to the Honorable C. H. Tupper, and calling that gentleman to account in the most offensive language that a Cabinet minister had ever been referred to, for simply making a statement of facts to a correspondent of the COLONIST regarding the taking of seals, next year. I had the pleasure of a correspondence and many personal interviews with the Hon. C. H. Tupper. I can bear witness to the fact that, among all those working in the British interest, including Sir Richard Webster and Sir Charles Russell's son and twenty others, none made greater efforts to obtain justice for the sealers. The Hon. C. H. Tupper was constantly at the side of Sir Charles Russell, when that able and eloquent counsellor was addressing the arbitrators, for hours daily for over three weeks, and at the end of each day they repaired to their rooms in the Hotel Chatham and there consulted for hours on the argument to be adopted for the next day's sitting. If the gentlemen who complain would take the trouble to read the five books prepared by Hon. C. H. Tupper, setting forth the case and argument of the claim by the British Government, they would not rush in print with such an insulting article. I consider that the arbitration has resulted in a favorable verdict for the sealing interest. Not one of the counsel, or those connected with the British case, ever believed for one moment that the tribunal would permit sealing at any time in Behring Sea. Lord Hannen, one of England's ablest judges and diplomats, dissented from the views of his colleague, Sir John Thompson, on evidence produced by the United States of this fact, that out of 100 seals taken in Behring Sea 95 per cent. were females. This evidence, produced by the United States, came from the earliest sealers who entered Behring Sea, (in 1885), namely, the schooners Mary Ellen and Favorite, commanded and partly owned by British subjects, long before Capt. Cox or any one now engaged in the sealing business entered it. These gentlemen who are complaining of the award cannot understand that a large amount of sentiment was imported into this question of protecting seal life. The evidence furnished by the United States was from firms of undoubted reliability, who have in the last twenty years disposed of over three millions of seals, and they stated as a fact that nearly all the seals taken by the schooners, in and out of the Behring Sea, were females. Mr. Carter, the eminent counsel for the United States, upon this reliable evidence, in addressing the tribunal, stated that, unless his Government secured some award from the tribunal that would protect seal life, his Government intended to kill every seal, irrespective of sex, on the rookeries and on the islands. Every one of those deeply interested in the arbitration felt the force of Mr. Carter's remarks, and I, for one, solemnly believe that the United States would have carried the slaughter of the seals into effect. I am afraid that but few who are interested in the sealing business understand when Canada and the Imperial Government consented to arbitration there was but one question before the arbitrators, and that was how they could best protect this seal life from extermination. The United States will prohibit their vessels from sealing in Behring Sea or out of it. I consider that the *modus vivendi* has been a great boon to the Victoria sealers. It has prevented an overproduction of skins. Had they been allowed to seal in Behring Sea, the catch would have been double and the prices about one-half. I know that in 1882 the old Alaska Commercial Company petitioned the Congress of the United States for permission to kill 200,000 seals per annum in place of 100,000 allowed by their lease. They cabled to their agents, C. M. Lampson & Co., in London, asking their opinion if the market could take the extra 100,000 skins. They promptly replied that the 100,000 skins would bring more than the 200,000, as the trade could not take them. I know that the sealers have had larger prices for their skins for the last four years than ever known before. The reason is plain: The old Alaska Commercial Co. for twenty years brought to market 100,000 skins annually, which kept the seals taken from this coast down to 36s. to 38s. each. Things have changed very materially in favor of the sealers since the North American Commercial Co. have had charge of the seal islands, four years ago. The greatest number killed was the first year, 21,000 skins. Since then only 7,500 were allowed each year. The *modus vivendi* in this way has worked entirely in favor of the sealers in not limiting them as to the catch, whilst the company were limited to their respective catches taken. It is a certainty that when the company can kill 100,000 skins, as in former years, Northwest Coast skins will again relapse to old prices. The arbitrators have recommended to both Governments to desist from killing any seals for three years, owing to the evidence and report of Prof. Elliott, which states that the islands and rookeries are denuded of breeding seals. I was very much surprised at the liberal award made in allowing schooners to enter Behring Sea on August 1st, which is undoubtedly the best month of the season, and also allowing them to seal in the Pacific Ocean up to May 1st. That is the time when the seals, after having left the seal islands come to our coast for food and climate, and when the females are with young. I found Hon. C. H. Tupper ready to listen to everything that could throw light and interest where the sealer's interest were at stake. It is mainly due to him that the Indians are allowed to carry on the sealing as they have done from time immemorial. It must be flattering to the Hon. C. H. Tupper (now Sir C. H. Tupper) that so soon after the award the Queen has been pleased to confer upon him such a distinguished favor as a knighthood for his valuable services. JOSEPH BOSCOWITZ.

Victoria, Sept. 11, 1893.

His Little Hint.

BERLIN, Sept. 12.—Dr. Miquel, Prussian Minister of Finance, but who practically has charge of the Imperial finances, made an address to-day at Osnabrack, of which place he was at one time burgomaster. In the course of his remarks he said that his greatest day's work would probably soon be achieved. This statement is supposed to bear upon the new scheme of taxation which the Government will ask the Reichstag to adopt.

Eseljay's Liver Lozenges are not bringing the arrangement of a Pacific cable scheme with the several governments of Australasia will involve some difficulty, as in all probability the smaller colonies will side with Victoria in the stand taken. The present company appear from the records to have had five or six years ago to face a rival association of gentlemen who were then promoting a route excluding New Caledonia. The sanction and approval of the Canadian Government was at that time claimed by the representatives of the distinctly British route, who proposed that the line should go via New Zealand, Fiji, Fanning Islands and Hawaii, to Vancouver.

A HANDSOME STRUCTURE.

New Quarters of Robt. Ward & Co., Limited—The "Temple" Building Corner Fort and Langley Sts.

Well Lighted and Well Ventilated, Steam Heated Throughout and With Every Convenience.

Messrs. Robert Ward & Co., Limited, have now moved into and become comfortable settled in their new premises, the handsome building below the Bank of British Columbia, known as the Temple. The site is on the corner of Fort and Langley streets, with the entrance on the former, and it is fitting that on such an advantageous location there should have been erected what is conceded by all to be the most attractive office building in the Province.

The Temple is a two-story structure in which the architect, Mr. S. Maclure, has combined the greatest possible utility with a rare amount of attractiveness. The foundation is of Cobble Hill sandstone, which is built up sufficiently high to make the brick work show up well. The bricks used in the walls were all hard pressed and, the building having terra cotta facings, the work looks even to a novice very neat and massive, while experts at once pronounce it very substantial and solid. The main entrance on Fort street is through an extremely handsome archway, which, rising over the doorway, includes in the semi-circle above a large plate glass window on the main office floor. The sides of the archway are supported by round polished Scotch granite pillars, adding very much to the general effect. Just inside the entrance is a short landing, from which are the entrances to the downstairs offices, and from this landing there runs up to the main offices a handsome stone staircase with low, wide steps, which are very easy to ascend. The principal offices are on the top story. They are occupied by Robert Ward & Co., who have thus obtained ample room for their large and continually increasing business. The general office occupies the whole of the upstairs back of the entrance, and is especially well lighted and ventilated in addition to affording plenty of accommodation. This office is separated from the corridor by a handsome antique oak counter, with a pretty solid brass railing on top and bevelled English plate glass windows. The counter was made in Victoria by Messrs. Weiler Bros., and is one of the most handsome pieces of work ever turned out of their factory. The wood is what is known as water finished; the process giving it a peculiar, rich coloring that at once bespeaks its worth. The brass railing divides the counter space into various compartments for the different lines of business carried on, such as finance, insurance, general shipping, etc. Off the general office is the capacious vault, the largest in the city. This essential of every well regulated, first-class office has been constructed as well with an eye for the future as for the present, and will be large enough for any increase of business. There is a similar vault below, for the downstairs offices. At the rear of the general offices are the lavatories, etc., and at the southwestern corner the staircase leading to the large warehouse below, from which there is a direct shipping entrance for freight and merchandise opening out on Langley street.

The private offices for the use of members of the firm are on the same floor as the general offices, and occupy the whole of the front upstairs. Mr. Robert Ward uses the room in the front on the north west corner, Mr. Thomas R. Smith's office being behind and Mr. W. A. Ward has the quarters in the north east corner, there being a private office between the two for the use of stenographer and typewriter.

Downstairs are two handsome offices at present unoccupied. They have separate entrances from the main archway in front with conveniences for each and can be used either *en suite* or separately.

The building is steam heated throughout, one of the most modern of Gurneys appliances having been put in. There are also handsome gas and electric light fixtures in all parts of the building.

Taken as a whole the Temple is possibly the finest building ever put up in Victoria. While not so large as some of the combined structures that have been built in the city, it is more complete than any other and for the purposes for which it was intended could not have been more convenient, while nothing has been lost in architectural beauty and design, and no expense has been spared to make it attractive as well as massive. Its owners have reason to congratulate themselves on the work which is generally acknowledged to be a credit to them and to the city.

DUBLIN'S MAYOR

Will Get the Cold Shoulder From Chicago Irishmen.

CHICAGO, Sept. 11.—The Irish and Irish-American residents of this city have been engaged for the past few months in preparing a reception for Lord Mayor Shanks, of Dublin, upon his visit to this city this week, but recent developments would indicate that these elaborate arrangements have fallen through, and that the coming and going of the chief magistrate of the capital city of Ireland will be unheralded by the blare of trumpets or the acclaim of loyal Irishmen. Early in August the Lord Mayor tendered a banquet to the officers of the United States man-of-war Chicago, then moored in Irish waters. He invited to this function the Imperial officers resident in Dublin castle, but neglected to extend a similar courtesy to the common council of the city and other representatives of the Home Rule government. Hence his popularity in Chicago is on the wane among the sons and daughters of Erin's Isle, and the arrangements for his reception have been declared "off."

Boss Buckley Again.

BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 11.—Christopher A. Buckley, the blind ex-"boss" of San Francisco politics, who about three years ago was indicted by the California courts and fled to Montreal, and later went to Europe, arrived in this city this morning on a Cunarder, accompanied by his wife and son. In an interview he said he returned to America resolved never again to enter politics. He says he will stand defiant of the indictments against him, claiming they were procured by fraud. He will remain in the east a few weeks before departing for California.

UNBEARABLE AGONY.

For three days I suffered severely from summer complaint, nothing gave me relief and I kept getting worse until the pain was almost unbearable, but after I had taken the first dose of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry I found great relief and it did not fail to cure me.

WM. T. GLYNN, Wilfrid, Ont.