

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1895.

THE JAPANESE EXPERIMENT.

Constitutional government is still on trial in Japan. It is not yet quite five years since the Japanese began the experiment of working representative institutions. Before 1890 their government was "despotism tempered by assassination."

The Japanese constitution came into operation in November 1890. Since then they have had three dissolutions and four parliaments. The reader may infer from this that during the last four years the Japanese have had politically a pretty lively time.

The Constitution of Japan has some peculiarities. The Cabinet, to begin with, is independent of Parliament, or, as it is called, the Diet.

Those already fixed expenditures based by the Constitution upon the powers appertaining to the Emperor, and such expenditures as may have arisen by the effect of law, or that appertain to the legal obligations of the Government, shall be neither rejected nor reduced by the Imperial Diet without the concurrence of the Government.

This provision of the Constitution takes out of the power of the representative of the people at one fell swoop at least three-fourths of the revenue—that is, out of a revenue of \$80,000,000 the Constitution takes \$60,000,000 as fixed expenditures.

The Diet is composed of two chambers, an Upper House and a Lower House. The Upper House is composed of nobles. There are in it ten princes of the blood, ten dukes and twenty-one marquises who hold hereditary places.

It was expected that the Lower House would contain by far the greater part of the business talent of the Diet. But this has been proved to be a mistake. The Upper House is much the superior in ability, and it is more workable than the Lower House.

A considerable proportion of the Lower House consists of "bribe-barristers, Government clerks drawing 50 yen per month, and a whole crop of needy adventurers." The proceedings of the House are described as not being at all dignified.

of war with China matters had come to a pretty bad pass in the Japanese Parliament. Donnybrook fair scenes were frequent and the House was found by the Government to be quite unmanageable.

CORNERED.

Mr. Laurier was, when speaking at a place in Ontario called Merrickville, so desirous to make capital for himself and his party as to slander a dead statesman whose character was without a stain, and who in ability was far and away his superior.

But Mr. Laurier did what some people consider worse than a crime when he slandered Sir John Thompson in this way—he committed a blunder. For the present Minister of Justice as soon as he read the passage of the speech in which the calumny occurs immediately telegraphed to the Leader of the Opposition the following inquiry:

OTTAWA, Oct. 16. To Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Delia, Ont.: You are reported in the Mail and Empire of the 15th inst. to have stated at Merrickville as follows: "There were convicts in the jails of Montreal and Toronto, he said, speaking of the liberation of Messrs. McGreevy and Connolly, who had just as good a reason to regain their freedom. The government would not interfere in the interests of the former, however, because they had not signed out of the Conservative administration."

Mr. Laurier when he made the assertion reflecting on the memory of the late Minister of Justice no doubt never expected to be brought to book in this way. He of course did not know of such convicts and could not give a direct and an honest answer to Sir C. H. Tupper's demand for names.

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Everyone who reads Mr. Laurier's accusation knows well that he did not mean that all persons who are sentenced to imprisonment suffer in health, and that they deserve as well to be liberated as did Messrs. McGreevy and Connolly.

The way in which many American newspapers rave about the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela must be surprising to any United States citizen who makes the least pretension to fairness or even intelligence.

The country has been patient to the verge of ignominy in the face of persistent and systematic British aggressions in Venezuela. If the Herald's dispatch is correct—and the course of British officials in South America makes its accuracy highly probable—the time has come when the United States must take a stand.

the face for the United States. For seventy years we have been proclaiming that the extension of European sovereignty in the Western Hemisphere would be considered an act of hostility to the American Government. We are now challenged to make our words good, or confess before the world that we are a nation of cowards and prevaricators, whose professions of policy are empty sound, and whose rightful interests on the South American continent are at the mercy of British arrogance and rapacity.

It is no wonder that the New York Post stigmatizes papers of this class as blather-skites. What cause have the people of the United States to exercise "patience" with respect to the boundary dispute between the South American Republic and Great Britain? What business is it of theirs? What can be more foolish or more unprincipled than to speak of British "aggression" and British "rapacity" without having taken the trouble to find out whether or not Great Britain is rapacious or has encroached upon the rights of Venezuela.

DURRANT'S TRIAL.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 23.—Attorney Durrant was not well enough to appear in court this morning. It is expected that he will be able to resume work in two or three days.

Dr. Gilbert F. Graham was recalled for further examination but was soon withdrawn, and Miss Carrie Cunningham, newspaper reporter, was called. She testified that on August 18 Durrant told her that while he was repairing the sun burner he looked through a crack in the wall and saw Blanche Lamont on the second landing of the belfry.

In order to discredit the testimony of W. J. Phillips, who said he saw Durrant enter the pawnbroker's shop on April 12, he was recalled and asked about the character of the hotel that he formerly conducted at Victoria, B.C., but the questions failed to show that he was ever engaged in any business that was not respectable.

It is expected that Assistant District Attorney Peirson will open for the defence, and will be followed by Attorney Dickinson or Judge Thompson for the defence. District Attorney Barnes will make the closing argument for the prosecution.

KIRKLAND'S RECALL.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—Rear Admiral Kirkland's recall arose from his congratulating President Faure, of France, on his election, which Secretary Herbert thought improper and unnecessary; from making complimentary remarks about American missionaries in Syria and Armenia; from an alleged insult to a naval chaplain at the Kiel festivities, and charges of general indiscretion in commenting on persons and affairs.

For some time it has been rumored that Secretary Herbert was not pleased with the conduct of the admiral. Secretary Herbert contrived Admiral Kirkland's letter of congratulation to President Faure, of France, as a snub to the admiral, not as an officer of the United States navy, but as a private citizen.

Admiral Kirkland's recall came into public notice through a newspaper interview in which he made somewhat insulting comments on the character of American missionaries in Syria, which he had been sent to suppress. A protest from religious organizations in Boston was sent to the navy department. Following this second cause of dissatisfaction came a complaint from a chaplain in the navy that the admiral had insulted him before a number of officers during the festivities at the opening of the Kiel canal, where Admiral Kirkland was in command of the United States fleet.

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Narrow pieces of silk that are too small to be used for any other purpose are transformed into charming shawls for folding fans. Silk cord is sewed around the edge and a loop of the cord left to carry the bag by.

THE NEWS FROM LONDON.

Armenians Require Further Belief—The Porte's Vengeance on the Young Turkish Party.

London, Oct. 23.—The Times correspondent at Constantinople writes that the Porte is determined to adopt a course of vengeance on the Young Turkish Party.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

A B. C. Judge to Sit on the Joint Behring Sea Damages Commission.

Salmon Ova for the Fraser River Hatchery—Hudson Bay Exploration—Copyright.

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VENEZUELAN QUESTION.

Minister Bayard Denounces U. S. Press Misrepresentations on the Subject at Issue.

Interview With the Bishop of British Guiana—Speedy Settlement Probable.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The U. S. embassy this afternoon issued a statement regarding the despatches from New York published by the London Times saying that U. S. Ambassador F. Bayard had had an interview of an unpleasant nature with the Marquis of Salisbury on the Venezuelan question.

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