Notables of Europe

Berlin, March 16.—No date has yet been fixed for the Kaiser's departure on his Mediterranean cruise. It has been decided that he will go by North German steamer to Lisbon, where he will stay for several days as the guest of King Carlos. On his way to Lisbon the Emperor will call at Vigo, where he probably will be received by the Prince of the Asturias, representing King Alfonso, who may be detained in Madrid by the presence of other guests at the time. The Kaiser will land at Vigo, but will only remain ashore a few hours. It has also been decided that a meeting between the Emperor and the King of Italy will take place, but the precise date for it is not stated. The two monarchs will probably meet in the Bay of Naples. The Empress will travel overland from Berlin to Calabria, whence she will proceed by sea to Tansmina in Sicily, where a villa has been rented for the Imperial use. The Emperor will join her later. It is stated that nothing is known of a possible meeting between King Edward and the German Emperor at Lisbon, as the former's visit at Portugal will terminate before the Emperor arrives.

Madrid, March 16.—King Alfonso's motor car having been recently damaged by an electric tramway car in Madrid, orders were given for the prosecution of the tramway company's driver. The mayor of the district, before whom the case came, gave an entirely unexpected turn to it, drawing up the folowing formidable indictment against the plaintiffs: First, that the King's automobile travels at a speed forbiden by the regulations in the capital; second, that the royal car does not carry the tablet which every vehicle of the kind must display; third, that none of the King's motor cars has paid the tax levied on automobiles. The government is indignant at the mayor's action, and suggestions that he should resign have reached him. The mayor, however, declares that he has only done his duty and will not resign.

Paris, March 16.—Some amusing adventures among the criminal classes in "Whitechapel" have been related this week by Mr. Max Drarly, who is playing the part of "Tom Pitt, King of Thieves," at a local theatre, and has been studying his part at first hand, under the protection of an English lord. He relates one diverting incident of his life in the East End of London. Having invited a number of pickpockets to dinner, he saw one of them fill his pockets with eatibles. M. Drarly emptied a water bottle into the pocket exclaiming, "Come, come old chap, it's bad enough to eat. Now let it have a drink."

Oxford, Eng., March 16.—Mr. F. W. Walker, the high master of St. Paul's school, has placed his resignation in the hands of the governors. This resignation, which is expected to take effect at the end of the summer term, will thus remove from active school life one more of the famous head masters of the times. He initiated the movement which resulted in the migration of the school from Cheapside to the beautiful home in West Kensington, but he will leave for himself a memory for more lasting than bricks and mortar—the high intellectual standard to which he raised his school. The Old Pauline record of scholarships at Oxford during Mr. Walker's incumbency, has been a strikingly high one.

Odessa, March 16.—The Grand Duchess Elizabeth has adopted a truly Russian method of expressing her grief for the death of her husband. She has ordered that a period of forty days' dinners shall be served to the poor of Moscow, about 45,000 in number, at her expense.

Vienna, March 16.—Admiral von Spaun, who recently returned from Paris, took occasion this week to point out once more that the task of the commission of inquiry was not to acquit or condemn, but to investigate. This task was discharged as conscientiously as possible. All witnesses were examined publicly, and in their mother tongue. No witness was heard after the public proceedings were closed. All statements to the contrary are false. The commission endeavored to employ the mildest form in considering the matter, but the award nevertheless shows that the commission attributes to the Russians the responsibility for what happened.

Paris, March 16.—The appointment of M. de Brazza, the distinguished explorer, as the chief of a mission intrusted by the government with an inquiry into the administration and condition of the French Congo, has been received with general satisfaction. The circumstances that certain cases of alleged cruelty by French officials to the natives, have just been submitted for investigation to the judicial authorities at Brazzaville, has attracted special attention to the colony, the economic progress of which is not regarded as satisfactory. The fact that M. de Brazza, a naturalized Frenchman, who is looked upon as the founder of the French Congo, has had a long experience in the administration of those regions, gives him special qualities for the successful accomplishment of his delicate and difficult task. During a period of 22 years M. de Brazza's policy toward the natives was characterized by patience, clemency and kindness.

London, March 16.—Lord Selborne, who has been appointed High Commissioner to succeed Lord Milner in South Africa, was born in 1859. He is the son of Sir Roundell Palmer, the famous solicitor-general and attorney-general. He was known till 1883 as Mr. William Waldegrave Palmer. In that year he married Lady Beatrix Maude Cecil, eldest child of the late Marquis of Salisbury, and in the same year he became Viscount Walmer, through the elevation of his father, then Baron Selborne, to an Earldom. From 1885 to 1892 he sat as member of Parliament for the Petersfield Division of Hampshire, first as a Liberal, and then in the Home Rule split of 1886, as a Unionist. From 1892 to 1859 he represented West Edinburgh. The late Earl died in 1895, and on succeeding to the title the present Earl was made Under Secretary for the colonies under Mr. Chamberlain. For some years he acted as chief whip for the Unionist party in the early part of its existence.

Johannesburg, March 16.—The appointment of Lord Selborne to succeed Lord Milner, has met with general approval throughout South Africa. The Cape Times considers it certain that as Lord Selborne is a member of the present ministry and therefore identified with their South African policy, there will be no change in the ideals which guided Lord Milner. The appointment, adds the journal, should satisfy not only both sections at home, but public opinion in South Africa, which asked for the best that England could send to succeed Lord Milner. The South African News representing Bond opinion, says: "As a member of the government which conducted the war, Lord Selborne comes to us with his prejudices thick upon him, and as a cabinet minister he will find it difficult to take up the pacific opinion of a governor of a self-governing colony." It is generally understood here that Lord Selborne had no previous connection with the sub-continent, and he has a knowledge of colonial matters which has been acquired under Joseph Chamberlain. Ever since the question of Lord Milner's successor became a subject of conjecture there has been a strong feeling in well-informed quarters that, all things being taken into consideration, an entirely new man, unknown personally in South Africa, was the most suitable for the purpose. The Star this week said: "If the new constitution of the Transvaal be published without delay, the political energies of this colony would be devoted to the practical business of registration, and there is some hope that the animated discussion of abstract questions may be abandoned. A lull in the political controversies of the day would give the new governor time to form his own opinion of local men and matters. The task before Lord Selborne is none the less severe on account of the soundness and thoroughness of Lord Milner's statesmanship. The back of the South African problem has undoubtedly been broken, but the need of a wise, strong, able administrator still remains. Nor will there be any tendency to defraud Lord Selborne of the laurels he may win in his new post. Lord Milner's work stands distinct by itself. A definite stage has been reached. The man who has devoted years and health to the service of South Africa is able to withdraw from the scene of his labors in perfect consciousness that his task is finished and well done. He retires from the political world and will take a long rest abroad. His successor has an equally distinct task before him, with the sole responsibility for the manner in which it shall be accomplished. Fortunately, he starts under the best auspices, for he can count on a cordial welcome from the people of South Africa, and on the hearty and loyal co-operation of able lieutenants."

London, March 16.—Lord Farquhar is now convalescent, after an operation for abscess in his back. Though he has recovered from the injuries to his eyes, they have been left in a very weak condition. As Master of the Household, Lord Farquhar has constant duties to fulfill. The doctors are most desirous that he should have a complete rest. It is possible, therefore, that Lord Farquhar may feel it necessary to tender his resignation of this high position which he has fulfilled so ably since the King's accession. It was unusual for a Peer to be Master of the Household. In Queen Victoria's reign Sir John Cowell occupied the post for over a quarter of a century, and he was succeeded by Lord Edward Pelham Clinton.

Earl Cardigan's youngest son, Alexander George Cardigan, is the president of the Oxford University Dramatic Society, whose production of the "Clouds" of Aristophanes this week is arousing so much interest. Mr. Cadigan came up from Eton to Balliol two years ago. He is clever, like all the members of his family, and is among others things, an admirable French scholar.

An important debutante who will appear this season is Donna Orietta Doria, the only daughter of Prince and Princess Doria, and a niece of the Duke of Newcastle. She is a dark, handsome girl of 18, and has already been seen at a splendid ball given at the Palazzo Doria in Rome. Her mother is Lady Emily Pelham-Clinton, and is tall, dark and stately. Her jewels are marvelous, and she entertains brilliantly during the winter season in Rome. Prince and Princess Doria are leading members of the Black Society. Prince Doria is one of the wealthiest of Roman nobles and a golfer with an international reputation.

The Earl of Pembroke has a splendid specimen of a golden eagle which was shot recently in the Groveley woods. The bird has been in the neighborhood for some time past, and has worked havoc among the lambs, so its destruction became necessary. It measured seven feet from tip to tip of the wings, and is a magnificent specimen, and the first of its kind shot in England. About fifteen years ago Lord Pembroke secured two fine ospreys while fishing in the river which runs past Wilten house.

Remarkable details of the experiences of Mr. Evan Roberts, the young Welsh revivalist during his recent seven days silence, have been supplied by Mr. Roberts himself. One evening he started for a service at Brighton Ferry, when a voice said, "Don't go." "I felt some pressure on my soul," said the young preacher. "I went back into the room and sat on a chair. Twice again the voice spoke to me: "Don't go tonight," it said once, and then: "You are to be silent for seven days." From that evening until the end of the seven days the revivalist spoke to no one. During the silence Mr. Roberts made many entries in a small memorandum book, and some of the extracts are of great interest. The first item in the book was an instruction to Miss Annie Davies, one of the revivalist's singing assistants: "There is no person except yourself to see me for the next seven days. Not even my mother and father. I am not ill." Another entry refers to a divine voice, which spoke to him. "It was not an impression," he wrote, "but a voice." On the third day Mr. Roberts reported that about 11:30 "the sound of the name of 'Jesus, Jesus,' uttered in my ear, came to me, and I was ready to jump for joy. "I am going to be what God wants me to be," was an entry of the fourth day, while on the fifth day the revivalist wrote in Welsh: "I have been very near God this afternoon—so near as to make me sweat." In the evening of the same day, after having recorded a desire to go to Palestine, he wrote: "I have a mind to shout three cheers for Jesus." "You remember I said I would like to go to Palestine, but I should have no money to go," he wrote on the sixth day. "Well, a lady has written to me today offering to give me twenty pounds toward one of the delightful trips to Palestine. Diolch!"

The King and Queen are taking a great deal of interest at the present time in the improvement of the gardens at Buckingham Palace and Windsor. Lord Reddesdale, who is perhaps the finest landscape gardener in Britain, has frequently been consulted by their Majesties. At Buckingham Palace there has been too much overgrowth. Trees are being cut down and lopped, and the gardens, when finished, will be the most beautiful in England.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster, propose going out again to South Africa in October to visit the large estates which the Duke has acquired over there. A house is being built upon this property. It is hoped that it will be finished in time for the arrival of the Duke and Duchess.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who visited Rhodesia in September last, were the first members of the royal family to view the famous falls on the Zambesi river, named by Dr. Livingstone after the late Queen. In order to commemorate this visit the administrator of Northwest Rhodesia has, by desire of the British South Africa company, officially designated two of the islands above the Victoria falls as Princess Christian and Princess Victoria islands respectively. In reply to a letter from the Duke of Abercorn, Major Evan Martin has written as follows: "I am directed by the Princess Christian to thank you for your letter, and to say that Her Royal Highness and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein are much gratified that the islands should bear their names, and are deeply touched by the wish of the Board of the British South Africa company to commemorate the Princesses' visit in this manner." A third island has been named "Kandahar," to commemorate in a similar manner the visit of Earl Roberts in September last.

HEARD IN THE HOTELS.

Contractor for C. P. R. Hotel Completing Construction Arrangements.

From Saturday's Daily.)

J. Barrett of Seattle, who has secured the contract for the erection of the superstructure of the big C. P. R. hotel, is busy perfecting plans for an early commencement of work on the huge task. Just at present he is busying himself in arranging for the transportation here of the machinery plant which will be used on the job. Several of the largest buildings in Seattle were erected by Mr. Barrett's company, and a portion of the plant used in such work will be brought to Victoria. The steel to be used in the construction of the building has all been ordered in the East, and an initial shipment will be made at an early date. The stone, as already stated, is to be obtained from Haddington. This stone is the same as that in the parliament buildings, and save for the fact that it is exceptionally difficult to cut, is pronounced the finest building stone on the Coast. It is understood that the contract for the bricks has been awarded to Messrs. Smith & Elford. Three million bricks will be used in the building. Messrs. Lemon, Gonnason & Co. are likely to receive the contract for the millwork. Mr. Barrett made a flying trip from Vancouver yesterday afternoon, returning to the Sound again in the evening.

R. T. Reid, superintendent of the Western Telegraph Co., with headquarters at Seattle, came over from the Sound City yesterday evening and registered at the Driard. He is here on business and today will inspect the new offices of the company on Government street.

Among those who registered at the Driard yesterday evening was C. Thomas Hall, of Enderby B. C. He is down partly on business and partly on pleasure, and reports the outlook for the coming season in his district as especially promising.

The steamer Iroquois is giving the Islands a fine service, according to G. T. Mitchell, representing E. G. Prior & Co., who has returned from his annual spring business trip to the Islands of the Gulf. He states that the Islands are improving rapidly in the way of agricultural development and that many settlers are taking up land.

B. J. Short of Vancouver, who is interested in the establishment of a fish trap at Clover Point, is again in the city. His efforts to interest capital in the project have met with success. He has had the proposed site inspected and is satisfied as to the feasibility of establishing a trap at the point mentioned. Mr. Short is at the Dominion.

Another guest at the Dominion is F. W. Porter of Phoenix. He is here on a short business visit, and reports that the district is booming. The opening of the Great Northern railway to Phoenix has given the town a wonderful impetus. The past week was exceptionally mild. The snowfall was comparatively light, and mine owners are beginning to fear a scarcity of water in the summer.

"GET-RICH-QUICK" OPERATORS.

Company Promoter Arrested on Charge of Fraud.

Philadelphia, March 24.—Stanley Francis, alias Arthur S. Foster, a promoter of many companies, was arrested by United States postal inspectors today on the charge of using the mail for fraudulent purposes, and, after a hearing before United States Commissioner Craig, he was held in $100,000 bail, in default of which he was committed to jail.

The postal authorities charge that Francis is one of the leading figures in the Storey Cotton Company and the Provident Investment Company, which, they allege, are fraudulent "get-rich-quick" concerns. Both companies have gone into the hands of receivers, and most of the men who were actively identified with the management of the concerns have disappeared. Both companies did an extensive mail business in all parts of Canada, the United States and Europe. Hundreds of creditors have visited the offices of the companies here, but could get neither their money invested nor promises of returns.

The postal authorities have also caused a warrant to be issued for the arrest of W. H. Latimer, the missing manager of the defunct Provident Investment Company. He is also charged with using the mails for fraudulent purposes.

ROSS-McLAREN MILLS.

Big Mainland Plant to Again Be Put in Operation Shortly.

Mr. Lester David, the new proprietor of the Ross-McLaren mill, was in the city yesterday on his return from California, says the New Westminster Columbian. Mr. David states that he has at length completed all necessary arrangements for the re-opening of the mill, which event will take place at an early date.

The new owner says that he will bring sixty-five experienced hands to commence operations, all of whom will be accompanied by their families. When in operation he intends to have at his wharves from eight to ten sailing ships loading lumber steadily, and he is of the opinion that the entire plant will be in full running order with several ships berthed by the opening of the Dominion exhibition.

It is altogether likely that the new firm will make the initial exhibition of their cutting at the fair this fall.

Mr. David was enquiring as to what had been done by the government in the matter of the dredging promised, and also with regard to the appointment of a permanent river pilot. This latter matter, it is stated on good authority, is in a fair way of settlement. The appointment of a pilot and the necessary dredging of the river at certain points are of considerable importance to Mr. David, who expects to do a great deal of his shipping by the sea.

MR. McCORMICK'S TRIP.

Movement of Ambassador to Paris Explained From Washington.

Washington, March 24.—Inquiry here develops the fact that the orders to Ambassador McCormick to proceed immediately to Paris are to be explained, not upon the ground of any diplomatic emergency at the French Capital, but solely because of the president's desire to have Henry White, former secretary of the embassy at London, and just appointed ambassador to Italy, to take up his position at Rome at the earliest possible moment. The projected international agricultural congress, in which the Italian government succeeded in interesting the President, the attitude of Italy toward Santo Domingo, the possibilities of peace negotiations in the near future, involving combined action by the European powers, and several other diplomatic matters of importance, all new, and, therefore, preferably to be dealt with by the incoming ambassador rather than one about to be transferred, are some of the reasons assigned for sending Minister White at once to Rome, although he had fully expected to enjoy a vacation in the United States. This order to Mr. White involves making a place for him, so Ambassador Meyer will have to proceed forthwith to his new post at St. Petersburg, in turn displacing Mr. McCormick, who goes to Paris.

Victorian At Port Arthur

J. R. Gilchrist Formerly Empress Engineer Tells of Experiences at Eastern Fort.

He Was in Charge of Repairs to Stricken Russian Warships During Siege.

J. R. Gilchrist, a former Victorian, for some years an engineer on the Empress liners, was the last Britisher in Port Arthur. The erstwhile Victorian was employed by a Russian firm of government contractors and he took charge of repairs to Russian warships after the Japanese guns and torpedoes had rendered them "unfit for further service."

Mr. Gilchrist, interviewed at Hongkong, said:

"I went to Port Arthur in 1901 on behalf of a Russian firm of government contractors and engineers. Previous to the outbreak of hostilities in February last year, I was engaged on some important harbor improvements. I had also erected the waterworks plant, which, I think, has not yet been used."

"Then that disposes of the story that got abroad that the Japanese investing army cut the water connections?"

"When I left Port Arthur a little over two months after the war began, the reservoirs were ready, but there was nothing at that time to pump the water in with, though everything was ready for the connections to be made. There were a natural reservoir in the hills behind the new town, a fresh water lake behind the Admiralty basin, Chinese wells that were always capable of giving good water, and a very good distilling plant. The idea of the Japanese cutting off the entire water supply of Port Arthur is not correct. The fresh water lake alone is a mile long by half a mile wide, and would take some drinking to run it dry."

Mr. Gilchrist produced some photographs, in one of which—unfortunately fading away—General Kuropatkin is seen planting a tree to commemorate his last visit to the fortress. The others illustrated the fresh water lake referred to, the house of Viceroy Alexieff, the offices of the "Novi Krai," and other historic places in and around the Russian stronghold.

"When the Japanese attacked the ships were you impressed into the Russian service?" he was asked.

"Not at all. I simply took the opportunity of seeing some war. I wanted to see fighting and the effect of shell, and that was what really kept me there."

"And your wish was gratified?"

"Too true. I saw some very sad effects of war; so sad, in fact, that I concluded that war is a thing that ought to be stopped for ever. I saw many men killed by shell, and, of course, I saw the effects of the torpedo attacks on the Pallada, the Retvizan and the Tsesarevitch. I looked after the repairing of the Pallada in dry dock. On the 10th of February she had a hole nine feet by six feet torn in her hull at the turn of the bilge amidships. I was, of course, directly under the orders of the admiral."

"Had you any difficulty with the men under you?"

"Not much. Some of them, of course, did not want me as I was a foreigner. Indeed, on one ocacsion I was accused of signalling to the Japanese, which, of course, was a baseless accusation to get rid of me."

"Were you on board any of the Russian warships during action?"

"Yes. I was sixteen days on the Retvizan once—during the first attempt to bottle up the harbor. She was then grounded outside the harbor and I was attending to the task of refloating her. Torpedo boats attacked us so often that I lost count of the number of times they came. I have seen as many as three attacks in one night. The Diana, now at Saigon, did not go out much, but the Askold, Bayan and Novik did a great deal of hard fighting. It is a wonder that the plucky little Novik lasted so well as she did as she got a hole pierced in her during the first bombardment. Had she been a heavily armored ship she would certainly have gone down then. As it happened she had speed on and that carried her home. She resembles very much an exaggerated torpedo destroyer and was admirably managed. A remarkable thing that was much commented on by naval and military men in Port Arthur was the fact that the foreign built warships were the first to suffer."

"What effect had the shells?"

"Well, the very first shell of the bombardment killed and disabled twenty men on the Bayan."

"How did the Russians regard the Japanese attempts to block the port?"

"The officers of the Retvizan, with whom I was when the first attempt took place, had the greatest admiration for the bravery of their enemy. On one of the blocking ships—I think it was the old Queen of the Isles—it was observed on the morning after the attempt that a flag was flying from her main mast. Some Russian officers went across and removed it, when they found that a very saucy message was inscribed on it. It was spread out on the deck of the Retvizan and, as none of the Russian officers could read Japanese, I was asked if I could translate it. I was equally ignorant and, finally, Admiral Grevais translated the message, for such it was, to read that Port Arthur was doomed to fall within fifteen days! The Russians had great faith in their stronghold and firmly believed it would never fall to the Japanese."

"Why did you come to leave Port Arthur?"

Mr. Gilchrist smiled. "Well," he said, "I had had enough of it, and my leaving Port Arthur was entirely due to my own fault. I shall give you the story, but I should like first to say that my treatment by the Russians from first to last was the very best that could possibly be meted out to anybody under the circumstances. I was, as a matter of fact, treated as one of their own, and even better. Being a Britisher, and never by word or action causing them the slightest suspicion that my sympathies inclined the one way or the other, got me an open door into the best society. My reason for leaving Port Arthur is very simple. I was walking along the docks after dark one night when a zealous officer espied me from the deck of the Petropavlovsk and, not seeing distinctly enough to recognize me, ordered the sentry on guard to arrest me on suspicion of being a Japanese spy. The matter did not go far. I was reported to the admiral, who begged me to overlook the incident and remain. But I had had enough. Life in Port Arthur had become very uncomfortable at the best. It concluded that the same thing might happen again, with less pleasant results, and I had no desire to be shot by my own friends. Permission for me to leave was very reluctantly given, and I left some two or three trains before the investment of the peninsula was fully effected from the land side. As regards my treatment on board the battleship Retvizan, I cannot speak too highly. I had full leave to go wherever I liked."

Monkey Brand soap cleans kitchen utensils, steel, iron and tinware, knives and forks, and all kinds of cutlery.

DYKED LAND ASSESSMENT.

A. Cruickshank Discusses Live Topic in Its Relationship to Settlement.

In connection with the adjustment of dyking assessments, and the making of equitable arrangements between the government and settlers upon dyked lands, Mr. A. Cruickshank of Matsqui has been interviewed with respect to the business which brings him to Victoria on the present occasion. Mr. Cruickshank said:

"This dyking act resolves itself into a problem of not merely the recouping of the treasury of British Columbia for moneys expended on reclamation works on the Fraser river, but by direct dyking tax assessments of taking advantage of the large area of unoccupied land that there is in these dyking districts to secure for British Columbia a larger share than it has had in the past of the home-seekers who are now flocking to the Pacific Coast.

"I have been engaged in the business of settling the lands at Matsqui for some time past, and in the carrying out of my everyday work have been thoroughly convinced that a number of those who are ready to settle in our country is only limited by the number of farm locations on which a man can reasonably expect to carry on the business of farming profitably.

"In Matsqui I have been instrumental in locating about 100 settlers, many of them with large families, all of them with experience in farming, and possessing a sufficient amount of capital to make a fair start at the work of bringing that district under cultivation.

"All of these people have come to us from the different Northwestern states and the state of Washington. I have advertised largely in Canada, but so far have failed to locate men from Manitoba and Eastern Canada in Matsqui. I am satisfied that the advertising mediums I have used have reached the people in Eastern Canada, who are looking for homes in British Columbia, but have learned that the lands I have for sale at Matsqui are not what they want. Judging by the large correspondence I receive the people in Eastern Canada are looking for partially improved places, and are averse to undertaking the clearing and ditching that are necessary to home-making on our prairie. However, this makes little difference, as far as Matsqui is concerned. Settlers have been flocking in because the land we have is of the very best quality and once brought under cultivation as small holdings would bring a good return. Just at this time, however, when immigration was turned our way and Matsqui prairie was being quickly brought into revenue-producing shape, instead of, as formerly, useless to the owners of the land, and giving no return to the government, the publication of the conditions that new settlers must face has entirely shut off immigration and also, until the matter is settled, has put a stop to that development which was bound to do so much good to the country. This benefit would be mutual, whether a dyking tax were paid or not. The population of Matsqui will soon be over a thousand, entitling the country to increased Dominion allowance and creating assessible property under the ordinary revenue acts.

"Those best able to judge, the Matsqui settlers themselves, are thoroughly convinced that if at a time when all their resources are taxed by getting the scrub and swamp land under cultivation, and at the same time maintaining their families, it is impossible to take on the burden of the dyking tax proposed. Even if the settlers who are now there are not driven out, as they declare they will be, how is it possible to bring in new people and induce them to stay under these conditions? For this reason I have no hesitation in saying that the Dyking Act as it now stands effectually stops further settlement at Matsqui."

As a solution of the dyking question, Mr. Cruickshank suggested that the government reduce the capital charges to the actual value of the works and allow a rebate of assessments as a reward for lands brought under cultivation for a period of, say, five years. At the end of that time the land would be in a revenue-producing shape, and there would be no difficulty in the collection of future assessments. I am satisfied, said he, that all would avail themselves of the offer of a rebate under these conditions, and each year the security of the government would be greatly improved. This would apply equally to all the districts and would be entirely satisfactory to Matsqui.

A RAILROAD BUILDING BOOM.

Over Seven Thousand Miles Already Under Contract.

Chicago, March 23.—The Railway Age tomorrow will say that 1905 is to witness great activity in railroad building. A tabulated statement shows 7,500 miles under contract of construction and 9,322 miles of projected road which may reasonably be expected to materialize.

In Canada also the year will witness wonderful activity in railway construction, including the inauguration at several points of work on another transcontinental line, which is to add 3,500 miles to the system operated by the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

POLICY-HOLDERS DISSATISFIED.

Committee of Equitable Society Object to Recent Arrangment.

New York, March 24.—A committee headed by John D. Crimmins and claiming to represent a large number of policy holders in the Equitable Life Assurance Society met today and expressed disapproval of the four-year mutualization plan adopted by the society's directors several days ago.

The committee announced its intention to work for the election of the Equitable's entire board of fifty-two directors by the policy holders, instead of twenty-eight as proposed by the directors. Mr. Crimmins has applied to the state superintendent of insurance for a hearing on the subject, and the hearing has been set for Tuesday next at noon.

STILL MOVING NORTHWARD.

Russian Army Occupies Fairly Strong Positions and May Tempt Japs.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—(3:40 a. m.)—The Russian rearguard is now occupying a line of fairly natural positions thirty-four miles south of Gunshu Pass, the centre being the railroad village of Sipinghai, and the flanks covering the roads on either side, which, apparently, it is the intention to defend long enough to force the Japanese to show their hands. The Russians, however, may have no intention of making a serious stand, especially as all the correspondents continue to report rumors of wide turning operations on both flanks, indicating a probable basis in fact.

The correspondents believe a resumption of hostilities on a grand scale and an important battle are improbable inside of three months.

Brisk Action on the 18th.

Gunshu Pass, March 24.—(Noon)—The Russian retreat has now reached the village of Sipinghai, 74 miles north of the Pass, where it has temporarily halted. The army has been practically four weeks without rest, and it is natural that fatigue should be evident. The Japanese are expected to be advancing to Sipinghai positions along the railway and on both flanks.

A brisk action occurred on the evening of March 18th at Kaiyuan, the Russian rearguard beating off two heavy attacks which lasted until midnight. After blowing up railway bridges north of Kaiyuan, at five places, the Russian retirement was continued March 19, 20 and 21 with only light rifle fire.

The Mukden branch of the Russo-Chinese bank has removed all its money txcept $150,000.

DISCOVER NEW DOUBLE STAR.

Santiago, Chile, March 24.—The astronomical expedition sent out by D. O. Mills of New York is rapidly accomplishing its object. Twenty double stars have been discovered.

The Mills' expedition was sent from Lick observatory, California, with the sole object of searching for new stars.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA

The Attitude of the Dominion and Her Loyalty to the Mother Country.

By Clive Phillipps-Wolley.

London Morning Post.

It is almost impossible to tell the whole truth as a man sees it about any question in which Canada and Great Britain are jointly concerned without running serious risk of defeating the object which every honest Briton has at heart, namely, the tightening of those bonds which constitute the strength of the colony and add enormously to the power and prestige of the Mother Country. Anything less than the whole truth may be politic, but that is an accursed word, utterly un-British and responsible for half the trouble in the world.

But because it is extremely hard for any man to escape from the influence of his own environments, and to tell the truth untinged by local prejudice, unwarped by political bias, it is necessary to warn any reader of this article that the writer of it has lived for nearly twenty years in Canada and has twice been chosen by the Conservatives to contest for them a seat in the Dominion Commons. As against this fact let it be remembered that the writer has always stood openly and avowedly as a Briton who puts the interests of the Empire before those of any part of it, and then the character of the witness being known the value of his evidence may be weighed.

The question to be considered, put baldly, is: "What has been the effect on Canada of the services of her sons in the recent South African war?" A dozen men chosen haphazard from among us would give as many different answers to this question, and every single one of them would be right, in part. My answer will be like these, and no more. Undoubtedly the services referred to did not generate loyalty in Canada. So much at least is sure. That loyalty was full grown when the occasion for its display arose, and had already been proved on more than one occasion, and never more conclusively than during the Venezuelan affair. At that time Sir Hibbert Tupper, Minister of Justice, and the Hon. W. H. Montague, Secretary of State, both in our Conservative Cabinet, addressed a monster meeting in Montreal, and as one of them has admitted since they addressed it with some slight nervousness as to the probable temper of the people. Canada had no part in the quarrel then to the fore except as a child of the Empire, and the audience to be addressed was perfectly well aware that should war be the outcome of the complications which had arisen between Great Britain and the States, Montreal, the richest and most assailable city in Canada, would be the first to suffer and would suffer most severely. Sir Donald Smith was in the chair, himself one of the richest men in Montreal, and his peers in wealth were among the audience, and yet there was never any note of hesitation from the opening to the close of that meeting. With an enthusiasm which, as Sir Hibbert put it, "fairly lifted the roof" the men of Montreal declared their intention of standing by the Empire; and by that they meant war if their Mother Country could not obtain the fullest justice without it.

The National Spirit.

So it has been always. The younger sons abroad have always been ready enough to fight from the time of the United Empire Loyalists until today, at least as ready as their elder brothers at home, in so much that any danger there may be to the Empire seems to lie rather in their readiness for an appeal to arms than in the possibility of their flinching from sacrifice. If loyalty was not the result of Canada's service in South Africa neither was her military spirit the result of that episode in her history. As become her breed she had both these instincts by heredity. As she proved her loyalty in the Great Rebellion and in the Venezuelan affair, so she showed her national military spirit in the time of her Fenian trouble, in the suppression of the Riel rebellion, and notably in her contribution of some thirty thousand volunteers to the forces engaged in the American Civil War. In 1885 she made several offers of men and officers for service in Egypt. These offers were declined.

If Canada's service in South Africa did anything to affect the character of the Dominion's people it was in the direction of removing a grievance, of affording a necessary vent for her eager spirit, and of teaching her a valuable lesson. Canadians have volunteered for Imperial service, and had been disappointed in their ambition to serve while a smaller colony had obtained the coveted honor. In 1899 her services were accepted, and the Mother Country acknowledged their value in most generous fashion. Among British soldiers it is sometimes hinted that for reasons of policy those services were almost too generously appreciated, that the colonists were made too much of, so that a danger arose of turning a young people's head and of filling its mind with an erroneous impression that discipline and long training were of little value compared to the magnificent raw material and mother wit of our colonial irregulars.

Surely this is a mistaken view. It may be that the colonists saw with the clear eyes of boys the red tape with which Great Britain's strong men are sometimes bound; that they were occasionally indignant at the folly of some youngster from the militia; that having an experience of war limited to their own short and comparatively restricted share in it, they regarded the science of it from a narrow point of view, remembering the surprises into which a bushman would not have blundered and overlooking the fact that the Boers, the finest invididual fighters ever opposed to Great Britain, failed just because, having no discipline, they could never take full advantage of their successes; but the Canadians at any rate, came back, as they state freely, ready at any time to serve again under Imperial officers.

The Political Influence.

What better proof could the Canadians have given of their appreciation of the value of training and of a real soldier than they gave recently in the deplorable Dundonald Incident? People at home cannot, of course, realize the overpowering influence of politics in every branch of life in Canada, and therefore they cannot estimate accurately the value of the demonstration in favor of Lord Dundonald after his dismissal any more than they can appreciate the national and universal character of the loyalty which in 1899 enabled a Conservative Opposition to force the hand of Canada's Premier, and to compel him, in spite of his manifested reluctance, and the opposition of his friends, to send contingent after contingent to South Africa. Though the promise of another trans-continental railway and the liberal use of a surplus as an election fund has brought Sir Wilfrid Laurier a continued lease of power at the late election, his reluctance to send troops to South Africa, and his share of responsibility for the Dundonald incident have neither been forgotten nor forgiven.

If the British press, which to us represents the British people, was not so busy coining psalms of praise for the Premier who in 1899 tried to throttle Canadian loyalty to please his colleague Mr. Tarte and the Frenchmen who read La Patrie, psalms of praise which are used among the English-speaking voters as testimonials in favor of the Liberals, we might possibly today be ruled by the party which forced Sir Wilfrid's hand in 1899. In Canada, in order to succeed in life, whether you are a policeman or a colonel, you must belong to the party in power. If you do not, you will lose your job if you ever held one; you certainly will never obtain one, however capable you may be.

In spite of this deplorable state of affairs men of all stripes in politics, of all ranks in life, with everything to lose and nothing to gain, joined openly in a demonstration which, while it bore testimony to their regard for the general who was going, condemned as openly the government under which the demonstrators had to stay. Men who had not learned to really value discipline and proper military training, of which Lord Dundonald was the advocate, would not have taken the risk, but surely those who suggest that our young soldiers were somewhat spoiled by an over-indulgent Mother Country are but poor coaches in the art of war. If you teach a boy cricket you will wait many weeks before you point out to him that a four is a good thing, but a four driven with a straight bat is a much better thing.

The Pride of Race.

Since the war a great wave of satisfied ambition has gone all through our land. We wanted to prove ourselves loyal, we wanted to prove that we were chips of the old block, we were anxious for an admission that the Mother Country wanted us and thought us worth having, and we believed that these things have been granted to us. We could not go about the world reminding people, and especially our dear elder brothers when they came to visit us, that we had produced such men as Nelson's Captain Hallowell, Sir Provo Wallis of Shannon and Chesapeake fame, Inglis of Lucknow, or Fenwick Williams of Kars, and a hundred others, but now, as the people say, "we don't have to;" and, natural vanity a little pacified, our people have come back from their service more tolerant of the dear elder brother's airs, more proud of the mighty clan to which they belong, knowing of their own knowledge that our London is no small city and full of freshly sown ideas which only need judicious fostering to bear mighty fruit.

There never was a time in the history of the Dominion when the Mother Country had a better chance of consolidating that union with this colony which she is supposed to desire, and yet sometimes, in spite of official gush, the people wonder whether they really know what England wants. Does she prefer a poor and sometimes troublesome daughter in esse to a rich and friendly son-in-law in posse? Does she want to keep Canada at all costs, or are there any terms on which she would be glad to see Canada wed with Uncle Jonathan? That match will never take place say the Canadians; but if Great Britain does not wish it, why does she keep hammering at Canada about Canada's neglect to contribute towards the defence of the Empire; why does she withdraw her ships from either coast as it is rumored that she is about to withdraw her soldiers? Can it be that this is the retort courteous to her loved Sir Wilfrid's refusal towards the defence of the Empire? Does she pat him on the back with one hand and slap our faces with the other? Has she forgotten that there are Britons as well as Frenchmen in the Dominion, Frenchmen who manager to swing the elections here, but who know full well how completely they would be merged and obliterated if they went over to the States?

Mutual Grievances.

I am writing, it is true, from the most British portion of Canada, though I am glad to believe that Ontario and other provinces will challenge my presumption in saying so, but the bitterness which will be felt here if the little leaven of old country soldiers and sailors be withdrawn from our midst will require all the loyalty to balance it which made old men and boys volunteer en masse when England wanted them. Great Brotain has a grievance against Canada, in that Canada contributes nothing towards the navy which protects the Empire. But the Conservative party in Canada has the same grievance, I understand, against the party whose leader committed Canada to this position, though even the Conservatives may differ considerably as to the way in which Canada's contribution should be made, and may demur altogether to such sweeping assertions as have been made recently in British papers.

Plea for Understanding.

Canadians hold that they have contributed towards the defensive measures of Empire. It was Sir John Colomb himself who spoke of the Canadian Pacific railway as "a work of immense value in war;" Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who in the Commons described the Pacific cable as "a great Imperial undertaking of strategic importance," and a London journal, which spoke of our men as a "great reserve of strength for the Mother Country." But above all this we know, what Great Britain will not recognize, that as compared with the vast country we are trying to develop for the Empire we are a beggarly, poor people at present, and the writer knows well that there are intensely loyal Canadians who are as anxious as any Briton to see the States come back into the Anglo-Saxon fold, who squirm sometimes at the attitude in which Great Britain courts them; Canadians who smarted under the administration of the Behring Sea award, who thank God that they do not contribute towards the maintenance of the sealing patrol, who are not jubilant over all the incidents connected with the Alaskan boundary arbitration, who cannot believe that it is better that the British postal department should make a few extra dollars than that the education of Canada should be undertaken by British rather than by American magazines, and who yet would gladly listen to any scheme in which their money could be most profitably spent for defence of that Empire to which they are so proud to belong.

If Great Britain is in earnest in her desire to hold on to her colony it should be worth her while to try to understand Canadian politics or to refrain from showing any partisanship in connection with them, and gentlemen who compute our contributions to Empire might remember that the most taxed man of all is he who, having borrowed on his British property to invest money in building up another annexe of Empire, has to pay taxes on the same capital in the two places.

There are many such in Western Canada at any rate, and I do not think that they are likely to grumble so long as they are sure that Canada is and is to be only an expansion of the dear old home.

QUESTIONS OF NOMENCLATURE

New York Press.

A prominent Tammany man who fancies a game known as "draw