

QUARANTINE MATTERS.

Something has been done, but by no means enough, towards putting quarantine matters on a better footing. Dr. Macnaughton Jones has been appointed superintendent of the province. We can not say that we are in favor of this nomination. It was past him that smallpox slipped when Vancouver and Victoria were first visited by it, and upon numerous occasions the C. P. R. steamers have passed through his hands, even when they had smallpox on board, with, it is alleged, the smallest amount of detention, the disease having been more than once directly traceable to those whom they brought out. Then, moreover, other Oriental steamships had, it is said, greater obstacles placed in their way than had the *Empresses*. Dr. Macnaughton Jones, it occurs to us, ought to have been replaced by a younger man who is in closer touch with the very latest sanitary developments, and were this done we as well as many of our readers would feel a greater amount of security.

We observe, too, that Dr. Duncan, medical health officer of Victoria, has been appointed quarantine officer for the special purpose of inspecting vessels which arrive at this port from Puget Sound. The record of this officer speaks for itself; but it is to be remarked that upon more than one occasion, when in the exercise of the duty he owed to the city, he was resisted by the Dominion medical quarantine officer, who, though he may be open to blame for not longer detaining certain Oriental steamships, is, we must admit, certainly not censurable for not detaining Sound passenger steamers when he was too busily engaged otherwise to find time to attend to them.

ERASTUS WIMAN.

Mr. Erastus Wiman used to be regarded as a man of more than ordinary ability and smartness, too. These qualities combined enabled him to make a mark of considerable prominence, commercially and politically—the latter in his own specialty, the promotion of Commercial Union between Canada and the United States. In deed, he was until it was destroyed at the last general elections the leading light in that political enterprise. It was unquestionably by his own force of character and real quality that he made himself the leading feature of the Dun, Wiman Commercial Agency and became a proprietary magnate and a financial power in the city of New York. However, it would appear that he has become a living illustration of the ill effects of the too common practice of an individual attending to other people's business at the expense of his own.

The *Monday Times* with whose inception he had, if report be true, much to do, after paying tribute to his personal and general qualities—which are of a very high order—says: "that he was led away to dismal lengths by an ardent temperament, and of late years by an inordinate ambition, seems now but too plain. His devotion to impracticable schemes of continental free trade, in which we must grant him to have been a conscientious believer, conflicted with his position in the Mercan-

tile Agency, as his restless, pugnacious policy in other matters has already cost him friends and influence here and at home. It remains to be seen how far Mr. Wiman's own estimate of the value of his various properties may be realized in the future. But, meanwhile, it is unfortunately true that 'having neither money nor commodity to raise a present sum,' he is at the mercy of his creditors. His total liabilities are variously stated at from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000, and his assets consist largely of real estate on Staten Island, stock and plant of electric light works, and various stocks and bonds. True it may be that if he had the means he has lavished to help others, he might not be in the present strait. Still, it is sad to find an influential man, with surroundings of authority and comfort, plunged suddenly into difficulty and disfavor."

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE Provincial surveys for the present year have been mapped out and show a very considerable amount of work to be under contemplation, by means of which it is expected, that some very important information will be obtained.

THE report presented at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway seems to have been a very satisfactory one, and to all appearances important improvements and extensions are under contemplation. It is announced in the Sound cities that the line is to be extended to Puget Sound, and that with this object in view the British Columbia and Burlington Bay Railway will be absorbed.

"CLEAN up!" is the word now-a-days. The city is, taking it altogether, in a filthy condition, and if we are to be saved from an invasion of disease or the breeding of it at our own doors, now is the time to take vigorous action. Cholera is, we may add making headway in eastern countries, and how soon it may come over here, as smallpox did in the Oriental steamers, no one can say. "Clean up!" we again repeat, and let there be no mistake about our quarantine arrangements.

NEWFOUNDLAND is not yet ready to become part and parcel of the Dominion, a proposition looking to a reconsideration of the subject having recently been rejected in the legislature of that Colony. The premier declared that he believed a majority of the people were opposed to confederation and that the present time was by no means opportune to deal with it. We may therefore expect to see that the same old trade and fishing misunderstandings will continue, the latter being aggravated by the French shore question. Not only are both the Newfoundland and Canadian fishery interests prejudiced by the French possessions on the shore, but the inlets and adjacent islands are the home of smugglers who

materially interfere with the collection of customs revenue.

WE notice that the members of the City Council have—what they ought to have done long ago—resolved to make further inquiries into the affairs of the Victoria and Sidney Railway, whose bonds were endorsed upon the vote of the citizens, the first interest upon which has already been paid out of the civic treasury. There has unquestionably been some sleight-of-hand business, by which the Company's shares have found a new owner or owners, and for our part, under all the circumstances, we are inclined to think that there is a grave legal question involved as to the relations of the city of Victoria, and the enterprise as it really exists. Light is wanted on the entire subject, and plenty of it before another dollar is paid out or any further responsibility—moral or otherwise—assumed.

THE Winnipeg Board of Trade has appointed a delegation to the International Convention to be held in St. Paul, in June, to discuss questions of interest affecting the United States and Canada. Their instructions are to co-operate with and heartily support any movement with the aim of improving the water ways or any movement likely to cheapen and improve transportation between the northwest of both countries, and the seaboard. They are, moreover, instructed as to their attitude on the tariff question. At the same meeting it was further resolved that the board communicate with the premier of the Dominion and urge that some of the cabinet ministers visit Winnipeg, as they have Montreal and Toronto, to enquire on the spot into the working and effects of the present customs tariff.

THE *News-Advertiser*, whose editor sat on the fence until he saw he could gain nothing by remaining there any longer when he concluded to take his legitimate place as an opponent of the Government, accuses the BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL of being a ministerial organ. Moreover, it insinuates that in the interest of the Davie administration this paper holds out a bribe to the people of the Mainland in the matter of the construction of the Parliamentary Buildings at James Bay. It is needless to repudiate the idea. We have never been in the counsels of the James Bay people nor have we ever placed ourselves in a position to render it possible for us to be connected with any project to administer the affairs of either the Island or the Mainland by others than the duly constituted authorities. Possibly it is on this account that the endeavour is made to put a brand of some kind upon us, and to make us wear a collar that would be an extremely irksome one. We have no individual axes to grind, and have no townships to boom; albeit we hold it to be within our Province to express an opinion upon any public matters without asking the permission of those who profess independence as the most convenient way of gratifying their own personal predilections or of avenging their disappointed ambitions.