

The Colonist.

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COMPARISONS ARE ODDIOUS.

Comparisons are odious, so they say, but comparisons are inevitable in the history of the world. It is impossible not to set the one against the other. The two literary men who were singled out for honor in the coronation list were Conan Doyle and Gilbert Parker. The one literary man who was overlooked was Rudyard Kipling.

We do not wish to undertake work of either Conan Doyle or Gilbert Parker. The former is a patriotic and necessary history of the Boer war. In exposing the calamities of our Continent, critics and making a fair presentation of events in South Africa, he performed a service which earned a knight-hood. But Kipling wrote the Recessional. The latter is an excellent and inoffensive specimen of what may be called the after-dinner Imperialist. For his literary work alone, excellent as it is, he would never have received official recognition. He will wear his honors with dignity and will never outrage the conventional proprieties of official decorum. But Kipling wrote the Recessional. Why was Rudyard Kipling overlooked? To understand why we must take an illustration from, if not the greatest, certainly the most personal, of his works, *Stalky and Company*. Stalky and Company received no honors at school, nor were they likely to, and of the four, least of all the Beetle, our own Kipling, who was merely the clown and not the originator of their exploits. School honors are reserved for the youths who can say, "Yes, sir," and "No, sir," and "Please, sir," and "Oh, sir," with the finest modulation of respect and youthful enthusiasm. And what could be expected of a graceless gang who despised the game of cricket played from a sense of duty under the patronage of outwardly enthusiastic, but secretly bored, schoolmasters? Nor is life anything but a big school, where the honors are reserved for those who can say "Yes, sir," and "No, sir," and "Please, sir," and "Oh, sir," with the finest modulation of respect and youthful enthusiasm. Rudyard Kipling was not, is not, and never will be popular amongst the official and military classes in India. He has given us a wonderful picture of the inner workings of our Indian Empire. It is a picture redeemed only from brutality by the inherent justice and advantages of our rule. But it is the kind of picture in which the involuntary sitters do not admire themselves. Kipling has been, and is likely to continue to be, outside the pale of official recognition. Yet no man has more instantaneously interpreted and expressed the deepest emotions of his race. And that is literature. In connection with the South African war he was the echo and inspiration of the feeling which thrilled the Empire to the core. Yet he still remained outside the pale of official recognition. When he went to South Africa he penetrated the weakness of our army system with the same accuracy with which he delineated An-

gle-Indian life, and with a few biting phrases he exposed it. That is not the kind of service which earns knight-hoods. Yet the report of the army commission is nothing more than an amplification of the strictures of Rudyard Kipling, which were not only justifiable, but useful. Nevertheless, men who pierce disguises, dissipate conventional fictions, and rattle official self-complacency are not made Knights Commander of St. Michael and St. George. Therefore those to whom such a distinction is an object should learn to say, "Yes, sir," and "No, sir," and "Please, sir," and "Oh, sir," when they are young, or when they are old they will have learned that humanity will not clothe in tinsel adornments those who enjoy the process of stripping the tinsel adornments from the shoulders of others.

THE WEATHER.

We suppose that since language and writing existed men have talked and written about the weather. Not only do men perennially grumble about the weather they experience from day to day, but they are always discovering a circle of deterioration in the weather in general. A frequently expressed theory about the weather in the Northern Hemisphere is that it is tending to become milder in winter and colder in summer. Never does a very mild winter or a very cold summer come along but this theory is trotted out, and such seasons which are abnormal appear to leave a stronger impression than excessive heat in summer and cold in winter, which are in line with what is expected, do. We do not believe there is anything in this theory. There are, indeed, surprising variations in the weather at different seasons of the year, and it is no matter of certainty that any previous record will not be beaten. But that any actual permanent change has taken place within the limits of the observation of a few generations of men seems highly improbable and unscientific. A great deal of the talk about the change in seasons really arises from the fact that men, as they grow older, are differently affected by the weather. A bracing air to the young man is a snipping wind to the thin blood of age. Because the sun no longer warms him, the old man thinks it does not shine so brightly, and mercifully purblind, sees a change in his environment, which he should look for in himself. We all think ourselves mighty philosophers in saying "tempora mutantur," but how few of us continue the quotation, "et nos metamur in illis," and we change with them? Why one season should differ from the same season in a different year is no doubt dependent on a long series of natural causes and effects, but so far as comprehension of these causes and effects goes, it is still to mortal intelligence within the mysterious realms of the supernatural. The weather is always as unexpected as any miracle could be. One would look for the weather during a long course of years to work out like the sum of a recurring decimal. It may, but it does not. It has not yet been long enough to find the weather for a few years by observing its course at a particular place, and anticipating its arrival at some other point. But that is the science of a whence that has no origin, and of a whither devoid of destination. The weather itself remains a mystery whose manifestations are very often, to our limited view, undesirable and unnecessary. Last summer an excessively hot wave spread over the Northern Hemisphere; this year, the cold parts come the same stories of cold, inclemency and moisture. It is merely a wrong habit of the spring poet, written of spring, and it must be heralded which has made the flowers and trees blossom, because they have had little or no other encouragement. The present season is reminiscent of the English winter who wrote to his friend abroad that summer, and set in with its usual severity; and the conditions which prevail seem to be common to the whole Northern Hemisphere. In British Columbia, however, a cold spring and a late summer are by no means unmet evils. Excessive heat in early summer means floods, and floods mean widespread loss and devastation. Not merely that, but if our storage of snow is rapidly exhausted, there is certain to be a scarcity of water for placer mining operations. Last year the Yukon, Atlin and the Cariboo country all suffered severely from lack of water through the too rapid melting of the snow. There are always compensations in the apparently most severe decrees of nature, and as every cloud has a silver lining, even the much-abused weather is probably working out something of advantage to the very people who are abusing it.

BUILD THE BRIDGE.
We see that the city fathers have again been deliberating over the Point Ellice bridge, and we suggest that they stop deliberating and build the bridge. The people of Victoria have reached that stage where they do not care whether a stone bridge, or a concrete bridge, or a steel bridge, is built, so long as a bridge is built. We yield to none in our ignorance of bridges. We do not even know the card game that goes by that name. But we do know that eternal hounding of a question backwards and forwards is not the way to go about doing anything, particularly such a thing as building a bridge. The kind of advice, not for expert suggestion, however good. If a man is sick, he goes to a doctor, and in his case, and undergoes him he either dies or goes to another doctor. If a man has a legal grievance, he pays a lawyer for advice, and he stands in the courts. If a man wishes to build a bridge, he employs an engineer. He has no idea whether a stone bridge, or a concrete bridge, or a steel bridge, is the best. What is more, we do not wish anyone to try to build a bridge, or on what sort of bridge should be built, than the editor of a newspaper. So that the whole question resolves itself into this: Either the City Council is in possession of competent expert advice on which it can rely, or it is not. If it is not, it should be, and is to blame for not being; if it is in possession of expert advice, then for the love of peace and quietness, and for the benefit of the City of Victoria, it should stand aside and build the bridge without delay!

THE CHINESE QUESTION.
Mr. Wolley, in a letter to the Colonist, describes the failure of his attempt to do without Chinese labor on his ranch. Every subject that ever made in the province of British Columbia has failed, and every such attempt will fail so long as the Chinese labor is available. When a certain class of labor is placed in a country by another class, it is quite impossible for any individual to resist himself from supporting the laborer which is in a constant state of being. We all support Chinese labor, the strongest and Chinaman is precisely the same proportion as his neighbor. It is merely an affection not to do so directly. Because the same percentage of Chinese labor enters indirectly into each person's scheme of things proportionately to his expenditures. At present it only certain classes of labor and domestic servants who are displaced. But it is only a matter of time until retail trade and many lines of manufacturing are being taken over by the Chinese. The Chinaman is far more of a merchant and a barker than a laborer, and in every country in which he has obtained a footing he has worked up from menial labor to the control of the business of that country as well. It is this process in the United States, which led to the exclusion of the Chinese there, and all who have eyes to see may observe the same process going on in this country. The Chinese in the City of Victoria and the province of British Columbia.

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ORE PRODUCTION.
According to the returns of tonnage published in the various local papers, the ore production for the first six months of this year compares very favorably with last year, which showed a decrease of over 200,000 tons. In the Rossland mines have already shipped 161,777 tons of ore, compared with 278,000 tons for the same period last year. Shipments are to be resumed shortly from the Centre Star, Iron Mountain, and the other mines. The second six months of the year should show an increase of tonnage over the first six months. The Rossland mines have already shipped 161,777 tons of ore, compared with 278,000 tons for the same period last year. Shipments are to be resumed shortly from the Centre Star, Iron Mountain, and the other mines. The second six months of the year should show an increase of tonnage over the first six months. The Rossland mines have already shipped 161,777 tons of ore, compared with 278,000 tons for the same period last year. 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