The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1893

UNFAIR TO THE RURAL DISTRICTS.

The very peculiar declaration and appeal o the Mainland of British Columbia submitted to the Vancouver meeting by the Rev. Mr. Maxwell contains the following sentence: "The Island with 36,000 people has 16 representatives; on equal basis the Mainland, with 60,000 people, ought to have 27, yet it has only 17." Here we find that the leader of the new movement would apportion the representation according to the gross population without regard to those parts of it that are not entitled to vote. Neither the Indians nor the Chinese are enfranchised, yet Mr. Maxwell, to suit his purposes, counts them in with the white inhabitants who are entitled to vote. Now, it is evident that, for the purposes of representation, only the population entitled to be represented can be counted. The Indians and Chinese are not entitled to representation. They have no voice in making the laws of the Province. It is, therefore, both absurd and dishonest to include them in the population among whom seats in the Legislature are to be distributed.

According to the rules of representation laid down in this manifesto, the population of the rural districts is to be divided in the same way as the population of the towns. This will give almost the whole power of legislation to the inhabitants of the four cities. The agricultural and the mining interests of the Province will be almost wholly unrepresented in the Legislature. This is so manifestly unjust that the merest tyro in politics must see its impracticability.

In a new country like this, something else besides population must be taken into account. This is what was done when the electoral districts were first laid out. Thinly peopled, agricultural, and mining districts were given a representation not at all in proportion to the number of settlers they contained. The system has hitherto worked well. None of the dreadful consequences pointed out in the manifesto as certain to follow a disproportionate representation have taken place. Would the country have been well governed, and would substantial justice have been done to all parts of the country and all classes of the population if the representation had been apportioned strictly according to population—if the representation of the Province had been nearly monopolized by the inhabitants of the towns? We are quite sure it would not.

The object of the agitators is evidently to give the inhabitants of the cities an undue preponderance in the Legislature of the Province—to make them the complete masters of the situation.

It does not require an arithmatician to see that if the seats in the Legislative Assembly are divided mathematically according to population, the rural and mining districts will be almost completely wiped out. Their representation will be so small compared with that of the towns that they might almost as well remain unrepresented. Is there any intelligent well-wisher of the Province who desires to see such a state of things brought about? The elaborate calculations of the manifesto can have but one object, which is to give the cities the lion's share of legislative power and to whittle down the representation of country places to nothing, or next to nothing.

The electors of the Province must not for a moment forget that the system of representation which the agitators denounce has not been attended by any of the evils with which it is charged by the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, but that under it the Province has progressed in a greater ratio than any other in the Dominion.

RASH AND UNADVISED.

The clergymen who did most of the speaking at the secession meeting held in Vancouver on Saturday night are evidently not very well versed in the politics of the Province. The Rev. Mr. Maxwell held the present Government responsible for the way in which the representation of the Province is at present divided. This is manifestly unfair. The representation, as it is now, is the work of many Governments. The Province has been legislated for by Legislative Assemblies elected pretty much as the present one has been since Confederation, and, all things considered, it has been as well governed as any Province of the Dominion. The disproportions that he complains of have existed for years and no injury has been done either to individuals or localities.

Whether it has been productive of good results or bad, whether it is just or unjust, the Government now in power is not responsible for the present state of the representation. If the Rev. Mr. Maxwell had kept this fact in view he would have seen that many passages of his speech were without point and many of his criticisms most unjust and altogether uncalled for.

The worst that can be said of the Government is that they have allowed the system of representation that has worked tolerably well for so many years to remain unaltered for few a months longer. This is the only charge that can in any fairness be brought against them. Mr. Maxwell and his associate minister in the agitation have not attempted to show that the people of this Province will be injured in the slightest degree by the postponement of the Redistribution measure. They have not done this for the best of all reasons—they cannot. There is no chance of there being an election during the next twelve months. The Province, until the present House has lived out its term, will in all human probability jog along in the quiet way in which it has been progressing since it entered the Confederation. The anomalies of its representation will have no more effect upon its inhabitants than will the promotion of Sir Julian Pauncefote to the rank of ambassador.

Why the postponement for a few months of the enactment of a Redistribution law should raise a ferment in the mind of a Christian minister is more than we can comprehend. We can easily understand why a few disgruntled and disappointed politicians should make a handle of it in an attempt to bring the Government into disrepute, but why it should disturb the serenity of a pastor of a Christian congregation is a mystery. It surely cannot be possible that the ministers have unwittingly been made the instruments by which the designing politicians hope to accomplish their purposes. Yet upon no other theory can we understand why presumedly good and intelligent men should take part in an agitation for which there is no adequate cause.

The reason given by the Premier for postponing the Redistribution measure was, as everyone now knows, that the information supplied by the census was not sufficient or of a kind to enable the Government to do the work satisfactorily to themselves. The clergymen as well as all others who have taken an interest in the matter must now see that the Government were justified in coming to this decision. According to the promise given by the Robson Government the census of 1891 was to be the basis on which a permanent Redistribution measure was to be framed. When it was found that the information contained in the census was defective and unsatisfactory, what was to be done? Were the Government to draw up a Redistribution Bill by the rule of thumb? Were they to depend upon statistics that were known to be defective, or were they to take for their data the guesses and the theories of politicians interested in leading them astray? It will be observed that no journalist or politician who has studied the census returns has ventured to assert that they are correct with respect to the population of this Province. When those who are interested in showing that the census contains the information requisite to guide the Government have to admit that it is not correct, and that it would not be a safe guide to those entrusted with the work of redistribution, what sense is there or what justice is there in blaming the Government for postponing the task in order that they may have time to collect data on which it will be safe to rely? Requiring the Government to bring down a Redistribution Bill which will be fair to all parts of the Province, with the information now attainable, is worse than the task allotted to the Israelites in Egypt. Making bricks without straw, is easy work compared with framing a Redistribution Bill on figures which are defective and contradictory. So bewildering are the figures of the Census, that one of the clerical orators confessed that he was unable to understand them, and still he blames the Government for not undertaking to bring order out of that chaos.

When the whole matter is considered, we cannot but think that reasonable people—people who have no axes to grind and no vengeance to wreak, will come to the conclusion that the postponement of the Redistribution Bill has done no harm, and is not likely to do harm, that the Government were justified under the circumstances in delaying its consideration for a few months, and that there is really no more cause for agitation to-day than there was twelve months ago.

AN ENEMY'S WORK.

We find that efforts are being made in the East to deprive the miners of this Province of any advantage they may gain by the provision in the tariff exempting mining machinery not manufactured in the Dominion from duty. The following extract from an article in the Toronto Mail of the 10th inst., shows how an Eastern manufacturing association has contrived to make this concession to the mining industry of no effect:

At a meeting of the Quebec Mining Association just held at Montreal, a report of a committee which had been appointed to interview the Comptroller of Customs with respect to the matter was submitted. Mr. Franchot, a well known and enterprising phosphate miner of the Buckingham district, presented the report. Although the law, he said, provided that the oath of the importer was sufficient evidence as to whether any machine was manufactured in Canada or not, in practice it was found that the customs officers pleased themselves whether the oath should be accepted or not. The department had gone further and provided itself with a list of machinery, drawn up by the head of an interested manufacturing firm, all of which it was alleged, was manufactured in Canada. In the language of the report this list "bravely enumerated every machine from a 'boodle' or a 'jig' to the most elaborate modern and costly crushing or drilling machine. Of course the deputation protested against this list. The company in question did not by any means make every class and kind of machinery in existence, and some machines which they did make took a whole year for manufacture. Then, after waiting a year for the machine to be made, the importer would have to pay sometimes $300, or the full amount of the duty, more than the same machine cost in the United States." Mr. Franchot went on to say that he did not blame the company which had managed to get the ear of the Government. It was good business tactics on their part.

It is to be hoped that this desire of the Eastern manufacturing firm will not be permitted to deprive the miners of British Columbia of the advantage they ought to gain from the provision of the tariff apparently in their favor. The Government, we hope, takes as great an interest in the prosperity of the mining industry as it does in that of any other, and is as ready to give it a helping hand. The kind of assistance, too, that the miners want can easily be extended, and will really cost the country nothing. All that they want is a comparatively slight exemption from taxation on machinery for a limited time. The Government should not allow any one to place obstacles in the way of their getting what has apparently been given them.

RIGHTS NOT WRESTED.

Towards the end of his extraordinary declaration and Appeal to the Mainland of British Columbia the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, in his finest style, says: "We have, therefore, to ask is it to be tolerated that our natural and constitutional rights shall be wrested from us?"—by the postponement of the Redistribution Bill for a few months. We should like to know what natural or what constitutional right has been wrested from the people of any part of the Province or is likely to be, by the men at present in power? It would do the reverend gentleman good, since he has gone into politics so deeply, to inquire what are the natural and what the constitutional rights of a British subject. Before he can affirm with any degree of intelligence that men have been deprived of certain rights he should be able, clearly, and calmly and dispassionately, to tell those whom he addresses what those rights are.

What "natural" right has the present Government wrested from the Mainland? It is in the first place not a little difficult for a thoughtful man to find out what natural rights are. There are indeed some thinkers who go so far as to say that man has no natural rights at all. The truth is that modern civilized society is such an artificial structure that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish between what is natural in it and what is conventional. We could easily produce dozens of instances of what appear to be natural rights that the civilized man is not allowed to exercise. Perhaps the Rev. gentleman or some of his admirers will name the natural right that has been wrested from the Mainland by the present Government. We cannot for the life of us think of a single one.

Constitutional rights are not so elusive or so hard to define as natural rights. Mr. Maxwell might condescend to particularize and tell the world what are the rights he alludes to in the passage we have quoted. It is certainly not the right to vote—although there are many who call this a "privilege"—for every British Columbian who had a vote when the present Government came into power can now, if he is alive and in his right mind, exercise that right as freely as ever he did. It is not the right to representation in the councils of the country, for that has been preserved to the people of the Mainland intact. They are as fully represented as ever they were, and their representatives are as free to act as ever they were. Nothing has been "wrested" from either the people of the Mainland or from their representatives in the Legislative Assembly. Every right and every privilege they enjoyed and exercised when the present Government came into power they can exercise and enjoy now.

Was the suggestion that natural and constitutional rights have been wrested from the people of the Mainland, or are in danger of being wrested, a mere rhetorical flourish inserted in the declaration and appeal merely for effect and to make ignorant and unthinking persons believe that their rights and liberties as British subjects are in great danger? If some unprincipled politician resorted to such a trick as this no one would be surprised, but when a preacher of the Gospel of Truth states and suggests not only what is not true but what is the reverse of true, good people are grieved and the cause of religion is injured.

There are those, too, who believe that the first paragraph of this appeal to sectional jealousy and party feeling, filled as the document is with false and foolish statements, is a glaring violation of the third commandment of the decalogue; and even people who make no profession of religion regard such irreverance as very bad form.

GENEROUS GIVERS.

Sir Donald Smith is proving himself to be a liberal and judicious giver. In conjunction with Lord Mountstephen he gave a million dollars to erect and endow a hospital in Montreal. He gave $100,000 to endow a college in connection with McGill for the higher education of women. He presented McGill College with $50,000 to endow a chair in medicine, and the other day he handed a check of $100,000 to the authorities of McGill College to establish a professorship of pathology and hygiene in that institution.

McGill has been in this respect fortunate. Rich men and women have considered it their duty to contribute large sums of money towards its establishment and support. We reproduce from the St. John Sun the following information respecting the gifts that have been made to that college:

It began its career with a gift of land, buildings and money, the whole valued at $120,000, from Hon. James McGill. Mr. William Molson gave the school the Molson hall, valued at $27,500. This was followed by a gift of $20,000 from the Molson family to endow a chair in English, another $20,000 for the same purpose, and a third Molson gift of $40,000. The last mentioned sum was offered the other day by Mr. J. H. R. Molson to provide better buildings for the medical department. He also gave the institution two blocks of land valued at $70,000. Twenty years ago Mr. Peter Redpath gave $20,000 to endow a chair. He has also provided a museum building at a cost of $100,000, and a library which is estimated to cost something more than $100 000. But the largest contributor to McGill has been Mr. W. C. McDonald, a wealthy tobacco manufacturer, who has taken an interest in the department of engineering and physics. Mr. McDonald began by spending $400,000 on a suitable building. Then he directed the trustees to get the best possible equipment, and is said to have expended in all a round $1,000,000 on this department, including $100,000 in endowment. Our despatches to-day state that he has supplemented this gift by another of half a million for the arts faculty. Mr. Thomas Workman has invested nearly $100,000 in the technical department. Others who have contributed $20,000 or more are Sir William Logan, $20,000; Miss Frothingham, $20,000; Miss Scott, $30,000; Major Mills, $42 000; Mr. Greenshields, $40,000; and Mrs. Stuard, $25 000. These are large investments, and the best of it is that the generous men and women who made them will get a great deal more satisfaction out of their outlay than they would if they had applied the money to more selfish purposes.

A SERIOUS MISTAKE.

We are surprised that any British Columbian wishing to be considered intelligent could be induced to vote for a resolution favoring an appeal to the Governor-General against a law constitutionally enacted by the Provincial Legislature. It might be supposed that he placed too high an estimate on the advantages of self-government, and saw too clearly the mischief that Dominion interference, if encouraged, is calculated to do, to ask the Ottawa authorities to nullify provincial legislation. It would be better a hundred times to put up with laws which were in his opinion injudicious and uncalled for than by begging the Governor-General to veto a provincial law confess that the people of the province are not fit to be entrusted with the power of making their own laws. There is in the present instance not the remotest chance of the Ottawa Government advising the Governor-General to veto any of the laws passed by the Legislative Assembly of this Province during the late session, but the resolution shows that there are British Columbians who do not place a very high value on the privilege they enjoy of managing their own affairs in their own way.

It must be remembered that if one party or one section can invoke the interference of the Governor-General to veto laws that it does not like, another party or another section at some future time can do the same thing, and in this way a factious spirit or sectional jealousy will do what it can to deprive the Province of self-government altogether. It is to be hoped, for the credit of the Province, that the resolution moved by Major-General Twigge at the Vancouver meeting will be thrown into the waste basket—its proper receptacle.

BLOUNT'S MISSION.

It appears now that the principal object of Mr. Blount's mission to Hawaii is to undo, as far as possible, what Consul-General Stevens was instrumental in doing. It will be remembered that Mr. Stevens, almost before it was known in Honolulu that a revolution was on foot, caused a detachment of American seamen from the warship Boston to enter the town for the ostensible purpose of protecting the property of American citizens from violence, but really to protect the Provisional Government from attack. The American force was stationed near the public buildings and its presence made it unnecessary for the revolutionists to do anything towards their own protection. In a very short time after the Provisional Government was proclaimed, Consul Stevens took the whole country under the protection of the United States, and the Stars and Stripes floated over the Government buildings. Mr. Blount had not been in Honolulu very long before he ordered the United States flag to be hauled down, and sent the American sailors back to their ship.

This shows that President Cleveland is determined not to take the people of the Hawaiian Islands at a disadvantage. He has taken measures to show that they are free to declare what Government they prefer. To pretend to treat with the Hawaiian Government while the American flag floated over the public buildings of the capital and while the city was occupied by an American force was like pretending to make terms with a man while he was tied hand and foot and while he was covered with a six shooter held by a crack shot. The fate of the Hawaiian Islands seems, however, as uncertain as ever. All that is known is that President Cleveland will not use his influence to compel the people to join the United States. But whether the Islands will become a dependency of the Great Republic, whether their inhabitants will set up a little republic of their own, whether the Queen will be restored, or whether the Provisional Government will develop into a permanent and stable administration is not known. It is, however, pretty certain, that no foreign government will interfere in the affairs of the people of Hawaii.

BELGIAN DISQUIET.

There is serious trouble in Belgium. The Belgian workmen do not appear to be by any means a quiet, law-abiding set of men. When they cannot get the wages they ask they are apt to strike, and when they are on strike they are noisy and excitable, and not at all peaceable. The Belgian workingmen want political power. They demand that the suffrage be extended to them. Not content with getting men of education and standing to plead their cause for them, and then quietly and patiently awaiting the result, they assemble in large masses, and expect by turbulent demonstrations to prevail upon Parliament to decide in their favor. If the misguided men only knew it, their readiness to resort to violence is pretty sure to convince even men who are favorable to them that they are not fit to be trusted with the powers and privileges they demand. If they are so ready to resort to force now to accomplish their purposes, would they not be quite as ready to attempt to coerce their opponents if they were allowed a voice in choosing men to represent them in Parliament? If they were voters would not an election be a series of fights and would not the weaker party, physically, have to succumb to the stronger?

Judging by what is now going on in Brussels, there is too much reason to conclude that the men have neither the intelligence nor the self-restraint requisite to enable them to exercise the franchise either for their own good or for the good of the community. We, therefore, do not wonder that the Belgian Parliament is unwilling to extend the franchise to the men who are howling and fighting in the streets and who, in horrible language, threaten with violence the members who oppose universal suffrage.

We, on this side of the Atlantic, who are accustomed to the smooth and quiet operation of free institutions can hardly imagine the state of society which now exists in Belgium, where men demand their rights in such a riotous way, and become so dangerous to the community that the authorities are reluctantly compelled to call out the troops to put them down and disperse them. What the outcome of the present agitation in Belgium will be is hard to say, but it would be rash to predict that it will tend to to advance the cause of freedom in that country or in any other.

DOWN FROM OKANAGAN.

That Section in a Very Flourishing Condition, Both Agriculturally and Otherwise.

The Mines Turning Out Well—Several Smelters Projected and General Development Under Way.

Mr. J. McKay Lambly, of Enderby, arrived in Victoria yesterday on a short visit. In response to the usual question Mr. Lambly gave a very encouraging report of the condition of affairs in his section of the country.

"Generally speaking," said he, "the Okanagan country is in better shape and has better prospects than at any time in its history. Most of the mining ventures that were taken up last year are turning out very well; at Fairview there is a good group of properties which have been purchased by Messrs. Atwood & Reynolds, an English firm. They put in a small mill last year in order to sample the products of the prospects, and the results were so encouraging that they purchased the property, and this year will proceed with extensive developments. They have how in course of erection a twenty stamp mill which will soon be in working shape. They are down on the Brown Bear claim some 200 feet, and in one place at 90 feet they have a twelve foot ledge of rock that runs from $6 to $200 per ton. They are also building a sawmill in the same locality.

"A proposition is on foot to run an irrigating canal from Dog lake to the head of Osoayos lake, and by that means open up for cultivation a large tract of fine farm land. At Keremeos creek considerable development work is going on and things are looking well. Work is progressing on the Okanagan river, which is being opened from Dog lake to Okanagan lake.

"At Boundary creek things are in very good shape also. An American syndicate has purchased the claims of Mr. Erhalt, and they will erect a smelter this summer to handle part of the ore produced in the creek.

"The spring has been rather backward and the winter was very severe. Most of our cattle stood it well, however, as we had put up a lot of extra hay, and so were able to feed them through the hardest of the cold. The loose bands of horses running on the range suffered the greatest amount of loss, many of them dying.

"The first of the expected influx of visitors have began to arrive already and many may be looked for before next fall. It is believed that many of them will stay for good. Around Enderby many of the large ranches are being cut up and sold in small sections for fruit growing and other purposes.

"Canoe creek and Mable lake are settling up rapidly. The latter people, though, are much in need of a wagon road from the lake down to Enderby. The C. P. R. steamer now being built at Okanagan will be in the water by the 28th of this month, and no doubt will be running early in May. It is a strong, double-deck boat.

"The Aberdeen cannery is completed and will run this summer on the fruit of the region around. This is having a good effect on the fruit-growing business and several hundred acres of trees will go in the ground this year."

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

CRICKET.

LANGLEY PLAYERS REORGANIZE.

LANGLEY, April 14.—(Special)—The Langley Cricket club held their annual meeting last evening. There was a good turn-out of last year's members and a number of new names were submitted for membership during the ensuing year. The following office bearers were elected: President, C. D. Rand, Vancouver; captain, B. W. Spilsbury; vice-captain, D. Symington; secretary and treasurer, K. Sutherland; committee of management—Major Bland, W. D. Jardine and W. Blizard. The following were named as patrons of the club: Messrs. James Mackie, J.P., A. Morris, Jas. Taylor, J. M. Drummond, G. B. Jones, W. McEwan, T. Prest, G. Rawlinson, J. A. Shearer and Dr. Herald. The secretary was instructed to arrange fixtures for the season. Looking to the success which attended the club's initiatory endeavors last season, and as the playing powers, both batting and bowling, are to be increased, the prospects are that the club will be able to make a good showing in the matches during the season.

THE OAR.

M'LEAN SHOULD GO TO KOOTENAY.

Mr. J. W. Haskins, of Revelstoke, has issued the following business-like challenge: "Mr. Law being desirous of making a match with the winner of the Hamm-Haskins race, and as this race is now declared off, I will accept Mr. Law's challenge, and will also handicap myself as follows: 1½ miles straight I will allow him 100 yards; 3 miles with a turn, 200 yards; 5 miles with a turn, quarter mile. The race to be rowed at Nakusp or Nelson (as it is folly to attempt a race on the Columbia in July), in regulation 20 ft. lapstreak, sliding seat, outrigged skiffs. Stakes, $500 a side. I also challenge any resident in West Kootenay to a race on the same terms, with the exception of the handicap."

THE TURF.

"MIDNIGHT" ON THE TRACK.

Golden Era: The race horse "Midnight," which mysteriously disappeared in the fall, arrived from the East last week, and is now to be seen in active exercise preparing for the races which will take place some time in July. Mr. Dan Kimpton has brought in a splendid looking animal for the same purpose. The fever for horse racing is again here, so Windermere friends had better be ready with their mounts for the event of the season.

From the DAILY COLONIST, April 18.

THE CITY.

Federation Canning Co.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Federation Brand Salmon Canning Co., Ltd., held last Saturday, over $40,000 of stock was subscribed for.

Victoria & Sidney Railway.

Yesterday was the last day for receiving tenders for the construction of this road. Those received are now under consideration, and the contract will, it is understood, be awarded to-day.

Boundary Creek Ore.

Twenty thousand pounds of "American Boy" ore are awaiting transit facilities, and the extensions of the "Mountain Chief" have been sold at good round figures. The "Mountain Chief" is a most valuable gold quartz claim, and belongs to the Spokane and Great Northern Mining Co.

California Matters.

A letter received in this city from a Victorian visiting Southern California, states that on a trip from San Jose to Pasadena they were treated to a fall of snow that lasted for several hours. The weather, the letter continues, was much colder during April than it had been during December.

The Mount Tolmie Tramway.

The promoters of the Mount Tolmie and Cordova Bay motor line will hold a conference to-day with Mr. C J Koeford, representing the Vulcan Iron Works of San Francisco, who, it is quite probable, will be given the contract for the line. It is hoped to have the line in operation, at least to Mount Tolmie, by this autumn.

Buried With Orange Honors.

There was a large turnout yesterday afternoon at the funeral of the late John Grimason, a number of the members of the Orange lodges turning out to pay their last tribute to the departed brother. The pallbearers were Messrs. J. J. Walsh, E. Sherret, L. Walsh, H. McDonald, T Ash and G. Barker. The funeral services were conducted at the house by Rev. S. Wilkinson, pastor of the James Bay Methodist church.

Getting Ready to Appeal.

The appeal from the decision of the Admiralty Court in the case of the sealing schooner Oscar and Hattie, for violation of the modus vivendi, will be brought on in the Supreme Court of Canada at as early a date as possible. The appeal factums have now been printed, and it is expected the case will be brought on in Ottawa on the next docket. Messrs. Eberts & Taylor are solicitors for the owners of the schooner.

Lumber Combine.

Mr. A. D. Moore, of San Francisco, who is now in Portland, is expected to visit Victoria during the present week, as the representative of all the lumber companies of the Pacific states, to confer with the timber men of this Province with a view to the formation of a Pacific Coast combination. The low prices current have practically ruined profits all along the coast during recent months, and American lumbermen pronounce the proposed pool a necessity. The conference with the representatives of British Columbia will be held in this city.

The Boundary Commission.

Other members of the Alaska Boundary Commission arrived on Sunday evening Among them are Albert Charles Talbot, Montmagny, Q, Louis E. Fontaine, Levis, Q., J. C. Cote, Ottawa, and Arthur Saint Cyr, Ottawa, who are at the Driard, and J. Gibbons and J. A. Brabazon who are at Hotel Victoria. An office has been opened in the Williams' block, on Broad street, where Professor King and his staff will transact the necessary work of the commission during their stay in Victoria.

Alaska News.

The steamship City of Topeka, at Port Townsend from Alaska, brought news that Governor Knapp has left Sitka on a tour of Western Alaska on the steamer Crescent City. His visit will extend to all the settlements along the coast as far west as Ounalaska, gathering data for his annual report. The Topeka also brought word that Deputy Marshal Jack Dalton, charged with murder, was removed from Juneau to Sitka for confinement in jail. There will be no spring term of court in Alaska this year on account of the funds being exhausted, consequently several important suits against seized sealers will have to be laid over until the autumn term.

PROTECTION OF CREDITS.

A meeting of business men was held last evening at the Sir William Wallace hall, resulting in the formation of a Victoria branch of the Merchants' Retail Commercial Agency of Chicago. There were about eighty persons present. Mr. C. E. Renouf was chosen to preside.

A full explanation of the Agency's system waf given by Mr. J. J. Dolan, of San Francisco, Coast Superintendent of the Agency. Care is taken to give every debtor an opportunity to adjust or dispute his obligation. A board is selected to exclude from the list of delinquents all persons who manifest a disposition to act honestly with creditors. A complete list of those who permit their indebtedness to remain unadjusted after receiving the notices of the agency is to be made, and each member agrees, under a penalty of twenty dollars, to refuse credit to these until they shall be reported as not delinquent. These lists are furnished each merchant privately as a guide to credit, and are revised every sixty days.

The list of members was read and showed a combination of eighty-five of the principal firms of Victoria. The list being declared satisfactory by unanimous vote, the constitution of the Agency was adopted by sections and a committee of three on permanent organization was appointed, consisting of R. H. Jamieson, Dr. T. J. Jones and J Johnston, who reported for permanent officers the following names:

President, H. Saunders; First Vice-President, W. G. McCandless; Second Vice-President, C. Spencer; Secretary, W. Berridge; Treasurer, T. M. Henderson. Executive Board—R. H. Jamieson, A. B. Erskine, C. E. Renouf, J Johnston, Dr. A. C. West, Geo. R. Jackson and E. Morrison. The report was accepted and the gentlemen named declared the permanent officers of the branch.

TROY, N. Y, April 17.—A special term of the court of Oyer and Terminer opened here to-day with Judge Wright of Oswego presiding, for the trial of Mrs. Mary Houlihan, of Nerona, for murder in the first degree in killing Carl Bauer last June. The district attorney will be assisted by two other counsel, and a strenuous effort will be made to convince the jury that the case is one for a capital sentence. In this event Mrs. Houlihan will be the first woman to be electrocuted in this country, unless the bill abolishing capital punishment after next September in this state should become law in the meantime.

From the DAILY COLONIST April 19.

THE CITY.

New Police Barracks.

Tenders for the erection of the new police barracks upon the plans of Mr. John Teague will be received at the office of the city clerk, Mr. W. J. Dowler, until noon of Wednesday next, the 26th inst.

St. John's Church.

At the vestry meeting of St. John's church last evening, Messrs. Henry Saunders and A. L Belyea were re-appointed wardens, and Messrs. A C. Flumerfelt, D. R. Ker and Hon. J. H. Turner, sidesmen. The usual financial and other reports were presented and duly adopted.

Preparing for the Ball.

A deputation of three, representing the Ball committee of the James Bay Athletic Association, waited upon the Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney, Mayor Beaven and Mrs. Beaven, yesterday afternoon, and received the promise of their patronage for the ball at the club house on Friday evening, April 28. The ball room will be newly kalsomined by that time, and every effort put forth in the way of decorating, etc., to beautify the room.

A Strange Meeting.

The steamer Wellington, laden with coal from Nanaimo for San Francisco, dropped anchor off the outer wharf on her way out to sea last evening, and shortly afterwards the Danube went alongside of her, though for what purpose remains unknown to those watching the affair. After being together for a short time the vessels proceeded on their voyages, the big collier not having sounded her whistle during the whole evening.

The Assault-at-Arms.

All three batteries of the B.C.G.A. were well represented at the first practice in the Market hall last evening, in preparation for the grand assault-at-arms at the opening of the new drill hall. Each battery was divided into two squads, and these squads were drilled separately in the various exercises of physical drill, bayonet and sword practice, club swinging, gymnastics on the parallel bars, etc Instructor St. Clair addressed the men at the close, impressing upon them the necessity of regular attendance at the practices, so that the classes would not be kept back. Among the officers present last evening and actively helping with the instruction were Lieuts. Williams, Sargison and Monro.

St. James' Church Concert.

A very pleasant entertainment was given last evening in the schoolroom of St James' church, in aid of the organ fund. The programme was as follows:

Glee—Messrs. Greig, Russell, Heath, Pegram and Jay.
Song ..... Mr. Booth
Trio.... Mrs. Goepel, Mrs. Greig and Mr. Greig
Song ..... Mrs. Jay
Piano Solo ..... Mrs. Christie

INTERMISSION.

Chorus—"Ave Maria" .....
Song ..... Mrs. Belyea
Song ..... Mr. Russell
Song ..... Miss Goepel
Glee—Messrs. Greig, Russell, Keith, Pegram and Jay.
God Save the Queen.

As may be inferred from a perusal of the names, the concert was an artistic success, and was thoroughly appreciated by all present. At the conclusion of the formal programme a sociable hour was spent, and proved not the least enjoyable part of the evening's entertainment.

Easter Meeting of St. Saviour's

The annual Easter meeting of the above church was held last evening, when a very large number of the members of the congregation assembled, Rev. W. D. Barber in the chair. The wardens report being read, showed an increase of one-third in the offertories of the church over those of last year. The following officers were elected: Rector's Warden, J. W. Weaver Bridgman; People's Warden, Beaumont Boggs; Sidesmen, W. H. Saunders and James Finmore; Church Committee, Hon. Col. Baker, R. J. Styles, R J. Russell, F C. Roberts, H. L. Roberts, Lieut.-Col. Holmes, H J. Cave, Walter Poole, H O Price and F R. Harwood; Auditor, John Hawkins; Representatives to the Synod, Lieut. Col. Holmes, W. J. Weaver Bridgman, Beaumont Boggs and Hon. Col. Baker. An address of welcome to the new bishop was passed, and a committee consisting of the rector and two wardens was appointed to confer with the other Anglican churches relative to a reception. Votes of thanks to the Ladies' Sewing Society, The Guild and the various donors to the church were also passed before the meeting adjourned.

Girls' Friendly Society.

A full house greeted the performers in the entertainment given by the Girls' Friendly Society, last evening, at Philharmonic Hall. The programme was carried out complete, and the audience showed thorough appreciation by their applause. The glees were correctly and tastefully sung, and a vocal trio by the Misses Whittaker, Harris and Crookford was well rendered and applauded. A song by Mr. Wallis, "The Girls at School," was received with evident approval, and encored. The Empire Drill, containing over fifty different figures, was executed by seventeen young ladies attired in appropriate Empire costume, and armed with shepherd's crooks, who under the leadership of their captain, Miss Clara Ure, performed the difficult but graceful movements with the utmost precision. A piano and violin duet by Mrs Todd and Mr A. Rhodes was a cultured and skilful performance. A pretty feature was the summer scene, which introduced the Sunflower Chorus, in character—an artistic conception, also the Swinging Waltz Song, during which the graceful waltzing of Miss Annie Wilson and Susie Spring pleased all, and the minuet by eight little ladies and gentlemen, in sixteenth century costume, was admirably and correctly danced. They had been trained by Mrs. Dickenson, to whom their success was in a great measure due. Master Cecil Berkeley's song, "I'll Whistle and Wait for Katie," was sweetly and charmingly rendered, receiving a rapturous encore. The evening concluded with an amusing play, "Misfortune," by Victoria West amateurs; the characters taken by Miss M. Whittaker, Miss A. Bailey, Miss G Ure, Mr. A. E. Cave and Mr. Cooper M. Chambers, all performing their parts so well that it were invidious to discriminate. The instrumental selections by Mrs. Todd, Miss Todd, Prof. Haynes, Mr. Muriset and Mr. Rhodes were admirably played, Miss Todd's violin playing, especially for so young a lady, being artistic in the extreme. Great credit is due to Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. L. M. Caldwell, who originated and managed the affair throughout, Mr. Haynes acting as musical director, Miss Williams playing the accompanyments and Mr. Harry Caldwell instructing the young ladies in the Empire Drill.

THE BEST REMEDY.

DEAR SIRS,—I was greatly troubled with weakness, loss of appetite, restlessness and sleeplessness, and found B. B. B. the most strengthening and beneficial medicine I have taken.

MISS HEADLIP,
34 Huntley St., Toronto, Ont.