The Colonist.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1898.

A SUCCESSFUL POLICY.

At the meeting held at Vernon on Monday night, Hon. Mr. Turner made the announcement of the beginning of work on the road from Penticton to Boundary Creek. The beginning of work upon the line from Robson to Midway has already been announced. Mr. Turner was able also to inform his audience that a survey party would at once be put upon the line through the Hope mountains. As the Colonist has already stated, a contract has been made for the construction of the Coast-Teslin road. Thus it will be seen that the railway policy of the government is bringing forth fruit in a highly satisfactory manner.

It suits the purpose of the opposition press to belittle what is being done in pursuance of the railway policy of the provincial government, just as it suits their purpose to belittle and decry the credit of the province, and, as the Times has done, the standing of its business men. In the hope of converting a few voters to their cause, the opposition are ready to defame the province and all its interests in the hearing of the whole world. Although they know that at this particular time it is of the utmost importance that only favorable accounts of British Columbia should be sent abroad, they are not only mis-representing the country as one where business depression and loss of credit characterize the mercantile community and the farmers are burdened with debt and taxation, but they decline to recognize the value even of great enterprises which have been inaugurated. This gross lack of patriotism ought to receive its due regard at the hands of the electors, who should on the 9th of July signify in the most emphatic manner their disapproval of these slanderers and blue-ruin prophets.

In order that the effect of the railway policy of the government may be better understood, let us look back a year ago to the conditions then existing. It is not too much to say that at that time the people of British Columbia had two principal things in mind. One was how to improve their means of reaching the Kootenay, and also of securing the trade of the Boundary Creek district; and the other, how to get access to the rich goldfields of the Yukon. It is worth remembering that scarcely a year has passed since we first learned of the riches of Klondike, and that only a little more than a year has elapsed since there appeared any prospect of securing a railway through southern British Columbia from the Crow's Nest Pass to the coast. A year is not a long time. We on the Coast are so impatient and live at such an intense rate that we expect more to happen in a year than the people in the East would look for in a decade. But the past year has certainly been full of important accomplishments for British Columbia. Within 18 months there will be rail connection from the Crow's Nest to Penticton through the great quartz region of southern British Columbia. Speaking of the Crow's Nest Pass, the Toronto Globe recently said that its construction meant more than any of us can understand until we review the results from the standpoint of twenty years hence. Much more is this true of the extension of the railway from Robson to Penticton, and still more will it be true of the whole line when it is completed to the coast. We have been accustomed during the last few years to talk and write about the importance of opening this part of the province by rail and now the work of doing so is in progress at many points. Millions of dollars will be expended and thousands of workmen are being employed. This means much for the workingmen of British Columbia. It means much for the farmers and merchants. The fact that a railway is being constructed from the eastern border of the province to Penticton, a distance of upwards of 400 miles, is of enormous importance to this province, and is due primarily to the policy which the British Columbia government has adopted. The British Columbia Southern charter made the Crow's Nest Pass project feasible from a financial point of view, and the subsidy act passed last session made the line from Robson to Midway possible. As we all know, that portion of the line from Midway to the coast was provided for in the session of 1897. It may suit the purpose of political adventurers to belittle an achievement of this nature, but a policy which has produced such fruits is one that will commend itself to the good sense of the people.

In regard to the Coast-Teslin road, it is noteworthy that in less than a year from the time when the first treasure-ships came down bringing the news of the riches of the Klondike, a contract has been signed which provides for the construction of a railway from the head waters of the Yukon to the coast and calls for the immediate construction first of a trail and immediately following it a wagon road from the Stikine river to Teslin lake, thereby affording a route from Canadian territory to the Yukon waters. This has been accomplished not by the Dominion government, which, strange to say, after committing itself to the policy of immediately constructing such a railway unaccountably postponed giving effect to it, but by the provincial government, which has in this particular exhibited a promptness and courageous grasp of the situation deserving of the heartiest approval. Two months ago the outlook for a Canadian connection with the Yukon was of a very dark hue, but the British Columbia government came to the front with a plan that is being crowned with success. Long before this season of navigation is over it will be possible to carry goods through on wagons to Teslin Lake, whence they can be shipped down to any Yukon points, and before the close of next season's navigation there will be a railway covering the same ground and forming a part of a line to be completed the following year to the coast. The full consummation of this plan depends, as the Colonist has already said, upon the assistance which the Dominion government stands morally pledged to give, but British Columbia has done its part and done it with a promptness and energy which themselves will have a potent influence at Ottawa.

With upwards of a thousand miles of railway now inaugurated and one-half of it being constructed with all possible speed, the Hon. Mr. Turner and his colleagues need feel no hesitation in appealing to the people for a justification of the policy which has led to this result. If effect had been given to the oft-expressed views of the opposition, the Crow's Nest Pass railway would never have been undertaken, there would not be a man at work on the line from Robson to Midway; there would not be the remotest possibility of a shovelful of earth being turned on the line from Penticton to Boundary; no surveyors would be preparing to set foot in the Hope mountains; and the prospect of a railway to bring the trade of the Yukon to British Columbia cities would be as remote as it was ten years ago. The Colonist feels that it can congratulate the people of British Columbia upon the complete failure of the opposition to give effect to their policy of obstruction, and upon the great results which have even now begun to flow from the wise and statesmanlike railway policy with which the name of Mr. Turner is associated.

THE YOUNGER VOTERS.

Mr. Geo. Bartley has been asked to run as an independent candidate in Vancouver. Mr. Bartley is described as the young men's candidate, and, if he runs, will in a sense represent the labor interests in the campaign. He is said to be popular and is acknowledged to possess a very considerable degree of ability. His presence in the field would have an important bearing upon the campaign. We think, however, that if the young men of British Columbia desire to do their province a service they will not fall into the error of putting up independent candidates of their own, but will take up the record of the two political parties and decide which of them promises best for the future. We notice that a large number of young men are enrolling themselves in the Victoria Political Organization. This is as it should be. We are sure that they are most cordially welcomed. The watchword of the organization is "British Columbia first" and this is also the watchword of British Columbia youth. It would be strange indeed if many young men just about to exercise their franchise for the first time would employ it to place in power a combination of reactionists, obstructionists and political scandal-mongers. Youth likes to look upon the bright side of things. It has little sympathy for the croaker and the pessimist. We ask the young men of Victoria to let their mind run back over the sessions of the legislature during the last four years, and over the utterances of the opposition newspapers in this city. Can they recall in all this time from either of these sources a single word of hopefulness and inspiration for the future? Can they recall a time when these opponents of the government could ever be cited in support of the proposition that British Columbia was a province of glorious prospects? Has not the whole burden of the opposition cry in the legislature and out of it been that poverty stared the people in the face, that taxation ground them to the dust, that corruption was eating the heart out of the government? Have not the opposition told the world in as many ways as ingenuity could suggest, not only that the province was without credit and deserved to be without credit, but also that it was madness to develop its resources upon the faith of the future? On the other hand, is it not literally true that the whole course of the government, and its supporters in the legislature and in the press, has been calculated to encourage the confidence of the people at home and abroad in the future of the province? Who speak the language which appeals most to the hopeful spirit of British Columbia youth, the government or the opposition? Which of them is identified with that process of provincial development which makes this province to-day offer so many inducements to young men? Can there be any doubt as to the answer, and will not the young men of British Columbia rally to the standard of the Hon. J. H. Turner, who though he has passed the meridian of life so far as years go, is inspired by all the buoyancy of youth, though tempered by the experience which which years only can give?

Mr. Turner, in his speech at Abbotsford, brought out some very interesting matters in regard to provincial finances. One point to which he referred ought to be kept very prominently before not only the people of British Columbia, but others who may contemplate settling in this country or investing here. The complaint is made that the province is deeply in debt, and the habit is to contrast it with Ontario, which it is alleged is out of debt. This comparison is unfair to British Columbia because while it is true that Ontario, as a province, has no public debt, the municipalities of Ontario have a debt of $59,000,000, which is close on to $30 per head of the population. The debt of British Columbia is less than $39 per head of the population. The debt of the Ontario municipalities has been incurred for the most part for purposes similar to those for which the debt of British Columbia has been, namely, permanent improvements, and it is highly satisfactory to know that in a comparatively new province like ours, where there is so vast an area to be cared for, the debt for public improvements is less than one-third greater per head than in the long settled and compact province of Ontario.

When the item of $5,000 for subsidy to the steamship service between Victoria and San Francisco was before parliament, Hon. Mr. Foster raised a question as to whether the vote ought to be continued but was informed that it was in the nature of a treaty obligation between the Dominion and British Columbia which could only be vacated with the consent of the British Columbia legislature. Mr. Foster said he thought this would not be difficult to obtain. He referred to the fact that the appropriation was formerly much larger and said that he understood that it had been reduced because of important service provided for in other directions. This is a matter which needs looking into. It was a part of the terms of confederation that a certain sum should be granted to secure regular mail connection between Victoria and San Francisco, and it will hardly be contended that the appropriation of $5,000 is necessary for that purpose now. But before this is surrendered care should be taken to see that the province receives a substantial quid pro quo.

The Colonist has directed its special correspondent to report the political situation as he finds it from a news standpoint. The people have a right to know what the outlook seems like to one who is directed to give a judicial view of the case. Speaking of Dewdney, he says that he regards Mr. McBride's chances as first-class. He reports Mr. Sword as apparently not in very good health and thinks he is not putting up a very good canvass. Mr. Cotton is assisting Mr. Sword, but is not very well received by the people. In Chilliwack, he finds in Mr. Munro a very good man who has a rather happy faculty of speaking, but Hon. Mr. Turner's reception has been such that his election appears to be beyond any reasonable doubt. Mr. Munro does not appear to be very familiar with the details of British Columbia politics, and the clear explanations which Hon. Mr. Turner made of the various matters criticized by his opponent carried great weight with them. Chilliwack and Dewdney appear quite safe to return government candidates.

A correspondent asks if it is legal to plump a candidate at the forthcoming election. In reply we say that it is perfectly legal but not desirable. Our correspondent writes from Sooke and, therefore, presumably refers to the election in Esquimalt. He can, if he chooses, vote for one candidate. He ought to vote for two. If the legislature should disfranchise any individual, in whole or in part, he would feel that he was being badly used. Why then should he disfranchise himself by only voting for one candidate when he has the right to vote for two or four as the case may be?

The foolish Columbian talks of the almost certain defeat of Premier Turner in Victoria. Whether the Columbian really believes that the Premier will be defeated here or is simply seeking to bolster up its cause in New Westminster we do not know, but it is grossly wrong in its statement. Mr. Turner will poll an exceptionally large vote in this city. The whole ticket will undoubtedly be elected. The most that the Colonist has heard any opposition canvasser claim is that Mr. Beaven, who is not an opposition candidate, might get in, but he will not do that, for the government supporters have resolved to stand together and vote the whole ticket.

Some one has been telling Mr. Higgins that the Cassiar Central railway has been offered £400,000 for its franchise. If this is true, all we have to say is that we are glad to know that Cassiar is proving so valuable. Mr. Higgins claims to be a good financier. Here is a little problem for him to figure out: If a 35-year lease of 700,000 acres is worth £400,000, how much must the fee simple of the 40,000,000 acres in Cassiar be worth? When he gets this answered he might let us know if he can suggest any easier way in which the government could secure a demonstration of the wealth of Cassiar than that adopted in the Cassiar Central aid bill.

The following from the Rochester, New York, Post-Express is timely and significant: "We extend to Colonel Prior, of Victoria, and to the soldiers of the regiment which he commands, the assurances of our distinguished consideration. For evidently they are broad-gague heroes, heroes who believe in the brotherhood of man and shape their conduct accordingly. A telegram from Seattle states that the colonel has signified the desire of himself and his regiment to participate in the Fourth of July celebration in Seattle, and that, accordingly, a cordial invitation has been extended to them to do so. Who says that the spirit of amity and toleration is not spreading? That celebration at Seattle is sure to be a rousing one; when the American Eagle makes merry with the lion and the unicorn, it cannot be otherwise."

If the experiment would not be such an expensive one to the province, we should like to have the opposition in power for six months to let the public see how they would give the lie to all their professions.

Gen. Kitchener has fixed September 9th as the date of his arrival at Khartoum. If he arrives on time, he will be the first man that ever did so on a Nile expedition. The Soudan has a terrible fashion of upsetting all calculations.

An American ship's officer, who claims to have been to Havana lately, says that city is impregnable from the water and nearly so from the land. He also says that the blockade is very inefficient, and that several ships with valuable food cargoes have arrived.

The practice which speakers representing one political party have of attending meetings called by the opposite party is one that is better honored in the breach than in the observance. Sometimes it may work well, but as a rule the results are unsatisfactory all round. There is too much of a disposition in this province to treat political questions from the debating school standpoint. We think that by far the best way to carry on a campaign is for the several parties to hold their own meetings and take sufficient time to deal thoroughly with the various questions at issue.

The Trail Creek News is in great glee over the prospects of that thriving town. The enlarged smelter will be in full blast next month. The railway from Robson to Midway is under construction. "This means," says the News, "an expenditure of over a million dollars, and all the business connected therewith, including the disbursement of money, will be done from the general offices of the C. P. R. on Smelter hill." As the consummation of this desirable condition of affairs is due to the policy of the provincial government, it is not surprising that there are scarcely any opposition votes in Trail.

The failure of the Spanish fleet to accomplish anything is alleged to be due to the lack of competent engineers. It is said that not a vessel is really seaworthy. They were all in good shape before the war; but the Scotch engineers then in charge resigned at the beginning of hostilities, to avoid fighting against the United States, and their places were filled by Spaniards, who not knowing how to deal with such intricate machines as modern vessels of war are, have managed to get them all in more or less of a broken-down condition.

Mr. Belyea has discovered a deficit of $1,500,000 in sight. Why did he not say $15,000,000 while he was about it? He ought not to allow so small a thing as a 0 stand in his way of making a powerful showing against the government, and one statement would have been quite as correct as the other.

One of the most amusing things which the war between the United States and Spain has brought about is that all the newspapers of Venezuela are abusing the former nation to the utmost of their ability, with one exception, a paper published in English by an Englishman.

In the course of a panegyric on Mr. E. V. Bodwell, the Columbian says that he was recently offered the chief-justiceship of British Columbia. Our information, which is of such a character that we cannot refuse to give it full credence, is that Mr. Bodwell was not offered this position.

The annexation of Hawaii by the United States is an event of very great importance because it marks the departure of the American republic from its traditional policy. The Monroe doctrine may now be laid away in the museum of political curiosities.

The Golden Era is a sample opposition paper. According to it, what ever is is wrong. To the representative oppositionist, nothing can by any possibility be right until he gets office.

Will be found an excellent remedy for sick headache. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact. Try them. *

The proposed plebiscite on prohibition, which it is thought will cost $250,000, would not be so bad, if there was any likelihood that anything will result from it. The way the matter stands, the vote will be little more than an open expression of opinion on an abstract proposition. The government does not stand pledged to give effect to the vote by legislation. A plebiscite is rather a poor sort of makeshift at any rate.

It is alleged that the New York World and Journal are having a hard time meeting expenses just now because of the great falling off in advertising and the increased cost of getting news, both consequent upon the war.

The papers are once more figuring upon the output of Klondike. According to the Seattle Times, Collector Ivey, of Alaska, puts the amount at $33,000,000. We believe this amount is excessive and shall be more than pleased if able to report that one-half this sum is brought out.

The Postal act passed at the last session of parliament authorizes the government to reduce letter postage to two cents, whenever it deems the change expedient. The first of July would be a good date to inaugurate the new rate.

BORN.

POTTINGER—On the 15th inst., at 227 Michigan street, the wife of D. R. Pottinger, of a daughter.

TAYLOR—In this city on the 18th inst., the wife of J. D. Taylor of a son.

MARRIED.

TAIT-SMITH—At the R. E. church, Port Townsend, on the 15th inst., by the Rev. Dr. Baker, James L. Tait, to Alice Josephine Smith, of Victoria.

RATTENBURY-NUNN—At Christ Church Cathedral on the 15th inst., by Rev. Canon Beaulands, Francis Mawson Rattenbury, second son of John Owen Rattenbury, of Leeds, England, to Florence Eleanor, youngest daughter of the late Captain George Elphinstone Nunn, of H. M. 47th Regiment.

DIED.

BRENNAN—At the Royal Jubilee Hospital, on the 16th inst., James Brennan, aged 45 years, a native of Kingston, Ont.

HOMANN—At the residence, corner Stanley avenue and Vining street, on the 16th inst., Reaka Homann, aged 69 years and 8 months, mother of Mrs. J. C. Voss and Mrs. C. G. Zeiglar, a native of Germany. The funeral will take place to-day at 2.30 p.m. from above residence.

For Constipation take Karl's Clover Root Tea, the great Blood Purifier. Cures Headache, Nervousness, Eruptions on the face, and makes the head clear as a bell. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

If sick headache is misery, what are Carter's Little Liver Pills if they will positively cure it? People who have used them speak frankly of their worth. They are small and easy to take. *

IRONCLAD IN ACTION.

British Description of the Way It Fights—Silence and Discipline on Modern Man-of-War.

Now that a new naval war is imminent the nature of the discipline on board an ironclad in action will be of interest to the general reader. The distribution of the crew for action is based on the principle of dividing the armament into "quarters," and to number or name the guns so as to give them an individuality without reference to their size. When action is imminent, every one on board repairs to the alloted station, below, on deck, or aloft. The gunner obtains the keys of the magazines, gives them to the men in charge, sees that the lights are lit, and everything in working order. As soon as the guns are cleared away and loaded, report to that effect is made to the captain.

When this has been done the gun crews are provided with small arms, upon which they close up round the guns, and await further orders. A supply of light, quick-firing machine-gun, rifle, and pistol ammunition is then passed up, ready for distribution on deck, and a proportion of it is sent aloft. This ammunition is served out first to the small-arm party and to boarders, and to the remainder of the crew as soon as their guns are cleared away and arms provided. In each tube a torpedo is placed, ready for discharge. Helmsmen are provided, ready to take charge of the hand-steering apparatus in the event of the steam steering gear being carried away. Orderlies, buglers and men stationed at voice tubes are ordered to repair to their stations, but the use of the bugle in action is restricted as far as possible, as long and complicated calls are liable to be misunderstood.

The dress for men in action is as uninflammable as possible, the blue working rig being considered the best. There is no reason why action dress should not be in future saturated with the noninflammable material similar to that now employed in all American ships of war.

It is a curious point that in action boots and shoes are ordered to be worn by all men on deck and in the tops. That portion of the crew engaged in the magazines are provided with slippers. There was a great tendency in Nelson's time for the men to strip during action. This practice is now discouraged. Waist belts and pouches are worn, and men who have pistols are obliged to wear them.

A fire brigade, consisting of carpenters and stokers, screw on hoses and rig all handpumps ready for fire. A man is stationed at each water-tight door, which is kept open, ready to close it when the order is given. As the spread of fire may at any time menace the safety of the magazine, the keys of the valve admitting water to the magazine level is either kept in the personal charge of the captain or at his discretion by the officer in charge of the gun deck.

A supply of oatmeal and water for drinking is arranged all over the ship, especially in the vicinity of the magazines, machinery compartments, stokeholes and shellrooms. No intoxicating liquor is served on the day of action on board any well-regulated ironclad. This is a great departure from the practice of double rations of grog that was in vogue 100 years ago.

Each division of boarders ready to leap on to the enemy's ship and take it by assault when its armament has been silence has a special place of its own on the upper deck, withe the men repair when called. Every officer has a special station, where he is to be found, unless specially employed elsewhere.

Danger of firing during action since the battle of the Yalu has occupied the close attention of the admiralties of all countries. All fires breaking out below the gun deck are in charge of the fire brigade, thus leaving the gun crews free for their important duties. When, however, fire is likely to make headway, notwithstanding the efforts of the fire brigade, one or more gun crews are called off, as necessity may arise, for the purpose of attending to the hose. As a fire may occur in the neighborhood of a magazine or shell room, and the supply of ammunition to the guns on deck during action be interrupted from this cause a special drill for obviating this difficulty is arranged, so as to prevent the slackening of fire, by the provision of shell and other ammunition from other magazines. If the fire is on the gun deck the gun crews are not told off to deal with it, except in emergency, as the maintenance of rapid and steady fire in action is the paramount object of every commander. In case the fire becomes so serious as to make it necessary to go to general fire stations, the guns are fired or their ammunition is thrown over board. The small ammunition on deck is either thrown overboard or placed in a convenient position for that purpose.

Other details of action drill include the resistance of torpedo boat attack, which the Americans are now hard at work practicing in their various squadrons. If an attack be expected by night in dry weather, the decks, guncarriages, etc., are whitewashed—a device which, in the absence of artificial light, is of great assistance to the crew of a ship attacked by torpedo boats. The use of small arms is discouraged, as experience shows that no weapon using lead bullets is of much use in repelling torpedo boats.

The guns in the fighting tops, as they enjoy the advantage of plunging fire through the unprotected decks of the torpedo boats, are found to be of the best primary means of defence. The larger guns can only be used against torpedo boats for one or two rounds. They are reserved when hitting is practically assured, or when only as a last recourse. The introduction of smokeless powder for the auxiliary armament is largely to prove an immense advantage to the American navy, as with ordinary vigilance the success approach of a torpedo boat is practically impossible. In the event of a night attack, and in fact, in action altogether, the use of the bugle is restricted as much as possible. None but important orders are now conveyed by it.

The noise of action under any circumstances is bewildering, the torment of the ear-splitting sound of the three-pounders in the tops being considered more trying than heavy guns in the turret. Each guns, in the event of torpedo attack, is given a definite arc of the horizon to defend, and the gun crews are forbidden from directing their aim at any obpect outside the limits of those arcs. All the men at disengaged guns are, as a rule, ordered to lie down to take cover as much as possible, but they are not, as a rule, sent below during an action, as the service of the guns may be required to be resumed at any moment.

The fire discipline prescribed in the navies of the great powers is practically the same, though long experience has taught British naval authorities certain details of secrets of the greatest value, which, being confidential, cannot be disclosed in a newspaper article.—London Chronicle.

What Dr. A. E. Salter Says.

Buffalo, Y.Y.—Gents:—From my personal knowledge, gained in observing the effect of your Shiloh's Cure in cases of advanced Consumption, I am prepared to say it is the most remarkable Remedy that has ever been brought to my attention. It has certainly saved many from Consumption. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

PROBLEMS OF THE WAR.

The Future Attitude of the Cuban Insurgents.

Not a few men in Congress and connected with the administration are beginning to be worried by the attitude of the Cuban insurgents, who have grown indolent, even toward the United States government, now that they have got us fairly involved in a war. From various sources the administration receives daily evidences that every word of warning given to congress and the president before the war began as to the need which would arise of suppressing them after expelling the Spaniards, was true, and that the half has not been told. There can no longer be any doubt that the so-called government of the insurgents has in view a campaign of reprisal as soon as it can get the upper hand of the Spanish ruling class. We shall then see the same proscriptive measures adopted in Cuba which forced all the loyalists out of the South American republics in the early 20's. Here it will be necessary for us to interfere with a strong hand and make the Cubans understand that we can no more tolerate oppression when exercised by them than when they are its victims. All this makes the much-applauded Teller amendment, "disclaiming any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island," a trifle embarrassing. Fortunately the amendment contains a few qualifying clauses, which may be broad enough to admit of our completing the work upon which we have entered, even if we have to put some over-enthusiastic local patriots under discipline in order to do it.

It is part of the president's programme still, as it was at the outset, to let the people of Cuba decide for themselves, by an untrammeled vote, under what form of government they desire to live: but he is beginning to have grave doubts whether he will be able to take a fair and truly representative popular vote, with the rebel leaders asserting their control as successors to the Spaniards. These are among the considerations which make the president somewhat impatient of the criticism which condemns his plan for having a large army of occupation ready to follow the army of invasion and take charge of Cuba after it has been surrendered into our hands. If the critics will face the situation honestly and show the president a better way out of it, they will confer a great favor upon him.

Another subject which is giving the administration much anxiety just now is the condition of things in the Philippines. Dewey has done, unquestionably, all that any man in his place could do, and more than many others would have done, in holding the balance equably poised between the insurgent savages and the civilized Spanish enemy. Whether he will be strong enough to maitain this status till relief can reach him, is a question; but, after that, General Merritt will have confronting him a serious problem, and the factors with which he must work it out are different and more perplexing than those which offer themselves in Cuba, where at any rate the native people have been in touch with Christendom for several generations. The disquieting effect of the discussion of these questions is seen in the unwillingness of some of the jingoes in congress to talk of them, and their disposition to dismiss them with a wave of the hand as things which can be left to take care of themselves as they arise. In the cabinet they are a subject of constant thought.—N. Y. Post.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure cures where others fail. It is the leading Cough Cure and no home should be without it. Pleasant to take and goes right to the spot. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

RUSSIAN FAMINE.

Czar Takes Personal Charge of Relieving Sufferers, and Prepares to Punish Dishonest Officials.

Although several newspapers at St. Petersburg, including the Viedomosti, published by the Czar's intimate friend, Prince Uchtomsky, have been suspended and punished in various ways by the Minister of the Interior for alluding to the famine now raging in Russia, yet the condition of affairs in connection therewith is so grave that the Emperor, thoroughly dissatisfied with the steps taken for the relief of his starving subjects, has, without consulting M. Goremkin, the Minister of the Interior, organized a committee for dealing with the famine and has himself assumed the presidency thereof.

In any other country, such action on the part of the sovereign would result in the minister resigning. But in Russia ministers are not permitted to abandon their fancy seizes them, and are made to feel that they are not free agents or at liberty to dispose of their own service, but are absolutely at the beck and call of their sovereign.

The harvest, which is due to the almost universal bad harvest last year, extends over nearly the whole of the European portion of the empire, especially in the provinces of Tula, Tamboff, Perm and Orel. It is stated to be quite as sehious as that of 1891, which was the most terrible one known until then in the history of Russia, and it is to be feared that it will be followed, as on that occasion, by bovine typhus and by Asiatic cholera, two spectres that invariably follow in the wake of famine in Russia.

The Czar's object in taking in hand the measures for not only the relief of the famine, but likewise for the prevention of a recurrence in future times, is due to the fact that he occupied a similar position in 1891, prior to his accession to the throne, and likewise because he has become aware of the shameful way in which even some of the highest Russian officials, notably Gen. Schippe, the governor of the province of Tula, have mismanaged, misused and appropriated the funds subscribed during the past two months for the relief of the starving peasantry. In fact, the General's arrest and disgrace are a foregone conclusion. He has already been suspended from office.

CZAR'S INSURANCE PLAN.

In 1891 the Czar, as president of the Imperial famine commission, set to work to organize a sort of state insurance against famine, by means of which provision was made in the good years for the years of bad harvest. The scheme was an excellent one, and was warmly commended at the time, both in Russia and abroad. But at the time of the late Emperor's illness, Nicholas lost track of the doings of the famine commission, and has only now too late discovered that none of his schemes were kept in working order, and that all the money and corn that had been set aside for just such an emergency as the present one, had disappeared, no one knows how.

It is to be hoped that he will be more fortunate now, although it is doubtful, since the corruption of Russian officials is just as bad and universal as ever, and simply passes belief. How urgent it is that radical measures should be instituted at once, both for the relief of the sufferers and for the prevention of famines in the future, is apparent from the fact that the peasantry in the sixteen provinces chiefly affected are without grain for sowing, so that the destitution and starvation next winter will be even worse than last spring. Indeed, the outlook in Russia is exceedingly gloomy, and it is doubtful whether, with famine thus gripping at the very vitals of the empire, the Czar would be willing at the present moment to become involved in any foreign complications.

Meanwhile the Czarina has placed herself at the head of a Red Cross committee at St. Petersburg for the relief of the starving peasantry, and, through her initiative, similar committees are being formed in all the leading cities of the Russian empire, subscriptions being solicited. But in spite of this, all mention of the famine is tabooed, by orders of the Minister of the Interior, in the Russian press, and to read the Russian newspapers no one would imagine that a terrible famine was in progress.

Richard Hayler, of Lewes, Sussex, Eng., has written to Victoria for one Joseph Fletcher. When last heard from the latter was living on Vancouver Island. He is described as a man 68 years of age and as bearing smallpox marks.

The Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. meets to-day in Westminster and quite a contingent of the craft left Victoria this morning to take part. Among them are Deputy Grand Master Wilson and Mr. R. B. McMicking.

Joseph's political coat of many colors does not seem to fit him very well.