Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1885.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The statement of public accounts for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1884, has reached the house. It shows a condition of affairs at the treasury that is more than gratifying. The receipts of revenue for 1883 amounted to $425,808.15. In 1884 the revenue was $503,107, exceeding that of 1883 by upwards of $77,000. Added to the revenue of 1884 is the sum of $134,512.66, being the amount of refund for advances on graving dock account in 1883, and $250,000 the amount paid by the Dominion for the purchase of the dock. The addition of these sums makes the total revenue for the financial year 1884, $887,686.36, or $461,878.21 more than that of 1883. The balance against the province on the 30th June, 1883, as shown by the official balance sheet, was $328,602.38. On the 30th June, 1884, the sheet shows a balance of assets over liabilities of $1,996.95—an actual increase of $330,599.33 in one year. Readers will call to mind the gibes of the opposition when the finance minister in introducing the budget held out the hope of a considerable surplus. The appropriations had been large and liberal. Roads and bridges and schools had been generously provided for; and, moreover, the members had become so accustomed to a deficit that the idea of a surplus seemed an anticipation altogether too bright for realization. The result, however, has shown that the finance minister was right and his critics were wrong. The surplus of cash on hand at the end of the fiscal year 1884, was $134,000. This showing is made after all liabilities on public works and other expenditures have been promptly paid. Nearly every source of revenue has exceeded the estimate; but the most marked and gratifying increase is found in the land sales. From a statement by the finance minister in the house a few days ago it is gathered that the revenue from land for the *six months* from 1st July to 31st Dec., 1884, may be stated at $125,000. The land revenue for *seven years* from 1877 to the end of the fiscal year 1883, was only $188,747! The reader will not be asked to wade through a mass of figures in detail. The totals are all that he will feel an interest in. Those we have given. It may be safely said that the country will find sincere cause for congratulation in the financial statement to which we have drawn its attention.

THAT "CLEAR SWINDLE."

Some one writing in the columns of our morning contemporary, unearths "a clear swindle" perpetrated by the provincial government in the matter of taxes. It is alleged that while the statute only allows the government to add 25 per cent. upon taxes becoming delinquent, they have been adding 50 per cent. Now, first of all, the practice referred to was inaugurated and carried out by the Walkem-Beaven administration, and it is singular that the "clear swindle" of it was not discovered during the existence of that administration. It will, however, be an easy task to show that there is no "swindle" about it; but that the writer in the Standard has sadly mixed matters—really does not understand the subject at all. The statute referred to as allowing the government to add 25 per cent. upon taxes becoming delinquent did, in our opinion, partake somewhat of the nature of a "clear swindle"; but it was passed by the Walkem-Beaven administration and was disallowed by the Dominion government years ago. But the present arrangement is the very reverse of a swindle. "Look at your notices of assessment" and you will find that, so far from adding to the amount of the tax you are liable to pay under the statute, the government actually make a material reduction as an inducement to pay before the 30th of June. The larger sum placed on your notice is the actual amount of your tax; the lesser sum is that which will be accepted in full satisfaction, provided you pay before the 30th of June. If you will exercise your powers in mental arithmetic you will discover that, instead of adding 50 per cent. or anything to your taxes, the government offer you a discount of 33⅓ per cent. as an inducement to pay before the expiration of the fiscal year, thereby affording the taxpayer an opportunity of relieving himself to that extent. And it works like a charm. So much for the opposition organ's attempt to fasten "a clear swindle" upon the government. It would be amusing if it were not pitiable to witness the futile struggle of opposition organs to discover some vulnerable point, and the very pitiableness of it tends to demonstrate the excellence of our present administration.

THE "POOR" SQUATTERS.

There are indications which lead to the belief that a pressure is about to be brought to bear upon the local government to compel them to recognize the so-called "rights" of certain "poor" squatters to land within the belt that is proposed to be conveyed to the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. on Burrard Inlet. The nature of these "rights" is not fully explained; but it is asserted that they are based on the flimsiest of foundations and that the "poor" squatters parted with their shadowy claims to speculators some time ago. It is added that these speculators are creating all the clamor, and that they have secured control of a local newspaper through which to urge their indecent demands and blackmail the government into complying with them. These statements are given for what they are worth. The government in arranging for the extension of the railway to Coal Harbor and English Bay acted wisely. If in completing the transfer of land to the C. P. R. it is found that the rights of genuine settlers have been invaded the ministry will be only too ready to extend its protection to those settlers. But if, as is asserted, the claims have no foundation in fact—if it can be shown that they are *bogus* and are only advanced for the purposes of blackmail, then the government should not budge an inch. Neither the persuasions of supporters nor the threats of opponents should induce them to yield a foot of ground to which there is not a legal claim. The government would be unworthy of public confidence if it did not court defeat rather than consent to buy support by a resort to dishonorable means. Happily, there is no serious public calamity such as the fall of the present ministry impending. The government are strong in and out of the house—strong enough to do right, but not strong enough to do wrong.

THE DON AND THE TEUTON.

The London Standard publishes a dispatch from Madrid, headed, "The Inalence of Germany," referring to the failure f the protocol regarding the Soolco archipelago to receive signatures. There was a positive agreement on the part of the three countries interested, Spain, England and Germany, to affix their official signatures on December 19. At the last moment, Count Von Solms Sonnenwalde, in the usual recent high handed style of German diplomats, produced novel claims of Germany, showing a desire to infringe upon English and Spanish rights in Borneo and the Soolco islands. Germany has also given Spain to understand that she does not approve of the commercial concessions Spain is making to England and the United States. Both Germany and France insist that their exports shall be admitted to the Spanish West Indies upon an equal footing with American exports. Spain is not disposed to yield to such snubbing, and the newspapers counsel the knitting together of Spain, Italy and the United States. They urge England and Spain to sign the Soolco protocol and ignore Germany's pretensions.

THE INCREASE OF WEALTH.

In this age of progress and enterprise the vast fortunes amassed by successful individuals are a never failing topic of interest to the newspaper-reading public. The subject of the aggregate wealth of nations is not so often touched upon, but in the current number of the North American Review, M. G. Mulhall furnishes some valuable information in regard to the increase of wealth in three leading nations—Great Britain, France and the United States. Commencing in 1830, Mr. Mulhall finds a population in Great Britain of 24,000,000, and capital amounting to $16,890,000,000; in 1850 the population had increased to 27,200,000, the capital to $25,000,000,000; in 1884, population 36,200,000; capital, $45,300,000,000. France in 1830 had 32,100,000 population and $10,859,000,000 capital; in 1850, 35,700,000 in population and $15,850,000,000 in capital; in 1884, 38,200,000 in population and $41,200,000,000 capital. In 1830 the United States had a population of 12,000,000, capital not given; in 1850, population 23,200,000, capital $8,430,000,000; in 1884, population 55,500,000, capital $51,070,000,000. The United Kingdom has doubled its wealth since 1843; France, since 1856, and the United States since 1864. In the fifty-four years since 1830, Great Britain has nearly trebled her wealth, France nearly quadrupled hers, and the United States has multiplied hers by six. While the total of wealth is greater in the United States than in France or England, the average to each inhabitant is larger in either of the other countries than in the United States. The following figures show the wealth per inhabitant in different years:

Year.	Gt. Brit'n.	France.	U. States
1830	$ 704	$ 333	....
1850	943	443	$369
1870	1,168	703	916
1884	1,249	1,092	981

The accumulations per head vary in different periods. In the last fourteen years the average accumulation in Great Britain was $23 a head. In France during the Second Empire the average was $14, and since Sedan $29. In the United States the annual accumulation per capita was $44 from 1850 to 1870, but since the latter date it has not exceeded $25. One cause of this falling off may be found in the fact that in 1870 all the United States except the Pacific coast was valued on a greenback basis. Between 1870 and 1878 greenbacks rose in value until in the latter period they were interchangeable with gold, and of course property depreciated. Another cause of the slight difference in the rate of accumulation in the United States and the other two countries may be found in the fact that the laboring classes in the United States spend a larger proportion of their earnings than in the other countries. It is a notable fact that while Great Britain has the largest average of accumulated wealth per head, yet the increase per head during the past fourteen years has been much the greatest in France. The thrift of the French people is proverbial, and this, together with the fact that their loss by emigration is far smaller than that of Great Britain, give the most probable explanation. Meanwhile the United Kingdom has increased in population twelve millions since 1850 while France has increased but six millions. England shows the healthy condition of a large and steady increase in both wealth and population; in France wealth accumulates while population remains nearly stationary. To those who inquire in what the thousands of millions of British wealth consists the following table will be of interest as showing the principal items:—

	Millions of Dollars.		
	1840.	1870	1884.
Land	3,400	9,400	10,600
Cattle, etc	1,900	2,400	2,070
Houses	3,250	8,100	11,400
Railways	165	2,650	3,850
Shipping	115	330	220
Bullion	305	560	715
Merchandise	350	1,500	1,750
Furniture	1,050	4,100	5,700
Leases	1,150	3,000	5,350
Sundries	1,935	2,530	2,815
Total	20,150	34,490	43,000

It will be noticed that the increase in the value of land in Great Britain has been comparatively small. Cattle increased slowly during thirty years after 1850, and since 1870 have decreased in numbers and value. The value in houses has multiplied threefold since 1830; railways show an enormous development, and all other items a large increase. The comparatively stationary value of land in the United Kingdom for years past, gives, in part, the explanation of the less rapid increase of wealth there then across the channel or in America. In France, of the total increase in wealth since 1850 one-fifth is represented by the increased value of land. In the United States the increase in the aggregate value of land has also been enormous, from the vast extent of new lands settled upon and improved during the generation past. So that comparisons of the increase of wealth in the different nations referred to need to be very carefully made in order to lead to just conclusions as to their relative material progress.

THE TIMES AND THE SQUATTERS.

Our juvenile evening contemporary—reinforced by the exuberant pen of a legal gentleman of vivid imagination from the classic banks of the Fraser—returns to the subject of squatters' rights (or wrongs!) in connection with the Burrard Inlet lands. The government must feel relieved by the assurance of the writer in the Times that there is no expectation of defeating the government "at present" on this question. Or, he might have added, on any other during the existence of the present parliament. It did not require the assurance of the Times (and if assurance is cheek, the Times' writer has an immensity of it), to convince the public that the conspirators who pose just now as "poor" squatters, but who, in reality, are wealthy men, and press the doubtful claims of these "poor" squatters have relinquished the hope they entertained a few days ago of turning the government out. Not alone are they now convinced that their efforts are hopeless, they now see that they have conducted the business in a very clumsy and rude manner. The government, who were not moved by threats, will not be drawn from the strict path of duty by the blandishments of the organ, or the legal adviser of the "poor" squatters. We quote the word "poor," because it has been used by the "rich" owners of the squatters' "titles" to excite the sympathy of members of the house and not as a term of derision. The term as applied to the Burrard Inlet conspirators is a misnomer—a borrowed feather which they wear in their hats to scare hon. members with. The squatters' organ says: "The settlers want their just rights, and the government are not fit to represent the people if they will not give them." We re-echo this sentiment. *If* there be among the settlers, so-called, any who have been deprived of their "just rights," we shall join with our young and somewhat raw friend in demanding that they shall be confirmed in those rights. That is the spirit in which the Times should have approached the subject at first instead of trying to dragoon the government into perpetrating an illegality. If the men for whom the Times writer holds a brief are entitled to certain lands at Burrard Inlet they will get them. But, if as we are advised, they have no "just rights," all the paper they may soil or the printers' ink they may spill will not secure them one foot. If the matter is to come before the house, so much the better. It will be shown that the government, in refusing to recognize these claims have acted in the public interest and within the letter of the law. The most these "poor" squatters can ask is what they can secure under a petition of right which will not be denied them. Properly speaking the case is one for the courts, not for the legislature, but if the conspirators wish to air their complaint in the legislative hall, who shall say them nay? The government court, aye, demand the fullest investigation in the courts or in the house; but they will not buy support by recognizing claims as just which they believe to be unjust.

Voters' Lists.

During the past 12 months there have been added to the voters' lists 492 names distributed as follows: Victoria city, 81; Esquimalt, 15; Victoria, 29; Cowichan, 22; Nanaimo, 39; Comox; 1; New Westminster city, 79; New Westminster district, 155; Yale, 142; Lillooet, 11; Cariboo, 6; Cassiar, 1; Kootenay, 11.

Victoria District.

TO THE EDITOR:—As a constant reader of your valuable paper, I have noticed with pleasure the progress the province has been making during the past few years, but am sorry to say the progress made by the district in which I reside has not been in keeping with the rest of the country.

Being in close proximity to Victoria, a person would naturally expect the progress here to be greater than in other districts further removed from the leading city of the province.

The population of this district has not increased much during the last ten years, neither has the acreage under cultivation been very materially enlarged; while nearly every other section of the country annually receives large additions to its population, the new arrivals in this scarcely equal the decrease caused by death and removal. Where such a state of affairs exists there must be some cause; it is not for the want of room, arable land, or a good market. My object in writing is to point out the chief cause which, in my opinion, thus retards the prosperity of the district.

In glancing over the assessment roll, I was surprised to see the large amount of land held by individuals and companies, not making use of it, which I am quite sure accounts for our want of prosperity. The amount of arable land thus held amounts to about 20,000 acres, which would make farms for 200 settlers of 100 acres each. Now, if each of these settlers had, say on an average, a family of five, we could thus comfortably accommodate 1,000 additional inhabitants. Again, if this land was put in the market, and we received half the above mentioned addition to our population, what a difference this itself would make to the prosperity of the district and trade of Victoria. Now, I do not wish it to be understood that I object to any person or company holding 1,000 or 5,000 acres of land, providing they make use of it themselves or let it to others who will; but I most decidedly object to parties holding it for merely speculative purposes, thereby retarding the progress of the district indefinitely, waiting to be benefited by the improvements made by others, without contributing money or labor themselves.

There are individuals in this district owning 500 acres and upwards who do not raise $50 worth of produce in a year. These parties make no proper use of their land, neither will they rent nor sell to any one who will, although there are many who would be only too glad of the opportunity to buy or lease, providing they could do so on any kind of reasonable terms.

Now, Mr. Editor, in the face of the foregoing difficulties we have to contend with, what are we to do to induce these large land holders to sell or lease part of their property. The House being in session, would it not be advisable to so amend the Assessment Act so as to render it unprofitable to hold land for purely speculative purposes? I would say that a wild land tax of 2% be added to the ordinary tax, and that the mere act of fencing a tract of land and running a few cattle should not exempt it from being taxed as wild land.

My advocacy of the strong measures above suggested may produce considerable feeling amongst certain parties concerned; but desperate diseases require desperate remedies, and if some of these land monopolists be forced to sell or lease part of their property, they will find eventually that it is better for them and the rest of the community.

Jan. 19th, 1885. OBSERVER.

Snowballing.

TO THE EDITOR:—I saw in yesterday's paper where some Chinamen had been snowballed. I think they ought to be protected from any one that abuses them and the whites ought to have the same protection. I was surprised to see so much snowballing on Friday last and no policeman or any one else to prevent it. You will be aware that many persons have lost eyes from the throwing of snowballs. I suppose if there is no law to restrain the lawless we will have to protect ourselves. If a person gets hurt he can retaliate either with a club or some other weapon. I for one don't want to retaliate, but would like the law so strict as to be feared and obeyed. I hope that you will use your influence to have snowballing in the public streets stopped.

A CITIZEN.

[The law is all right; the trouble is with the police who will not enforce it.—ED.]

Snowballing.

TO THE EDITOR:—The suggestion in the Times last evening is no doubt very practical; but scarcely practicable. I do not know how the Editor of the Times would have acted had he been placed in the position of three gentlemen who were walking along Government street in front of the Hook & Ladder building at 3 o'clock on Sunday, and who got most unmercifully snowballed by a lot of boys (men?) but I hardly think he would have constituted himself a special policeman and have attempted to arrest the whole lot. On the occasion in question all three of the gentlemen were hit, and I can answer for one that one of the blows was so severe that it was felt for at least half an hour. This, as I have said, occurred on the most public street, and there was not a policeman in sight. CITIZEN.

The Dry Dock—Too Short for Modern Built Ships.

TO THE EDITOR:—The following lengths of new steamers lately built, and now building for the New Zealand and Pacific trades, may prove interesting in the present controversy, re the lengthening of "our" dry dock: The S.S. Arawa, 420 feet long; S.S. Tainua, 420 feet long; S.S. Kaikoura, 451 feet long; S.S. Manora, 410 feet long; S.S. Regina Margherita, 415 feet long; S.S. Rimutaka, 425 feet long; S.S. Ohusan, 410 feet long; S.S. Tasmanian, 405 feet long, while for the Atlantic service the lengths exceed 520 feet. The last two steamships for the Cunard service, lately built, the Umbria and Eturia, are each 520 feet long, and the fast amoured cruisers about to be built will not be less in length than 400 feet.

ENQUIRER.

Victoria, Jan. 17, 1885.

American Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

MRS. A. F. Carpenter, of Brooklyn, whose daughter jumped from an ocean steamer last October and was drowned, having found life unbearable because of physical suffering, died Monday night. She had never recovered from the prostration caused by Miss Carpenter's disappearance and the subsequent news of her suicide.

John B. Harney, of St. Louis, son of Gen. Harney, has petitioned the court to appoint a receiver for his father's estate. The general's recent marriage has brought on the trouble. Young Harney claims his father is not qualified to manage his estate, which he values at $1,000,000 The general will resist, and says he will arrange matters so that his youthful birds will be well taken care of.

Cold weather has caused much suffering among the poor classes in most of the large cities of Kansas, especially among the colored people, many of whom have recently come from the South and are destitute. In Topeka there are 700 people receiving aid. If the cold continues a month longer, 3,000 people in Shawnee county will be compelled to ask aid.

The receipts of the Brooklyn bridge are not sufficient to meet the interest on the construction bonds.

G. W. Elder's Passengers.

Following are the passengers for Victoria on board the steamship G. W. Elder, due this morning from San Francisco:—D. W. Hewston, M. McKercher, D. J. McEwen, M. J. Cameron, Miss S. Finlayson, W. A. McIntosh, W. H. Oliver, Charles E. Apponyi, Mrs. J. Oliver, Miss Williams, J. Porter, J. B. Gardiner, A. D. Tourtelott.

BEAR STORIES.

The Black Bear of British Columbia.

"Talking about bear stories," said an old pioneer of '58 the other night, "I know of several very amusing and startling incidents that happened in the early days. When the gold excitement on Cunninghan creek broke out, and miner after miner would drop out from the old camp in the evening and hurry off no one knew where, a barkeeper named George Hooshe saw them hurrying past his door. He thought he would try his luck, for though drinks ruled high, the prospect of a rich strike was too much, and he locked his gin-mill up and strapping his blankets, followed along the trail. However, he started too late in the day to reach the new find before night, and darkness overtook him while in the woods. Choosing underneath a large tree, Hooshe was preparing his bed for the night, when he saw a large black bear approaching. George's flesh began to creep when bruin rose on his hind legs and began closing in on him. He backed up against the tree, and raising his arms to their full height he made an unearthly yell. Bruin took no notice, and Hooshe climbed up the tree in quick time, the bear following him leisurely. George climbed out on a large branch, and his bearship followed him up until, getting frightened, George lost his balance, and with a yell of despair, fell to the ground. Luckily he dropped on his blankets and escaped unhurt, and took leg-ball for parts unknown. A party returned to the place afterwards and found that the tree chosen by Hooshe, unfortunately, happened to be Mrs. Bruin's domicile, and when he got as he thought out of the reach of her in the tree he had only gone so much further into her house, her cubs being up the tree. When accused of lack of pluck afterwards, George said that when it came to tackling a bear, he didn't believe there was such a thing as pluck in any one's composition.

"Another yarn that I know of occurred some years ago near Four-mile creek above Quesnelle mouth. A herder named Bush was always stating that if there was any sport he liked it was that of hunting black bear. One day he was told of a dead horse a couple of miles out and that there were some bears feeding upon the carcase. Bush and a number of friends started for the place and sure enough as they approached, they saw four large black bears feasting on the feast. Bush walked near while the others awaited results at a distance. When fifty yards or so from the animals he blazed away, but they instead of running from made after him. Bush wore long red hair, and losing his hat in the chase, his companions averred that he made such good time that it floated straight out from the back of his head. All parties made for a high branch of a tree, and the bears after keeping them there until they perhaps felt satisfied, walked off into the woods.

"The Indians tell some queer stories about the grizzlies inhabiting the neighborhood of Loon Lake. In this wilderness cotton-wood grows very thickly and the bears peel the bark from the trees and eat off the inner part, which they very much relish. There is also a large lake in this lonely place stocked with great numbers of fish, and in this the bears are quite clever in the way they will catch the finny tribe. They will get on a log and when a fish approaches, with a quick swoop of their paw they land the prize. The black bear generally found in the interior will not attack a man unless first molested, but in this district they are a disposited cross the grizzly bear which the Indians fear to tackle. There is a great plenty of fur-bearing animals also in this region, principally marten and beaver, while deer, prairie chicken and other varieties of game are in great abundance. Schaskit, an old Indian chief of the Shuswap tribe, claims this as his exclusive hunting ground. Twenty years ago this old scalper was probably the finest looking Indian in the upper country, he being six feet in height, lithe and handsome.

"I very easily recollect once while herding some horses at the mouth of the Quesnelle, of one day having to hunt up a horse who was partly lame and always straying away. I had just got in the midst of a lot of cottonwood scrub when I heard a crackling noise in front of me. Creeping around to drive the horse, as I thought, to the corral, I suddenly found myself face to face with a huge black bear, who at once rose on his haunches, looking the biggest bear I ever saw. I did not dare to use my revolver, as it had been in neglect for a week and I was afraid it would not fire. So we two just stood there looking intently at one another until the bear becoming satisfied I was quite harmless, dropped on his forepaws and made off. I need not tell you I took the opposite direction.

"Only last year a young fellow while herding some stock on the Basqui ranche, took a big black bear in a peculiar way. Seeing him making across the country, he spurred his horse and succeeded in lassoing him, but his bearship dragged him from his horse and made off with the lasso, taking refuge behind a large rock. The young fellow climbed on top the rock and taking a piece as heavy as he could lift, dropped it on bruin's head, felling him. Then he got down and cut his throat with a pen-knife.

"As I said before the species of black bear so plentiful in the interior will not attack a man, except when molested or in defence of its cubs, when it is very fierce. Still, though you may think this, when you meet a specimen face to face there is a peculiar feeling about the fact that is not at all pleasant."

HOW!

How can a man on a dollar a day
Charter a seat at a popular play,
And purchase cigars and tobacco, pray?
He can't.

How can he sport an elegant tile,
Ask his dear friends to step out for a "smile,"
And stable a 2:40 animile?
He can't.

How can he frolic with better fed friends
When, in cold perspiration, he's at his wits' ends,
If his wash-woman after her half dollar sends?
He can't.

How can he bear to be called a "poor cad?"
How can he dress in a big fancy plaid?
His credit won't keep—it is "fragrantly" bad—
He can't.

How buy perfumery, handkerchiefs too,
The edges all stamped with a red kangaroo,
And change linen cuffs every Sunday or two?
He can't.

How can he go out to ride with his "mash"
When he hasn't the requisite co'd-blooded cash?
Why, that is the reason for not being rash—
He can't.

How can he claim his dear girl's slender hand
And circle her finger with glittering band,
When his check-book's so weak it scarcely can stand?
He can't.

How can he marry and furnish a wife
With the many small comforts which sweeten this life?
We must state the cold truth though it cuts like a knife.—
He can't. —*N. Y. Life.*

THE CONGO.

Has England Been Caught in a Trap?

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The announcement that the British representative at the Berlin conference has been instructed to accept the French proposal regarding freedom of trade in the Congo country, causes great excitement in mercantile circles. France proposes that the freedom of the Congo shall be limited to a period of twenty years. African traders here say the object is to attract capital to that country during the next twenty years, and at the end of that time, after the country has been developed and made valuable by the enterprise of the merchants of all nations, it is to be closed to all except King Leopold's International Association, or to France, which is looked upon as the future legatee of that association. The proposition is denounced as a trap. Hot agitation in favor of the withdrawal of English consent is in progress, under leadership of local chambers of commerce. Memorials from these bodies, urging consideration of the subject, are pouring into the foreign office from all sections of England.

MEETING.—The annual meeting of the B. C. Rifle Association will take place this evening at the Mechanics Institute at 8 o'clock sharp on which occasion the officers and council for the ensuing year will be elected.

A HERO ... DEEP.

Jumping Overboard in a Hurricane to Save his Father.

A thrilling story of heroism at sea was told to a Philiadelphia Press reporter by Capt. Edward Rice, of the schooner John A. Griffin:—We sailed from Wilmington, said the captain, on December 13. The weather was clear and we looked forward to reaching Philadelphia in our regular time. The very next day a heavy southerly wind started up. The canvas stretched and the masts seemed to bend as they never bent before. That night at eight bells I went on deck and found the watch in a state of great anxiety. Their nerves seemed completely unstrung. Their faces were pale, and the voices of some of them were husky with fear. They told me there was trouble sure to come, for a shark had been following us for more than an hour. You may laugh at that, but to sailors such a thing means a great deal. They're superstitious, and with them a shark following a ship portends trouble. Well, the next day a storm did come, sure enough. The winds came from every point of the compass. The ship plunged forward one moment and the next was struck broadside with a blast that made every timber shake. The sea was frightfully rough and the waves very high. All our hatches were battened down and the sails reefed down to the lowest possible spread of canvas. We were completely at the mercy of the weather. My men were exhausted and some of them were completely demoralized.

THE GALE KEPT UP FOR FOUR DAYS, and didn't get once to my bunk once that whole time. The water was icy cold, and not only was every one wet, but at times our clothes were frozen stiff. The hurricane carried us along at a fearful rate. Life lines were stretched along the deck and preparations made to leave the ship in case she should spring a leak or be flooded. Once we were struck full on the starboard side with a great roll of water and the next moment sank beneath a second great wave that followed close upon the first and almost swallowed us up. The sea made a complete break over the vessel, and there was not a man who was not dashed from his place and thrown about on the deck. One of the life lines broke and the poor fellow who had been holding on to it for dear life was flung clear across the deck and thrown against the bulwarks on the port side. He was found there a few minutes later almost unconscious.

A HEROIC DEED.

That morning I myself was knocked overboard. I had ventured to make a close reef in the foresail, and although it was hard work to keep my feet, I was getting along pretty well until I was struck by the downhaul of the forepeak and knocked over the bulwarks. I sank into the sea, thinking that my last hour had come, and to tell the truth, I gave up all hope. Those of the crew who could see the accident were horroified. Without a moment's hesitation my son, fastening a rope to the taffrail, jumped overboard with the coil in his hand. I was just aft of the ship, rising from my first sinking. He swan out to me, though how he buffetted those waves in the cold water God only knows. A moment later he had me in his grip, and, with a power that was almost superhuman, kept himself afloat while he passed the rope around my waist. Then, catching the rope himself and holding on to it, for I was helpless, he signalled to the crew to draw us in. They got us alongside, and we were safe. I was pulled up first, more dead than alive, and my son was then hauled up.

My boy is only 21 years old, and it is a wonder how he saved me. The rest of our trip was stormy, but uneventful. Such weather as we had those days I never saw before.

A CLEVER SWINDLE.

Canadian Merchants Defrauded by Custom House Brokers.

MONTREAL, Jan. 12.—The customs authorities here have unearthed a series of gigantic frauds which have been perpetrated upon them by Brosseau & Tissabelle, an old and prominent firm of custom brokers here, in collusion with several merchants of this city. The modus operandi was to have invoices printed here resembling those furnished by exporters from Europe and the United States, with the value of the goods entered at a greatly reduced rate. The name of the importer attesting to the value of the goods was then forged and the invoice passed. In this manner many respectable houses have also been swindled by the firm, who succeeded in making them pay the real value of the goods and in pocketing the difference. A special agent of customs here says it is impossible to arrive at any estimate of the amount the department has lost by the swindle, but he estimates that last year alone it will amount to over $100,000. The minister of customs has ordered the arrest of the brokers, but they cannot be found.

More of J. L. Sullivan's Manliness.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A Herald's Boston special gives the following as another of Sullivan's drunken freaks: Early Saturday morning Sullivan grew very hilarious and started to conquer something. He had not journeyed far before he espied a Tremont street car laden with young women on their way to work. Sullivan at once boarded the car, knocked out and put off the driver and conductor and began at once to assume the duties of both. His fair passengers, frightened out of their wits, rushed out of the car pell-mell. Sullivan urged the horses on, and he was not at all particular about keeping his car on the track. He drove through several streets, in fact, in which tracks have not yet been laid. After his fun had become monotonous, he left the car and horses in a very precarious condition. This, it is said, will be one of the charges of cruelty that will be brought against him when he appears in court. Sullivan, it is supposed, settled for the damaged car and horses with the Metropolitan Railroad Company.

KATE CASTLETON.

Her Husband Acts Like a Ruffian.

WINNIPEG, MAN., Jan. 18.—A performance of Kate Castleton's company in the opera house here last night was interrupted by an outbreak on the part of Harry Phillips, Kate's husband and manager. He obtained possession of money sent her from Chicago, and got drunk. At the close of the first act Kate asked him for the remainder of the money, and he responded by felling her with a blow which rendered her insensible for some time. Afterward he broke into her bedroom, revolver in hand, threatening to kill her. He was arrested and spent the night in the police station. Seven thousand dollars' worth of Miss Castleton's diamonds were found on his person, and returned to her. Phillips was bailed out, and the whole company left to-night for the south.

LARGE LISTS.—The steamers Enterprise and Amelia both had large passenger lists yesterday from the East Coast. Traffic seems to be looking up now; the former also had considerable freight.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—During the past year 2,455 patents were granted in Canada. The amount of fees received was $69,530, as against $73,053.20 in the previous year. This falling off of $3,492 in receipts is due to a reduction in the number of United States patents registered during the past year, on account of the recent presidential contest

WARDSVILLE, Jan. 7.—A shooting match took place in Wardsville on Monday last for an oyster supper. After the cloth had been removed, and whilst in the midst of the festivitives, James Wells suddenly dropped dead in his chair while playing the tambourine for the entertainment of the company. Deceased was about 48 years of age and had only resided in the village a short time, where he had purchased property and was universally respected.

GRIMSBY, Jan. 7.—Burglars entered the store of E. J. Palmer last night; the safe in the office was drilled and opened, and notes and mortgages were found scattered all over the floor. They also stole a horse and covered buggy. The horse belonged to to Mr. Gilray, and the buggy to Mr. Wm. Konkle.

GUELPH, Jan. 7.—Mr. William Johnston, barrister, of Toronto, for several years President of the Ontario School of Agriculture, died at the residence of Mr. James Innes, M. P., Guelph, this morning.

Montreal, Jan. 7.—The syndicate formed for the purpose of buying up wheat in Manitoba and the North-West, has excited a good deal of interest in the business circles, and the names of the gentlemen composing it have all a long remained unknown. They turned out to be Messrs. Geo. Stephen, Van. Horne, R. B. Angus and the Hon. D. A. Smith, so that the syndicate is not identical with the C. P. R. its members are all C. P. R. men.

LONDON, Jan.6.—A well known reporter on the London press eloped on Saturday with a young lady who will come into a fortune of $40,000 three years hence. It has since been learned that he has two other wives living, each wife having a family of two children. The eloping couple have gone to New York.

BROCKVILLE, Ont. Jan.7.—The municipal elections here were fought on a strict party line. The reformers swept the town, electing the mayor and nine councillors as follows: Mayor, Dana; councillors Gilmour, Downey, Bush, Merron, Murry, Derbyshire, Marshall, Quigg and McDoughall, Reform; Cubbert Conservative.

KINGSTON, Jan.7.—The municipal election here resulted as following: Mayor, E. H. Smythe, majority, 321. The aldermen are: St. Lrwrence ward, J. L. Whiting, G. S. Hobart, and J. Redden; Ontario ward, C. Bermingham W. Wilson and L. Clements; Frontenac ward, J. D. Thompson, W. Dunn, J. O'Brien; Sydenham ward, W. Harty C. F. Glidersleeve, Dr. Irwin; Cataraqui ward, W. B. Little, J. F. Dermott, W. M. Drennan; Victoria ward, J. McKelvey, J. Wilson, R. W. Shannon; Ridean ward, J. Carson, W. Adams, C. Robinson. The electors were asked to vote in favor or against emptying property. The question was buried beneath a majority of over 1,600 votes. There was about 100 votes favoring exemptions.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 7.—A daring attempt at burglary was reported to the police last night by Mr. Stewart, an employe of the private banking institution of McArthur, Boyle & Campbell. Mr. Smith having some important work to attend to, was working in the institution between half past eight and nine o'clock, and while busily engaged writing, his attention was attracted by a noise which he imagined to be footsteps. Aware that no one except a fellow employe would enter the place by the rear door which was the only one open at the time, at that hour, with any good intentions, he jumped from his seat and as quick as possible closed the vault door and turnd the combination. This having been done he proceeded to investigate, and in the dim light discovered a man crouched underneath the counter near the safe. The man was on his hands and knees, and had evidently crawled the whole length of the room under the counter in that position Smith asked him what he was doing there, and the fellow, rising to his feet, muttered some vague reply. Smith left him and rushed to open the front door to hail a policeman, but while engaged in doing so the fellow caught him by the throat, and after a struggle threw him to the floor and made his escape into the street. Mr. Smith saw the folly of pursuing him, and leaving the bank open to further intruders, and decided to remain in the place. Re-locking the front door, he proceeded to the rear, and was astonished to find not only the back door wide open, but the trap door of the cellar raised and propped up. It was pretty evident that a big scheme was on foot to rob the bank.

TILSOUBRG, (Ont.), Jan. 7.—The case of Louis Stilwell, who was found dead yesterday in the woods near Eden is regarded as one of the foulest and most cowardly murders that ever darkened the criminal horizon. When found, the position in which Stilwell's body lay showed that he must have been shot down from behind. Besides, the wound, which had battered the skull in a score of pieces, was inflicted by a rifle ball. When Phelps essayed to lift the corpse he was shocked to the brains coming out from a hole in the center of Stilwell's forehead. The aperture was about the size of a penny piece, and there was a corresponding wound in the back of his head. The two men with whom Stilwell was in company during the hunt and whom he left to return home, carried shot guns, while the murdered man was similarly armed. The Crown attorney has the rifle-ball with which the foul deed was committed in his possession. Some startling facts are expected to develop, and it may turn out that there is a woman in the case. The deceased was 35 years of age and leaves a wife and two children.

TORONTO, Jan. 7.—The Globe this morning demands to know the interests of the farmers who Alexander Mitchell is, who represents the syndicate buying the wheat in Manitoba, broadly insinuates that he represents the Canadian Pacific Railway. It denounces that such action, and the article conclues: "As the parties for whom Mitchell acts are not known, common sense would suggest that the farmers should not be induced by his promises of higher prices to part with their wheat until paid for it."

LONDON, Jan. 5.—Rev. Mr. O'Connell, recently under arrest for insanity, lectured last night on "Who is Safe?" The audience was small. He characterized those who accused him of insanity or drunkenness as utterers of thumping lies.

KEEPING THE PLEDGE.

The approach of new year's day, says claribeau in the San Francisco News-Letter, with its mission of exacting temperance pledges, which are never kept, reminds me of an elaborate effort in that line made some years ago by certain bibulous friends of mine. They were seven in number—Smith, Smyth, Smithers, Smithson, Brown, Jones and Robeinson. They formed a syndicate. One of them was appointed secretary and instructed to draw up a calendar for the use of the members. This calendar was to contain all the occasions—holidays, anniversaries and birthdays—which, it was agreed, the members, in a body, were to celebrate in the manner most congenial to their tastes. Drinks—of course! The Secretary, who was a wag, read up the family record of the seven men, the code of the State, and the histories of France, of England and of the United States, and a comprehensive dictionary of dates, for information, and compiled an elaborate list of days of grace, and it was incorporated in the agreement, which the seven signed before a notary. At the suggesting of the Secretary, who laid stress upon the added zest of surprise, the calendar was not read. The members were satisfied that their scribe—who was the leading spirit in the proposed measure of reform—had done his work well, and were content to be informed of an approaching off day by a notification from that official. The agreement, which was signed on the 20th of December, 1879, bound the members to abstain from all intoxicating beverages, beer included—the well-known decision of a Milwaukee judge in the contrary notwithstanding, during the year of 1880, except upon holidays therein mentioned. A further clause perscribed that, upon notification of the holiday, to be sent by the secretary upon the preceding day, the seven should assemble at a selected resort and honor the occasion to their hearts' content, in a body. The calendar was as follows:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 8, Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans; Jan. 14, Smith's Birthday; Jan. 22, Robinson's Tin Wedding; Jan. 28, capitulation of Paris, 1871.

The first month under this arrangement, passed off swimmingly. The number of occasions to celebrate were just right, and every one was satisfied. The secretary smiled an expectant smile. The calendar went on:

Feb. 2, Robinson's birthday; Feb. 5, Robinson's wife's birthday; Feb. 14, St. Valentine's day; Feb. 16, Capture of Fort Donalson, 1862; Feb. 19, Robinson's oldest child's birthday; Feb. 22, Washington's birthday; Feb. 23, Battle of Buena Vista, Mexican war; Feb. 29, Leap Year Day!

The second month was decidedly more arduous than the first. There was a marked increase in the the number of jollifications. The selection of Leap Year day as a holiday was looked upon as a triumph of ingenuity, and Robinson was regarded as a hero, as he contributed, in a little over four weeks, four holidays. The secretary smiled a still more expectant smile. The calendar went on:

March 4, Inauguration day; March 5, anniversary of the Boston massacre; March 9, anniversary of the Monitor and Merrimac encounter; March