

THE SCHOOL BY-LAW.

The defeat of the school by-law by the ratepayers Thursday places the trustees in a rather serious predicament. They are called upon by the law to provide certain accommodations for the taxpayers...

It is said some of the trustees talk of "carrying out the will of the people as expressed at the polls Thursday." It will be a sorry day for the city of Victoria if it should ever be possible to say in sincerity that the voice which spoke Thursday was the voice of the majority of the people...

POSSIBILITIES.

In England the prophets are lifting up their voices and warning the people that the time of their declension as a nation is at hand unless they take heed and mend their ways. Publicists in this country are apt to overlook the fact that certain practices which they vigorously condemn are not confined to America...

Enlarging on this subject, one of the latter day prophets of England traced in vivid phrases the growth of the pleasure-seeking instinct in ancient Greece, and the attendant neglect of the sanctity of the marriage state...

there is no power on earth that can check the symptoms of decay. In our case the teaching and warnings of history are at our service, but doubtless in the pursuit of our ideals they will be unheeded. The warning voice says: "Everywhere we find the same story to be told. The fertility of people living under modern civilization is everywhere on the decline. Our eyes are not opened to it yet, but it means the desolation of modern society. It may be that when the first shot was fired yonder in the East it marked the beginning of a new epoch, that God will cast aside these nations which have made themselves effete, and accomplish His purpose by another race and a new people."

INDIA, THIBET AND RUSSIA.

The British government, possibly not unreasonably, is being subjected to a great deal of criticism on account of the expedition it has sent into Thibet. Most of the strictures are founded upon ignorance of the facts. It is not pleasant to read of the slaughter of benighted creatures who have been sent forth to perform an impossible task...

It is said that by nature Thibet is admirably adapted for the purposes of a buffer state. In marked contrast with India, it is a poor and sterile country. There is nothing in it to tempt the cupidity of any marauding power. For that reason it is assumed that the only purpose of Russia in striving to maintain a paramount influence here had reference to the future of India. Nor is the assumption unnatural. Accepting that view, the expedition dispatched by Lord Curzon was a necessary development of British policy.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S INTERESTS.

Outsiders are deeply impressed with the importance to Canada of the proposed new transcontinental railway. It is only in the Dominion itself that one hears the project condemned. While the Conservative party at Ottawa announces through its whip in the House of Commons that if the party be called to power the contract will be annulled, we read in foreign newspapers of the quickening effect upon trade the completion of the work will have.

adian territory, says: "There is no exaggeration in the telegraphic statement of the enterprise that the scheme is the most important railway project mooted in the American Northwest, as the line, if built, will tap a large number of important gold fields on the way to Dawson City, all of which are now practically inaccessible, and consequently imperfectly developed. Without railroad communication these fields will all remain as they are to-day owing to the enormous cost of the transportation of supplies and machinery by the present facilities, as everything used by man and beast must be carried on mule back for hundreds of miles, over a rough country and the worst of trails."

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer a few days ago issued a deep and learned editorial disquisition on the burning question of love. Our contemporary's knowledge of the subject is apparently so profound as to suggest a varied and harrowing experience. Possibly some of our readers of the younger generation will undertake to inform us whether the following diagnosis is in accordance with the various tests to which they have been subjected by the little tormentor. "It (love) is a nervous disease affecting the mind with pronounced accompanying physical disturbances. For instance, trembling when in the presence of one who could by no possibility produce such an effect in a normal person by mere proximity; unnatural readiness to blush and changes in appetite are among the physical symptoms. The mental aberrations accompanying the malady are too numerous to mention more than a few. A total lack of the sense of proportion not only as to persons, but as to time and space; the suspension of the faculty of

AN EMINENT JOURNALIST.

London newspapers have been commenting in a kindly spirit upon the life of Sir Edwin Arnold. The Chronicle says Sir Edwin was one of the few Englishmen who contracted an Anglo-Japanese alliance, a matrimonial character before Japan was quite so popular as she is now. Sir Edwin went to Japan in 1889, and received such a flattering reception from the Emperor and the Court, which he repaid by his glowing descriptions of the country, that he very nearly determined to end his days there. His knowledge of the country was certainly deeper than that of most foreigners who make books about it, for he lived for some months in native style, with his daughter as his only white companion. The lady whom he afterwards married accompanied Sir Edwin and his daughter to England, and one remembers, as a proof that Japan was then only partly Europeanized, that she did not put off her native costume until she went on board the British steamer. Arnold married first an Englishwoman, secondly an American (a Chaunting of Boston), and a brilliant beauty, and, thirdly, a lady of Japan. Lady Arnold speaks English perfectly, and went into society with her husband before illness and blindness made him a home-stayer. Her face was familiar enough in the Row when her husband drove with her there; and her English habits of speech and dress began at the beginning of their married life—the ceremony itself taking place in the Church of St. Matthias, at Earl's Court. Naturally enough, Sir Edwin, who loved his wife's country and people, had his last profound interest in the progress of the war; and it was a disappointment to him to die before he could be sure of the triumph of his hopes and wishes.

Sir Edwin Arnold was perhaps the most suave man who ever paced Fleet street, where the rapid conditions of journalism do not make for a magnificent manner. What was ugly in that life he disregarded, and often was he met in the thronged thoroughfare at tea time, religious to the jostle, composing either the peroration of a leader (about which he was as careful as an orator over his maiden speech), or it might be, some lines of verse, which he dictated to a member of his family the next morning. His correspondence must have been enormous, but it never seemed a tax. He hailed a contribution from an acquaintance with thanks on one day; begged forgiveness on the next for a day's inevitable delay in publication, and on the next offered his congratulations. At first sight people thought the friendly manner too good to be true; but Arnold proved true on long trial. "I am a nighty journalist," he once said, and one knew he took pride in the ambiguous sound of the "nightly." A proper knight of the pen was he.

One sometimes meets an Easterner who gravely asserts that "you do not feel the cold when the thermometer is away down." The air is so dry that the icy breath of winter has no effect upon the lungs or the skin. Not? But the statistics indicate that the past winter, which was a particularly severe one and kept the atmosphere very dry, was hard upon the sons and daughters of men. In nearly all localities the death rate was high. The bulletin of the State

Department of Health of New York for the month of February shows that there were 12,749 deaths in this state during that period, an average of about 440 February mortality which equals this," says the bulletin, "and it exceeds by almost 2,000 the average for the month during the past five years. Pneumonia was the chief cause of the increase, there being 1,820 deaths from that cause, or 14.3 per cent. of the total number. Gripe has been pursuing an epidemic during the past three months. It has also contributed to the unusual mortality."

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VICTORIA WEST INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL TEAM—PROVINCIAL AND CITY CHAMPIONS. This team has established a reputation rivaling that of the seniors. After capturing the six-game series of city league matches, the boys challenged the Nanaimo provincial champions. The latter accepted and the deciding match took place several weeks ago at the drill hall. It was won by the local aggregation, after what might be called a somewhat tame game. The Victoria West intermediate team has gone through the season without having met with one defeat.

judgment and the impairment, if not total loss, of the power of the will much resemble the symptoms of mild hypnosis. When the very young are attacked the symptoms are apt to be more obvious, though less aggravated, and the disease can be easily cured if it does not run its course swiftly. Among more mature persons it is much more severe, requiring often drastic methods of cure, and sometimes, although with extreme rarity, proving incurable. Love a disease? Who that was loveless ever doubted it? And any cynical old bachelor will tell you that it always is a disease. So why ask a doctor? It is pleasant to observe that the divorce court has not encroached upon (perhaps it has extended) the realms of the tiny god.

Our American neighbors believe they alone are gifted with a perfect appreciation of humor. And yet a New York woman who could not perceive the serious side of any question and was therefore in a constant state of laughter was bundled off inconspicuously to an insane asylum. The lady, too, had a hilarious effect upon all she came in contact with. She kept the circles in which she moved continually in a state of laughter. Properly directed, her endowments would have been a blessing to her kind. And yet she is incarcerated. The individual who snarls and snags from uprising to downfall is not treated so. The world is ill balanced.

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ANOTHER RAILWAY FOR THIS CITY

PROMOTERS NOW HERE SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Connection to Be Made With U. S. Lines and via Vancouver Island With Alaska.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

In spite of the attempts at various times to prove that Victoria's insular position deprives her of the chances to become a great shipping centre, from time to time it is found that great transportation companies turn their attention to this city in an endeavor to make it the terminus of their trans-continental railway lines, and the connecting point for Oriental and northern trade. These cannot be any question concerning the designs of J. J. Hill to make Victoria at least one of the avenues of trans-continental trade. The C. P. R. has also shown an unmistakable disposition not to allow the Hill roads any advantage in this respect, and are preparing to gain a fair foothold here. But these lines are not the only ones to see the advantages in Victoria's position. Capital has been interested in a gigantic scheme, which if carried through ac-

as required, so that no obstacle can present itself from that source.

On the 10th of March Mr. Cain laid a letter before the government referring them to the Bank of Montreal for the bona fides asked for. The government will be met by the promoters as soon as convenient, and the proposition fully presented.

It is essential that something definite should be done with respect to the British Columbia end of the scheme, as the New York interests seek an early decision. With the United States government guaranteeing 5 per cent. on the railways built in the Philippine Islands, capital for railway construction is naturally being diverted in that direction, and it cannot be expected that the eight or nine millions involved in this great undertaking should remain locked in uncertainty.

Mr. Cain was interviewed this morning by a Times reporter, and frankly explained the proposal. The company undertakes to build a standard gauge railway that will connect Victoria with the north end of Vancouver Island. It is hoped to make satisfactory arrangements with the E. & N. Company for an interchange of traffic. Mr. Dunsmuir has not been approached as yet on the subject, that being deferred until definite arrangements have been made with the government. Going on the general principle that corporations with great interests are not likely to enter into opposition to one another when not absolutely essential, it is not expected that any difficulty will stand in the way of an interchange of running rights between the new line and the E. & N. Upon the government giving assurances of the acceptance of the proposal the company will put surveyors in the field within ten days. Furthermore, within ninety days the active work of construction will begin, and within two years the company are prepared to agree to have the road completed.

The intention of the company is to

shops for the ferry and railway line. These, Mr. Cain says, would be established in Victoria.

The completion of it means, he thinks, the transferring in no small measure of the Yukon and Alaska trade to Victoria. Vancouver also would come in for its share, owing to its shipping facilities by ferry connection with Vancouver Island.

A petition in favor of the proposition has been largely signed by Victoria merchants, who realize in the scheme an excellent opportunity to attract capital to the Vancouver Island resources.

Mr. Cain is anxious to have something done at once, as those interested financially are wanting a definite answer. It is moreover important that no time should be lost with the opening of the summer if the work is to go on. A special meeting of the board of trade has been called for Monday evening at 8 o'clock in order to consider the proposal of Mr. Cain, who will be present.

ANARCHIST KILLED. Blown to Pieces by an Infernal Machine Which He Concealed in Hotel.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—An Anarchist named Kazanoff, stopping at the Hotel Du Nord, on the Nevski Prospect, concealed an infernal machine in his trunk. It prematurely exploded last night. Kazanoff was blown to pieces, the ceiling and windows of his room were smashed, several persons were injured, and fire broke out in the hotel. The flames were quickly extinguished. The police found no evidence of a plot. The man arrived at the hotel yesterday morning with a trunk and hand baggage. He went out in the afternoon and returned at 5 o'clock, remaining in his room thereafter. All evidence of the anarchist's identity was destroyed in the explosion, which shattered the adjoining

I now propose to review the local promoter... The completion of it means, he thinks, the transferring in no small measure of the Yukon and Alaska trade to Victoria. Vancouver also would come in for its share, owing to its shipping facilities by ferry connection with Vancouver Island. A petition in favor of the proposition has been largely signed by Victoria merchants, who realize in the scheme an excellent opportunity to attract capital to the Vancouver Island resources. Mr. Cain is anxious to have something done at once, as those interested financially are wanting a definite answer. It is moreover important that no time should be lost with the opening of the summer if the work is to go on. A special meeting of the board of trade has been called for Monday evening at 8 o'clock in order to consider the proposal of Mr. Cain, who will be present.

GRAIN RATES.

No Spring Reduction in the Tariff From Chicago to the East.

Chicago, April 15.—Eastern trade officials at their meeting here have decided not to make the customary spring reduction in rates on grain and grain products from Chicago to the East. This will leave the tariff on domestic grain and grain products from Chicago to New York, by the all-rail rates, at 20 cents per hundred pounds, or two cents higher than last summer. On export grain, from Chicago to New York, the rates will be 15 cents for 100 lbs., and on grain products 16 1/2 cents. The lake and rail rates will be 2 cents less than the all-rail rates. Philadelphia will continue to get a differential of 2 cents below New York on grain products, and Baltimore of 3 cents, but on grain the differential to Philadelphia will be only 1 cent, and to Baltimore 1 1/2 cents.

L. McMillan returned on Thursday from Portland, where he has been taking a course in medicine.

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