The Colonist.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30 1900.

THE FERRY SCHEME.

The proposed ferry scheme to connect with the Great Northern railway, having passed the second reading at the city council, will come before the ratepayers for their ratification, after some verbal amendments have been made. Some needless distrust has been created in the city by reason of a despatch from President Hill, of the Great Northern Railway Company, saying that his company was asking for nothing and would not guarantee anything. It must be remembered, however, that no one ever said that the Great Northern was asking for anything. It would not be difficult to suggest reasons why the Great Northern could not ask for anything. The charter of the company is probably one of them; an agreement not to extend their line into Canadian Pacific territory may be another. But the Great Northern promises to give the proposed railway and ferry the handling of all its Victoria business, which is all it could get, if the transcontinental company itself sought to make the agreement with the city. We shall have something further to say on the subject; for the present we think it very clear that if the proposed line and ferry are established, Victoria will have direct connection with the Great Northern by a railway and ferry that will be operated in connection with the main line. This is all any one wants, and if there is anything in the fact that the company is a local one, it is that some of the profits of the business developed over the railway and ferry will be enjoyed by our own people. The by-law ought to be adopted.

THE COLLAPSE AT LYDENBURG.

The collapse of the Boer defence of Lydenburg was one of the surprises of the war. It was claimed by those who knew the country well that Lydenburg was practically impregnable. Indeed, the direct line of advance on the town was such that it could probably have been impassable by any attacking force. When Buller reached the edge of the plateau overlooking the vast amphitheatre, at the extreme end of which Lydenburg is situated, he found the way blocked by well-posted guns. He, therefore, withdrew, while Ian Hamilton executed the flank movement to which he had been detailed. Hamilton had very difficult country to cross, but he made schedule time, and in the meantime Brockehurst had moved around in another direction. The plan worked perfectly, and the enemy speedily decamped as soon as the two flanking columns got in a position to threaten his line of retreat. The next morning Dundonald, followed by Kitchener's brigade, advanced upon Lydenburg, and in less than an hour had the way clear. Lydenburg was ten miles away, and was occupied as soon as the 19th Hussars could cover the intervening ground, and so what was thought to be the strongest position in South Africa fell into our hands without the loss of a man.

THE STIKINE-TESLIN RAILWAY.

The Colonist defended the Mackenzie-Mann contract for the Stikine-Teslin railway. The emergency was great and it was desirable that something should be done. The contract seemed somewhat loosely drawn, but we thought that, on the whole, it would be a good thing for Canada. Col. Prior took the same view of the case. Mr. Earle did not. He opposed the project. Mr. Earle thought that the manner in which the subsidy was given was open to very great abuse. We may dismiss the latter phase of the case, because that involves considerations which are uncertain; but concerning the location of the proposed line, more recent developments have shown that it was not a good one in respect to its termini. We were all a great deal astray about the Stikine-Teslin route. The Stikine river is more difficult of navigation than was thought, and the Hootalinqua river, which was to furnish the water route to the main Yukon, is not nearly as good a stream as we all thought it was. It is plain now that the Stikine-Teslin railway would have been of little value to the country without a very large expenditure on the part of the government. To have made the railway serviceable to British Columbia and the Yukon, it would have to have been extended to the Coast, and some means would have had to be provided for overcoming the difficulties attending the navigation of the Hootalinqua. We admit having thought very differently at the time the contract was proposed, but very much has been learned about that part of the world that was not known then. The opponents of the scheme may not have understood these points any better than the rest of us; but we all know now that if the contract had been ratified by parliament, it would have been necessary to supplement it by a large outlay in order to make the line of practical use to the country.

In other words, the wisdom of the defeat of the contract by the Conservatives in the Senate has been demonstrated by more recent developments. It is quite immaterial whether or not Mr. Earle foresaw what we now all know were the weak points in the scheme. What is to be dealt with is the fact that he voted against the scheme. His action in that regard has been justified by events, because it is very clear that if he had voted for it and the scheme had been adopted, the country would have been put to vast additional expense in order to get any advantage out of it. The cry against him, that he should be condemned for voting against that contract, is unjust. For why should a man be condemned for opposing that which experience has demonstrated would have proved undesirable?

We do not wish to be understood as condemning the government for submitting the contract. Those who were interesting themselves in Northern transportation were for the most part satisfied that the scheme was a good one. It was hastily concocted, but we were all urging for something to be done. Our point is that the scheme would not have proved a good one from the standpoint of transportation, although at the time we thought it would, and therefore that those who opposed it cannot justly be condemned for doing so.

EXTRACTS FROM THE GLOBE.

Mr. Riley was very wroth because of the circulation of a fac-simile of the Toronto Globe containing things which Liberal candidates do not like to read. If this sheet were made up of matter emanating from Conservatives—that is, if it were in point of fact a forged copy of the Toronto paper—its circulation for election purposes could not be justified, and we are confident that neither Col. Prior nor Mr. Earle would be a party to its use. But it is not. The sheet is made up chiefly of extracts from the Globe, and the matter that is original could not possibly be mistaken by any one having sense enough to vote for the utterances of the Liberal organ. The sheet itself purports to be "from The Globe." We do not wish to be understood of approving of this sort of campaign literature, and believe the extracts would have been ten times as effective if they had been presented to the public in some other way. The indignation of the Liberals is not so much because they believe any one was at all likely to be misled into thinking the sheet to be an actual issue of the Globe, but because they do not like to be confronted with such a lot of damaging statements from their principal organ. Our own opinion of the sheet, when it first came out, was that it was a very clumsy use of very excellent matter. But there is nothing dishonorable in its use in the form employed, and the virtuous indignation of our Liberal friends is for campaign purposes only.

THE LEPERS.

The treatment accorded British Columbia, and especially the city of Victoria, in the matter of the Darcy Island lepers is utterly unjustifiable. It has amounted to a refusal to bear any part of an expense, which in other parts of the Dominion is met by the federal treasury. This is a question upon which there is no dispute as to facts. There is a lazaretto at Tracadie, N. B., which was established under a provision in the British North America Act. It never has been claimed that this provision requires the federal government to look after the lepers in other provinces; but by analogy it would seem as if the provinces had a claim in that regard. This analogy has been extended so far as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba are concerned, by the Laurier government, and by the Conservative government it was recognized as extending to British Columbia, for $1,000 was granted to Victoria and Vancouver to meet the cost of maintaining the establishment on Darcy Island. This grant was withdrawn by the Liberals. A marked proof of the discrimination against this province was shown when Col. Prior asked the minister, under whose charge these matters come, if it was the intention of the government to remove the Darcy Island lepers to Tracadie. The minister replied that the matter was too important to be decided upon off-hand; yet within twelve days after giving this reply he authorized the removal of lepers from Manitoba and Prince Edward Island to Tracadie. Such facts as these hardly call for comment, yet it may be pointed out that the removal of the lepers from the other provinces clearly showed that the government recognized an obligation in the premises. If there are reasons why Chinese lepers may not be taken to Tracadie, there is no reason why the Dominion should not bear a part at least of the expense of maintaining them where they are. The Conservatives took this view of the case; but the Liberals refuse to pay a single dollar. On the case as stated above there can be no dispute, and we submit that the facts show a characteristic disregard by the Laurier ministry of the just claims of British Columbia. It is not a large matter, but justice ought to be done even in small matters.

INEXCUSABLE NEGLECT.

Why has nothing been done to compensate the owners of property near Fort Macaulay for the depreciation in the value of their real estate through the location of the forts? This property was purchased for residential purposes, and its value in that respect has been greatly reduced. No one wishes to live close to a fort from which at any time large guns are likely to be fired. The value of such property is reduced almost to zero. Moreover, forts are built with the expectation that they may be used to fight a hostile fleet. Therefore property in the vicinity is in the danger zone, and the same reasons which make the locality a desirable one for a fort render it highly objectionable as a home. The Conservative government recognized this self-evident proposition and compensated some of the owners. The Laurier government, although urged repeatedly to do so, has declined to act. The Minister of Militia has even gone so far as to deny that the government is under any obligation to recognize the claims of the property owners in question. It seems too late to raise this point, because the precedent already established shows that the government does acknowledge a responsibility in the premises, and it is a principle of the British system of government that precedents of this nature, established by one cabinet, shall be followed by a succeeding one. This secures continuity of policy in regard to private rights. The neglect to comply with the reasonable claims of the land owners in question is simply another indication of the indifference of the government to the interests of the Victoria people.

PARTING OF THE WAYS.

If ever it could be said of a city that it is at the parting of the ways, it can be of Victoria to-day. We have no desire to employ the language of exaggeration, but feel fully warranted in saying that upon the events of the next few months the future of Victoria largely depends. Shall the city advance with strides that will put it in the forefront of Western cities, or shall it lag behind in the race, comforting itself by contemplating its beautiful scenery and enjoying its genial climate? This is a question which comes home to every man, woman and child within this municipality. Some people look at questions of improvement as solely affecting the real estate owner. That arises out of our system of taxation. When the burden of municipal taxes was thrown upon the owners of realty, a very large and progressive element of the community tied its own hands in regard to work necessary for progress to promote the public welfare. There is a ridiculous habit in this city of referring to people who do not happen to have thought it worth while to buy a piece of ground, as having no permanent interest in the community. There never was a greater fallacy. The ownership of a town lot does not give a man any more interest in a city than does the ownership of a prosperous business. Indeed, in many cases the town lot may be mortgaged up to its actual value, nevertheless the man who owns the equity of redemption poses as one having a permanent interest and is disposed to tell the man who has a prosperous going business, and who, perhaps, spends thousands of dollars in employing labor and in his living expenses, where the lot owner spends hundreds, that he has no right to dictate to these ratepayers what they ought to do. There is this, however, to be said of the projects to which we are about to direct attention, that if they are promptly carried into effect, the result upon the value of Victoria realty will be very great indeed. Higher rents will be the rule and sales of property will be more frequent. Within the past two weeks a resident of Victoria, who proposes to buy himself a home, has been offered several desirable places on the sole condition that he will pay up the back interest on the mortgages, and thus relieve the "owners" of any further obligation on that score. Such "owners," if what we are about to speak of can be accomplished, would undoubtedly find their equity of redemption of some value.

If it could be announced in the columns of the Colonist this morning that a transcontinental railway was immediately about to extend its line into this city, that the E. & N. railway was immediately to be extended to the north end of this Island by a company which would put on a fast line of steamers to connect with the White Pass & Yukon railway, and the other avenues of entrance into the Northern gold fields, and that a branch of the Royal Mint was about to be established in this city, would not the news be received throughout Victoria with demonstrations of joy? Would anything else be talked about all day? Would not every business man feel an inspiration to new energy? Would not every workingman feel that his future for years to come was assured, as far as employment goes? Would not every real estate owner look forward with confidence to an immediate appreciation in the value of his property? We leave these questions in a paragraph by themselves, and ask that readers will give them a little consideration.

We submit for the consideration of the people of Victoria if the consummation of the projects above named is not worthy their best efforts. Let it be supposed that the Mint were established here and the proposed connection made with the Northern gold fields. Is it not as certain as anything human can be that the gold from the North would be brought to Victoria in preference to anywhere else? Some of those with whom one discusses the desirability of a railway to the north end of the Island, object that there is nothing here to induce miners to remain in the city. A Mint would do so beyond any question. They would all come here to convert their gold into money, and while doubtless many of them would soon go elsewhere, to Vancouver, Seattle or cities further east, Victoria would be the point where they would make their first outlays. The extent of their purchase here would depend upon many considerations, but so far as the promptness of our merchants to cater to their wants is concerned, there would undoubtedly be nothing lacking. No argument is needed to show that a tide of miners bringing into Victoria their gold would enormously enhance the business prosperity of the city. Such a Northern connection, bringing miners to the Mint, would make the connection with the transcontinental railway a matter of vast importance to the city, for it would secure for it a direct and through line of first-class passenger accommodation. The city would be on a highway of modern travel and a stopping place for the most valuable portion of the travel.

When the Colonist first began to agitate for railway extension to the north end of the Island and steamboat connection with the Northern gold fields, it was met by the objection that this would interfere with the C. P. N. Company. Every proposal for a ferry connection with the Mainland has been met by the same objection. We are bound to say that the objection has not come from the C. P. N. Company, but only from persons disconnected with it, who were seeking to give their reasons for opposing the several projects. If the welfare of the C. P. N. Company were endangered by the proposed projects, that would be a good reason to hesitate until it had been shown that the corresponding benefit to the city would counterbalance the injury; but it is the merest twaddle to raise this objection. The C. P. N. Company would share in the general prosperity which the proposed projects would bring about, and that very important Victoria corporation would be a much more valuable asset to its owners than it is now. This objection is of the sort that is made to every projected improvement. We suppose that when the C. P. N. was proposed there were people in Victoria who said it would interfere with something else. When the Outer Wharf was proposed, there were those who objected to it because it would interfere with something else. There never was a projected improvement of any kind suggested, but that some one objected that it would hurt something already in operation. We have already pointed out in these columns the value of the C. P. N. Company to Victoria, but we wish to go on record as saying that when the projects above referred to are carried into effect, the earnings of that company will be taxed to the utmost to take care of the new business created.

We shall not in this article attempt to indicate the steps that ought to be taken to bring about the accomplishment of the above named projects. Our object this morning is only to bring, if possible, the people of Victoria to a realization of the exceedingly important nature of what might without exaggeration be called a crisis in the history of the city. The subject is a large one and presents many sides. We have found in many instances that the best plan in matters of this nature is to give the people the thought and let them cogitate over it. The Colonist has great faith in the good sense of the people, when once they can be got to exercise it on any public matter. Interchange of views leads to the better understanding of any case and to development of ideas regarding it. Therefore, if we had, as we have not, any cut and dried plan whereby we believed the desired results can be achieved, we should hesitate about publishing it until others have had an opportunity of considering the value of the points to be accomplished. We only ask that the people shall unite in whatever steps may be deemed advisable, after mature consideration, and not cease in their efforts until all the above projects have become realities.

THE LIBERAL MEETING.

The Times prints a very full report of the Liberal meeting in the A. O. U. W. Hall. It was not a very large meeting by any means, but it was a wet night. It would not take a very large audience to fill the A. O. U. W. Hall anyway. The speakers seemed to be in good spirits and to have avoided saying anything calculated to give offence. Candidate Riley appears to have been humorously inclined, which is a pleasant thing; but it was not necessary to call a meeting of the electors to prove to them that Mr. George Riley is a very pleasant person, indeed. His speech was not very long, and was almost non-political. He claimed the ability to do great things, and cited the settlement of the right-of-way across the Indian Reserve as proof of it. Perhaps if Mr. Riley were to be quite candid he would admit that the previous work done in regard to the Songhees Reserve by Messrs. Prior, Earle and others greatly facilitated his task. This and his expression of belief that the election of his opponents would not enhance Victoria's chances of securing the branch of the Royal Mint, constituted the political portion of Mr. Riley's address. On the latter point, we fancy, there is a good deal to be said. The claims of Victoria to the Mint are such as are not likely to be ignored under any circumstances. We fancy that the Imperial authorities will be consulted, and that the question of location will depend upon something else besides how the Victoria election goes.

Mr. Drury made a very moderate presentation of the claims of the party to which he belongs, and may be congratulated upon his advent as a public speaker. He was frank enough to express his doubts as to the legitimacy of employing the prosperity of the country as an election cry. Mr. Drury is right in this, for it is idle to claim that the Liberal regime has created our prosperity. The most that can be claimed is that it has not prevented Canada from sharing in the general expansion of business all the world over. Nevertheless he went on to claim the very thing about which he had doubts, and as this claim constituted the only reason advanced by him for the continuance of the Liberals in power, he is rather in the position of the cow that gave a nice looking pail of milk and then proceeded to kick it over.

Messrs. Riley and Drury were only intended to afford a preface for our picturesque friend, Mr. Duff, who started out by declaring that he was not in favor of parochial politics. Whether this was intended as a hit at the Chairman, and Messrs. Riley and Hall, who took the position that the only way for Victoria to get anything is to vote for government candidates, we do not know. In his strictly non-parochial way he asked the people present to believe that a vote for Messrs. Prior and Earle is against the "most vital and immediate interests of Victoria." To other people than Mr. Duff this would seem very much like ultra-parochial politics. Speaking, also non-parochially we assume, he then told the audience that we have many favors to ask from the Dominion government, and therefore should elect Liberals. By the same logic, if there is any sort of chance that the Conservatives may come in, it is the duty of the people to elect Conservatives. Mr. Duff elaborated this point at considerable length, and appears to have evoked laughter and applause, which is not a matter of surprise, because, as we have said, he is a picturesque speaker; but it was all dreadfully parochial, and this is something which Mr. Duff abhors. How he must have hated himself when he got through with it.

The piece de resistance of Mr. Duff's speech was his reference to the Stikine-Teslin railway contract. But it seems to us that the answer to what he said on this point is to be found in the fact that the government had from Sir Charles Tupper an assurance that the Conservatives would support any well-devised plan for an all-Canadian line to the Yukon. It is true that the Conservatives in the House, for the most part, opposed the proposed bargain. It is true that the Conservatives in the Senate threw it out. But it is not true that the Conservatives were opposed to an all-Canadian line to the Yukon. It is true, however, that when Mr. Sifton was unable to carry through his bargain with Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, the government went into a fit of sulks and never moved a hand to secure the construction of a railway, which the Liberals claim, and with perfect reason, is vital to the welfare of Western Canada. If they wanted an all-Canadian line so badly, why did they not devise a plan which would have received Conservative support? One could have been devised, and it would have been actively supported. But no. The government could not accomplish what it was aiming at in its own particular and extraordinary way, a way unheard of in the history of railways, and so it would do nothing at all. There is no difference in the position taken by Mr. Duff, Col. Prior and the Colonist in regard to this Stikine-Teslin railway, but where Mr. Duff parts company with Col. Prior and this paper, is when he seeks inferentially to defend the inaction of the government after the defeat of the Mackenzie-Mann contract. We have no wish to detract from the credit attaching to Mr. Duff for an able speech, but we submit that he failed to give a single convincing reason why the affairs of Victoria, of British Columbia and of Canada would be any safer in the hands of Messrs. Riley and Drury than in those of Messrs. Prior and Earle. And this is, after all, what he set out to do.

MR. WARD'S TELEGRAM.

We do not see how Mr. Ward can justify his telegram to President Hill, of the Great Northern railway. If Mr. Ward had telegraphed in his private capacity we should not criticize his action, but it is not unreasonable to say that when he did so in his official position as President of the Board of Trade, he was under an obligation to be absolutely accurate. In his telegram Mr. Ward, as President of the Board of Trade, informed Mr. Hill that it was stated by Messrs. Mackenzie and others that the proposition made by Mr. Bodwell emanated from Mr. Hill. This is quite inaccurate. The telegram conveys the impression also that Mr. Bodwell had stated to the Board of Trade that the proposition had emanated from Mr. Hill. This was an absolutely inaccurate impression to convey. We cannot understand how Mr. Ward could have made such a statement in his telegram. In presenting the case to the City Council, Mr. Bodwell was very careful not to say that the proposition emanated either from Mr. Hill or the Great Northern Railway Company. His language was so guarded that the opponents of the project claimed that he had not stated that the Great Northern was behind the scheme. What Mr. Bodwell said was that the project had the approval of the Great Northern railway, whose officers had investigated it and were prepared to handle all their Victoria freight over it; that a company would be incorporated here to build the railway and ferry, and that the Great Northern hoped to get certain business originating on Vancouver Island. How any person, with Mr. Bodwell's remarks before him, could telegraph Mr. Hill that any one had stated that the project had emanated from him, Mr. Ward may be able to explain, but he certainly cannot justify conveying to Mr. Hill the impression that the Board of Trade considered him to be applying to the city for aid. We do not suggest that Mr. Ward desired to give the project a blow below the belt, but he has certainly done so. His telegram was unfair to Mr. Hill, to Mr. Bodwell, and to the citizens. It was so grossly unfair that it will defeat the purpose with which it was written. It is publicly stated that Mr. Ward did not write it, but only affixed his name as President of the Board of Trade to it, and that the cost of sending it and of the reply were defrayed by another person. Is this true?

THE LOWER FRASER.

Elsewhere in to-day's issue we print some facts regarding the agricultural capabilities of the Lower Fraser valley. No attempt has been made at embellishment. A simple statement is made, but the facts and figures presented are more eloquent than anything else could be. They show that in the portion of the province in question there is room and opportunity for a very large population. Various causes have co-operated to retard the progress of this region. The need of dyking is one of them. Setbacks due to floods, which can be entirely prevented in the future, though, of course, not without some expense, have been the cause of discouragement. Inadequate transportation has handicapped enterprise. The absorbing interest taken by British Columbia people in mining, and the hope of being able to make a large fortune quickly have led to a disregard of the slower, if surer, industry of agriculture. But these things will be only temporary in their effect. With a growing market for farm produce, due to the opening of mining regions and the increase of population from other causes, greater attention will be paid to agriculture, and it is not in the nature of things that a region so blessed by nature as the Lower Fraser valley will not in a short time be utilized to its fullest capacity. It is not easy to say what this measure of prosperity will be like, when the whole valley is utilized by intelligent cultivators, but here are facts, which may assist us in forming some sort of an approximation:

The value of the crop of Chilliwack, Sumas and Popcum, was placed in 1891 at $247,560, which was the yield of 8,843 acres of cultivated land and 9,004 acres of pasture. No estimate was given of the value of the meats marketed or the live stock sold, so the total of the value of the farm products cannot be got at. It is, perhaps, not unreasonable to estimate that the yield per acre of cultivated and pasture land would not be much less than $20. For the purpose of the calculation, we will put it at $20, and may mention that, deducting the dairy produce, so as to eliminate the pasturage from the calculation, the yield per acre of cultivated land was $25. If we estimate the land available for agriculture in the valley at 300,000 acres, and we think this is moderate, although to get this amount there would have to be a good deal of clearing done, we get the approximate yield of the valley at $6,000,000 a year. We suppose this would be a moderate estimate of the agricultural capabilities of the valley, but it takes into account nothing that may be looked for from improved methods of husbandry.

We submit to the people of this city that, important as are the more remote districts from which Victoria can draw trade, none of them is worthy of greater attention than this, which lies almost at our doors, and in only cut off from us by the lack of improved facilities of transportation.

AN OUTRAGE ON THE PUBLIC.

The Associated Press has sent out an extraordinary telegram from Ottawa, foretelling an overwhelming victory for the Liberals at the coming elections. The statement is made that the Conservatives have given up the fight in Ontario, and that Sir Charles Tupper is fighting for his own seat with very little chance of holding it. There is a lot of more stuff to the same effect. It would be interesting to know by what right the Associated Press assumes a partizan role and disseminates despatches of this nature. Perhaps if we could answer this question, we might be able to appreciate the value of the prophecy. Hitherto the Associated Press has been supposed to be strictly non-political. Its despatch of yesterday places it in the position of a rank partizan, and throws great doubt as to its reliability as a purveyor of political news. The despatch bears all the ear-marks of party bias and must be accepted as a purely partizan statement, made for campaign purposes. The sending out of such a telegram by the Associated Press can only be characterized as a gross outrage and as an abuse of its prerogative as a news gatherer.

VERY UNSOUND.

The Times in a paragraph intended as a reply to the Colonist's reference to the Stikine-Teslin railway, says that the more the line would cost the better for the people of British Columbia. Does our contemporary seriously mean this? Does it wish to go on record as an advocate of the doctrine that no matter what a public work costs, the people of a province should insist on it, because the money will be spent among them? "What difference would the increased expense make to the people of British Columbia?" asks the Times. We reply that it would make a very great deal of difference, because the people of this province pay very heavily indeed towards the cost of running the Dominion. The language of the Times would fit perfectly the mouth of an avowed spoilsman. Let the money be spent, so long as it is spent among us, is its cry. We do not think the people of this province will approve of any such dishonorable view of public expenditure. We are unwilling to think that on consideration the Times will repeat what it has said. Its position is absolutely unsound.

LIBERTY AND LAW.

The Anarchists wish to abolish all government and all laws. They claim that the result would be universal liberty. It would be nothing of the kind. It would be universal slavery. There is no greater mistake than to suppose that liberty can exist without law. In the CXIX. Psalm the true doctrine is laid down. The Psalmist says:

"So shall I keep thy law for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts."

There are no anarchists here that we know of, and if there were it would not be worth while writing an editorial to convince them of their error. But there are many persons to whom the thought contained in the quotation may be valuable. Especially is this true of the young. We would like to say to young men that there is nothing which will more seriously handicap them in life than that species of liberty which defies law. Let us endeavor to give an illustration of the thought. There is a law in Canada which says that a man who commits forgery shall suffer a certain punishment. Can any one claim that if he violates this law he is at liberty? Certainly not. He may remain free from arrest, but he will ever bear about with him, haunting like a ghost, the memory of the deed and the fear lest at some time it will come to life. He will never be the same man after he has done the act. All through his life he will be burdened with it. He cannot walk at liberty, to use the words of the Psalmist. But the man who has never committed forgery is superior to that law. He lives on a higher plane. He has the liberty which comes from that higher life. It so happens that the great majority of us do not feel the restraint of criminal laws. We are free because we have risen to a higher plane than that upon which such laws operate. The fact that policemen patrol our streets at night is not to the majority a menace to liberty, but rather a guarantee of it. The fact that courts exist for the punishment of crime, and that penitentiaries and scaffolds are maintained does not restrict our liberty of action in any way. We are above the things which those political institutions regulate.

But there is another side of life. There are laws not written in statute books, laws of which the courts do not take cognizance, laws for which the nation provides no place of punishment. How many of us live on such a plane that these laws do not restrict our liberty? This is a question which will not admit of so general an answer as the other. Hundreds and hundreds of young people are indulging in habits which bring them under the operation of these laws, which are the laws of our physical and mental being. These laws have what the old writers call their sanction, just as if they were passed by a parliament. We may think that we avoid their consequences, but the escape is only temporary. The burden of violation of them is heavy, and has retarded many and many a man in what would have been a most successful career. Young men should be careful how they lower themselves into the level where such laws operate with all their merciless power. In the courts of the nation a jury may sometimes recommend a criminal to mercy, but in the unwritten laws of our being mercy has no place.

Fortunately for mankind there is a way out of the difficulties which result from a violation of these unwritten laws. It cannot perhaps be explained in accordance with any system of philosophy; but we must remember how true it is that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy." Unless we dismiss as fable the testimony of millions of people who speak from personal experience, unless we deny the teachings of our own observation, there is a Power of which it can be said:

"As far as the East is from the West, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."

The restoration to a high moral level from which we may fall is possible. We may cease to drag with us the weight of guilt. We may be able "on the ashes of our dead selves" to rise to greater heights than may seem possible in the despair which comes when we recognize our mistake in defying the unwritten laws of life; but we never can be what we might have been if we had not for a time lost that freedom which comes from a respect to the precepts governing a well-ordered life.

The appointment of Mr. George E. Powell as judge of the Court of Revision has been well received. It is a very popular appointment.

It will be necessary to get after Steyn. He still keeps up the pretence of maintaining a government. It is time to take off the velvet glove and let the iron hand be felt.

There is still heavy fighting in the Philippines. The work of subduing the Filipinos does not seem to grow any easier as time progresses. They are putting up a very extraordinary resistance.

We print elsewhere this morning a copy of the by-law relating to the proposed railway ferry. Every citizen ought to read it.

The result of the bye-election in Morris, Manitoba, does not look much like a Liberal landslide in that part of the country. So far as it can be interpreted at all as bearing on the present contest, the significance is all the other way.

The Times does not seem to like our characterization of Mr. Duff as a picturesque speaker; but we do not believe Mr. Duff minds it in the least. On the contrary, we are very much disposed to thing that Mr. Duff would not have any objection to having the epithet attached permanently to him. It was intended to be, and was, complimentary.

We complimented Mr. George E. Powell yesterday as a judge of the court of revision; but we do not feel like doing the same thing in regard to his appearance as a political speaker at Metchosin. It does not make the least difference what side he advocates, for we think a local government official ought to abstain from taking any active part in any political campaign.

Is it in the interest of Victoria to be in opposition to or in harmony with the government? This is a question asked by the Times. A pertinent question for those who think such a consideration should influence votes is: What party will be in power after the elections? No one can pretend to know. There may be as big a surprise in store for the Liberals as there was in 1896 for the Conservatives.

What About Free Trad

Mr. Joseph Martin Says G ernment Have Not Kept Pledges.

Deprived of all Hope of Present Leaders Doing Anything.

In his speech at Selkirk hall, W peg, October 28, 1899, Mr. Joseph tin had this to say about the mani which the Liberals have broken promises on the tariff question:

I have the same views upon the question which I had when I aske your suffrage in 1896 (cheers), and that no man has a right to reproac with having departed from the prin of the great Liberal party when I intend to remain in those views IF THE GOVERNMENT OF DAY DEPART FROM THEM T ARE CEASING TO BE LIBER AND NOT ME. (Cheers.) Wher Fielding gave us his first tariff, he "We hesitate to bring our free doctrines into force at once; Ca has had eighteen years of prote policy, and certain interests have g up which must be to a certain e respected, and therefore we simply these changes," which he then proce to announce to the world. That w the session of 1897, and Mr. Fie went on to say: "We are boun carry out our principles, and I warning to every manufacturer while we have considered these fo time being, they must gradually yie time, and at as early a date as pos we will carry out our pledges f Now, I may say that that anno ment was not entirely satisfactor me and to others who were strong traders, but we felt that perhaps government might be right, and we not object to what the governmen in 1897. We were prepared to we felt ourselves that we would li have seen it done faster; we felt there was a vicious principle that not be got rid of too quickly (che but we accepted what the govern then proposed, and if the govern had gone on in that direction, ev they had been much slower tha thought they ought to have bee would have been prepared to wai them, but they have now deprive of all hope. (Cheers.) Mr. Fielding gone back on that declaration; government have gone back o (Cheers and cries of "No" and "Well, now, there it is. Some g men in the audience say "No," a they are right, then there is a gli of a hope for me. (Laughter.) I you to understand that if there is possibility of the government right, I want them to do it. I d want to see them go wrong, and b out of power, but when gentlemen "No, the government have not back on their declarations," then wish they would point out to me thing to satisfy me on that gr (Cheers.) I have read Mr. Pate speech carefully, and do not thin said one word to show that the go ment intend next session to bring some more tariff changes, the follo session more, and to keep on until have eliminated the principle of p tion, because that is what we pl ourselves to do, and nothing less that will satisfy me, as a Li (Cheers.) I am willing they shall their time about it, although I not have required time myself—I have done it quicker (laughter cheers), but if Mr. Paterson had here and said: "We have done thing—not perhaps as much as so you would have liked us to have but that is only an instalment; so us are a little more conservative i ideas than the extreme men i party"—if Mr. Paterson had said I would still have been satisfie would still remain silent, I woul wait; and if each session I something being done, I would say right," but they have deprived me hope. (Cheers.) Mr. Paterson di give the slightest indication that will be any tariff changes any (Cheers, and a voice, "Yes, he did would like the gentleman who sa did to point it out to me, becaus Free Press is certainly a very organ if it has failed to report tha essential feature of Mr. Pat address. (Cheers and laughter.) he please point out to me in that where Mr. Paterson gave the sl indication of any hope of that (Cheers.) More than that, Mr. spoke at Perth a short time ago, with Mr. Frost, one of our Liber tectionists (laughter and cheers), was reported in a paper down th have said there was no longe issue on the tariff. That matte up for discussion in the Liberal ciation in this city, and it was out that was something Liberals not stand—which was agreed everybody, including Isaac Ca Col. McMillan and others who a quite satisfied with what Mr. P says. These gentlemen then sa Mr. Sifton could not possibly hav such a declaration, that it mus been an inaccurate report. No Sifton has never denied that sta (Cheers.) He had an opportun doing so on Tuesday night but he it by. I quite understand it was reasonable arrangement that one ter should have one subject a other another, and no doubt Mr. son was more suitable to deal w tariff than Mr. Sifton is, and Mr. had quite enough of his own hands to explain regarding his o partment. (Laughter and cheers. at the same time Mr. Sifton w aware that his Perth speech ha debated here, and if prepared t the report, he had an excellent tunity on Tuesday, and his neg do so admits of but one interpr and that is that the report was (Cheers.)

More than that, Mr. James land was taken into the governi short time ago, and gave an int in which he said there was no any issue on the tariff, a plain forward declaration that the I have gone as far as they intend t the matter.

COLDS THAT HANG ON.

Pneumonia is the result of neglect colds, colds that hang on and inflame ritate the bronchial tubes and lun promptly and thoroughly cure che tightness in the chest and all cold throat and bronchial tubes. Dr. Syrup of Linseed and Turpent proved itself the most effectual rem tant. Its sales are simply enorm ce s a bottle. Family size, 60 cen