

AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

The Colonist insists that it was telling the truth when it asserted that the cost of maintaining the marine service of the Dominion on the Atlantic coast during the year 1904 was \$479,020, while the cost of the service on the Pacific for the same period was \$39,000. The figures given are so grotesquely false that we are astonished that any reputable newspaper would have the effrontery to place them before its readers as authentic. The list of aids to navigation published in the Saturday issue of the morning paper was evidently manufactured by the same resourceful mind that invented the figures issued in the table giving the comparative cost of maintenance. The Colonist says it believes its readers will accept its statements as correct. Possibly they will. Repeated demonstrations of the fallibility—to use a term which is tolerable "between gentlemen in private life"—of their oracle may not have completely shattered their faith in its veracity.

If our contemporary is really desirous of placing the truth before its readers and is not actuated by a desperate desire to make political capital out of something that cannot be applied to any such base purposes we believe it can obtain a list of the aids to navigation in the waters of British Columbia and the actual cost of maintenance of the marine service during the year 1904-5 by applying at the office in Victoria of the agent of the Marine and Fisheries Department. As we have already pointed out, in the year 1903-4, \$94,183.45, and in the year 1904-5, \$140,236.53, were expended by the Dominion government in the maintenance and installation of aids to navigation on the Canadian Pacific coast. The foregoing are the correct figures. It was an extremely silly thing to publish \$39,000 as the cost of maintenance, because it must have been apparent that such a malicious untruth could not be permitted to pass without correction.

The true figures indicate the rate at which federal expenditures for the protection of shipping on the Pacific coast are increasing.

PROTECTION AND SHIPPING.

Whatever protection may do for the promotion of industrial activity in general, it is a melancholy, ghastly failure as a stimulator of shipbuilding. Protection has been given a long trial in the United States, and has been found woefully lacking as a promoter of enterprise as far as the construction of commercial ships is concerned. American shipyards can build fine warships at double the cost such vessels could be laid down by British yards. The fresh water and coasting fleets of the United States are increasing at a rapid rate because the coasting laws preclude foreign ships from competing for trade. But wherever American ships are compelled to compete for the business done on the great deep, they are eventually forced to haul down their flag. It is doubtful if there is a single steamship of large tonnage and of the first class being built in American yards to-day. Most of the shipbuilding companies in the United States would be compelled to suspend operations if it were not for the government orders they have on hand. That is the conclusion of the Scientific American, which points out that during the fiscal year ending July 1st, 1905, there were under construction or under contract in the shipyards of the United States seventy-six steel merchant vessels, of 190,903 tons, and thirty-nine steel government vessels, of 208,702 tons; so that the amount of work being done for the government (most of it for the United States navy) was over sixty per cent. greater than the work being done for private shipping concerns. Even more remarkable were the conditions in 1904, when the merchant tonnage was only 94,988 tons, as against 131,435 tons that were under construction for the government. In the presence of these figures, it would be well for those people who are bitterly opposed to the upbuilding of our navy to bear in mind that our warships not only serve as guardians of the peace (for which they are just as essential as the police of our cities) but the very act of their creation has served to keep alive the important shipbuilding interests of this country. Indeed, the absolute cessation of new naval construction would involve the closing down of several of our building yards. The merchant marine of the United States, including all kinds of documented shipping, comprised on July 1st, 1905, 24,681 vessels, of 6,456,543 tons. About one-half of this tonnage was afloat on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, one-third of it on the Great Lakes, while on the Pacific coast the total amounted to 793,088 tons, the small remainder being found at the Hawaiian Islands and on the western rivers of the United States. During the year, 1,102 vessels of all kinds, great and small, were built, the total tonnage amounting to 330,216 tons. Of this total, 40,000 tons consisted of steel steamers, including the big Dakota of over 20,000 tons; 14,149 tons consisted of steel ferry, river, and bay steamers; and 29,104 tons of wooden schooners; while the importance of the Great Lakes shipbuilding interests is shown by the fact that the total tonnage of new steel steamers built there during the same year was 101,521 tons. Comparing the total gross tonnage of the American merchant marine, as given above, with

that of its most formidable competitors, we find that for 1905 the total tonnage of the German Empire amounted to \$517,673 gross tons, of which 2,883,492 tons represent steamship tonnage, while the total shipping of the United Kingdom and British Colonies for the same year is 17,900,720 gross tons, of which all but 1,600,132 tons represents steamship tonnage.

DEMOCRACY SURGING FORWARD.

The world is moving; and it is gathering pace as it moves. In its onward progress it is constantly overtaking and burying some cherished beliefs and institutions. Consider the progress the democratic movement has made in the United Kingdom since the date of the last general election, and estimate, if you can, what the power of the workingman's vote will be when the next appeal to the people is taken? Triumphant democracy, we can rest assured, will not forever submit to be dictated to by the representatives of an "obscure aristocracy" or by those who are content to remain in subordination to the hitherto dominant classes.

Labor has a representative in His Majesty's government, and this representative, although he is by no means an extreme type of his class, voicing the political opinions of what may be termed the conservative elements in the ranks of labor—Rt. Hon. John Burns has declared for the abolition of all hereditary rulers and institutions. The movement which has at last begun to make its influence felt in Great Britain will extend to those portions of the European continent which have not been progressive "along rational lines." And wherever it appears it will progress more rapidly than it has done in Great Britain. Already the strength of the social democrats of the Teutonic nations is greater than their influence upon affairs of state. They will not stand still much longer. These movements, so momentous in their character and so awful in their revolutionary possibilities, suggest the thought that it will never be possible to say of another hereditary ruler, as has been written of the late King of Denmark by the New York Post, that he gave provided kings for two new thrones, those of Greece and Norway, and queens for Great Britain and Russia, is something of a title to remembrance, and the late Christian IX. of Denmark will possibly be remembered chiefly from the honors that fell so readily to his children and children's children.

The eagerness with which greater monarchs sought alliances with the house of Oldenburg, and European chancelleries welcomed its scions as candidates for debatable thrones, testifies not only to the strict neutrality of Denmark, but also to general confidence in the royal stock. Its daughters have been judged worthy to bear kings, and its sons to rule justly. Few monarchs have been more sorely tried than King Christian. Early in his reign the Danish Duchies were torn from his kingdom by Germany, and England permitted the spoliation with a supineness that aroused Mr. Robert Cecil, later Lord Salisbury, to his highest flights of satire. The last years of King Christian were saddened by the growth of a radicalism which, while disapproving, he accepted with all loyalty and equanimity. He was in a peculiar sense the counselor of kings, and his counsel always made for peace. His life dignified the kingship at a time when its material prerogatives were being steadily abated. He represented in his simplicity of life, his patriarchal years, and his illustrious progeny the majesty that still doth hedge about the person of a king.

The Monetary Times, Toronto, a reliable trade journal, has the following about British Columbia: While the northwestern provinces have had more attention from Eastern Canada and from the outside world during the past year, no province in Canada has had greater prosperity relative to its immediate possibilities than British Columbia. This huge province, destined probably some day to outstrip all others in wealth, with resources which require literally millions of people for their development, has at present but a handful, as it were, of people. It is so rich in products of both sea and river, valley and mountain—fish, fruit, grain, cattle, timber, coal, and almost all minerals, it is so lovely a country for man to live in; and it can eventually be so largely self-supporting because of its possibilities in producing varieties of food and varieties of manufactures, that no one can doubt as to the character of its industrial future.

Toronto Globe: The projected railway construction of Canada shows, by a rough estimate, that the extensions which have been undertaken, and will be completed in from three to five years, will cover a total of 7,444 miles, and an estimated expenditure of \$182,000,000. Contracts have been already let covering seventy-five per cent. of this total, and the remainder will be put under contract as soon as the surveys are completed. Of this total the Canadian Pacific will build 1,844 miles, at a cost of \$41,650,000; the Canadian Northern, 1,380 miles, at a cost of \$29,000,000; the Grand Trunk Pacific, 3,220 miles, at a cost of \$101,000,000; the Grand Trunk, 200 miles, at a cost of \$4,000,000; the Northern Pacific, 300 miles, at a cost of \$5,000,000, and the Toronto to Niagara, 100 miles of electric road, at a cost of \$4,000,000.

Of all the actors in the Valencia tragedy one might have expected the part played by Mr. F. F. Bunker to be above adverse criticism. But the wise ones who know all and are capable of heroic deeds (in the columns of newspapers) are not disposed to give any one credit where credit would appear to be due. Mr. Bunker has no reason to be ashamed of the efforts he made to save life and to succor the distressed.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

(Continued From Page 3.)

cepting or holding offices, contracts or employment under the Dominion government, the attorney-general said that it had been introduced in consequence of the fact that a member of the legislature had accepted a position under the Dominion government. Since preparing the bill he had found that it would work an injustice upon some who have it become law. He therefore moved that the order for the second reading and the bill be discharged.

Applause from the opposition.

This was accordingly done and the bill discharged.

Dyking Act Amendment.

The House then went into committee on the bill to amend the Dyking Assessment Act, with T. W. Paterson in the chair.

Some amendments were introduced by the chief commissioner, among the most important being one intended to allow the person whose land was sold for arrears to recover it through the inspector of dykes instead of applying for a new crown grant to the department of the crown. The amendment read as follows:

"If the inspector of dykes fails to sell any land at any such public auction or adjournment thereof, at the upset price, the said land shall become absolutely forfeited to and vested in the crown for the use of the province, free from all encumbrances, at the expiration of twelve months from the date of such public auction or adjournment thereof, and the price at which the said land was offered at said sale, with interest thereon at the rate of six per centum per annum from the date of sale, together also with the assessments due up to the date of re-purchasing on said advertised list of unpaid assessments, or his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall pay to the inspector of dykes before the expiration of said twelve months the amount of the price at which the said land was offered at said sale, with interest thereon at the rate of six per centum per annum from the date of sale, together also with the assessments due up to the date of re-purchasing on said advertised list 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