The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1898.

THAT MILITIA CONTRACT.

Our information is to the effect that the Boston & Alaska Company, which has the contract for conveying 250 tons of merchandise to Fort Selkirk for the Dominion government, will not be able to carry it out, not having any available river steamer and the water being too low to permit the goods to be taken up the Yukon under any circumstances. We make this statement under reserve, because owing to the slowness with which news can be got from the mouth of the Yukon, it is not judicious to speak with too great positiveness. We are not finding any fault with the company, which presumably will endeavor in good faith to carry out the contract. It is not a question of intention, but of ability.

The point we want to make is that the government should act immediately upon the doubt existing as to the ability of the company to deliver the goods at the point agreed upon, and provide against the very serious emergency, which will exist in case of failure. We suggest further that the government, we mean of course the Dominion government, should examine at once into the possibility of using the Stikine route this summer, so as to get supplies down the river by steamer this fall. Such an inquiry would probably lead to a conclusion favorable to the route, in which event private shippers would follow the example of the government. There need be no fear about duplicating the order and thereby having goods left on hand. The indications are now that there will be a shortage of food in the Yukon this winter, unless steps are taken at a very early day to provide against it. Hence if the government has more food at Fort Selkirk than is needed there, no difficulty will be experienced in getting rid of it.

The government cannot say that the nature of the emergency likely to arise has not been brought to its attention, and if it shall be found hereafter that precautions have not been taken in time, a grave responsibility will rest upon the head of the militia department. It is said that the minister is coming out this way soon. He cannot come too soon, but he ought not to wait until his arrival before giving orders to have the subject above referred to thoroughly investigated.

SOME MINOR MATTERS.

A new earth sidewalk has been put down on Michigan street. It is too narrow; but that is not why it is referred to. The objection is that a windrow of stones has been permitted to remain along the outside of the sidewalk, where it presents an exceedingly unsightly appearance. If a householder left a lot of rubbish in front of his premises he would be fined. And speaking of rubbish on the streets, it would be a good plan for the council to pass a by-law compelling every occupier of premises to keep clean his side of the street in front of his premises as far out as the carriage way, under penalty. It is no one's duty to do this now, and therefore no one does it. The burden would be considerable upon those who occupy large premises in a few instances, but in the main it would be a trifling matter. This rule should apply to the business streets as well as to those that are residential. The former are by no means tidy, loose paper and fragments of various kinds being permitted to lie around. If there is a by-law prohibiting the sweepings of stores from being deposited in the gutters, it ought to be stringently enforced. The practice of distributing handbills to pedestrians ought to be stopped, because it leads to the littering of the streets with paper. Nine persons out of ten, who take a handbill from a distributor, simply look at it and throws it away. A number of little things of this nature require attention. Not only should the hack stand at the corner of Yates and Government streets be paved, but the drivers should be required to use the hose upon it once a day. This would be a small return for the privilege of occupying the corner. A similar rule should be applied to all the hack stands. There should be a water tap close at hand, with a hose attached, so that the drivers could keep them clean.

If a few minor matters, like those above referred to, received attention the appearance of the city would be greatly improved. Greater responsibility must be placed upon the occupiers of premises within the city in the way of keeping the streets in front of them in a neat condition. This is done in many other places and it is time the rule prevailed here. Last year the council did direct that when people had wood sawed in front of their premises, they must clean up the refuse. It would be better if the practice of cutting wood in the streets could be abolished entirely. There is no valid reason for permitting it to continue. Wood could just as well be sawn in the wood yards as in the street, and if people prefer to buy their wood and saw it up themselves, there is no reason why they ought not to be required to carry it in off the street for that purpose.

THE ANGLO-SAXON LEAGUE.

The Anglo-Saxon League is a new organization, launched in London on July 13th. The president is the Duke of Sunderland, and at the inaugural meeting a number of prominent people were present, including the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Cardinal Vaughan, the Duke of Westminster, Earl Grey, Lord Brassey, Lord Farrer, Lord Charles Beresford and others. Lord Farrer counselled that prudence should join hands with enthusiasm in promoting the much-desired object. He referred to the necessity for an understanding with America on the "open door" question, saying that before Great Britain committed herself too far to an endorsement of the policy of expansion, upon which the United States has entered, there ought to be an agreement upon this point, so that Great Britain's interference would not be given to the extension of American influence over countries that would be closed to any but American trade. The views of the meeting were expressed in the following resolution:

Considering that the people of the British Empire and the United States are closely allied by blood, inherit the same literature and laws, hold the same principles of self-government, recognize the same ideals of freedom and humanity in the guidance of their national policy and are drawn together by strong common interests in many parts of the world, This meeting is of opinion that every effort should be made in the interests of civilization and peace to secure the most cordial and constant co-operation on the part of the two nations.

The Columbian refers to "the unfaithfulness, stupidity and immorality of such constituencies as New Westminster, Dewdney and East Yale," said "unfaithfulness, stupidity and immorality," consisting in the fact that they elected government supporters. If it had not been for this, the Columbian thinks "the peculiar and protracted situation" would not exist, and political matters would not occupy the attention of the people for several months to come. The Columbian is in a peck of trouble over nothing. The public are not lying awake nights to worry over the political situation. Outside of the few oppositionists, who have been disappointed in getting at the loaves and fishes, no one is troubling himself at all over the alleged "peculiar and protracted situation." Our contemporary says that people cannot get down to business because Mr. Turner still retains power. We do not know how it may be with the people who expected that their business for the next four years would be the picking up of the crumbs which fall from the government table, but we have not observed that the rest of mankind are at all disturbed. As a matter of fact, if the opposition papers would cease their melancholy wail of disappointment and allow things to take their course in a constitutional way, people would forget all about the election. The Columbian is needlessly fretting itself, and the violence of its language, of which the above quotation is a very moderate sample, only serves to make it appear ridiculous. By the way of a little variety, will not the Columbian take the public into its confidence and let it know who it thinks ought to have been called upon to form a government if Mr. Turner found himself defeated? There is no practical interest in the question, but it would be pleasant to know how the great mind of our contemporary has solved that somewhat curious problem.

There is a good deal of complaint about the liquor permits granted for the Yukon. We do not know just what is the matter, for there are many conflicting stories, but the line of policy followed in the matter seems to have been about as follows: Last year Mr. Sifton contended that his department alone had authority to issue liquor permits for the Yukon, and he exercised it. Then it was that one of his relatives obtained a permit, under which, it is said, he is now selling a large quantity of liquor at Klondike. Then the government of the Northwest Territories claimed the right. This was disputed at Ottawa, but the minister of justice ultimately decided in favor of the claim, whereupon the department of the interior ceased issuing permits, and the Northwest government began issuing them freely. There has been some recent legislation in parliament on the subject, but up to the last advices no action had been taken on it and no permits had been issued by the Dominion government this year. The permits issued by the Northwest Territories hold good in the Yukon. There seems to have been some misunderstanding on the subject and the Colonist has heard of one case in which the Mounted Police refused to recognize a Northwest permit. The holder sent to Victoria and Mr. Sifton was communicated with by wire, whereupon he wired in reply that the license was to be recognized. It is probable that the Mounted Police have not been specifically instructed in the matter, but of this we are not sure. The whole matter of issuing permits is wrong in principle. The permit was originally intended as a prohibition, and was not meant to cover commercial ventures in liquors. If the latter are to be permitted to cover mhm latter are to be permitted in the Yukon, and there will hardly be two questions on that point, the proper way to deal with the matter is by a stringent license law, to be administered on the ground by officers who know the conditions in each case.

Replying to a correspondent, the editor of the Colonist is compelled to make the humiliating confession that he does not ride the bicycle, but it may be mentioned in extenuation that he knows several people who do. If the editor of the Colonist did ride a bicycle there are some things which he would say. One of them is that the alleged path on Fort street is a delusion and a snare. Another is that Yates street presents almost ideal conditions for a fine, broad cinder path. Another is that the loose stones left on the streets are disgraceful and dangerous. Another is that when he was riding his wheel in company with another bicyclist, and a carriage was met, he would see to it that both wheels passed the carriage on the same side of the road. Another is that he would be careful to turn corners with a good wide sweep so as to avoid collisions. There are some other things which he would say in such a case, and perhaps some of them would hardly be fit for publication after an experience with some of the streets within the business part of the city.

Doubtless it is quite true, as the Rossland Miner observes, that Great Britain will soon be more than equal to France, Germany and Russia on the sea, but it does not follow that there will then be no need of an alliance or understanding with America. Such an understanding will be of inestimable value, and the stronger the two nations are, the more valuable will it be. What the world needs is a union of the two great powers, whose influence makes for freedom and peace. There are tremendous social problems to be worked out in Europe, and if the English-speaking world stands together, the inevitable turmoil, which will result from the collapse of imperialism, will be confined to the continent, where it originates.

The New York Herald talks of the American Empire. The expression is a new one. It means nothing definite, but it implies very much. It implies new and extremely serious obligations cast upon the Washington government, obligations which were not contemplated when the constitution was framed. As Tennyson has said of Liberty in Britain, the American constitution will have to "broaden slowly down from precedent to precedent." Before our neighbors realize it, they will have drifted far away from the simple rules which Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton and the other Fathers of the Republic thought would serve for its guidance for all time to come.

In the discussion of the relations of Great Britain and the United States, the Bishop of London borrowed a figure of speech from the sea, and said that the union ought not to be too close, because "great ships require long cables." Perhaps a better simile could be drawn from the naval evolutions, made by great modern fleets. The immense vessels act in unison, but they keep well away from each other. Great ships require plenty of room for independent movement, even when they are acting in concert. It is because this rule is followed in the relations between the British colonies and the Mother Country, that there is so little danger of collision.

We print to-day two interesting letters from India to the secretary of the Board of Trade, who has received very recently some ten or twelve of the same nature from that part of the world. The interest attaching to letters of this kind is very great. They show that there is a class of very desirable people, who would be glad to make their homes in this province, if they knew the advantages which it offers. The influence exercised by the Board of Trade in a quiet way by the circulation of its reports is very great. It has been the means of making the province as a whole and Victoria in particular very well known abroad. The public see very little of what is done in this way.

After the defeat of Cervera at Santiago, Captain Philip, of the United States battleship Texas, called all his men on deck and said: "I want to make public acknowledgment here that I believe in God the Father Almighty. I want all you officers and men to lift your hats, and from your hearts offer silent thanks to the Almighty." There is something very fine in this. It carries one back in thought to the day when, after a battle, Cromwell's Ironsides used to give thanks to God, and often before the smoke of the strife had cleared away, sit down to discuss problems of theology. Depend upon it, there is nothing in the whole world equal as a power to deep religious conviction. This coupled with resolute determination can shake the world to-day as easily as it ever did. The mighty engine of war, which Capt. Philip commanded, is weak by comparison with the tremendous energy of courage fired by religious zeal.

The Times quotes with approval the opinion expressed by a correspondent of the Montreal Witness in regard to the justice of taxing the metalliferous mines and leaving the coal mines untaxed. It would be interesting to have the Times define the attitude of the party which it represents upon this question. Are we to understand that the Times favors the taxation of coal? Is this to be one of the planks of the opposition? These are practical questions upon which the public have a right to be informed. If the Times does not favor a tax, it has no right to quote with apprabation extracts from other papers complaining that such a tax is not imposed.

THE LAST GASP

Of the Heart Sufferer is Not Too Late for Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart to Cure—Never Fails to Give Relief in Thirty Minutes.

One dose of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart relieves the most acute form of heart trouble, when the Grim Reaper has all but consoled the sufferer as his. This is not idle boasting. What Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart has done ten thousand times, it will do again ten thousand times. It absolutely knows no failure. It is not a cure-all, but it is a heart cure. Sold by Hall & Co. and Dean & Hiscocks.

"Women are curious things," remarked Fogg, as he took his cigar out of his mouth, in order to chuckle.

"So I've heard before," said Bass; "but what is the particular curious thing you have in mind?"

"When I got home last evening, I found Mrs. Fogg in tears because the girl had broken a plate that Mrs. Fogg said had been in the house ever since we went to housekeeping. And it was only last week that she made a touse over a dish that had been broken, just because it was brand new. There's no knowing how to take a woman."—Boston Transcript.

DOCTORS IN LINE.

Prejudices All Vanish, and They Prescribe Dr. Agnew's Ointment, Because Its Virtues Demand Recognition.

Dr. M. Barkman, of Binghampton, N. Y., writes: "Send me 12 dozen more of Dr. Agnew's Ointment. I prescribe large quantities of it in my practice. It is a grand remedy for tetter, salt rheum, eczema and all skin diseases, and a never-failing cure for piles." The strongest evidence of its virtue is that doctors can so highly recommend it. One application relieves. Sold by Hall & Co. and Dean & Hiscocks.

ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM.

At the Universal Brotherhood meeting last Sunday afternoon, the subject of "Alcohol and Alcoholism" was taken up. The address consisted largely of quotations from Dr. R. A. Gunn, who lectured on the subject at Chickering hall before the Universal Brotherhood Organization, May 15th, 1898.

Long before the days of Rome, before Greece was dreamed of, before Babylon was built, before Moses lived, and even before the days of Egyptian civilization, early man had discovered the use of stimulating beverages and knew the effects of intoxicating drinks. The craving for stimulation and for stimulants, in one form or other of their innumerable forms, is not a local, unusual, arbitrary or statutory thing, but a rooted and universal passion of human nature. It is this deep basis of the propensity of human nature that gives to the subject its mystery and perplexity. One thunders against the whole tribe of alcoholic stimulants, from ethereal wine to acrid whiskey, and never touches, tastes, or handles them; the pipe will do for him. Another counterblasts tobacco—content with abundance of strong coffee. Another decries all these together, inspired by the stimulus of concentrated potions of tea. Still another ingests perhaps only vegetables and water, and fulminates from the pulpit or platform against all these gross material indulgences, yet is lifted into the seventh heaven of enjoyment by the stimulating incense of flattery and applause which comes from admiring auditors and without which life would be "flat, stale and unprofitable." Others get music, pictures, theatres, fashion, novels, newspapers, or travel, a quieter form of excitement, which, though often running into dissipation, is less harmful than ordinary narcotic stimulants. How far the ball-room, the political campaign, or the religious revival may be equivalent of a drunken spree we will not pretend to say, but that they are all marked by a common character—stimulation of pleasurable feeling, carried to a pitch of excitement that ends in re-action more or less exhausting—is not to be denied. These are facts that no one can gainsay, and when we speak of the use and abuse of alcohol, we must not forget that it is only one of the many stimulants that are used and abused every day. In fact there is no nation, and there are very few individuals who do not make daily use of stimulants, narcotic in some form. For instance:

1. Coffee leaves are taken in the form of infusion by two millions of the world's inhabitants.
2. Paraguay tea by ten millions.
3. Coca by at least fifteen million.
4. Coffee bean, pure or mixed with chicory, by forty-five million.
5. Cocoa either as chocolate os in some other form by fifty million.
6. Hash is eaten or smoked by three hundred million.
7. Opium by four hundred millions.
8. China tea is drunk by five hundred millions.
9. All known nations of the world are addicted to the use of tobacco, either in smoking, or snuffing, or chewing.

The practical question that confronts us is what can we do to destroy the craving for alcohol and overcome the conditions of the system that make the craving possible? I answer that our treatment must be moral and physical, as well as medical. When properly treated, the craving for alcohol is destroyed in from three to five days, and in about three weeks' time the inner nature of the system in the majority of cases will become normal. The moral influences must be brought to bear to prevent the possibility of a relapse. The work now being performed by the International Brotherhood League in behalf of the poor who have become slaves to alcohol, is producing splendid results. They not only care for the patients, but furnish them medical treatment, and do all in their power to improve their homes and social conditions, thus adding moral aid to the medical treatment essential to the building up of their physical condition. — Correspondence News-Advertiser.

PROSPECTS OF CANADIAN BUSINESS.

In what has already come to him, the Canadian business man should find cause for gratitude, and for what is likely to come to him he may look forward with devout and happy anticipation. Last year we had a great crop in our fields and it helped everybody, inspiring hope and starting the rusty wheels of trade. This year we are on the eve of another which promises to be abundant. Wheat, peas, oats, and barley are looking well all over, indeed, in some parts of Ontario the harvesting of wheat has begun and the quality is good. Satisfactory accounts of the appearance of the fields come the Eastern townships of Quebec, where hay and oats are always broadly sown. And we have heard no untoward news of crop prospects in the Maritime Provinces. In Manitoba there are 2,211,000 acres under crop. Of this area 67.30 per cent. is in wheat; 23.28 per cent. in oats; 7.14 per cent. in barley, the remainder under flax, rye, peas, corn, potatoes and other roots. At last accounts the prospects were generally excellent. If such another crop as that of last year is vouchsafed to Canada the effect upon all branches of business will be prompt and beneficial, for the prosperity of the farmer means prosperity to merchant and artisan.

The feeling among merchants is one of confidence and hopefulness. Orders for goods are given with more freedom by retailers because there is a healthy consumptive demand. Manufacturers are as a rule busy, some of the factories working overtime. The railways are showing increased earnings, especially from freight, for the passenger rate-war continues. Exports are active, with the exception of lumber. The telegraph and telephone lines are unusually busy, and the postoffice department announces great activity. Clearing house figures show an increase in clearings at every one of the six principal cities in June, and the aggregate of bank clearings for the six months, $675,142,000, shows a growth of 22 per cent. from the $526,404,000 of the first half of 1897. Failures show a marked falling off, as we elsewhere note. Here, then, are features of the commercial and financial situation to inspire hope in the most pessimistic mind.—Monetary Times.

THE TRUE STORY OF DREYFUS.

His Case Was Not Grave But the Case Was Bungled.

TheLondon Times gives prominence to the following explanation of the Dreyfus case:

Notwithstanding the alliance between Russia and France, the servants of the former maintained towards their new friends the attitude of official secrecy which is inherent in their nature, and which they habitually practice towards one another. The French authorities had, one may almost say, overwhelmed the Russian War Office with military information of the greatest value. But the latter had shown, hitherto, little reciprocity; so little indeed that, in order to acquire information of a purely technical character, a French officer had endeavored to obtain it in an illicit manner, and this procedure had entailed his departure from Russia, a short time before the Dreyfus scandal. It was certain, therefore, that the servants of the Tsar would not willingly hand over information on more important subjects to France. Military inventions, tactics, and such like matters are important enough in themselves, but their value is slight in comparison with a knowledge of the plan of campaign of a foreign country.

All governments know the system on which the army of another state is to be mobilized in case of war, and the probabilities of its being carried out without a hitch. But all these things are of minor value as compared with the knowledge of the plan of campaign. To learn betimes how the newly mobilized bodies are to be grouped on the outbreak of war, what the objective of the armies so formed is to be, and whether it is likely to be attained or not, are all matters of transcendent importance. Therefore these precious secrets are generally guarded with the utmost closeness. When two or more powers, however, are in real alliance, it is essential that the possible plans of campaign should be discussed beforehand, so that the combined scheme may have better chance of success. Now it was all important for France to become acquainted with the Russian plan in the event of a joint war, and Russia would not give it up. The geographical position of France rendered it more important for her to know the Russian plan than it was for Russia to learn the French one. Russia cannot be crushed, whereas her ally may be.

Having all this in mind, Dreyfus, who was a clever and an ambitious man, and who undoubtedly had a very good idea respecting the relations between the two War Offices, conceived that he saw a way of doing good to his country and of earning the approbation of his superiors. By giving a little he proposed to gain much; but he omitted to take one factor into consideration, which was that a strong feeling of distrust towards Jews was irradicably planted in the breast of some of his brother officers. One of them, a distinguished man, discussed this conviction with the writer, and said that Israelites are all very well in their proper places, but to employ them in confidential positions, "Never!" We, in England, are glad to think otherwise. That Dreyfus was known by his superiors who appointed him to the Headquarter Staff to be of the Jewish faith, is certain, and, therefore, they must have trusted him in the beginning. But when the authorities learned what he had done he was a doomed man. They determined to take that opportunity of telling Russia she must treat France as an equal in the partnership, which would otherwise cease to exist, and the latent dislike to the accused probably accentuated this decision. It was thought that Russia could not afford to break of the agreement lately arrived at to the mutual benefit of the two countries. France was not prepared to remain a junior partner in the firm, and although on the occasion in question she would not give up the name of Dreyfus' accomplice, yet Russia was to understand that more frankness on her side was necessary if the new business was to succeed. It was for this reason that the French headquarters staff decided to make a public example of the wretched officer.

He was a man of means, who lived in an expensive manner and on mutually affectionate terms with his wife, and nothing could be brought up against him to show that he had secret extravagances, or that he had received, or was to receive, a penny in return for his disclosures. Yet a traitor never gives up anything of any value without being assured of a substantial reward. It is certain that the information handed over by Dreyfus was such as was bound to leak out before long, and it is equally certain that it was of no especial value; but he hoped to obtain something far more valuable in return. Undoubtedly he acted in an improper manner. Foolishly secretive as are, in many ways, some war offices, it was not for him to take upon himself to give up any confidential information without having first obtained the concurrence of his chiefs in such a course. Therefore he undoubtedly deserved to be punished, but his sentence would probably have been less degrading, had not an opportunity been wanted of reading a lesson to the Russian War Office. Gen. de Boisdeffre, the French chief of the staff, is a gentleman upon whose word complete reliance can be placed, and he declared that he knew Dreyfus to be guilty of crime, although he was unable to state his offence.

Should the truth of the matter never be officially acknowledged, the French character might easily undergo a strong revulsion of feeling as regards Russia, while the military authorities, past and present, would certainly suffer. Had the affair been treated from the offset in the usual manner, the general public might never have been anything the wiser. The actual treatment of Dreyfus was really a declaration of military policy, and, since it said too much and yet not enough, a very unwise one. Having once announced that there was a scandal, it would have been better to have added that Russia was concerned in it, in the ordinary way of business. It is now too late for this.

Agitation for and against the convict having raged for so long, probably the French War Office would be best pleased if he were to make away with himself. This would relieve the French government of a great embarrassment, and, perhaps, allow the case to fade into oblivion.

I have made no mention as yet of the famous, or rather infamous, Major Esterhazy. The proceedings in connection with that person were so remarkable that many people imagined him to be a traitor. His real character is that of an agent provocateur—that is to say, his business is, or was, to lay traps for foreign military agents in order to cause their removal from their posts and to make their successors less enterprising. Degrading though the work is to those who carry it out, foreign war offices cannot be blamed for employing such men, seeing that Europe is a standing military camp. Such being Esterhazy's position, it is easy enough to see why he should have been protected by his superiors when the most horrible accusations were levelled and, apparently, made good against him.

In conclusion, it may be said that the French War Office have landed themselves on the horns of a dilemma. If they were to publish the truth now, they would certainly suffer; if they maintain their present attitude they are sitting on a mine, at any rate, so long as Dreyfus lives.

LABRADOR'S WEALTH.

There May Be a Klondike in That "Helluland."

More is being heard now of Labrador, that land to which legends of giants and curiously deformed men are attached. During the last two or three years there has been a growing belief that Labrador, that "great and terrible wilderness," that "Helluland," that region of naked rocks; as the old Norseman called it, is destined to turn out a rich mining region. As there are no tangible proof of this; but of late it has been explored in many directions, its rivers have been ascended, its tableland crossed at several points and the result has been that it has attracted much more attention than before, and is no longer regarded as a desolate heap of rocks, useless for the purposes of civilized man. Mr. Lowe has told us of its vast forests, and visitors from various lands have brought back so many specimens of minerals that a widespread impression has arisen that it will become a great mining field. The magic word "gold" has been whispered in connection with it; and the possibility of a northeastern Klondike being discovered here has taken possession of the minds of no small number of explorers. Its formations are said to resemble those of the Klondike, and gold specimens have been found which the keen-eyed hunters of that metal regard as peculiarly promising. The result is that no less than seven exploring expeditions have been made this year for Labrador. Five of these were organized in Halifax, one left from Boston, and the seventh has just started from St. John's.

In another respect Labrador is attracting attention. Though the coast is a succession of grim rocks—not without a wild stern beauty of their own, and almost treeless, yet at the heads of some of the bays and inlets there are large areas covered with timber of a large size—mainly spruce—well adapted for lumbering purposes. In these Labrador forests speculation is rife this year. No less than twenty-one applications for timber limits—some of them for 500 square miles—have been made to our government, and the same number of licenses to cut timber have, I understand, been granted; so that a very considerable amount of capital is likely to be invested here, and this will furnish increased employment to the people. Labrador hitherto has been famous only for the fish-wealth of its seas; now it would seem as if the treasures of the land were to be turned to account. Its dimensions are enormous. The Atlantic coast line is over a thousands miles in length, and the area of the entire peninsula not less than 420,000 square miles.

Of late years the price of our seal skins has greatly declined but a sudden turn has come which promises to greatly enhance their value. A few days ago the representative of one of the largest leather trusts in the United States arrived here and began a close examination of the sealing industry with the view of purchasing large quantities of seal skins, exported to the States and converted into leather. This opens an entirely new market and a most extensive one, and will tell favorably on the London market to which all our skins hitherto were sent. The representative referred to has made a very large purchase, thus cutting the foreign market, and indicated his intention of still larger purchases in the future. This is not all. Inquiries have been made lately for seal skins to be converted into overcoats and sold in the northwestern states where, it seems, furs have become very scarce and high priced, and where in winter the cold is intense. It is found that the seal skins are admirably adapted to make such coats as are called for. Five skins would be required to make an overcoat. When dressed, lined and made up the coat would sell for from ten to fifteen dollars, and as a protection from cold such coats cannot be surpassed. These new openings for the manufacture of our skins are considered here to be of great importance and likely to give a new impulse to our seal fishery.

GOVERNMENTS COMPARED.

It is well for Englishmen in this momentary pause both in politics and the war to notice carefully how much better their own constitutional system works than either the French or the American. Our own has plenty of defects, the principal one, perhaps, being that it often makes it the interest of a party to protect an abuse or condone a failure; but it has at least this merit, that by confiding legislative power and the selection of the Executive to the same hands it enables the nation in any time of emergency to act with its whole force. When everything went wrong in 1855, and it really seemed for some weeks as if the greatness of England would perish of muddle, the country called for Lord Palmerston, the most vigorous man it had; Parliament placed him at the head of affairs; and as the Premier while supported by his majority was absolute, could appoint whom he pleased, dismiss whomsoever he distrusted, and spend whatever was necessary, everything went right. The American people have no power of doing this. The framers of the constitution were possessed with two fears, that the Executive might become too strong, and they therefore deprived it of any place in Congress; and that it might become too weak, and they therefore made its chief irremovable except by impeachment, vesting him at the same time with absolute power to appoint and to dismiss his advisers, and with the initiative in the nomination and removal of all officers, an initiative which during the recess of Congress becomes a right of appointment. The result of this arrangement is that in an emergency like a great war, an inefficiency in all departments. There is no power of removing him, there is no power of compelling him to trust the right men, there is no power of coercing him into a greater display of energy. He moves on his own path more uncontrolled than an Emperor of Russia, for the army has in Russia an influence in emergencies which is never disregarded. This war with Spain, for example, drags, money being spent in masses while little is accomplished. It is quite possible that it ought to drag, and is intended to drag, the departments feeling that they must have time to create both a navy and an army, and fearing that unless they await cool weather, the losses from fever in the American army of invasion might be as terrible as they have been in the Spanish army of defence. The littoral of Cuba is, by all accounts, what the delta of Burmah was when we first entered it, a place which may be made perfectly healthy, but which until it has been made so has the power of burying whole brigades, all stricken with local fever. Why, if that is the case, the American government has not said so openly in a proclamation to the people, it is difficult to understand; but still delay may be perfectly right, and in accordance with the best advice of military experts. We rather think it is so, and that President McKinley will be recognized at the end of the campaign as a solid man of business, who did the best he could with the means at hand, and feared nothing except a military failure. But suppose for a moment that it is otherwise, and that President McKinley, being, as he is, the sole source of executive energy in the Republic, is unequal to his position, does not feel clear what he ought to do, does not pick precisely the right men, exaggerates the chances of defeat, or—the commonest of errors—fails to perceive that in war "connection" is as important as it is in the management of railway traffic, where is the remedy? There is simply none. The United States might possess the greatest organizer alive; the American people might be boiling over with irritation; the army and navy might be almost mutinous in their despair at inaction; and still there would be nothing to be done. The president cannot be removed, he is no more bound to obey opinion than a judge is; and as to the officers, what can they do except wait sullenly on till final orders are received? That "instinct of democracy" which has so often saved states is not allowed free play in the American Constitution, which was drawn up by men who intended to make democracy supreme, but who distrusted the supremacy of democracy.

The difficulty in France is of a different kind, though it springs from the same origin, the reluctance of the constitutionmakers to deposit ultimate power in any hand which can use it. There it seems clear that the Assembly, i.e., the Chamber and the Senate acting together, can compel an efficient president to resign. This was not intended by the framers of the fundamental law, who were, as they thought, preparing the way for a restoration; but the power has developed itself in working. The deputies and senators cannot "dismiss" the President, but they can, by continuously rejecting the ministers whom he appoints, compel him to resign. They resorted to this device in M. Grevy's case, and it is well understood that on sufficient provocation they would resort to it again. They are therefore secure while no coup d'etat is struck against a corrupt, or imbecile, or factious President, and are as against him sovereign. But as against the Chambers the people have no remedy. They may be as inefficient, or corrupt, or factious as they please, and until the term of their mandate has expired there is nothing to be done. Neither the President nor the Ministry can dissolve them without the consent of the Senate, which, if that body were itself involved in the quarrel, would be refused. Suppose, for example, that the Assembly were determined to protect Spain, that the people disliked a war for Spain, and that the President and his Ministry were convinced that the war would be unwise. The war would nevertheless go on, for no power of dissolution exists, while the power of dissolving Cabinet after Cabinet does. France, like America, in fact, has been fettered by a latent distrust of the democracy, which, strange to say, in our veiled Republic has never existed—perhaps because the Lords who are not elected, can compel the electors to consider themselves, and say what they really mean. In none of the three countries is there any resistance to the dogma that the people ought to rule, but in two of them the Constitutions were drawn by men who were very much afraid of the people ruling.

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Theodore Davie. Deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of Theodore Davie, late of the City of Victoria, Chief Justice, deceased, are hereby required to send in writing the particulars of their claims or demands duly verified, and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them, to John B. McElligan, Room 21, Board of Trade Building, Victoria, agent for Joseph Nicolaye and John Althoff, the executors of the will of the deceased, on or before the 23rd day of July next, after which date the executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Theodore Davie amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they have then had notice, and that the said executors will not be liable for the assets, or any part thereof so distributed, to any person of whose claim the said executors have not had notice at the time of the distribution.

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 20th day of April, A.D., 1898.

McPHILLIPS, WOOTTON & BARNARD, Solicitors for the said Executors, Bank of Montreal Chambers, Victoria, B. C.

Directors from San Salvator, Nicaragua and Honduras, assembled at Managua to formulate the constitution of the federal union, have elected Senor Angelo Urra t president.

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