

TWICE-A-WEEK TIMES. Published Tuesdays and Fridays by THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED. JOHN NELSON, Managing Director.

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AN INCOMPLETE PICTURE.

Somewhere in one of his books (we believe it is in "A Tramp Abroad") Mark Twain undertakes to define the difference, artistically, between a Study and a Work. According to Mr. Clemens, whose definition must be accepted, as he worked it out in art centres, a Study is an incomplete thing. On Sunday the Colonist entertains us with a Study of the constitution as it applies to the political situation in British Columbia consequent upon the disallowance of Mr. Bowser's Natal Act.

When the Lieut.-Governor of this province refused to sign the so-called Natal Act of Mr. Bowser he must have known he was defying the united sentiment of the Legislature. It is now well known that in withholding his signature from the measure he was not acting under instructions from one of the powers to which he is responsible, the Lieut.-Governor in Council at Ottawa. It is inconceivable that in pursuing such a course His Honor acted upon his own individual responsibility. It is equally well known that he had acquainted his chief adviser of what he intended to do. Until all the circumstances are laid before the public, it must be assumed that Mr. McBride had undertaken to defend his Honor's action before the Legislature which unannouncedly passed the bill. If such had not been the Premier's intention, he most assuredly would have resigned and given the people an opportunity to express their judgment upon a point so vitally affecting their rights and their liberties.

Right Rev. Bishop Cridge, Victoria's pioneer of pioneers, with all due respect to our liberal-minded friend, Dr. J. S. Helmcken, will celebrate the nineteenth anniversary of his birth to-morrow. We congratulate the venerable gentleman on the length of days he has achieved, and we congratulate him again on the eminent services he has rendered the settlement in which from the earliest days he has been a most conspicuous and deeply loved figure, and hope he may live long in the land to accept the homage of a multitude of sincere admirers of his truly Christian character.

No wonder there is a general public suspicion that there was a conspiracy afoot in high places in British Columbia to have all exclusion legislation suspended until parties interested could "pump in" all the Asiatic immigrants they thought they might require for their business. If the Lieut.-Governor had not refused his assent to Mr. Bowser's so-called Natal Bill, there was a convenient omission in that bill which would have left a loophole for the benefit of the power behind the government.

for the present that Mr. Dunsmuir in vetoing the Bowser Bill acted upon assurances, actual or implied, that his chief adviser would accept full responsibility for the disallowance of the measure. There are other features of the case, the subject of street gossip, which may be dealt with on another occasion.

THE FLEET IS OFF.

The fleet has departed, with Admiral Fighting Bob Evans in command, ready, as the commander in chief has said, either for a fight or a frolic, or for any other duty that may turn up. We are told that the majestic progress of this squadron of battleships, etc., the greatest thing of its kind that has ever floated in the waters of the western hemisphere, will arrest the attention of the world. We have no doubt that that statement is true, although possibly not in the sense intended. It is not the personnel or the caliber of Admiral Evans's naval command that will arrest the attention of the world so much as the idea embodied in the cruise. It is a task of considerable magnitude, all things considered, to take a fleet of sixteen battleships, whatever their class from a world point of view, with all their accessories, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast. But that is not the point of chief interest in connection with the expedition. The vital thing is that the trip is intended as a demonstration of the ability of the United States to defend all parts of her coasts, west as well as east, against a possibility of invasion. There is but one power in the world that is likely in the present stage of human progress to menace the western coast of America. That power is of course Japan. Diplomatically the relations between the United States and the exclusively Asiatic power possessing a fleet are of the most cordial character. Each nation expresses on paper its very sincere admiration for and anxiety to cultivate the good graces of the other. But diplomatic exchanges do not invariably express the sentiments of nations. An overwhelming public sentiment may force statesmen into situations of which they distinctly disapprove. The United States has been forced against all the traditions of the nation to enter into the business of colonial expansion. All these colonies are in the Pacific Ocean. These possessions are not likely to excite the ambitions of any other nation than Japan. The Japanese, being essentially an insular people, may some day, if they continue their process of expansion, let their covetous eyes rest upon the Philippines as strategically a portion of their natural empire. Possibly they may consider the Hawaiian Islands in a similar light. Consequently the expedition of the American fleet may be taken as a quiet and inoffensive intimation on the part of the United States that what she has gained she intends to hold even against the forces of manifest destiny. The Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands are rapidly filling up with Orientals, principally Japanese. The Americans in Hawaii have intimated that they cannot get along and increase in wealth lacking the presence of Orientals. So that, all things considered, the dispatch of the American fleet is full of significance. It may be intended as a warning of the future balance of the world. It is not likely the whole of the squadron will go back to the place from whence it came. We do not mean that any of the ships will come to grief as a result of evil weather or defective seamanship, but that, the political conditions considered, the Pacific is the ocean in which the services of American ships are most likely to be in demand. Or, probably it would be more correct to say, the Pacific is the ocean upon which their moral effect will be most salutary. There is very little probability of the United States being attacked by a European power. Japan is a nation in which a spirit has been engendered which does not fear any power. The Pacific is the only ocean in which the United States is vulnerable. It is a recognition of these facts which has prompted the expedition of Admiral Evans.

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There has been a sudden and very welcome change in the appearance of the streets of Victoria. If this city were as a good many other cities on this continent whose streets are frozen or covered with a mantle of the "beautiful" for a considerable portion of the

year, the city council might not come in for so much censure. Nature has done a great deal for us, but she seldom sends Victoria frost as a cleansing agent.

ORIENTAL INFUX RAISED IN HOUSE

ELOQUENT SPEECH BY RALPH SMITH

Nanaimo M. P. Said Question Was Not a Provincial but an Empire Problem.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—Ralph Smith, M. P., Nanaimo, moved in the House of Commons to-day "that steps should be taken to restrict the influx of Oriental immigrants into Canada. Inasmuch as the policy of the government concerning Chinese immigration has proved entirely satisfactory, a definite policy should be immediately put into operation looking to the accomplishment of equally satisfactory results with regard to all other Oriental immigrants."

Mr. Smith spoke at length, ably and eloquently, on the whole subject. "The question," he said, "was not a provincial one but a far-reaching one. What was bad for British Columbia was bad for Canada, and what was bad for Canada was bad for the empire. To understand the Oriental question it had to be studied on the spot. Eastern men who were opposed to exclusion became converts after visiting British Columbia. It is generally said that the prejudice is all on the one side, that of Occidental against Oriental, but race prejudice was stronger among the Oriental than among the Occidental. The question was not only a local one, but was a Canadian and international one as well."

Extraordinary News For This Evening's Shoppers

THIS EVENING'S WIDE-AWAKE SHOPPERS can make a splendid saving on these offerings, and we suggest that you make it a point of getting within our doors as early as possible in order to avoid the Crush of hundreds of eager purchasers.

Great Saving on Men's Pure Silk Underwear. REG. \$7.00 PER SUIT. At 7.30, \$4.50. Japanese Bread Plates Greatly Underpriced. REG. 50c. AND 75c. At 7.30, 25 Cents. Men's Fancy Vests for Quick Clearance. REG. \$4.00 TO \$6.00. At 7.30, \$2.50.

This Evening's Splendid Economies on Fancy Screens. ONE-THIRD LESS THAN REGULAR. At 35c, 75c and \$2.50 Each. THIS EVENING AT 7.30. \$2.50

Mechanical Toys at Half Price. REG. PRICE \$1.00. At 7.30, 50c. Extra Special in Ladies' Silk Underskirts. REG. \$7.50 UP TO \$10.00. At 7.30, \$3.75. Great Reductions—Silk and Net Waists. REG. \$5.00 TO \$8.00. At 7.30, \$2.90.

Remember only 7 shopping days remain from now till Xmas. DAVID SPENCER, Ltd. When in need of Refreshment visit the Tea Room, 3rd Floor.

the advanced age of 88. He lived in Chicago for a time and afterwards in Toronto, where he followed blacksmithing. He has resided here some time, and lately has had charge of a row of cabins on Humboldt street. His wife and a family of five sons survive him.

HUGH CALWELL DIED ON SATURDAY. Old Resident of City Found in Hospital Grounds in Hopeless Condition.

The death occurred on Saturday afternoon at the Royal Jubilee hospital of Hugh Calwell, for many years a resident of this city.

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RUSSIA HAS PAID ALL SEALING CLAIMS. Hon. L. P. Brouder Says Czar's Government Has Handed Over Sum of \$82,544.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—In an answer to M. S. McCarthy (Calgary), Hon. L. P. Brouder in the House to-day said that the Russian government had just paid over to the High Commissioner in England \$82,544 as a settlement of all the outstanding claims for the wrongful seizure of vessels in the Pacific.

THE PIED BILL INN, at Islington, is said to have been the first house in England at which tobacco was smoked.

NO CURE FOR FINANCIAL PANICS. ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN HUMAN AFFAIRS. Monetary Crashes as Certain as Sunshine is Strange Contention of Carnegie.

New York, Dec. 16.—The 8th annual meeting of the National Civic Federation was called to order to-day at the Park Avenue hotel with more than 100 men and women, prominent in various walks of life in attendance.

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legislature turned from the wrong to the right path by introducing to some extent a regulation of currency. No central bank is necessary to effect a cure, but only the cushion elasticity which the president recommends."

MINERS ENTOMBED BY EXPLOSION. FEARED LARGE NUMBER HAVE BEEN KILLED. Disaster Occurred at Yolande Coal Co.'s Property, in Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 16.—An explosion took place at 10.55 a.m. and below the second level. Eight men were taken out of the mine.

W. H. Hayward, M. P. F., of Dunsmuir, is in the city to-day. He is visiting his wife, who underwent an operation, and who is reported to be doing well.

44 Beautiful Lots. Two minutes' walk from car line. High, dry level, no rock.

THE HUGO ROSS REALTY CO. LIMITED. 570 YATES ST. Opp. Bank of B. N. A. Phone 1400. Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg.

OTTAWA NOMINEES. Ottawa, Dec. 16.—J. B. T. Caron, Liberal, and W. D. Morris, Independent Conservative, were nominated to-day to contest Ottawa for the seat made vacant through the appointment of Hon. N. A. Belcourt to the senate.

PERRIN GLOVES. STYLISH - FIT - DURABILITY. Sold Everywhere.

LOCAL NEWS

The funeral of the late Lee is taking place this afternoon from the home of A. J. Brace is to conduct it.

In the schools' Association league, the High school defeated North Ward by a 2-0 nil.

The accounts of the O'Hunter meetings were held in room of the Y. M. C. A.

On Wednesday, November 20th, the public schools closed for the winter holidays next Friday, the 21st.

James P. Dudgeon, a resident of this city, died at the Royal Jubilee Hospital on Saturday, Dec. 14th, at the age of 67 years.

Construction work on the bridge across Rock Creek of River, is to be commenced date. The Khaake Machine New Westminster, will be the iron work for the bridge a government undertaking.

There could be no better grown on the coast of the province than the one ordered by M. J. pioneer nurseryman of Mount Vancouver, for \$500.

Col. Holmes is on the move to the unveiling of the brass tablet to the memory of Trooper A. Lick, killed while a member A. C. during the Boer war.

Colonel May, who is in the project to construct a road from Port Simpson to Hudson Bay, has been ordered to Truance Alley. The scheme described before in these columns is May's interests in Port Simpson require a good deal of his attention.

W. N. Winsby, whose B. E. A. football team has been taken by Davis, was play on account of having eye last week by the ball when open. He went to early in the week to see a and has gone over again.

The secretary of the Y. acknowledges the receipt of \$125 for forwarding to London a Christmas dinner to children Sunday school. The list will be closed on that date and the amount called to the share of the Y. M. C. A. following additional subscribers acknowledged: Mrs. Bennett, Barnabas Sunday school, \$5; side Baptist Sunday school, A. L. Duncan, \$1; city hall, toria West Baptist Sunday school, \$5; Goshal Hall Sunday school, \$5; national Sunday school, \$10.