Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1885.

THE BAWLER AND THE RAILWAY NEWS.

The moon was at its full last evening, which is sufficient to account for the raving of our juvenile evening contemporary. It is a singular coincidence that the moon and our j. e. c. are always "full" about the same date. The new craze of our young friend is that *The Colonist* has entered into a conspiracy with the grits to destroy the C. P. Railway Co. Our offence is the publication of dispatches as they were received over the wires, without regard to the effect they might have upon the great national undertaking. Our contemporary would have dispatches that reflect unfavorably on the railway interest suppressed; but would such a course be fair to the public? A dispatch may or may not be untrue; but how is the publisher who receives it to distinguish the true from the false? Take, as an example, the blood and thunder dispatches which our excitable little friend issued in the form of an extra ten days ago. His 6-cent bawlers and staring headlines caused timid people to think that the country was on the brink of war. The news proved false; but who thought of blaming the juvenile for his sensationalism? So far as the inexperienced youth knew the information was genuine and he was justified in trying to rake in a few five cent pieces by printing them. But our contemporary professes to believe that we must have known the dispatch concerning the railway to be untrue because Mr. Stephen had denied a previous report of the same nature. It is a fact, however, that Mr. Stephen's denial was made on the 18th of March, while the dispatch now under reference was dated ten days later. How Mr. Stephen could question the accuracy of a report ten days before it was made, the Times can probably explain. We cannot; nor have we any reason to doubt the correctness of the dispatch. It is reconcilable with information previously given that the government had rejected the company's proposition. The denial of the Times is in keeping with its general impertinence, which is due more to its extreme youth than to chronic ill-nature. When it gets a little older it will learn to behave itself.

RESIGNATION OF THE FERRY CABINET.

The French ministry have resigned. For some reason not fully explained they have steadily refused to declare war against China, notwithstanding that they have waged war for more than a year. A French army invaded Tonquin, and a fleet bombarded some important seaports, besides destroying a large number of Chinese war vessels. Extraordinary votes of public monies were made from time to time to carry on the conflict; but the strange policy of withholding the declaration was persisted in. As long as French successes were continuous the nation did not grumble; but the first reverse has produced a ministerial catastrophe and the government have suddenly, and without previous warning, gone down. The defeat at Langson would seem to have been a serious one. The whole of Tonquin may be said to be at the mercy of the French forces; but a large Chinese army of 40,000 men had been concentrated at Langson, which lies just on the boundary line between China proper and the peninsular of Tonquin. It is a fortified town and is situated in the midst of a rich and productive district. It was always asserted by English writers that the Chinese would make a stubborn stand at that place. This they have done; and it is the common opinion that discomfiture the French army has wrought down the French ministry.

THE NORTHWEST REBELLION.

No additional news was received from the Northwest last night; but the alacrity and spirit with which the Toronto militia companies have responded to the call to arms, is evidence that the affair is assuming a most serious aspect. Riel and his followers have placed themselves beyond the pale of mercy. If caught they must be summarily dealt with. The situation of settlers is most alarming, as it is feared that all the native tribes will rise. If such should prove to be the case the Dominion will have an Indian war of huge dimensions on its hands.

THE ENEMY OF VICTORIA.

The Times in its endeavor to get rid of cumbersome property at Coal Harbor has endeavored to ferret out every item that might tend to that end. Instead of striving to forward the general interests of the province, and more particularly the city where it at best eks out a precarious existence, the Times, whole aim since its inception has been to flare to the world the advantages of Coal Harbor as a terminal city and the prospect of its outstripping all other cities of the coast in magnitude and commercial importance. The Times has regarded Victoria in the light of a future suburb of Vancouver, a pleasant place to live in and all that, but never destined to attain to any distinction as a commercial port. Yesterday evening it quotes from an interview held by a Globe reporter with Mr. Beatty in which that gentleman naturally speaks glowingly of Vancouver. One statement made is as follows: "Land was now advancing in price fast, and the general impression throughout California, Oregon and Washington Territory, as well as in British Columbia, was that Vancouver City would be one of the largest and most populous cities on the Pacific coast, if not the largest, and there was now a big boom in property." How true these assertions and predictions are a great majority of our readers are aware; therefore it is unnecessary to comment; but their reproduction in the face of facts to the contrary only shows the burning desire on the part of the Times to publish every statement, no matter how absurd, for the purpose of bolstering up a paper town in which the promoters of that paper are largely interested. *The Colonist* has never contended that a town of importance would not spring up at some point on Burrard Inlet; but that town has not as yet been located, and when the Times publishes statements which it knows to be incorrect without one word of remonstrance or explanation it carries its Coal Harbor proclivities further than people who are deeply interested in the stability of Victoria will be disposed to pass in silence. The present is no time for divided allegiance. Victoria's newspapers must be devoted to Victoria's interests or they will not be patronized by Victoria's people.

THE FRENCH IN CHINA.

The pounding the French got at Langson proves to have been much more serious than was at first reported. For reasons of state the facts were suppressed by the Ferry government; but now that they have fallen their successors are under no obligations to conceal the truth. The defeat ended in a rout. The French troops, brave, hardy veterans, who had been through two campaigns in the Tonquin peninsula, were unable to resist the onslaught of 40,000 Chinese officered—or at least, coached by Germans—and they were hustled along the roads leading to Dang Dong with a speed which involved their parting with guns and supplies of all kinds. Moreover, the country through which the flying troops passed had been entirely devastated and they were unable to "pick up a living" as they ran. The French loss at Langson is stated at 1,200 men, and at Thuy-en-Kwang at 900 men. The Chinese authorities are developing unusual energy. Incompetent generals and admirals have been degraded or beheaded, or sent to work on the roads. Loans have been obtained to continue the war and place the railroads in good order for military purposes, and the army is being placed in a complete state of efficiency. The French in Tonquin are in a precarious position. They must be immediately reinforced, and the new ministry will have to strike a decisive blow in some other direction to restore the waning prestige of the nation. The outlook is discouraging.

Troubles at Metlakahtla and Skeena—Their Present Aspect and Future Prospects.

VICTORIA, March 27, 1885.

TO THE EDITOR:—After the manly and eloquent manner in which you have urged that the British Columbia government before taking any action should make sure of the justice of the position they assumed. I feel sure you will permit me to say a few words on the subject, more especially as the feeling seems to be very general here that since no attempt was made to hinder the survey of the two acres the troubles are in a fairway of being settled, when in reality, to those acquainted with the Indians in that district, at no time since the commencement of those troubles has the question assumed a more serious phase. Hitherto the question has been a local one with only an indirect connection with outside interests and the general land question, and moreover being among the christian and civilized Indians was under the restraints which religion and a long and happy experience under just and equitable treatment insure. By the action of the government in surveying and taking the land, without first showing the Indians how, or why they had any just claim to it. Nay, more, in refusing to establish this claim as a legal one, they have not only further irritated the minds of the Indians immediately interested in these two acres, but, what is a far more serious matter they have shaken the confidence of every Tshimshean speaking Indian in the good faith of the government, have united the general land question with the particular local one and opened the question in all its bitterness among the inland tribes who are still heathens and uncivilized and consequently less amenable to those restraints which the acceptance of Christianity and the enlightenment of the mind foster.

And here let me pause to say a few words on the nature of the land question. Though this question was one, and the chief one, of the causes of the troubles, there is nothing to show from the evidence, as taken before the commission, that the commissioners endeavored to ascertain the nature of the Indian's land claim. However closely one may read the report or the evidence as printed he must fail to discover from either what these claims are. How such a result is consistent with the attorney-general's statement on the opening of the commission, I leave for him to explain.

The Indian land claims may be classed under three heads. 1st. Their unextinguished title to all the land until such time as a treaty or other agreement is concluded with them. This is the claim spoken of by Lord Dufferin and so strongly repudiated but never disproved by the government. 2nd. The personal and distinctive title of individual families among the Indians to certain limited tracts of land in the use of which they have had the sole right from time immemorial, from which they derive much of their means of support, and the inheritance in which is so much prized. 3rd. The commercial right in and title to their village sites and the lands in the immediate vicinity.

In the discussion in the house on Mr. Drake's motion while much was said about the absurdity of Lord Dufferin's statement. Never once was the question brought before the house by any member of the government in its true aspect and had it not been for the remarks of Mr. Theodore Davie who had seen one at least of the documents in the possession of the government, the country would still be ignorant that the government had all the particulars before them together with suggestions for an amicable, easy and comparatively inexpensive mode of dealing with the question and at the same time insuring the opening up of the country to miners and settlers. By refusing to discuss these suggestions or others having the same object in view and acting as they have done we find the present aspect to be this: The Metlakahtla Indians more embittered and more than ever determined to prosecute their claim. The Indians at Fort Simpson and the mouth of the Nass, together with the outlying coast tribes forming a union or league for the mutual protection of their hunting and land rights. The Indians on the Skeena for whom no reserves of any kind have been laid out as yet threatened with an inroad of miners ready to grab any and every piece of land where gold may be found and publicly threatened to shoot any Indian who may molest them. Their representations to the government slighted and every hope of obtaining even simple justice vanished. But what are the prospects for the future?

By obtaining the survey of the land by force, the government have initiated a practice which, if carried out by the Indians, will render it impossible for prospectors and isolated settlers to remain in that part of the country. By permitting a large number of white men fully armed to go into a peaceful district the government are indirectly compelling the Indians to arm themselves, too. They are, as a chief expressed it in a letter to the government, compelled to unbury the weapons which on the advent of Christianity among them they had buried, and never expected to see exhumed. How long two armed bodies, the one entering the district for the declared purpose of taking what the other claims, can avoid a collision, remains to be seen? If once a collision occurs how far will it extend? Who can tell? "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water." The one spark of hope is that by determining to take their case to the courts they may be able to exercise such an influence on the up-country Indians as will cause them to refrain from any action until the law courts have decided the justice of their cause.

Mr. Duncan and I have been publicly accused of teaching sedition. If it be sedition to teach that, in the words of Mr. Theodore Davie, "the asserting of might without right is tyranny"—if it be sedition to teach that in the term "our neighbor" is included the Indian as well as the white man; if it be sedition to teach that the cause of the weak and helpless, the fatherless, the widow and the *stranger* is *sacred*, and that no injustice to them can be anything but displeasing to God and injurious to the general welfare. If this be sedition then we are seditious, and I for one trust that the day may never come when we will be any otherwise minded. But if by sedition is meant a stirring up of the Indians against the government for our own private interests as to gratify an ambitious desire to rule, we can challenge any proof, we have no need to apply hard names or make cutting speeches against those who have so charged us. A clear conscience and the certainty that to any one who with unbiassed mind will examine into the matter the hollowness of all such charges will immediately appear, renders any apology on our part unnecessary. Yes, and I will say further that, notwithstanding these charges, backed up as they were, to a certain extent by members of the government, if the government propose any plan for the settlement of their troubles, based upon justice and right, they may count upon us to give them any support. Our position and long residence among the Indians may enable us to afford by urging the Indians to meet these proposals of the government in the most friendly and liberal spirit.

ROBERT TOMLINSON.

Up the Skeena.

TO THE EDITOR:—I notice that Dr. Tolmie has taken upon himself to call Mr. Pearse to task for his able letter on Metlakahtla matters, as if he were the only one qualified to talk about or deal with Indians.

Let Dr. Tolmie ask himself the question, What would have been the effect of the present action of the government for the survey of the two acres had the same attempt been made thirty years ago, before the civilizing influence of Mr. Duncan was there? It would have led to bloodshed and war, notwithstanding Mr. Work and the doctor's influence. It is absurd and misleading to compare the condition of the Indians in British territory to those in any American territory. In the one, country they are treated justly and fairly and white men are not allowed to rob them of their best land. Whereas in the States there is a continual hostility between Indians and whites owing to the corruption of officials appointed to Indian agencies, the unjust treatment of Indians and the constant encroachment on their rights by unprincipled whites winked at by the government.

American Indians satisfied indeed? this is something new and more than Dr. Tolmie with all his sophistry can prove. Were Dr. Tolmie and the American authorities able to stop the Indian war in Washington territory some years ago? They were not. The whole secret of Dr. Tolmie's feelings is that Duncan opposed the Hudson Bay Co. in trade and opened the eyes of the Indians to the value of their peltries and other commodities, whereas Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Work kept their eyes closed and their understanding darkened according to their traditional policy—gave them the smallest amount of blankets and rum for the largest number of skins; but Duncan gave a fair equivalent and spent his profits for the material benefit of the Indians. What has Dr. Tolmie ever done for the Indians? Nothing—less than nothing. What has Mr. Duncan done for them? Just what Mr. Pearse says he has done—he has given his whole life and energies to their welfare. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Duncan has done more for the Indians in one month than Dr. Tolmie has done in *fifty years*. In conclusion, Dr. Tolmie knows well that fifty constables could not survey the two acres if Mr. Duncan withdrew his influence—or if he felt inclined to throw it the other way. He and he alone has made the Northwest coast a place where white men can dwell in security.

CHARLES WINSLOW.

Northwest Coast, 1885.

Interior Items.

[Kamloops Sentinel.]

Dog creek correspondence reports a mild winter and no losses in stock reported. The coldest snap registered 32 degrees below zero.

Two men, one armed with a shotgun and the other with a revolver, were about to fight a duel at Eagle Pass when Magistrate Todd disarmed them.

Wm. (Walter?) Leonard who had been at work a few miles east of Eagle Pass landing quit work on the 24th Feb., and went towards the Columbia. He was found dead a week ago three-quarters of a mile this side of the Columbia, with a bullet through his head. The bullet entered the back of the head and made its exit between the eyes. It is supposed he was shot about the 26th Feb., and from behind while walking on the road. He was hauled off the road a short distance and tumbled into a brush pile and covered over with brush. It is supposed the body lay there two weeks before being discovered. There was no inquest or investigation of any kind as there is neither coroner or magistrate in the Pass nearer than Kamloops.

Mr. Wright has resumed work at his camps.

Parties coming from the second crossing of the Columbia state that Farwell is going ahead. A steam pile-driver is at work at the crossing, and as soon as the Columbia river is bridged, wagons will be passed over, until such times as the railway track is placed.

On the evening of the 21st inst., some of the railway men had been drinking freely and a row ensued. A workman named G. Bratton stabbed foreman Dan. McGillvary a number of times in the body and face. The wounds although severe may not prove fatal. Constable Swan, of Savona, brought Bratton to jail here on Monday, where he is in custody to await the arrival of witnesses for his examination. Prisoner claims that he was abused and followed by McGillvary, who is a much larger and stronger man, and not until his own life was in danger did he use the knife.

OLD ENGLAND.

There she sits in her island home,
Peerless among her peers,
And humanity oft to her arms doth come
To ease its poor heart of tears.
Old England still queens it with the mutfled fire
Of a past she can never forget;
Its ageis shall she banner the world up higher,
For there's life in the Old Land yet.

They would mock at her now, who of old looked forth
In their fear as they heard her afar;
But loud will your wail be, O kings of the earth,
When the Old Land goes down to the war.
The sea-beaten breaches, half launched and half riven,
Her voice will in motion set,
O the ends of the earth, O ye hosts of Heaven—
There's life in the Old Land yet.

The old mousing mother is not heavy yet,
Her claws are not blunted nor dull;
Lo! she hitcheth a bosom of glory on,
Through her mantle, to flow on and on the sea,
Fair as the Queen of Love fresh from the foam,
Or a star in a dark cloud set.
Ye may blanch her shamrock, may heap at her fame,
But there's life in the Old Land yet.

Let the storm burst, it will find the Old Land
Ready—ripe for a rough red fray;
She will fight as she fought when she took her stand
For the light of the olden day.
Ay! rouse the old royal soul! Europe's best hope
Is her sword-edge by victory set;
She shall dash Freedom's foes adown Death's awful slope,
For there is life in the Old Land yet.

THE NORTHWEST REBELLION.

WINNIPEG, March 31.—Advices from Battleford show that the situation is growing worse. McKay, agent for the Hudson Bay Company, writes: "Half-breeds and Indians are plundering our stores. With the Indian agent I ventured out of the barracks to remonstrate with them and was fired upon, but we succeeded in getting inside.

A subsequent dispatch says the Indians have killed four instructors. A later dispatch says the half-breeds have joined the Malcontents and are rifling all the stores and buildings outside of the barracks. People in barracks have arms and ammunition and supplies enough to hold out until relieved. Half-breeds are soon expected there from Duck Lake. Stoney Indians have joined the rest and killed several men. Buildings on the south side, including those belonging to the Hudson Bay Co. and the government have been burned. These Indians have seized all the cattle along the settlements near Stoney reserve which is nearest Battleford, but had been quiet until this morning when they went on the war path. Their rising makes the situation very critical.

Col. Hirscheimer has left Regina for Battleford via Swift Current with seventy mounted police and one cannon. It is supposed he can reach in six days if not interrupted. Fears are entertained that the half-breeds from Duck Lake will go towards Winnipeg and cut off all communication and interrupt the advance of Hirscheimer. Indians on Fort Pett reserve between Battleford and Edmonton are likely to join those at Battleford. Wires are still broken between Battleford and Edmonton. It is not known whether they were cut by the half-breeds or not.

Baptiste Berge, who has just returned from Carlton to Qu'Appelle was made prisoner by Riel and kept by him some time. He says Riel has fully one thousand men under his command, many of whom are Indians and all well armed. When Irvine and Crozier retired on Prince Albert he says Riel followed and he is quite certain another engagement has taken or will soon take place. One Fisher, another of Riel's captives, lost the contents of his store. At Balch Crossing he says that Riel is being joined by Indians who are flocking to him. A family named Lovell from Duck Lake arrived at Qu'Appelle this morning, having broken through the rebel line and made their way across the prairie. They report that the rebels refuse to let the mail go out and threaten to shoot the mail carriers. The rebels say they will not molest settlers if they remain quiet in their houses. They are pillaging the stores and have captured George and John Kerr, Thompson the operator, and Michael, postmaster at Duck Lake. Big Bear and Beardy have one thousand Indians armed there. Lowell thinks that Riel is encouraging the rebels with the promise of help from Montana. Gen. Terry telegraphs there has been no movement to cross the border.

A Free Press dispatch from Battleford says: The Indian instructors, James Payne and Geo. E. Applegarth, of Eagle hills, and two settlers, have been killed. These were killed by the Stoneys. Settlers coming in were robbed of horses, wagons and loads. Others are coming in from distant settlements in a destitute condition, and are collecting in the barracks where all are awaiting, and have plenty of provisions, and can stand a siege for some time. The half-breeds are reported as going towards Clark's Crossing to cut the telegraph wires, which will probably be cut and communication from Battleford will be broken to-morrow. The Indians in Western Manitoba are showing signs of disquiet and will probably join the rebels.

Our Ottawa Letter.

(Special Correspondence of The Colonist).

OTTAWA, March 20th, 1885.

The budget debate still drags its weary length along. Day by day the same stale arguments are trotted forth by the opposition, and as surely they are demolished by members on the government benches. But it is time for the discussion to stop. The country, as Mr. Mitchell pointed out the other day, is anxious that the work of legislation should be proceeded with and that valuable time should be frittered away no longer. Private members' day (Monday) was characterised by a howl from several Ontario opposition members who are trying to make political capital by claiming a refund of bonuses paid by municipalities to

DIFFERENT RAILWAYS

in the province. Quite recently a large deputation waited upon the government in regard to this matter. Sir John's reply was that the object of declaring certain railroads to be for general benefit of Canada was to enable the Dominion government to control them for the purpose of securing better protection to life and property where the roads crossed each other. The power to deal with roads constructed under the Dominion statutes could not be exercised by provincial authorities but by declaring the roads constructed under provincial charters to be for the general benefit of Canada the Dominion government could deal effectually with many vexing questions and especially with regard to crossings. The advantage of a single jurisdiction, during the short period in which the act has been in force, have been very marked. Now it appears that the very parties who have benefited most by the statute bringing these railways under proper and effective control for the purpose of preserving their lives and their property desire to take advantage of a strained meaning of the sentence "for the general benefit of Canada," and on the strength of it apply for the repayment of money given by them years ago. They also urge that because a grant of three and a half millions was made to the province of Quebec last year that a similar step should be made in Ontario. The fallacy of this argument put forward in support of their claim was clearly shown by Mr. White, member for Cardwell, who in a few words clearly explained the position so far as the province of Quebec was concerned. He pointed out that Quebec, under a policy which contemplated that there should be no assistance from the public treasury to any railways reaching the Pacific railway at Callander, had expended its money on the Q. M. O. & O., now a part of the C. P. R. main line, and that Quebec province was entitled to the same treatment as the province of Ontario had received, viz., $12,000 a mile to construct the line from Gravenhurst to Callander, making through connection from Toronto across the district of Muskoka. Accordingly, Quebec had simply got back its equivalent for the railways which finally became part of the Canadian Pacific Railway and were constructed outside the original charter of that railway to enable the lines to go down to Renfrew on the one side and Gravenhurst on the other. No division was taken on the motion which was simply one for papers, the opposition seemingly being afraid to bring the matter to a square issue. It is not likely, however, that anything will come out of their cry, 591 municipalities not being content to be taxed for the purpose of paying money to 162 municipalities, which have good value for their investments.

MR. BLAKE

was guilty of a small piece of business the other day, not such as might be expected from one whom his friends claim to be a great statesman. He asked at what date, and for what term and at what rent were premises rented for the use of the commission on the Chinese question. Mr. Chapleau, in reply said, rooms were occupied in the senate wing until the beginning of the session, after which a room was rented outside for a few weeks. The secretary, he added, was under pay until the commission closed its labors on the 28th February. The fact that a man in Mr. Blake's position would stoop to inquire about a matter which involved the expenditure of say $20, shows that the opposition leader must be pretty hard up for something to complain about. There is this to be said, however, in favor of the government, that no matter what the question, useful or otherwise, is directed to them, the members of the opposition are treated with unvarying courtesy by every member of the administration. This is in striking contrast to the position taken by leading members of the opposition. Mr. Blake is acknowledged to be one of the most unsociable men in the house, and I heard a prominent member of his party say the other day that if he were ever successful in obtaining the premiership he would wreck his party, or else himself, within a year. He lacks personal magnetism, and to see him lying forward on his desk in the house while a debate is in progress is not calculated to inspire any of his followers on the back benches with a great degree of confidence.

SIR JOHN'S TREATMENT

of any of his followers stands forth prominently in opposition to that assumed by Mr. Blake. When a new man gets up the premier will wheel round in his chair and listen attentively to what the member is saying. The effect of this action is to create a little pride in the bosoms of the members on the ministerial back benches, and make them still more devoted adherents of the "grand old man."

THE C. P. R. PROPOSED AID

is still one of the chief topics of discussion round Ottawa. The latest proposal said to have emanated from Hon. Mr. Abbott, solicitor for the company, is as follows: (1.) That the lien of the government upon the line and all its belongings for the $30,000,000 loan, be changed into first mortgage bonds for $30,000,000. (2.) This done, that the government accept lands in lieu of $15,000,000 of these bonds, the remaining $15,000,000 of bonds to be disposed of by the company, and the proceeds applied to the completion and equipment of the line. Nothing definite is yet known as to the intentions of the company. Mr. George Stephen, the president, has been found here some days, and although he has been pretty well looked after by the newspaper men he refuses to say anything on the subject. In the meantime the following figures as showing the development of the Northwest by this gigantic railway enterprise may be of interest. The number of homesteads entered within the Canadian Pacific railway belt up to 31st December last was, between first and second principal meridians, 7,045; between second and third, 3,917; between third and fourth, *nil*; between fourth and fifth, 23 —total, 11,885.

Russia and the Vatican.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 19.—The quarrel between Rome and this country is becoming more pronounced. The latest act of Cardinal Jacobini in interfering with the administration of clerical affairs in Russia, having been approved and emphasized by the Pope, the imperial authorities here are determined to take such measures as will convince the Vatican that the Czar is the spiritual as well as the political ruler of his people. The Catholic clergymen through the Empire have been required to forswear supreme allegiance to the Pope at Rome. If they refuse to take the prescribed oath, it is stated that Count Tolstoi, the minister of the interior, will establish an independent Catholic patriarch in this city.

AUSTRALIA.

Preparing for the Russians.

MELBOURNE, March 30.—Torpedoes have been placed at the entrance to the harbor of Port Philip and messures are being taken for the defence of Adelaide and the ports of New South Wales.

MELBOURNE, March 29.—The governor of Victoria has issued an order forbidding foreign ships to enter Port Philip during the night.

THE "NEW ODESSA."

The Colonly of Nihilist in Southern Oregon.

Among the foothills of the Coast Range in the southern part of Oregon, at a place called Longdale station, stands a settlement of the Russian refugees. Although ostensibly subject to the laws of Jackson county, yet this community of exiles is in reality an imperium in imperio, It seems to be a sort of Platonic republic, where property is common and where the greatest freedom possible to an organized society is allowed. In 1881 a band of twenty students of the of universities Odessa and Khark left Russia in separate detachments, with New York as the meeting place. Arriving there they looked about for some place of settlement, and determined on Oregon. Not having money enough they again separated, and worked in different cities of the East until a fund had been raised sufficient to buy the title deeds to several thousand acres of land. When the property was purchased they at once started for Oregon and began the formation of a colony, to which has since been added thirty or forty additional nihilists. The land was divided into farms and each colonist allowed a certain amount to purchase stock and tools. Soon the settlement thrived until their colony, which is called "New Odessa," stood on a substantial basis. Then rules and regulations were adopted for the government of the settlers. It was decided that each man should work but six hours a day, the remainder to be devoted to listening to lectures on nihilism and the rights of man. One large house was selected as the lecture hall and there the refugees daily listen to the speculations of the students on the right of revolution, which they claim will uprise into Russia as sure as the Volga flows into the sea. The chief staple of cultivation of the colony is grain. There are about twenty women in the settlement. The colony is in possession of a large library, which is open to all, and which is composed mostly of treatises on political subjects in the Russian tongue. The library is being gradually increased by additions of books and papers from Geneva and Odessa. Among the settlers is Ivan Urvansky, who was connected with the nihilists in Odessa and who was arrested in 1878. At that time there was a man in Odessa named Kowalsk, who published books and pamphlets of the nihilists. One night while he was engaged in this work the house was surrounded by gendarmes. The nihilists closed the doors and burned all of the papers and books. When the officers of the Czar broke down the doors a fight ensued between the two parties and six officers were killed. They found evidence against Kowalsky and his confederates in the portions of set type the nihilists had forgotten to "pi." Kowalsky was sent to a prison, and on the journey the police sent three empty carriages, with a view of deceiving the people, as an uprising was feared. Kowalsky was sentenced to be executed, but Urvansky managed to afterwards escape. Another nihilist at the Oregon settlement is M. Ramanovich, who was arrested at the same time as Kowalsky. He was sent to Archangel. While there he played the role of a natural-born fool and was allowed his freedom provided he would report afterwards every morning to the authorities. He managed to escape in the garb of a peasant. The other prominent nihilists at "New Odessa" are Krimont, Fireman and Gurvich, all students all connected with some political plot which caused them to leave their country. The settlement thus far has prospered beyond all expectation and no dissension has occurred to mar the accomplishment of its purpose. The colony is still engaged in nihilistic projects and is in constant communication with Russia. One of the great objects of the colony is to furnish a home by sending money to nihilists who may hereafter escape from Russia.

C. P. R. Construction.

In reply to Mr. Blake, Mr. Pope stated that the number of grades on Canadian Pacific exceeding 90 feet to the mile were:—9 descending the Rockies, 2 ascending the Selkirks, and 42 decending the Selkirks; the total length being 54½ miles. The number of curves on the road over 6 degrees was as follows:—1 curve of 6.15 degrees; 2 of 6.20; 22 of 6.30; 12 of 6.40; 1 of 6.45; 103 of 7; 10 of 7.30; 1 of 7.45; 325 of 8; 1 of 8.15; 3 of 8.30; 1 of 8.40; 62 of 9; 141 of 10; and 1 of 10.40.

Mr. Blake—You don't give the curves on the temporary line.

Mr. Pope—I don't know. Those are the curves.

Mr. Blake—You don't give those on the temporary line, because there is one of 11.30 degrees.

Mr. Pope—Oh, well, I know nothing about that.

In reply to a further question by Mr. Blake,

Mr. Pope said the contractor on the Government section of the Canadian Pacific was using the road, as contractors usually did, to carry his own supplies and workmen. The Government had heard that he was using it also to carry passengers and freight than workmen and goods for use on the line. It was not by any arrangement with the Government.

The Egyptian Convention.

LONDON, March 18.—The convention regarding Egyptian finances, which was signed by the representatives of the powers last Monday, and the terms of which were stated in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer this evening, is generally approved of as being the best obtainable under existing circumstances. Some objections are raised, as was to be expected, by the Tories and the Radicals, but the grounds of their objections are so diametrically opposed to each other as to prove the impossibility of framing an agreement to suit both parties. The Tories object to the new loan of £9,000,000 being internationally by the six powers, fearing that this guarantee will develope into a multiple control, so that England will gain no especial advantage in return for the sacrifices of blood and treasure which alone has made in suppressing the rebellion of Arabi Pasha and El Mahdi. The Radicals, on the other hand, object to the clause of the convention which fixes a definite period for the continuance of the British occupation, as that will prevent the British from scuttling out of Egypt if a favourable chance shall be presented before the expiration of that period. Both these objections will be vigorously urged, but as they neutralize each other, it is certain that the convention will be ratified by arliament.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway.)

HALIFAX, N. S., March 19.—The barque Earl of Devon, of Plymouth, G. B., Capt. Ward, which sailed from this port January 26 for New York in ballast, has not yet reached her destination, and fears are entertained for safety. She is a very fine vessel of 441 tons register, built at Plymouth, in 1876. The schooner Melo, of St. John, N. B., before reported missing, sailed from this port for New York the day before the barque.

WINNIPEG, March 19.—The Legislature was opened to-day. The Speech from the Throne was a very commonplace affair, the only feature of interest being the omission of any reference to better terms. There are strong manifestations of dissatisfaction throughout the Province.

HALIFAX, March 18.—The manufacturing establishment of the Union Furniture and Merchandise Company at Bosseyver was destroyed this morning by fire. It consisted of two large three-storey buildings, a sawmill and large paint shop and wareroom. All were burned, together with a lot of furniture completed and under way with loss of machinery. The company gave employment to about 50 men, who will be thrown out. The buildings and machinery were valued at $22,000. No insurance.

OTTAWA, March 18.—Mr. Gaudet, the member for Nicolet, fell on the street to-night and broke his leg.

It is said that Laughlin McCallum, member for Monck, has put a claim for the vacancy in the Senate caused by Senator Benson's death.

In the Legislature on Wednesday night Mr. Meredith rose upon the motion to adjourn, and drew the attention of the Ministry to the reported acts of cruelty in the Central prison.

St. Catharines is excited over an alleged elopement scandal, the wife of the manager of the Bank of Commerce in that city and the ledger-keeper having departed together during the manager's absence. The couple are supposed to have gone to Buffalo. Both the infatuated people leave families.

The excitement among members of the Salvation Army at Kingston over the dancing propensities of Captain Scott culminated in a serious disturbance on Wednesday night, during which the benches in the barracks were broken, and the valiant captain made an ignominious exit through a back window.

The Scott Act was carried in the counties of Lambton and Elgin, and the city of St. Thomas, and defeated in the county of Missisquoi, Quebec.

NIAGARA, Ont., March 19.—This afternoon a fire occurred at Pine Hurst, completely destroying the barn and stables belonging to Captain Dickson, as well as a phaeton, cart, harness, etc. Origin of the fire unknown. The building was insured.

QUEBEC, March 19.—The English church parsonage at Valcartier, occupied Rev. Dr. Riopel, was completely destroyed by fire, together with all the furniture, ou Tuesday last.

ODESSA, Ont., March 19.—Mabee & Derbyshire's steam sawmill was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The damage is estimated at $3,000, insured for $1,000.

OTTAWA, March 19.—The writ for the West Northumberland election has been issued. Nomination day is fixed for the 31st of March; election day the 7th of April. Mr. Roebuck is appointed returning officer.

MONTREAL, March 19.—Two employes in the Post office named Mitchell and Gurvich, all students all connected with some political plot which caused them to leave their country. The settlement thus far has prospered beyond all expectation and no dissension has occurred to mar the accomplishment of its purpose. The colony is still engaged in nihilistic projects and is in constant communication with Russia. One of the great objects of the colony is to furnish a home by sending money to nihilists who may hereafter escape from Russia.

C. P. R. Construction.

In reply to Mr. Blake, Mr. Pope stated that the number of grades on Canadian Pacific exceeding 90 feet to the mile were:—9 descending the Rockies, 2 ascending the Selkirks, and 42 decending the Selkirks; the total length being 54½ miles. The number of curves on the road over 6 degrees was as follows:—1 curve of 6.15 degrees; 2 of 6.20; 22 of 6.30; 12 of 6.40; 1 of 6.45; 103 of 7; 10 of 7.30; 1 of 7.45; 325 of 8; 1 of 8.15; 3 of 8.30; 1 of 8.40; 62 of 9; 141 of 10; and 1 of 10.40.

Mr. Blake—You don't give the curves on the temporary line.

Mr. Pope—I don't know. Those are the curves.

Mr. Blake—You don't give those on the temporary line, because there is one of 11.30 degrees.

Mr. Pope—Oh, well, I know nothing about that.

In reply to a further question by Mr. Blake,

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TORONTO, March 20.—John McLennan, merchant of Lindsay, will be tomorrow gazetted sheriff of Victoria. He is a brother of James McLennan, Q. C.

MONTREAL, March 21.—Miss Raciott, one of the occupants of a burned Notre Dame street boarding house, died in the hospital to-day.

R. R. Champagne & Co., hatters, have assigned.

A lad named Jas. Taylor, while stealing a ride on a pilot train fell between the cars and was horribly mutilated. He cannot recover.

OTTAWA, March 21.—Hon. Pascal Poltier, the newly appointed Senator, was entertained at a banquet at the restaurant last night by a company of about eighty subscribers. The Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, presided.

TORONTO, March 20.—The relatives here of Mrs. Hankey, wife of the bank manager of St. Catharines, who eloped with Wilson, the ledger-keeper, state that the woman for upwards of a year has shown symptoms of insanity, known as puerperal manis, and her husband was actually in Toronto making arrangements to place her in a private asylum when she eloped. It is said that Wilson, by informing her of it, induced her to elope, as she had a horror of an asylum.

The trial for the conspiracy case this morning was fixed for Monday, the 30th inst. Wilkinson stated that he had sent a subpœna to Stimson at Calgary to get him as a witness, to show whether he was Lynch or George Smith & Company.

The Lambton Mills, woolen and shoddy manufacturing company, have assigned. Liabilities and assets not yet known. It is said that an assignment has been made to protect the concern against the effects of a law suit, and that business will be resumed shortly.

GODERICH, March 22.—An hotel keeper named Bailey was arrested yesterday charged with being implicated in stealing three ballot boxes from the court house shortly after the recent Scott Act election. After preliminary examination before the mayor the case was adjourned till Tuesday. A thousand dollars bail was accepted. The principal witness is a lad named John Macpherson who confessed to having entered the court house at Bailey's instigation taking therefrom the missing boxes. Macpherson went to the States the day after and only recently returned when the circumstances leaked out.

BOWMANVILLE, March 23.—Senator Simpson is dead, aged seventy-three.

OTTAWA, March 21.—The custom duty collected for February was $8,300 more than for the same month last year. The imports and exports both decreased.

The next civil service examination will take place May 12.

The Liberal candidate is first in the field for Levis. Dr. Malcolm Gray has been selected.

OTTAWA, March 22.—The coupling of a train on the Ontario & Quebec Division of the Canadian Pacific broke near Moberly this morning. Two Pullmans and a first-class coach left the rails, toppled on side in a snowbank, and were badly wrecked. A commercial traveller named Richards was slightly injured.

MONTREAL, March 22.—Jas. England, aged fifty, died at the police station early yesterday morning. He was taken by the police to the hospital on an order from Dr. Bouchard, but was refused admission, the authorities there there saying he was not sick and that he was under the influence of liquor. The police, however denied this and took him to the station where he was giving a bed till morning. Much sympathy is felt for the old man who had lost a wife and two children by death since the New Year.

HAMILTON, March 22.—Rev. Chas. Hamilton, the newly elected Bishop of Niagara, will be consecrated at Fredericton, N. B., on the first of May.

LONDON, March 22.—Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice returned Saturday from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle. The precautions which have now become customary were taken along the line of the Great Western Railway. The railway was patrolled by detectives and the depots were cleared for an hour before and after the passage of the Royal train.

AT THREE Forks, Montana, a silver mine has lately been opened, and a very strange phenomenon connected with it is that of a fissure cut into in working which seems bottomless. Stones thrown into it seemed to fall and keep falling without any end, as was shown by continuous sounds which returned. At times a gaseous steam issues from this cavity and drives the workmen from the mine. The deposits of ore are made on the walls of the cavity by the steam and are all sulphates. There is also a periodical rumbling, which