Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1886.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

When the announcement of the appointment of Lord Randolph Churchill to the post of leadership of the house of commons was made, the London Daily News, either from an impartial point of view, or in a spirit of political partizanship, said: "It is just three years ago that a high conservative authority in the Press, goaded into plain speaking, described Lord Randolph Churchill as a sort of overgrown schoolboy, who thinks he is witty when he is only impudent, and who really does not seem to possess sufficient knowledge even to fathom the depths of his own ignorance of everything worthy of the name of statemanship. His almost incredible ignorance of affairs, we were then assured, his boyish delight in offering the rudest insults to men who have been fifty years in the service of the State, his pranks and his blunders, were ceasing to amuse. That was, and it remains, a trenchant but indisputable sketch of one aspect of the character of the man who now holds the destinies of the conservative party in the palm of his hand. But it is only a partial sketch, and leaves unnoted heights and depths which lie beyond. Lord Randolph Churchill sometimes presents himself as an overgrown schoolboy. But if he were only that he would not at the present moment be leader in the house of commons. These pranks and blunders supply fuller proof of the sterling qualities of the still youthful lord. Truly he has in his brief political career said enough and done enough to wreck a dozen careers. Yet at the end of all he comes out stronger than ever, in a higher and more commanding position. What the Standard wrote of Lord Randolph Churchill on July 31, 1885, might have been written of Mr. Disraeli at any time from 1844 to 1846. It was an added shock to the public mind that Lord Randolph should be not only leader of the house of commons, but chancellor of the exchequer. The two offices, however, usually go together as a matter of convenience. The chancellor of the exchequer has no departmental work such as occupies the attention of any of the secretaries of state. The greater part of the year he has nothing particular to do; when budget night approaches he finds all the drudgery of the post accomplished by the permanent officials. In these circumstances Lord Randolph Churchill will, it is safe to assume, make as good a chancellor of the exchequer as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach or even Sir William Harcourt. As for his heresy about protection, that is a matter of no practical consequence. His deliverances on the subject were probably influenced by no more important consideration than that his then chief, Sir Stafford Northcote was known to be a free trader. Even if conviction on this head was more deeply seated than are the average of his political views, Lord Randolph knows that it would be as easy for him to reunite Great Britain with the continent as to re-establish protection in this country. He may therefore be counted upon not to waste his energies and reputation upon the fruitless enterprise. Lord Randolph, it must be admitted, has no right to look to liberals for good wishes in his new office—with the prosperity of which, it must not be forgotten, the welfare of the country is temporarily bound up.

THE ANARCHISTS.

It is all over with the Chicago anarchists—at least with seven of them. They have been convicted of murder in throwing or conspiring to throw a dynamite bomb into the police ranks whereby nine policemen were killed and some twenty others crippled for life. The convicts appear to be a desperate lot. Six of the number are of foreign birth and belonged to the international society of Europe before coming to America. Only one (Parsons) is native born and his record shows him to be a low and unprincipled fellow. If these men had escaped the penalty of their crimes justice would not only have been blind; she would have been fast asleep and snoring. An appeal has been taken to the supreme court. But how can an appeal be successful in such a case? The law is very clear. It is not necessary that a man should kill the person he aims at to constitute him a murderer. If the act he is about to commit is murder he is none the less guilty of the wrong man is hit. It is no defence to urge that the bomb were not thrown at any particular person. The intention was to kill and the intention was only too successful. Civilization will rejoice when the news comes that these wicked men have met their deserts. It is not a little singular that, with one exception, the convicted anarchists first saw the light in countries where political liberty is unknown and where the actions of men are regulated at the caprice of the Tsar. Coming to America, where the constitution declares that all men are "free and equal," where labor is well rewarded and where no industrious man need suffer from want they immediately began to plot against the institutions of the country which had given them an asylum. The natural result of such ingratitude is before us. It is to be hoped that the fate of the wretches at Chicago will serve as a warning to all who may attempt to undermine society with dynamite.

AS BOLID AS A ROCK.

The declaration of Mr. Chamberlain in the house of commons on Thursday night defines his position exactly. He has cut loose from that bogus radicalism which regards the honor and integrity of the empire of so slight a value that it would consent to the disruption of the nation. Mr. Chamberlain has taken a bold stand. He has shown that he can rise above the petty consideration of party when national interests are imperilled. The timid and halting policy of Mr. Gladstone has driven Mr. Chamberlain and his friends from the liberal ranks, perhaps forever; and no reconciliation is possible so long as the liberal leader entertains the views which have been decisively condemned by the country. Both Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain have declined office in the conservative government; but both have declared that they will stand by Lord Salisbury's government so long as he will strive to preserve the union intact. Mr. Chamberlain's words are not only significant when considered in connection with the Irish question. They have a broader and more comprehensive meaning. By the integrity of the empire is meant the preservation of colonial connection as well as the retention of Ireland as a member of the United Kingdom. Mr. Chamberlain's words are brave and patriotic and the position he has taken entitles him to the gratitude of loyal men everywhere.

CITY DRAINAGE.

During the recent agitation for a better supply of water it was frequently stated that the vote on the water loan bylaw would decide the drainage question as well. It was not concealed from the public that if the water bylaw should be defeated the city would have no need for the plans of a system of sewerage now in course of preparation by Pickering & Crompton. With this knowledge before them the ratepayers passed the water bylaw by a thumping majority; and the council will now take in hand the extension of the waterworks so that every ratepayer richer in the city limits will be in the enjoyment of an unlimited supply for household and garden. While the extension of the waterworks is being pushed it will be the duty of the council to frame and by before property owners a bylaw to authorize the raising of a sum of money for sewerage purposes. The amount required will be large; but money spent in securing the health and cleanliness of the town will be well spent. Far away and beyond every other consideration the hygienic state of the municipality requires immediate attention. If Victoria is to continue what Nature has made her—a health resort—she must cleanse herself thoroughly and provide means for remaining clean ever afterwards. The plans are expected to reach here in the course of a few days, and the council will lose no time in asking for the necessary authority to prosecute the work.

THE WHEAT SUPPLY OF THE WORLD.

The wheat producing countries of the world, exclusive of the United States and Canada, promise an aggregate of fully 1,500,000,000 bushels this season, or 35,000,000 bushels below an average annual production for such countries, and 100,000,000 bushels short of last year's crop; in the United States and Canada the production will be about 75,000,000 bushels greater than last year, or, say 15,000,000 bushels short of what may be accounted an average, so that the year's wheat crop of the world, as now indicated, will fall 50,000,000 bushels short of an average production, and approximately 25,000,000 bushels below last year. If these calculations be justified by actual results, and it be considered that the United States has an available surplus of previous growth amounting to 30,000,000 bushels, with practically normal stocks abroad and afloat, it is apparent that there cannot be likely to arise any special stringency in the needs of the wheat importing countries during the year, although all the surroundings justify an expectation of materially better average prices than have been realized for wheat the past year. During the past year the United States exported 95,000,000 bushels of wheat, flour included. With a crop of fully 325,000,000 bushels this season, and an available surplus of previous growth of 30,000,000 bushels in excess of needed reserves, the available supply is approximately 495,000,000 bushels, from which can be spared for export 120,000,000 to 125,000,000 bushels, quite comfortably, say 25,000,000 to 35,000,000 bushels more than were disposed of the past year.

THE CASSIAR ELECTION.

The evening opposition organ announces the "triumphant" return of Mr. Grant for Cassiar. When it is remembered that Mr. Grant was returned by a majority of more than two to one in 1882, the fact that he has managed in 1886 to squeeze in with a narrow majority of three, is not indicative of a triumph. On the contrary, it looks very much as if the member's course did not give satisfaction to all his constituents, and that many who voted for him before had resolved to have a change, if possible. Mr. Dompster, it will be remembered, was an untried man, and not acquainted with any of the questions in the many sections of the Province. Mr. Grant, on the other hand, was well known, from end to end of the district, and held in his hand a powerful lever or scare, which he did not hesitate to apply when electors were wanted to "vote right." Mr. Grant would be a useful member if he could dismiss from his mind certain vagaries concerning a portfolio and $5,000 a year. It is hoped that in the new house he will develop less of a party spirit that unfitted him in the past.

A COCKROACH TOURNAMENT.

Sport in the Chinese Quarter of Chicago.

The Chinese residents of Chicago have been greatly excited over the outcome of a "Cockroach Tournament," which has been going on in the basement of a down-town laundry and Chinese club house for the last three nights. It is the first big tournament ever held east of the Pacific Coast, and was conducted by a party of Chinese sports who left San Francisco three weeks ago with nearly fifty trained cockroaches. It was reported on Monday that the San Francisco party had left for New York, having won several thousand dollars from local Chinese betting men. The tournament was opened last Wednesday, a featherweight fighter being matched against a middleweight cockroach. Before the insects were pitted against each other they were handled by Quong, a Chinaman, who had had some experience in this line in China. With a minute pair of scissors he clipped their wings, and then just before facing them greased their bodies with salve. This is done to prevent the insects catching one another by the greased portions of each other's bodies. At a signal the two champions were dropped into the pit. This was a large urn, shaped like a punch-bowl and greased on the edges. The first fight was one of the best of the whole tournament. When the two fighting roaches dropped into the bowl they sprang at each other with the fierceness of bulldogs. Just eleven minutes after the fight began the big roach was dead. When he died, however, he mortally wounded his slayer. In his last struggles, and despite the pain caused by his efforts, he turned in such a manner that his left fore leg was pulled from its socket, but in so doing he caught his adversary by the throat. The next instant he died covered with wounds, while the little victor staggered off with a horrible cut in his thorax. Eight battles were fought the first night, it being 9 o'clock before the last battle was finished. The betting was heavy and many of the local men were winners. The next night only four battles were got through with, but they were all desperate contests and lasted one hour each. On the third night there were eleven battles, and when the tournament ended the San Francisco Chinamen had nearly all the money of the local sports. It is reported that the Chinaman Quong, who handled the fighters, had played into the hands of the visitors and drugged some of the bugs.

Celebrated Attack by Bees.

The Scalding Schooner Scourge.

To the Editor:—I have read somewhere of a celebrated attack by bees, but I cannot recollect the place. Perhaps some of your readers will give us a report of it. Bees are very numerous in Kamchatka, and I have seen them attack men and horses, but never with such fatal results as in the case of the schooner Scourge, which was lying at anchor in Ludlow harbor, Puget Sound, on the night of the 15th ult. The crew had left the vessel, and the only person on board was a boy, who was sleeping in the forecastle. The vessel had been in the lumber trade, and had her hold full of sawdust, which had been wet by the rain. The boy was awakened by the bees, and, thinking the vessel was on fire, he ran on deck and jumped into the water. The bees followed him, and he had to remain in the water all night, with his head only above the surface, and his face and hands were so swollen that he was blind for a week afterwards. The vessel was towed into Port Gamble, and the bees were there so numerous that they had to be smoked before the men could work the vessel. The bees were black, and about the size of a small wasp. I should be glad to see a report of the attack you refer to, and shall be obliged if you can give me the name of the place where it occurred. I am, etc., J. W. Kirkland.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 27th, 1886.

To the Editor:—By an item that appeared in this morning's *Colonist* the public are again informed of the Gulf of Georgia herring, which still continue to be idle while American tugs secure the towing of English ships in Canadian waters. It appears from the item in question that the steamer Alexander was telegraphed to come to Port Angeles (the nearest American port) and assist the disabled ship to Victoria, and, of course, thereby informing the owners of numerous tugs in that part of the fact that a tug is wanted, consequently before our tug can get up steam the American tug is well on her way. This is a state of things that should be stopped without delay by our having a line of telegraph along the Metchosin shore to Race rocks and thence across the straits (only ten miles) to Port Angeles, and at that point connect with the American government line to Cape Flattery. By this means, and a telephone, we can receive quick intimation of any shipping either in Port Angeles or anywhere inside the straits, and accomplish another very important thing, viz., doing away with that unusually long and unnecessary cable from Clover Point to New Dungeness. W.

Bad Chinese Boys.

So far reference has been had only to the older class of Canadian Mongolians. There is another class, no less dangerous to society, to be found among the Chinese boys, many of whom are members of industrious families. The example set by the older roughs is imitated as closely as it is possible for those of tender age to follow in the footsteps of their elder "cousins." To be bad, thoroughly and irrevocably bad, is their highest ambition. They pick up American profanity readily, and use it within a fortnight of their arrival. It would drive the most depraved American vocalists to despair. But it is not on their proficiency in the use of oaths or obscene language that the young pagans rest their reputation for wickedness. It affords them a certain pleasure to parade with the Sunday school scholars of their own race, and fire off a foot-long bag of profanity now and then, heedless of Christianized Mongolians who turn their eyes in holy horror. But, only yesterday, a Chinaman was shot down while sleeping by a boy. To spare the reader of offence the shape of a knife or pistol, and to display it on all occasions when the eye of the police is not upon them, is a pleasure reaching to a point of delight. Cruelty is another and an enjoyment to the fallen boy. The young man in question is a Chinaman, who returned to this city last week with a pretty young wife after an absence of thirty years in California, believing the first wife dead, only to find the latter alive in an unfortunate predicament. He has two wives and doesn't know what to do with one of them. Both Starnes and his first wife believed each other dead as he had gone west to seek a home for his family and was never heard from. Neither could find a word concerning his wife, as she never received his letter or $1,000 which he sent her. Starnes was married in 1840, and the couple were devoted to each other. Now that he has found her alive and that she has remained true to her troth plighted forty years ago, his old love has been rekindled and yet he loves the young wife whom he brought from California and who fairly worships her aged husband. They are all living in the same house at present but this state of affairs cannot last long, as the wives, who at first were affectionate towards each other are becoming very jealous. The husband cannot decide which wife will have exclusive claim to his affections. The two baby boys whom he left when he went west now have families. His by his second wife he has a 4 year old girl.

Victoria's Supremacy.

To the Editor:—If the Victoria boomers are right in their estimate of the future of this city, it will be the metropolis of the Pacific Coast, and the question of its supremacy over Portland, Oregon, and Tacoma, Puyallup, etc., will be settled. Victoria is the natural terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the Canadian government will do all in its power to make it the terminus of the Canadian steamship line to China and Japan. The Canadian Pacific railway will do all in its power to make Victoria a great city