

**THE WAR.**

Yesterday was marked by a lot of exceedingly contradictory stories from South Africa, mixed up with a lot of surmises of the most transparent kind. It is not easy to understand what is meant by the statement that Colenso has been evacuated, and that the British forces have been concentrated further south. Who have withdrawn, and what forces have been concentrated? The last reliable news we had from Colenso was to the effect that 500 men were stationed there to protect the bridge. There would be no point in such a force as this retiring further south. If they cannot hold the bridge, and Gen. White proposed to remain at Ladysmith, one would suppose that they would have joined him. Nor does the word "concentrated" appear to be applicable to the movement of any body of men that was likely to be at Colenso. We can interpret the despatch as indicating that the Colenso force has gone further south on the railway so as to be near Pietermaritzburg in case the Boers attempt to reach that point, and that the railway is being kept open by an armed train, but we frankly confess to be unable to reconcile any of these explanations of the safety of the Colenso bridge with the absence of word from Ladysmith. There would of course be no reason why small parties of Boers could not cut the wires to Ladysmith, but it ought to be possible to get news through. The whole character of the news is unsatisfactory. There is nothing upon which to base even a reasonable guess of what is taking place around Ladysmith, except that we may feel sure that if the Boers had captured Gen. White's force word would long ago have been received at Durban and have reached Europe by way of the Cape.

The invasion of Cape Colony by way of Bethulie is a step in the direction of checking any advance that may be made from Port Elizabeth, and it may also be intended to lead Gen. Buller to send a portion of the reinforcements there, which will leave Joubert free to cope with White.

It is worth recalling that Gen. Buller gave out that he intended to exercise a very strict censorship on all news sent out, and it is significant that since he arrived on the scene very little information has been given out to the public. While this is very suspicious, it is doubtless sound policy, for it enables him to veil the movements of his forces. The Boers are absolutely ignorant of where he proposes to strike, but they would not be if telegrams were allowed to come out freely. Meanwhile we must possess our souls in patience, and comfort ourselves with the assurance that if anything important had happened, the news would not have been withheld.

**LOCAL POLITICS.**

Very naturally the South African war has for the time being obscured the issues in local politics, but they will come to the front again very soon, and when they are next grappled with the fight will be to a finish. As the Nelson Miner says, the government will have to face the consequences of their ill-considered legislation as to mining. Mr. Cotton is not going to get away in a coach-and-four from the consequences of his extraordinary conduct. The blunders of last session must be rectified. There are stirring times ahead in the local arena, and if the Colonist has not kept the issues to the front, it has been because public attention has been concentrated on other matters. The necessity of restoring good government to British Columbia is as great as ever, and when the proper time comes there will be a union of interests to bring it about.

The matter which is now most spoken of in political circles is the fact that the province has now substantially a one-man government, the man being Mr. Cotton, who has assumed control of two important departments and practically choked Mr. Semlin out. Whether the government will undertake to meet the house with two portfolios like those of finance and lands and works in one man's hands, we do not know. Some people think that Mr. Cotton's business on the Mainland lately has chiefly been to discover how to place one of his portfolios to the best advantage. There is also a rumor of a plan involving an Island constituency, which, however, we do not place much reliance in. Meanwhile the government remains in an undoubted minority. Rumors of Mr. Semlin's retirement are again in circulation.

**NEXT YEAR'S GOLD RUSH.**

From present indications a great rush of gold seekers to Cape Nome and other points on Behring Sea may be looked for as characteristic of next season. The gold-bearing area is limited and the place is about as dreadful a locality to live in as can be suggested; but as for a part of the year it is easy to come and go by sea, we may expect that thousands will make the trip, intending to try their fortunes and return in the fall if unsuccessful.

It is greatly to be hoped that the character of the vessels engaged in the transportation business to these goldfields will be better than in the past. This must not be understood as reflecting upon the steamships now advertised for the route, but we all know that many of the vessels which carried people to St. Michael and the Yukon rush began were wretched craft. Strict inspection should be made of all vessels plying to the North so as to avoid as far as possible disasters of various kinds.

It is timely to caution intending gold-seekers to that part of the world. Care

should be taken to provide for the return trip. There is no place where a man could be worse off without money than on the frozen shore of Behring Sea during the winter. It will be the height of folly to go there, trusting to being able to take out gold enough or to earn enough by working for wages to be able to pay a passage home again. There will undoubtedly be a great rush back to civilization in the fall of 1900. We give this warning in advance, in the hope, not that it will keep any one from trying his fortunes there, for we do not know that we ought to seek to do that, but to prevent much suffering that will otherwise be inevitable if the advice is disregarded.

**A CLEAN MEMORY.**

About the only thing in connection with human existence that we can be absolutely sure is permanent is the memory. What memory is we cannot hope to learn, except that it is something which outlasts all changes physical and mental. Instances are many where the memory of past periods in a person's life has been temporarily obscured, so that not a trace of it was apparent, but suddenly the veil has been rolled aside and what was seemingly forgotten forever became perfectly clear again. Men who have been suddenly confronted with what appeared to be certain death have told how every action of their lives seemed to pass before them in instantaneous review. It is true that we often forget things, but it seems safe to say that nothing passes out of the domain of memory. Every incident of our lives appears to be put away in its proper pigeon-hole, to be brought forth often when we least expect it. When we revisit old scenes old memories are revived. People who have occasion to drive much over country roads will tell you that frequently the jolting of the carriage at some particular spot, or the turn of the horse down to a watering place, or some trifling incident of that nature will bring back thoughts that passed through the mind years before in the same spot. To seek an explanation for this, in the present state of human knowledge, utterly useless.

Does memory end with death? Who can answer this? Does the mysterious scroll upon which we are writing hour after hour remain an eternal record? There can be no more elusive inquiry than this. We know now that it remains as perfect as ever, although the faculty of unrolling it may have diminished, until the very moment of death. Old men will frequently admit that their memory of events in their early life is much more distinct than of those transpiring in recent years. As the doctrine of annihilation is without warrant by anything in nature, we make a very violent supposition when we think that memory is annihilated. If we are asked how so intangible a thing can exist after death, we reply by asking how it can exist before death. There may be some good reason for the latter which does not apply to the former, but no one can suggest what it is.

The fact is that so far as we can judge we are erecting in our memory "A monument more lasting than brass," to quote Horace's words descriptive of his fame. The monument is all our own. No one ever contemplates it except ourselves, unless there is some All-Seeing eye that perceives the unseen. We may overcome poverty; we may recover from disease; we may live down a bad reputation; we may with infinite care make the world forget what we have been and done. But no inventor has yet discovered how to wipe the slate of memory clean. The writing may be for a time invisible; but when we are not looking for it, when indeed we would prefer to see almost anything else, it may appear before us in letters of fire.

This being the case, is it not the act of wisdom to keep our memories as clean as we can? Is it worth while for the sake of momentary enjoyment to fasten upon ourselves that which for an indefinite time may be a source of sorrow? Is it worth while for the sake of some temporary advantage over one's fellow-man to make ourselves ashamed of ourselves, for no one can tell how long a time? There is the practical side to the case, for no one can possibly be at his best if his mind is clogged with debasing and discreditable memories. We are not now speaking of what may take place after death, but of our careers in this life. It is reasonable to think that these will be more successful, and they are certainly to be infinitely happier if we keep our memories clean and wholesome. To do so we must live clean and wholesome lives.

**ITALIANS IN SLOCAN.**

We do not like to hear about Italian miners being imported to work in the Slocan, although we have long foreseen that something of the kind was certain to occur. The effect of demagoguism among the workmen in the United States was to produce such a condition of things that the dregs of Europe were brought in to labor in many of the mines and in other industries, and we are not surprised that similar causes are likely to produce similar results in British Columbia. An attempt has been made to arouse sympathy for the miners by representing that the trouble which has arisen and the ill-feeling that is kept alive is due to the natural protest of a British people against oppression; but if the Spokesman-Review is rightly informed the greater part of the trouble, if not all of it, is due to agitators from the Coeur d'Alene, who found their own country too hot for them because of their wanton violation of law. We reprint today the resolutions adopted by the Silverton Miners' Union last June. They are reproduced to show the spirit which has animated the agitators and who have been fostered by demagogues who have

found themselves driven out of their own country, and with Italians coming to work in our mines, the outlook is far from pleasing. And to think that less than a year ago there was not a murmur of discontent in the whole of Kootenay.

While these things are transpiring in the interior, what is the provincial government doing to meet any serious difficulty that may arise? We regret to say that the answer must be: "Nothing." The efficiency of the police force has been reduced. We do not say that it was reduced for the express purpose of giving free scope to agitators, because we do not think so. The reduction was doubtless due to a desire on the part of the government to pose as champions of economy. They had declared their predecessors extravagant, and when they got into office themselves they looked around to find a chance to save a few dollars. The provincial police afforded the chance. This efficient body of men had preserved order so well throughout the mining regions that the new government imagined it would be possible to dispense with a portion of the expense which was absolutely necessary if the force was to be at all times ready for its work. One result has already been seen in the increase of crime as shown by the work done last session by the justices of the peace. Those on the spot, who are in a position to judge say that the police will hardly be able to cope with difficulties if any arise between miners now in the Slocan and those who may come in to take their places. If this is destruction of property. We do not wish unnecessarily to create alarm, but it is impossible not to see that there may be danger ahead.

**GIVE THEM A RECEPTION.**

By all means let the Fifth Regiment band meet the Queen at the wharf tomorrow and give the Washington volunteers a welcome. The boys have come home from hard service. They have not been engaged in fighting a foe with whom our Empire is on friendly terms, but in suppressing an insurrection against the lawful authority of their country. And any way they are a lot of brave fellows, who did as our boys are doing—offered their lives to their country. They are our neighbors, too. Let us give them a good neighborly reception and send them on their way feeling that Britons can respect valor and honor patriotism under any flag.

**A SECOND REGIMENT.**

The Canadian government has cabled an offer of a second regiment. This indicates that Lord Minto spoke at Montreal with the full approval in advance of his cabinet ministers. It also indicates that the government is acting in response to popular opinion. The latter is what we want. The emergency is entirely unexpected and there is no precedent for it. The government cannot turn up the records and see what has been done before under similar circumstances. As Lord Minto said, the first regiment went forward because the people insisted that it should go; so also the offer of the second regiment is made because the people demand it. We frankly confess to very hearty approval of the policy of giving effect to the popular will, no matter what lack of precedent there may be or what technical objections may stand in the way.

The money expended in connection with these contributions to Imperial defence must, we assume, be drawn out of the treasury in the special warrant of the Governor-General, seeing that no vote is available for such a purpose. Parliament will have to pass an indemnifying act. That it will be passed without a dissenting voice is certain. Some members may think it desirable to enter a formal protest so as to prevent any one from saying hereafter that the rule governing the use of public money has not become a dead letter; but we do not think there will be a man to stand up and be counted as voting against the indemnification of the government. We speak of this because Lord Minto has been assenting to the issue of a special warrant would feel called upon to ascertain if such an expenditure was in accord with the will of the people. It undoubtedly is, and the people if necessary will undoubtedly do very much more.

Whether or not a second contingent shall be sent to South Africa, one good thing will result from the offer. It will show the world that the Lion's whelps are strong enough to fight their Mother's battles.

**THE PORT ANGELES FERRY.**

The first conference between the city council and the representatives of the Port Angeles Eastern railway touching the proposed ferry seems to have been satisfactory to both parties and good reasons exist for thinking that in the end a conclusion will be reached upon which the citizens can be asked to express their views. The council is desirous of securing a ferry service, and the only difference of opinion seems to be upon details. There ought to be no great difficulty about arranging these satisfactorily, for the aldermen will undoubtedly realize that they are only in an intermediary position and that the final decision rests with the ratepayers. A legal question has arisen as to the validity of a by-law varying essentially from that petitioned for. Mr. Bradburn, city solicitor, thinks that any defect of this kind would be cured by the vote of the ratepayers and if there is any doubt about that it would be easy enough to get a new petition signed. Such questions as these are easily met, when once an agreement has been reached between the promoters and the council. On the whole the delay has been good, because it has enabled the public to investigate the subject.

**PUBLIC APATHY.**

A correspondent points out that the people of Victoria showed very little interest in the first visit of President Shushanewsky of the C. P. R. This is unfortunately very true. The head of Canada's great railway system was allowed to come and go with about as little attention being shown him as could well be the case. Yet surely Victoria has much to hope for from the friendly interest of the head of the great transcontinental railway. We do not suppose that Mr. Shushanewsky will allow the interests of his road to suffer because of anything like a personal slight to himself. He is built on broader lines than that. But he is only human like the rest of us, and if he does not especially devote his attention to the needs of our city, and give his greatest consideration to other points, which display a desire to have his co-operation and express some wish to have his views on transportation problems, he will only be acting as ninety-nine people out of a hundred would.

The churches in Eastern Canada are becoming very militant over the South African war.

It appears that the Colonist misquoted Mr. Marchant yesterday. What he said was: "I am proud to be denounced by the hobo element of Victoria."

It may be well to remind Colonist readers that the pessimistic comments on the war are wholly unauthorized by any one in authority and are based simply upon guesses at what is going on.

The Saturday Review is very sarcastic in its references to the Imperial spirit in the United States. The Review is affecting a superiority which it does not possess. Very little difference can be discovered between the expansionist policy of the United States and those rules of national conduct which have built up the British Empire.

We are getting some excellent streets and sidewalks in Victoria, but the attention of the city engineer should be directed to the difference in elevation between some of the crossings and the sidewalks. The crossing of Broad at the junction with Fort is one of these. The sidewalk is about three inches higher than the street, and the way the electric light falls upon it the difference is not noticeable, so that a pedestrian might get a very bad fall. A piece of stone having a sloping face, set in close to the sidewalk would cover the defect.

A very interesting case is now occupying the attention of the courts of the state of New York. It is to test the legality of a boycott by the labor unions of New York against the Sun newspaper of that city. Last August the Sun had a disagreement with its printers and the union men withdrew. Then the Sun began to employ non-union printers, but most of these were stopped by the Union men, and the paper was forced to go elsewhere. In the end the Sun got papers to get the paper out, and thereupon all the labor unions instituted a boycott. The Sun Publishing Company has applied for an injunction to stop the boycott. In consequence of the boycott the morning edition of the Sun has lost 60,000 in circulation and the evening edition 40,000, while the loss in advertising receipts in two months has exceeded \$300,000. The fight will establish some principles of great importance.

There is to be a Scott Act election in Westmoreland, N.B., on the 28th of the present month. Most people in this part of the world have almost forgotten the existence of this law. New Brunswick is its great stronghold.

We do not see why the Vancouver World should say that dirty linen is being washed in Victoria over the appointments to the South African contingent. On the contrary, we think that all the linen that was exposed to the public in that connection was remarkably clean.

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(Signed) J. W. BATES, M.D.

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Business: Sale of the company's mineral claims, and affairs of the company generally.

This meeting is called by C. W. D. Clifford, trustee, and holder of one-fourth of the issued shares of the company, under and by virtue of the company's by-laws, and of section 2 of the Companies' Act Amendment Act, 1883.

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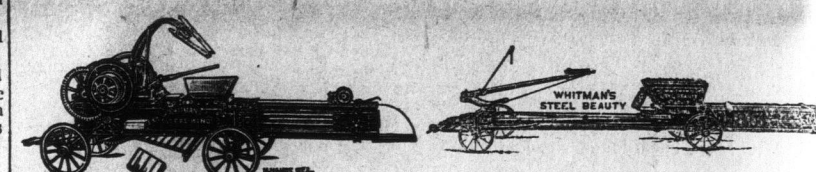
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**Under Arrest For**

John Sarge Who Crime Nov Lock

Brought From Se Day and Will Be to Daws

Lodged in the city police instructions from O'ing with him, his own confession, Lewis Ballos, on the 2nd of two miles and a half from Bonanza creek, Klondike Creek about 30 years ago brought here from Seattle charge of an officer went Hussey of the province for the purpose waived extradition, and come over to the Canada his trial, did so with Messrs. Langley & M for the Dominion government and it is expected that sent back to Dawson government to there stay.

Briefly the prisoner. Last spring he was won a bench claim, No. 6 in Bonanza. After work months, Ballos, the man Charles Leshton came of an agreement was by this Ballos was to interest in the lay. S worked together for a while feeling came between the latter was asked to the contract. Ballos refused, on the ground not as represented to him, however, to submit the ration by the British Ballos promised to a called to discuss the suit do so. Next morning he of talking about their fight occurred. Several this, but peace was even about, and the two on up the river to cut wood at the point below the date mentioned. The about a fire in the evening again brought up the suit. This led to another drew a revolver, which out for a stick of wood ner over the eye. A set a result that Sarge e ver, and as Ballos made slaught on him fired took effect. Sarge took body with sand and down the Yukon on a r at Dawson next day a making of the case. Instead took passage on Cape Nome. Here he and then made a confession, being later sent to rival down the Sound, I sent Bernard Pelly com Superintendent Hussey, the prisoner is here.

The above is the story it, but there is another. Nome police say that after a great deal of trouble was induced to confess, act too, they say, had been received from D. also another story that tween \$500 and \$1,000 or about the time he w

**FELL TO HIS**

William Robinson Killed a Stable

An old man named V was found dead yesterday stable behind the Esqu had for some time past about the hotel and it in throwing down some loft to feed the cattle had fallen. His head w the body and apparently caused unconsciousness had smothered.

Provincial Constable the corner, Dr. Hart, quest in the afternoon, a verdict of accidental death was returned. The detaining parlors where takes place.

Robinson was a very being about 80 years of England and he had just been a resident of the Deceased was a ship and leaves children in brother, Mr. J. J. Ro known ship builder lives funeral takes place to-m ward's undertaking room.

**LARGE WINDOWS**

Great Demand in Koot Largest Plate Gl

A large amount of b being shipped almost day country. Up count craze for large glass is the better it seems enterprising business n dered from Mr. W. J. street a short time ago to be larger than any in bia. Mr. Mellor at on factory at St. Helens to k all the order and receive answer, but was told it could not be handled on. It would have to be ship by special truck and a foria by sailing vessel. be transferred to a V steamer but at the trouble would probably it on the train might n but to get it through C. P. R. would be in these conditions the mer had to be satisfied with although he would have for the extra cost for t

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