

POINT ELLICE BRIDGE.

The City Council is to be congratulated on the results of its second call for tenders for the construction of Point Ellice bridge. The path of duty is plain enough, with the tender of the local company not only relatively, but actually—so far as it is possible for one who is not an expert to judge—lower than any of the other competitors. If the result had been different, if the opening of the tenders had shown the Victoria Machinery Depot to be a trifle higher in its bids than the other tenders, the aldermen might have been placed in a quandary between their desire to deal fairly with the outside firms which had gone to the trouble and expense of preparing estimates in the expectation that the various tenders would be dealt with on their merits and the not unreasonable inclination to award the contract to the company with a local habitation, employing local workmen, paying local taxation and in the course of whose operations the greatest percentage of the cost of the structure would be distributed among local concerns. If it had been necessary to grant a substantial preference to the Victoria Machinery Depot in awarding the contract, we think the Council would have been justified in doing so. We believe public opinion would have endorsed their action in so doing.

We confess we are not greatly surprised at the result of the competition. The various iron foundries and ship-building yards in Victoria have been exhibiting such enterprise of late that the success of the local company, to those who have been following recent developments, was anticipated. Institutions which can compete with the most complete establishments in this part of the world in the building and repairing of ships should have nothing to fear from competitors in the construction of steel bridges in British Columbia. From many points of view the outcome is extremely gratifying. A large number of workmen will find employment for a considerable length of time. An experience will be gained which will be useful in the future in a special line of business which is probably the chief bulwark and stay of Victoria. We believe there is no industry in our city that sustains such a large number of well-paid workmen as the iron works and shipyards. If experience will enable these works to compete successfully for the erection of the large number of steel bridges that will be necessary in British Columbia as the work of opening up the province proceeds, there is double reason for congratulation at the result of the competition for the construction of Point Ellice bridge.

ABOUT ADVERTISING AND OTHER BUSINESS.

The Vancouver papers are discussing, in a somewhat animated way, their respective claims upon the local advertising public for having declined orders for advertising from Eastern "mail order" business houses. Toronto merchants, especially in the jewellery and dry goods line, who do a mail-order business occasionally send to the newspapers of the country attractive advertisements of their catalogues, which they will send free to any one writing for them. In this way they reach the buying public and do a very large business. The departmental stores of Toronto and Montreal cultivate this plan extensively. Local advertisers in Vancouver, whose business is more or less interfered with by the mail-order trade received by the Eastern houses, have protested against the continuance of this class of advertisements in the local newspapers, and have even gone so far as to threaten to withdraw their advertising if their demand is not acceded to. In Victoria the same question has been discussed by local business men and the city newspapers, but there has been no talk of boycotting or coercion by either.

We will not now discuss the merits of the mail-order system or its effect upon trade generally or upon local competition particularly. That effect may be good or bad, or partly good and partly bad. We need hardly stop to enquire into that for the purpose we have in view—which is to ask local advertisers to look carefully into both sides of the question, and fairly estimate the relative obligations—first, of the local press to the public at large as well as to the advertisers affected, and second, of the advertising public to the press. We suppose it will be admitted that if after mature consideration it is found that the newspapers, in the interests of local business men, should decline the advertising referred to, the business men affected should confine their expenditure for advertising to the newspapers. The rule would be a poor one if it could not be applied to both alike. Now, it seems to us that the business men of both cities are too prone to patronise every fake advertising scheme that is presented to them to the detriment of the newspapers, which can only exist from the advertising they receive. It is unnecessary to specify what these fake schemes are, for every merchant has had some experience with one or more of them. They injure legitimate advertising in the same way that mail-orders are claimed to injure local trade—by introducing unfair competition. A smart canvasser can secure orders for advertising to fill a good sized sheet, if the device is new, almost any month of the year. A new idea appeals

to the man who seldom uses the columns of a newspaper, and as a general rule the patrons of the fake schemes are not regular advertisers in the newspapers. But the results are the same to the newspapers.

We certainly hold to the view that the city whose people send to other cities for everything they buy would not be worth living in. If fifty Victoria gentlemen send to the old country for the clothing they wear; if another fifty people send to Toronto for jewellery; and another fifty somewhere else for articles of dry goods, the city is many thousands of dollars poorer, and necessarily has a less population than it would have were all that business done at home. A community to be successful must pull together. We believe, therefore, that the first duty of every good citizen of Victoria is to encourage Victorian industries, just as every good citizen of Canada should encourage Canadian industries. If we are all true to our own city we will all be true to our country. If this rule should be universally acted upon; if it would not for the merchant to insist on others buying his goods unless he in his turn has his trade locally. The printing offices of the city can easily do all the printing required in Victoria, and do it as well and as cheaply as those of any city in Canada. The newspapers can do twice the amount of advertising they are now doing, and do it thoroughly, completely, and the jewellers and dry goods men can supply all the demands in those lines. All the photo-engravings required in British Columbia can be made in Victoria (the British Columbia government got many in Chicago) of first class quality and at reasonable prices.

Still we hardly think the Vancouver merchants should begin a boycott because the newspapers there have accepted some advertisements from a mail-order house; at least before doing so they should inquire very closely into their own relations with the press, and find out to what extent they fall short of giving it that measure of support which it will have a right to demand if limited in future in its field for business. Such an investigation might also have a splendid educational effect in the good city of Victoria.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN MAY VISIT CANADA.

Mr. Chamberlain has given many examples of his determination to depart from the beaten paths in his administration of the Colonial Office. In the past the policy of the Minister for the Colonies has too often been to take too much for granted—possibly to rely too implicitly upon the advice of the Imperial representatives in the colonies. As a general rule, the nominees of Downing street to important colonial posts are able men, men of broad views and capable of laying aside inherited prejudices and weighing carefully the advice by which they must be largely guided in the offices to which they have been appointed. But there have been exceptions to this rule, as many old-timers in Canada and students of the history of our country know. Within the last half dozen years the colonies have assumed a new and more important aspect in the eyes of Imperial public men worthy of the name of statesmen. This change in the aspect of British possessions has been brought about largely by the actions of the colonies themselves. The present Colonial Secretary has managed to impress upon his colleagues in the government, not without considerable difficulty our readers may rest assured, the possibilities which lie dormant in the colonies—the grandeur of the results which might follow the cultivation in an intelligent and sympathetic manner of more cordial political and more intimate commercial relations with Britain's mighty colonial empire.

Mr. Chamberlain has taken note of the murmuring against the administration of Sir Alfred Milner. While he has the fullest confidence in his officer, he has determined to go forth and make an independent investigation on his own behalf and on behalf of the government. This announcement will have a wholesome effect, whether the tour be followed by the inauguration of a different policy or it be decided that the course of Lord Milner is the proper one in the best interests of all concerned. As self-governing countries of course no domestic political object could be gained by a visit to Australia or Canada of the Colonial Secretary. But if he could be induced to prolong his tour so as to include in it the two most important outposts of the Empire, we are convinced that the effect would be to impart a decided stimulus to the Imperial sentiment that remained latent until it was awakened into healthy activity by the preferential trade policy of the Canadian government and the spontaneous enthusiasm with which all the colonies actively espoused the cause of the Mother Country when the world was expressing hostility by open and avowed sympathy with the Boers. It is understood that the government of Australia has decided to invite Mr. Chamberlain to extend his trip to the southern continent. It is not known yet whether the minister will accept this invitation. There is no doubt that he will if the exigencies of the political situation at home will permit him to do so. The path of the Imperial government has been plentifully beset with thorns by the Irish Nationalists and the opponents of its education bill. But the desire of the minister to obtain a personal and practical knowledge of the self-

governing colonies may outweigh all other considerations, and if he were invited by the Dominion government the people of Victoria might have the pleasure of listening to a speech from the lips of one of the most forceful speakers in political life to-day. None of the questions which will engage the attention of the Imperial parliament during its present session specially concern the department of the Colonial Secretary. The majority of the government is large, and he could easily be spared from his post. It is true that Mr. Chamberlain has visited the United States and could not spare a day to cross over to Canada, but much can be forgiven a man who is about to be or has just been married. Besides, the point of view with regard to the colonies has undergone a remarkable change within the last few years.

CANNOT BE IMPROVED.

The directors of the Bank of Montreal have declared a dividend for the half-year to October 31st at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. All the other financial institutions of the country are in an equally prosperous condition. They have been doing so well since 1896 that another great bank has been organized and incorporated, the capital being subscribed in a marvellously short time, and will open for business within a few days. The weekly reports of the Canadian Pacific Railway indicate the rapidity with which the receipts of that company are growing—literally by leaps and bounds. At the late half-yearly meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada Sir Charles Rivers Wilson said the earnings of his company had been so large that for the first time since 1883 they were enabled to declare a dividend on the second preference stock. Sir Charles made some interesting statements at that meeting. He was satisfied that the prospects were bright for a continuation of dividends on all the stock of the company. He said that during the last half-year no fewer than 115 new industrial developments had been entered upon on the Canadian territory touched by the railway. These represented a capital value of something over a million sterling. They included everything in industrialism from steel works down to factories for coffins and pickles. During the same period the new industrial openings on the American side of the line numbered fifty-one. Established factories are running overtime, are being enlarged, and new ones are being erected, in the attempt to meet the demand for home-made goods. Iron and steel are being exported in large quantities from Sydney, C. B., to the United States and to Great Britain. Steel rails of exceptional quality are being manufactured at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The great American agricultural implement manufacturers are establishing immense branches of their works in Hamilton, Ont. A jewellery house of large capacity is preparing to open a branch at Ottawa. The revenue of the country is growing at a tremendous rate. For the first time in its history the Intercolonial railway has paid its way and left something over. The Post Office Department, notwithstanding reductions in foreign and domestic rates on letters and more liberal treatment of employees, has been gradually reducing the deficits which were so common in the days of alleged progress and prosperity, until this year the Postmaster-General is enabled to announce a balance on the right side. From every possible point of view the condition of the country is more than merely satisfactory. It is bright and the outlook is extraordinarily hopeful. Yet we are told there is an unsettled feeling, that our industries feel the necessity of "adequate protection," and that if the Conservative party were in power an industrial revival would immediately follow. If the people of Canada are not satisfied with the conditions as they exist to-day, then they are hard to please and have learned little from the period of adversity which preceded the advent of the present government. Our opinion is that a very small portion of the electorate is making all the noise about the alleged unsatisfactory state of the tariff, and that when the testing time comes the Conservative party will discover what a grievous mistake it has made in challenging the opinion of the Dominion on such a question. But what can it do? No weak spot can be found in the government position. Wherever the attacking forces are massed they are confronted by an impenetrable wall of incontrovertible facts.

HARD TO PLEASE.

The Montreal Star has long been bordering on a condition of hysterics in regard to the tariff. No act or word of the Ministers is satisfactory to it in its present condition of mind. We believe it is customary for a government to hold a consultation, sometimes to hold many conferences, before taking any action of importance to the country. Yet when Sir Wilfrid Laurier said at a banquet in Montreal that he would have to consult his colleagues before he could make any definite announcement, the Star takes a fit and tells the Premier that he ought to consult the manufacturers and business men; that they were the people to tell him what to do with the tariff. Not Ministers who are notoriously determined that nothing shall be done, because they will consider primarily the partisan vote and the pockets that supply them with election "frauds"—we suppose the editor meant to say election

funds. No doubt the Star would like to drag the country back to the good old times when all the individuals interested, except the consumers, framed their own tariff schedules, subject to the concurrence of the Finance Minister, which was never withheld. Nor were the funds lacking when an election was pending. Our Montreal contemporary is making a desperate attempt to galvanize into life this vexed subject of the tariff. It is a point on one industry that is suffering for want of "adequate protection" it might be necessary to pay more attention to its ravings. But it cannot do that. The abounding prosperity and commercial and industrial activity on every hand prove conclusively that all its aspirations are political, and that the welfare of the country is a secondary matter in its thoughts. It allows no question of expense to interfere with its campaign. According to its special cables Great Britain is greatly disappointed over the part played by the Canadian Ministers at the Colonial Conference. They, who should have taken the initiative in all movements and the lead in all discussions, suggested nothing and did less, if that be possible. The ink is scarcely dry upon the paper which accused Sir Wilfrid Laurier of approaching dangerously near the verge of sacrificing the autonomy of the Dominion, and yet he is practically blamed for refusing to commit the country to a scheme of Imperial defence in which the representatives of the people would have no voice, because they would have nothing to say as to the manner in which the funds proposed to be collected should be expended. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier had endorsed any such project a protest would have been uttered by the Star and the Conservative party loud enough to raise the roof of Parliament. The proposal to allow the Imperial government to raise and maintain an Imperial force of five thousand men in Canada was not received with favor either. Perhaps the Star thinks that was a mistake. Will it say so? Would that not have involved a sacrifice of the autonomy of the Dominion? Canada has taken the lead in a practical manner in the Imperial preference and Imperial penny postage. When the Mother Country and the other colonies undertake us, perhaps we shall be prepared to show them the way again. Deeds are more eloquent than words. Perhaps the Montreal Star, on behalf of the party it serves so zealously, is now in a position to outline a policy, after it and they have succeeded in abolishing the British preference and Imperial penny postage, that will prove more effective in cementing the bonds of Empire.

Montreal has once more been made the headquarters of the Conservative organizer in chief and rumor monger extraordinary. A report has been sent out from there that the federal cabinet has practically decided to ask the Governor-General for a dissolution. Precedents are cited showing the constitutionality of such a course. During their eighteen years of power the Conservatives established precedents for all sorts of irregular practices. They found a pretext for appealing to the country whenever they had the constituencies and the voters' lists fixed or when they believed the existing circumstances were more favorable to their cause than the future was likely to be.

Mr. Borden told a reporter of the Montreal Star that he found the Conservative forces in British Columbia in "splendid form." They are perfecting their organization, and any differences of opinion which may have existed in the past have been amicably settled. Anyone who has doubts upon these points may have them confirmed on applying to Colonel Prior, Mr. Charles Wilson, or Sir H. H. Tupper. The latter gentlemen took no part whatever in any of the gatherings. He is at "dagger drawn" with what he terms a present "push." And as for the Colonel and Mr. Wilson, the one denies the existence of the other, in a political sense.

A certain powerful corporation is popularly credited with a desire to well to prevent the creation of a boom in Victoria. Possibly the popular belief is entirely without reason. Perhaps the corporation in question is simply indifferent upon the subject of Victoria. Be that as it may, we are not without our compensations. Visitors to this city to all the rest of the country combined, A British journalist puts it this way: See Naples and die; see Victoria and live."

The results of the biennial batch of elections in the United States are not particularly interesting nor yet particularly surprising to Canadians. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives will be reduced, but the present dominant party will still retain control of the two branches of the National legislature. The returns indicate, however, that if the Democrats act with discretion in choosing a presidential candidate for the contest of 1904 they may give one popular idol like Mr. Theodore Roosevelt a strenuous time of it.

PILE TERRORS SWEEP AWAY.—Dr. Agnew's Ointment stands at the head as a reliever, healer, and sure cure for piles in all forms. One application will give comfort in a few minutes, and three to five days' application according to directions will cure chronic cases. It relieves all itching and burning skin diseases in a day. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—79.

A STRONG, VIGOROUS MAN Is Liable to Break Down—Pe-ru-na is Sure to Restore.



Hon. Frank Dunn, Alderman Twenty-Fourth District, writes from 222 East Fifty-Eighth Street, New York City: The Peru-na Medicine Co., Columbus, O.:

Gentlemen: "There is no remedy for a broken-down system that I know of which will so effectually restore health as Peru-na. 'Whenever I am overworked or suffer from the consequences of a cold a few doses of Peru-na builds me up again more quickly than anything I ever tried. I find it especially valuable for catarrh. Three bottles cured me three years ago of catarrh of the stomach and I have never had the least symptoms of it since.'"

Very truly,
FRANK DUNN, Alderman 24th Dist., N. Y. City.

ORIENTAL CIRCUS REACHES VICTORIA

CROSSED THE PACIFIC ON SHINANO MARU

But Proceeded to the Sound—Queer Looking Lot of Orientals—A Few Animals.

A strange-looking contingent of visitors wandered along the streets of this city yesterday. Shivering, each one a walking huddled heap, they showed unmistakably the effects of their rather abrupt transfer from tropical climes to this temperate zone. They are members of the Oriental circus troupe now on a tour of the United States, and brought their equipment on the Shinano Maru, which reached this port yesterday afternoon.

They certainly presented a very picturesque appearance, as they slipped lightly to the dock. Their garb was about as diversified as their hues, the only article of wearing apparel that was common to all being the turban, and even this varied in color. Some wore the extremely light habiliments that might be considered quite the thing in India, but their abbreviated character would render their owners liable to the penalties provided by a certain by-law of the corporation of Victoria. Others again, evidently actuated by an honest desire to show the Occidentals how to put on a striking front, were gorgeously attired in an antiquated costume, which might be likened in a degree to the historic garment which adorned the person of Joseph of the olden days.

They all looked as though they had passed through a rigorous siege of sickness. The emaciated appearance of some conveyed the impression that they had fasted most religiously throughout the whole voyage. Still when it is remembered that they are all performers, it is safe to assume they are contentions. There are a number of women among them, who, it is said, are expert jugglers. One in particular (quite unconsciously, doubtless) advertised herself widely enough yesterday by the display of a purple-blue raiment gorgeous enough to shame a rainbow and shed a brilliant effulgence all about her. Most of them had Japanese money, which would doubtless have been accepted at Japanese employment agencies had they known it. But they didn't know it, so their purchases were small.

Their circus really isn't a circus according to Occidental ideas. It is more of a sideshow. There are a few wild animals, including a couple of Hons just

FLACER MINING

Flourishing in the Many Camps of Southeast Kootenay.

Never in the history of Southeast Kootenay, since early days in the sixties, have the placer camps of the district been as flourishing as at the present time. On Wild Horse creek, four companies have been at work all summer, moving the deep diggers, and it is reported that the production of gold will be larger than that of last year.

Gold was discovered on Perry creek in 1861, but owing to the inadequate means of transportation and machinery to work the deep diggers, it was difficult to interest capital sufficient to work the placers by the end of the century. During the past year three companies have been developing, preparatory to the installing of machinery, and the coming year will witness a large amount of activity in the workable gold deposits.

A small outfit will work placer ground on Weaver creek. A large amount of supplies have been sent in from Steele and ample accommodations have been provided for the men employed.

Moyle River and Sheekum Creek creek has produced considerable gold during the current year.—Fort Steele Prospector.

UNCLE SAM'S SOLILOQUY.
Of late I have "got it" on that part of my anatomy around which my collar fits. Elsewhere also, I strive to say, the laws have failed; Not gently nor slowly, but avirily, And with a certain "business" emphasis, Of that sensitiveness of conscience For which I am so rightly famous— I have been made to feel, as never before, the force of my own weakness.

Many WATCHED DUEL.
Paris, Nov. 4.—The duel today between Count de Dion and M. Richard occurred at Neuilly and lasted one hour. He opened the duel by attacking fiercely with the point of his sword. He touched Girault Richard on the inner side of the right forearm, causing a slight wound. The second immediately stopped the encounter. No reconciliation occurred.

Russia has decided to found an archaeological museum in Sebastopol. The building is to be erected in the style of an old Russian fortress, and to be adapted for three purposes, one devoted to the Greek, one to the Roman, and a third to the Byzantine period. The whole project has been entrusted to the management of Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovich.

TENDERS FOR BRIDGE LOCAL COMPANIES LOW

All Propositions Referred to Engineer for Report Before Council.

It is probable that the machinery Depot Company, the contractor for the Point Ellice bridge, at a meeting of the city council the structure were opened were very close but the underbid all rivals by 100. Could they have dealt with a country firm from their material, Mr. Spence managers, after the fact they could have placed a much lower figure. The duces the amount paid. But the iron and steel was so quickly that a week of a vast difference in the cost. After all the tenders the Mayor they were referred engineer for report at. Those submitted were: Heenan & Froude, Seattle, Wash.—Bridges complete, with piers and concrete, according to plan former tender, \$90,000. Dominion Bridge Co., estimated weight, 1,892,000 65-100 cents per pound; for \$2,000 deposit enclosed, a million of metal superstructure of metal superstructure complete, per pound; this figure of company verifying its quoted plates on which made; will cable at once, retained by council; and considered null and void use of American material per pound. Accepted check enclosed.

The Victoria Machine mitted three alternative: (2) Bridge practically plan on file with exception of connections instead of steel, pavement and found \$90,000. (3) Complete modern \$95,500. (4) Modern armored bridge, which would be in the style of James Bay, practically imperishable—Before proceeding to the question of the meeting Ald. question of privilege, objection was made by Ald. regarding the old post office statement the alderman judicial, and the Times I made.

John Piercy wrote request council reconsider his request water rights. Referred to for report. Messrs. Yates & Jay. Thos. Byrd, wrote compensation for damages have been done by the Victoria Railway Company in extending the city. Referred to for report. Ald. Graham such claims would be considered. W. Ridgway Wilson was what he described as a co-understanding on a sewer adjacent to the Diard property. Ald. Bernard and Ald. V. heaved that the case referred investigated. Ald. looked at sanitary officer had gone to Referred to the sanitary port.

W. G. H. Ellison wrote the junction obtained by the Esquimalt waterworks injustice to the property the Esquimalt road, portion being in bad repair. Ald. Worthington asked before the court would be referred City Solicitor Brad that only two judges would attend to duty. Referred to the city solicitor to Mr. Ellison.

William Emery asked damage done by blasting street made good by the city engineer. Referred to the city engineer. Mrs. J. M. Van Tassel a light be placed at the corner, in view of the refusal to grant the right of way sent in some time ago for a monument road. Referred to light committee.

Mrs. S. Blake wrote with that the Esquimalt shire road be carried out as she has long been a storm waters. Referred to alderman for report. City Clerk Dowler report of a number of communications had been referred to the Partners for consideration. City Engineer Topp reports: Gentlemen—I have the following report for your consideration: Communication from the sidewalk on south side of V.