

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1891.

SINGULAR CHANGES.

Matters seem to be taking a queer turn at the antipodes. A little while ago the people of New South Wales, who had been for many years enthusiastically in favor of free trade, elected a majority of protectionists to the popular branch of their legislature. Since then news comes from Victoria, which has been strongly protectionist, that its farmers and sheep shearers have set on foot a movement in favor of free trade. The colony, which has tried free trade, is dissatisfied with the results, and turns to protection, and the one which has had long experience of protection is disappointed and its inhabitants are making up their minds to seek relief in free trade. This is a singular outcome of the rivalry between the two colonies. It was only the other day that free traders in all parts of the world were pointing to New South Wales as a brilliant example of the soundness of their theory, and protectionists were instancing the progress and prosperity of Victoria as a proof of the beneficial results of the protective system consistently carried out. Now, as if to show the world how little dependence can be placed on appearances, a considerable proportion of the free trade colony has declared for protection, and in the protectionist colony large and influential classes are demanding the establishment of free trade. Here we have a paradox in practical politics which must bewilder the theorists.

THE FLOWER SHOW.

We are very sorry that the flower show was not a success. There is no city in the Dominion which can display so grand a variety of beautiful and rare flowers as Victoria. It has the reputation abroad of being a city of gardens. Visitors speak with delight of its wealth of roses and of flowers generally. It seems then a pity that when there was in it an exhibition of flowers it did not do justice to itself. A splendid display, as it might easily have had, would have kept up and even added to the reputation of the city as being a delightful place to visit and to live in.

We trust that the promoters of the exhibition will not be discouraged at the very small measure of success that has rewarded their praiseworthy efforts. Let them console themselves with the reflection that a beginning may have been made some time and that first attempts are not often brilliant successes. We trust that the flower show will be continued, and that the co-operation of influential lovers of flowers and experienced florists will be secured in good time, and that the show will be held in the very best season. Indeed, there need not be necessarily one show in a season. Victoria could give two or three shows, and each of them a delightful one. The flower show should be made in this city, as it is made in other cities, a pleasant social evening, adding another to its rational and refining amusements, as well as encouraging the pleasant and elevating occupation of cultivating flowers. If the work of establishing the flower show in Victoria is energetically undertaken and carried out, it must be successful and must result in adding to the charms of this beautiful city.

THE BAIE DES CHALEURS SCANDAL.

The Baie des Chaleurs scandal is one of immense proportions. The facts go to show that in the province of Quebec, politicians and contractors are not embarrassed by either principles or scruples. It is evident that in that part of the Dominion there are men who consider the Government fair game. If they can secure for their own use and benefit money intended for public uses, they are not backward in devising schemes to get it into their own pockets without giving the public an adequate consideration, or any consideration at all. The money voted for the construction of the Baie des Chaleurs railroad by the Dominion Parliament and the Quebec legislature was looked upon by the Quebec gang of contractors and politicians as a windfall. They regarded the subsidies that were unluckily placed within their reach in something like the same light as the wreckers of the British coast did a stranded ship. Others might have some rights to the property, but all the same, it was their business to secure for themselves everything they could lay hands upon without getting into the clutches of the officers of the law. The story of the gigantic fraud is well told in the article from the Toronto Mail, which our readers will find in another column.

When that article was written the accusations were made, but not proved. But our special from Ottawa shows how, according to the evidence of Mr. Armstrong, the gang pounced upon the \$280,000 subsidy and divided the greater part of it among themselves and their friends. The promoters grabbed \$75,000 of it, and \$100,000 was set apart for political purposes, one of those purposes, it seems, being the payment of the debts of the Premier of Quebec, more than half the \$100,000 being divided among that person's creditors. What Mr. Mercier will have to say about Mr. Armstrong's statements remains to be seen. It is unfortunate that the reputation of the Quebec Premier is not so pure and unsullied that Armstrong's evidence will be read, in the province of Quebec, with indignant incredulity. A Mr. Pacaud was the agent who negotiated with the Baie des Chaleurs contractors. This is what the Montreal Gazette says about that person and his doings, in an article on these Baie des Chaleurs charges:

The facts about the Pacaud blackmailing are notorious. They have been brought on oath. The only thing not known is the

names of the parties who ultimately received the booties. Mr. Whelan is a contractor who has a heavy claim against the Government. Mr. Pacaud, Mr. Mercier's friend, came to Mr. Whelan with three separate demands for money, the threat being that if the contractor did not pay over his claim would not be paid. The contractor paid first \$5,000 and then \$10,000, but hesitated at a demand for \$15,000 more, and made the story public. After the money had been paid, an item to pay his claim was brought down in the Government's estimates.

The Gazette adds: "That a professional gentleman should rise up and say he can establish that from a railroad subsidy of \$300,000 a sum of \$75,000 or \$100,000 was kept by the agents or confidants of a government and a premier with such a record is no cause of surprise. The only interest centres in how the accused will take it."

The Gazette knows all the parties implicated and the reputation they bear in the Province. It will be observed that the charges of the professional gentleman have been substantiated by the evidence of contractor Armstrong.

A PROSPECTIVE FAMINE.

It seems that the report of scarcity in Russia is not the invention of enterprising speculators in American wheat. The crop in some parts of Russia is so short that famine is apprehended. As a precautionary measure the Russian Government has placed an embargo on rye and rye flour. This news has caused surprise in other European countries, and created something like consternation in Germany, whose inhabitants, it appears, depend in a great measure on Russia for the rye they require to supplement their own crop. The certainty that the Russians will need nearly their whole crop to supply their own wants will have the effect of stiffening the prices of wheat and other breadstuffs in America. Happily there is a good crop in the United States this year, and if the weather continues favorable a few days longer there will be an abundant harvest in the Canadian Northwest. The prospect, then, for Canadian and United States farmers is good; for although the wheat crop in Great Britain is a fair average one, that country will need a large amount of foreign wheat, as will also France and Germany. Russia is one of the sources of European food supply, and while its harvest is scanty the deficiency must be made up by other countries.

The prospect of high prices for wheat and rye is not by any means pleasant to the Germans. The price of breadstuffs in that country is made artificially dear by heavy corn duties. Chancellor Caprivi has been petitioned to remove the duties on grain, but he has, so far, been deaf to all appeals. Whether he will give way when the Russian embargo on rye is felt in the increased price of bread, remains to be seen. The Emperor of Germany, it appears to us, will not be true to his principles or consistent with his antecedents if he, in a time of scarcity, does not exercise his power to its full extent to give his people cheap bread.

THE BY-LAWS.

The ratepayers of this city are required, on Tuesday next, to vote on no fewer than four by-laws, for the following purposes respectively: To authorize the sale of part of lot 423, block 2, known as the Deluge Fire Engine House; Granting the right and privilege of constructing, maintaining and operating a district telegraph system; To enable the Corporation to take the sum of \$50,000 for electric light purposes; and To enable the Corporation to raise the sum of \$10,000 for the cemetery.

We do not think that the ratepayers have any serious objection to any of these laws, provided it is judiciously framed and faithfully carried out. If the land on which the Deluge Fire Engine House is not needed by the Corporation it should certainly be sold, and as set forth in the preamble, the proceeds expended in the purchase of other land and premises in a more advantageous position. The electors have no doubt approve of the intention of the Corporation to devote the whole of the purchase money to the improvement of the Fire Department.

There can be no reasonable objection to granting a District Telegraph Company a Charter, provided the interests of the citizens are properly secured. The city needs improvements, but it does not need chartered monopolies which are exceedingly civil and accommodating, while they are asking for franchises, but the very reverse when once those franchises are fairly secured. We see that the charter is for fifty years and that the corporation reserves to itself the right to repeal or amend it whenever, in the judgment of the Council, its repeal or amendment is necessary.

As the Corporation has undertaken to do the work of lighting the city and as there are many good reasons why the city lighting should be entirely under its control, it follows that it should be placed in a position to do the work effectively and that, not only for the present, but for some considerable period in the future. The corporation should be empowered to give the citizens more and better lights where and as often as they are really required. It will never do to have the plant so deficient and the power house so badly equipped that the Corporation will not be able to comply with the reasonable requirements of the citizens. The difference between the cost of keeping the city well lighted and badly lighted is not nearly so great as many persons suppose. It should be remembered that there is a false economy in such matters which is worse than extravagance. In this business, the Corporation and the ratepayers would do well to follow the example of the best private companies. Those companies never hesitate, when their business warrants it, to be liberal in their ex-

penditure for improvements. Their motto is that that is worth doing at all is worth doing well. This is true, not only of the machinery required, but of the men employed to work it. None but skilful and experienced men should be employed, even if it is necessary to give them what appears to be a high rate of remuneration. Cheap men, in places where practical knowledge and skill are indispensable, are often found to be in the end exceedingly dear men. The Corporation should only get the money it requires for the improvement of the electric light plant, on the condition that it gives the citizens a first-class service. It would be better to give the work to a private company than to have it bungled by inefficient civic officials. We would, in conclusion, suggest that, when the electric lighting service is reorganized, not a single almanac should be allowed to be kept in the office of the superintendent, or by any one connected with the service.

In providing cemetery accommodation for the city, the future has chiefly to be considered. The present cemetery is in a good situation and the Corporation are doing what is right in completing the purchase of block 82 of the Fairfield Estate, and making upon the land the necessary improvements. Ten thousand dollars, devoted to such a purpose, is a modest sum. We are not sure that, if the land could be had at a reasonable rate, the Corporation would not be warranted in still further enlarging the Cemetery grounds.

It seems to us that the ratepayers would do well to give their sanction to all these by-laws. But they should be carefully considered. It has been too much the habit, hitherto, to allow city by-laws to pass without consideration or discussion. After they are passed, and have gone into operation, some ratepayers complain and inveigh against the Corporation and all concerned. It is too late then, and as they had been careless and neglected their privilege when discussion and protest might have been effective, they find very few to sympathize with them. The time to consider and to oppose a by-law is before, and when it is submitted to the ratepayers, at the polls, and not after it has passed.

BAILOUR'S PROPOSED MEASURE.

Mr. Balfour has announced his intention to give Ireland the same amount and kind of home rule as England and Scotland possess. Affairs in those two countries that are purely local have been placed under the control of County Councils. These Councils receive aid from the Imperial Government. The Secretary for Ireland intends to introduce a measure for Ireland in some respects similar to the English County Councils law. By that measure the Irish people will have a share in the control of the schools, poorhouses, roads, bridges, jails, lunatic asylums and some courts of justice. For the purpose of local self-government Ireland is to be divided into six districts, each to have its own Council, having power to levy taxes and to borrow money—to be, in fact, in many respects like the County municipalities in the province of Ontario and elsewhere.

It is not, it seems, proposed to make the District Councils wholly elective. They are to be composed of an equal number of Justices of the Peace appointed by the Crown, and members elected for a term of years by the tax-payers. A mixed assembly such as this is not according to Canadian ideas, and we hardly think that it will suit the Irish people. They will have good reason to complain if their Councils are not wholly representative. The people cannot be said to have control of their own affairs and to be in local matters really self-governing if one-half of the members of their County Councils are appointed by the Crown.

It is more than likely that Mr. Balfour will be prevailed upon to modify this part of his scheme. It would be better in every way to put mere trust in the people and to eliminate the nominative principle from his measure extending local self-government to Ireland. His bill might then be fairly offered as a substitute for the independent parliament in College Green dependent on the Home Rulers. If the Irish County Councils' law were in all respects similar to the English ones, and if in the Irish County Councils the people were as fully represented as they are in the English County Councils, it could be shown that as far as domestic self-government was concerned Ireland was placed on precisely the same footing as England and Scotland, and therefore had no valid ground of complaint. Ireland, in proportion to its population, is more fully represented in the Imperial Parliament than England is, and if it could be shown that with respect to local self-government, Mr. Balfour's measure extended to the Irish as much power and as many privileges as are enjoyed by the English, the Irish agitator would be deprived of his capital. He could not complain with any semblance of truth that an invidious distinction was made in favor of the inhabitants of Great Britain, and that Irish and English were not treated alike by the Imperial Government. But for this defect, and it is a serious one, Mr. Balfour's proposed bill to extend local self-government to Ireland, seems to be an admirable measure.

IMAGINATIVE JOURNALISTS.

Two or three weeks ago, when the Emperor of Germany was in England, he was to all appearance in robust health. His vigor and energy appeared to be inexhaustible. From early morning until late in the evening he was on his feet or on horseback, going hither and thither, taxing the strength of his attendants to the utmost. The Emperor's capacity for exertion was a continual surprise to the British people. This wonderful display of energy was kept up without flagging to the very last day of his visit.

He had, however, hardly left England when some enterprising French journalists discovered that the Emperor was exceedingly ill. He was crippled with rheumatism, his knee troubled him, and the pain in his ear was almost intolerable. He could not move without assistance, and when he was moved his agony was pitiable to witness. Then the solicitous Parisian journalists, speculated as to what might be the outcome of the dreadful attack. If the rheumatism should reach his heart, which was not by any means improbable, Germany would once more have to mourn an Emperor cut off in the prime of life. Then what would the condition of Germany be with a child of seven years old for a ruler? Bismarck is a broken man. He is as irritable as a nervous old woman, and not in a position to guide the ship of state.

The picture which these imaginative French newspaper men drew of the state of Germany, if the Emperor should succumb to the illness which their lively fancy has created, is most melancholy to contemplate. Of course, the prospect fills the journalist with sorrow. They would be pained beyond measure to see Germany reduced to the straits which they have depicted in such dismal colors. It would be uncharitable to hint that their hopes and their wishes stimulated their fancy when they were writing these gloomy accounts of the Emperor's imaginary illness, and speculating upon its possible results.

The world, however, is a little too wide-awake to take these French fictions for facts. They know how ready Parisian journalists are to build an airy structure, on the most slender foundation of fact, when German affairs or the German Emperor are their themes, and they are prepared to receive German news from French sources with many grins of allowance. It is, to say the least, exceedingly improbable that the Emperor, who, while he is in England, was the picture of good health and manly vigor, should, in a very few days after his return to the Continent, become a moaning invalid, unable to move without assistance, and whose death, at any hour, was not improbable. The world will require some stronger proof than the word of a French journalist, before it will believe that so complete a transformation could have taken place in so short a time.

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NEGRO EMIGRATION.

Mr. Benjamin Gaston, an emigrant from Georgia to Liberia, thinks that he has found the solution of the race problem of the United States. It is simply voluntary emigration to Africa. He has done well in Liberia, and he believes that there is on the Dark Continent room for millions more of his race. He says there are thousands of miles of land waiting for settlers. The climate is salubrious and the soil extremely productive. All the products of tropical countries can be raised there with comparatively little labor, and a good market can be had for all that the settler will have to sell. Mr. Gaston has gone through the South and has represented to the negroes the advantages of being citizens of a republic of their own, and he has been so successful as to obtain the consent of two millions of Southern negroes to try their fortunes in the new country. The means of transportation can be had, and the voyage to Africa is not a long one. It can be made from any of the ports of the Southern States in about seven days. He believes that the Congress of the United States can be prevailed upon to assist the movement.

Although Mr. Gaston is so hopeful and so enthusiastic, there are others who know the Southern negroes pretty well, who are of opinion that he is deceiving himself. The negro population of the Southern States, they say, does not want to emigrate to Liberia or to any other country. The United States is good enough for them. There they are, and there they are determined to remain. Those among them who are industrious find no difficulty in making a living in the States, and it is not to be expected that the lazy, the vicious and the shiftless will prosper in any country. Ex-Senator B. K. Bruce says:

"This movement of Mr. Gaston's is the fifth that has been started since the war, and what is the result? The Liberia colonization scheme was started seventy years ago, and there are now in that country fewer than twenty thousand Americans. I predict Mr. Gaston's plan will fail, as have all previous movements. The colored people are becoming educated, and look to the United States as the country of their future development. The leading men of the colored race are opposed to emigration to any other country. You remember in the last Congress a bill was introduced appropriating \$100,000,000 to aid the colored people in emigrating to Liberia. The leaders among the negroes quietly went before the House committee and told the members that the colored people did not want any such aid, and the bill was promptly killed."

The New York Herald believes that these emigration experiments will never amount to anything, that the white inhabitants of the United States had better make up their minds that there will always be a large negro element in the population, and that the best thing they can do is to aid in educating and improving them. "One hour spent in that work," it says, "is better than ten years devoted to a means of getting rid of him, because the one hour may produce results, and the ten years will certainly be thrown away." It is pretty safe to conclude that Mr. Gaston has not yet found the solution of the United States race problem. Must it, like a great many other problems, be left to solve itself?

FORWARDED IS FORWARDED.

MANY of the worst attacks of cholera morbus, cramps, dysentery, colds, etc., come from the use of cheap and adulterated means. The best means must be used against them. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is the remedy. Keep it at hand for emergencies. It never fails to cure or relieve.

RAILWAY PROPOSALS.

The City Council has, in our opinion, acted judiciously in leaving it to the ratepayers themselves to accept or reject the railway propositions that were before them on Friday evening. It must be admitted by every one that direct railway communication between Victoria and the Mainland would be advantageous to its citizens, not only of the present generation, but of all generations. The "silver streak" that lies between Victoria—the nearest port of the Sound to the ocean—may be picturesque, but it is not in a commercial sense wholly beneficial. If that streak did not intervene, Victoria would, without question, be the ocean terminus of all Canadian transcontinental railroads, and, perhaps, some American. The proposed ferries and short lines of road are intended, as far as art can do it, to take from this city that disadvantage, and to make it virtually part of the Mainland.

There can, we think, be no question as to their being a benefit to the city. The only questions to be decided are: Will the benefit be worth the cost, and can the city afford to pay the price asked? This is a very common question, and one which every citizen has in his own private affairs frequently to decide for himself. He has to consider whether he can or cannot afford to pay for the good thing which is offered him. Many make mistakes and cripple their business by buying what is undeniably good, but what is, at the time, beyond their means.

The Council, as we have already said, did right in giving the citizens the opportunity to decide this important question for themselves. It would, in our opinion, be presumptuous in its members to reject the proposals without consulting the ratepayers. There are among the property holders many citizens who are quite as competent as the very best men in the City Council to consider this matter, and to come to an intelligent conclusion. These men would not thank the Councilors to think and to decide for them on a subject of such importance, involving, as it may, the future prosperity and influence of the city.

Since then the propositions are to be submitted to the ratepayers, it behoves them to consider them most seriously. They should be neither accepted nor rejected without due deliberation. To reject them both or either of them without careful consideration would be just as unwise as to accept them thoughtlessly and rashly. We trust that the citizens will think over these proposals very carefully and try to come to an impartial and a personally disinterested conclusion with regard to them. Let considerations of the general good prevail with every citizen, for it is evident what is best for the city as a whole will be best for individual citizens. Let the projects be discussed energetically and earnestly, and let the arguments pro and con be well weighed. There will, no doubt, be plenty of time for discussion and deliberation, and information bearing on the subject should be sought for and obtained. The proposals affect every citizen, and all should take a lively interest in the way in which they are disposed of.

THE COMMENTS OF THE TIMES ON THE WAY in which Mr. Earle performed his duties in Ottawa are, as usual, frivolous, flighty and false. It says that "Mr. Earle was sent to Ottawa to look after Victoria's commercial interests, and yet he returns and is unable to express one solitary, definite opinion in respect to these matters." The reader of the interview with "Mr. Earle" that appeared in yesterday morning's *Column*, will, if he is at all fair, be convinced that that gentleman looked pretty well after Victoria's commercial interests as the capital of the Dominion. He made it his business to represent how matters with regard to lights and buoys on the coast of this Province stood, and received the assurance from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that the wishes of the people interested will be carried out. This is a matter relating to the commercial interests of the province about which Mr. Earle has many definite ideas. If the lighting and buoying of the coast of the province does not receive the immediate attention of the Government, it will not be the fault of the senior representative of Victoria. Another matter that relates to the commercial interests of other than the commercial interests of Victoria, is the proposed fishery commission. This has been well looked after by Mr. Earle and his colleague, and if it is not soon appointed, the blame will not lie at their doors. Mr. Earle has evidently given the matter of the trade relations between Canada and the United States careful consideration, and is prepared to support any reasonable measure of reciprocity that may be negotiated by the representatives of Great Britain and the United States, in Washington, next October. That he has not come to the same conclusion as the Times, with respect to that important subject, shows that he is clear-headed, and knows what Canadians owe to themselves and to the Mother Country, under whose benign rule they have lived so long and so happily. Mr. Earle looked after the custom house and post office, which Victoria needs so badly, and no doubt he made as many and as strong representations to the Government with respect to those buildings as the most ardent friend of Victoria could wish. Mr. Earle looked after the extension of the Esquimalt graving dock, the establishment of a first class quarantine station for Victoria, and the transfer of the lazaretto to the Dominion Government. All these are matters more or less intimately connected with the commercial interests of Victoria. As it is the duty of Mr. Earle "to look after" these and many other things, the

AMERICA'S SATIRIST.

James Russell Lowell, who was the other day carried to his long home, was one of the most refined and fastidious of men. He wrote a style which was classic in its elegance and accuracy, and, to read some of his prose and much of his poetry, the reader would be apt to conclude that there was not the material for a joke in the whole of the poet's composition. Yet, singular to relate, if Lowell had written nothing but chaste and correct English, his name would not have been known as an author outside the United States; and even among his countrymen he would not have had many admirers. But James Russell Lowell lived in stirring times and like the great majority of United States citizens he took a lively interest in the politics of his country. He had, though but few suspected it, a strong sense of humor, and he was a clever squib in the dialect of the uneducated people of the Eastern States, were always appreciated and always effective. So he tried his hand at writing political poetry in the purest Yankee, and the success that he met with must have surprised even himself.

James Russell Lowell as the writer of critical essays and classic poetry, is unknown to fame, but James Russell Lowell, the author of the *Biglow Papers*, is known and admired wherever the English language is spoken.

There is no keener satire than is contained in these *Biglow Papers*. The author felt the almost contempt for the trading politician and the spread-eagle demagogue. He hated pretensions and insincerity with a bitter and a scornful hatred. He made one of this class of representatives of the people say:

"I'm willin' a man should go tollable strong Agin wrong in the abstract, fer that kind o' wrong, is sellin' on pop'lar an' never gits pitied. Cos his crime no one never committed; But he must be hard on particular sins; Cos then he'll be kickin' the people's own shins."

Here are some of the articles of the Pious Editor's creed:

"I du believe in Freedom's cause,
Ie fur away es Payris is;
I love to see her stick her claws
In them infernal Phrygians;
It's wad enough agin a king
To dral resolves an' 'triggers,
But libberty's a kind o' thing
That don't agree with niggers."

"I du believe the people want
A tax on tea and coffee,
That nothin' sinit countrygent,
Purvidin' I'm in office;
Fer I hev loved my country sense
My eye teeth filled their sockets,
An' Uncle Sam I reviled;
Partic'lylly his pockets."

"I du believe in any plan
O' levin' the taxes,
Es long es, like a lumberman,
I git jest wut I axes;
I go free-trade trid thick an' thin,
Because it kind o' keeps us in;
The folks to vote—an' keep us in
Our kids' custom-houses."

"I du believe, with all my soul,
In the great Press's freedom,
To pint the people to the goal
An' in the traces lead 'em;
Palsied the arm that forged yokes
At my fat contracts squintin',
An' withered be the nose that pokes
Inter the govment's pristin'!"

citizens of Victoria may rest assured that he did not neglect any one of them. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Earle and know what his business habits are, will be quite satisfied that Victoria will lose nothing that its commercial or other interests need for want of "looking after."

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The Council, as we have already said, did right in giving the citizens the opportunity to decide this important question for themselves. It would, in our opinion, be presumptuous in its members to reject the proposals without consulting the ratepayers. There are among the property holders many citizens who are quite as competent as the very best men in the City Council to consider this matter, and to come to an intelligent conclusion. These men would not thank the Councilors to think and to decide for them on a subject of such importance, involving, as it may, the future prosperity and influence of the city.

Since then the propositions are to be submitted to the ratepayers, it behoves them to consider them most seriously. They should be neither accepted nor rejected without due deliberation. To reject them both or either of them without careful consideration would be just as unwise as to accept them thoughtlessly and rashly. We trust that the citizens will think over these proposals very carefully and try to come to an impartial and a personally disinterested conclusion with regard to them. Let considerations of the general good prevail with every citizen, for it is evident what is best for the city as a whole will be best for individual citizens. Let the projects be discussed energetically and earnestly, and let the arguments pro and con be well weighed. There will, no doubt, be plenty of time for discussion and deliberation, and information bearing on the subject should be sought for and obtained. The proposals affect every citizen, and all should take a lively interest in the way in which they are disposed of.

THE COMMENTS OF THE TIMES ON THE WAY in which Mr. Earle performed his duties in Ottawa are, as usual, frivolous, flighty and false. It says that "Mr. Earle was sent to Ottawa to look after Victoria's commercial interests, and yet he returns and is unable to express one solitary, definite opinion in respect to these matters." The reader of the interview with "Mr. Earle" that appeared in yesterday morning's *Column*, will, if he is at all fair, be convinced that that gentleman looked pretty well after Victoria's commercial interests as the capital of the Dominion. He made it his business to represent how matters with regard to lights and buoys on the coast of this Province stood, and received the assurance from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that the wishes of the people interested will be carried out. This is a matter relating to the commercial interests of the province about which Mr. Earle has many definite ideas. If the lighting and buoying of the coast of the province does not receive the immediate attention of the Government, it will not be the fault of the senior representative of Victoria. Another matter that relates to the commercial interests of other than the commercial interests of Victoria, is the proposed fishery commission. This has been well looked after by Mr. Earle and his colleague, and if it is not soon appointed, the blame will not lie at their doors. Mr. Earle has evidently given the matter of the trade relations between Canada and the United States careful consideration, and is prepared to support any reasonable measure of reciprocity that may be negotiated by the representatives of Great Britain and the United States, in Washington, next October. That he has not come to the same conclusion as the Times, with respect to that important subject, shows that he is clear-headed, and knows what Canadians owe to themselves and to the Mother Country, under whose benign rule they have lived so long and so happily. Mr. Earle looked after the custom house and post office, which Victoria needs so badly, and no doubt he made as many and as strong representations to the Government with respect to those buildings as the most ardent friend of Victoria could wish. Mr. Earle looked after the extension of the Esquimalt graving dock, the establishment of a first class quarantine station for Victoria, and the transfer of the lazaretto to the Dominion Government. All these are matters more or less intimately connected with the commercial interests of Victoria. As it is the duty of Mr. Earle "to look after" these and many other things, the

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BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

Russia's Rye Unlake. BERLIN, Aug. 13.—The people of Eastern Prussia regard the Russian prohibition on the export of rye as a death sentence. Those near the frontier have been depending upon rye purchased in small quantities across the boundary in Russia. The Russian officials now refuse to let even a pound go over the line, and have threatened with imprisonment any person caught selling rye, or any German found on Russian soil with grain purchased there. The scenes described are heart-rending, and numerous applications have been made to the local authorities to be allowed to encourage the purchase and sale of the money devoted to the sustenance of the poor, and there is some talk of petitioning the Prussian government to issue army rations to the distressed, to be believed that Chancellor Caprivi will sympathize with this course, rather than repeal the corn duties. In the manufacturing centres of Germany, especially Chemnitz, Plauen and Greiz, the distress of the people is increasing, and it is feared that the increase in price of the staple of the poorer class of working people, and any increase of the already high price would mean starvation to many. There is a strong desire in the manufacturing districts to emigrate to America, but few of the people are sufficiently ahead with money to do so.

Rise in the Price of Rye. BERLIN, Aug. 13.—Rye has risen eight shillings in Amsterdam, and both here and there it is dearer than wheat. If had weather comes America will control the market. Alarm is already felt in Europe owing to the reports that the American farmers are turning their crops in order to hold wheat back. Should Europe be favored with fine weather it would greatly change the situation and the prospects of wheat operators.

Gray vs. W. Mr. Justice Drake were occupied yesterday with consideration of the *Callan*. The trial was yet.

George McKee, of the city, yesterday, ten the first of the season, quality. The purchase Messrs. Brackman & K. exhibition.

Chinese Em. Lim Chin Wing, a Chinese, to build in a shoe storey brick block on a two-story ground and are now being prepared, and show a substantial structure.

John Watson, a bride the new Powell block street, was thrown from to the ground yesterday a partially completed building broken by a piece of sky were broken. A disloc the extent of the injury.

This is the suggestive latest arrival in B. C. a four page weekly, a matter and what are called Golden, B. C. as its first appearance on a paper and type used are type foundry, and Vol. and creditable paper all.

John Watson, a bride the new Powell block street, was thrown from to the ground yesterday a partially completed building broken by a piece of sky were broken. A disloc the extent of the injury.

Miss Anderson, who ment for cancer at St. J. very low and not expen young lady was operated Mr. Carter, the leggy who was recently in Hospital, had his leg, knees, yesterday. He w rolling upon him. His c the circumstances, consid

The open season for de 15th instant. (to-morro deer, with heat upon this is prohibited under the and quail may be shot on tember; and chick pheasants and hen pheasants any time. The birds have begun, and here, the will be heard "the frequ

The bark Services will cool at the Esquimalt evening, retaining as sti cold. She will comm loading salmon for Eng Blair-Abird also will lighers 450 tons of coals will go alongside the nav charge the remainder of is assigned to the navy; salmon out. Both shi charged by Richard Brod

One of the most enjoy yachting trips that has Puget Sound and the Stra the new launch, M. ma. The launch arrived neaday evening, and an Bay. It contains a pair gentlemen, among whom Mrs. W. B. Hull, Mrs. M. Gosnell, L. E. Northey, a com. The craft is a good about 35 feet long, and cruising