

The Colonist.

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YANCOUVER. "The Colonist," 600 Hastings Street. A. GOODMAN, Agent.

NO ONE'S MOUTH CLOSED.

One of the defendants in the libel prosecutions has undertaken to discuss the conduct of the committing magistrate in not permitting him to prove a justification on the preliminary examination. We are under the impression that in ruling against the admission of such testimony the magistrate acted strictly in accordance with law, which does not contemplate that he shall try a case but shall confine himself to seeing if there is sufficient evidence to support a prima facie case.

THE OPINION has been expressed that the subject matter of the libel may perhaps not be debatable even in the legislature. To say this is to admit ignorance of the powers of parliament. No court in the land has the power to say what the legislature shall and what it shall not discuss.

MANIFESTATIONS OF DEITY. Granting the existence of a supreme power, controlling material and spiritual nature and independent of it, there is less difficulty in conceding that there may be manifestations of it than in

maintaining the contrary. If one says there is no God, that is the end of all argument in respect to manifestations of divine power; but when once the existence of a Deity is admitted, it follows almost of necessity that we shall admit that He impresses Himself upon the Universe in ways that are recognizable by the intelligent portion of creation.

A Deity can never be more than a hypothesis when considered intellectually from physical data. It is impossible by reasoning to demonstrate His existence. All we can do is to gather the available facts and draw from them the logical conclusion. To illustrate: The law of gravity is deduced from observation of phenomena. Certain events are observed to occur in a certain sequence, and from this sequence philosophy has inferred the existence of a law in nature, which is called the law of gravity.

From the earliest period man has been a reasoning creature. No race exists so little intelligent that it does not seek from effects to discover the cause. The secrets of nature are many, and races of men on a low plane of knowledge endeavor to explain them all by reference to supernatural forces. The hypothesis of many deities is the first that occurs to the mind of the savage. It is his only way of accounting for what he does not understand.

THE COLUMBIAN says it cannot supply the COLONIST with brains. We did not need any assurance on that point. We would as soon expect to get blood out of a turnip.

THE QUESTION that confronts the administration is one requiring careful consideration, but having pledged himself, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will no doubt carry out his agreement and have the vote taken. He will also stand ready, we believe, to carry out the people's wishes, whatever they may prove to be, though it must be remembered that if it is to be prohibition there must be more than a fair majority behind it. Without

appeal to point to controlling laws, as self-creative and self-sufficient as those in physical nature; and if so, it is surely not unreasonable to claim these laws to be a manifestation of the same existence which exhibits itself in the laws of the material universe. But some may ask if we do not by this process of reasoning reduce the Deity simply to a system of laws. We answer by propounding the question which the wisdom of an ancient but highly enlightened sage found unanswerable: "Canst thou by searching find out God?" and by quoting the divinest Teacher of all, who said: "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

THE TORONTO GLOBE has a plentiful supply of misinformation about British Columbia. Recently it said that in order to have a formal opening of the new parliament buildings in Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney's time, letters were issued stating that he would be at home in his office in the new building on a certain day. The truth is that it was thought to be a simple act of courtesy to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor to throw the new rooms open for his use for a few days before his term of office expired, and a notice to that effect was printed in the COLONIST. The departments were getting ready to move in. Two of them at least were already in. The Lieutenant-Governor's rooms were ready for occupation and he was invited to occupy them. The whole transaction was simply a little act of courtesy that would be appreciated and endorsed by any one with instincts two degrees advanced above those of a Hottentot.

THE NEWS-ADVERTISER has started on a series of articles on the local political situation, and promises that when it gets through it will have convinced anybody that the local government has not a leg to stand on. Of course our contemporary does not use such commonplace language as that, but it means that. Judging from the articles of the series which have already appeared, we imagine that our contemporary will have "got through" some time about the close of the next century. The News-Advertiser is more liberal with ink than arguments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS. A RAILWAY TO BOUNDARY. In the discussion relative to the construction of a railway to the Boundary country that has thus far taken place in the public press, a point of vital interest to Canadians has been entirely overlooked. Unless an all-Canadian system is built, the merchants of this country will be at a great disadvantage in their efforts to secure business from that district. With the Corbin road running into that region the important jobbing centre, Spokane, only 150 miles distant, will reap all the benefits of the constantly increasing trade of the Kettle river valley. If Mr. Corbin's railway was a part of one of the American transcontinental roads, the wholesalers at the Coast and in the East might be able to obtain reasonable quotations on rough rates, but as he is only interested in the haul from Spokane northwards, it is only natural that the metropolis of Eastern Washington would enjoy a decided advantage, in spite of import duties on foreign goods.

HOKEY IN THE EAST. MONTREAL, Jan. 14.—(Special)—The big hockey match here to-night between the Victoria and Montreal teams, the winners resulted in a victory for the Montreal team by a score of 8 to 2. The Winnipeg players were in the first half, but were outclassed in the second.

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E. G. PRIOR & CO., Ltd. Miners Bound for Klondyke. Call and inspect our Heavy Stock of. Bob Sleighs, Wagons, Axes, Saws, Granite Ware, Etc. Shovels, Picks, Gold Pans, Gold Scales, Ice Creepers, Etc. Tents, Stoves, Rope, Quicksilver, Retorts, Etc. Buy in Victoria and save 30 per cent duty. Cor. Government and Johnson Sts. VICTORIA, B.C.

COLUMBIA FLOURING MILLS CO. Enderby and Vernon Brands. HUNGARIAN, PREMIER, SUPERFINE AND XXX SPECIAL. R. P. RITHET & CO., Victoria Agents.

THE KLONDYKE. Great THROUGH WINTER ROUTE From VICTORIA TO DAWSON CITY. Under the Direction of the Klondyke and Transport Corporation, Limited. Capital, £250,000.

HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, BART., CHAIRMAN, LONDON, ENG. HON. E. DEWDNEY, CHAIRMAN, VICTORIA, B.C. J. T. BETHUNE, CHAIRMAN, VICTORIA, B.C. C. H. LUGRIN, CHAIRMAN, VICTORIA, B.C. G. ASHWORTH, LONDON DIRECTOR.

SPECIAL RATES ON EXCESS BAGGAGE. The provisions included in the 400 pounds of personal baggage can be purchased from the Klondyke Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation. The Corporation is agent for Strickland & Co's specially constructed Klondyke Peterborough canoes.

The Klondyke Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation. 30 Broad St., VICTORIA, B.C. This corporation must not be confused with a company of nearly the same name, having its headquarters in Spokane.

Man! Where Is Your Strength? DR. SANDEN'S ELECTRIC BELT. Where is the vigor given you by nature? Where is your manly bearing, your hearty grasp of the hand? Have you wasted it in excess and dissipation? Is it gone? Is the world full of bitterness to you? Are your days spent in brooding over your trouble and your nights in restless tossing. DR. SANDEN'S ELECTRIC BELT. Let hope spring in your heart, for this grand remedy will restore your strength, confidence, self-esteem. Read how it is done in the book "Three Classes of Men," which will be sent to you closely sealed, without marks, free. Don't put it off. Address: BELFAST, Jan. 19.—The Britisher Herbert, hailing from Lettland, has founded on the Courthouse, about six miles from Gungah, under the threat of it that the other members of the numbering, seven, were lost.

FOUR YEARS CANADA OUGHT. Chancellor of Exchequer She Should... There May Come a Ruler Entirely the Fault of Dominion. Great Britain Ready to... in Paying the Indemnity to Japan.

MR. GLADSTONE. His Health Fairly Satisfactory and Excited Without Cause. CANNES, South of France, Jan. 17.—The health of Mr. Gladstone is satisfactory. He went out yesterday. LONDON, Jan. 19.—There was to-day that Mr. Gladstone was ill, the Pall Mall Gazette and the matter thus: "With due we learn on the most excellent that Mr. Gladstone's health is gravest anxiety to those with his sojourn at Cannes has not had of fortifying his strength, as was wated." The news placard of Mail Gazette read: "The criticism of Mr. Gladstone is an and is causing much excitement. Mrs. Henry Gladstone and Armistead, an intimate of the family, were interviewed this regarding the state of Mr. Gladstone's health. Both said there was no latest information to justify alarm reports. Mr. Gladstone's health is better, and his physicians are better, and his physicians are satisfied with his progress toward recovery. An official statement to-night re-assesses the matter for a return of his health, although it has not benefited, as had been hoped at Cannes. His physical powers have fluctuated owing to the cold wet weather, but the complaint is local. His physical powers have suffered. His strength is good, petite excellent, he joins the meals, and takes regular drives, permitting. It is not true that family physician has been seen. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gladstone to Cannes on Sunday in accordance an arrangement made weeks ago. Stewart Rendel (with whom Mr. Gladstone is residing) telegraphed at 5:40 that Mr. Gladstone's health unchanged.

MINISTER TO HAITI. Successor to the Official Who Hampered the Government. BERLIN, Jan. 19.—Dr. Michaelor of the foreign office, has appointed German minister at Port-au-Prince, Hayti, in succession to von Luxburg, placed temporarily retired list. On von Schwering, the charge d'affaires at Port-au-Prince in prominence last year by the redress for the alleged illegal imprisonment of Herr Luders, as a result the German scholarship collectors, under the threat of it that the other members of the numbering, seven, were lost.