Victoria, Friday, May 17

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

At the instance of the Greenway government the Manitoba legislature has further adjourned until June 13th its sitting for the consideration of the school question. The plea of the government was that further time is necessary, and Attorney-General Sifton particularized by saying that "the remedial order as submitted by the Dominion government involved a return to the old system, and this they did not propose to do. There were also a great many other phases of the question, and further time must be taken for consideration." It is interesting to compare this announcement of Mr. Sifton's with the utterances of Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, in an address lately delivered at the seminary in Montreal. The Archbishop said: "We will try to crush under foot the in-

iquitous law which has sought to deprive us of our rights. We will not accept half measures. We will maintain and exact the liberties to which we are entitled under the British flag. We are not slaves, nor are we the sons of slaves, and our fathers never wore the yoke. They were vanquished, but they were not conquered. The Catholics of Manitoba will never consent to accept crumbs in matters of education while the Protestants of Quebec are seated at the banquet table. No, never. I belong to no political party, and Iwant peace in this country. The school question, I declare, is not a political one and we may well appeal to all well-thinking men to uphold our rights. I do not now appeal merely to the justice of the men of Quebec, but to the citizens of every province in the confederation; to all wno want justice to prevail and peace to be maintained in their country. Your presence and applause will encourage us to keep up the fight in the interests of the people of this country, which we all know has a great future before it. Sparta had no stone walls, but it could point to the serried ranks of its young men. Montreal is in the same position to-day and the sympathy of its young men will help the cause of education in Manitoba. The ties binding the far west to the good old province of Quebec are stronger than ever. Ultimately justice and right will triumph and then your brothers of Red finds himself \$4,500,000 short in his ac-River and Saskatchewan will be happy in the enjoyment of liberty and institutions similar to those of Quebec will be

The attorney-general, speaking on behalf of the government, says there will not be a return to the old system, as required by the remedial order. The Archbishop, speaking for the church, says nothing else will be accepted. It seems plain that the two parties have taken up irreconcilable attitudes and are likely to maintain them. The question must therefore of necessity come up in the Dominion parliament.

#### ATTEMPT TO MUZZLE THE CO-LUMBIAN.

The New Westminster Columbian has been threatened with an action for libel by Mr. James Fitzsimmons, the deputy warden of the penitentiary, whose reinstatement after suspension, or dismissal, has caused general disgust in the province. To use a fitting if inelegant ex-"gall." The Columbian does not seem to be very much scared by the threat, and promises to make the trial, if the threat should ever be carried that far, quite as interesting for the deputy warden as the investigation that led to his suspension. Our contemporary says:

"While we are sorry, on Mr. Fitzsimmons' account (against whom we entertain no personal feelings of any kind), that he has decided to subject himself to the painful ordeal of an open trial in court-besides which the comparatively sequestered inquisition of the royal commission will be felt to be a very mild purgatory indeed-we cannot but rejoice, as a public journal, conducted in the public interest, that we are to have such an unexampled opportunity as Mr. Fitzsimmons proposes to give us to thoroughly ventilate and expose the scandalous "job' of his reinstatement, and all the actors ("high, low, jack and the game") in it. We promise that the exposure shall be made as exhaustive and interesting as possible; and, while we have founded our stictures chiefly upon evidence produced at the royal commission-which was sufficiently sensational and damning to satisfy the most exacting-new fields can be explored at an open trial, which will yield disclosures that will not detract from the interest of the investigation or lessen the condemnation of the chief actors in the whole scandalous affair. In case Mr. Fitzsimmons or his solicitor should have any doubts about our address, we are still doing business at the old stand.'

#### CUSTOMS TAXATION.

The News-Advertiser has been looking into the Dominion public accounts and will say that the "wasp waist" in wo-Mr. Foster's statements, and comes to man is a thing of beauty. The cropping some very sage conclusions. One is that of dogs is of doubtful origin. The the deficits of the past and current years | practice may have arisen from the foolare due to diminished customs receipts- ish idea that dogs looked better for the a conclusion that nobody has ever thought of disputing. Another of its they could fight better in their cropped discoveries the News-Advertiser puts in condition. Perhaps it was a combination

al depression and the economies which are being practised by the people, have caused a deficit had the scale of duties remained at what it was previous to the fiscal year 1892-3. A reference to one single article of import will prove this. In 1891, before the reduction of the duty on sugar, the revenue from that alone was the large sum of \$2,984,747. In 1894 the revenue on sugar only amounted to \$22,230, so that nearly three millions of dollars were saved to the consumers and, of course, lost to the fed-

eral treasury." We may be allowed to point out that the deficit for this year is \$4,500,000 as per Mr. Foster's estimate, leaving a margin of a million and a half unaccounted for by the removal of the sugar duties. But that is only by the way. The News-Advertiser continues:

"The simple facts, which cannot be controverted, show that the deficits of the present government-which, by the way, have been in the aggregate much less in amount than the surplusses-have been caused by the lightening of taxa tion. Mr. Foster has pointed out that while the Liberals were in office the re peated deficits which Sir Richard Cartwright had in his financial arrangements and the member for South Oxford has not been able, with all his ingenuity, to disprove that statement."

#### THEN AND NOW.

Referring to customs taxation yesterday we showed that if the Mackenzic government had raised the tariff to the 17.03 per cent. rate which it now reacnes there would have been in the three years surpluses instead of deficits. We observe that some of the government or- | tal was water it will be seen that the gans pat Mr. Foster on the back with the remark that he acted wisely in lightoning the taxation at the time of the de-"Better have had a deficit," they say, "than have taken that amount This infant is, from all appearances, of money out of the pockets of the people." These papers, though, will not allow the same remark to be applied to the Cartwright deficits. They will probably be equally averse to any reference being made to the fact that if Sir Richard Cartwright had employed Mr. Foster's scale of taxation he would have had more than enough revenue in the very worst of his years, while Mr. Foster country's affairs wisely and husbanded they were keeping down the taxation for the people to be plundered for private profit, in which regard their policy was down. diametrically opposed to that now followed. In these days the people pay a higher tribute to the Red Parlor than to the public treasury. When certain manufacturers proposed to Sir Richard Cartwright that a Red Parlor should be established, he told them with more force than politeness to "go to the devil."

# DOCKING AND CROPPING.

It is satisfactory to note that the cruel, brutal and senseless practices of the harbor. "docking" horses and "cropping" dogs show signs of falling into disuse. Apropos of this subject a letter from a Dr. F. C. Mewburn recently appeared in the pression, Fitzsimmons has a great deal of Toronto Mail and Empire, in which the writer said:

"At the splendid horse show in this city it must have been very evident to every real horseman how horribly the larger proportion of the horses were mutilated by removing their tails. Not only was the stump left very shore, but the hair in most cases was removed (either intentionally or otherwise) to such an extent as to produce what in my horseman days was called a rat's tailone of the greatest disfigurements a horse could have. It was a sight to make angels weep to see a charming woman on a magnificent horse, the appearance of which was ruined by a stump of a tail, with as much hair as may be seen

on an old dust brush. "If a man wants his horse's tail shortened let him bang it. Putting to one side the pain of removing the tail, just consider the annoyance and suffering from flies. A word to intending dockers may not be amiss. Is the fashion going to last? I think not. The cropping of dog's ears ought to a lesson. That is going out, and so will the dust-brush tail. And when fashion says a bang, who will look at a stump? These splendid horses will be reduced to half their It is to be hoped the time will value. come when no sensible man will buy a rat-tail horse, or marry a woman with

The silly and cruel practice which Mr Mewburn condemns no doubt arose chiefly from the conceit of individuals who thought they could improve on acture's handiwork. No artist can be found who will say that the outlines of the "docked" horse are as artistic as those of the animal left with nature's ornaments undisturbed, any more than he

amount of the imports, due to the gener- know that the fashion is dying out, and it would be well if the docking of horses died with it.

This suggests a comparison of the cussoms taxation of 1878 and that of 1894 -and for this purpose we shall take our Conservative friends on their own chosen ground. They insist that the percentage of customs taxation shall be calculated on the whole amount of importations, not on the dutiable goods alone. According to the trade and navigation tables that percentage in 1878 was 14.03 and in 1894 it was 17.13. If the latter rate had been imposed in 1878 the customs revenue woud have been about \$2,800,000 greater than it was, and there would have been a surplus instead of a deficit. The Mackenzie government could have "made ends meet" by imposing an extra three per cent. of customs taxes, but they preferred to try and balance the finances by keeping down the expenses. The Conservative ministers have put on more than three per cent., yet the income still fell short last year by \$1,200,000 and this year will be \$4,500,000 too small to meet were accompanied by increased taxation | the expenditure. So another increase of one or one and a half per cent. is to be made. Our Conservative friends are hardly wise in provoking such compari-

> Montreal Herald: It is learned that despite the bad year the Dominion Cotton Company earned, net, no less than \$320,000, or 1034per cent., on the full capital of \$3,000,000. When it is remembered that at least one half of this capiactual earnings of the company were nearer 25 per cent. on the actual capital than 10%. Still the cry that our infant industries must be protected is heard. able now to stand and walk alone, and should be weaned. It will be seen from this statement that the reduction in wages made by the combine last year was merely done for effect, to make it appear that the company were in a poor way, and could not exist with less protection. The day of reckoning is coming,

During the session of 1891 Hon. L. H. counts this year. It needs but little Davies (opposition) moved the following perceptive power to see from this that resolution: "Inasmuch as Great Britain the Liberal government managed the admits the products of Canada into her ports free of duty, this house is of the the public money carefully. And while opinion that the present scale of duties He Expresses Confidence That He Will spectfully asks the superintendent of ed exacted on goods mainly imported from public purposes they refused to allow Great Britain should be reduced." Neediess to say the Old Flaggers voted it

#### POLITICAL POINTERS. The following is from the Quebec

Chronicle (Tory) of a recent date: "The Hon. Thomas McGreevy, M. P., left here yesterday afternoon by steamer for Montreal. The boat was gaily decorated with flags in honor of the new member, who was also saluted by rockets and cannon shots from the various wharves up the Coves along the river front. The steamer's whistle responded, and the salute was repeated from the various tugs and other river crafts in

Attorney-General Blair, of New Brunswick, was at Montreal recently, and in an interview, as to the Liberal prospects in his province, said:

"There is no question about the fact that our people are a unit in demanding be won't continue against me.' freer trade relations with the United erals will sweep the province. A general election fought out on the basis of the trade question, and barring side issues, will nudoubtedly result in an overwhelming majority for Mr. Laurier.

Bye election results:-L'Islet.-Desjardins, Conservative, elected at general elections by 6 majority; Tarte, Opposition, elected at bye-election by 36 majority.

Richelieu.-Langevin, elected at general elections by 308 majerity; Bruneau, Liberal, elected at byeelection by 72 majority. Winnipeg.-Macdonald, Conservative, elected at general elections by 509 majority: Martin, Liberal, elected at tye-

election by 425 majority Antigonish.-Sir John Thompson, Conservative, elected at general elections by 227 majority; McIsaac, Liberal, elected at bye-election by 120 majority.

Montreal Witness: The Protectionists have discarded the Union Jack as a party badge, and we hear nothing about 'a British subject I was born and a British subject I will die,' a sentiment altogether too good to prostitute to igable and selfish purposes. Now they represent England as poverty stricken and in distress and as being swallowed by the alligator of hunger and want.

It was announced that the British revenue for the year ended March 31st last, amounted to £101,697,394, an increase of £3,399,942 as compared with the preceding year. This was an interesting statement for more reasons than When the United States governone. ment collects and spends half a billion dollars in one year, there is a loud outcry of extravagance. The population of the United States in the census year

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vest pocket; no sulphur.

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pocket.

38,000,000 of British people pay half a billion dollars without as much complaint as is made by the 62 million of protected Americans when they are called upon to contribute their half billion. Raising revenue under free trade cannot be such a difficult matter after all. -Halifax Recorder.

NEWS OF THE INTERIOR.

Business Reported Brisk in the Kootenay Country.

Vernon News. Judge Spinks returned last week from solding court in the Kootenay district. He reports business as brisk in that section and a big mining boom is regarded as an absolute certainty this summer. The flour mills at Enderby and this city are both shut down on account of having no more wheat on hand. price of flour has been advanced about

35 cents per barrel to meet the raise recently made by the Manitoba mills. Mr. Price Ellison left on Tuesday of beef that has ever left this district.

day from a bicycle trip to Kamloops. He about 80 miles, in nine and a half hours. The hop yard on the Coldstream ranch | the next meeting of the association. is looking very well this spring, the plants being much further advanced than at the same time last year.

DURRANT'S DEFENSE. Be Discharged.

San Francisco, May 9.-An evening paper publishes a statement made by that the principals of the different Theodore Durrant to a friend, in which the man charged with the murder of two pers set by them, and an amendment girls in Emanuel church said that he would make the greatest legal battle in the history of the state, and expressed his confidence regarding the outcome, predicting that he would soon be a free man. In addition to the three attorneys already engaged for the defense, Durrant has retained the well-known criminal lawyer, George A. Knight, and says the case will be pushed to a speedy trial.

"There are a good many things against Durrant is quoted as saying, "but fear Harry Partridge, who testified that he answered the roll call for me on April 8, more than any other witness. If Partridge persists in his statement, he will hang me, but my attorneys will see him, and perhaps he will change his mind. I did him many a good turn, and often answered roll call for him. I hope The prosecution does not understand Dur- law entirely and will never again' be States. On the trade question the Lib- rant's fear of Partridge, whose testimony is corroborated. April 8 was the last day Durrant visited Minnie Williams in Alameda. Durrant denies that he offered a ring to Oppenheimer, the pawnbroker, or anyone else. He says Oppenheimer is a tool of the police, and has frequently given similar testimony in other cases. Durrant is studying medical books, and says that on his release he will continue his course until graduation

DESTROYING THE SEALS.

The Catches Consist of Nearly Ninety Per Cent. of Females.

Port Townsend, May 19.-Though the present spring weather has been so boisterous that sealing vessels have reported the most unfavorable season yet experi enced, yet the damage done to seal herds is immense. E. S. Fowler, United States sealing inspector, has examined the catches of all Puget Sound sealers which have returned from sea, and he says that the catch consists of about 90 per cent. females. That, too, in a season when many of them were pregnant with pups. It is hard to estimate the loss. Many seals, some authorities have estimated as high as 80 per cent., after being fatally wounded escape and, of course, their pelts are lost to the hunters.

Mr. Fowler returned from Port Angeles to-day, where he inspected the schooners Jessie and Eacrett with twenty-four and ninety-nine skins respectively

Skins in London markets are quoted at \$15.50 and locally about \$12. Over along the Alaska coast west of Sitka the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer Francis Cutting this spring has been buying seal skins from the natives

the past and current years and current years in inished customs receipts—that nobody has ever isputing. Another of its News-Advertiser puts in the reduction of death that dogs looked better for the fool-unities and the census year 1890, was 62,622,250, and the estimated population at January 1, 1895, was 69-to obtain an annuary 1, 1895, was 69-to obtain an annuary 1, 1895, was 69-to obtain the census year 1890, was 69-to obtain the census year 1890, was 69-to obtain the reduction of Great Britain in the census year 1890, was 69-to obtain the reduction of Great Britain in the census year 1890, was 69-to obtain the reduction of Great Britain in the census year 1890, was 69-to obtain the reduction of Great Britain in the census year 1890 was 69-to

BEHRING SEA COMMISSION.

Likely to be Postponed Till Sir Julian Returns.

Washington, May 11 .-- The departure of Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador, for Europe early next month will likely result in the postponement of the action in the proposed Behring sea commission, the arbitration of the Venezuelan question, and other pending subjects in which the United States is concerned, until the ambassador returns in the fall. The Venezuelan correspondence may continue through summer, but no decisive developments closing the question or bringing it to a crisis in which his country may be called to act are expected until autumn. In the meantime, Senor Andrade, the Venezuelan minister, will go away for the summer.

WRITING IN THE SCHOOLS.

Subject Discussed by the Teachers in Session.

At the regular meeting of the Teachwith four carloads of beef steers for the ers' Association held yesterday afternoon British Columbia Cattle Company of the system of writing best adapted for Victoria and Vancouver. The animals | use in all the city schools was brought were of large size and in splendid condi- up for discussion. A number of teach tion, making one of the finest shipments ers were in favor of the Spencerian system, while others held that the vertical Mr. James McLain returned on Satur- system was more legible and more easily taught. After a lengthy discussion no made the journey down, a distance of decision could be arrived at, and it was decided to postpone the discussion until

Principal Netherby, of the Boys School, introduced a resolution which declared that owing to complaints made ty assistant teachers and others that the promotion examination papers last term ucation (Dr. Pope) to scrutinize and sanction the papers for the coming examination." Several teachers thought was introduced by D. Ross, asking the education department to authorize a system of uniform promotion examinations in the graded schools of the different cities of the province. Both the amend ment and the original motion were defeated. Owing to the lateness of the hour Mr. Paul's paper on short methods in mental arithmetic was left over until the next meeting of the association.

Richmond, Ind., May 11.-With the speech which General Harrison made vesterday for the plaintiffs in the Morrison will case the ex-President finishes his career in the accive practice of law. Mr. Tibbots, his private secretary, authorizes this statement: "General Harrison will never again speak before any jury, as this argument is his last. He will soon abandon the practice of seen actively engaged in any pursuit."

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SCENE IN 1

Patriot Rossa ceedings as Kick

The American alize the Dr  $-\mathbf{B}$ .

London, May 8 ing and unprecede of commons this chief secretary fo had finished his bill of Edmund F. West Cavan, an the crimes act. well-known Irish York, arose from gallery and excla the assassin's blo me in this house, put on my name. greeted with loud

The sergeant-ated Rossa from the the members did i who interrupted when his identity sation increased. it appears, had all ary terms to O'Do after being ejected premises by blueco not to show his fac several hours' de speech by Morley, ed the bill, clotu vote of 225 to 208 repeal the crimes a

time, without divis A dispatch from Boniface de Castell merly Miss Annie large site at the Mailikoff and the Boulogne, paying per meter. The C will carry out the d is, to exactly repronian at Versailles v for a Paris residence

To-morrow has b for placing upon British Columbia three per cent. inse able July 1, 1941. been fixed at 95. been in London for tion with this matte London, May 10. wheat rather firme passage, wheat fi firm. English c

French country man Liverpool, May demand moderate: on spot firm: futu A dispatch from ! that not one of Mr horses in training until August.

Queenstown, May line steamer Adra from New York, M arrived here about ing and reported th ger named Stapel jumping overboard The Cunard stea Walker, which arriv from New York, re a large, iceberg on

41, longitude 49.

There was an house of commons Horne Macfarlane Argyllshire, after reply to his questi crofters bill would that the Scotch n draw their support i This caused the c chequer. Sir William to reply in a toweri be open to the Scot they pleased. The Macgregor, Liberal ness, retorted, "are that the government white feather to th chancellor of the ex

The house of com a proposal made by exchequer, when he on May 2nd, re-imp per gallon on beer, v estimated deficit of plus of £181,000. 206.

A dispatch recei Havana says the S ing against the Cu persed two bands. ively by Matagas an their arms and amn A dispatch receiv from Valparaiso treaty of peace and concluded between which the former small strip of territo Pacific, midway Pisagua, Chili, and commercial advanta:

INSURGENTS

Some Fierce Fightin Royal Tro

Tampa, Fla., May riving on the Plant say the condition of ing to the insurgent clared that Camagu by Gomez, and he, besieged Guaimara were about 2000 S and, so the passen fighting became disa ed, the regiment about 2500, arrived bans in the rear. ered from the first small force kept the forces of the city ed the new enemy. fierce, but the strate insurgents ruled their and yellow fever are