

OPENING DEBATE.

We confess we are unable to understand how any man with the ordinary feelings of humanity in his heart, in such a scene as presented itself to his vision yesterday in the House, in such a climate and with such natural beauty on every hand, could rise in his place and protest against spending a couple of days in Victoria. We are inclined to the belief that the leader of the opposition did not mean what he said; that his protest was merely formal and the utterance of one who feels himself in duty bound to oppose any movement that originates on the other side of the House. It was easy to see the heart of Mr. Martin was not in his work, or it may have been that the presence of an audience which was a source of great inspiration to others proved embarrassing to the leader of the new opposition. At all events, whatever the cause, Mr. Martin hardly spoke with his usual freedom, but before he sat down he let fly a characteristic shaft, which aroused the ire of the Provincial Secretary and at the same time was ominously indicative of lively times to come.

Mr. Eberts was in good form and impressed his audience with the conviction that he has forever shaken off the lethargy which was his chief characteristic in the by-gone times. Since the advent of Mr. Martin he has completely changed in disposition, apparently, and is now ready to talk on all subjects and at all times. It is generally believed that on him will fall the chief burden of defending the administration from the assaults of a small but exceedingly aggressive and able opposition.

But we had nearly forgotten the orator of the day, the inevitable, the clever and the eloquent junior member for Victoria. The theme was not an inspiring one to be sure, but the scene was, and when the orator, carried away by his emotions, imagined himself in the Halls of Justice, that the leader of the opposition was the learned counsel for the prosecution and the member for North Nanaimo was associated with him, and when Mr. McPhillips proceeded, as it were, to "wipe the floor" with these two gentlemen, "the scene was such as has never been witnessed in this fair city of Victoria." But Mr. McPhillips was called to earth again by the audience's very vigorously expressed appreciation of his statement that certain members were much given to wasting the time of the people; his plinions were broken and he was unable to soar again, which was fortunate, as orators have a disagreeable habit of becoming oblivious of the fact that "time flies."

There were other speakers, but they confined themselves strictly to the business in hand. The senior member for Victoria indulged in a few remarks, but they were merely interjectional, apparently thrown in for the encouragement of his gifted junior colleague. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Dickie made a good impression by the simple, direct language they employed in moving and seconding the nomination of the new Speaker, and it is not difficult to understand why they should be so popular in their constituencies.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.

We can assure the Colonist the Times knows perfectly well that the language of the Speech from the Throne is not the personal language of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Last night we said "it was hardly probable they (the Ministers) would allow the editor to draft the speech," which was a clear intimation that whatever we might think as to the origin of that document, we were perfectly well aware that it was not prepared by His Honor. We were trying in a delicate way to compliment the leader of the government on deciding to impose a tax on a product which is understood to be the chief source of his own income. There are people, and papers, too, perhaps, who (or which) would fly into rhapsodies over the action of Mr. Dunsmuir and tell him to his face what a philanthropic, self-sacrificing, noble, high-minded gentleman he is. We do not intend to go that far, because we understand that already there is a tax on the products of certain coal and other mines in this province, and we have never been able to see or hear any good reason why certain mines should be exempt. But all the same we propose to accord the Premier due credit for all the good works he has already performed and also for those which he proposes to carry out. The matter, we know, has nothing to do with the legislative programme further than that it has a direct influence on the public life of the Premier, but we desire to point out here that the miners of Nanaimo seem to be perfectly satisfied as to the bona fides of Mr. Dunsmuir's intentions with regard to the removal of the Chinese from the mines over which he has control, and we believe it will be one of the greatest strides forward the province of British Columbia has ever taken when he ultimately succeeds in securing the requisite number of white men to take their places. It has been contended by those who defend the employment of and the free admission of Chinamen into this province that they may leave the country themselves, but they cannot carry off with them the wealth which they have created. That is what they call abstract reasoning, and we confess it is difficult to meet it in any other way than by taking the reasoner first into a section of

country in which the Chinese predominate and then into another in which there are none but whites, and let him behold the concrete facts with his eyes. It is because since his entry into public life Mr. Dunsmuir has seen the force of the contentions of those who hold that the presence of the Chinese is inimical to the progress of British Columbia that we have contended that it was well that one with such large interests, and who on account of that had it in his power to do so much to advance the material affairs of the province, should take a leading part in the affairs of state.

The opening up of public roads, without which the proper development of the province must necessarily be comparatively slow, and the enactment of a license law in keeping with the sentiments and requirements of the age, are matters of by no means minor importance which are likely to occupy the attention of the legislators. These, we gather from the programme as laid down in the Speech, will be the chief subjects of discussion in a session which is intended to be a strictly business one. Of course the opposition will also have its programme, but that is not likely to delay the proceedings very much.

STATE OF THE FOREIGNERS.

The dispatch of Mr. Conger, the United States minister in Peking, to his government merely relieves the strain on the nerves of the people of the civilized world in one direction to add to the painful suspense in another. On the 18th the foreigners, with the exception of the German ambassador, were still alive but were battling for their lives with the Chinese hordes who were athirst for their blood, and it was impossible to say how long they would be able to hold out. This dispatch confirms the story of the messenger who asserted some time ago that unknown influences, which it is possible even the beleaguered people themselves were not aware of, were secretly protecting and supplying them with provisions and other necessities. After reading of the atrocities which are alleged to have been perpetrated in other parts of the Chinese empire, we are sure a fervent prayer will arise that heaven may grant that these surmises are correct and that there is yet a possibility that the worst has not happened in Peking. But it may be a very long time before relief shall arrive from the kindred of the imprisoned people, and their only hope of succor depends on the friendship of the more humane part of the Chinese population. There is a melancholy satisfaction in knowing that even in that swarming mass of heathendom, ignorance and prejudice, there is a saving remnant who are not dead to all feelings of humanity.

There is another thing which this dispatch makes clear, and that is, if it is worth while saying anything more on the subject, the utter unreliability of the news which is being sent out from China. Many different tales have been told about the destruction of the legations, nearly all of which have proved unreliable, and there is reason to believe that the same may be said of all the "news" that is being printed from day to day about the state of affairs in the East. We do not cast particular blame on any one. It is simply impossible to get reliable information; editors and readers must make the most of the rumors that are laid before them and try to form for themselves an intelligent surmise of what is occurring. The crisis may not be as grave as has been represented, or it may be worse. What is known as the government of China, or the people themselves, may have decided on a general uprising to drive forth forever the hated foreigner, or it may be merely a local insurrection in one or two of the provinces, the quelling of which will not severely try the military resources of the powers. It cannot be long until we shall know all these things definitely.

THE FISHERMEN'S STRIKE.

British Columbia has suffered greatly from strikes in the past, and it is a pity it is not possible to enact legislation which would remove forever the consequences of such disagreements as have occurred lately between the proprietors and operatives in our metalliferous mines. The losses which result from these misunderstandings affect not only the locality in which they occur, but the whole community. Now it is the Fraser river fishermen who refuse to accept the terms of the canners, and the province is threatened with a loss of one or two millions of dollars in consequence. We do not cast the blame for this on anyone. All we are aware of is that the fishermen refuse to work for less than 25 cents a fish, and that the canners contend they cannot pay that figure without a loss to themselves. There should be some governmental machinery for settling disputes of this kind and compelling the parties to accept the decision of an arbitration tribunal. The Dominion government have passed a measure intended to prevent just such deadlocks as we are confronted with on the Fraser river, but they say they cannot make the findings of the court obligatory on the disputants; that that is something with which the provincial authorities alone can deal. If that be the case we think the matter should be taken up at the present session of the House and a suitable law enacted. Whatever the conditions may have been in the past, there is strong competition now for the canners of the Fraser river, not only from the packers who use traps on the Sound, but from all the canneries on the

northern rivers and inlets. There may be a good deal in what they say about it being impossible for them to pay more than the sum they are at present offering. They would not be likely to object to the examination of their position by an independent board of conciliation, while we see no reason why the fishermen should not be satisfied to accept the findings of such a body.

SITUATION AT NOME.

The tale that is told by returning pilgrims from Cape Nome is indeed a terrible one. Possibly there may be an element of exaggeration in the story related in the Seattle Times and published in this paper last evening, for the Sound reporters love to make the most of an interesting tale of horror and some of the passengers may have been just a little anxious to justify their short stay in the North; but allowing for all exaggerations the conditions in the upper latitudes may safely be described as appalling. Disease in its most loathsome and deadly forms has taken possession of the camps, and death is ever present in the cabins and tents of the pestiferous region. There is no efficient means of checking the smallpox outbreak; there are no sanitary laws to be observed and fevers of all kinds march on their deadly course without impediment; the pain-stricken people are eager to get away, no matter where, from the terrible sights and to purer surroundings, and they are not particular as to the seaworthiness of the vessels to which they entrust their lives. Many adventurers appear to have reasoned the matter out for themselves and it was better to take the chance of death by drowning than to run the risk of going down before any one of the numerous forms of disease prevalent on the beach, and so a comparatively large number have quenched their thirst for gold in the icy waters of the North. With contagion unchecked and seizing upon its victims at will, it is not difficult to imagine that conditions must be steadily growing worse at Nome, and if it be true that some of the physicians who were among the first arrivals have fled in despair as from a plague and that there is not even the hand of one skilled in modern methods of alleviating suffering to relieve or the brain of one trained in the application of preventives to advise remedial measures, what must the conditions be at the present time? Looking back at the history of the rush to our own land of gold in the North, we can now without difficulty discern the truth about the administration of affairs there. The government acted promptly and the officers of the law went in with the gold-seekers. Disorders of all kinds were promptly suppressed, and if contagious disease made its appearance it too was dealt with in a way that insured its prompt disappearance. A form of justice may be meted out to offenders against certain fundamental principles of right in American camps, where every man is a law unto himself, but it is in case of a real crisis such as the one at Nome that the advantages of the British system of establishing courts of justice and maintaining an efficient force of police makes itself apparent. There have been many complaints from American miners and traders against the government of the Yukon, and especially against the royalty imposed on the output of the mines, but there has never been any fault found that we have heard of with the police and the administration of justice. The royalty may be too high—the administrators of the territory must be the proper judges as to that—but it is a good thing to have law and order properly maintained there, and that cannot be done without funds. The government and the majority of the people of Canada believe that the Yukon must pay for its own administration, and we think there is nothing unreasonable in their position.

If the British government decides to transport any great number of troops over the Canadian Pacific route to the Orient we shall certainly have lively times here very soon. Every passing year adds to the importance of the Pacific station, and the activity which is likely to be aroused by the war in China will probably be permanent. Great Britain is sure to emerge from the present struggle with larger possessions on the other side of the ocean, and this will mean a great growth in the commerce not of the Mother Country but also of Canada.

The stories of disease and death at Cape Nome are not deterring people from going up there to try their fortunes. A steamer left Seattle the other day with more than three hundred on board. Perhaps they had bought their tickets before the news arrived, or they may have made up their minds to go and they could not unmake them again. Some people are built that way.

It is understood the changes in the provincial government at the end of the present session are likely to be much more radical than is anticipated by some of the friends of the administration. It is even hinted that another convention may be held and that it will practically be entrusted with the task of selecting the entire cabinet.

Mrs. D. W. Gillis, of Calgary, is spending a few days with her cousin, Mrs. R. B. McMicking, 17 Kingston street.

Dewet's Force Repulsed

Little Engages the Boers Near Lindley-Fighting All Day Long.

Lord Roberts Reported to Have Attacked the Middleburg in Force.

Where President Kruger is Directing the Operations of the Boers.

(Associated Press.) London, July 20.—The following dispatch from Lord Roberts has been received: "Pretoria, July 19.—Methuen occupied Heekpoort to-day without opposition to speak of. "Jan Hamilton and Mahon continued their march along the country north of the Delagoa Bay railway. "Hunter is reconnoitering the positions occupied by the Free States between Bethlehem and Ficksburg."

The Late Lieut. Borden. Ottawa, July 20.—The following cable was received to-day, addressed to the Minister of Militia:

"Capetown, July 20.—F. W. Borden, Minister of Militia, Ottawa. "I deeply regret to inform you of the death of your son in action of Retrivier, 16th. Mrs. Borden and yourself have my sincerest sympathy at the sad loss of this gallant officer, whom I have twice had the honor to especially mention in dispatches to the commander-in-chief. (Signed) Hutton."

A cablegram received from Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to Lord Minto regarding the death of Lieut. Borden, says: "Express to Dr. Borden my deep sympathy with him at the loss of his gallant son. (Signed) Chamberlain."

Cape Parliament Opened. Capetown, July 20.—The Cape parliament opened to-day with an impressive scene. The speech of Sir Alfred Milner, governor of the colony, prophesied the close of the war and subsequently a united and prosperous South Africa.

Messrs. Saver, Merryman and Te-water, former members of the ministry, were not present.

V. C. Heroes. London, July 20.—Victoria Crosses have been gazetted for Capt. Meiklejohn and Sergeant-Major Robertson, both of the Gordon Highlanders, for bravery in the battle of Elandsfontein, and Lieut. Forewood, of the Fifth Dragoon Guards, for rescuing a fallen trooper at Ladysmith.

London, July 21.—A dispatch from Capetown, dated to-day, says Lord Roberts has attacked Middleburg in force and a big battle is in progress. President Kruger is with the burghers directing the defence.

Dispatch from Roberts. London, July 21.—The war office has received the following from Lord Roberts: "Pretoria, July 21.—Little, temporarily commanding the third brigade, reports that on July 19th he came in contact near Lindley with Dewet's force, which broke through Hunter's cordon. "The fighting lasted until dusk, when Dewet's force being repulsed, broke into two parties. Little's casualties were slight. He buried five Boers. "Hamilton and Mahon continued their eastward march yesterday and should join hands with Pole-Carew to-day, near Erstein Fabrik station. "A body of the enemy wrecked a train carrying sick between Krugersdorp and Potchefstroom on July 19th."

Grateful For Sympathy. Ottawa, July 21.—Hon. Dr. Borden desires, through the press, to say that he is deeply grateful to the many friends who sent messages of sympathy with Mrs. Borden and himself in their bereavement and conveys their sincere thanks to all.

FRENCH SQUADRON REVIEWED. Cherbourg, July 19.—President Loubet to-day went aboard the dispatch boat Elan and viewed in the harbor the combined Mediterranean and Channel squadrons, which have just completed their annual maneuvers. There were 42 war vessels lined up, 17 battleships, 5 armored cruisers, 8 cruisers, 6 torpedo boat destroyers, 6 torpedo boats and a floating battery. The review was witnessed by enormous crowds from a swarm of excursion steamers.

BEHRING SEA SEIZURES. (Associated Press.) North Sydney, C.B., July 21.—A private letter received by a ship-owner here, from Ottawa, stated positively that negotiations between the British, American and Russian governments regarding the seizure of vessels in the Behring sea by Russia eight years ago had been concluded, and the seizure would now be referred to arbitration.

LOOKING FOR LAND. Ottawa, July 19.—Four German farmers, representing a large German colony in Kentucky, are here to-day on their way to the Northwest to select homesteads. There are in the Kentucky colony some sixty families, all of whom will emigrate to the good land of the Canadian west if their representatives report favorably upon it.

FAIR WAGE RESOLUTION. (Special to the Times.) Ottawa, July 21.—D. J. O'Donohue, who has charge of the enforcement of the fair wage resolution on public works contracts, will leave for British Columbia to make arrangements for its being put in force on the public buildings at Rossland, Nelson and Kamloops.

ANOTHER ANDREE STORY.

Wrecked Balloon and Dead Men Reported to Have Been Found by Indians.

Winnipeg, July 19.—The report of a balloon having been wrecked and three men having lost their lives in Ungava, on the east coast of Hudson's Bay, and supposed to be the remains of the missing Andree expedition, has been brought here by George Renison, who has arrived at Port Arthur from Hudson's Bay. The story was carried by Indian hunters to Fort George, on the northeast coast of James Bay; thence by the same hand to York Factory, whence in turn it was carried to Moose Factory. Hero Mr. Renison was paying a visit to his brother, and two days after the arrival of the Indians, June 25th, he left Moose Factory and has just arrived at Port Arthur.

He says the Indians, when a considerable distance north of Fort George, came upon a sight unusual to them. Two men dead and one badly injured lay beside the wreck of a balloon. They gathered around the injured man, who evidently was in great agony. The Indians could not understand the language used by the man, but by the signs he questioned them to kill him, which they did on the spot where he lay. When they arrived at Fort George and again at Moose Factory they related the incident describing the balloon and car, a thing which they had never before seen.

A few days of intense heat have done much to break down the established traditions of England than would a dozen reform bills. Long established rules of state, social, business and political etiquette have been swept to the winds. In a land where a few years sunstroke was almost unknown,

The Offer Refused

Fraser River Fishermen Determined to Hold Out For Twenty-Five Cents.

Mr. McClure Orders Cannery Closed If No Settlement is Reached To-Day.

Serious Disturbance at Steveston, Where Two Special Officers Were Injured.

(Special to the Times.) Vancouver, July 21.—The fishermen's strike situation is hourly becoming more serious.

Mr. McClure, manager for Robert Ward & Co., this morning gave orders that if the strike was not settled by tonight the cannery should be closed at once and the white help paid off. Other canners are taking the same action to-day.

Fishermen have definitely refused the offer of the cannermen for 18 cents a fish for the season, and still hold out for 25 or nothing.

Bloodshed was narrowly averted at Steveston last night. There was a mob of 800 fishermen on the streets and early in the evening they were prepared for almost anything. Two boats went out from Phoenix cannery, accompanied by two tugs with half a dozen policemen on board. The strikers came out in eight boats, ten men in each, and captured one of the boats. The other boat was towed away by her consort tug. Then the strikers boarded the first tug and threw the policemen all around the deck. Two special officers were badly bruised in the scuffle. The strikers finally retired and carried the fishermen they had captured through the streets on a box. All sorts of threats were hurled at him. But for the aid of the police he would have been thrown into the river.

No arrests were attempted. A warrant is out now for the arrest of Frank Rogers, secretary of the Fishermen's Union.

BLIND IN A CHURCH. Lightning Struck the Edifice—Several Persons Injured.

(Associated Press.) Cleveland, Ohio, July 20.—At Chatfield, Ohio, yesterday, lightning struck a church in which a funeral was in progress. The edifice was packed to the doors and a panic ensued. The lightning rod ran down a pillar, Mrs. Simon Shade, who was leaning against it, was prostrated and may die. Twenty-five others were injured, two of them, Miss Dora Bowers and Geo. Booker, it is believed, fatally. Many women fainted. In the excitement the coffin fell from its supports to the floor.

KOLAPORE CUP. Won by the Mother Country—Canada Was Third.

London, July 20.—At the meeting of the Rifle Association at Bisley to-day, the Kolapore Cup, seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards, was won by the Mother Country with 753. Canada was third with 710.

In the second stage (10 shots at 500 and 15 shots at 600 yards) of the Queen's prize, the Canadians, Tink, Carruthers and Graham, were the winners of small money prizes.

ANOTHER FIRE AT NANAIMO. (Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, July 20.—There was a fire to-day on Nanaimo Indian reserve in G. Senia's immense dance house. The latter also had hundreds of dollars' worth of blankets, the accumulation of years, consumed. He was to give a grand potlatch soon. The Indians have requested Agent Roberts to hold an inquiry into the suspicious origin of the fire.

NOONDAY PRAYER. Toronto, July 19.—Combined committees, representing the foreign mission committees of all Protestant churches in Toronto, have sent out appeals to all the people to unite in noonday prayers on behalf of Europeans in distress in China.

The Hottest On Record

Heat in England Has Swept Away the Rules Regulating Form of Dress.

Straw Hats Now in Favor and Appear in the House of Commons.

Blind Hero Receives the Victoria Cross—How Capt. Towse Won Decoration.

(Associated Press.) London, July 21.—We are requested to state, said the Times, on Thursday, "that the tall hat and frock coat which had been recognized as the costume for Sandown Park on the occasion of a royal visit, may be dispensed with tomorrow and Saturday in favor of the straw hat and other costume more suitable to the present tropical weather."

A few days of intense heat have done much to break down the established traditions of England than would a dozen reform bills. Long established rules of state, social, business and political etiquette have been swept to the winds. In a land where a few years sunstroke was almost unknown,

The Hospitals Are Now Crowded with cases of that description. For the first time in the history of parliament one of the front bench members, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, has appeared at St. Stephen's wearing a straw hat, to the amazement of members of the House. Royalty, driven to desperation by the hottest weather England has ever known and obliged to appear at public functions, has completely discarded the usual forms of dress.

What with the Christian Endeavor thousands permeating London this week, the American invasion may be said to have reached its zenith. Scarcely any event connected with

American Enterprise has created such interest in England as the proceedings at Alexandra Park. Another class of visitors to London attracting attention are the men of the United States training ship Saratoga, who come up on leave from Southampton.

English harbors are dotted with American yachts. At Southampton there are the Josephine, Enterprise, Catharine and the Endymion. In view of the war in which the world is engaged a curious and almost pathetic interest attaches to the meeting this week of the parliamentary union for the promotion of international arbitration, Mr. Philip J. Stanhope, member of parliament for Burnley, president. Forty members of the British legislature expressed a willingness to attend the international

Arbitration Conference in the hall of the French Senate on July 21st. Between 400 and 500 members of various European parliaments will, on that occasion, be received by President Loubet. The English delegates include Lord Kinnaird and Sir Albert Rollitt.

One of the most touching incidents of the war in Africa occurred this week, when Captain Towse received the first Victoria Cross bestowed by the Queen for valor in the field. Capt. Towse earned the distinction by attempting to carry off Col. Downman, who had been wounded, under a hail of bullets. He was unable to do so, and lay beside him and kept off the Boers all night till help came. By that time Col. Downman was dead. Capt. Towse was

Blinded in Both Eyes by a bullet wound. On Wednesday Captain Towse was taken to Windsor and led into the royal presence by his wife, where he knelt at the feet of his sovereign, who was so much overcome at the sight of the blind hero that her aged hands could scarcely pin on the most prized of all British decorations. The Queen's few words of simple praise of his gallantry and thanks for his devotion were spoken so low as to be almost inaudible, and when Queen Victoria was led out there was scarcely a dry eye among the officials present.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, minister of war, referring in the House of Lords to Robert's telegram announcing the death of two young Canadians, Lieuts. Borden and Birch, in defending the British position in an engagement on July 16th, paid a glowing

Tribute to the Canadian Volunteers, saying: "When we think who writes that telegram and with what feelings he must have written it, I think we may say no more touching tribute could be paid to the memory of the brave young representatives of our colonial forces."

The Earl of Carrington compared the patriotism of the colonies to an Australian underground river that disappeared in the bowels of the earth, came up again and rushed onward in a mighty torrent to the ocean. It would always equally be preserved between the British and colonial troops.

After a keen election for the vacant associate membership in the Royal Academy, Mr. Frank Millet, the American artist, was defeated by Joseph Farquharson, the vote being 28 to 20.

It is announced that Prof. Charles Eliot Norton and the other literary executors of John Ruskin have determined not to issue a biography of the great art critic, considering that Mr. Ruskin's "Prætorita" and Collingwood's biography are sufficient. However, the executors will issue representative selections from Mr. Ruskin's diaries and letters.

EMPLOYEES TO BE VACCINATED. Montreal, July 19.—The health authorities have issued imperative orders to employers of labor to have all their employees vaccinated in order to prevent any spread of smallpox, there being at present ten or fifteen cases prevalent in the city.

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