The Colonist.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1898.

THE CITY CHARTER.

One of the recommendations of Thursday night's meeting was that a special charter should be obtained for Victoria. We favor this idea. The principle that general statutes should be passed and that all communities should be organized under them has some good features, because it secures uniformity of law. It is very popular in the Coast States, where it is thought to afford a protection against the putting up of legislative jobs. In practice it works quite the other way, for it leads to special legislation disguised as general law, and thus opens the door to all manner of abuses. So much mischief has resulted from this that many of the cities have adopted special charters, under a provision in all the state laws authorizing them to do so. In some of the eastern provinces all the towns and cities have their special acts of incorporation, it being found necessary in nearly every case to make some special provision owing to the peculiar circumstances surrounding the municipality.

We commend to the consideration of the Committee of Fifty the charter of the city of St. John, N.B., adopted we think about 1890. Our recollection is that this charter esablishes a permanent executive board under the control of the city council, and that the duty of the council is almost exclusively legislative. The relation between the commissioners and the council is something like that between the officials of a company and the board of directors, or between the executive council and the provincial legislature. A permanent executive board ensures continuity of policy; the vesting of the legislative power in the council secures popular control over the purse strings.

One advantage of having a special chater is that amendments can be readily and efficiently made. Each city has its own special needs, and to meet these special legislation is often needed. It seems unwise to amend the general municapal act simply for the purpose of meeting an exigency arising in some city. Moreover, as any one will admit who has watched the progress of amendments to the municipalities act, these are usually delayed until a late day in the session, and so many interests have to be taken into account that frequently amendments are killed principally because they are not properly understood. The people of Victoria ought to be quite able to decide upon what they need in the way of city government, and not be compelled to have their requirements considered as to how meeting them will affect some other part of the province. A charter framed along the lines indicated in the resolution adopted by the meeting would be likely to give general satisfaction.

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Some property owners believe that if they relinquish their control over the incurring of municipal indebtedness, a big burden of debt will be rolled up. Such observations as the Colonist has been able to make show this fear to be groundless. The mass of people are conservative—of course, we use the word in its dictionary sense, and not as it is employed politically. There is no idea more firmly grounded in the mind of the workingman of limited means than that in the end he pays all the taxes. He will tell you that the man, who lives upon the income from his property or investments, creates nothing of value and consequently cannot contribute anything to the maintenance of government, no matter how willing he may be. He will tell you that it is the man, who by his industry, enterprise or labor, produces or enables others to produce things that people want, who bears every burden of a financial nature that can be placed upon a community. We do not propose to enter into any discussion of the soundness of this view. All we wish to do is to point out that it exists and makes the class of men, so much feared by some property owners, the most conservative class of citizens. The man who pays five dollars taxes usually is more opposed to having it increased to $5.25 than the man who pays $100 is to an increase to $105. This conservatism of the majority is one of the safest things to count upon in municipal affairs. Ask at the waterworks office, and you will be told that the consumer, whose bill runs up into several dollars a month, objects to an increase much less strenuously than those who pay the minimum charges. The conservatism of the small taxpayer is one of the factors recognized in municipal politics everywhere. It would be easy to cite instances in which it has prevented the incurring of liabilities, but difficult to cite a single instance where this class of the population have availed themselves of their numerical power to put heavy burdens upon the property-owning minority.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

The Canadian Trade Review thinks the outlook is for a higher price for wheat than now prevails, and it bases its belief wholly upon the condition of the Russian crop, which it says is so unsatisfactory that the abolition of the export of that grain from Russia may be expected. It further says that the crop in other parts of the world, outside of America, is not sufficiently large to keep prices down. The European wheat harvests are, as a rule, abnormally low, and all the reserves on hand have been exhausted. The only available source of supply is America, for it will be yet three months or more before the crop of India and Argentine is ready. The Review, from its investigation of the whole subject, concludes that, while there is no likelihood of the high prices of last year being reached, wheat is certain to command a reasonably good figure all winter, with the prospect of a good rise immediately, if the export of Russian grain is prohibited.

KITCHENER'S WELCOME.

The thousands, who thronged the London streets to welcome Lord Kitchener of Khartoum on his return from smashing the Khalifa, were not actuated solely by curiosity to see a successful general about whom all the world was talking. Possibly few of them were animated by that feeling alone. The gathering was a demonstration of the sentiment which now stirs the British public as it has rarely been stirred in recent years. Never before were the subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty more conscious of the responsibilities of imperial dominion and more determined not to shirk them in the least particular. Down in the bottom of their hearts the Britons are a fighting race. A thick veneer of business overlies the foundation, but a deep enough scratch will lay it bare. The Kaiser scratched it with his Kruger telegram; France scratched it by its claim to Fashoda. When a man like Kitchener comes home from his victories, the veneered side of the national character is turned down for the time being and the old fighting Briton asserts himself.

Foreign governments will not fail to note the feeling to which the events on the Nile have given rise, and which found expression first when the Guards came home, and next in the welcome to the Sirdar. Such a people, with such an army, such a fleet, such inexhaustible resources in men and treasure, is not to be defied with impunity. Every man of the ten thousand British soldiers who followed Kitchener up the Nile, was a volunteer. Every man who serves with the colors ashore, or with the fleet at sea, is a volunteer. And every man, who helped to fill the London streets with shouts of welcome, is a possible volunteer whenever his country calls for his services. And there is no fighting stuff in the world equal to it. Dash and steadiness, subordination and individuality, these and all the other qualities which go to make up soldiers are found in every family of Britons. The men who stood in the squares all day at Waterloo and broke the prowess of Napoleon, as a rock breaks the billow, the men who followed Colin Campbell up the heights of Alma, the raw recruits who faced death in the Redan, the heroes of Balaclava, the column which marched through Lucknow's long street behind Havelock and Outram, the soldiers of the Chitral force, the men who smashed the Khalifa—these were not picked men. They were simply young fellows who took the "Queen's Shilling" because they did not happen at the time to see anything better to do, and their leaders were men who chose the profession of arms largely because no other field of occupation was available. Yet nothing seems able to withstand them. They can outclass the native of tropical wildernesses in fortitude and cunning; they can beat the mountaineer of the Himalayas at the game to which he was born; they can bear the fierce sun and the sand - storm of the desert like any Bedouin; they can stand shoulder to shoulder or back to back and meet death as unflinchingly as any martyr who ever perished at the stake. And the point that we want to get into our minds is that, if out of the surging thousands who welcomed Kitchener any proportion were selected at random and drilled for a few months, they would do all these things as well as the men who have in times past and on so many fields won imperishable renown for the flag of Britain. Irish, Scotch or English—it matters not what part of the United Kingdom he comes from, the British soldier may be counted on with certainty to do his duty as he sees it, and he generally sees it aright.

Like the marshalling of the Flying Squadron, the welcome to the hero of Omdurman will set the nations thinking. The best way to secure peace is to be ready for war. The world has had sufficient evidence that the British people have no intention of being imposed upon and that they know how to take their own part whenever and wherever it may be necessary.

AN ARBITRARY DISMISSAL.

Although there have been rumors afloat for some time that Police Magistrate Macrae was to be dismissed to make a place for some supporter of the local government, the feeling throughout the city yesterday, when it became known through the Colonist that he had been suspended and that his dismissal was likely to follow as a matter of course, was one of pained surprise. Mr. Macrae has made an excellent magistrate. He fully understands the requirements of such a position, which calls for the exercise of a good deal of practical common sense. Without saying that he took such a course, it may be mentioned that in all cities police magistrates are permitted to exercise a wide discretion, which some times cannot always be sustained by the strict letter of the law. The class of people and the nature of the offences with which such a judge has to deal are such that justice is as often better done by following a line of conduct, which in the higher courts would excite criticism. We make these observations not to excuse anything which Mr. Macrae may have done, but simply to emphasize the point that the incumbent of his position ought to be a man with experience in the ways of men and a judgment ripened by experience. These qualities Mr. Macrae possesses in no ordinary degree, and he has exhibited them so conspicuously that it can be said with perfect truth that he has given the fullest satisfaction in his responsible position.

The very arbitrary manner in which the Attorney-General has dealt with him excites much indignation. No one believes that the suspension is due to the alleged irregularity in the case of the sailor Liddy. This is simply the pretext not the reason for the suspension. It was determined some time ago that he should be dismissed, and all that has been wanting was something that would give a shadow of an excuse for executive interference. The very trivial nature of the charge shows that the Attorney-General was unable to discover a serious reason.

It will occur to many people that Mr. Martin is asserting a prerogative right to govern this province, which may easily become intolerable. The precedent which he has set is one that may be pushed to an extreme. If he is to sit in review upon the acts of police magistrates and constitute himself a court of appeal, which will rectify alleged wrongs by dismissing the magistrate, we have a new regime inaugurated that in the hands of a government, which declares through its chief organ, edited by one of the ministers, that the principles of the British constitution do not apply to British Columbia, may lead to no one knows what. If the government had decided to give Mr. Macrae's place to one of their friends, who demanded some reward for his political services, and had dismissed him without assigning any reason, the act would have had the merit of courage, however unjustifiable it may have been. But when we find Mr. Martin, who happens through an accident of politics to be dressed in a little brief authority, exercising the powers of a czar and court of appeal combined, usurping the latter function to exercise the employment of the former, which he dared not use without some pretext, it is time to direct public attention to the course which affairs are taking in this province, and to point out that if a man, who entertains such ideas of his powers, as Mr. Martin does, is allowed to continue as the virtual government of British Columbia, we may wake up some morning to learn something even more startling than the news of Mr. Macrae's suspension. Mr. Martin talks about submitting his action to his colleagues. This will be like the fashion in the theatres of a quarter of a century ago, when a farce always followed the tragedy. Mr. Martin consulting his colleagues about anything is a figure of speech. It is a sort of diplomatic expression. Mr. Martin will consult his colleagues in the same sense as he consulted his stenographer before writing his note of suspension to Mr. Macrae. He will tell them what he wants done and they will do it. Mr. Joseph Martin, late of Winnipeg, is the government of this country.

Apart altogether from the merits of this dismissal, the action of Mr. Martin is calculated to call forth the condemnation of the people of the province. It is difficult for people to realize that a man, who has been only two years in British Columbia, can upon his mere whim bring about the dismissal of a valuable public servant, and one who has been for a long time the incumbent of a responsible position. Who is safe under such circumstances? The work of dismissal, which has been lately going on, has been of a character, which will not meet with the approval of a people, who are lovers of fair play and decent treatment of public employees. In every case the persons sent adrift have either been the heads of families or women with others dependent upon them for support. They have been turned off with from no notice at all to a couple of weeks' warning. There has been no thought given as to what would become of them and those who look to them for support. Merciless and summary, the governmental executioners have wielded the axe sparing neither age nor sex. It has been by all means the most brutal and infamous spectacle ever presented in this province. The gentlemen who are associated with Mr. Martin temporarily in the government of this province have hitherto been reputed as not devoid of the principles of ordinary decency nor oblivious to the amenities upon which our social life exists. They have, however, in their treatment of public servants displayed a brutality, without precedent in the history of any part of Canada. British Columbia is deeply disgraced by conduct of such a nature. In regard to dismissals from the public departments, if these were felt to be necessary on the score of economy, at least the sufferers by the new policy ought to have been given sufficient time to make some little preparation for the change in their lives. Public employees belonging to the permanent staff have always considered their tenure of office dependent upon good behaviour. They have never thought it necessary to be on the lookout for other employment. Consequently when, without any notice or what practically is no notice at all, they are discharged, their condition is very serious in most cases. But what cares Mr. Joseph Martin for sentimental considerations of that kind? What care the men who seem to be mere puppets to register his decrees. We always supposed that Mr. Semlin would at least extend reasonably decent treatment to those over whom he temporarily and nominally has control, but he seems to have been either unwilling or unable to do so. Perhaps he dare not assert himself for fear Mr. Martin will tell him to go. In the case of Mr. Macrae, the course pursued exhibits a refinement of cruelty and an assumption of autocratic power, which we venture to say will startle the people of the province when it becomes generally known and understood.

It is freely stated that the reason of Mr. Macrae's dismissal is that he ventured to commit Senator Templeman and Hewitt Bostock, M.P., for trial on a charge of libel, and that his official scalp was demanded as a lesson to him and to all others not to lay unholy hands upon the apostles of the debased Gritism in vogue in British Columbia. We do not know what foundation there is for this statement, but it is true that immediately after the parties named were bound over, threats were freely made that in the event of a change of government, Mr. Macrae would be promptly dismissed.

We hope that when the legislature meets, the first vote will put an end to a regime that has been so iniquitously begun. We feel very confident that the voters of the province will discover a way, on the first opportunity, to show Mr. Martin and the men whom he controls that they do not value the saving of a few dollars higher than decent treatment of tried public servants, and that such arbitrary and unjust acts as the suspension of Police Magistrate Macrae cannot be done with impunity.

AN EXAMPLE OF INGRATITUDE.

The Province attempts to read the World out of the Liberal party. It is of no special interest to the Colonist how the Liberal party reconciles the opposing factions which divide it. That party is in a hopeless minority in British Columbia, and is likely to remain so for some time to come. It is because the party is in such a condition that we feel able to take a disinterested view of the conduct of the Province. We do not recall anything quite as base in politics. Mr. McLagan was a staunch Liberal before Mr. Hewitt Bostock, whose spokesman the Province is, was out of pinafores. He served his party well and faithfully in Ontario, and afterwards in Manitoba. For years he was the mainstay of Liberalism in this province. During the campaign of 1896 he did yeoman's service, through the World and otherwise, and the fact that Mr. Bostock has a seat in the House of Commons and any political standing whatever, is due to Mr. McLagan and the World more than to any other agency except his bank account. Messrs. Maxwell and Morrison, the two other Liberal Mainland members, owe their seats largely to Mr. McLagan and his newspaper. The Colonist has not been able to agree with the World in its views of federal questions, but it has ever recognized it as a fearless and able champion of its party's interests. When Mr. Bostock was coquetting with the Conservatives of Victoria for recognition, Mr. McLagan and the World were fighting the battle of the party out of which the Province would now drive him. The line of action which Mr. Bostock's paper has taken is of a piece with the policy which dominates the party, and will lead to its overthrow at the hands of an indignant electorate at the first opportunity. It is actuated by the pernicious spirit of bossism. We believe, however, that Mr. McLagan will be able to show his jealous and ungrateful enemy that he reckons without his host in his last move.

THE FIRE LOAN.

The Mayor has kindly furnished the Colonist with a statement of the several purposes to which it is proposed to put the money that will be borrowed under the by-law submitted to the citizens for adoption on Thursday next. They are as follows:

New engine	$6,000
New chemical	4,000
Lot and fire hall East End	4,000
Two teams and harness	900
1,000 feet hose	1,000
20 hydrants	800
10 alarm boxes	1,000
Wharf at foot Yates St.	1,000
Furniture and gongs	500
Fire hall, Victoria West	1,000
Total	$20,200

The only item in this list that requires explanation is that for the wharf at the foot of Yates street. The object of this expenditure is to provide a means whereby, in case of fire on the water front, an engine can get down so as to take water from the harbor. It is hardly necessary to say that such an arrangement would be highly desirable.

It is to be hoped that there will be no hesitation on the part of the voters in adopting this by-law. The sum asked is not large. The chief engineer of the department says that the improvements mentioned are absolutely necessary to give the city reasonably good protection against fire. The observation of every one must tell him that additional protection is needed.

There is a faint hope, says the Nelson Miner, that the Semlin government will have a majority of one. Will the Miner kindly tell us how it divides a house of thirty-eight members so that one party can have a majority of one?

The Rossland Leader sizes up the federal situation thus: If Laurier brings on a general election now, he may be beaten; if he holds on until the general election comes round in due course of time, he must be beaten.

Africa is to be under British control from Alexandria to Zanzibar, and from the Cape to Lake Tanganyika. If we read the recent correspondence between the French and British governments anent Fashoda, it is the intention of the latter to assert a right to control a strip of territory from the Gulf of Guinea to the Red Sea. That is to say, a great cross of St. George will be laid upon the map of Africa, and be painted red.

It cost the Sultan about $3,000,000 to entertain the Kaiser, and there is a good deal of growling in official quarters because this outlay means a stand-off of salaries for an indefinite period.

According to Mr. G. A. Wade, who writes for Pearson's Magazine, there have been 287 famous men produced in the United Kingdom in the last 198 years. Of these, England has produced 179, Scotland 50, Ireland 51, and Wales 7. According to these figures, Scotland has had the most proportionately to population, Ireland next, England next, and Wales last of all. The value of such statistics as these is much diminished by the fact that there is no infallible test for fame. Thus Mr. Wade, after enumerating statesmen, orators, literary men, artists, lawyers, scientists, merchants, explorers, soldiers, sailors and clergymen, has a miscellaneous class embracing six natives of England and none from the other parts of the kingdom. By the way, if you were asked to name from memory the fifty greatest men of the British race, who would they be? Send your list to the Colonist.

The first monarch to kiss the Pope is said to have been Oscar of Sweden. When he was presented to the Pontiff, the latter stepped forward to meet him and extended his hand. Under such circumstances it is de rigeur for a Catholic prince to kneel and kiss the outstretched hand. All Protestant princes before Oscar have taken the Pope's hand in theirs and bowed very low. Oscar gave His Holiness a hearty handshake, and to the amazement of those around, threw his arms around the fragile form before him and kissed the Pope thrice upon the cheek. The Pope is said to have been greatly pleased at the innovation, and to have been much attracted to the stalwart Norse king. Needless to say, when the Kaiser was presented, he imitated the example of his brother of Sweden. Wilhelm does not bow gracefully to anything or anybody.

The people of Victoria have a rare opportunity to-day to hear superb music. In the afternoon the wonderful child pianiste, Paloma Schramm, will give a recital in the Institute hall and in the evening Bennett's Band will play in the Victoria theatre. It is not the custom of the Colonist to commend entertainments editorially to its readers; but the opportunities of hearing first class music in the city are so rare that it is only right from an educational point of view to direct special attention to entertainments of exceptional merit.

Some people object that Victoria can never be an important city because it is on an island. New York is a tolerably large and prosperous town, yet, as Erastus Wiman has been telling the people there, it is on an island, and everything that goes in or comes out must be transshipped. "New York," says Mr. Wiman, "was never meant by nature to be a railway terminus." Yet all railways terminate in New York, as all roads lead to Rome. This shows how nature sometimes miscalculates.

The News-Advertiser devotes a good deal of space to a defence of the government against some alleged attacks on account of the reduction of the pay of men who work on the roads from $2.50 to $2 a day. A somewhat diligent perusal of the opposition press has not led us to observe any such assault upon Mr. Semlin and his colleagues, as our contemporary talks about. Its article is probably another case which shows that "a guilty conscience needs no accuser."

E. Stone Wiggins has broken out again. The fact that the Conservative government permitted E. Stone Wiggins to hang on to the skirts of the civil service, while startling old women all the world over by his weather prophecies, almost counterbalances the construction of the Canadian Pacific. He should have been abolished by act of parliament.

Silver has dropped a quarter of a cent, yet the price is at a much higher figure than it has reached for a long time. This is good for Slocan.

The Province comments approvingly upon the action of the French government in resigning as soon as a vote of want of confidence was passed. Mr. Semlin will please take notice of what is expected of him.

It is reported in London that the Duke of York intends to make a visit to Canada next year, in which event he will probably take a trip through the United States.

The news of the despatch of a cruiser from Esquimalt to Tahiti is not necessarily cause for excitement, the movement being probably only precautionary and in the nature of an object lesson. It is in line with the despatch a few days ago of warships from the Halifax station to the French West Indies; and in the absence of cable advices as to fresh complications is no indication that the situation is more critical than had been supposed.

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AN INTERESTING FIND.

Recently there has been discovered a tablet giving an account of the deluge. It is fragmentary, but there is enough of it to show that it is upwards of 4,000 years old, and that it is the copy of an older record. This is the third version of this event that has been preserved, the others being the Hebraic account as given in the Book of Genesis, and the Babylonian tablet. They agree in all essential features, such differences as exist being those that would likely occur where different writers undertake to give an account of an ancient tradition. We see precisely similar differences in the legends preserved by the aboriginal tribes of America. They do not cast doubt upon the reality of the event described, any more than the variations in the testimony given in a court of justice, as to how an accident occurred, are ground for believing that it did not occur at all.

It is not claimed that the writer of either of the versions of the deluge legend was an eye-witness of it. It is not claimed that either of them lived within a thousand years or more of the catastrophe which they describe. What they told they learned from hearsay. They do not corroborate each other as to the happening of the event. What they establish is that at a period at least forty centuries ago the people, who then lived in Eastern Asia, had a tradition of a deluge which was regarded as universal, and from which only a very small portion of the human family escaped. They also agree that the tradition attributed the escape of anyone to the direct interposition of the Deity. Just here it may be interesting to mention that the name by which the Deity is called in a legend is of no particular moment. It may be Jehovah, or Elohim, or Aa, or something else. The great point of interest is that all accounts of the deluge agree as to the intervention of a supreme power. Thus we have established two things—the accepted belief of people who lived forty centuries ago that at some previous date in the history of the world there was a terribly destructive deluge, and that there is an over-ruling divinity without whose interposition the whole human race would have become extinct. This disposes of that class of criticism, which objects to the Old Testament, because, among other things, it contains the deluge story, which they claim was an invention of some comparatively modern Jewish writer.

Who were the people who preserved this record and this belief? The question cannot be answered with any degree of definiteness. The tablet that has lately been discovered appears to have been written by some historian of Chaldea, from which country Abraham emigrated. We know very little about the inhabitants of Chaldea, except that they had made great progress in commerce and architecture more than twenty centuries before Christ. They worshipped the Moon-god, who has been identified with Aa, the deity who saved man from destruction, according to the Chaldean tablet. From out of this great and prosperous people Abraham came, and while he brought with him the traditions preserved orally and by inscriptions, he also gave his own explanation of them. He was the first historic teacher of monotheism. He was doubtless a great thinker. He was doubtless touched with the finger of inspiration. We are not without modern instances of men who have deserted home and all the advantages of high civilization and culture, in order to set up the worship of God in a purer form that it could be practiced in an atmosphere of licentiousness.

When we take this view of the case, we will read the story of the deluge as told in Genesis with a new interest. We see now that it is a version of an event, which the most ancient civilized race, of whom we have any knowledge, believed to have occurred substantially as it is told therein, but that the explanation of it as given by the Hebrew writers is that accepted by Abraham when animated by a belief in the existence of one deity, and only one.

To disbelieve in the occurrence of a catastrophe, which was in the nature of a deluge, is to confess to great ignorance. Upon no subject that can be named is there greater unanimity of tradition. It is senseless to suggest, as some do, that the traditions are all simply reproductions of the Hebraic story. This event has been the controlling factor in the religious life of the world ever since it happened. It was of terrific magnitude. It is explicable only by assigning as a cause some tremendous astronomical event. Possibly the universal legend, that those who were saved owed their salvation to divine interposition, may be explained by supposing that this event was foreseen by some wise men, who took precautions which enabled them to escape its fury. Of this we may feel certain: There was a deluge, and it was the greatest event that has happened within the memory of man.

We congratulate Port Angeles upon the event which marked yesterday, and hope that the enterprise that has been so auspiciously begun may speedily be carried to a successful conclusion. Victoria has a very great interest in the establishment of railway connection between Port Angeles and the continental lines. That city is the nearest point on the continent to our own. Many reasons can be given why capitalists should feel disposed to undertake the construction of such a line. With a very fine harbor nearer the ocean than any other in these waters, and nearly a hundred miles nearer than Seattle, Port Angeles with railway connection ought to become a very important seaport. So mote it be.

FLEET ON THE MOVE.

H. M. S. Amphion Sails South This Morning Her Reported Destination Being Tahiti.

Other Vessels Are Likely Also to Proceed to the French Possessions.

While the latest reports from London as to the crisis with France over the Fashoda trouble are of a pacific nature, the news of the war preparations in England and the sailing of the North Atlantic squadron for the French West Indies proves that Great Britain is in any event prepared for eventualities. Here on the Pacific station it is understood, from the movements of the last day or two of the ships of the Esquimalt fleet, that there was something in the wind, and this was borne out last night by the news that H. M. S. Amphion, which has just come out of dock, has already been fully provisioned and coaled, and this morning at 9 o'clock sails south, ostensibly for the purpose of relieving her sister ships, the Phaeton, now at Coquimbo. At the same time, it is understood that both the Amphion and Phaeton have in reality been ordered to the Society Islands, the important group owned by France in the South Seas, and perhaps better known as Tahiti, the name of the principal island of that group. The flagship arrived in Esquimalt yesterday morning from Comox, and apparently there must have been some fresh orders received on Friday night, for signals were flashed from Esquimalt for the purpose of attracting her attention and getting her to make port during the night, instead of standing off till morning. However, she was too far out to catch the signals. The Imperieuse begins coaling this morning, and will be all in readiness to sail on Thursday, presumably in the same direction as the Amphion. The Leander has been recalled from Comox. All these preparations do not necessarily need to cause alarm, for no doubt it is just for the purpose of getting ready in case of accident, when they would be very handy to have around the French possessions.

The Society islands are by no means an unimportant group, for they consist of quite a bunch of islands, with Tahiti as the head, with a population of some 12,000 and an area of 412 square miles. The principal exports are mother of pearl, copra, cotton and vanilla, and a good deal of attention is given also to coffee growing. The export and import trade amounts to somewhere between two and three million dollars a year.

DIED.

WHITMORE.—On October 25th, at Banff, N.W.T., of typhoid fever, Whitmore, Thomas Scott, late of Ganges Harbor, Salt Spring Island.

DISASTERS ON THE LAKES.

Steamer "Doty" Believed to Have Gone Down With All Hands—The St. Peter Victims.

Cleveland, O., Oct. 28.—The steamer L. R. Doty, which it is believed was lost during the recent great storm on Lake Michigan, was owned by the Cuyahoga Transit Company of this city. She carried a crew of sixteen men.

A telegram was received at the office of the company here to-day from its Chicago representatives stating that there was strong indications that the Doty had been lost with all hands. The Doty was a wooden steamer and was built at West Bay City, Mich., in 1893. Her capacity was 1,100 net tons. She was 291 feet long and 41 fet beam. Her insurance value was $190,000.

Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 28.—By the sinking of the schooner St. Peter in Lake Ontario off Sodus Point, reported yesterday, six lives were lost, including Mrs. John Griffin, wife of the captain, also the mate, John McCrate, of Kingston, a seaman named Bosworth, aged 23 years, and three Swedes, who shipped at Oswego a few days ago, and whose names were unknown.

Captain Griffin, the only survivor, is now at Charlotte, where he told the story of the disaster. He is a part owner. The Captain has two children living at Toledo. The St. Peter left Oswego with coal for a man named Schenck, of Toledo.

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Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD
Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE
is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

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