

NAVAL POLIOY.

Appropos of the decision of the Admiralty to retain Esquimaux at its present naval strength, and not to increase it to its rating as a Rear-Admiral's command, the statement of a gentleman from one of the naval stations in England, is interesting as bearing out our conjectures of a few days since, and disproving the claim that it has the faintest connection with the attitude of the Premier of Canada to Imperial defence. This gentleman states that the station where he resides is being similarly reduced, and that a protest was taken, by the Naval League and other public bodies, to London. The reply they received was to the effect that the policy of the Admiralty now was to lessen the number of guardships, and pay more attention to flying squadrons, and that this change naturally affected each port where a squadron had been stationed. This is exactly what we said we believed to be the fact.

It is gratifying to know that in spite of the nominal reduction of the station that at the present time it is really more efficient than for some time past. There are more sailors here, and ships like H. M. S. Plover are much superior and more modern than many previous acquisitions to Admiral Bickford's command.

A PAN-BRITANNIC COMPANY.

The gratifying feature of the visit of the delegates of the Chambers of Commerce was its Pan-Britannic character. This developed perhaps more during Thursday's excursion than previously, because of the social aspect of the occasion. Victorians have never been accused of lack of hospitality, yet sometimes it must be admitted that cordiality has failed a little because of the feeling that the guests were really allies and to some extent at least unsympathetic with our form of government. After all is said and done, sentiment plays the most important part in our likes and dislikes, and no one resents more than the Briton a scarcely concealed contempt for all the traditions which he holds dear.

Of course in the relations of our people to our last visitors this feeling was entirely absent. The delegates not only shared our national aspirations, and sympathized with our racial views, but they found among those who were temporarily playing the hosts, men and women whose birthplaces were the same as their own. Time and time again during yesterday an introduction would be followed by an exclamation of glad surprise as visitor and host would discover that they hailed from the same town or district in the old land. The Yorkshire tykes were in evidence everywhere, and one of the comical features of the trip was the sight of a Bideford man rushing frantically through the ship as the Princess was steaming under slow bell to the wharf in Vancouver seeking another man from Devon, whom he had just learned was aboard.

The presence of men from all parts of the world in a gathering of this kind was another instructive, almost inspiring sight. Men from India, from Queensland, from Montreal, from Johannesburg, gathered with delegates from London and other English towns in an investigation of trade conditions on the very future of the Canadian West. And every man of them lifted his hat to the flag that floats over that fringe, for it is the one he calls his own.

The little gathering in the saloon of the Princess Victoria Thursday and the speeches made there, were also strongly illustrative of the Pan-Britannic nature of the occasion and company. The Canucks present seem chiefly concerned after a desire that their country should be better known and appreciated, at home, with a fear that the delegates would suppose that we wished to disassociate ourselves from the old land. They were told often enough to attest the unanimity of the sentiment that when Canada wants to quit the company of the Old Country it will not be to cast in her lot with any other nation, but only to start housekeeping on her own account. They were also assured that no independent nationhood was in contemplation at the present time, nor ever would be until the people at the heart of the Empire indicated that they no longer desired to be associated with us. The good British "hear, hears," which punctuated these remarks showed how the sentiment was appreciated.

RECIPROCITY.

Engene N. Fossa, of Boston, who is conducting the agitation in favor of reciprocity with Canada in the New England states, is just now in Detroit, and admits that the reassembling of the joint high commission will be instrumental in bringing the question of reciprocity to the front. His further remarks to which due prominence is given by the Associated Press in its dispatches to-day, are to the effect that neither the government of Canada, nor a sane majority of the people, will be "led astray" by the Chamberlain proposal.

Mr. Fossa is scarcely displaying the astuteness in his campaign which is usually attributed to his countrymen. There is an old and reliable axiom in business and in politics, to the effect that it is good policy as a rule to do the thing that your rival does not want you to do. Canadians will be inclined to look with more favor on the Chamberlain plan, if they are convinced that it is distasteful to our cousins, and will

accelerate the agitation among them in favor of reciprocity with Canada.

It begins to look as though Uncle Sam had been playing political poker in his relations with the Dominion. As long as Canadian public men sought to cultivate closer relationship with him, they were treated with scant courtesy and practically informed that they could expect nothing in return for the concessions we might make, unless we withdrew from our "odious" alliance with Britain. To the credit of Canadian public men the both parties, he it said that the suggestion was spurned.

Now since Sir Wilfrid Laurier's declaration that "there will be no more delegations to Ottawa" our cousins seem to have discovered that the bluff is called, and that unless they take immediate steps to undo the mischief a system of preferential tariffs within the party will be adopted which will put reciprocity with the United States outside the pale of possibility. Mr. Fossa seems hopeful that even then it will not be too late, as he declares that whether or not Mr. Chamberlain succeeds in converting his countrymen to this scheme, it is just as important that the United States should make a reciprocity treaty with Canada as it was before.

JOURNALISTS' INVITATIONS.

Periodically in this city, in connection with public and semi-public functions, difficulties arise between those in charge and the newspaper fraternity. Usually the trouble is due entirely to a misunderstanding, but more or less irritation always follows—irritation which we think could be avoided if a little more attention were given the matter. A case has arisen this week again, which makes the subject timely.

We are stating that is the practice in Eastern Canada, and in the Old Land, when we say that an invitation to the editor of a paper to attend any function is extended to him as the representative of a profession, or on purely social grounds. In either case he does not concern himself with seeing that the matter is "covered" in the news columns of the paper with which he is connected, for that is something quite outside his duties. If an invitation comes only to the owner, the editor, or the manager of a newspaper, the immediate conclusion is formed is that the occasion is one for which no prominence is desired by those promoting it. The recipient of the invitation, if he attends, does so in exactly the same way as he does a private dinner party given by one of his friends, who would resent the publication of even the names of the guests.

But where the occasion is intended to have prominence in the news columns of the paper, as is the case where a banquet is tendered a public man, at which an important declaration may be made, or in numerous other cases which might be cited, an invitation is extended to a representative of the paper as well. In the Old Country this goes to the chief reporter, and in Canada to the city editor, who occupy similar positions, both being in charge of the local room. They assign the reporter whom they desire to attend, and he does so as a guest, but he combines with it the discharge of his duties as a newspaper man. He might very much prefer to forego the task, but he has no choice, and attends largely as a matter of business. In this way the public gets its report of what takes place.

It is this failure to invite a representative of the paper which has caused trouble in the past. A notable instance was on the occasion of the banquet to Sir Edmund Barton in this city. There was absolutely no provision for the reporters of the Colonist and Times, and had they not taken the matter up in good nature and in a spirit of forbearance, there would have been no report of one of the most important speeches Sir Edmund delivered in Canada. If the papers were not always disposed to take that attitude they can scarcely be blamed.

MAYOR KEARY'S CANDIDATURE.

The change in the date of the provincial elections may have been made by the government purely on public grounds, as the Premier declares, but there have been several incidents which have followed the announcement which go to show that the Premier, at any rate had a few ulterior motives, as well as his bleeding country, to serve.

One of the incidents in question has its origin in New Westminster, the residence of the First Minister. A howl of dismay went up from the populace of the Royal City when they found that polling day, under the latest order-in-council, would take place during the progress of their fair, and on the very day on which the lacrosse match will be held. They contend, with much force, that the clashing of the dates will be fatal to the success of the exhibition, which in face of great discouragement they have brought to its present proportions and efficiency.

Now no one will presume to say that Hon. McMeBride did not know the date of the fair. To a Westminster man the date of "the show" is as familiar as that of his own birth, for it is the red letter occasion in the yearly history of the place. When he selected the date he did, the Premier therefore must have had some other object in view, more desirable of attainment than the success of the fair.

What that object was is made reason-

ably plain by an editorial in the Columbian newspaper in which it applies its bludgeon with frenzied rage to Mayor Keary. From between the shrieks of the editorial it is gathered that Mayor Keary, who in addition to being chief magistrate of the Fraser river metropolis, is also the manager and almost creator of the fair, has been destined for Liberal nomination in that city. His nomination was very properly delayed until after the exhibition was over, because the party leaders felt that it would be unwise to have the manager of the exhibition associated with a political fight, when all his energies were required for the show, and when his nomination might cause friction.

To bring on the elections at the very time the fair was in progress was therefore a rather clever tactical move, had it been effectual in shutting Mr. Keary out of politics, because it is admitted that with Mr. Keary in the field Mr. Gifford's chances of election are very unpromising. Mr. McBride evidently was willing to imperil the success of the institution, for which he has always professed a willingness to risk everything but his life, in order to steal a party advantage.

But he reckoned without his host, hence the dismal sequel to the whole affair. After a brief period, spent in relieving his tormented feelings, according to the Columbian, Mayor Keary, to the dismay of his opponents agreed to accept the nomination. A convention was at once called, and he was promptly placed in the field.

Now the Premier has complex troubles on his hands—troubles which whatever their effect on himself will convince the public that he is a mere tyro in the political game. He has levied a crushing blow at the exhibition, he has forced a sure winner into the field, and he has lost forever any right to the claim that he is the special custodian of the interests of the people of New Westminster.

The Columbian now, characteristically enough, accuses Mayor Keary of inviting disaster to the fair "in order that a cause of complaint against the McBride government may be created where none now exists." In view of all the circumstances this claim is exquisitely dull. Equally amusing is the complaint that Mayor Keary has been regarded as a Conservative in the past, and hence should not have accepted a Liberal nomination. It forgets that Mr. Gifford, who is a Liberal, was appropriated by the McBride element, and is standing as their candidate. Altogether the incident contains nothing but wormwood for the supporters of the government.

British military critics are deploring the withdrawal of Canadians from commissions to which they were appointed during the late war, and frankly admit that in this way excellent material is being lost to the country. The London Globe ascribes the action of the colonials to the inadequacy of the pay and the great cost of living which obtains among the commissioned ranks. This doubtless has some influence, but we believe a greater discouragement to Canadians entering the army is found as the Royal commission to investigate the war reported, in the tendency to hold colonials in contempt. Fortunately this is disappearing gradually, but it is still sufficiently in evidence to be a deterrent to Canadians.

It is a matter of lively satisfaction to the business community here to find that when good vessels are wanted for this coast, they can be built at our local yards. The launching of the Princess Beatrice marks a distinctly forward step in the ship building industry in British Columbia, it being the most pretentious vessel of its class constructed on this coast north of San Francisco. The enterprise of Messrs. Bullen in providing these facilities is deserving of both praise and patronage from the public.

The Premier states that until the news was announced on the night of the 5th no one outside of the executive knew of the contemplated change in the date of the election. John Howse says he knew all about it on the morning of the 4th. Who is running this thing anyway?

A terrible discovery has been made. In Ontario the Liberal party has gone in the limbs; in New Brunswick its back is broken; and throughout the Dominion its heart is out. It is some satisfaction to know that Conservative lungs are still in prime shape.

All classes in Nanaimo recognize in Mr. Sheppard, the Liberal-Labor candidate, an almost certain winner in the forthcoming campaign. It is quite possible that the Conservatives will withdraw their nominees and join forces with the Liberals to defeat the Socialists.

Still they come. One hundred and sixty members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be here toward the end of the present month. Why not get that high fence down before their arrival?

"I BELIEVE IT TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR THE STOMACH AND NERVES IN THE MARKET," is what Annie Patterson of Sackville, N. B., says of South American Nerve, for, she says, La Grippe and the complications which followed it left her next to dead when she was now kept extricatingly from Nervous Shattering. It cured her. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—100.

SOCIALIST PREVARICATORS.

To the Editor:—My attention has been drawn to an interview in the Colonist of the 9th inst. with "local Socialists" in regard to the disgraceful conduct of members of the party at the Vancouver Labor Day meeting. Of course, they repudiate all responsibility for the disturbance and pass the blame over to the Labor Party, and a gang of hoodlums who got into the hall. "Local Socialists" know full well who caused the disturbance, and when they attribute it to "hoodlums" they are perfectly correct, but these same "hoodlums" are shining lights in the Socialist party, and their conduct is a disgrace to the party. On Monday last will only tend to hasten the demise of the illegitimate organization to which they belong. There was a mob of the genuine brand of revolutionaries, class-conscious, half-breed Socialists specially organized to attend the meeting and prevent Mr. Smith from speaking. That fact was apparent to anyone not blinded by prejudice. He had not spoken three minutes before a mob of hoodlums and vile epithets began to pour in upon him, first from one quarter of the hall, then from another, until he was subjected to further insult and left the meeting.

There has been considerable speculation of late regarding the admiralty's object in continuing Esquimaux at its present naval strength instead of increasing it to a rear-admiral's command. Investigation, however, shows that, as the Times pointed out the other day, the admiralty is adopting the policy of devoting more attention to flying squadrons. At the same time the land defences are being strengthened, as is plainly apparent by the operations at Esquimaux at the present time. In this connection a well-known brick-maker of the city told a Times representative some time ago that more bricks were being constantly dispatched to the naval station than to the entire city.

The Times the other day announced that telegraphic communication was to be opened between Esquimaux and a signal station to be erected at Albert Head. This will involve the establishment of a battery at the point, and it is expected that work along this line will be commenced before very long. The activity at Signal Hill tells its own story, while there is every reason to believe that work on the new magazine, which has been referred to in these columns, will be inaugurated shortly.

These changes are at Esquimaux and the direct vicinity. According to report, which seems to be authenticated by the course of affairs, there is to be a marked increase in the forces at Work Point. It has been freely rumored among the military men there that one or two new barracks blocks will be erected in the near future for the accommodation of the additional troops which it is intended to station at that place. It has been stated that the Imperial authorities contemplate strengthening the artillery arm at Work Point, and this seems to be borne out by the appointment of Major Gurdon, of the Royal Artillery, to the command of the lands forces in succession to Lieut.-Col. Grant, R.E. The latter is an officer of the engineers, and at the time of his appointment the work on the forts and other operations requiring the services of this branch made Work Point essentially an engineering station. The appointment of Major Gurdon to the command, and of a pretty well-founded report of the early construction of substantial additional accommodation lends color to the belief that the war office does not consider the present artillery strength at all adequate, and is about to send out a considerable reinforcement.

It was not very long ago when the latest additions to the Work Point accommodation were erected in the shape of several barracks huts, which were described in the Times during their erection. As the advantages of Esquimaux from a strategic standpoint increase the place will be still further strengthened, and there is little fear therefore that the Imperial authorities are failing to recognize its importance.

A GOOD EXHIBIT.

Department of Mines Is Furnishing Splendid Collection of Specimens for Fair.

The mineral exhibit at the coming exhibition promises to be an attractive feature of it. Frank I. Clark, secretary of the local branch of the Provincial Mining Association, is giving a great deal of attention to the work. The department of mines is co-operating and is rendering every facility for making that section of the show a success.

A show case specially adapted for such a purpose is now ready to be placed in position at the building. This case is sufficient to accommodate a very large number of specimens. It has been re-arranged by the department to serve the purpose intended. It is pyramidal in shape, so that the minerals will show to excellent advantage.

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Beach Cottage, 112 Dallas road, Sept. 11th, 1903.

RUMORS OF COMBINE.

Little Importance Attached to Reports of Formation of European Steel Trust.

London, Sept. 12.—Enquiry made at the European offices of the United States Steel Corporation to-day revealed the fact that no serious importance is attached to the statement made by the Brussels correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph that negotiations are in progress for a combination of steel manufacturers of the large steel works in Germany, Belgium and France for the formation of an European steel corporation. The Associated Press is informed that so far as the European steel manufacturers are concerned there is no nearer a combination than when the idea was first mooted about a year ago. It is pointed out, however, that the prices of steel on the continent are now kept extricatingly low, which would facilitate the efforts to effect a combine, though it is doubted whether the vastly differing interests and methods of the various countries concerned could ever be united under one organization.

ARTILLERY ARM TO BE STRENGTHENED

REPORTED INCREASE IN THE LAND FORCES

Appointment of Major Gurdon to Command at Work Point Is Fraught With Significance.

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MILITARY NEWS.

Cadets of Kingston College to Be Second Lieutenants—About No. 83 Co., R. G. A.

The following is from the London Gazette, dated war office, 14th August, 1903:

"The undermentioned gentlemen cadets from the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada, to be second lieutenants: Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, Maurice Vernon Plummer, 24th June; Royal Engineers, William Grant Tyrrell, 24th June; Army Service Corps, Guy Launsberry Peterson, 15th August; unattached list, with a view to his appointment to the Indian army, Alistair Flagg, 12th August."

Captain N. A. W. Scott, Plymouth division, Royal Marine Light Infantry, has been appointed professor of military topography, infantry drill and gymnastics, at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada.

No. 83 Company, R. G. A., stationed at Esquimaux, B. C., will leave there on the 5th December for Hongkong. It will be replaced at Esquimaux by No. 58 Company, R. G. A., from Halifax, N. S.

Major E. H. Hills, C. M. G., R. E., deputy assistant quartermaster-general, intelligence division, at the war office, has been appointed to examine the military surveys in Canada, with a view to having them brought up to date.

COURTS OF REVISION.

Under Provisions of Assessment Act Fixed For Various Districts.

A court of Revision and Appeal under the provisions of the Assessment Act will be held:

Albion assessment district at Alberni, in the court house, on the 21st October, at eleven a. m.

Comox assessment district at Cumberland, in the court house, on the 28th October, 1903, at two p. m.

Salt Spring island assessment district at Stevens's hotel, Salt Spring island, on the 4th November, 1903, at two p. m.

Pender island, Galiano island and Mayne island assessment districts, at the assessor's office, Mayne island, on the 10th day of November, 1903, at two p. m.

Cowichan assessment district at Duncan, in the court house, on the 18th November, 1903.

South Nanaimo assessment district, at Ladysmith, in the court house, on the 25th November, 1903, at one p. m.

North Nanaimo assessment district, at Nanaimo, in the court house, on the 26th November, 1903, at two p. m.

Nanaimo city assessment district, at Nanaimo, in the court house, on the 27th November, 1903, at eleven a. m.

CONTRACT FOR STONE.

San Francisco Parties Said to Be Negotiating for Haddington Island Material.

Information was given a Times representative on Saturday to the effect that San Francisco parties are negotiating for 170,000 tons of Haddington Island stone for the erection of some wharves at the Bay City. The stone found in California, it is stated, is too soft and not sufficiently durable for such a purpose, and the parties influenced by the city of Victoria in building of the James Bay wall have called for tenders for the supply of the material. A number of British Columbians have tendered on the contract, and estimates have been presented showing the cost of transportation, of quarrying and of otherwise handling the contract. Tenders, it is said, must be submitted within a month or so.

The contract is the first of the kind ever received from San Francisco, and it will possibly go a long way in bringing others of a like character to British Columbia. The mere conveyance of so vast an amount of stone is itself a very important contract, for it would take nearly half a hundred vessels of the ordinary size to transport it to its destination.

CONGRESS OVER.

Delegates Appointed to Attend Convention of American Federation of Labor.

Leicester, Eng., Sept. 12.—The Trades Union Congress closed its session here to-day with the election of two delegates to attend the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Secretary Clark is now arranging with the mines department for the placing of specimens in the case. Special labels to serve the purpose have been printed by the department and specimens will be taken from the splendid collection now in the mineral museum.

With a very limited sum at the disposal of the mining committee for making a creditable showing, the assistance rendered by the officials of the department of mines has been most acceptable.

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REDUCTION IN RATES FOR THE EXHIBITION

Arrangement for Round Fare of \$1.50 From Nanaimo—Show at Coal City.

Everything promises well for the exhibition to be held in Victoria this fall, commencing October 6th and continuing until the 10th. The committee of the Agricultural Association having in hand the arrangement of transportation matters, are doing good work, and special rates have been promised by the C. & N. railway and the C.P.R. Saturday word was received from J. Anderson, of the Sidney & Nanaimo Transportation Company, notifying the association that during the show a fare of \$1.50 round trip would be in force from Nanaimo, Chemainus, Crofton and the Gulf Islands.

This week, commencing on Thursday, September 15th, and lasting until Saturday, the 19th, the annual Nanaimo exhibition will be held under the auspices of the Coal City Agricultural Association. There will no doubt be the usual large crowd in attendance from this city, and it is not improbable that several officials of the local Agricultural Association will make it a point to be present. Referring to the exhibition the Herald says:

"The arrangements promise a first-class show. It has been decided that Saturday, the 19th, will be Society Day, and special prizes were authorized for the best marching in parade by any one society. Special games will also be put on that day for members of societies only. Both local bands have also been engaged to provide music and the secretary has been instructed to invite the Lieut.-Governor to officially open the exhibition and also the admiral of the fleet to be present with his warships."

Preparations are in progress by the Islands Agricultural and Fruit Growers' Association for the eighth annual exhibition which will be given at Ganage Harbor, Salt Spring, on Wednesday, September 30th. A catalogue and detailed programme of the day's events has just been issued. The association has provided prizes which should result in a large number of entries and keen competition in all classes. There is a particularly large list of special prizes, one of which is a first prize of \$15 and a second of \$10 for the most artistically arranged dinner table dessert course for four people. The competition will be open only to ladies. The following excellent programme of sports has been prepared:

Half-mile, open—1st prize, \$2; 2nd prize, \$1.

One hundred yards, open—1st, \$2; 2nd, \$1.

Long jump, open—1st, \$2; 2nd, \$1.

One hundred yards (boys under 14)—1st, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.

One hundred yards (girls under 14)—1st, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.

Sack race, open—1st, \$2; 2nd, \$1.

Bicycle race, half-mile, open—1st, \$3; 2nd, \$1.50.

Bicycle race, quarter-mile (ladies)—T. Pimley, one bicycle lamp, value \$4.

Slowest bicycle race, open to ladies and gentlemen, must ride straight—1st, \$2; 2nd, \$1.

Slowest bicycle race, ladies and gentlemen, in pairs—1st, special; 2nd, \$2.

Ladies' 100 yds and 200 yds, on horseback, trotting—1st, special; 2nd, \$3.

Cake walk, ladies and gentlemen, in pairs—1st, special.

Sports will commence at 10.30 o'clock in the morning and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Following is a list of special prizes received for winners of the different events on the programme of sports: 1st, S. Reid & Co., boy's sweater, \$1.50; 2nd, S. Reid & Co., boy's sweater, \$1; 1st, T. Pimley, 1 bicycle lamp, \$4; 2nd, Pimley & Co., 1 bicycle lamp, \$2; F. L. Crofton, cash, \$4; Barney & Co., set table tennis, \$8; Pither & Leiser, 1 case claret, \$8.

BODIES OF SOLDIERS

Who Died in Philippines Brought Over on United States Transport.

New York, Sept. 12.—The United States transport Kilpatrick, from Manila, arrived to-day. On the transport are the bodies of 300 United States soldiers who lost their lives in the Philippines. This is the largest number of bodies ever returned at one time from the islands.

At Nanaimo the resident en masse, the school children, granted a half-holiday to participate in the reception of the bodies. They were taken to the city and to the company's launches conveyed others to which they descended and the operation of coal mining was suspended. Time did not permit throughout the workings of line, but the stables, made six hundred feet below the visited, and every courtesy these in charge. Some of the party pluckily made with those of the stronger set.

At 4.30 the Princess left the wharf for Vancouver. The cheers were given for the ladies, for the children, and the class on the sky line. They caught the infection and the cheering cheers till the Princess out into the stream.

A record run to Vancouver the party there by 6.39. They were reluctantly said, and parted from their guests in the hope that they would be renewed in the either here or in the Old Land. Just before noon the Vancouver company gathered in the where A. J. Hodgson, chairman of the committee of arrangements, made a neatly worded speech, replete with the members' appreciation of the citizens of Victoria, and how it would strengthen

DELIGHTFUL DAY WITH B

AN EXCURSION FOR TWO HUNDRED

The Members of Congress Their Visit to Victoria Trip of Yesterday

(From Friday's Herald.)

One of the most delightful made out of this city at night, when the Princess Victoria docked after a trip which covered hundred miles, with a view to the completion