Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1887.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION.

The question is often seriously asked, not merely by persons whose interests are affected by a continually increasing competition in the lines of business that require a degree of learning and intelligence, but by those of a philosophical turn of mind: Is there not danger of too much education? Compared with that dark period, when everyone who could read without spelling out the words and write his name legibly was called a "learned man, a clerk," the present age rests in a noonday effulgence of enlightenment. Comparing the fraction of humanity who, to go no further, can read and write, with the billions who have not yet acquired the alphabet of any language, the world yet remains in the dark shadow of ignorance. The percentage of illiteracy is still unpleasantly high in the neighboring republic, made and kept so, it is true, by the addition of several million slaves to the number of freemen, and by an annual irruption of the untaught peasantry of Europe. In Great Britain it is higher, it must be confessed than it should be while in France it is far higher than in Britain. Italy and Spain, as regarded from the standpoint of popular teaching, are still terribly illiterate, while in portions of Austria and in the greater part of Russia and Turkey the standard of education is scarcely higher than in the England of Chaucer's time. Exceptions must be made in favor of Germany, Holland and the Scandinavian countries. As to the rest of the world dense ignorance rests like a pall on the greater part of Asia, Africa, South America and in most parts of North America, Canada and the United States excepted. The educators have still a great deal to do, not merely in those lands where every prospect pleases, and the vileness of man alone disturbs the equanimity of the moralist; but in over-civilized Europe, in the sister countries on this continent, and among the dusky tribes and races of all the western continent.

There are numerous arguments raised by those who disbelieve in popular education. A little learning is a dangerous thing. It is useless to learn a little without knowing a great deal. Nothing can be understood, it is urged, by seeing a thing in a single relation. One must see a thing on all sides, from all standpoints, to appreciate the harmony of its parts and comprehend its relation to the factanal objects with which it is associated. It follows from this logic that the partially educated manses everything in broken and distorted forms and lights, like objects seen in the pieces of a broken mirror. It is urged in the next place that education tends to make men dissatisfied with their lot. The European peasant, having scarcely more sense than the clod he turns over, hardly knowing that there is a world beyond his narrow horizon, is content. His father lived so before him, and he expects that his sons will live so after him. When the son of the peasant is educated, when he learns geography, when he reads history, when he peruses the newspapers and finds out how pitiful his life is compared with the luxurious existence of cities, the homely cottage becomes distasteful to him and when he gets to be his own master he drifts away to one of the great centres of population—Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, or any one of a hundred others—and, finding them already too full, adds his own drop of misery to their ocean of poverty, idleness and wretchedness. The daughters of the family repeat the experience. If they consent to remain at home the old farmhouse must be changed into a palace, with every appliance that the taste, refined and enlarged by a many-sided education, demands for its satisfaction. Phyllis must wear a silk gown and satin slippers, and her white hands must not be soiled or deformed by contact with the implements of plebeian labor. The story is an old one. It began when cities, instead of being merely *entrepots* of commerce and centers of civilization a little higher than that about them, began to grow at the expense of the rural districts and suck the life-blood of the nation. Something of this philosophy is found in "The Vicar of Wakefield" and in "Locksley Hall," where the ambitious country boy, tired of his rustic life and seeking a change, sees before him at night the "lights of London flaring like a dreary dawn." What has been thus far said comprises most of the arguments used by the disbelievers in popular education. In proof that it makes people discontented they point to the vice and idleness that are the result of the fungus growth of cities, and to the large per cent of suicide in those countries where the people are most generally educated and which are the centers of intelligence and refinement, like Saxony. They also show by statistics that suicide has kept pace with the spread of popular education in Italy. They enlarge on the supposed degradation of labor, the overcrowding of the learned professions and the lowering of wages of clerks and other employés, who hold their places in virtue of their intelligence, on account of the supply of persons of sufficient education far exceeding the demand.

Without attempting to reply to these arguments or to show that a certain amount of ill inheres in every good thing, it will suffice to say something of what popular education—high school education—has done for the United States where it has had the fairest trial. It has not made of that country a nation of artists, but that will come in good time. But in all forms of mechanics and mechanical ingenuity, it has enabled the Americans to lead the world. The mechanic in the greater part of Europe is almost as mechanical as the tool or implement which aids him to accomplish his task. The American mechanic stands over his work as a thinking and intelligent being. He guides the implement; he is guided by it. His very impatience of labor and his desire to make it easier have resulted in the innumerable inventions of which our cousins can justly boast. He has perfected the tools he works with till they are the best in the world. With them he can make a joint and fit all the parts perfectly. He can make a door and window that will keep out the cold, peculiarities of house architecture almost unknown on the continent of Europe. Twenty-five years ago people used to lament the abrogation of apprentice laws and declare that without them mechanics would never equal those in the same trades in other countries. But the American mechanic, well taught in the public schools, can learn more in two or three years of practical labor at the machinist or carpenter's trade than the European appentice in ten. It is because of the trained mind that guides the arm and gives cunning and delicacy to the touch. It would be useless to follow this idea through all the branches of mechanics to show how their manufacturing industries have broadened until they include everything in Europe, except articles of which the elegance and ingenuity of design form the chief part. Such education is not the education that encumbers practical effort. It is the knowledge that lends itself early to agriculture, to mechanics, to art usefully applied, and it is general. It is the practical teaching of all the people. There has been nothing precisely like it in Europe, for it has been the working of the high and free schools, co-operating with the widest freedom of thought and action possible within the law. Intellect and physical force have had alike equal room for expansion. Whatever may be the pessimistic and mossback view of popular education no human power can prevent its universal diffusion. And as like all the bug-bears of the pesimists the final results are several generations distant, this, even if a little incommoded, need not waste time in lamenting them.

Canada, it is true, has not the millions of people the United States possesses, nor has she the revenue; but she has the territory, she has the resources, and in due time she will be peopled with a great population and her finances will grow accordingly. It is well that the foundations should *now* be laid strong and sure, and that the men of today should be willing to suffer a little personal inconvenience in order to ensure the ultimate growth of this country. These thoughts were suggested by the faint possibility of the present high school system in this province being abolished or unduly interfered with. We cannot conceive that such a thing could ever come to pass, and cannot but believe that should this result take place a torrent of righteous indignation would sweep over British Columbia, and over Victoria in particular. The sons of the people have rights which must be respected, and if they are ever to attain "the heights by great men reached and kept" they can only do so through the portals of a high class education, such as prevails in the high schools of this city and province. As the hero is made to say in "Mr. Isaacs:" "It makes very little difference what the business or branch of learning; in mechanical labor or intellectual effort, the educated man is always superior to the common laborer. One who is in the habit of applying his powers in the right way will carry his system into any occupation, and it will help him as much to handle a rope as to write a poem."

THE PHONOPHORE.

Late London papers bring interesting details of experiments with a new electrical instrument called the phonophore, which has been designed by C. Langdon Davis. While investigating the induction noises caused in telephone wires he discovered the existence of an electric force which can be separated altogether from the ordinary electrical currents, and which can pass freely through insulators impassible by the currents. In exterior form the transmitter appears to be an ordinary Morse key mounted on a base about four inches high. This base contains an instrument which somewhat resembles an induction coil. The impulses are generally in a primary circuit of improved construction, over which is wound in place of a secondary circuit a phonophore of two wires, insulated from each other throughout their entire length and at both ends, each of these wires being, however, connected at one end only to the telegraph wires. The phonophoric impulses generated in the transmitter are regulated in and received by organ reeds and by means of a new form of contract breaker. Recently five experiments were successfully carried out, as follows: A phonophore message was transmitted alone from Folkestone to London, and there received by a working postoffice universal relay and an ordinary Morse sounder. Second—A similar phonophore message was transmitted and received while an ordinary telegraph message was travelling in the same direction between the stations. Third—A phonophore message was transmitted and received while an ordinary telegraph message was being transmitted in an opposite direction between the same stations. Fourth—A phonophore message was transmitted and received between terminal stations while an ordinary telegraph message was being transmitted between two intermediate stations; and, fifth, phonophore messages were freely exchanged between terminal points after the line had been disconnected between London and Folkestone, and the circuit absolutely broken.

The treasury department at Washington is informed that opium is being smuggled into the United States through Detroit and the suspension bridge districts, and is then shipped to San Francisco, where it is placed on the market. According to reports received on the subject, the opium is shipped from China through British Columbia and thence across the lakes.

REPLY TO "DANGER."

To the Editor:—Perhaps "Fireman" would be acting more consistently if he addressed communications to the proper authorities instead of alarming the public. In reply to the writer I beg to state that the fire escape in the Tiger engine house reaches a height of sixty feet, I, as a fireman, know that this escape *will* reach the roof of a two-story building. There is no doubt that an extension truck is urgently needed in this city, and I am in a position to state that the chief engineer has incessantly called the attention of the authorities to that fact. At the last meeting of the fire wardens this matter was discussed and the question is receiving consideration. "Fireman" will, perhaps, become more conversant with the question of ladders by reading section 8, bylaw No. 2, Victoria city bylaws, which state: "The owner of every house or block of buildings shall provide and keep constantly on the premises a good strong ladder, long enough to reach the whole height of his principal building.

Thomas Deasy,
Asst. Engineer, Victoria Fire Dept.

DAY'S WORK VS. CONTRACT.

To the Editor:—I have no wish to interpose in the quarrel that has taken place between the mayor and a majority of the city council on the subject of an audit, although an audit would be a good thing to have whether it costs $1,000 or $2,000. But I am strongly inclined to think that the party in the council who adhere to the resolution to have work done on the reservoirs by contract have the best of the argument. I have looked at the site on hospital hill and gone over the route by which it is proposed to carry water to the highest level and feel sure that the supply cannot be obtained by day's work for less than $150,000, if for that sum. I doubt, even, whether it can be accomplished by contract for less than $100,000. Having had large experience in Ontario in contracting, I know that no large work is ever given out there by a government or municipality except by public competition. The experience there might be followed with profit here.

Not a Ratepayer.

A DANGEROUS QUACK.

To the Editor:—I have reason to believe that there is a certain person at present in this city who is illegally practising as a so-called oculist. Now, the eye is at once the most delicate organ, and vision one of the most important and precious faculties of a human being; and, therefore, to permit credulous persons afflicted in this way to be treated in our midst by a charlatan, is a neglect on the part of those responsible for the care and safety of the public that should not be tolerated. If the medical fraternity do not feel called upon to interfere for their own protection, I would suggest that the interference of the police be invoked for the protection of the public. If I am correct in my surmise, the person above alluded to is finding here an immunity that was not experienced by him in San Francisco.

Pro Bono Publico.

FIRE ESCAPES.

To the Editor:—In answer to a letter signed "A Fireman" in to-day's issue of your valuable paper I would say that I have time and again urged upon the city council the necessity of purchasing a Hayes extension truck. We have a fire-escape which is not suitable for this place, as it requires too many men to man it and would be found very difficult to handle on account of the telephone and telegraph wires. The council have more than once admitted the necessity of procuring the truck, and even sanctioned its purchase, but heretofore the means seem to have been wanting to carry out their intention. I am quite alive to the danger pointed out by your correspondent, and have drawn the attention of council after council to the subject. No one can be more desirous than myself to do all that is possible to secure the safety of the public, but I cannot do more than point out and urge, as I have done in the past and shall continue to do in the future.

C. J. Phillips,
Chief Fire Department.

IS IT?

To the Editor:—Is it true, as I have heard said, that Mr. Hendry's plan for a reservoir submitted to the mayor and council was so defective that it was condemned totally by Couns. Styles and Coughlan, the only practical men on the board? It is said those gentlemen said that it would scarcely resist the slightest pressure of water and might fall with its own weight. Is this true?

Stone Mason.

BRIBERY AND INTIMIDATION.

To the Editor:—Would you be good enough to explain the difference between bribery and intimidation at elections.

W. Bond.

[Bribery, according to the Dominion Elections Act, is the giving or receiving, directly or indirectly, by one's self or any other person, any gift, loan or valuable consideration, or any promise of any office, place or employment for voting, or refraining from voting, at any election. Intimidation is the making use of or threatening to make use of any force, violence or restraint, or inflict or threaten to inflict any injury, damage, harm or loss upon anyone to compel any voter to vote or refrain from voting at any election, or the impeding anyone from voting by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent device or contrivance.—Ed.]

THE MILITIA.

To the Editor:—I trust you will allow me a space in your paper to make a few suggestions, and if carried out by the officers, I think would be a help in making the militia more popular and inducing young men to join. I have been a member of the militia in the east, and joined one of the companies here about two years ago, and it appears to me the business men and public generally take no interest during the summer. If the companies had a march out in the evening, say once a month, headed by the band, and church parade as often as convenient, and if the business men could contribute something in prizes, and each company have an annual prize meeting, it would induce every man to practice and in time become a fair, if not a good, marksman. In 1884 the citizens of Winnipeg contributed to the value of over fifteen hundred dollars in prizes, and each of the six companies of the 90th battalion had an annual prize meeting. I think if the same was done here it would be a great help. If the officers would ask the business men to contribute, I am sure they would be willing, and we would have a good prize list. It need not be money, but goods of any kind; it would encourage the men and give them a good day's sport, and I am sure would help to fill up the ranks.

A Militiaman.

FIRE ESCAPES.

To the Editor:—In answer to the chief and assistant engineers of the fire department, I wish to inform them that my letter in The Colonist of Saturday was actuated by no personal motive, but I have, like the other members of the department the interests of Victoria at heart. True, we have a fire-escape, a white elephant on our hands, which any practical man must admit, is utterly unfit for this city, being intended to be used only on stone pavements and to remain in a perpendicular position, in cities where telegraph and other wires are under the ground and nothing to obstruct its movements. Here, to be moved it must be lowered to the ground, which takes all the men we have in the department, attended with much risk to the ladder and men. If the ladder had to be moved a few blocks the building with its inmates would be doomed to destruction before we could place it in position. If, as Assistant Deasy says, there is a bylaw to compel holders of property to furnish ladders the height of their building, why does he not see that the bylaw is observed? He and the chief are paid fair salaries to do their duty, and if the ladders are not kept by holders of property, whose fault is it? It is plain to be seen that Mr. Deasy and his chief are at fault for not carrying out the instructions laid down in that bylaw. Mr. Deasy says that I would be acting more consistently if I would address myself to the proper authorities instead of alarming the public through the papers. Now, Sir, I consider that it is almost time that the public were alarmed to a sense of the great danger they are in, and I am surprised that Mr. Deasy wants to keep back from the public, the very things they should know.

Fireman.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC.

Construction of Several Feeders and Extensions Thought Of.

New York, March 15.—At the meetings of the Northern Pacific directors on Thursday next, a proposition will be submitted to them to build a line of railroad from Ainsworth to Portland, a distance of 214 miles, paralleling the Oregon railway and Navigation, thereby giving the Northern Pacific railroad two western termini, one at Portland for the Oregon trade, and the other at Tacoma for through business. The Northern Pacific has a right to build a line through the Columbia river valley, and it has a land grant of 26,000 acres per mile in Washington Territory and 20,000 per mile in Oregon. This land grant includes over 500,000 acres. It is stated that a syndicate of Chicago capitalists have offered to grade the road bed, build masonry and bridges and lay the ties for the consideration of the land grant. A motion will be made at the directors' meeting that a committee be appointed with authority to confer with the Chicago people. If this line is constructed, it will not interfere with the completion of the Cascade division through to Tacoma. The directors will probably authorize the construction of four small roads in Idaho and Montana, running to mining districts.

GENERAL BUTLER

Made a Knight and Invested with the Order of the Bath.

London, March 15.—I observe that General Butler was on Monday introduced into the presence of the sovereign, who conferred upon him the honor of knighthood and invested him with the insignia of the military divisions of the second class of the order of the Bath. We have so many knights who are not precisely mirrors of chivalry that one more does not matter; but what I want to know is whether General Sir William Butler's brother officers don't intend to bring his conduct before the committee of any military club of which he may be a member. He admitted that Lady Colin Campbell was innocent of the charges brought against her, so far as they concerned himself, yet he declined to come over from France to testify in her behalf. Both judge and jury expressed their indignation at his conduct, which was unworthy of an officer and a gentleman.

A BACK-DOWN.

An Effort of the Chicago Congregationalists to Redeem Themselves.

Chicago, March 14.—The Association of Congregational Ministers to-day made an effort to redeem what the papers term their "bad break" of last week. A long and highly eulogistic memorial to Mr. Beecher was introduced by Rev. Dr. E. F. Williams. After this had been read Dr. Hammond, the original objector of last week, arose and said: "I cannot vote for that. I am opposed to it. It is approving Mr. Beecher's actions for the last fifteen years, and I should lie if I said, as I would in voting for that, that he was guiltless in the Tilton scandal. If you pass it, every editor in the city will know that it is contrary to your last week's views of Mr. Beecher's morality. I protest in the name of morality and every congregation in the country." After considerable debate the memorial was adopted, Dr. Hammond and one or two others voting in the negative.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament.

Monday, March 21.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 11 a. m. Prayers were read by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Ladner to a question of privilege complained that the *Times* had reported him as saying that the provincial secretary had "kissed all the ladies of New Westminster district" during his canvass. What he had said was that the honorable gentleman had kissed all the babies in the district. He believed the ladies of New Westminster had better taste than to kiss the provincial secretary.

Hon. Mr. Robson—The honorable gentleman is jealous! (Laughter.)

MUNICIPAL.

Mr. Higgins, chairman of a committee appointed to consider amendments to the municipalities act, presented a report to the house together with a bill. Bill read a first time.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. McLeese to a question of privilege complained of a report of his remarks in Thursday's Colonist. He had never seen so garbled a report of any speech ever delivered in the house, and he had no doubt but it was done on purpose. He noticed when he was delivering his speech that The Colonist reporter was not in his place, and he believed the report was the work of the junior member for Esquimalt. He denied that it was during his speech that the "lids of the desks became excited," as stated by The Colonist. He was strengthened in his belief that the junior member for Esquimalt was responsible for the report, because on a previous occasion he had jumped up and excused a false report that had appeared in that paper.

Mr. Higgins—I did nothing of the kind. It was the *Standard* I excused.

Mr. McLeese—No; it was The Colonist.

Mr. Higgins said he believed the statement of the honorable member for Cariboo that The Colonist reporter was not in his seat when he (the member for Cariboo) made, what he was pleased to dignify by reference as a speech, was a falsehood. But whether the reporter was present or not he (Mr. Higgins) left the house early on that afternoon rather than listen to the remarks of the member for Cariboo, which were of a most dreary character. When he left he remarked to several honorable members that one part of the house looked as if they wished they'd never been born, and the other half seemed to wish they had not been elected to listen to such stuff [laughter]. He denied that he had anything to do with the report or the article complained of or that he had any control over The Colonist. If the honorable gentleman would consult the registry office he would see that the sale of the establishment was absolute. The honorable gentleman had referred to the apology he (Mr. Higgins) had offered for a misreport in the *Standard* and complained that The Colonist had not corrected the misreport. He did not know before that it was the duty of the newspaper to correct a contemporary's error. He wished now to state again, and for all, that he had not reported any portion of the honorable gentleman's speech, had made no suggestions as to how it should be reported and had not written any article or any portion of an article that referred to it. He might add that he had not yet read the report, and hoped that he had sense enough left not to attempt to read it. [laughter]

Mr. Allen—The honorable gentleman is surely mistaken about the excitement caused by his speech. He struck a defiant attitude at the time and some one called out "Napoleon."

Mr. Higgins—Yes. I called out "Napoleon."

Mr. McLeese—Tut, tut. That was on another occasion altogether.

Mr. Dunsmuir was reported in The Colonist to have said on the school question that he did not see "the necessity for three high schools in the province." This was not very far astray but it was misleading. He had said he was opposed to any high schools supported at the expense of the government.

Mr. Higgins—Do you blame me for the mistake?

Mr. Dunsmuir—Certainly not, and for that matter I do not blame the reporter.

Mr. Prior objected to a report of his remarks in the *Times*. He was reported to have said on the school question that "he did not think it was necessary for farmer's sons and the sons of mechanics and laborers to acquire an education such as was given in the high school." What he said was that if farmers' and mechanics' sons intended to follow the calling of their fathers a high school education would not do them a great deal of good, and if they intended trying for something higher they should do so at their own expense.

Mr. Dunsmuir had another question of privilege. He was reported in the *Times* to have sung "The Land o' the Leal" in the house on Thursday night. Everyone who knew him was aware that he did not sing "The Land o' the Leal" or anything else. The singing was by some of the members of the *Times* party. (Hear, hear.)

SUPPLY.

House proceeded to the orders of the day. A discussion was again introduced by Mr. Beaven on the obliterated ballot paper question. It was pointed out that the ballot papers used at the last election were of the same form as those used since the passage of the ballot act of 1877, which fact the committee already appointed to investigate the matter would probably report. Mr. Beaven took the opportunity to make an attack on the government.

Hon. Mr. Robson replied that the matter of preparing the ballots was one with which the government had no right to interfere and it was therefore not responsible for any errors made. The moment a government did interfere it was overstepping its duty. The matter was one for the returning officer exclusively to deal with, he being guided by the Ballot Act.

Mr. Beaven replied that he did not say the government was responsible.

Mr. Higgins gave a practical opinion on the question. He considered Mr. Beaven's position frivolous.

EVIDENCE.

The evidence bill (Mr. Bole) was read a third time and passed.

JURY.

The Jurors' bill (Hon. Mr. Davie) was read a third time and passed.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

Mr. Bole moved the second reading of the New Westminster Southern railway. He explained that the object of the bill was to authorize the construction of a railway from a point at or near New Westminster city to the American boundary. The line would open up a very large section of agricultural country, and in view of its great desirability he did not think anyone would object to its passing.

Mr. Beaven drew attention to the fact that the bill did not contain any anti-Chinese clause.

Bill passed through committee and was reported to the house complete with amendments.

VANCOUVER.

House went into committee on the Vancouver Incorporation Amendment bill, Mr. Prior in the chair. The bill was passed down to clause five, when committee rose and reported that it had not the proper bill before it, and asked leave to sit again.

FIREMAN'S BILL.

House went into committee on the Victoria Fire Department bill, Mr. Turner in the chair. Clause one was passed, when the committee rose and reported the bill, and asked leave to sit again.

DELTA RAILWAY.

The Delta railway incorporation bill was referred to committee. Mr. T. Davie in the chair.

Motion was made by Mr. Beaven that the usual anti-Chinese clauses be inserted.

Mr. Mason said he could not support the honorable leader of the opposition in inserting the clauses he proposes for several reasons. Having supported the government in their action at Vancouver, it would not be consistent to vote for this measure, because he looked upon this as a case of persecution of the Chinese, although in a milder form, but nevertheless an unjust persecution. Again, it is unjust to the company. Why should they not have the same privilege that the canneries have who employ hundreds of Chinese? He thought the Chinese question had gone far enough. We have the restriction act, which excludes them to a great extent. If we wish to exclude them entirely raise the poll tax high enough for that purpose. His idea is that the Chinese problem will solve itself before long. If our quartz mines prove a success—and he was very pleased to say that we have every reason to believe they will—what will be the result? Why there will be thousands of white people come to this province. New places will be built up, our present cities will grow more rapidly, and every mongolian in this province will be engaged for servants or to fill some other menial position which white men do not care to fill. He should vote against these clauses and was sure that 11-12 of his constituents will endorse his action. He hoped there was enough of that spirit of fair play which is instilled into every British youth left in the house to sit down on all such measures.

Mr. Beaven said if white men were employed on the work many of them would become settlers in the province.

Mr. Ladner said since the bill had gone into committee one of the gentlemen interested in the work had informed him that if the anti-Chinese clauses were to be inserted he would suggest that the bill be dropped. He and those connected with him had built the drydock without Chinese, and in engaging laborers for this work white men would get the preference, but they did not wish to be hampered by clauses of this kind.

Mr. Dunsmuir said he had offered men who were working on the Island railway 160 acres of land free if they would settle on them, but none of them took the offer. The class of men who work on railways do not make settlers, but go from one railway work to another.

Mr. Higgins believed that in time circumstances would be so altered that precautions of this nature would not be required, but as matters were at present he considered that some such protection as this was necessary and would vote for the clauses.

Mr. Orr had been informed that the projectors of the Coquitlam waterworks had found great difficulty in interesting capital abroad on account of the anti-Chinese clauses. He knew of other cases where capital had been prevented from taking hold of enterprises in the province on account of the same provisions. He had been burnt in effigy once for voting for anti-Chinese clauses, and he now felt like taking the risk of another scorching by voting against them.

Hon. Mr. Robson considered that it was better to be right than to be consistent. He pointed out the inconsistency of the public on the question. He was opposed to limiting a number of individuals undertaking an enterprise of this kind and receiving no assistance from the government to a certain kind of labor.

The question being put the clauses were voted down. Following is the division:

Ayes—Beaven, Higgins, John, Semlin, Prior, Stenhouse—6.

Noes—Robson, A.E.B. Davie, Martin, Allen, Croft, Thomson, Vernon, Dunsmuir, Turner, Baker, Mason, Orr, Anderson, Ladner, Grant—15.

Bill was reported complete with amendments.

KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

House went into committee on the Kootenay & Athabaska railway company, Mr. Thomson in the chair.

Motion being made by Mr. Beaven for the insertion of the anti-Chinese clauses, Mr. Grant said the promoters did not wish to have these provisions inserted because white labor was hard to obtain in the part of the country where this line would be built and capital abroad could not be induced to take hold of the enterprise with the anti-Chinese clauses in the bill.

Mr. T. Davie said he would support the insertion of the clause.

Mr. Higgins, replying to Mr. Grant's statement that white labor would be hard to obtain, said he had seen 5000 men employed in that part of the country last summer. There would be no difficulty in obtaining white labor there.

On the motion for the insertion of the clause the following division took place:

Ayes—Higgins, Beaven, T. Davie, Prior, Semlin, Stenhouse, John—7.

Noes—Robson, A. E. B. Davie, Allen, Martin, Croft, Dunsmuir, Vernon, Turner, Baker, Mason, Orr, McLeese, Anderson, Ladner, Grant—14.

APOLOGY.

Mr. McLeese said that on a question of privilege in the morning he had charged that the junior member for Esquimalt had excused a garbled report of The Colonist. He wished now to withdraw that statement. It was the *Standard's* and not The Colonist's report that the hon. member had apologized for.

Mr. Higgins—Thank you.

House adjourned till 11 a. m. on Tuesday.

A BROKEN BANK.

Widespread Disaster to Business Firms in New Brunswick.

New York, March 15.—The *Tribune's* St. John, N. B., special says: The valuable lumber property of J. Stewart, in the Ottawa district, has been attached by the broken Maritime Bank for $500,000. This is on account of the sum of $600,000 said to be owing to the bank by the firm of A. & J. Stewart, lumber exporters. Not only the bank but great firms whose it has been carrying are hopelessly bankrupt. Deposits of $1,000,000 are swept away and hundreds of people are financially ruined. There is not an industry in New Brunswick that will not be disastrously affected.

THE FISHERIES DISPUTE.

Our Fishermen Reported to be Arming—A Friendly Settlement Possible.

London, March 15.—The admiralty have ordered the British naval squadron at Halifax to be further strengthened. Advices received here from the British-American maritime provinces represent that the Canadian fishermen, fearing reprisals by Americans, are arming. The British and United States cabinets are declared to be arranging a basis for a friendly settlement.

THE FISHERIES.

Canada Asks that a Commission be Appointed—Germany to be Referee.

New York, March 16.—The *Tribune's* Ottawa special says: Recognizing the magnitude of the interests involved in the present fishery dispute, the Canadian government about eight weeks ago forwarded to the Colonial office in London a certain proposition which it was suggested should be sent to the United States secretary of state by the English authorities, suggesting a *modus vivendi* for the settlement of all differences between the British North American possesions and the United States. These propositions have not yet been made public. The full text of the matter so submitted was to-day seen by your correspondent. Canada submits that Great Britain should at once propose to the United States a settlement of all questions without reserve by the appointment of a commission, to consist as follows: One delegate to be named by the governor in council of Canada; one from Newfoundland, by and with the consent of Great Britain; two from the United States and one from some independent European power. With such a commission it is said all questions could be satisfactorily adjusted. It is understood that Germany is the power which Canada would prefer as a referee.

Cure for Croup.

Prompt relief to prevent suffocation from the accumulation of tough mucous—the formation of false membrane—and the constriction of the air passage, is necessary in case of a sudden attack of croup. Hagyard's Yellow Oil should be used at once, afterwards Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam. tu-th-sat-dw

WHAT IONA DID.

She was nine-and-twenty—yes, positively nine-and-twenty. And her friends said "one year more," laughing maliciously and wagging their heads, and knowing that the next year would be spent as the last twelve had been, in flirting in a quiet, subdued, lady-like way; but securing no one.

Despite her wit, beauty and accomplishments, for Iona had all these, she had always been looked upon as an old maid.

Perhaps it was that little romance in her early budding womanhood, when people thought she was engaged and soon to be married, that kept suitors away from her. Perhaps it was her own disinclination to wed. Certain it was that Iona always had plenty of admirers, and everybody was ready to swear to her goodness, but some way she didn't marry. And now Kindale was sure that she never would, for there wasn't an eligible young man in town, and Iona had therefore laughed at this awful thirty, but now she set her lips in a straight line and said:

"I'll do it. I may be a heartless wretch for it," she thought, "a miserable plotting old maid, but I'll marry Otho Percival before I'm a year older. They shall not call me an old maid any longer." And her mind once made up, nothing could alter it or turn her from her purpose.

She made preparations for a journey into an adjoining town, where Otho Percival resided, to visit her aunt, who had always held Mr. Percival up as a model man, and really wished Iona would secure him.

Heretofore Miss Ross had always laughed and said:

"What, that old man, Aunt Mary?"

"He isn't very old—not yet fifty—not more than forty-five, and you'll be an old maid soon," Aunt Mary returned severely.

"Perhaps; but don't fret over it, auntie."

This was during her first visit of six months before, when Iona had scarcely spoken with Mr. Percival. She had seen him ever since she was a child, but never exchanged many words with him, notwithstanding Mr. Percival was very sociable, and fond of ladies' society, but he never seemed to have any time for Miss Ross, nor she for him. They seemed to shun each other, he because he knew she was a sort of coquet without being actually one, and she because she fancied he did not care to know her.

Her mind was made up, however, and as soon as she was safely at Aunt Mary's, and resting, she was prepared to hear the usual amount of gossip.

"Young Fenton and he are married, Iona."

"Is he, indeed! To whom?"

"To that Hart girl, you remember. She must be a good deal older than Fred. A real old maid."

"Nearly as old as I am, Aunt Mary," she said.

"Yes, and I begin to think you mean to be an old maid."

"No, I don't. I've made up my mind to get married, if I can."

"Yes, that's what you always say. Miss Dunton is in town, now."

"Who is Miss Dunton?"

"A very charming lady. She gives readings sometimes—very choice and select—and wins great applause. She is a relative of Mr. Bridgewater."

"Oh! Then, of course, she's select and all that. The Bridgewaters couldn't have a relative that wasn't, you know."

"You're a queer girl, Iona, and you always did dislike the Bridgewaters. But you'll like Miss Dunton, I'm sure. Otho Percival is quite struck with her."

Iona set bolt upright a moment and looked at her aunt with raised eyebrows and wide-open eyes. Then she lay back and laughed almost hysterically.

"Ha, ha, ha, ha! She's after Otho Percival, is she? How many more, I wonder?"

Aunt Mary didn't reply. She was a little bit angry to think her niece would never enter the list herself. Kind soul, she did not know that Iona was thinking, even now, of the rival that had come before her—Miss Dunton—and that her lips in a hard, straight line, when she thought how she meant to win and throw Miss Dunton in the shade.

"Aggie Graham is here, too," Aunt Mary ventured at last.

"Is she on the list, too?"

"Yes, I suppose so. At least her aunt is trying to make a match for her, and they are both jealous of Miss Dunton."

"Again, Miss Dunton, sat hough she had thrown every one else in the shade; and Iona, laughing again, said:

"My dear aunt, I begin to want to see this wonderful Miss Dunton."

"You will have the pleasure, I presume, as she and Mrs. Bridgewater will call this evening."

"Indeed!"

"Yes, and Otho Percival always happens in when she's here."

Iona Ross did not laugh this time. She merely arose from the lounge with a yawn, saying:

"Well, I shall have to dress for evening, then, I suppose, and it is a terrible bore."

"Yes; Miss Dunton always dresses nicely, like a lady. I wish you could hear her read."

"Is she very wonderful?"

"She's a very fine reader. Mr. Percival thinks he never heard a better. I think you can read as well, Iona."

"Do you really?"

"Quite."

In that moment her resolution was made. She would not give public readings, but she would read for Otho Percival. She dressed herself carefully. She never looked better, and she did not look 20, and she used no cosmetics nor rouge, either. Her bloom was natural, her eyes were bought and paid for, but gifts of nature that she had carefully preserved.

"You'll do, Iona Ross, I think," she said, as she made a sweeping bow to herself in the opposite mirror. "You're not in love with Otho Percival, nor any other man, but you are going to marry him all the same."

She swept into the parlor regal and stately as an empress, where aunt Mary was trying to entertain Mrs. Bridgewater, little Miss Dunton and Mr. Percival. She bowed coolly to Mr. Percival, as though he wasn't of any account, any way, said "How do you do?" to Mrs. Bridgewater, had acknowledged her introduction to Miss Dunton with a smiling "Happy to meet you," and the campaign had fairly begun.

Miss Dunton, for a reader, lecturer and woman who advocated woman's rights, was playing a remarkably weak and vine-like role. She was just saying, when Iona came in, that she got so tired of the battle of life, sometimes, and after Miss Ross' little breezy entrance Mr. Percival, who was under the spell of the enchantress, and thought Miss Dunton about as near perfection as women generally are, leaned forward and said in an aside;

"Why not throw your burdens on stronger shoulders, then?"

"Alas, I have but little faith in any one's strength," with a soft little fluttering sigh, that touched the gentleman's heart, as she meant it should.

"Let me teach you faith," he said.

Aunt Mary and Mrs. Bridgewater were in deep conversation. He had almost forgotten Iona until he casually glanced in her direction and met the scornful glance of her proud, dark eyes, and a look of utter contempt on her face, whether for himself or his companion he could not tell. He made some trival remark to her. She answered him calmly but coldly, and then he said:

"Do, Miss Dunton, favor us with some music," glancing toward the open piano.

She hesitated a moment, colored faintly, and then said:

"Not to-night, thank you."

Mr. Percival was a gentleman, but in some things very peculiar and straightforward, as in his question that followed immediately.

"You do play, don't you, Miss Dunton?"

Mrs. Bridgewater was looking at her strangely. She dared not tell an untruth right here, and so said:

"No, I am sorry to say that I had never much desire to learn."

"Indeed! I think music a rare accomplishment."

There was visible disappointment in the gentleman's tone; but Aunt Mary, coming to the rescue, said in her quiet way:

"Perhaps Iona will play for us."

"Oh, excuse me, I had forgotten that Miss Ross played. Favor us, please."

Otho Percival conducted her to the piano, where Iona felt that she should reap her first benefit in Otho Percival's eyes. He was passionately fond of music, and Miss Ross played and sang with soul and spirit and it was a stoic, indeed, that would fain to be impressed thereby.

"You sing beautifully, Miss Ross," he said, when she arose to leave the instrument.

"Thank you," she replied quietly.

She was kind and modest enough not to show her triumph over Miss Dunton, who did not make any remarks whatever, but seeing that her hold was weakening, drew a slip of paper from her pocket, that she had clipped from some weekly edition, and begged leave to read an article.

She knew her power lay in her accomplishment of reading and speaking well, and she meant to make it felt again on Otho Percival. She was not going to let this stately, haughty looking Miss Ross step in between her and the man she had so nearly won after infinite trouble and pains.

It was a touching temperance article, and she read it with charming effect, and glanced triumphantly at Miss Ross, when Mr. Percival transferred all of his attention to her again. Iona returned her look with one of silent contempt. She was more than ever determined to win, although she let them have things all their own way during the remainder of the evening.

The next time she met Miss Dunton and Mrs. Bridgewater the latter exclaimed:

"You seemed to be a favorite of Mr. Percival's."

"Do I?"

"I thought so the other evening."

"I was not aware of it. I have known Mr. Percival since I was a child, however."

"Miss Ross, let us go out for a walk," Miss Dunton said.

Iona complied with her request at once, never dreaming that the fascinating reader meant to meet Otho Percival in this walk, either by fair means or foul.

She adroitly lead Miss Ross by the Percival mansion, saying with seeming carelessness:

"What a handsome residence Mr. Percival has. I wonder he dosen't marry."

"Perhaps he will, some time," Iona returned.

"I shouldn't wonder," Miss Dunton assented, with a sweet smile.

Iona saw it: nothing about this woman ever escaped her eyes. She said:

"Perhaps you think it strange that there is so wonderfully attractive about Otho Percival. I think women, especially single women, act like fools over him. If I were goose enough to fall in love with him he never should know it."

"Why?"

"I wouldn't gratify his inordinate self-love enough for that."

Iona spoke vehemently and the last sentence with extreme defiance. She had discovered that some one was among the grape-vines on the other side of the hedge, and whoever it was must have heard her first words. She might as well carry the rest out boldly, even if the saying lost all her chance of Otho Percival.

He came forward a moment later with a basket of grapes in his hand, and she knew he had heard her. Miss Dunton knew it, too. She had known it from the first, and purposely led her companion on to talk.

"Good-afternoon, ladies," Mr. Percival said smiling. "I am glad to see you looking so well to-day, Miss Dunton."

Not a word further to Iona, only a curious glance in her direction, as though he wondered what manner of woman she was, any way, and then said:

"Have some grapes, ladies? I have just been picking them."

"Oh, what lovely fruit!" Miss Dunton cried, in an ecstacy of delight, as she accepted the perfect bunches, but Iona said shortly:

"No, thank you; I don't care for grapes."

"Perha