The Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1894.

THE NEW LEADER.

Mr. Marter, the gentleman chosen to be the leader of the Opposition in Ontario, is very highly spoken of. He is greatly respected as being a man of sterling worth. His experience as a legislator has not been very great, but his talents are such as in the short space of eight years to enable him to take his place among the leading politicians of Ontario. He is a good speaker and is full of energy. When he once takes up a matter he does not let it drop quickly. He stands to his guns no matter how formidable the opposition is which he has to meet. Mr. Marter is a strong temperance man and the cause of temperance is a growing one in Ontario. He is a staunch Conservative and, as his being chosen to fill the position of leader of the Opposition shows, he has won the respect and confidence of the leading men of his party. It is not claimed that he is either as able or as brilliant a man as Chief Justice Meredith, whom he has succeeded, but it is believed that he possesses sterling qualities which will make him a successful leader.

CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED.

A criminal action as well as a civil one has been entered against Mr. Emanuel St. Louis, of Curran Bridge notoriety. The case will, no doubt, be vigorously prosecuted. The people of Canada, from one end to the other, take a lively interest in the Curran Bridge scandal, and they expect that the Government will do all in its power to have justice done without fear, favor or affection. Here is a summary of the charges preferred against Mr. St. Louis:

That Emanuel St. Louis of Montreal, between the twenty-fourth of February and the seventh of June, 1893, obtained from the Queen the sum of $144,874 with intent to defraud.

2. That he, between the said 24th of February and the 7th of June, 1893, inclusive, obtained $1,861.40 with intent to defraud.

3. That he, between the 6th of March and the 7th of June, 1893, inclusive, obtained $12,337.37 with intent to defraud.

4. That he, between the 20th of March and the 7th of June, 1893, inclusive, obtained $10,913 92 with intent to defraud.

5. That he, between the 12th of January and the 7th of June, 1893, inclusive, obtained $425 70 with intent to defraud.

6. That Her Majesty the Queen at all the time between the 24th of February and the 7th of June, 1893, was, and still is, a creditor of Emanuel St. Louis, and that the said Emanuel St. Louis at the city of Montreal, on or about the 7th day of June, 1893, with intent to defraud Her Majesty the Queen, who was then a creditor of the said Emanuel St. Louis, did unlawfully destroy his books, papers and writings, to wit: time books, checks, bank books, journals, ledgers and balance sheet.

Mr. St. Louis has, by the way he carried out his labor contract, brought on himself very serious trouble. He sued the Government for $63,000, which he claimed and they refused to pay. He had hardly lost that suit when the Government entered a civil action for the recovery of $143,000 alleged to have been overpaid. And now criminal proceedings have been taken against him for fraud, as the charges above show. It is not likely that the Opposition will be satisfied that the Government has done what it could do and what it ought to do to guard and to maintain the interests of the public in this matter. It is, in fact, impossible to satisfy or to please the Opposition, but we believe that there are very few persons who are at all impartial who will not cheerfully admit that the Government have, in the Curran bridge scandal, from the time they had a well-grounded suspicion of there being fraud in the business, done all that was necessary to get at the facts of the case and to bring the delinquents—if there are delinquents—to justice.

A FIENDISH MURDER.

A dreadful murder was committed in Listowel, Ontario, a few days ago. A young girl of fourteen years of age living in the neighborhood of the town was barbarously murdered in broad daylight. The body was found shortly after the deed was committed in the woods covered with moss and fearfully mangled. The description of the remains of the poor child is absolutely sickening, and led to the conclusion that the murderer could not possibly have been sane. As might be supposed the news of this deed of fiendish brutality created great excitement in the neighborhood and, if the murderer had been found when it was at its height, he would surely have been lynched. More than one person was arrested, but none of them could be detained as the murderer. The Toronto Empire, disgusted with the apathy or the inefficiency of the department of justice in Ontario, said in its issue of the 24th inst.: "Four clear days have passed and this civilized and supposed to be well protected community is still left to ponder over the frightful case." We gather from the Mail of the same date that a reward had not even then been offered for the discovery and apprehension of the murderer. One would suppose in such a case that a reward would have been offered immediately, not only by the Provincial Government, but by the municipality in which the abominable deed was committed.

It was supposed that the murderer must be a tramp, a suspicious looking character having been seen lurking about the town on the day of the murder. But the failure to trace the murderer did not excite much surprise. Murders are committed in large towns almost within sight of policemen and where any number of trained detectives are at the command of the authorities, yet the murderers escape. Jack the Ripper is a case in point. How did that wretch manage to elude the officers of Justice, and how is it that those officers were unable to track and apprehend him? If the fiend who committed a series of murders in a city where officers of the law are to be met at every corner was suffered to escape, what is to be expected of inexperienced constables of a rural district who most likely by their blundering gave the criminal every chance to escape before skilled detectives were employed in the case?

The murderer of Jessie Keith, however, was not to escape. At the very time in which the Empire was complaining of the inefficiency of the administration of the law in Ontario the murderer had been apprehended. He was soon identified as the man who had been skulking about Listowel. Articles of women's wearing apparel which he had in his possession, were claimed by persons living in the village. When the miscreant found that he could not possibly escape he confessed and related some of the abominable details of his crime. His name is Chatelle, and it does not appear that he is at all insane. The world will no doubt soon be rid of the monster.

THE VICTORIA ELECTION.

It is evident now that very little was known about the election in Victoria (Australia) even after it was over and a new Government formed. Protectionists in this northern hemisphere claimed it as a victory for protection, and free traders enthusiastically declared that it was a triumph for free trade. The truth was that neither protection nor free trade was the issue. The people of Victoria needed money very badly as they were falling behind every year. What they wanted was a system of taxation and an administration that would put an end to the era of deficits. They wanted more revenue and they wanted taxation so imposed that it would be as little burdensome to the people as possible.

The able and well-informed writer of the article "The Colonies" in the London Times in the issue of October 12, said:

Whatever may have been the original intention of its framers, the Victorian tariff exists as an instrument of revenue. It is as an instrument of revenue that it must be judged, and in this fact we get, perhaps, some explanation of the apparent confusion which puts the policy of the free traders into the lips of a nominally protectionist Prime Minister. Private telegrams received in London have made it clear that the elections were not conducted on any pure free trade issue. Out of the 95 members returned 44 members were pledged to a substantial reduction of the tariff and 14 to tariff reform in the sense that means the nearest approach possible to free trade. These members represent a majority in the Assembly in favor of reducing the customs duties, and in the light which they throw on the situation it becomes possible to conceive that a frank revision of the tariff for purposes of revenue may be contemplated.

The victory certainly was not a free trade victory, and no one pretends to think that the new Government that has been formed since the election is a free trade Government. "The party of tariff reform in Victoria," we are told, "has abandoned the free trade flag, and calls itself the party of free production with tariff for revenue purposes." It should not be forgotten that protection in Victoria differs very materially from protection in Canada. Each colony of Australia protects itself from every other colony. There is no such thing as intercolonial free trade on the Australian continent. This circumstance alone makes the trade question in the Australian colonies very different from what it is in this Dominion.

NEW ZEALAND EXPERIMENTS.

The experiments with respect to the settlement of wild lands and the encouragement of immigration that are going on in New Zealand should be regarded with great interest by Canadian statesmen and others who take an intelligent interest in the welfare of their country. In New Zealand the Government gives the new settler assistance in the shape of a cash advance, taking the land as security for repayment. This plan, on a limited scale has been pronounced a decided success, and the Government has been induced by that success to apply the principle to larger tracts of land.

"In New Zealand," the chronicler of colonial progress in the London Times says, "the policy of developing the wealth of the soil has been freely adopted, and the Advances to Settlers bill, which passed its third reading on Tuesday last, is an example of the curious evolution through which protectionist principles are passing in that country. Land is now becoming the object of the same paternal care which was at one time extended to manufactures. Nowhere, perhaps, could experiments of the kind be more safely tried, and the result which it is sought to obtain is important enough to justify at least a fair trial of the system. The success of the village settlements scheme has no doubt encouraged Mr. Seddon's Government to have confidence in the extension of the same principle on a wider scale. The village settlement scheme had the advantage of specially able and cautious administration. If the advances to settlers are made with the same strict care the result will be no less satisfactory. It is, however, the inherent weakness of all systems of administrative protection that they necessarily depend too much on the character and ability of individual officials, and the scheme which, if it be well worked, may prove of great value to the agricultural population, may in feeble and inefficient hands become a source of unpardonable waste.

This coming from the Times, the determined enemy of governmental paternalism, is very mild criticism indeed. A few years ago the Thunderer would have denounced such a system of government dry-nursing in the most uncompromising and the most contemptuous manner. But experience is teaching that great journal some valuable lessons. It is finding out that the *laissez faire* policy is not always and everywhere the best, and that individualism can be carried to a pernicious extreme. It is evidently watching these New Zealand experiments impartially and without prejudice prepared to give the New Zealand Government full credit for any good results that may be achieved. This is the frame of mind and the spirit in which all observers, no matter what their predilections may be, should watch these very important experiments. Latitude and longitude do not change principles and the plan of land settlement which works well in New Zealand ought to work well in British Columbia.

THE ARION CLUB

Opens Its Third Season With a Delightful Concert in the A.O.U.W. Hall.

The Programme a Carefully Selected One From the Works of Great Composers.

The Arion club opened their third season with a concert in the new A.O.U.W. hall last evening, in which they were assisted by Mrs. Clement Rowlands, mezzo-soprano. The attendance, which was by invitation only, was large and eminently fashionable, and the acoustic properties of the hall were found to be all that the architect had promised they should be. There is little new material in the club this season, though it is (if that be possible) stronger and better than ever; Mr. William Greig, the conductor, to whose untiring devotion to his art is due the organization and growth of the club, has now a choir whose superior is not to be found on the Pacific coast in the unique and delightful field it occupies. Not only does the club sing its music correctly and melodiously, but it sings with an evident appreciation of the meaning—the soul—of the music, and thus in giving to the musically uneducated an insight into the delights of the works of the masters, Mr. Greig and his associates are performing a worthy work in the improvement of public taste, while giving unalloyed pleasure to all who have the opportunity of enjoying the feasts they provide.

Last evening's programme was as usual carefully selected to meet a variety of tastes, its numbers ranging through the works of Mendelssohn, Abt, Haydn, Kucken, von Weber, Kreutzer, Genee, Hatton, Lloyd, Flavell, Osgood, Pearsall and Dudley Buck.

The concert opened with the "Thuringian Volkslied," (Abt.), a plaintive and very tuneful selection; then the whole strength of the club was shown in Mendelssohn's spirited hunting song, whose picturesque brightness of word painting needs only the animating music to which it is set to kindle hearts and eyes. In these two introductory numbers the audience had ample opportunity to see that the club had improved, not retrograded, during their disappearance from the eyes of the musical public. The tenors are noticeably stronger—possibly as strong now as they can be with the limited number of tenor voices to be found in the city. The attack in the hunting song was simply magnificent, well led and well sustained, while the harmony throughout and the skilful handling of the basses could not but attract the favorable remark of the critical all through the delightful evening.

"The Serenade" and "The Northman's Song" were each gems from Kucken, so popular with Arion audiences last season, while von Weber's "Hymn to the Night" developed the descriptive powers of class. Mrs. Rowlands' first solo was Haydn's Canzonetta III., "My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair," and was artistically and sweetly sung, the vocal accompaniment in this as in the succeeding "Dream Song" (Genee), in which Mr. Herbert Kent's manly baritone was heard to great advantage, being exquisite.

Kreutzer's "Home," by the club, and "Ave Maria" (Franz Abt) were the last numbers but one in the initial half of the programme. In the latter the solo (tenor) was taken by Mr. E. A. Wolff, L.G.M., whose voice, while lacking the strength to be great, is always sweet and true, and whose style of singing cannot but excite general admiration.

Following this, and in striking contrast, was given the Bacchus chorus from "Antigone" (Mendelssohn), in which the quartette were Messrs. A. Parfitt, J. Sterling Floyd, W. S. Goodwin and G. W. Booth, Mr. E. J. Middleton acting as accompanist. No. 11 on the programme, C. H. Lloyd's "Song of the Sea" again demonstrated the power of the club in handling a subject calling for vigor and dash; it was given with admirable vim and effect.

"The Serenade" (J. L. Hatton), "The Trumpeter's May Song" (G. L. Osgood)—in this latter Mr. George Jay's cornet obligato was an admirable feature—and Dudley Buck's "On the Sea" were other jewels of the second part, added to which was another solo by Mrs. Rowlands, "My Sailor Love" (E. M. Flavell). This number was so heartily and thoroughly appreciated that a first encore (recalls were the general rule of the evening) failed to satisfy, and a third appearance of the popular artist was absolutely insisted on.

The programme was closed with "The Watchers' Song" (Pearsall), in which the tenor solo was taken by Mr. J. C. M. Keith.

List! Good people all,
Past ten o'clock
The hour I call.
Now say your prayers,
And take your rest.
With conscience clear
And sins confessed.
I bid you all good-night.

The club is this season directed by the following officers, who with Messrs. G. W. Booth, Herbert Kent, William Greig, J. E. Martin, George Jay and P. Wollaston (forming the executive committee), will have very much to do with providing numerous pleasant evenings for their friends during the next few months: President, Lt.-Col. Prior; vice-president, Herbert Kent; secretary-treasurer, George Jay; and librarian, J. E. Martin. As at present constituted the active members of the club are: J. C. M. Keith, J. Kingham, A. C. Martin, K. J. Middleton, E. H. Russell, A. J. Thomas and E. A. Wolff (first tenors); J. S. Floyd, W. E. Mitchell, A Parfitt, George Shedden and S. Y. Wootton (second tenors); W. S. Goodwin, E. A. Jacob, H. Kent, J. E. Martin, R. R. Monro, and William Muir (first basses); G. W. Booth, E. Grizzelle, George Henwood, George Jay, C. W. Rhodes, and P. Wollaston (second basses); and Mr. William Greig, conductor.

PROBABLY the last of this year's catch of sealskins was yesterday shipped to London, Eng. They are the take of the schooner Rosie Olsen and are being forwarded by the Hudson Bay Co. In all there are fourteen casks, equal in weight to 9,808 pounds.

TECHNICAL education in the public schools will be discussed at a meeting of the teachers' institute to be held to-morrow afternoon at half-past three. The teachers will endeavor to draw up a workable scheme and will report their ideas on the subject to the school board, in accordance with the resolution passed at the conference recently held with the Minister of Education.

OUR SALMON FISHERIES.

TO THE EDITOR:—I was very pleased to see in a recent edition of your paper a lengthy communication from our Fisheries department at Ottawa, which goes to show that it is fully alive to all that is going on in British Columbia in relation to our salmon fisheries. Sir Charles H. Tupper dwells on what he terms the "abuse and vilification" heaped upon him for honestly endeavoring to do his duty. Now, I have followed this fishery question closely for some years past, and can say that I have never seen in the press anything that could be construed into the abuse and vilification of which he complains. Criticism there has been, some of it perhaps a little harsh, but then Sir Charles is a public official, and this sort of thing he should look for, and, moreover, as the head and representative of the Fisheries department, he is liable to be made the object of all attacks. Such is one of the necessary penalties of greatness, and if he has been in receipt of personal and abusive communications, and I gather from what he says that he has, they are not worthy of his notice. As to the recent burst of indignation being chiefly caused by his refusing to extend the fishing season, that accounts for some of the feeling, but not chiefly. There was little or no strong feeling manifested in the matter until telegram after telegram sent by our prominent citizens to Ottawa, elicited no reply. Then people began to wonder what it all meant. Wonder gave way to dissatisfaction, dissatisfaction to mutterings and grumbling, culminating at last in the outburst of indignation of which Sir Charles Tupper speaks.

It would indeed be surprising had there been no such indignation expressed, for everyone was in doubt what to do. Fishermen stood by their gear, momentarily expecting to be allowed to go to work again; canneries were in a half-paralyzed condition; they could not proceed to wind up their business, but had to keep their staff under pay, anticipating an immediate resumption of fishing, and all this irritating state of affairs could have been easily avoided by a courteous Yes, or No, from Ottawa.

If Sir Charles thinks he is in evil repute in this Province let him come out here and see. He has hosts of friends everywhere, and would be accorded an enthusiastic welcome. Sir Charles says, "I always feared I could not obtain the approval of the canners," and also, "It is impossible to believe that in 1881 there were as many canners on the B. C. Board of Trade as there are now, because their body demanded restrictions on fishing."

Now, in 1881 there were but twelve canneries in B. C., eight of which were situated on the Fraser, two on the Skeena, one at Naas Bay and one at Alert Bay, and I have before me a list of the members comprising the B. C. Board of that date, in which I find that every one of those canneries was represented on that board. Now, this is the body which Sir Charles tells us demanded restrictions on fishing, and he is right.

A committee of the board was appointed and drew up certain recommendations to the Dominion government. One of these recommendations commencing, "Compared with the Columbia," etc., etc., Sir Charles quotes, but had he quoted the whole or any other part, he could not possibly have established the shadow of a claim to the assumption that he had any reason whatever to fear opposition from the cannerymen. And then as if to demolish his fears altogether, I find that this 1881 report asking certain restrictions was signed by Matthew T. Johnson, Thomas Earle and J. H. Turner as the committee, while Mr. R. P. Rithet was president of the board, and all those names were representative cannerymen. Then amongst others comprising the Board of Trade at that date, are the names of these cannerymen, Robt. Ward, M. M. English, J. A. Laidlaw, J. H. Todd, John Adair, etc., until it seems as though everyone owning any interest in those twelve canneries were members; certainly a greater proportion was there, than is the case now.

"It was in 1881 that Sir Charles and Lady Tupper visited this province, when they were entertained by the B. C. Board in Victoria to dinner at the Driard house, an address being presented which was acknowledged by Sir Charles in a happy speech, from which it would not be amiss to hear again some of his sentiments as they were then expressed, as they are equally applicable at the present moment.

"He hoped, as the address just read asked, that members of the Dominion government would more frequently visit British Columbia. When he returned and made his report the only question that would disturb the harmony of the council board would be, Who shall visit British Columbia? All would be anxious to come. No government could discharge its duty to this most interesting province without knowing more about it than they now do. * * * He was entirely unprepared to meet with such a body of gentlemen as he saw about the board tonight, and he should carry about him the deepest conviction that in doing their duty by British Columbia the government would be doing their duty to the rest of Canada. . . . And the closing words of his speech were: "After the look he had had of British Columbia, he would not rest satisfied until he returned again to make himself acquainted with the country, and the thrift and enterprise of its people."

Then, after the cheering had subsided, Sir Charles rose again and proposed the health of the President, Vice President, Secretary of the Board of Trade, paying an eloquent tribute to its president (Mr. R. P. Rithet), who, he said, "had begun at the lowest rung of the ladder, and by enterprise, energy and intelligence had reached his present leading and commanding position." "The government would regard recommendations coming from the board with every consideration, and, as far as possible, would carry them out." Had Sir Charles any right then to distrust the cannerymen? Clearly, no. The very board which entertained him in 1881 was the board which sought to strengthen the hands of the Fisheries department. The suggestion of restrictions emanated from it through a committee of three gentlemen appointed to look into the matter, and all of whom were cannerymen. Their one object was to preserve the fisheries for future use; if it were otherwise, would they have asked for restrictions? No. Before leaving this subject I would like to reproduce part of one of the 1881 suggestions. Here it is: "Regulations have already been made by which a close time of twenty-four hours in each week is prescribed, but the opinion of many fishermen and persons conversant with the habits of the salmon, is that those regulations do not afford the requisite protection, owing to the uncertain and irregular movement of the fish towards the spawning ground. To extend the close time would be highly detrimental to the fishing industry, as the runs of fish are limited to short periods, of which the canneries must take the utmost advantage in order to make the business profitable. . . . . .

"As the regulations pertaining to a close time for fishing do not afford the protection necessary, and the establishment of hatcheries has not even been considered by the government, the committee are of opinion that a scheme (having due regard to vested interests) of granting licenses, by which the number of fisheries in the different rivers and fishing places would be regulated and placed under control of the government, would best meet the case until hatcheries of the necessary productive capacities have been established." This suggestion was made thirteen years ago, and to day we have one hatchery maintained at an annual cost of less than $2,600, and this hatchery propagates from a late run of sockeye, which no doubt has something to do with the increasing lateness of the sockeye run every year. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Wilmot's mode of comparing the salmon pack of different years together is very misleading, as for instance comparing 1880 with 1881, or 1892 with 1893. Now 1880 and 1892 were both the smallest years in the cycle of four, while 1891 and 1893 were the greatest years, consequently these comparisons are valueless. To arrive at a proper idea of the rate of increase, corresponding years in each cycle should be compared together.

Then Sir Charles says that in 1881 cannerymen had a high opinion of Mr. Wilmot, and inferentially that they have not now. How could they think well of a man who has so persistently insulted and maligned them? It was this Mr. Wilmot who paid our river a visit a few years ago, and after running on it two days knew all about canneries and salmon fishing from beginning to end, returned to Ottawa and made out his report to the department, which was grossly exaggerated in many ways. In this report he spoke of the "*avarice of the packers*," and further of the "*selfish and grasping persons engaged in the trade*," referring of course to the cannerymen. Not only did he abuse and insult the canners, but even condescended to honor the fishermen with his attention, as the following extract from his report will show. He says:

"If the number of boats were to be increased because the number of salmon were less in any one year it would simply mean that the department was aiding *avaricious fishermen* to destroy in a greater degree this reduced stock of salmon entering the river." Then this Mr. Wilmot, having given such evidence of his capability, his judicial and unbiassed mind, is subsequently sent out to conduct a Commission of Inquiry into the fisheries question in this Province. How he conducted that commission is not yet forgotten. Apparently Mr. Higgins was the only gentleman on the commission who realized what the inquiry was for. He protested time and again against the shameful conduct and childishness of his brother commissioners, pleading with them to use a little common sense, but without avail.

This then is the Mr. Wilmot that the canners, and for that matter the fishermen, too, have such small regard for, and if Sir Charles would like to know more of the proceedings of that commission out here than appears in Mr. Wilmot's report, he should peruse the DAILY COLONIST of March 4, 6, and 8, 1892.

Now as to Mr. Wilmot's memorandum, it is not calculated to mend matters at all, there is such a bitter acrid tone running through it. He tells us that after August 25, sockeye salmon are not fit to be canned, and also says that sockeye should be taken from September 25 to October 31. The two statements contradict each other. He then compares the catch of 1892 with that of 1893, the lowest and highest years respectively of the cycle, and from the fact of there being a large increase in the value of the 1893 pack over that of 1892, deduces a reason that the sockeye season should not have been extended this year. But as I have previously pointed out to be of any value comparisons should be made with corresponding years in each cycle, as little or no information is to be gleaned from comparisons of two successive years.

Then the greater part of his memorandum is devoted to the offal question, and this affords him capital opportunity for a display of feeling against the cannerymen, especially signalling out Mr. Munn. I see nothing so outrageously unreasonable in Mr. Munn's proposition that the Dominion government should apply a portion of the taxation levied on our fishing industry for the purpose of helping to solve the offal question, for I understand that only a small portion of the revenue derived from the B.C. fisheries is expended by the department on fishery work in British Columbia.

Mr. Wilmot says if the department were to do such a thing, it would form a bad precedent for other manufacturing establishments, as they would all want their refuse removed by government. But is there any industry in Canada (apart from fishery) where workmen are taxed ten dollars to be allowed to work for any establishment, or is there any establishment that is taxed two hundred dollars to be allowed to employ a certain class of workmen? I know of none, but it is a common thing to see industries bonused with both money and land to commence operations in any given locality. All the canneries ask is that a small portion of the taxes levied on their industry shall be utilized for the purpose of helping to a solution of this vexed offal question.

Mr. Wilmot knows well that canners do not claim that the utilization of their offal would be a source of great profit to the government; in fact, he knows to the contrary, for at that 1892 inquiry to which I have referred, he received sworn testimony directly to the opposite. What, then, does he mean by so misrepresenting the facts and trying to score a point against the cannery men?

Mr. Wilmot talks of the fishermen's average catch, one year with another, being 6 000 to 7,000, and sometimes 10,000 to 11,000. That, no doubt, will be news to the fishermen. Last year (the big year) they averaged about 6,000, not more, this year about 3,500, and the next two years will probably not average 2,000 each year, making a mean average of less than 3,500.

One or two more points regarding Mr. Wilmot, and then I will leave him. He says: "Is there a record in any other part of the world where salmon are taken more easily, more cheaply, or more numerously than on the Fraser river?" I answer that by another query. Has he never heard of Alaska, or to come nearer home, has he never heard of Point Roberts? Alaska is our great competitor and can undersell us in any market, because there the salmon are more numerous and taken more easily and cheaply than in the Fraser river. The same applies to Point Roberts in a modified degree.

Then, Mr. Wilmot says: "Does it show evidence of the industry being hazardous and uncertain when these canning companies, with their commission agents and brokers, are held by general report of their fellow citizens to be the monied kings of British Columbia?" Again I tell Mr. Wilmot to turn to the sworn testimony received by him at that 1892 inquiry. What has he as a public servant to do with general report or any hearsay when he has sworn evidence to proceed upon? There and then it was shown that general report was altogether wrong, and that salmon canneries were not nearly so remunerative as was commonly supposed.

Sir Charles looks for the opinion of those not immediately interested in the fishing. Now it is really hard to say who is not interested, for the coast towns all derive so much of their support from this industry, and inland the people know little and care less about the matter.

As one who is neither canneryman nor fisherman, though intimately acquainted with both for many years past, so far as I can see the regulations, with a few exceptions, are generally approved of in the Province. The most important of the exceptions are, prohibition of seining and offal. The prohibition of seining is something worse than a grievance, because there are canneries on this coast that depend on seining for their salmon supply, and cannot exist without it. In these localities drift nets are useless, the water being so clear that the fish will not gill. Another phase of this question to which attention has been called in the press is the absurdity of prohibiting seining in Boundary bay, because the salmon only come in on one tide, and with the ebb go out again, right across the bay to Point Roberts, where great numbers are caught in American traps which intercept the fish on their way to the Fraser. The Americans seine and trap the salmon at South bluff as they enter Boundary bay, and the same thing is done at Point Roberts when they go out again.

Then, on the offal question, I believe there is a good deal of misconception. If this offal is shot into deep water (and all the canneries are situated on the edge of deep water) it at once sinks to the bottom. Millions of scavenger fish and some sturgeon then attack it and it is very little they leave. When offal was shot into the river it was a marvellous sight to see the millions of small fish round the fish wharves waiting for their feast, and I have seen Chinamen with their little dip nets take out a pailful at one dip. Sturgeon, too, were easily caught with hook and line from any of the wharves, and Indians were accustomed to set their sturgeon lines a little below the canneries, and I have seen many hundreds of big sturgeon so caught while waiting on their "offal" feast. It is no longer so, but doubtless would be again were the old conditions to prevail. Much has been said and written about the floating up and down river of the offal and the pollution of the water from this source. If shot into the channel offal would never go far from a cannery. On reaching the bottom it is at once carried into the pockets or holes which abound in the bed of the channel and is soon devoured by scavenger fish. It never floats up stream because during the cannery season the current always runs one way, down, on account of the freshet. As now scattered round the sandheads it is a greater nuisance than ever before, floating about in salt water right in the path of salmon ascending and fouling the fishermen's nets. People living on the banks of a slough have been known to complain of the pollution of the slough water, ascribing the cause to offal when they knew that the sewerage of all the inhabitants in their locality drains into that particular slough, and not only that, but the contents of their ditches draining miles and miles of the surrounding country also emptied into the same sloughs. And the same people will complain of sickness caused by offal, they say, and then go on using water contaminated by sewerage and decaying vegetation, at the same time knowing that the low, flat land on which they live is favorable to a mild form of malaria, especially when the summer is unusually dry.

Then there are other minor points in the fisheries regulations which call for some reconsideration by the department, but there is no difficulty existing but what can be amicably arranged.

Sir Charles need not despair. His interviews, as published in the COLONIST, although savoring too much of impatience, will carry conviction to many minds that he is faithfully and honestly endeavoring to do what is best for the general good. What he needs is more accurate local knowledge, and that is not to be obtained by anyone in a two day trip to this province, or by consulting experts from England, however distinguished they may be.

If he still thinks of letting go his hold on the province, well and good, for then a permanently constituted board representing the Dominion and Provincial governments and fishing industry could be appointed to administer our fishing affairs. LEX.

Ladner's Landing, B. C., Oct. 25, 1894.

[NOTE—Our correspondent has made the natural mistake of confounding the present Minister of Fisheries (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) with his father (Sir Charles Tupper, now High Commissioner in London), who formerly was a distinguished member of the Dominion government, and who made the speeches attributed in the above letter to the present Minister of Fisheries.—EDITOR.]

OCTOBER has been one of the busiest months of the year in police court circles. A list of the cases dealt with during the month follows: Drunks, 67; in possession of intoxicant, 30; supplying liquor to Indians, 13; larceny, 10; refusing to pay wages, 2; creating a disturbance, 2; vagrancy, 3; fighting, 7; aggravated assault, 1; safe keeping, 2; unsound mind, 1; fast driving, 1; burglary, 4; assault, 3; threatening language, 1; infraction of Public Morals by-law, 1; infraction of Public Health by-law, 1; infraction of V. E. T. & L. by-law, 1; infraction of Liquor License by-law, 1; malicious damage to property, 1; infraction of Street by-law, 1; infraction of criminal code, 1; acting as special constable without authority, 1; infraction of Revenue by-law, 1; attempting to commit suicide, 1; and infraction of Vehicle by-law, 1.

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