

THE PLAN OF A COWARD.

While not venturing on a straight denial, the *Davie* organ undertakes to sneer mildly at the statement which appeared in the *Times* yesterday: "There is good reason to suspect that the order which caused Mr. Brown's retirement was called forth by the instigation of the *Davie* government and its friends, who thus paid a compliment to the member for New Westminster." For reasons of its own the *Colonist* suppressed the concluding phrase of the sentence—"though in doing so they were actuated by most unworthy motives." That is merely by the way, however; the point of importance is that the sentence quoted by the *Colonist* from the *Times* is strictly correct. The reasons for suspecting that wires were pulled from Victoria to insure Mr. Brown's retirement are so very strong that they warrant quite positive convictions on the subject. Those who paid moderately close attention to the proceedings of the past session will probably remember that on one occasion Premier *Davie* threatened an effort to have pressure brought to bear on Mr. Brown from Ottawa, and no doubt he has been as good as his word. If any person feels mystified as to the process adopted, he has only to remember that certain gentlemen who are known to have some influence at the Dominion capital have profited considerably from the policy pursued by the local government and its subservient majority in the house and that the removal of Mr. Brown from the government's path is quite in the line of a "quid pro quo." Couple Mr. *Davie's* threat with the fact that these gentlemen may well feel themselves under debt to his government, and all mystery is removed. We need hardly refer to the meanness and cowardice of this scheme for the removal of an opponent too strong to be fought openly. Nobody expects fair and manly conduct from the premier, whose nature has so often shown delight in the use of small practices and in the ways of the trickster. In this case he has also shown an unusual amount of stupidity, for the province at large will hardly fail to express its disgust at the adoption of such cowardly tactics.

THE WHITWASHING POWER.

"The investigation cannot be one-sided unless the commissioners are one-sided, and that every one knows they are not." This rather eccentric declaration, it need hardly be said, comes from the *Colonist*, and is supposed to be an answer to the objections raised to the government's course in regard to the *Nakusp* inquiry. The organ would have talked more to the point if it had undertaken to show why the government did not ask the house to vote a sum to meet the expenses of the commission. The *Colonist* should be able to perceive that an inquiry cannot be carried on without some expense, and that the government's failure to provide for this is most conclusive evidence that it regarded the commission as a hollow mockery. As to the whitewashing process, it needs no unusual intelligence to see that the brush will be in the hands of the government, not the commission. The commissioners will have to depend on what evidence is brought before them, and since the premier has taken care to keep that matter within his own control he has before-hand a fairly good idea of all that will be brought forth. Surely neither the premier nor the organ is stupid enough to expect the members of the opposition to dip into their own pockets in order to carry on an investigation for which the government has set limits to suit itself. They know well that the restrictions imposed by the government-resolution absolutely preclude inquiry into the whole of this *Nakusp* railway affair, and that the members of the opposition would be foolish to spend their own money in helping to carry out so very transparent a fraud on the public. Mr. *Davie* and the *Colonist* appear to think they have a lot of children to deal with in the opposition and the general public, but they will assuredly find out their mistake. The government game is too easily seen through to have any success.

COMMITTEES AND OATHS.

There was some animated discussion in the house of commons last week on the question of giving the public accounts committee power to examine witnesses on oath. Opposition members contended that there should be a continuance of the practice of 1891 and 1892, when all witnesses examined in reference to the famous scandals were sworn. To this the government would not consent, declaring that it would be sufficient to administer the oath in individual cases when special reasons were advanced. In the course of the debate this piece of very strong testimony in favor of the opposition's contention was given by Mr. *Davie* of Prince Edward Island: "In this committee (public accounts) he had asked a public officer a question which had been answered by a flat denial, and he had been asked at the next session the question. At the next session the witness being under oath was asked by Mr. *Lister* the same question and the witness then confessed the truth. Being asked to explain his former answer, he replied that when asked by Mr. *Davie* he was not under oath. Pointing out the absurdity of trying to investigate the public accounts when officials might give any answer they pleased, he appealed to the house to follow the example of England and the larger provinces of Canada. No one, however, high in position, objected to giving their evidence under oath. It is rather strange that the govern-

ment should have offered any objection to the proposal of the opposition, and it seems all the stranger in the light of their own contention that leave could always be obtained to administer the oath when any special reason was offered for doing so. They in fact proposed to substitute a roundabout and time-wasting process for the simple and direct one which the opposition desired to adopt. Mr. *Weldon* of Albert advanced a peculiar argument in behalf of the government. He said: "The reason why they agreed to the resolution in 1891 and 1892 was because they were in a state of panic. He referred to the excited state of the country over the scandals that the public accounts committee were bringing to light. Of course the government and its supporters voted down the proposal of the opposition, and the inevitable conclusion is that they did so for the purpose of preventing the free ventilation of scandals. Probably through fear that this impression would do them some injury, Sir John Thompson has now offered to introduce a bill dealing with the matter. Our Ottawa dispatches show that there was another fight over the question to-day in the public accounts committee."

SEALING MATTERS.

It is evident that no man-of-war is to be sent north to convey a warning to the sealers that the *Paris* regulations will be enforced on May 1. There are only a few days left of this month, a period quite inadequate for the warning to be given, so the sealers found in the prohibited waters after Monday next will run a very grave chance of seizure. True, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper is reported as being "hopeful" that no seizures will be made of the regulations until after due notice has been given to the vessels, but Sir Charles is noted as a very unreliable authority on sealing matters. It is only a few days since he asserted that the largest sealing fleet known on the British coast had gone to sea this season, the statement being apparently intended to show that the business had not been in any way injured by the *Paris* award. As a matter of fact the fleet is not as large as last year's, having been slightly reduced by seizures and other mishaps. But a more important fact is that the majority of the vessels have gone to waters not affected by the *Paris* award, and it will only be when those waters are likewise closed to the sealers—which may be expected in the near future—that the full force of the award will be felt. The statement made by the minister of marine was in fact one of those ridiculous "breaks" to which that forward young gentleman is prone. An even greater absurdity he perpetrated the other day when he gravely stated that any American sealing schooner seized by a British patrol vessel would be dealt with under the British and not the American statute. If that statement were correct the rule would be apt to work both ways and therefore Canadian sealers seized by American cruisers would come under the American statute. But there is no cause to entertain any fear of that discomforting eventuality, since the award of the arbitrators most explicitly declares that the sealers of each nationality shall be under the jurisdiction of their own country's courts. Sir Hibbert would do well to keep his mouth shut on sealing matters until his knowledge is somewhat improved.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Referring to our comments on Colonel *Prior's* speech the *Colonist* says: "We venture to say that there has not been anything said in parliament, or published in the newspapers of the Dominion, on the subject that resembles most remotely either in tone or spirit the article in Saturday evening's *Times*. The writer of that article proceeded on the assumption that because Colonel *Prior* declared that he was an out and out protectionist, he placed himself outside the pale of rational and courteous discussion, and that he was justified in assuming a tone of insolent superiority and of violating every rule of fair and reasonable criticism." We have to thank our amiable neighbor most warmly for these words of praise. Of course they were not meant as a compliment, but they convey a very marked one nevertheless. Our neighbor has a way of howling when one of its sore spots are reached that is quite delightful, and we are always inclined to feel when it honors our efforts with one of its peculiar snarls. It may be, though, that Colonel *Prior* did not look with equal complaisance on the damaging work of his well-meaning but rather dense-witted defender.

Says the *Nor'wester*: "We see it stated that the principal charge against the two Newfoundland members who were unseated and disqualified was that they had expended large sums of money just before the elections to give employment on public works in order to gain votes. We are not so particular in Canada. The use of public money to influence elections has become so common that it scarcely attracts notice. It is a pity we had not a few such judges as the Newfoundland one, if it is the judge, or a law like the Newfoundland one, if it is the law. We might in time have something like decent elections." It appears that the law and the judge are to share the credit in the Newfoundland case, for the ancient colony has an act especially prohibiting the evil practice mentioned and was fortunate enough to have a judge who strictly enforced the act. British Columbia is badly in need of just such a law, since bribery by public works is a favorite method with our government. Premier *Davie* would never consent to the

passage of a law like that which unseated the Newfoundland ministers. The *Pacific Canadian*, which does duty as a government organ, says New Westminster after the following remarkable report in its last issue: "A very interesting meeting of the friends of the government was held on Friday last. The question of choosing a candidate to represent the city was discussed at some length. Amongst the names mentioned were Hon. Theodor *Davie*, Judge *Bole*, T. C. *Atkinson*, A. J. *McColl*, Q. C., Alex. *Ewen* and E. A. *Jenns*. The meeting, after numerous speeches, etc., was adjourned until next night, when the choosing of a candidate will be gone into."

When the government's friends in New Westminster are able to perform a feat such as is described in the last sentence there is danger that "all is up" with the opposition candidate. The Ontario government has found it advisable to revise its policy in regard to minerals. A few years ago the royal feature was introduced into the mining law, much in opposition to the views of the practical miners and mine operators. This session an amending bill was brought in which in its latest form provides that mining lands hereafter sold or leased shall be exempt from royalties up to January 1, 1900, instead of for five years, as the former act provided. An amendment offered by Mr. *Conmee* and accepted by the government abolishes royalties on all lands that have heretofore been sold or leased. A great many people would prefer to see royalties abolished altogether.

The Ottawa government has backed down very materially on the tea and rice items of the tariff, which were apparently devised in the interest of the C. P. R. The duty on raw rice has been put back from half a cent to three-tenths of a cent per pound, and that on cleaned rice has been changed to the old figure, a cent and a quarter. The new provision relating to tea reads: "Tea and green coffee imported direct from the country of growth and production free. This item shall include tea and coffee purchased in bond in any country where tea and coffee are subject to customs duty, provided there be satisfactory proof that the tea or coffee so purchased in bond is such as might be entered for home consumption in the country where the same is purchased." This is said to relieve from duty all tea and coffee purchased in England, while leaving the tax on all purchased in the United States.

The *Colonist* asserts that Mr. *Davie* never uttered a threat, or anything that had the appearance of a threat, to have pressure exerted from Ottawa for the retirement of Mr. *Brown*. In the debate on the speech at the opening of the late session Mr. *Davie* said, according to the *Colonist's* report: "In some other provinces a gentleman occupying the relation of Mr. *Brown* to the Dominion government would not be allowed to sit in the legislature, and though this province was more liberal the privilege should not be abused." We believe most people will agree with us that if this was not a threat it was something very like a threat.

SAMOA'S OPPORTUNITY.

A Tempting Offer to Pass Under New Zealand's Wing. London, April 23.—Mr. *Wesley Brook* Percival, New Zealand's agent general in London, has been notified officially by his government's willingness to undertake the solution of the Samoan problem. He received a cablegram from Wellington suggesting that, with a view to ending the complications in Samoa, New Zealand would volunteer to annex the islands, which would then be placed under British protection.

Berlin, April 23.—The *Hanoverian Courier* says: "We are confident that Germany will promptly reject New Zealand's offer to annex Samoa, and will protect most energetically German interests in the island from the greed of Great Britain and New Zealand."

The *Vossische Zeitung* regards New Zealand's offer with favor, and advises the government to accept it after completing an arrangement with England.

London, April 24.—Sir *George* *Isidore* *Powell* inquired in the imperial house of commons if it was proposed that New Zealand should administer the government of Samoa, and whether the United States and England had been consulted in the matter; if so, would the government make a statement as to the attitude assumed by Germany and America?

Sir *Edward* *Grey*, under foreign secretary, gave notice of a resolution setting apart that New Zealand proposed to administer the affairs of Samoa had just been received at the colonial office; but it has not yet been communicated to the foreign office. The proposal, as described in a telegram, he said, had not been consistent with the terms of the Berlin act.

Berlin, April 24.—The *Kreuz Zeitung*, commenting on the proposal that New Zealand administer the affairs of the island of Samoa, says that the Germans have made Samoa desirable, and their interests there far outweigh those of the United States and Great Britain together. Germany has hitherto neglected to assert her rights in Samoa, but she certainly ought to do so now.

Slain in the Street. Cincinnati, Ohio, April 25.—Mary *Gilman*, a pretty clerk employed by the *Pilgrimage* *Galvanic* *Belt* Co., was instantly killed this morning on her way to work. The man who committed the murder was arrested and identified by letters found in his pockets as a Roman Catholic priest named Father *Domick* *O'Grady*. Insane jealousy caused the tragedy. At the police station O'Grady made an attempt to commit suicide by taking poison, but the prompt use of a stomach pump saved him.

In consequence of winter diet and lack of open air exercise, the whole physical mechanism becomes impaired. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the proper remedy. In the spring of the year, to strengthen the appetite, invigorate the system, and expel all impurities from the blood.

CANADIAN NEWS.

The News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs. Hon. Peter Mitchell is fast recovering his usual strength, and expects to be out soon.

At Walker's distillery on Saturday \$30,000 worth of whisky was lost through an open tap. Sir Oliver Mowat has promised a Huntsville delegation that \$1,500 will be put in the estimates for the relief of the fire sufferers.

C. B. Smith and Ald. Hancock, both Conservatives, have been chosen as P. A. candidates in Hamilton for the Ontario legislature.

New St. James' church in Morrisburg was recently consecrated by the Archbishop of Ontario, assisted by some 20 clergymen from different parts of the diocese.

One of the largest real estate deals that has taken place in London for some time is the purchase by George Oliver, of Vancouver, B. C., of the Western university grounds, St. James' street, for \$17,000.

The third in three years, was made the other morning to burn Buckley's roller rink in Niagara Falls, a large frame structure occupied by M. H. Buckley & Co. as furniture warehouse. The fire was discovered and extinguished before much damage was done.

During a performance in the French opera house in Montreal Maud *Glen-viv* and her party, left the stage and attacked a girl, Louisa, a prominent critic, on account of some criticisms he had made upon her. The affair caused a great sensation.

In the Ontario legislature Mr. *Conmee* introduced a bill to give separate school boards the same ballot privileges as public school boards. Hon. Mr. *Fraser* spoke strongly on the bill, but was compelled to postpone his remarks owing to exhaustion.

The seven-year-old son of John Baker of Woodstock is dead with glanders. A horse belonging to the boy's father was affected with the disease and sneezed in the face of the child. Several other members of the Baker family are ill with the same frightful disease.

Reeve Ripley of Thorold was struck by lightning. He was standing in front of his residence when a bolt came that laid him unconscious on the sidewalk. He died about fifteen minutes afterwards. He was a prominent merchant and a member of the town council for many years.

A coat of copper and gold ore has been made in the township of Poley, a short distance east of the town of Parry Sound. No developments of any extent have yet been made, but indications are that the find will prove most valuable, some of the ore being apparently present in considerable quantities.

James Gilman, of North Dorchester, has been nominated by the Conservatives for Middlesex for the coming Ontario election. Mr. Tooley, the sitting member, declined the nomination. "Uncle Richard" Tooley has represented East Middlesex in the Ontario legislature for 20 years.

The Montreal board of trade is much disappointed at the appointment of Vancouver as shipping master for the port of Montreal. They say Vancouver cannot speak much English, which is a serious drawback to the 48-hour week at the port, so he is quite incompetent. A general meeting is going to be held to consider the matter.

Horse-shoe nails have been one of the few staple articles of trade which have not heretofore been controlled by an association; but it is no longer, manufacturers having met a few days ago and formed themselves into an association for the purpose of the formation of the association is an advance of about 20 per cent in the price.

In the Ontario legislature a motion of want of confidence was moved by *Mis-campbell*, M. P. for East Simcoe. It was directed against the crown lands department, which was charged with mis-managing the timber resources of the province. During the debate on the motion *Whitney* (Dundas) charged that Hon. Mr. *Brown*, a member of the cabinet who sits without a portfolio, because of his being a lumberman and connected with a company which has extensive Ontario timber limits, was disqualified from sitting in the house and in the government. *Brown* replied, strongly defending the policy of the government and denying his firm had ever bought any limits from the Ontario government. A division on the amendment resulted in its being voted down with 15 yeas and 20 nays.

The Collingwood town council has instituted a 9 o'clock curfew bell, every body under 14 years of age caught on the streets after that hour being liable to a fine of five shillings. The curfew bell, falling a satisfactory explanation. The curfew bell, falling a satisfactory explanation. The curfew bell, falling a satisfactory explanation.

The Toronto police commissioners have decided to purchase an experimental five bicycle for the use of the policemen who in summer keep an eye on unoccupied houses in the suburbs.

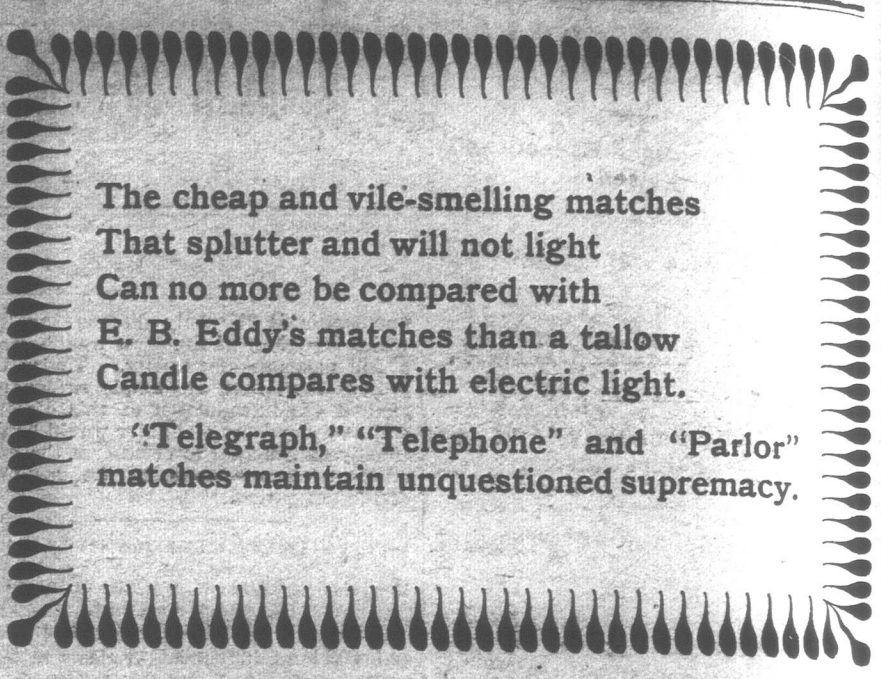
In the Ontario legislature Hon. Mr. *Harvey*, commissioner of crown lands, gave notice of a resolution setting apart \$25,000 per annum for a term of five years from the 1st of July next to be paid as bounty to miners and producers of iron ore upon all iron ore mined and smelted within the province. The bonus will be paid at the rate of \$1 per ton of pig metal produced from such ore.

The largest craft that ever descended the Lachine rapids arrived at Montreal the other day. It was a big ferry boat which formerly ferried ten cars of the Canada Atlantic railway across the St. Lawrence at Oiseau Landing. The huge craft ran the Cedars and Split Rock safely. At the latter there was only ten feet to spare, the boat being about four feet from the rock on one side and six on the other.

It has been discovered that some swindlers in Montreal have been at work altering denominations of bank bills from \$5 to \$20 and upwards. The City and District Savings bank was offered three shares of the Union Bank of Canada bills and some greenbacks and Bank of Toronto bills altered in this way. Other city banks have had similar experiences.

The fourteen-year-old son of M. *Grenier*, of Grenier & Co., Berlin, was playing football with a group of boys and was accidentally kicked in the side. Blood poisoning set in, resulting in his death. *Barnett* *Flannigan*, a Brooklynite, died yesterday from the effects of blood poisoning, brought on from being scratched on the arm by a cat.

The *Globe's* Ottawa correspondent says *Bowell* dislikes the statement published in the *Globe* that the Commons



will not be asked to put through the insolvency bill this session, because it would take away from him in the senate whatever credit was due for initiating the legislation. He said the announcement was untrue. The correspondent adheres to the statement. It will not be long before it is confirmed by the event. The insolvency bill is not intended to go through this session. A glove and boot and shoe factory has recently been established at the Mormon colony, Lee's Creek, Alberta. The settlement is most prosperous and flourishing. *Stewart* *Moore*, employed by the Bell Telephone Co., of Winnipeg, fell from a pole a distance of thirty feet. He was seriously injured. A deaf mute named *Leeson* was killed on the C. P. R. track at Port Arthur. Five Presbyterian students direct from Scotland have arrived to work in the Northwest mission fields. Two go to British Columbia. *Christina* *Anderson* has sued the Northern Pacific for \$10,000 damages for personal injuries received at the Hotel Manitoba, Winnipeg, while working a mangle in the laundry of the hotel. Mrs. *Edward* *Cliff* died in Toronto on Saturday after a prolonged sickness, believed to be consumption. The doctor, however, refuses to grant a certificate, and an investigation has been demanded by the woman's relatives. A meeting of the Methodist Church Missionary Committee of Consultation and Finance was held in Toronto. The general secretary reported that the new home at Chilliwack, B. C., had an attendance of over fifty. The purchase of certain farm implements and live stock was authorized. *William* *Harold* *Luck*, a painter, fell from a scaffold at the new drill shed in Toronto and was instantly killed.

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Salford Iron Works Experiment and Report Favorably On It.

The London *Times* publishes an interesting summary of a report made by Mr. *William* *Mather*, M. P., upon the subject of the 48-hour week at the Salford Iron Works of Messrs. *Mather* & *Platt* (Limited). The firm employs about 1,200 men, who are engaged in a variety of different trades, there being among them pattern-makers, iron and brass founders, smiths, carpenters and plate workers, engine fitters, millwrights, electrical mechanics, turners and fitters, brass-smiths boiler makers and others, while the work turned out embraces general engineering work, machinery for textile trades, electrical machinery, etc. The old arrangement was 53 hours' work per week, and under it the men worked two hours in the morning before breakfast. Under the eight-hour plan the work did not begin until after the morning meal, and a large part of the success of the experiment must be attributed to this. The report says that the two morning hours before breakfast were not worth the pains and trouble they cost, whether to workmen or employers. The work without the morning meal impaired the vigor, freshness and brightness which ought to have prevailed throughout all the rest of the day. Mr. *Mather* says: "I attribute the full maintenance of our production through the year solely to the unimpairment and cheerfulness on the part of every man and boy throughout the day. We seem to have been working in harmony with a natural law, instead of against it, as in the unnatural condition of men beginning the work of the day without the provisions required by nature for the proper exercise of their mental faculties and physical powers. The changed home-life must also count for something. Every man can now associate with his family before leaving for the day, and the breakfast table may give him a good 'send-off' in a cheery spirit. With a long day of nine or ten hours it might be necessary to have two intervals for rest or refreshment, but the eight-hour day enables the workmen to get along with one meal and one stoppage."

The conditions of the experiment were that there should be no overtime, that the same degree of wages should be paid for the 48 hours week as for the 53, and that the men should observe the utmost punctuality in beginning work in the morning, and after the dinner hour. It was pointed out that the year's trial was made during a period of general trade depression, that all the productions of the works are subject to the keenest competition in both the home and foreign markets, and that no metropolitan of any kind were included in the trial. Under these conditions the experiment has been entirely successful. On wages alone, there is a fractional increase in production to turnover measured in money. Compared with the ratio of the preceding six years there is an increase in the per cent. But this loss is exactly balanced by economy in gas and electric lighting, wear and tear of machinery, fuel and lubricants, and miscellaneous stores. Crediting this economy to wages account, the ratio of wages to output remains entirely unaffected by the alteration in the hours of labor, while the fact that the money output has had to be earned by a somewhat increased amount of actual labor is an item to the credit of the 48-hour week. The fact that without the artificial production, which higher wages probably than are paid by any competing except the Americans, and with an eight-hour day, English industry can hold its own against the world, is one of the most important facts which it would be hard to exaggerate. It may be added that the firm has been so satisfied with the year's experience that it will not hesitate to continue the 48-hour week as a permanent system, and Mr. *Mather* states that he felt it to be a public duty to inform the heads of the principal government departments and the dockyard authorities have announced their determination to take the same course. *Globe*.

A GREAT NATURAL BRIDGE.

It is in West Kootenay and the Span is 264 Feet.

On the west side of the Lower Arrow lake, on the Columbia river, West Kootenay, about 20 miles north of Robson, passengers on the steamboats observe a patch on the rocks some 1,500 feet from the shore; it looks like the entrance to a cave and such it has been believed to be. But it was recently visited by Mr. *James* *Hays*, a much respected miner and prospector, who made his way across the bush-covered space, and found that the little dark patch grew continuously in size and at last resolved itself into a gigantic cyclopean arch of perfect form and extraordinary dimensions.

Mr. *Hays* produced a matter-of-fact type line and proceeded to measure the dimensions of this natural structure and to consider its relation to its surroundings. It is composed of grey granite, allied to syenite; it rises abruptly from the level ground, though the mountains at the back are of the same formation, and thus wears its whole height above the level of the adjacent ground. The pier on each side is 20 feet high, when the arch begins to spring and rises in the centre to a height of 90 feet above the ground. The distance from pier to pier is 264 feet, and this enormous span is supported by a row of granite 30 feet wide and varying in thickness from 10 feet at the sides to 12 feet in the centre. The form of the arch is that of a rainbow, the under side being smooth, but not water-worn, and without angles or bosses. It is cracked in radiating lines which divide the centre into self-supporting keystones, but the joints are quite close, without fissure between them. The sides of the piers are as smooth as the arch, and great fir and cedar grow beneath the arch. Dirt banks on each side of the massive piers form easy grades to the top of the arch, which is clean solid rock, and it is thus possible to drive a team either under it or over it.

This remarkable monolith does not appear to have been caused by the wear and tear of rocks around it, nor by having fallen from a higher level, but seems to have either been elevated on mass or left standing on the subsidence of the surrounding land. *Nelson Tribune*.

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