

Weekly Colonist

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THE VICTORIA PEOPLE are priding themselves upon the presence among them of three live barons and one knight. It seems that the Western city has more barons than all the rest of Canada, and more knights per head of the population than any other city. In its rivalry with Vancouver, Victoria has certainly scored a point. Toronto Mail. It was recently said in Victoria that it is the wickedest city in Canada. Now it seems to be knighted.—London Advertiser. It is a very dark night when we get left.

It is believed that the issue of the new British double florin or dollar, is the beginning of the end of pounds, shillings, pence and farthings. The London Chamber of Commerce has under consideration a plan making the four shilling piece the unit of value or dollar, and dividing it into cents. By this plan nearly all the existing coins can be utilized without creating any confusion from having a double standard of unit value. The sovereign would become five dollars, two shillings a half dollar, one shilling twenty cents, and so on. There would be ten and five cents, the new penny two cents, and the half penny one cent. There can be no question about it that a decimal currency is far more convenient than any other, and certain it is that no one in Canada would care to return to the old and circumlocutory form of calculation.

It is noteworthy that Rear-Admiral Vignes took occasion, while the officers of the French flagship were being led at Montreal to run across to the Pacific coast and make a thorough examination of the Canadian Pacific railway. The French are not only sentimentally interested in Canada, but they are very practically interested in Egypt; and although Tenterden Stopley may have no close connection with the Goodwin Sands, they are quite shrewd enough to perceive the connection between the "Queen's Highway" to the east and the reduced importance which England will henceforth attach to the Suez canal. Some time ago the Whewell Professor of International Law dwelt upon the much stronger position which England took in the Egyptian question when she had secured an alternative and a safer connection with her eastern dependencies. We may therefore fairly suppose that the French admiral's trip was not altogether an *ad hoc* affair, but was due to a desire on the part of his government to have an official report upon the work which seems destined to be of so great a political as well as commercial importance in the future.—Canadian Gazette.

MISS FAY, who has received several flattering notices in leading London papers, giving a "spiritualistic" séance at Blackburn recently, but the performance came to a sudden termination, for some people in the audience struck lights. Miss Fay was supposed to be floating across the room in semi-darkness, but as the figure passed over the heads of the audience it was caught, and to the spiritualists object was found to be nothing but a dummy of worsted and gauze, manipulated by wires, while Miss Fay herself was seen to have climbed to the roof. There was a disturbance after this, the platform was stormed and the police had to be called in.—Fall Mail Gazette.

There are people who will still believe that these and similar frauds are possessed of some mystic power. But what is the use in exposing these impostors? It invariably leads to a row, and the crowd that believe in such rubbish will be just as easily gulled by the next plausible impostor. He says what he thinks and adheres to it. A good many people whom every newspaper has had experience of say what they think, or think they should say, but when it is spread before the world are seized with fear and hasten to repudiate or modify their statements. Reporters and interviewers are especial victims of such persons' assumed wrath and general.

by submit, without protest, to the indignation or plaintive demand that they know in lacking in the great essential of honesty. Words uttered during the heat of an address or in the course of conversation have oftentimes an awkward look when presented before the eyes in cold type. Mr. O'Brien was the object of an interview published in the Montreal Star in which he made use of expressions that those who think differently from him have fair ground for characterizing as extraordinary. He was assailed on account of them, but, contrary to the rule, does not in turn assail the newspaper. He accepts the published version of his words and sticks to them, and though there are some who may doubt his wisdom in this particular all will admit his honesty and respect him for it. As a rule the reporter of a speech gets credit for neither.

A SUCCESSFUL MINISTER. It is very pleasant to find that the local press has at last come to the conclusion that the Hon. John Robson's trip to Ottawa was on business, not on pleasure. The moment his departure was announced they breathlessly proclaimed that, under the guise of attending to pressing affairs of government, he had taken advantage of his position to visit the scenes of his youth and have a good time generally. They have, however, been forced, from a news point of view, to narrate his doings at the Federal Capital, to tell of the important questions which he has been instrumental in definitely settling, and to acknowledge that he has done good service to British Columbia. The provincial secretary's eastern trip was taken solely in the interest of the province, and it has already been proved that it was as necessary as it has been fruitful in its results.

WILL STAY IN AFRICA. The New York Times, an authority which it does not give, states that Emin Pasha refuses to be rescued by Stanley and proposes to remain where he is, conducting the work of civilization and development in Central Equatorial Africa. The only basis for this statement appears to be the assertion of Sir John Kirk, British consul-general at Zanzibar, that the fact that Emin could have cut his way out long ago through the Uganda country to the coast near Zanzibar if he had chosen to do so. The theory is intrinsically probable, but the public would like a little more ground for it than a mere conjecture. Stanley must have reached Emin some time in August, and we may hear from him any day by way of the Congo. Travelers who are familiar with Central Africa entertain no apprehension regarding his fate. They doubt whether the natives would attack so well appointed a man as Stanley, and if they did the belief is universal that the great explorer would hold his own. With modern arms of precision more number of savages cut as small as gure in warfare as they did when Pizarro invaded Peru. In geographical and social sciences no business is felt whatever. It is true that Emin refuses to abandon the African continent, but he has no objection to the establishment of a caravan route through Uganda, the country between the lake watered and the coast—a stretch of some 700 miles—in too barren to sustain expeditions. Each caravan would have to carry its provisions and water for the whole journey; whereas, on the other side, the country is fertile and in abundant everywhere. It may be found practicable to build a road from the lake to the Aruwimi, over which Emin may keep his communications open with Europe. If this is the upshot of the expedition, a new people, numbering anywhere from twenty to forty millions, may be added to the continental and island peoples of the world, with simple means, in the shape of ivory, drugs, oil and nuts, to pay for any quantity of manufactured goods. Such an addition to the world's army of consumers and producers would place Emin Pasha by the side of those great states of history who extended the area of civilization with the sword and blunderbuss, and he would not suffer by the juxtaposition.

THE METEOROLOGICALS. To the Editor.—Did the editor of the Times ever raise his voice or use his pen in defense of the Indians? Did he ever recommend as much as he has done in the investigation? Did he ever make an effort to retain them in the province? He has done nothing of the kind. He has written disparagingly of Mr. Turner and his work at Metlakahla. It is, therefore, evident that the Times, in its innocent indignation, attacks Mr. Turner as a political opponent, and cares little for the welfare of the Indians or the loss sustained by the country in their removal. The report of Dr. Powell, condemnation of the provincial government for the alienation of the Indians' lands was written eighteen months before Mr. Turner began his mission, and the latter's introduction to Mr. Duncan was signed six months before he became a minister. No one less than Mr. Turner does by the removal of the Metlakahla, he was their agent, bought all their supplies and distributed them to the Indians. It is, therefore, evident that the Times, in its innocent indignation, attacks Mr. Turner as a political opponent, and cares little for the welfare of the Indians or the loss sustained by the country in their removal. The report of Dr. Powell, condemnation of the provincial government for the alienation of the Indians' lands was written eighteen months before Mr. Turner began his mission, and the latter's introduction to Mr. Duncan was signed six months before he became a minister. No one less than Mr. Turner does by the removal of the Metlakahla, he was their agent, bought all their supplies and distributed them to the Indians. It is, therefore, evident that the Times, in its innocent indignation, attacks Mr. Turner as a political opponent, and cares little for the welfare of the Indians or the loss sustained by the country in their removal.

LATE CANADIAN NEWS. It is understood that General Middleton will continue in command of the Canadian militia, although next month he gets the age of 61, which, according to Imperial regulations, he should retire from. The Toronto city council decided to pay half the fare of a man named King, his wife and eight children back to England, when they came strictly penniless and unable to work. The mayor made a vigorous protest against such immigration, and the council was defeated. The Government will pay the other half fare. The colors of the 100th regiment are likely to be placed in the Parliamentary library. A collision service between Montreal and Ottawa was being inaugurated. The steamer, editor of the Courier, has been arrested for criminal libel reflecting on the provincial government. Mr. Wm. Dwyer, clerk of the Brunswick Hotel, Toronto, was arrested for stealing \$140 from a wealthy Michigan lumberman, who gave him a check for \$100, which he cashed at the hotel, and then disappeared. A great part was taken from Dwyer's pockets. A dispatch says that the great netting, which last year was used with six men on board for Port Arthur, has been lost. Among those who perished were Mr. Murray, a London merchant, and Mr. Minnie, who leaves a young wife almost broken, and Mr. Fox and son of Fort William.

Overnight spoke to his constituents at Ingersoll and came out flat-footed in favor of Commercial Union, despite discrimination against England. The government has received advice that the Mats of Bechoche recently made and decided to circulate a petition to be presented to Parliament asking indemnity for losses sustained by the rebellion. It is reported that Henry Calcutt, the Peterborough brewer, will succeed McManis in the latter's claim to executive dominion over Behring Sea, as brought out in the existing local fisheries dispute. Delaney takes the view that Behring Sea is not a portion of the open or high seas, but is an inland water out of the coast and essentially land-locked. 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