A WOMAN'S FRANCHISE.

The women of British Columbia, at the invitation of the W.C.T.U., under whose auspices numerous petitions in circulation throughout the province are receiving hundreds of signatures, will knock at the door of the legislature this session and ask for a full and complete franchise, "on the same terms as the men." The petition, which is presented for signatures to women only, sets forth (1) that the proportion of men and women in British Columbia is nearly equal; (2) that in mental power and purity the average woman is equal to the average man; (3) that no evil effects have followed the municipal and school franchise law now in force; (4) that women have as much interest as men in securing good laws; and (5) that as a tribute to the Queen, who has for sixty years exercised the highest of all franchises, the legislators should mark their appreciation of Her Majesty by granting the parliamentary franchise to the women of British Columbia. These postulates seem to be unassailable, if we except the first one, and the opponents of women's suffrage will have to burnish up the well-worn arguments about the degradation of womanhood, faction fights in the household, a house divided against itself, etc., to successfully refute them. There are known to be a number of out-and-out women suffragists in the house, while several of the members are in the position of being open to conversion, so that it is not improbable that a women's franchise amendment would call out a pretty strong vote in its favor. The leaders among the advocates of women's suffrage hope to secure a prominent member of the house to champion their cause, and if they do not at present succeed, they hope at least to place the question so well to the front that by another session or two, the average member will be as eager to "square" himself with the advancing tide of public opinion as he is now—with a general election in sight—to be known as being sound on the Chinese question, or in favor of reducing taxation.

CROW'S NEST TALK.

Quite a furious controversy is raging among the Toronto papers over the question who should construct the Crow's Nest Pass railway. The Globe takes the ground that it would be wise for the government to let the Canadian Pacific company do the work and own the road, handing over to that company a subsidy of undefined extent. As a "quid pro quo" the Globe says the government should secure the power to revise the freight rates, not only over the new line but over the whole C. P. R. system. The argument advanced is certainly not without weight, namely, that the government ownership of a short piece of railway, having no independent connection at either end, would afford no possible means of relief from oppressive rates over the through line. On the other hand, if the company were merely to give the government the right to revise its rates everywhere there would be a strong lever for the raising of the present burden found so oppressive by all the West. The World is a strenuous champion of the government construction and ownership of the Crow's Nest road, and it uses extremely bitter language in charging the Globe with mercenary motives for supporting the C.P.R. idea. Its version is that Senator Cox, a large Globe shareholder, and Robert Jaffray, president of the Globe company, are dictating the Globe's course for the reason that they negotiated a transfer of the B. C. Southern Railway Company's charter and land grant to the C.P.R., being given an interest in the Crow's Nest coal lands by way of reward. The World aims a side shot at the British Columbia government, which it describes as "the most mercenary of all governments in Canada, local and federal." As the World flings around its charges so recklessly they look a great deal like the result of spite, but what it says in regard to the position of the B. C. Southern grant is worthy of notice. In one place we are told that the grant, including the coal lands, has passed into the hands of the C.P.R., Messrs. Cox and Jaffray being given an interest in the coal lands. In another place the World finds that "in the event of the company (the B. C. Southern) not being able to build the road, the land and mineral grants revert to the people." The World seems to be ignorant of the fact that if the C.P.R. has gained possession it can easily retain its hold for some years by doing a small amount of work. In this position of affairs it is extremely unlikely that "the people" will ever regain their property that was so complaisantly given away. Then assuming that the C.P.R. has gained and will keep possession of the coal lands, what is the situation? If the Dominion government builds the Crow's Nest road it will simply be supplying the C.P.R. with a highway over which to cart its coals to market and thereby make the company's property valuable. On the other hand, if the government subsidizes the C.P.R. to build the road, it will be paying that corporation to improve its own property. In any case the public purse is exploited for the benefit of the big company. The position is an unfortunate one, brought about by the readiness of our government and legislators to give away public property, and the Dominion government will have serious difficulty in solving the problem. In the meantime it is quite clear that whether the Dominion government builds the road or aids the C.P.R. to build it, Western British Columbia will be "in the soup" unless independent connection is furnished from this side.

QUARANTINING QUARANTINE.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the board of health held on the 3rd inst.:

"That the medical health officer be requested to inform Dr. Watt that in future no person employed at the quarantine station, William Head, will be allowed to enter the city without a certificate from him (Dr. Watt) that the said person's clothing and luggage have been properly fumigated, that he has received a disinfecting bath, and that he has been newly vaccinated."

This precaution is a necessary one. The system that formerly prevailed, under which employees at William Head, including the men on the steamer Earle, were permitted to come into the city whenever they pleased, was lax in the extreme. If no evil results came from it, it was due to good luck and not to good management. Dr. Montizambert saw the force of Dr. Watt's recommendation, and accommodation will be provided for all employees at the station, where they will be required to remain unless when under instructions to come to the city on duty. It looks like "carrying the war into Africa" for the city to quarantine the quarantine station, but the regulation will be approved by the citizens, especially during these times when infectious diseases are epidemic in Asia and any steamer from the Orient may carry germs to our shores.

THE LATE HON. MR. RICHARDS.

Victorians, and many people outside this city, will hear with regret of the death of Hon. A. N. Richards, whose name and face have been so familiarly known to the British Columbia public these many years. Though Mr. Richards' connection with public affairs was comparatively short, he bore a not unimportant part in the events which preceded confederation. As to his official career in this province it need only be said that it gave full satisfaction to the public. Mr. Richards enjoyed an envialbe reputation as an able and most trustworthy counsel, and as an upright man who deserved and possessed the confidence of his fellow-citizens. Liberals have special cause to hold him in grateful remembrance for his sturdy, unswerving support of the cause of Liberalism. He was a man whose sterling character was certain to bring honor to any cause that he undertook to champion.

COAL MINES REGULATION.

The Nanaimo Free Press makes the following announcement: "Mr. F. D. Little, manager of the Union Collieries, will be brought up next Thursday on a charge of employing Chinese miners for underground work in contravention to the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The preliminary hearing of the case will be held before Justice of the Peace Abrams, and probably another justice of the peace at Union on that day." It will be well to have the validity of the act finally tested as soon as possible. Probably the judicial committee of the privy council will decide the matter in the course of a year or two.

In Germany the problem of how to treat wife-beaters has been solved in a far wiser way than in most other countries, for there the brutal husband must work all through the week, then turn over his wages to his wife on pay day and go to jail Saturday night and Sunday. A few weeks of this treatment will cure the most savage wife-beater.

Mr. Hugh John Macdonald is to be transferred to the Manitoba political field in the event of his being unseated in Winnipeg, taking the leadership of the Conservatives in the provincial house. Sir Hibbert Tupper is to make a like exchange, going to the head of the Nova Scotia provincial opposition. All this is apparently in execution of Sir Charles Tupper's favorite scheme of attacking the Liberal hold on the various provinces as a preliminary step towards regaining the treasury benches at Ottawa. At the same time it is an open confession that there is no hope of gaining this end by a direct assault on the Liberal citadel at the Dominion capital. The impartial observer will be apt to say that the circuitous route offers just as little chance of success, or, at all events, that it will entail many weary years waiting for Sir Charles and his friends.

The entertaining London correspondence of the Rossland Miner has the following in reference to Professor Odlum's decture on British Columbia at the Imperial Institute:

"The professor's maps—drawn and colored by himself, presumably—were both instructive and amusing. In the diagram showing the rainfall in the different parts of the province, certain numbers such as 75-50 and 12-20 were to be observed, which the lecturer gravely stated to mean the average annual rainfall in feet! The chairman, Hon. Forbes Vernon, smilingly suggested inches, but the professor gravely stuck to his feet. In London, where it has rained almost continuously since last September, with brief intervals of fog or snow, the sadness of such a dampness can be properly appreciated. The slides showing specimens of British Columbia lumber were received with interest—big things appeal as much to an English audience as to an American—and possibly some people went home under the impression that the magnitude of the timber was due to the abnormal rainfall."

All of which goes to show that the minister of education should take in hand this special agent of the minister of immigration.

A VICTIM OF ASTHMA.

HAD NOT SLEPT IN BED FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

Seemed Doomed to Torture and Continual Misery—Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather died Died from the Trouble—Release Comes at Old Age—The Cure Looked Upon as a Merical.

From the Weekly Chronicle.

For years stories of famous cures wrought by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have appeared in the Chronicle. During this time we have been casting about for a local case of such a nature as to leave no doubt of the efficiency of these pills. We have fund several, but in each case it proved to be a sensitive body, who could not bear to have his or her name and disease made public. Recently, however, a most striking case came to our ears.

Mr. Solomon Thompson lives on a beautiful farm on the west shore of Mud Lake in Carden township, North Victoria. He has resided there for forty years, being the first settler around the lake. He was reeve of Carden and Dalton townships thirty-five years ago, before the counties of Peterboro and Victoria were separated, and he used to attend the counties' council at Peterboro. Mr. Thompson has been a victim of asthma for forty years or more. However, we will let him tell his own story on that head.

On October 15, 1896, we took a trip to Mud Lake to visit the haunts long familiar to us, and made it a duty and found it a pleasure to call upon Mr. Thompson and learn from seeing him and hearing his account of it how he had been cured. For twenty-five years we had known him as a gasping, suffering asthmatic, the worst we ever knew who managed to live at all. We often wondered how he lived from day to day. On calling he met us with a cheerful aspect and without displaying a trace of his old trouble. Being at once ushered into his house, we naturally made it our business to enquire if it were all true about the benefits he had received from using Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. "Beyond doubt," said he. "How long have you used them, and how many boxes have you used?" he was asked. "I started a year ago, and took eight boxes." We next asked him if he felt that the cure was permanent. "Well," said he, "I have not taken any of the pills for three or four months. Still, I am not entirely satisfied yet. You see my father, grandfather and great-grandfather died of asthma. My people all take it sooner or later and it ends their days. I have lost three brothers from the fatal thing. Knowing my family history it is hard for me to gain faith, but I can tell you for nearly thirty years I never slept in bed until I took Pink Pills. As you must have known, I always slept sitting in the chair you now occupy. I had a sling from that hook in the ceiling and always sat with my head resting in it while I slept. I now retire to my bed when the other members of the family do." "How old are you, Mr. Thompson?" "Seventy-six," was the reply, and I feel younger than I did thirty years ago. I was troubled a great deal with rheumatism and other miseries, probably nervous troubles arising from want of sleep, but nearly all the rheumatism is gone witn the asthma."

During the conversation, Mrs. Thompson, a hale old lady, the mother of thirteen children, came in, and after listening to her husband's recital of these matters she took up the theme. "I never expected that anything could cure Solomon," said she. "We were always trying to find something which would give him relief, so that he would be able to sleep nights, but nothing ever seemed to make much difference. At first he took one of the pills after each meal, but after a time he increased the dose to two. We noticed he was greatly improved after taking two boxes and began to have hopes. Later on when we saw beyond doubt that he was much better, I recommended the pills to a niece of mine, Miss Day, whose blood had apparently turned into water and who had run down in health and spirits so bad that she did not care to live. Why, she got as yellow as saffron, and looked as if she would not live a week. You would hardly believe it," said Mrs. Thompson, "but the girl was the handsomest and healthiest girl in the neighborhood before three months had passed, and all from taking Pink Pills." Mrs. Thompson was called from the room at this juncture to attend to some household duties, and Mr. Thompson resumed the subject of his marvellous cure. "You can have no idea," said he, "what it is to go through twenty-five years without a good night's sleep without pain. I can find no words to make plain to you the contrast betwen the comforts I now enjoy and the awful life I had for so long. I had a big family of mouths to feed and had to work when at times I felt more like lying down to die. I would come in at night completely tuckered out, but even that was no guarantee of rest. There was no rest for me, I seemed doomed to torture and continual misery. When my folks urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I thought it would be useless, but I had to do something or die soon, and here I am as right as a fiddle." The old gentleman shook his head to add emphasis to his last sentence, and looked like a man who felt joyful over a renewed lease of life, with all his old miseries removed.

After congratulating our old friend on his divorce from the hereditary destroyer of his kindred, we drove away. At many places in the neighborhood we opened discussions upon the case and found that all regarded it as a marvellous cure. Where the Thompson family are known no person would have believed for a moment that anything but death would relieve him from the grip of asthma. Every word that is written here can be verified by writing Mr. Solmon Thompson, Dalrymple post office, and an intimate acquaintance of twenty-five years enables the writer to vouch for the facts narrated above, and for the veracity of Mr. Thompson in any statement he may make.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure by going to the root of the disease. They renew and build up the blood and strengthen the nerves, thus drjving disease from the system. Avoid imitations by insisting that every box you purchase is enclosed in a wrapper bearing the full trade mark, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

A PIN IN THE HEART.

The old-time idea that the slightest touch of a foreign substance on the heart means certain death, was shattered years ago. One of the most remarkable cases ever heard of, however, was that described in a paper read before the Association of American Physicians some years ago by Dr. Peabody. It was of a case where a pin was found in a human heart, after having been there for an indefinite period. The point of the pin was distant about five millimeters from the external surface of the heart. The pin seemed eroded, and was broken by the scissors in dissection without becoming dislaced. There was no evidence of recent local inflammation, but that part of the heart in the neighborhood of the protruding head of the pin was greatly thickened and snow-white, and firmly adherent to the edge of the head.

COPPER IN DEMAND.

Half the copper used in the world is mined in the United States, and the foreign demand for the article is greatly on the increase. In 1896 the copper produced in this country amounted to 453,722,500 pounds, and this, added to 19,000,000 pounds of copper mixed with nickel, makes a total of 477,722,500 pounds of copper mined in the United States. Of this amount about 271,000,000 pounds were exported and 206,000,000 pounds were consumed in this country.

The American product of copper in 1894 was 160,000 tons; in 1895 it was 170,000 tons, and in 1896 it was in excess of 200,000 tons, or ten times more than the total American product of copper sixteen years ago, and nearly 40 per cent. more than the total copper product of the world sixteen years ago. The enormous increase in the demand for copper is, in part, due to the increased need of it for electrical appliances, for copper is used for telephones, electric cars, trolley wires and cables.

A VALUABLE ART DISCOVERY.

A discovery which excites much interest in art circles is reported by the London correspondent of the Manchester Courier as having recently been made at the residence of Canon Harford, in Dean's Yard, Westminster. Canon Harford has long been known as a connoisseur and collector. During 1862 and 1863, when living in Charles street, Grosvenor Square, he was visited by the Marchese de Balzani, who brought with him letters of introduction from many eminent men in Italy. Having fallen upon evil days, the Marquis was anxious to dispose of his valuable collection of family pictures. Canon Harford gave him all the assistance that a wide circle of influential friends could command, and the Marchesse de Balzani, before returning to Florence, insisted upon the Canon puting his own price upon certain pictures, which were intended as souvenirs. Canon Harford declined any gallery pictures, but accepted some small pictures which the agent of the Marquis described as worm-eaten and destroyed. Among them were a Giotto and a Fra Angelico. There was also a Madonna and Child, evidently an altar piece, in a gable frame, which covered a large part of the picture. Having removed the frame Canon Harford restored the picture, removing three robes, as Mr. Richmond, R.A., removed three crowns from the head of a King in Westminster Abbey. This picture, after careful examination, has been pronounced by Sir E. Poynter, P.R.A., and other experts to be an undoubted Cimabue. Eadie Reid, who has been instrusted with the work of restoration—a work of the greatest importance and delicacy—has made some interesting discoveries. The drapery, which was a mass of black, has been made to reveal the original lines, and the original texture of the picture has been restored. The heads of the Madonna and Child alone remain untouched since the picture was painted—1240-1260—probably owing to a familiar superstition against profaning sacred things.

One of the inmates of the Old Men's Home, an aged Frenchman, alarmed the caretaker considerably this morning. The old man left the home with the intention of taking a walk, but when he had got as far as Moss street he was overcome with fatigue and laid down on the grass on the roadside, a resting place none too comfortable, to rest. He was found lying there by the occupants of the dairy on Moss street, who took him in, warmed him up, and gave him some refreshments. The police had in the meantime been telephoned to and informed that he was missing and that as he was in a very weak condition fears were entertained for his safety. After a short search Constable Abel found him at the dairy and took him back to the home.

They All Come Back To

"There are fads in medicine as well as in other things," said a busy druggist, "but the most remarkable thing about Hood's Sarsaparilla is that customers who try other remedies all come back to Hood's, and this is why the enormous sales of this great medicine keep up while others come and in a short time go out of sight entirely.

"Why is it?" "O, simply because Hood's Sarsaparilla has more real curative merit than any medicine I ever sold."

This is of daily occurrence in almost every drug store. Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured more sickness, and made more happiness through restoration to health than any other medicine.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the standard—the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

ACTIVE LIFE ENDED

Death of Hon. A. N. Richards, Ex-Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia

Was a Member of the Executive Council of United Canada in the Sixties

Hon. Albert Norton Richards, Q.C., ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, the oldest and one of the leading lawyers of the province, died at 5 o'clock this morning. His death had been almost hourly expected for two weeks past, during which time the announcement was continually made that he could not live through the night. But his strong constitution prevailed much longer than his physicians expected. Last summer he took a cold, which brought upon him an attack of pneumonia, which in turn induced Bright's disease, the immediate cause of death. For four days the venerable lawyer had been unconscious.

During his latter days Hon. Mr. Richards had led a rather quiet life compared with the activity of his earlier years, but even his age and infirmities were not sufficient to keep him from taking a hand in the two political fights which were waged in this city last year. Several times he took the platform, although hardly able to do so, to say a good word for the Liberal party and the principles which he loved so well. It was the same with the Law Society of the province, an organization in which he took a great pride and interest, and of which he had been the honorary treasurer for four years and a bencher for many years. As late as February 1st he came out to attend a meeting of this society. The resolutions passed by the Law Society a few days ago show how his services were appreciated.

Mr. Richards made his last appearance in court in July last, when he appeared with Hon. C. E. Pooley, Q.C., in the case of Harris vs. Dunsmuir. It could then be seen that he was failing, but not until he lost his voice did he give up the fight which he had been retained to make for his client. He was engaged in the cross-examination of Mr. Harris when this occurred, causing alarm to his many friends, as it was then apparent that his health had been undermined.

Hon. Mr. Richards was born in Brockville, Ont., on December 8th, 1822, and was consequently upwards of 74 years of age. Following in the footsteps of his distinguished brother, the late Sir William Buell Richards, who was seven years his senior, the deceased, after receiving his education at the district school of Johnstown, took up the study of law, and in 1848 was admitted to the bar of Upper Canada. He soon made his mark in his chosen profession, and in 1863 was created a Queen's Counsel, an honor which in those days was conferred on but few. In the same year he entered the old parliament of Canada and was a member of the executive council and solicitor-general for Upper Canada, the united provinces having one parliament but two sets of officers. He was twice elected for South Leeds. He paid his first visit to British Columbia in 1868, but there was still work for him to do in the East, and in the fall of the following year, the Dominion government having appointed Hon. Wm. McDougall Lieutenant-Governor, to organize a new government in the Northwest Territories at Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, Mr. Richards accompanied him as attorney-general in the provincial government. Riel and his armed force of French half-breeds prevented the party from proceeding further than Pembina, on the international boundary line, and they had to return to Ottawa. The following year saw Mr. Richards again in British Columbia, the impression gained on his former visit having induced him to make this province his home. In May, 1871, he was called to the bar of British Columbia, in 1875 came to Victoria to reside, and in the same year was admitted as an attorney of British Columbia. He only practised for one year, however, being appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the province in 1876, and continuing in that office until 1881. After retiring from office he was absent from the province for a few years, but returned in 1884 and resumed practice as a barrister. In March, 1888, he was appointed police magistrate for Victoria, and held that office for several years until his increasing practice forced him to resign. Considered the best authority on constitutional law in the province, his assistance as counsel was frequently sought by other legal gentlemen. There were few big legal battles in the province in which he did not take part.

In October, 1849, Mr. Richards was married to Miss Frances Chaffey, of Somersetshire, England, who died four years later. Of this marriage there were two daughters, Mrs. H. J. Morgan, of Ottawa, and Mrs. W. E. Rowley, of Cumberland, England. Mr. Richards' second marriage was to Miss Ellen Chaffey Chislett, of Pittsburgh, Pa., who survives him. Of this marriage Mrs. J. H. Senkler, of Vancouver, was the only child. Mr. Richards was an Episcopalian.

During the hearing of the Paris Belle appeal before the Full Court to-day, just prior to the usual mid-day adjournment, Mr. Justice McCreight said: "I have just learned of the lamented death this morning of the Hon. A. N. Richards. He was a gentleman who has held the highest position in this province, that of Lieutenant-Governor. He has always been held in the highest respect as a distinguished leader of the bar. In his public and private relations he has been justly esteemed for the unswerving integrity of his character joined to the greatest kindness of disposition. He has died full of years, and although his death cannot have been unexpected, it is not the less regretted by all who were brought in contact with him."

Hon. Justices Walkem, Drake and McColl also expressed regret at the death of Mr. Richards, and Mr. W. J. Taylor spoke for the bar.

The funeral will take place on Monday at 2:30 from the residence, Burdett street, near Cadboro Bay road, at 3 o'clock from Christ Church cathedral.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE THAMES.

If the plans now under way for carrying out as anticipated, the work of widening and deepening the Thames will before long be an established fact, and the commercial importance of that river thereby greatly increased. It being clear to the authorities, on extended examination and consultation with engineering experts, that a twenty-six foot channel was wanted for at least nine-tenths of the distance, it was decided that the work should be prosecuted, to be done solely by dredging. According to this plan, the work will be from Gravesend up the river as far as Grayford Ness, opposite Hartley, the channel width of 1,000 feet and a minimum depth of twenty-four feet of water, spring tide, while from Grayford Ness to the Albert docks the width will be 500 feet and the depth twenty-six feet, and from the latter to the Victoria docks there will be a channel of 300 feet wide and eighteen feet deep.

THE TRANSVAAL

Cecil Rhodes Dwells Upon the Relations Between Germany and the Transvaal.

Chamberlain and Kruger in a Gloomy Mood—Exciting News From the Soudan.

London, March 8.—When the report of the parliamentary committee on the Transvaal raid was resumed in Westminster Hall the attendance was larger than usual. Colonel Cecil Rhodes continued his evidence. He dwelt upon the relations between Germany and the Transvaal, which he reiterated he believed indicated an attempt to make a treaty. He added that he believed there had been no revolutionary movement in Johannesburg until every effort to secure necessary reforms had failed. Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, elicited further testimony to the harshness of the Transvaal toward the Uitlanders.

Colonel Rhodes gave instances of the movement of 1895, when he said conflicts were threatened in the Transvaal, adding that a similar movement would recur if the Uitlanders could not get their rights. Replying to a question as to whether he thought the present government of the Transvaal was dangerous to the peace of South Africa, Col. Rhoeds said dryly, "What do you think?" (Great Laughter.)

Further evidence showed that Col. Rhodes personally paid the salaries of the members of the reform committee of Johannesburg, amounting to $125,000. This completed the examination of Mr. Rhodes.

Two African members of the Parliament of Cape Colony testified that the administration of Rhodes was disapproved by the ministerial government, and must break in the hands of the Chartered Company. The inquiry was then adjourned until to-morrow.

Pretoria, March 8.—The entire bench of the high court of the South African Republic have approved the action of the chief justice in closing the high court as a mark of resentment of the action of the Volksraad in placing the court under the jurisdiction of the legislative assembly.

London, March 8.—The St. James Gazette says it is rumored and believed within the ministerial circles that Chamberlain, colonial secretary, has sent an emphatic message to President Kruger, of the South African Republic, that the aliens act, which is in force in the Transvaal, is in contravention of the provisions of the London convention of 1884, and must be withdrawn.

The Manchester Guardian says the relations between Great Britain and the government of the Transvaal are strained, and that Mr. Chamberlain is anxious that the inevitable struggle between the two shall come as quickly as possible.

According to the Guardian, Lord Wolseley, commander-in-chief of the British army, is said to have estimated that 20,000 British troops would be sufficient to conquer the Boers. In the meantime it is understood President Kruger, of the Transvaal, the public, is unmoved, and is prepared to resist all interference on the part of England at all cost.

News from the Soudan shows great excitement prevails among the dervishes are now making great preparations in view of the advance of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition on Dongola. The Khalafa is relying on Osman Digna to repel the advance of the Anglo-Egyptian forces up the Nile, and has appointed him governor of Berber, with the title of Emir of Emirs. Osman Digna has taken up quarters at Berber, and called out upwards of 25,000 men, many of whom are well armed with rifles purchased from the Abyssinians. Advices from the Egyptian spy, however, indicate that the massed dervishes are reluctant to fight, and Osman Digna has been compelled to dispatch a force of 3,000 men to the country calling upon the Arabs to join his standard under pain of death. The first news in two months has also been received from the Egyptian prisoners at Omdurant, the miltary camp of the Khamina. They are in a state of tremendous anxiety, and fear that they will be massacred directly the Khamina finds he is unable to resist the advance of the Anglo-Egyptian army.

In the course of the discussion of naval estimates in the house of commons, Sir Charles Dilke said he thought that the navy was greatly deficient, especially in respect to lieutenants, engineers and stokers, and the programme for building new ships was not large enough.

George J. Goschen, first lord of the admiralty, declared that if Great Britain should go to war to-morrow the two of the greatest maritime powers the British navy would be found distinctly superior to both in number as well as the class of her ships.