The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1892.

ABOUT RIGHT.

The New York Times sees the President's message in a different light from the great majority of its critics. It regards it as an amusing production, and finds in it food for mirth. It evidently attaches very little importance to the President's threats and denunciations. This is that very influential journal's estimate of the message:

The farewell annual message of Mr. Harrison is an unexpectedly entertaining document. Those who looked forward to a mere dry, businesslike statement of the condition of public affairs, with such recommendations as seemed sufficiently urgent, will be agreeably disappointed. No reader weary with the serious discussion of national politics and policies should fail to study this message. It will afford him material for many intervals of real amusement in analyzing its amazing statements and tracing the grotesque behavior of the Executive mind dealing with great questions from the point of view of the author's own mortifying failures. In a general way the message may be described as a scolding lecture to the American people for having refused to re-elect Mr. Harrison and a ludicrously solemn warning to them of the dire risks they have thereby incurred.

This is evidently how thousands of thinking men in the United States regard the message. They consider it ridiculous in Mr. Harrison, after the election and after he has been by the free vote of the citizens of the Republic relegated to private life, to repeat the arguments and statistics that failed to convince them while the election campaign was going on. Some one has said you cannot indict a whole nation, but this is what the defeated and sore-headed President has attempted to do. The crime which the American people have committed is being blind to his merits and refusing to re-elect him. The indictment does the people no harm, but making it in the way he does causes Mr. Harrison to look very ridiculous. We do not wonder that the men who worked and voted against him are amused.

CORRUPTION IN FRANCE.

The situation in France is becoming more and more complicated. The corruption of which M. Delahaye complained seems to have permeated the whole legislature. Many of its members, notwithstanding the pains they took to conceal the nature of their transactions, are believed to have pocketed a share of the Panama boodle. Payments were made through "dummies," and who these dummies stood for is very shrewdly guessed by the initiated. The porter of a bank, for instance, received so large a sum as $160,000; no one supposes that any of the money stuck to the poor porter's fingers. A clerk employed by M. Bache, a member of the Cabinet, is credited with checks amounting to $90,000. An engineer who is engaged in politics, and an adventurer noted for his extravagant expenditure, are said to have received about $900,000; and they assert that this money was given by the late Baron Reinach in payment of debts. The owner of a prominent journal who is accused of having received money from the Canal Company asserts that he was interested as a partner with M. Eiffel in the remarkable contracts given by the Company to that engineer. One of the witnesses before the committee swore that he was employed by Baron Reinach to bribe members of the Chamber, and that to his knowledge three members of the Cabinet had taken money from the Company. Although the committee has refused to give full reports of the evidence taken to the newspapers, enough is known to warrant the conclusion that many men in the Legislature who have hitherto borne unblemished characters will be shown in their report to have been implicated in the nefarious Panama transactions. Some men try to account for their suspicious dealings with the speculating and very generous Baron by saying that they were partners in some of his speculations, and that the moneys they were known to have received were passed to them in the course of perfectly legitimate business.

The Panama Canal revelations have been the cause of one ministerial crisis and it would not be at all surprising if they were the cause of another. It seems almost certain that the threatened resignation of President Carnot noticed in yesterday's despatches was not very indirectly caused by the Panama difficulty. One President of France found it necessary to resign on account of the improper proceedings of his son-in-law, and it is more than probable that a second will be obliged to vacate the presidential chair because of the misdoings of his father and his brothers.

When the Parliamentary investigation is closed the Panama scandal will still occupy a great share of the world's attention, for it is to be followed by judicial proceedings which will be even more searching and more serious to those implicated than the Parliamentary inquiry. It is greatly to be feared that when the whole truth has been ferreted out by lawyers and judges, the character of the public men of France, as a whole, will have been greatly damaged. There is a report that eminent members of the Royalist party have had much to do with collecting evidence against the corruptionists and in bringing the scandal to light.

TROUBLE AHEAD.

Some English Liberals have been causing Mr. Gladstone a good deal of anxiety. They are afraid that Irish Home Rule will not be exactly what they hoped for and expected when they voted for it. They are, it appears, willing that the Irish shall have control of their own domestic affairs, but they are not willing that Irish members shall have a voice in managing the domestic affairs of England and Wales. Sir Edwin Reed has written a letter to Mr. Gladstone, in which he gives expression to his apprehensions and wishes, which seem to be the apprehensions and wishes of many other English Liberal members of Parliament. They would confine the authority of the Irish Parliament within narrow limits, and would give it no greater jurisdiction than is exercised by the legislatures of the provinces of the Dominion. We have not seen the letter itself, but from what we read of it we infer that the English idea of Home Rule is very different indeed from that entertained by either the Parnellites or the anti-Parnellites. What the Home Rulers mean by an "independent parliament" it is difficult even to conjecture. We are very certain that there are very few English Liberals who will consent to giving Ireland a parliament which will make the country independent in any sense except in that of having control of local affairs. The British Liberals expect that Ireland, when it gets Home Rule, will be quite as much an integral part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as it is now. This does not appear to be the hope of the Nationalists. Their very name shows that they aspire to make Ireland a nation. When Mr. Gladstone's bill comes to be discussed we believe that the difference between the English idea of Home Rule and the Irish idea will become clearly manifest, and that it will be so wide that it will prevent the English Liberals agreeing to any scheme of Home Rule that the Irish Nationalists will be satisfied with. Sir Edwin Reed's letter is, we venture to predict, the beginning of the end.

SOCIAL TYRANTS.

The leading members of the Populist party in the States, notably Mrs. Lease, have declared in the most emphatic way against the pomps and vanities of society, and they will not, if they can help it, allow the great officials of the republic to have anything to do with them. For instance, Mrs. Lease and her colleagues and supporters are death on dancing. They declare that there should be no inaugural ball, and that the ladies connected with the members of the Cabinet must not wear the dresses which fashionable women most affect. Here is part of what they say:

That the recent political victory was won by the plain people of Kansas, and was a victory against Mammon worship in all its forms, was in truth but one battle in the irrepressible conflict between the people and fashionable society with its ostentatious display of power. Inaugural ceremonies carried on by fashionable society, and under its ostentation of dress and expense, would be exceedingly inappropriate and highly distasteful to all friends of genuine social and political reform, and, further, the plain people of Kansas who elected the new State officers, cannot look but with anxiety upon any indication that their officers have submitted to the allurements of that fashionable society, which represents all the enemies of the common people, and, based upon wealth gained by monopoly, constitutes a dangerous lobby about the official it may secure in its meshes.

No doubt Jerry, the sockless and collarless, would sign this blast against fashion and frivolity with both hands. Mrs. Lease and he, if they had their way, would bring society down to their level and rule it with an iron hand. These good people forget that they live in a country which is called *par excellence* "The Land of the Free." They were evidently born two centuries too late. They should have lived in the days when the legislature undertook to regulate men's lives and to prescribe what clothes they should wear, when they should take their walks abroad and how they should conduct themselves. As for amusements, they were nearly all regarded as having the Evil One for their author, and were only participated in by those who were under his yoke. The men who enacted the Blue Laws and other sumptuary statutes no doubt considered that they were doing what it was their duty to do. So did the men who stretched evil-doers on the rack or broke them on the wheel or applied to their thumbs the screw and to their feet and ankles the steel boot. People in different ages of the world had peculiar ideas of duty and the means that should be taken to keep men and women on the right track. But they, with all their austerity and severeness, if they only knew it, fostered vices and indulged weaknesses which were much uglier and greatly more dangerous to society than the amusements of the frivolous and the follies of the fashionable. There is, however, no fear that the moralists of Kansas will be able to spoil the pleasure of the dancers and the ball goers; but they, and their kind make life unpleasant to the innocent and light-hearted people who come under their influence. The tyranny of the self-righteous and the censorious, though not authorized by the constitution, is felt by many, is exceedingly galling, and, let us add, does a great deal of harm.

CANADA'S DETRACTORS.

There are some Americans who have been led to believe that there is a very large party in Canada favorable to annexation. It is not hard to see how they came to form this opinion. There are Canadians who are continually complaining of their country. According to them there is nothing good in Canada, and to say that a thing is Canadian is to condemn it in their eyes. This perpetual disparagement of the country by men who ought to know its worth and who might be expected to value it highly has led many Americans to conclude that Canada is from one end to the other a miserable country in which the bulk of the population are on the borders of starvation.

It is observed, too, that the same men who depreciate Canada, its government and everything connected with it, speak and write in the most glowing terms of the United States. According to them the United States has in the greatest perfection everything in which Canada is deficient. Comparisons are being continually drawn by these unpatriotic Canadians between the United States and the Dominion to the prejudice of the Dominion. The object of all this detraction of Canada and laudation of the United States is to lead Canadians to believe that their only salvation in a temporal sense is to become citizens of the United States. Their eloquence has very little effect on Canadians, who, as a people, are by no means in love with the Great Republic and its institutions; but it has the effect of leading some American public men and journalists to believe that the people of Canada are discontented with their condition as British subjects and are ready, on the first opportunity, to join the Union.

This conclusion is very natural, for Canadians are not an excitable or a demonstrative people. They are not disposed to make protestations of affection for the Mother Country and loyalty to the Queen unnecessarily. They do not even feel inclined to be very emphatic in their contradictions of what they know to be the misrepresentations and the falsehoods of loud-mouthed annexationists. Ninety-nine out of a hundred of them feel an utter contempt for the agitators, and cannot be brought to believe that they are in the least dangerous. This the annexationists themselves know very well, for though they are ready to shout at meetings, to write deceptive letters to the American newspapers, and to bore with their disloyal prate anyone who has the good nature or the patience to listen to them, they take very good care not to offer themselves as candidates for the legislature, Federal or Provincial, or to risk their money in starting a newspaper organ to propagate their views. It is very significant that, although annexation has been advocated in Canada by fits and starts for more than forty years, the annexationists have never been strong enough to get a representation in the councils of the country or to have a newspaper organ of their own.

These facts should open the eyes of the American sympathisers of Canadian annexationists and show them that the Canadians who are ready to sell their country to the United States are too insignificant, both as to position and numbers, to represent in any sense the feeling of their countrymen on the question of annexation.

HONEST AND TRUE.

The leading Republicans in the States have since the presidential election been continually insinuating that the Democrats will not carry out their campaign pledges with respect to tariff reform. They are doing their best to make the people believe that the Democratic trade policy was adopted for election purposes only, and that it will be conveniently laid aside immediately after the party attain power. The Republican newspapers have taken this line, and even the President in his message to Congress more than insinuated that the Democratic practice would not be in accord with ante-election Democratic professions.

Mr. Cleveland has, no doubt, taken due note of the sneers and the inuendoes of the Republican press and the Republican politicians, and he took an early opportunity to show that he at least meant what he said about tariff reform, and that he, as far as he could, would fulfil every promise he had made. At the banquet given him by the Reform Club of New York, he in reply to the toast, "The Guest of the Evening," made a speech which must have shown the men who predicted that the Democrats would not carry out their election policy that they had reckoned without Mr. Cleveland.

The speech is an excellent one both in its tone and its substance, and shows that Mr. Cleveland is not so greatly carried away by the splendid victory he has won as to be forgetful of the promises he has made and the responsibilities he has incurred. After exhorting the Democratic party to take warning by the fate of their opponents, Mr. Cleveland goes on to say:

While we find, in our triumph, a result of popular intelligence which we have aroused, and in consequence of popular vigilance which we have stimulated, let us not for a moment forget that our accession to power will find neither this intelligence nor this vigilance dead or slumbering. We are thus brought face to face with the reflection that if we are not to be tormented by the spirits which we ourselves have called up, we must hear above the victorious shouts the call of our fellow-countrymen to public duty, and must put on a garb befitting public servants. The sentiment suggested by this occasion which should dwarf all others, has relation to the responsibility which awaits those who now rejoice in victory. If we redeem the promises we have made to the voters of our land, the difficulty of our task can hardly be exaggerated. Conditions involving most important interests must be reviewed and modified, and perplexing problems menacing our safety must be settled. Above all, and as the ultimate object of all we do, the rights and the welfare of our people, in every condition of life, must be placed upon a moral equal plane of opportunity and advantage. I am confident that the wisdom of the Democratic party will be equal to the emergency, and I base my confidence upon the belief that it will be particularly true to its principles and traditions and will follow the path marked out by true American sentiment. We should not enter upon our work in the least spirit of resentment, nor in heedless disregard of the welfare of any portion of our citizens. The mission of our party and the reforms we contemplate, do not involve the encouragement of jealous animosities or a destructive discrimination between American interests. We shall utterly and disgracefully fail if we attempt these reforms under the influence of petty partisan scheming or the fear of jeopardizing personal political fortunes. They can only be accomplished when unselfish patriotism guides the aspirations of our people and regulates the action of their chosen servants.

This is no vain boasting, but the sober, serious language of a man who knows that he has undertaken a task of great difficulty, but who is determined to do all in his power to perform it faithfully.

It is evident that Mr. Cleveland is not only determined to revise the tariff but to put a stop to the profuse expenditure which is now demoralizing the people of the United States. The following sentences in view of the present position of affairs in the United States are significant:—

"We should," he said, "strive to rid ourselves and our countrymen of the idea that there is anything shabby or disgraceful in economy, whether in public or in private life. If extravagance in public expenditure has prevailed in the past, it affords no excuse for its continuance; and there is no breach of duty so palpable as the waste of money held by public servants for the people's uses. Our Government was founded in a spirit of frugality and economy, and its administration should not depart from those lines."

It is safe to say that those who confide in Mr. Cleveland's integrity and sincerity will not be deceived. He has shown himself hitherto to be a man of his word, and it is not likely that he will now do anything to tarnish the reputation he has gained. It may be said that Mr. Cleveland is not the whole Democratic party. That is quite true, but there are many significant indications that Mr. Cleveland has attained such a position in his country that men in the Democratic party who do not agree with him, will think twice before they oppose a policy which he is known to favor.

A STUPENDOUS CRIME.

The situation of Count Ferdinand de Lesseps is truly tragical. The genius who projected and brought to a successful completion the Suez Canal, in his extreme old age to be involved in fraud of the meanest kind, is pitiful in the extreme. That a man of his intellect could use his splendid gifts and the high position to which he had attained to devise and carry out a scheme which had no other object than to rob simple confiding peasants of their hard-earned savings, almost forces one to form an opinion of human nature worse than cynical.

It would appear from the way in which the proceedings against M. Lesseps and his associates have been instituted that in the opinion of competent men the Panama Canal scheme was a fraud from its very inception. In their opinion M. Lesseps never seriously intended to construct the canal, but invented the project merely as a snare in which to entrap men and women who had money to invest. The accused are not proceeded against as men who had entered into an association to do good work and had failed through extravagance and mismanagement, but as members of a conspiracy formed to obtain money on false pretences. It is hard to believe that the Panama Canal company was a combination of this kind. But when we come to see how the money raised was squandered and stolen—a very small part of it expended in *bona fide* work and the bulk of it divided among a set of unscrupulous knaves and schemers, we are almost forced to the conclusion that the projectors never had any other intention than to enrich themselves at the expense of the investors. The fraud was the most gigantic ever attempted in any age, and we question very much if ever before so much money was stolen by any single set of conspirators. It is said that while only ninety-four millions of dollars was spent on the canal, the immense sum of one hundred and sixty-six millions was stolen. Men who intended to build the canal would never have allowed the money raised for its construction to be stolen in this wholesale manner. The misery and the suffering that the loss of this immense sum of money has caused is simply unimaginable. Not only was the money stolen irretrievably lost, but every dollar spent on the ditch has gone with it. The dishonesty of the projectors has caused the waste of not only what they stole but of the money which was spent legitimately. It is more than probable that if the work had been honestly conducted sufficient money was raised to have completed the canal. It was said, when the work came to a standstill, a sum very much less than is now known to have been stolen would have made the canal navigable from ocean to ocean.

Those who are guilty of this stupendous fraud, this enormous waste, deserve as severe punishment as can be inflicted upon them. In fact, no punishment that can be devised can be adequate to the crime they have committed. It is small satisfaction to the people whom the schemers have robbed and to the world which they have cheated out of a great work which would have benefited it incalculably, that their names will be covered with infamy. What they and their children and their children's children can suffer will in no way compensate for the injury they have done the nation to which they belong and the whole human race.

TO KILL HIPPOLYTE.

How it was Attempted to Carry Out the Plot —Denial of Any Conspiracy.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—W. A. Griffin and Clarence B. Riker, of this city, were passengers on the steamer Adirondacks, which arrived from Kingston, Jamaica, on Tuesday with the reports of the attempt to kill President Hippolyte, of Haiti. The story of the attempted assassination as they heard it is as follows: "President Hippolyte was in bed in his palace when one of the attendants saw a man slipping along the corridor toward the President's room. The attendant grappled with the man and was stabbed in the shoulder. Other attendants came and the man was overpowered and bound. He was asked what his object was in visiting the palace, and he said 'To kill Hippolyte.' He was then taken out and shot. An investigation was made, and it was found that the man got into the grounds by breaking through the fence. The next day six of the guards were shot for allowing the man to get in the house, and the lieutenant who commanded them was also sentenced to be shot. A son of Hippolyte, however, interceded for the lieutenant, and his life was spared, though he is still in prison. It is believed that the attempt at assassination is the result of a conspiracy in which some people in Hippolyte's household are implicated. On the other hand, his enemies claim that there has been no attempt at assassination, and that Hippolyte simply took occasion to get rid of followers whose fidelity he suspected."

CABLE CORRESPONDENCE.

Cecil Rhodes' Plan for South African Development—The Pope in Good Health.

Russian Leniency to the Murderess of a Hundred Infants—Davitt's Election Trial.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—John Emile Lemoinne, the well-known French journalist, is dead. He was born in London, of French parents, October 17, 1815, began his studies in England and finished them in France. In 1840 the directors of the Journal des Debats entrusted him with the supervision of the English correspondence of that journal. He contributed to the Revue des Deux Mondes numerous articles, for the most part relating to political history, England and biography. Several of these articles were published in a separate form in 1862. He was elected a member of the French Academy, in succession to Jules Janin, May 13, 1875, and his reception was on March 2, 1876. His keen and often hostile criticism of English policy was always read with interest by the more serious portion of Frenchmen, and was not disregarded in England; and it may be said that it was chiefly by his exertions as a journalist that he obtained admission to the French Academy. But he was the author of a number of able articles in the Revue des Deux Mondes, which have deservedly obtained a wide reputation. On February 6, 1880, he was definitely chosen by the Left Centre for a life senatorship, and in April of the same year he was appointed French minister at Brussels, but he never took up the appointment.

The petition against the election of Michael Davitt as member of Parliament for North Meath, on the ground of clerical intimidation in his behalf, came up for hearing to-day. Counsel for Davitt intimated that in view of the recent decision of the court in the South Meath election case, condemning the pastoral which Bishop Nulty issued against the Parnellites, Davitt did not desire to contest the petition. The judges stated that they could only act on the evidence presented at the hearing, and therefore proceeded.

The bill providing for the repression of immorality in Berlin, one of the pet measures of the Emperor, has been referred in the House to a special committee. After routine business the Reichstag adjourned until January 10.

The Pope will soon send to the Italian bishops a letter denouncing Free Masonry as pursuing a Satanic aim in replacing Christianity by naturalism.

Dr. Charles Schenk has been elected president of the Swiss confederation, and A. Fry, vice-president.

The midwife Bedwarska, of Lodz, in Russia, who was tried for having murdered more than 100 babies, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Great indignation has been caused in Lodz by the lightness of the sentence. The woman was shown to be guilty of suffocating all the children whose bodies were found buried in her cellar. As she had been at such work for nearly 20 years, there is little doubt that her victims number in the hundreds. She was saved from the full penalty of her crime by the powerful influence of some of her former patrons.

Rumors have again spread abroad about the Pope being ill. Dr. Ceccarelli, his physician, states that His Holiness is in good health and free from any chronic indisposition; that he ought to live at least another ten years; that if there is anything to be feared it is the effect of some sudden and strong emotion, but even with this against him the Pope's elastic temperament is a safeguard.

Cecil Rhodes, premier of Cape Colony, has organized a company to build a telegraph line from the Cape of Good Hope to Uganda, just south of the sources of the Niie. He proposes ultimately to extend it to Egypt, and says that it is the precursor of a railway. Being asked if he was prepared to fight the Mahdi, Mr. Rhodes answered that he was not going to fight anybody; that he had never yet met any one who would not listen to a reasonable proposition, and that he and the Mahdi would get along well enough. Mr. Rhodes has undertaken to develop Southern Africa, and studies out its needs and resources by going out into the wildest regions and personally exploring them.

On the Uruguayan frontier the troops are preserving a semblance of neutrality. At Cacinbinhas, four federal officers were burned to death during a fight in a house in which they were barricaded. The Chilian papers are attacking Uruguay for allowing the Federals facilities, and the papers of Montevideo are on the warpath and declare that the insults to Uruguay by the Government of Rio Grande de Sul, Brazil, can only be wiped out by war with Brazil. President Herra has proposed a loan for the purpose of buying arms and ammunition. Senor Quintana has resigned from the Argentine cabinet, and Senor Anchorena assumes the position.

Another plot of the followers of the late President Balmaceda has been discovered by the government at Santiago and frustrated. An attempt was made to corrupt the Seventh regiment. The fact became known to the government shortly before the evening roll call Tuesday. The police closed in, barring the barracks. The police arrested several of the conspirators. The plans of the plotters were to seize various points in the city, which was to have been sacked. Lists of prominent government officials who were to have been killed were found; also, a number of masks, daggers and revolvers. Forty-six prisoners are now in custody. They are all ex-officials. The Seventh regiment has been ordered south, and the executive intends asking congress for extraordinary powers. Public opinion demands strong measures.

Secular School Issues.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—There is a strong probability that the secular school issue with the Catholic church will be brought into the next legislature. Though the question has not been discussed publicly between the parties of the two sides to the controversy in this state, a movement has been quietly going on for some time to have a statute placed on the books to prevent the use of state money on parochial schools. It is said that the question will soon be presented to the Masonic and other orders, and that their endorsement will be asked. Dr. George Fitch, who is medical examiner for the Ancient Order of United Workmen and other orders' is said to be a prominent mover in the matter. He was seen to-day and asked if such action was contemplated. He replied: "Yes, it is, that work is being done quietly to get backing for a bill which will be presented to the legislature. But I am not at liberty to say who will introduce the bill nor who is now interested in it."

THE DOMINION'S IMMIGRATION POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR:—The "exodus," despite the fact of its having been worn somewhat threadbare by frequent discussion in most of the leading journals in the Dominion, still receives occasional attention in the editorial columns. I might possibly be permitted to point out, as one who can do so from personal experience, at least one of the incidental causes which have led, in my estimation, to the failure in part of the immigration policy of the Dominion Government.

If I understand rightly, the action of the Government in modifying their policy with regard to assisting immigrants to this country, and forwarding them inland, was not due by any means to the belief that the country was in any danger of becoming too quickly populated, or that the indigent element were taking an objectionable advantage of it; but rather that the efforts of the Government to introduce a desirable class of settlers to open up the miles of country still awaiting development was almost altogether a failure in proportion to the expenditure of the department. They were brought face to face with the unpleasant fact that the tide of emigration directed to this country through the agency of the Government eventually found its way, to a greater or less extent, into the United States, forming no insignificant contingent of the "exodus."

The fact that I refer to is the gross misrepresentation indulged in by the individual acting on behalf of the Government with regard to the capabilities of the country, what it offers to emigrants of a certain class, and what may be expected generally by them on arrival. To listen to some of their descriptions of the advantages Canada affords it partakes more of a collection of amusing anecdotes, flanked by a table of exaggerated statistics, instead of the practical common sense and authentic information required to be given in order to prepare emigrants to cope with the difficulties which settlers have unavoidably to contend with. And why is this? Because the class of men in the majority of cases employed by the Government to act as their agents are mere theorists, and have not a practical knowledge of the subject.

I remember distinctly (without wishing to be irreverent) one sleek-looking, well-groomed individual, whose tendency to corpulence seemed to indicate the fat pickings attendant on the business, who was prepared, and did, before public audiences, promise all sorts of impossible advantages. This was carried to the extent of assurances that he had situations ready, on arrival, for almost every kind of artizan, not even excluding the mechanic. When fairly on the high seas this urbane individual (for he accompanied the ship that carried the party he organized) gave his dupes to understand that, in the matter of situations, etc., to use an Americanism, they would have to "rustle for themselves," and I well remember the loud complaints that followed. This man was supposed to be a responsible agent of the Government. The emigrants arrived, and after an occasional meal on the way inland, at the expense of an incompetent Department, were left to work out the realization of the vain hopes which the Government's agent had inspired. The result was that, instead of assisting the development of the country, the majority drifted into the small Provincial towns to swell the ranks of surplus labor.

Does not this condition of affairs suggest the desirability of employing men to act as the agents of the Government, who are qualified by a practical knowledge of the situation, even at the risk of their being "old timers," rather than the blatant hirelings, whose only object appeared to be to draw the percentage per head allowed by the Government.

Who can conceive of the vast acreage of country which a trip by our trans-continental route opens to view, without dwelling upon the possibilities of future development by settlement under the direction of a judicious department? What does or did the several Ministers of Agricultural know of the resources of British Columbia and other parts of the Dominion with regard to their actual capabilities for settlement, and the requirements of the settlers in order to obtain a foothold in the country? It is true that they observed the form of presenting an elaborate report yearly of the encouraging (?) development of agriculture throughout the whole country, accompanied by the indispensable table of statistics, whose only claim to attention seemed to be that they were of the stereotyped kind and inconsistent in the main with the facts of the case.

It cannot be denied that the country is in need of an energetic, judicious immigration policy, as much so as twenty years ago. The trouble is the inattention to the details of the question and the almost total disregard of the wants of the immigrants on arrival. An instance in point was the gross neglect of the immigration officials of a large party of settlers, only last summer, who were landed at the extreme north end of a branch of the C. P. R. in the Northwest Territories without the slightest provision for their reception or temporary shelter—and then we are told of the "fostering" process. We read of the almost starving condition of labor in the congested centres of the British Isles, and the forced expenditure of millions of dollars for its temporary relief, and yet no policy of immigration seems to be devised for permanent relief, while hundreds of valleys throughout British Columbia and other parts of the Dominion are inviting the axe of the settler. By some these are regarded as the objectionable pauper element, but those who understand the situation think differently.

The expenditure of but a portion of the enormous amounts annually distributed for the relief of the deserving unemployed in these large districts in the furtherance of a judiciously formulated emigration scheme would do much towards developing the unsettled parts of the Dominion, and converting this class of immigrants into a useful community. To do this, however, the old system, to a great extent, must be abrogated and some measure introduced to afford actual assistance to enable the settler to obtain a foothold in the country.

Ireland has occupied the attention of the Imperial Parliament to the almost entire exclusion of other questions, with its Land Purchase bill and other measures of relief, and why should not the executive ability be directed toward the capabilities of Canada to relieve its congested centres, with mutual benefit to Canada? Our present insignificant population in proportion to the area of the Dominion, coupled with the continuation of the obnoxious "exodus," is self-evident proof of Canada's capacity for settlement, unless she is indeed—as has sometimes been represented—the land of almost perpetual snows. To do this will necessitate the employment of men who have had more than a "cut and run" experience of the needs of settlers and the formulation of some measure for the temporary advancement of a small capital to enable them to have the few essentials required to make any advancement.

A. P. FAWCETT.

Vancouver.

RESCUED TO DEATH.

M. Donahue, a 'Longshoreman, Falls Into the Water from the Turner-Beeton Wharf.

Strangled in the Effort to Save Him From a Watery Grave.

Last night, as the usual crowd which had gathered to witness the landing from the incoming steamer was still lingering on the wharf, a loud cry for help came from the water in the vicinity of the Turner-Beeton wharf.

A number hastened in that direction and those in advance discovered the form of a man struggling in the water, the surface of which was at that stage of the tide about fifteen feet below the string piece of the wharf.

Two gentlemen, Mr. Jones and Mr. McFadden, hastily procured a rope, upon the end of which was a noose, and threw it to the man, telling him to slip the noose under his arms. The light was rather poor and as the rope grew taut those who were handling it on the wharf proceeded to haul it in.

The struggling man was raised nearly to the level of the wharf when it was discovered that the rope was around his neck instead of under his arms. He was lowered and told to fix it. Still able to talk he said something which sounded like "all right," and was again pulled up with a rush which landed him on the wharf.

To the horror of the crowd it was discovered that the rope was still around his neck, the knot resting under the ear.

The unfortunate man was liteless when brought up the second time. Dr. Jones, formerly of the Warspite, arrived on the scene, and for some time every means was tried to resuscitate the lifeless body.

The Provincial police took charge of the body, which was removed to Lockhart's undertaking establishment. A search revealed a pocket-knife, a purse containing three cents, and a few scraps of paper, one of which was a receipt from Morrow, Holland & Co. for one month's rent of cabin No. 22, made out to M. Donohue.

The man was recognized as having been engaged in 'longshoring and doing odd jobs about the town. A number recognized him by sight, but none of them knew his name, though it is probably that on the receipt.

An inquest will be held to-day.

ROBBERY AND SHOOTING.

A Well-Known Vancouverite Shot and Robbed on the Public Streets.

He is Reticent as to His Assailants—All the Ascertained Facts.

[Special to the COLONIST.]

VANCOUVER, Dec. 16.—About 3 o'clock this morning the news was brought to the local paper by a gurney cab driver, that George Barnes had been murdered and robbed. The matter was investigated and about 4 o'clock an item was crowded in, little more than an announcement of George Barnes being waylaid by highwaymen, shot and robbed. Later in the morning Mr. F. W. Hart said to your reporter, "I was awaked at 1:55 o'clock by three or four loud rings at the door in rapid succession. I ran through the house in my night clothes and opening the door saw George Barnes staggering on the steps. He said, 'Let me in Frank, I've been shot.' I led him to a seat near the fire and examined a wound in the muscles of the neck directly beneath the cerebellum, slightly to the right. I said, 'there is a hole there, but it doesn't look like a bullet hole.' He replied, 'I heard the report, I think it's a bullet hole all right.'

"I sent for Dr. Wilson and a gurney and we took him to the hospital, and for three hours Dr. Bell-Irving and the two Doctors Wilson probed for the bullet without success, although they are of the opinion the wound has been made by a small pistol of light calibre."

Geo. Barnes, who was for a time very low, is gaining strength, and every hope is entertained of his recovery. He refuses to tell anything that might lead to the discovery of the would-be murderers until he can make a deposition to the police magistrate. Barnes said: "About 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon a certain man paid me a sum of money, over a thousand dollars. No one saw him pay me, I told no one, and I don't see how anybody could know. I went home and took my tea, and said to the people in the house, I'm going out to see Steves. I visited Mr. Steves, and on my way back, about 10:30, as I was crossing Cambie street bridge, I heard two men walking rapidly behind me. Just at the swing one came up by my side, as if to pass, and the other was still behind. Just then I heard the report of a pistol. . . . . My limbs were stiff and cold when I came to, three hours and fifteen minutes afterwards. I felt for my watch to look at the time. It was gone; my clothes were unbuttoned; my purse and money stolen; my neck smarting and streaming with blood. Realizing the situation, I got on my feet, intending to walk to the little cottage at the end of the bridge, but finding that I was stronger than I first thought I managed to reach Mr. Hart's house."

Geo. Barnes is perhaps better known than any other man in Vancouver. He was here before the fire, and is personally acquainted with every business man who has done business in Vancouver or vicinity during the last decade. When the announcement was made that he had been shot and robbed the entire community was startled. The shot was fired from behind. Mr. Barnes did not see his assailants, nor is it known that there was a single witness to the crime.

Mr. Barnes' own story is all that is known; the affair will certainly mystify the police. As yet there is no clue whatever.

LATER—The doctor found a 32 calibre bullet this afternoon flattened against the skull. In Barnes' statement to the police he acknowledged having played a quiet game of eards after he left Steves, and has made known his strong suspicions as to the personality of his assailants.

PREPARE FOR CHOLERA.

CLEANLINESS, care and courage are the resources of civilization against cholera. Keep the body scrupulously clean. Eat hot food. Take Burdock Blood Bitters to maintain regular digestion and ensure pure blood which is the very best safeguard against cholera or any other epidemic.