The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY, 19 1893

"A FAIR INDEX."

The Times in its zeal to back up the contentions of Mr. Brown and the other Mainland agitators, endeavors to ridicule the idea of taking the school children as a standard of comparison in estimating the population of the Mainland and the Island. The rubbish about the electoral districts, on which it wastes its space, is beneath contempt. Its way of accounting for the discrepancy, which must exist, if the white population of the Mainland is ten or twelve thousand more than that of the Island, as the Times and its Mainland allies contend, cannot in the estimation of any sensible man, be considered satisfactory. The School Inspector's Report shows that the school children enrolled on the Mainland, number 5,391, and those on the Island, 5,382. What we asked was: Do these figures lead to the conclusion that there is a large preponderence of white people on the Mainland—that and nothing more. The number of children enrolled in the schools is, in this, as well as in every other country where a public school system is in operation, as good an index of the population, outside the census, as can be found. To say that the population of the Mainland is so scattered as to account for the discrepancy is, in our opinion, very unreasonable. To establish a school in a district requires only a daily average of ten children, and we do not believe that there are many settlements on the Mainland so scattered that they cannot make up this small average. Besides, the great bulk of the population of the Mainland is very far, indeed, from being scattered.

THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

The main object in constructing sewers under a Local Improvement by-law would appear to be to cause the burden of taxation to fall upon those who derive benefit therefrom, and in proportion to the benefit so derived. Such a result cannot be attained in a city like Victoria by a general loan, which has to be paid alike by those who have the use of and derive direct benefit from the construction of the sewers, and those who only, at present and probably for a few years to come, may derive only such indirect benefit as may accrue from the generally improved hygienic conditions of the city.

It would appear that in assessing an area like that of the City of Victoria under the Local Improvement by-law, the classification should be made under two heads, the basis being the cost of the smallest sewer permissible.

It would be obviously inequitable to assess any person for the full cost of the large main passing his lot for the purpose of carrying the sewage from distant localities, when the small pipe would equally serve his purpose.

In dealing with the cost of the mains, it would seem to be fair that, as they are for the purpose of carrying the accumulated sewage of a certain area, that area should pay for them, while the cost of a lateral sewer should be based on that of the smallest permissible pipe, and should be charged to those whose position enables them to connect with the existing sewer.

To exemplify our meaning, let us suppose that the area tributary to the system has a frontage liable to taxation of 300,000 feet, that the total cost of the sewers of all sizes is $900,000, but that if all the sewers were the smallest permissible size, they would cost $600,000. In such a case it is clear that the additional cost due to the larger sewers will be $300,000. We have then first a charge of $1 a foot frontage for the construction of the mains, this being applicable from time to time as sewers were provided. For instance taking the same data, suppose in this area in the first year the mains were built and two-thirds of the lateral sewers; the frontage to be assessed would be 300,000 feet at $1, and 200,000 feet at $2. While it is believed that these figures are in excess of the actual cost even in so expensive a city to sewer as Victoria, it may be instructive to see what the annual rate would be on, let us suppose, the typical lot of sixty feet frontage, assuming the debentures to be payable in fifty years, and to bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

The annual charge for a lot of sixty feet frontage for mains alone would be $3.04 less a fraction of a cent., while the whole annual rate for the lot, after lateral sewers had been provided in the adjoining street, would be $9 less a fraction of a cent.

In the foregoing no provision has been made for house connections, nor do we know what course the Council propose to take. The usual method is for each owner to connect his property with the public sewer at his own expense.

Our correspondent, Senator Macdonald, has very ably pointed out the difficulties and complications which would possibly arise under the Local Improvement by law. These do not, however, appear to us insuperable, provided the work is carried out judiciously; to deal with them seriatim it appears to us that:

1. The rate should be fixed so as to provide for the existing loan, and relieve all parties from any further taxation for sewerage purposes other than that called for under the Local Improvement Act.

2. If a property holder pays at once the full cost chargeable to his property, he would naturally be relieved from further taxation, and the amount would be paid into the sinking fund.

3. We do not understand that it is proposed to procure small loans on small areas, but to negotiate the sale of debentures for the requisite amount, such debentures to be issued from time to time as funds are required.

4. There would be a fiscal annual tax on each lot, and there is no reason to suppose that this tax would be harder to collect than any other is now, or has been.

5. Defaulters would have to be compelled to pay; though why there should be defaulters as regards this tax more than any other we fail to see.

6. We understand that it is proposed to pay for the whole sewerage system under the Local Improvement plan, in which case the question of using General Revenue for the purpose cannot arise.

7. In dealing with the question of Local Improvement, it would be unnecessary and most inexpedient to treat each block separately; all blocks being equally interested, the majority should rule.

McCARTHY'S MISTAKE.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who aspires to be a leading man in this Dominion, is reported to have said at Orangeville, Ont., a few days ago: "I say it is a disgrace that after more than one hundred years since this country was ceded to Great Britain that in the city of Quebec, where the gallant Wolfe laid down his life for his country, the English language is hardly spoken." This is no disgrace, but it would be a deep disgrace to the British name if Britain had so tyrannized over the French inhabitants of Lower Canada as to endeavor to prevent their using their mother tongue. Men who possess the true British spirit are proud to know that, in the government of Canada, their country has made no distinction between Englishmen and Frenchmen. All had equal liberties and privileges, and there was absolutely nothing to remind the Canadian who were the conquerors and who the conquered.

The inhabitant of Canada can speak what language it pleases him to speak, and to worship God in the way that his judgment and his conscience dictate.

There are many parts of Canada in which English is not the language of the household. This was the case to a far greater extent thirty or forty years ago than it is now. There were large settlements in which Gaelic alone was spoken. Germans are, and properly so, very tenacious of their mother tongue; Welsh settlers spoke the language of their native country, and so did the Scandinavians. The law did not interfere with them in this matter. They were all eager to embrace every opportunity that was afforded them of learning English, for the simple reason that English is, in Canada, the language of business and of general literature. They soon saw that the man or the woman who did not understand English was at a great disadvantage in almost every walk of life. The young people, therefore, quickly became proficient in the language of the country, and in time, many of them ceased to talk, and even to understand, the tongue of their ancestors.

It takes much longer to effect this change—which is inevitable—in Lower Canada than in the isolated settlements of non-English speaking people in the other provinces, simply because the French of that colony formed a very large community, and for a long time comparatively few English people settled among them. But many of them did learn English, and the number of French Canadians who have mastered that tongue well enough to speak and to read it intelligently is becoming, proportionately to the great mass of the population, greater an greater every year. The reason of this is not because the Government wants them to learn English, or because the law of the land compels them to get a knowledge of that tongue, but because they find it to their interest to be able to speak English as well as French. Self-interest will, in a natural and pleasant way, bring about the change which Mr. McCarthy—if there is any meaning in what he says—deplores has not been hastened by the action of law, which would certainly be regarded as harsh and tyrannical. People of spirit would resent being legislated out of their mother tongue. The course which the British and Canadian Governments have pursued has been wiser, more liberal, more enlightened, more consistent, as well as more politic, than the one which Mr. McCarthy regrets they did not take. The true Canadian should feel proud that his Government has not attempted to compel any resident of Canada to abandon his mother tongue and to adopt the language of the English people.

ABOUT PROFANITY.

Edward Cary, in the May number of the Century Magazine, writes about "the decline of profanity." Most people are under the impression that profanity has not declined and is not declining. Profane language, they deplore, is used by multitudes, and it is heard almost everywhere. Many are shocked to see that it has found its way into literature and that oaths and profane expletives, instead of being indicated by dashes and asterisks, are spelled out and appear in all their vulgar profaneness. "Men swear," they say, "boys swear and, humiliating to confess, even women and girls have been known to use language which is most objectionable in men, and which no gentleman could bring himself to utter in the presence of a lady."

There is, we fear, too much truth in this complaint. Profane language is by far too common, and the mincing, mealy-mouthed substitutes for oaths which some people use only show what they would say if the oaths themselves were not considered in the circle in which they move "bad form." But are not these nonsensical expressions a sign that profanity is on the decline, that it is going out of fashion? There may be too much profanity now, but was there not a great deal more thirty, forty, fifty and more years ago? We have good warrant for believing that the army swore terribly in Flanders, and those who have read the novels of three or four generations ago, know that language was then commonly used by gentlemen, and we fear ladies, that would not be tolerated among people laying any claim to respectability now. Those who are pretty well up in years have heard in their day some very hard swearing, and much wanton and altogether senseless profanity. It seems that in these days there is not so much profanity and it is of a much milder form than formerly.

The indications are that profanity is getting out of fashion. Why it is so is hard to tell. Mr. Cary asks: "Are we becoming more pious? That is not the general impression. Is the fiber of the race softening? That is often maintained, but I do not think successfully." Whatever may be the cause of the change, it is, no doubt, a good one, and we trust it will go on doing its work, until the man who has contracted the habit of profane swearing will be set down by all decent people as an ill-bred fellow, with whom it would be wise to have very little to do.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

The following is the concluding portion of the leader of the Government's Westminster speech, taken from the Vancouver World's excellent report.

Now we are told that "whilst protesting its inability to meet the demands of all sections of the Province for larger expenditures on works of development," the Government has taken power to borrow $600,000 to meet the first estimate of the cost of public buildings. This exaggerated way of putting it infers that there are large sums to be expended afterwards. I can only repeat the assurance that there is no such intention. The contract has to be given for the work and we do not expect the country to justify the expenditure of any sum exceeding $600,000. Public buildings were required and had to be erected somewhere, and if erected at Chilliwack, or Vancouver, I suppose we would not have heard very much complaint. If you go into the old buildings now you will find that the roof of the Legislative Assembly hall is leaking. I was in there the other day, after a rainstorm, and there was a pool of water back of the Speaker's chair from the roof. In the Attorney-General's office the roof leaks in several places. How could these structures be otherwise, erected, as they were, some thirty years ago, and built of wood with a brick veneer. It has been said we might go along for years without putting up new buildings. "We do not want to interfere with the Capital in any way." I know that there is no question about moving the Capital. I do not think there would ever be any agreement as to where to bring it, if changed. But it is said you could get on with these buildings for a long time. Well, of course, we could make patch work of them and spend large sums of money every year in making repairs. From $5,000 to $10 a year could be expended for that purpose for years to come. A few years ago the repairs and additions amounted to $20,000, and $30,000 would be within the mark of what has been spent there during the last four years. At the present time there has to be a carpenter employed on these buildings constantly. No one found fault with the $75,000 expended last year for the erection of a fire-proof land registry office. Then it has been said that it would be far better to spend this money in opening up roads, streets and bridges. Even if the Government could build roads and take a road to every settler's door, how much dissatisfaction would be caused by those who would not get the roads just where they wanted them? (Applause.) Spend that $600,000 how you like, you would have just as many dissatisfied persons as you would have satisfied ones. You would have complaints from Cariboo to Comox of favoritism by the Government. Let us consider what this really means, this expenditure: It has been put to you as if it meant $600,000 thrown down in a lump sum and taken from a depleted treasury. That amount means exactly the yearly sum for sinking fund to pay off the loan and the interest. What does that amount to? I got the auditor to make me a computation of what the sinking fund and interest would amount to. As you are aware, the financial condition of the Province is excellent. The credit of the Province stands nearly equal to any other colony in the world. (Cheers.) British Columbia's 3 per cents are now quoted at 93 to 93½. Now, at 93 the interest would be £3 4s. 6d. per cent. In order to realize a sum equal to $600,000 bonds sold at 93, it would require an issue of about £133,333, and the annual interest thereon would be £3,999, or $19,384. The cost to the Province on the above basis would be annually: interest, $19,384; sinking fund, $6,000; total, $25,384; and at the end of fifty years it would be paid off. These are not my computations; they were made by the Provincial auditor. Now, I would like to know, if $25,000 is going to be expended for this purpose every year, how much that sum distributed over the whole Province is going to shorten the funds available in building roads and making permanent improvements. When you take the $5,000 for repairs into account, you still have it to reduce the $25,000 with. Say the yearly expenditure is from $300,000 to $500,000 upon roads, streets, bridges and public improvements, I say what figure does the sum of $20,000 out in respect of this expenditure? It is not worth mentioning. Victoria and district, in common with the rest of the country, are entitled to their share in the distribution of public moneys, and, in apportioning that, this expenditure will of course be taken into consideration. The same may be said in regard to the traffic bridge across the Fraser. So that there is no more injustice in appropriating $20,000 for the purpose of sinking fund and interest upon the $600,000 for the buildings than in appropriating $15,000 for seven years for the bridge across the Fraser. You will say this is only temporary. That may be, but the member for the district, when the time comes, will, I expect, present a strong case for an increased grant.

It was said that the Mainland was unjustly dealt with in the matter of public appropriations. I deny that, and shall prove to you that in the matter of appropriations for public works the Mainland has had its full quota of justice. When the delegation came to Victoria in 1890 it was not denied that this was the case. The delegates admitted that this district had been fairly dealt with at that time. Let us look over what has been expended during the last three years on the Mainland and on the Island. You will find that for public purposes, everything outside of the civil government salaries, and the cost of maintaining the Government, there has been spent on Vancouver Island in 1890, $173,840; in 1891, $163 263; and in 1892, $208,088, or a total of $545,191. On the Mainland what do we find? In 1890 there was spent $337,293; in 1891, $335,462; in 1892, $433,362, a total of $1,106,117, or more than double what was spent on Vancouver Island. (A voice—show the revenue.) Yes, I shall proceed to do so. During that time the revenue derived from the Island, inclusive of land sales, was $585,542 01, leaving a balance over and above expenditure of $40,401,01, to go into the general purposes of the Government. Upon the Mainland the total amount of the revenue was very much larger, it was $1,249,060 19. (Cheers.) Take from that the amount actually expended on the Mainland and you have a balance of $142,943 19 returned to the treasury for the purposes of the general government of the country, so that on the Island you have $40,401 01 returned to the treasury of the revenue of the country, over and above the appropriations, and on the Mainland, $142,943 19 to the treasury of the revenue of the country. Do these figures show any injustice as regards the Mainland? And a further consideration of the facts will show still further how justly and fairly this portion of the Province has been dealt with. If you take the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway, it first got a lump sum of $200,000, which was afterwards changed to a guarantee of interest equal to $50,000 for twenty-five years. A similar guarantee was passed last session in aid of the Spence's Bridge & Nicola Valley Railway, and a guarantee of interest on $800,000 or thereabouts on the Nakusp & Slocan Railway—a line calculated to open up and aid in developing the mining resources of Kootenay. To come nearer home, there was a guarantee passed of 2 per cent. upon the bonds of the Chilliwack railroad to the extent of $500,000. (Cheers.) It is true that the guarantees have been so arranged that the public revenue is not likely to be seriously encroached upon; but still the fact remains that the credit of the country has been pledged for these works. As against these railways, what do you find on Vancouver Island? The Victoria & Sidney Railway is the only one, and there the Government takes an obligation of $6,000, and the city of Victoria of $9,000. Besides the appropriations and aids to railways, there was aid to quartz mining in Cariboo of $74,509, and you have a small expenditure for a woolen mill in this place of $3,000, and $37,500 towards a bonus for the C.P.R. coming into New Westminster; and you have $15,000 a year in aid of the bridge across the Fraser, which it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for the city itself to raise. Take a glance over these facts—facts that cannot be challenged—and ask yourselves if the Government of the country is treating you so badly? (A voice, no, no) Matters do not stop here. In the first place the revenue from the Mainland is only $1,249,000. In this I have included the land sales, and the same upon Vancouver Island, and have shown that you have had the revenue raised upon the Mainland expended here in public works, education, surveys, and so on, all of it, sir, with the exception of about $149,000, and the same thing is true of the Island, which has had similarly expended the revenue collected there with n $40,000. Now the proceeds of the sale of the land of the Province do not belong to any particular portion of it, and any land sales are entitled to be distributed for the benefit of the people generally. The Mainland had no particular claim to the land revenue being expended here. What did the land sales amount to during those three years? They amounted to $491,310 upon the Mainland. Take that from $1,249,000 gross revenue, and what have you got as the net revenue? You have $757,749 39. That puts the matter in another shape altogether. You have then the revenue considerably less than the expenditure, the expenditure being $1,106,117, with a revenue of $757,749, leaving $348,367 of a deficit. On Vancouver Island the revenue was $585,572 01, the land sales being $149,659 82. Deduct then the land sales, and take the revenue from the expenditure, and you have an excess of expenditure over revenue of $119,278 81. I would like to ask you, sir, whether any of these municipalities, Surrey, Langley, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam and the others, have not received back their contribution of taxes to the general revenue? Take one year's showing; there is a total expenditure in municipalities, outside Vancouver and New Westminster, of $62,340 62 for roads and schools. What do you find the revenue is that has been received from these places? According to a return handed me, it is the sum of $16,618 23. I think I have now shown you that this part of the country has been fairly treated by the Government. I have shown you that the fear of injustice in the matter of redistribution has no foundation in fact, and I am sure that every reasonable man will admit that there is no occasion for this separation petition. I have been informed that this movement is spreading. If it is spreading it is merely among those who are not informed in the matter. I have been told they have formed a Government for the country, and even have appointed the members of their cabinet. They expect, no doubt, to do great things, for themselves, when the new "kingdom" comes. Here is a country that has, say 100,000 of a population. Do you suppose the proposal is going to be listened to for one moment that we should have two separate provinces? The thing is too ridiculous, and every sensible man must see that those getting up these petitions are simply making fools of themselves, and the people who sign the petitions, ridiculous. Now, having shown the determination of the Government to deal fairly in this matter and all other matters before the country, I would draw your attention to the kind of encouragement given by the morning organ at Vancouver when it writes that no matter what the Government may do, they are to have no credit for it. In the House of Assembly Mr. Brown and Mr. Cotton claimed to wish to act with the Government in bringing down a fair measure of redistribution. They say, let us have representation according to population. They want to cut off the country districts—pocket boroughs they call them. The two smallest of these country constituencies are Alberni and the Islands. Yet, would you believe that both Mr. Brown and Mr. Cotton in the Legislative Assembly advocated the Islands and Alberni retaining their representatives, and the same with Cariboo. Their insincerity was shown by their professions. In some things they had been ingenuous foes. I feel I have trespassed unduly on your forbearance. (No, no.) Whatever opposition I might have expected to encounter, I felt there was a sufficient spirit of justice and fair-play to give me the impartial hearing which you have done tonight, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you have listened to my exposition of the policy of the Government of which I have the honor to be leader. (Loud and long continued cheers.)

Victoria Building Society.

The 32nd drawing for an appropriation of the Victoria Building Society was held last evening at the Sir William Wallace hall. The drawing committee consisted of Messrs. J. Holland, W. W. Northcott and J. Leonard. No.'s 242, A B C & D, were winners. The certificates are held, A & B by Mrs. Eva Templeman, C & D by Mr. Wm. Templeman. This makes $111,000 drawn for by the society so far, $103,900 of which is out on mortgage.

BILL NYE IN B. C.

Why the Theatre Manager Rejoiced it Rained in Victoria on Good Friday.

Nye Discovers the Reason Why the English Younger Son Wears Leggings.

[Copyright, 1893, by Edgar W. Nye.]

Rats gave me some trouble last evening and during the night. They had their hook and ladder company out, I think, for exercise, for in the wall of my room they were practising on running up as far as possible and then falling to the bottom with a dull report like that when a fat aeronaut falls 1,000 feet and strikes on the top of a man with a high hat.

After I had gone to sleep, tired nature being no longer able to hold out against noise, they got more intimate, and I woke up to find a confidential old chap pouring his cold, sad tail in my ear.

I have never been the confidant of a dumb animal that way before.

I ENTERED MY DRESSING ROOM WEEPING SOFTLY.

British Columbia in summer must be a most beautiful country. The ride from Victoria to Nanaimo by train is one that seems like a beautiful dream. The smooth water of the strait is on your right, and on the left the magnificent forest with solemn mossy firs that grow to a great size, and every few moments you cross a musical trout brook with a milky waterfall that echoes far and away through the answering woods. There's nothing so peaceful unless it be the death of a good man. I could fish there forever. Some do. You can get trout there too.

The conductor stepped down to a babbling brook while we loaded five trunks and borrowed a willow rod with a line to it fixed up with a boy at one end and a worm at the other and whipped out two rainbow trout before one could say scat.

We showed in Victoria on Good Friday, as the date had been made months ago and without due forethought. Good Friday in an English city, and a pouring rain gave us an apprehensive pain as we strolled into the opera house at the stage entrance. The steamer ride all day had been dreary, wet and cold, and at 8 o'clock I entered my dressing room weeping softly as my valet laid out my handsome costumes for the evening.

The opera house manager came back to see me. I dried my eyes as well as possible, dashing some powder on my discolored nose, and expecting to hear him say, "You come to us at a very unfortunate time, but some of our best people are here to-night," etc., but he rubbed his hands cheerily and said, "We will do well to get room for them to-night, and I'd hate to turn them away in the rain."

"But how about Good Friday?"

"Oh, that is all right. I was only afraid it would be a pleasant day. Then all of Victoria would have been fishing all the daylight there was and been too tired to come, but now they are all rested and on hand."

Business men of Victoria are not slaves to their work. They get down to their business at 10 o'clock, and if anyone is waiting to see them they make an engagement for 3 o'clock. The house is closed at lunchtime also. Good Friday was a holiday. Saturday is a regular holiday. Sunday is the same, of course, for tired merchants then go fishing. Monday was a holiday also, being Easter Monday, and on Tuesday many were so worn out with fishing that it was also observed as a holiday.

We could not get into a bank by any honorable means, and so when we got to America we had a trunkful of Canadian money. Had we been a few days later we would have had 20 per cent. discount to pay, as this is the rule since April 15.

It is a retaliatory measure. The Canadians say that we started it, and the Yankees say the Canadians started it. I do not know who started it, but I can put my hand on my heart and say of a truth that I had nothing to do with it.

All the time while there I tried to think of something to smuggle, but I could not.

By going on board a Chinese steamship we succeeded in buying some embroidered handkerchiefs, and by being extremely foxy and free with our shillings we got them off the steamer—the handkerchiefs, I mean—and across the line. My heart was in my mouth all the time. I sent them since to my wife, who says that they are very curious, but can be bought cheaper at Ashville, N. C.

At Nanaimo coal mining and football are indulged in. Coal mining is the only thing that is not affected by the rainy season. A man on the Sound also told us that for two years he did not see Mount Hood, Mount Ranier, Mount Tacoma or Mount Baker for the rain. Mount Tacoma and Mount Ranier are the same, but called by different names according to whether you live at Tacoma or Seattle. I have referred to this before.

Each large city aims to be the terminus of some great transcontinental road. In some countries people are divided into Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians, but here one must at once become a follower of Jim Hill, the N. P., the C. P. or the U. P.

I was about to say that P'a hath her victory no less than war, but the customs officer told me I had no right to bring such a thing as that into this country free unless I wanted it for my own personal use.

At Nanaimo we took the little steamer Cutch to Vancouver. In crossing the wharf at Nanaimo I sat my bag down on the dock in order to peel my umbrella and hit a rainin. A young man with a haggard look took it up and held it for me. He continued to hold it till I paid him wharfage on it.

It is a private wharf and is all the poor man has to keep him in liquor. If you send your trunks down to the steamer, he holds them until you ransom them.

An old resident told me that once this man stopped a funeral procession because the bearers put down the remains on the dock to spit on their hands, and they had to pay a dollar before the procession could move. This keeps the respectable people with baggage from going to Nanaimo, and especially as they wish in case of death to be buried elsewhere. Even the Chinaman does not want his body to be found dead at this place and has it sent back to China.

The steamship Empress of India sailed from Vancouver while we were there and carried quite a large cargo of Chinamen who had died at Nanaimo, paid dockage and started for home.

In my last letter I spoke a little disrespectfully of the young English tourist who runs so much to leggings and so little to legs, wearing leggings even to get married in, but now I find that I was hasty.

He, of course, being a younger son who inherited the old family pants, finds that they wrinkle and become finally abraded and fluted at the bottoms, so he puts on leggings. After he has worn them awhile the trousers or pants naturally, as a result of the warmth of the person and having been tightly folded for some time, especially if slept in, become hopelessly wrinkled, so that leggings become a necessity, and at last one legging seems call for another, like the drink habit.

One man I saw had two pairs on at the same time.

But now that I know the cause, and that it is actual want which lies at the bottom of all this, I regret very much the hasty manner in which I spoke. Under those wrinkled and passe trousers may throb a warm, true English heart.

Quien sabe?

We liked Victoria and Vancouver, though the latter is the coming city of that country. The buildings are excellent, the hotel first-class, though crowded on steamer days, and one of the finest opera houses on the coast is there, ably managed by Mr. Goldsmith, a Jewish gentleman who was born in Australia. He says that he was characterized as a Sheeny Kangaroo in his early life, "but now," said he, "I call myself a Siwash Chinaman."

At the opera house I was called upon to show my ready wit and explain it afterward to several people who remained after the opera was over.

Part of a football team came after all other seats were occupied and were given the chairs usually occupied by the orchestra. Several of them came in a beastly state of intoxication and one in a long white nightshirt. This joke comes from William the Conqueror, but the lick just behind the ear which this young man got came from Mr. Goldsmith, who was at the door at the time.

So the man with the nightshirt was pulled out of the mud at the door and sent home on a wide board.

A YOUNG MAN HELD MY BAG.

The others came in and made remarks during our overture, thus annoying the audience and cutting into our remarks. It was so de trop that I saw we must execute a coup d'etat or receive a faux pas.

We are often asked to call for a physician in the audience, who is sent for by messenger to the stage, so I paused in the olio and with great gravity and earnestness advanced to the footlights and asked with a trembling voice if Dr. Keeley would kindly come to the front.

The audience couldn't have been more than seven or eight minutes at work on it before it was settled that it was intended as a bonmot. Then they turned loose with lung and boot heel and umbrella ferrule till the football team began to ask itself, "How is it possible that this vast audience and even the speaker, a total stranger, has discovered that we are drunk?"

Then those who needed it went home and tied their heads up in wet towels, and the others most generously apologized.

This incident will be published in Punch under the heading, "The Following Good One," etc.

I am very fond of repartee indeed and in Wyoming once gave such full vent to it in chaffing a stage driver on the old Douglass creek stage line that I shall bear the marks of it to the grave. BILL NYE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

When the system is overloaded with impurity, the circulation sluggish, and the stomach out of order, as is often the case in spring time, there is no remedy so efficacious as Burdock Blood Bitters to remove every trace of impure matter and restore perfect health.

SEALING RESTRICTIONS.

The British and Russian Governments Have Arrived at a Positive Agreement.

Official Notice Sent to Collector A. R. Milne to Warn Canadian Schooners.

Last March the announcement was officially made that there was under consideration by Her Majesty's Government an agreement with Russia with respect to sealing off the Russian coast and islands, and it was then plainly intimated that it would be desirable for schooners under Canadian waters to keep outside a limit fixed at ten miles off the coast and thirty off the islands. At that time the sealing schooners were according advised of the proposed arrangement, so that if there should be trouble in the proposed limit, they would have to bear the brunt of it themselves. Since then nothing was heard of the conclusion of the agreement until Friday, when a telegram to Collector of Customs A. R. Milne at this port from the deputy minister of Trade and Commerce for the Dominion, gave an intimation that an important advice on the subject was to be expected, requesting him at the same time to give the matter his immediate attention.

The formal advice came by wire yesterday morning, and is as follows:

OTTAWA, May 13, 1893.

To A. R. Milne, Collector of Customs, Victoria:

Referring to my telegram of March 10 and Mr. Parmelee's of March 17, I have now to advise that English and Russian Governments have agreed to prohibit sealing vessels from fishing within ten miles of Russian coast and within thirty miles of Robbin Island and the Commander islands during the present year. Warn sealers to observe this prohibition, communicating with those who have already sailed whenever possible. Give copy of this to officer commanding Her Majesty's ships at Esquimalt.

Signed) WILLIAM SMITH,
Deputy Minister Marine.

On receipt of the above telegram, Collector Milne at once took steps to give the notice publicity and has officially notified H. M. Navy of it by forwarding a copy to Capt. Hughes-Hallet, of H. M. S. Garnet, senior naval officer at this station. As one of the British warships will shortly leave to patrol Behring Sea, it is altogether probable that most of the schooners now up the coast will receive the notice in due course. Collector Milne has also written letters to H. M. consuls at Yokohama and Hakodate, Japan, enclosing copies of the telegram for their information. These letters will leave on Monday, May 15, by the Empress of China, and will thus have speedy delivery. By the same steamer letters will also be forwarded to the schooners now in Japanese waters, so that they too will have due notice of the conclusion of the agreement of which they have already understood the purport.

There is a good deal of speculation among the sealing men as to the object of the convention which has thus thus been made between Great Britain and Russia. Attention is drawn to the fact that it, on its face, looks as if it were an indication of a determination to prevent the destruction of seals, more especially as it would seem that the Russians are also under the treaty, to be prohibited from sealing in the proscribed waters, although it does not throw any light on the question of the rights of a privileged Russian company to take seals on the Island. This further information will probably be available when the mail advices are received from England giving a more definite statement as to the scope of the convention.

SENT UP FOR TRIAL.

Chief Magistrate Macrae, in his capacity as Stipendiary Magistrate, sat, yesterday, in the Provincial court, to hear the evidence against James and Arthur Seaton, charged with the larceny of goods under seizure. Mr. Robert Cassidy appeared for the private prosecutor, Mr. R. T. Williams; Mr. Lindley Crease for the defence.

The offence alleged is defined in sec. 50, of chap. 164, Revised Statutes of Canada, as follows:

"Any one, who, whether pretending to be the owner or not, secretly or openly, and whether with or without force or violence takes or carries away, or causes to be taken away, without lawful authority, any property under lawful seizure, and steals such property, is guilty of a felony, and liable to be punished accordingly."

The circumstances in the present case as related by the witnesses for the prosecution, were told by the prosecutor and the bailiff. Mr. Williams said that in January, 1888, he had rented to the accused, lots 3 and 4, James Island, at $100 a year, payable half yearly in advance. The accused had only paid one year's rent since then, and had not done as promised in respect to making improvements, etc. He had wished him to leave the place, but Seaton declined to vacate, although Mr. Williams offered to pay for his transportation to Victoria and to pay six months' house rent here for him. Failing to get him to leave quietly, Mr. Williams had R. C. Ward, bailiff, seize certain chattels for a claim of $470, of which $450 was rent and $20 taxes.

Mr. Ward, the bailiff, deposed that he had served a copy of the demand for rent on the accused, who had not disputed the amount. He had subsequently, on April 27, seized the chattels, and on May 2, when he held the sale, there were missing certain articles, including a boat, cow, sewing machine, rifle and shot gun. He had warned accused not to take the things away.

Under the provisions of the law, no defence is allowed to be made on the preliminary investigation into a charge of an indictable offence. The accused reserved their defence, and were committed for trial at the next court of competent jurisdiction, bail being allowed in the sum of $400, $200 personal, and $200 which was given by Mr. C. E. Redfern. The case will come up on Monday or Tuesday at the Assize court.

An interesting fact about this prosecution is that it is the first one of the kind in Canada under this Act, and, moreover, there is no such clause in the English Act.

Trusts and Combinations

Are unpopular. But there is one form of trust against which no one has anything to say. That is the trust which the public reposes in Hood's Sarsaparilla, and the best of it is the trust is fully justified by the merit of the medicine. For, remember, HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES.

Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, and do not purge, pain or gripe. Sold by all druggists.

The new steamer Warlock is not yet ready to make her trip.