

INVESTIGATION WANTED.

One of the daily papers has lately devoted a considerable amount of space on the controversy between the master of the sealing schooner Viva and the steamer Costa Rica, as to who was to blame for the two vessels coming dangerously near each other on a recent occasion. This is not now a matter for newspaper correspondence; and the whole thing has resolved itself into a statement and direct contradiction. It ought to be the subject for official investigation, as it is outrageous that wilfully and knowingly vessels should unnecessarily come into such close proximity to the endangerment of the craft, their cargoes and those on board of them. Let the subject be matter of thorough investigation and whoever is to blame let him be made an example of. As it is, the situation reminds one of the story of the two coachmen applying for a situation, one of whose chief claims to consideration was that he could drive quite close to the top of a precipice without going over it. There is too much of this taking of chances in every department of life.

WILFUL WASTE.

In the Sound country, some of the newspapers are dwelling with no small amount of force on the old moral regarding the causes of woeful want. The special reference is to the serious inroads that are being made on the timber supplies of the Pacific slope by axe, flood and flames. Vast tracts of well-timbered country are continually being transformed into a wilderness, due partially to reckless cutting, to the rejection in view of the at present big supply to choose from of what is really good merchantable timber and the carelessness on account of which fire and destruction too frequently follow in the wake of the lumberman. An expert commenting on this aspect of the case says "Stock enough to support a whole generation has been burned up, killed or run off into streams, and as fast as this is done, stakes are pulled and a move made for other sections where Nature's bounteous supplies have been in no way exploited."

Every one knows that a full grown tree is the product of years, and cannot be replaced, except after the lapse of a long, long time. Nevertheless the rule is cut back and burn, just as if there were no future to provide for. All this is, indeed, bad, but it is even worse when we remember that no effort is being made to replace the trees which have been removed, while, moreover, nothing is being attempted to turn the denuded lands to economic use. But it is not in lumber alone that we are wasting our substance riotously. Our farmers are, many of them, allowing their lands to run out for

want of proper cultivation, they and the pot hunters are driving the game from the fields and the forests, and gradually robbing the streams of all their fish, while, in connection with the fish of commerce—the salmon, for instance—practically no protection is afforded, and it must eventually be a case of run out. In connection with these things, we owe a duty not to ourselves alone, but to posterity, to whom our bequest of a country deprived of much that now tends to human comfort and happiness would, indeed, be a sorry one.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANKS.

According to the Government Blue Book, the amount of money deposited in the Post Office Savings Banks of Canada was greater last year by three-quarters of a million dollars than the year before, and the amount withdrawn by depositors in these banks in 1893 was less than in the previous year. Those who mainly form the 148,000 depositors in these banks are the working class, for those who last year placed sums ranging from \$1 to \$20 in the bank are a majority of the depositors; and if we add those whose deposits ran up to \$40 or \$50, we have in all these 77.63 percent., or more than three-fourths of the whole. Some individuals, it is true, had got as much as \$400 or \$600, or even \$1,000 in the banks, but they numbered less than one-tenth.

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32	15 50	8 06	4 19	17 61	9 16	4 76	
33	15 70	8 16	4 24	17 94	9 33	4 86	
34	15 88	8 26	4 30	18 29	9 52	4 96	
35	16 04	8 34	4 34	18 65	9 70	5 04	
36	16 24	8 44	4 39	19 04	9 90	5 15	
37	16 44	8 55	4 45	19 45	10 12	5 26	
38	16 65	8 67	4 50	19 89	10 35	5 39	
39	16 92	8 80	4 58	20 44	10 63	5 53	
40	17 20	8 94	4 65	21 05	10 95	5 70	
41	17 48	9 09	4 73	21 69	11 28	5 87	
42	18 05	9 39	4 88	22 38	11 04	6 05	
43	19 05	9 91	5 15	23 11	12 02	6 25	
44	20 16	10 48	5 45	23 89	12 43	6 49	
45	21 40	11 13	5 79	24 72	12 85	6 69	
46	22 76	11 84	6 16	25 60	13 31	7 18	
47	24 26	12 62	6 56	26 54	13 80	7 45	
48	25 92	13 48	7 01	27 53	14 32	7 74	
49	27 73	14 42	7 50	28 61	14 87	8 04	
50	29 72	15 45	8 04	29 72	15 45	8 36	
51	32 14	16 71	8 69	30 92	16 08	8 70	
52	34 80	18 10	9 41	32 18	16 73	9 07	
53	37 70	19 60	10 19	33 52	17 43	9 45	
54	40 85	21 24	11 04	34 94	18 17	9 86	
55	44 27	23 02	11 97	36 45	18 96	10 29	
56	47 90	24 75	12 87	38 04	19 78	10 73	
57	51 25	26 65	13 86	39 72	20 65	11 22	
58	55 00	28 60	14 87	41 49	21 58	11 73	
59	59 10	30 73	15 98	43 37	22 56	12 26	
60	63 40	33 01	17 17	45 34	23 58		

For further information, apply to

HENRY CROFT
OR
S. MATSON.

THE authorities of the Fisheries Department and the cannery are still at cross purposes. In the first place, the objectionable official regulations have caused almost any amount of trouble to the parties interested, while the manner in which the department has ignored the demands of the cannery for a brief extension of the season has not only shown that the people at the head of affairs at Ottawa are careless as to the requirements of the salmon canner, but that in fact they do not know their business, and care still less about discharging their duties.

VICTORIA and Vancouver are both endeavoring to secure the establishment of extensive iron and steel works, which Col. Witherow talks of establishing in British Columbia. As we have before said, Victoria is eminently well situated for the headquarters of such an industry, and much the same may be said for Vancouver; but it appears as if the decision—if, indeed, one is reached—will depend on which city speaks out the most liberally in the way of bonus and tax exemptions. We want manufactures here; let our city fathers study out the matter carefully, and inquire into the subject as a downright business proposition.

THE new U. S. Consul, General W. P. Roberts, has arrived to assume the duties of his office at this port. He is a Southerner and a gentleman, and is regarded by his party as eminently a good man. He may rest assured that he will be well received here. His Deputy and Secretary is Mr. R. Ure. The retiring Consul, Mr. Myers, has, in the discharge of his duties and otherwise, made many friends, and, it is said, has a specially warm feeling for Victoria.

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