

HEALTH OF THE POPE

Reports to the contrary, the Pope is suffering from fainting spells.

In regard to legislation in British House of Commons.

On Feb. 7.—The Daily News has had the following from a correspondent at Rome: Despite the statement of Dr. Lapompa to the contrary, it is reported that the Pope was found lying on the back of his chair, and was unconscious when he was only restored to consciousness by inhaling ether. The attack is the gravest which he has suffered during the past two years, and is held to be increasing cerebral attack.

Government's education bill is hotly opposed by the Liberals as a step towards secularism and the closing of the board schools. The defeat of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Dewar, in the election in the Walthamstow division of Essex, is regarded as a serious setback to the Government's policy, and the Liberals have a great advantage in the coming campaign.

Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of the colonies, will further enhance his reputation in the House of Commons in reply to Sir William Harcourt, the Liberal leader, who has warmly commended the minister's speech. Chamberlain has undoubtedly greatly strengthened his position among Conservatives. A Liberal declaration has been issued denouncing the bill as a violation of every principle of the Liberal policy, and urging demagogues throughout the country to kill the bill.

The second reading of the women's suffrage bill in no wise means its adoption in this session. The vote only places a favorable position, and after it will be strenuously opposed as no chance of becoming law. The debate the ladies' galleries were packed and the support of the measure were punctuated by waving of white handkerchiefs, the speeches of the opponents of the bill were greeted with expressions of dislike and disgust.

The Government's proposal to increase the number of battalions of the Grenadier Guards is a station a part of this force at Gibraltar for the purpose of guarding the coast. The proposal to add another battalion to the Highlanders is received with little favor among the profans, who pride themselves upon recruited from the heather, and proposal addition would, they claim, mean the enlistment of a host of English soldiers, who have slightly other Highland regiments the butt of ridicule.

The Globe expresses surprise that the Canadian press should so readily assent to the line of policy, and assumed that they had already been an enormous gain if all the colonies would undertake to contribute to the imperial defence on the lines of the Canadian plan. It is stated that on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee jubilee of Salisbury will be raised unknown, which honor has several been offered him and declined.

Wandered her fortune. De La Ferronnays Living on a Pension from a Friend. Feb. 8.—The news that Count de La Ferronnays, whose salon is the foremost in Paris, had ordered her large fortune in stock exchange gambling, fell like a thunder-bolt upon the Parisian society. She was a woman of the world, with brains and talent, and seemingly the person to desire to gamble. She retired to the provinces, where she lived on the pension of a friend. The news recalls the tragic death of her aunt, who was a friend of Count Chambord. One day in arranging things for a hunting party, she suggested to de La Ferronnays that she should be invited to the party by the engineer who afterwards directed the propaganda which did the lists a great deal of harm.

Joseph Hunter, M.P.P., returned from Mainland last evening.

OPENING OF HOUSE

Provincial Legislature Opened by the Lieutenant Governor This Afternoon.

Mr. Helmcken Has a Number of Important Motions and Questions on the Board.

The provincial legislature was opened this afternoon with the usual pomp and ceremony. A guard of honor, accompanied by the Fifth Regiment band, was drawn up outside the legislative hall. His Honor entered the house, read the speech, and left the members to their deliberations.

The speaker and gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: I extend my cordial greeting to you on this third session of the seventh parliament, feeling confident that you are fully alive to the responsibilities of your positions, and that you will consider the interests of the people with the same wisdom and thoughtfulness which have always characterized your legislative labors.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn that the widespread discovery of phenacene mineral wealth throughout the province has attracted capital from the great financial centres, and that great activity is manifested in the development of our mining industry, as evidenced by the large increase in public revenue less than last year, from the increased competition in the San Francisco market, the value of the annual export of minerals of all kinds exhibits a very large increase.

It gives me pleasure to notice that the timber industry is recovering from the depression of the last few years, and that there is reasonable expectation of a development of the vast timber resources of the province. Our products from agriculture have suffered from the long and unusual drought of the summer, except wheat, which has been in operation, thus proving the security afforded by that useful adjunct to farming.

The steps taken for the encouragement of dairy farming have already been productive of satisfactory results in the establishment of several creameries, and there is a prospect of others being in operation in the near future. I am gratified to find that the board of horticulture, assisted by the Fruit Growers' Association, has been actively and successfully engaged in fostering the undoubted resources of the province for the production of fruit growing.

The provincial board of health has been actively engaged in attending to the sanitary condition of the province, and in view of the lamentable outbreak of plague in India, further steps will be taken for further sanitation. The draft consolidation and revision of the Statute Law of the province, under the auspices of the learned Chief Justice of British Columbia, has been completed and the result of his labor has been submitted for final examination and revision to a commission consisting of himself and two judges of the Supreme court of British Columbia.

It is with pleasure I have to inform you that the action brought to test the question of the ownership of the precious metals in the Island railway grant, as provided in the act, and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, has been decided in favor of the Privity Council, being decided in favor of the province.

With every confidence that your labors will be pursued with energy and vigor, and that the honor and advantage of the province, I now leave you to your deliberations, trusting that the Supreme Court may direct your efforts. The formal motions were passed, the

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LETTER OF REGRET

Forwarded to Mrs. Auld by the Chinese Residents Through Mayor Redfern

Following is the letter forwarded to Mayor Redfern, with the \$300 subscribed by the Chinese residents of the city: "Victoria, B.C., Feb. 5th, 1897. To His Worship Mayor Redfern, Victoria, B.C. Sir: On behalf of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent societies of Victoria, I beg to convey to Mrs. Auld their heartfelt sympathies at the terrible accident that befell her little boy and robbed her last evening of her dearest treasure.

"We cannot help expressing our feelings to her, realizing as we do, that her heart is torn with this sad affliction, one that is peculiarly bitter to us, inasmuch as his cruel death was unfortunately connected with our festivities in celebrating the new year. We are desirous of informing Mrs. Auld that we are so saddened at her loss that we have abandoned all further manifestations of our holiday in consequence, and in presenting our condolences, which we hope may prove to be some little consolation to her, can we urge you to give her the accompanying paper, as an expression of our deep sorrow, trusting that it may be beneficial in defraying the funeral expenses of little Albert.

FOR THE HOSPITAL

The Hon. Mr. Justice Putnam's Donations to Victoria Charities.

Just before leaving Victoria, the Hon. Mr. Justice Putnam, American commissioner on the Behring Sea Claims Tribunal, forwarded a letter to Sir Henry P. Pellew Crease, in which was enclosed a check for \$100. The letter follows: "Victoria, B.C., Feb. 1, 1897. My Dear Sir Henry: Mr. Putnam and I desire to leave some small token of our appreciation of the uniform and unusual kindness which we have received at Victoria.

WILLIAM S. BENTHAM

To Sir Henry P. Pellew Crease, Knt., Pentrevel, Victoria, B.C.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. in relation to the donation of \$40 to each of the hospitals, the Jubilee and St. Joseph's, and the balance to the Seaman's Rest, and has thanked Hon. Mr. Putnam for his kind consideration to the following letter: "Pentrevel, Victoria, Feb. 1, 1897. To the Hon. Mr. Justice Putnam, Portland, Maine, U.S.A. My Dear Judge: I have received your letter of the 1st of February with a check enclosed for \$100. It will give me much pleasure to dispense your and Mr. Putnam's kind and thoughtful liberality, which will be highly appreciated generally, and particularly by the two public hospitals, and the Seaman's Association, amongst whom I propose to divide it in the proportion of \$40 to each of the hospitals, and the remainder for the benefit of the seafarers and seafaring men.

AMERICAN COUNSEL

Hon. Mr. Dickinson and Party Leave for Frisco for the East.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—Hon. Don M. Dickinson, of Detroit, ex-postmaster general, commissioner for the Behring Sea claims commission, which has concluded several weeks' session at Victoria, B.C., has arrived from the north, accompanied by Robert Lansing, of Westport, N.Y., associate United States attorney, Charles B. Warren, of Detroit, junior United States counsel, and Chandler B. Anderson, of New York, secretary of the commission. Mr. Dickinson is accompanied by his wife and Miss Lansing. They left for the East to-day.

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As Sheriff Macmillan sat in the drawing room receiving his guests, smiling radiantly and as full of pleasure as a school boy at the breaking up of school, it indeed required a great stretch of the imagination to comprehend that this was the fiftieth anniversary of his wedding. Mr. Macmillan is a Canadian, having been born on July 25th, 1822, at Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. His father was an officer in the 83rd Regiment, and at the Battle of Lundy's Lane in 1812 he was the only officer in his company to survive the battle. Sheriff Macmillan did not follow the footsteps of his father and became a soldier. He is of the opinion that the pen was mightier than the sword, he after leaving school became a printer, and from the printing office drifted into journalism. He published his first paper issued in Galt, Ontario, and from 1852 to 1859 he published the Bowmanville Messenger. He was married on February 8th, 1847 to Miss Louisa Hope, a daughter of Mr. Jacob Hope, of Oshawa. In 1850 Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan came to this city, and in 1860 Mr. Macmillan became assistant editor of the Colonist. He occupied a chair in that office for but a few months and then removed to New Westminster where he took charge of the Columbian. He managed the Columbian for about three years and then returned to this city, and in company with Hon. D. W. Higgins started the Chronicle. Ultimately, however, he purchased a half interest in the Columbian and until that establishment was burned down he had his residence in New Westminster. After the fire he again returned to Victoria, and established the Daily News. In 1884 he was appointed to the position he now holds and which his friends hope he will be able to hold for many years to come. Thus Mr. Macmillan it will be seen was intimately connected with the establishment of many pioneer papers of this province.

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A LEPROUS ON BOARD

Northern Pacific Steamer Pelican Arrives With a Leprosus Chinese Fireman.

A Fleet of Sixteen Sailing Vessels Outside Doris in a Bay.

If any contagious disease passed unnoticed on the board the steamer Pelican, under special charter to the Northern Pacific Co., and which arrived this morning, it was not because she was not thoroughly examined by quarantine officials. Not only did Dr. Wait inspect the officers and crew of the steamer, but Dr. Montzambert, superintendent of Dominion quarantine who arrived from the East on Saturday evening, closely scrutinized those on board the vessel. The medical men did not find any cases of smallpox or plague, but they did discover a Chinese fireman, who, in their opinion, is afflicted with leprosy. His face has on it leprosy marks, and the doctors decided to keep him back to quarantine. The leprous Chinaman will be sent back to China on the return trip of the Pelican. The Pelican brought over no Chinese or white passengers. Her cargo is made up of about 1,600 tons of general merchandise, 80 tons of which was discharged here. She is rather a slow-going steamer, having taken 21 days in making the voyage from Yokohama to Victoria. Her voyage was favorable. She was chartered by the Northern Pacific Company only for the round trip.

Robert Harold Harrison, physician of the Northern Pacific Steamship Company's Oriental liner Victoria, has commenced suit at Tacoma for divorce. In his complaint he accuses his wife, Blanche, of adultery. He names as co-respondent Ralph Moore, an Irish baron and captain in the Royal Marines, living at Charleville, County Cork, Ireland. The alleged offence was committed during the steamer's voyage to Tacoma. The divorce suit was filed in Tacoma on Saturday. The mother's address is London.

Yesterday morning the tug Lorche came in from the Cape with the Elvion and Doris in tow. The Doris was dropped in Royal Roads and the Elvion was taken to Vancouver, where her captain reported a fleet of sixteen vessels outside of Cape Flattery, all bound for British Columbia and Sound ports. The Doris is seeking. She made a 64-day voyage from Iquique.

Two of the sailing fleet, the Penelope, Captain Macaulay, and the Beatrice, Captain Heater, have cleared for the North Pacific Ocean. They will endeavor to secure Indians on the West Coast. The Maad S. went on the way to-day preparatory to leaving for a sailing cruise.

TWO TONY TRAMPS

French Journalists on a Queer Globe-Trotting Tour. San Francisco, Feb. 8.—Among the passengers on the City of Peking, which has arrived from the Orient, were two Parisian journalists, L. Levy and H. Papillaud, who are making a tour of the world and meeting their expenses en route by publishing at various places in their travels a journal of their experiences and observations, which appears under the title En Route. The two Parisians started on their journey around the world in January, 1896. They made a trial wager with some of the journalistic acquaintances that they would complete the circuit of the globe without suffering any indignities to their pride as journalists and Frenchmen through being compelled to perform the menial services that have become the necessity of others that have undertaken a similar trip. They left Paris without a franc piece in their possession and have managed to travel thus far very comfortably, securing ample funds for their purposes through the sales of articles to various newspapers and through the publication of their paper, En Route. They have travelled thus far through France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, the Holy Land, Egypt, India and the various provinces, islands and settlements of Southern Asia, besides China and Japan. Twelve numbers of their paper have thus far appeared, and in as many languages, including French, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Arabic, Cambodian, Tonquinese, Annamese, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Gugerati, the language of the Parsee. Their travels have been rich in experiences, they say, and besides affording them an insight into the manners, customs, languages and peculiarities of many people have afforded them the pleasure of a prolonged vacation. They have met many notable people, including His Majesty Norodon I. of Cambodia. The Parisians expect to set out on the next copy of their paper in San Francisco.

Robert McPherson, Vancouver; J. P. Ross,