Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1886.

THE OPPOSITION.

Six! That was the showing yesterday of the opposition. Five is the number upon which their leader depended for support yesterday in the vote taken upon the amendment to the address in reply to the lieutenant governor's speech, and to that number he will look before the session is over for help to carry a vote of want of confidence in the present government. How can the opposition be expected to have confidence in anything or anybody, when they have evidently lost all confidence in themselves? One would think in their dire necessity they would do like the ousted Gladstone administration, and accept the aid of a party whose help they would scorn under other circumstances,—the third party! They will have to do something very soon; for there is an heroic condition that requires an heroic remedy. They seem to be lost in the very paucity of their numbers. They have no arguments to advance; they speak, but say nothing, for they know nothing except that they are six. Opposition without reason—obstruction from force of habit. They only know that they are six, and that they are (like the Hibernian arrival in New York) "agin' the government." And yet the smallness of their number has had one effect upon the other members of the house. It has imbued them with a spirit of forbearance towards the harmless foibles of those whom they are still courteous enough to dub as "the opposition." They do not object to Messrs. Grant or McLeese gravely announcing their discovery of a deficit in the public accounts of a million or so, nor do they offer any impediment to Mr. Helgeson utilizing the deep water resources of this country by taking up a kelp farm; nor to Mr. Semlin still secretly languishing for the provincial secretaryship. They can afford to be magnanimous when they witness the scanty ranks drawn up against them, and more than ever so when they remember that the beneficent legislation of the present government has deprived the leader of the opposition of any tangible ground of attack. The shades of night have fallen upon the opposition—it is their day out with a vengeance. They have not even the luck that is supposed to attach to an odd number.

OLEOMARGARINE.

The number of articles intended to supply the place of pure butter is very great, and to evade the United States law regarding adulterations patents are applied for them under such names as oleomargarine oil, neutral lard, glycerine butter, butterine, etc. The assistant dairy commissioner of New York has lately analyzed some sixty different articles, submitted under some of the above fancy names, and found them to contain, amongst other ingredients, sugar of lead, bisulphate of lime, saltpetre, borax, boracic acid, salicylic acid, benzoic acid, orris root, cottonseed oil, vegetable oil, citric acid, bicarbonate of soda, nitrate of potass, glycerine, capsylid acid, caparic acid, alumn, capsic acid, sulphite of soda, cow's udder, commercial sulphuric acid, pepsin, sal soda, tallow, lard, sea salt, farinaceous flour, butyric ether, caustic potash, carbonic acid, sulphuric acid, castor oil, chalk, slippery elm bark, suet, oil of sesame, oil of sunflower seeds, olive oil, cucumber, turnip seed oil, bromo-chloralum, chlorate of potash, nitre, oil of sweet almonds, oil of peanuts, peroxide of manganese, stomach of pig, of sheep, of calf, nitrate of soda, benne oil, gastric juice, mustard seed oil, nitric acid, dry blood, albumen, sugar, butyric acid, bicarbonate of potash, chloride of sodium, caustic soda, corn starch, coloring matter. This very cheerful combination reminds one of the man who asked a grocer for a few pounds of oleomargarine, which the latter, having denied having, suggested that he take genuine butter, to which he received the answer: "I know it's better, and that oleomargarine is composed of tallow fat, axle grease, and contains the organism of a new kind of tapeworm, but everybody's asking for it and I must be in the fashion;" and as he moved away the grocer surveying the tubs of composition labelled "Best Salt Butter," murmured: "Ah! if he only knew I had nothing but oleomargarine in the store!" As competition in trade becomes keener, so do the number of adulterations increase, until at last, as Dr. Hassell, the English analyst, remarked, it became almost impossible to trace the source of the foreign elements in an article. Some particular material submitted to him he found to contain a quantity of mustard; this again was adulterated with flour whose bulk had been increased by plaster of Paris, and so on, almost *ad infinitum*. The only feasible method of checking practices so detrimental to public health is the rigorous enforcement of the law which imposes heavy fines on adulterated goods, and the activity and integrity of public commissioners appointed for the purpose of their detection. A peculiar feature about the sale of these fearful substitutes for pure butter is that they are disposed of at the same price as the genuine article, for which, indeed, they are often foisted upon an unsuspecting public.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.

The adoption of the motion of Mr. McTavish that it was desirable to grow in a suitable plot of land the various trees, shrubs and useful plants of the province, to form a nucleus of a botanical garden, may be taken as indicative of the suggestion taking practical shape before long. The expense that would be incurred by the carrying out of the proposition contained in the resolution would not be great, though the establishment and cultivation of a botanical garden embracing all the flora of the province would of course necessitate a more considerable outlay, which would nevertheless be a gradual one. The grounds around the new gaol have been mentioned as convenient for the planting out of trees and shrubs, with a view to their final transplanting to a horticultural or botanical garden. In countries where such have been formed they are used as places of public promenade or visits, with small entrance fee or free admission, as the case may be. The hand of the vandal is rarely extended towards the choice growths or trees, shrubs or plants, or to the stationary so often disposed at various points of the walks, and the general public, to their credit be it said, are as ready to call attention to such outrages as the gardeners or keepers employed. Such gardens form places not only of healthful resort, but offer to the mind a source of information at once useful and interesting. We shall be pleased to see the initiatory steps taken for collection of specimens for a future botanical garden, wherever the latter may be located.

ENGLISH ARMY PROMOTION.

A most important reform is about to take place in the system of promotion in the English army. The long-continued method of advancing officers in order of seniority, entirely apart from the question of superior ability, has been found to be productive, in many cases, of most serious results. The proposed change, while it will, in a manner, take the form of selection will not do so exclusively, a moiety of the appointments to vacancies being reserved for seniority. It is spoken of as probable that this selection will be made by a promotion board composed of some of the senior officers holding appointments at home. As yet the principle will be only applied to the choice of colonels for appointment as major-generals, and not to what is really the most influential position on the well being of the service—that of regimental command. In support of the emphasis attached to the importance of this latter position may be mentioned the fact that Lord Wolseley stated in one of his despatches that some of the regimental commanding officers in the Soudan were so incompetent in the field that he had to keep their battalions in the back ground. This would seem to show that the sooner the proposed new system of promotion is brought to bear on this position the better for the credit of the service and the safety of our soldiers in the field.

The Live Stock Supply.

To the Editor:—I did not expect to be blown up by the explosion of a gas metre or condemned as an escaped lunatic by a "backwoodsman" for my simple enquiry respecting the importation of inferior beef cattle. Especially as there is to be had here (as Rancher must know) plenty of good beef cattle at a fair price. As a lover of good English roasts of beef, I most certainly know that the British Columbia bred article is far superior to any importation, and for further importation to "Rancher" I may say that from personal knowledge the C. P. railroad does not require mine or even his subscription to keep the road open.

Enquirer.

Archdeacon Denison and Mr. Gladstone.

It may be remembered that, at an election meeting in Somerset last month, the Archdeacon of Taunton made some remarks about Mr. Gladstone which were sharply commented upon at the time. The archdeacon took the first public opportunity at his command—a meeting in defence of Church and State, held at Taunton on November 12th, to express his regret at having allowed himself to use words in connection with Mr. Gladstone's name which he admits "were in themselves sudden their connection unfit, unseemly and improper to be used, however they may be explained and accounted for." In a pamphlet, published by Mr. Ridgway, of Piccadilly, Archdeacon Denison repeats this expression of regret, and then proceeds to give his reasons for his unvarying public opposition for a period of 34 years to Mr. Gladstone as member of Parliament, and, most of all, as First Minister of the Crown. His quarrel with Gladstone, he points out, is not, and never has been, a personal quarrel in any sense. "My contention," he says, "is not against the man at all, who has so many claims to be honored and loved, but against a habit of mind which makes him so entirely impossible to be depended upon as Minister of State, member of Parliament—exponent and defender of the Constitution in Church and State." The archdeacon quotes in an appendix some curious remarks by several of Mr. Gladstone's earlier and later contemporaries, throwing some light on the peculiar constitution of that statesman's mind, and concludes his interesting pamphlet with the following summary:

"Of all things that I have known in a long life, the history of Mr. Gladstone's career is the most melancholy and greatest warning to every statesman. The man first, and for a time, in all the power of unblemished character and mighty intellect, defender, maintainer, advocate, improver of the use of the gift of God to the people of England, the gift of "Church and State." The man dazzled with the vision of "Governing Power," turning away his eyes from his "first love," and wandering away into paths of man's "inventions." The man content to surrender one after the other principal elements of "Church and State" to the popular cry. The man became the prince of the Opportunists. The man first, the patron, the follower, then the agent of the "Red Radical." Paving the way in his company for the miserable deceits of irreligion, Socialism, Communism. The man who has not hesitated to apply Church property to secular uses. The man who votes for the "Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Bill; a thing in itself, and in its necessary adjuncts and followings, the breaking up, by law of the land, of all sanctity and purity of marriage. The man, who having written over the door of the house of commons "Civil and Irreligious Liberty," has bound himself to set open the door, that any number of Bradlaughs, presenting themselves to take the oath, may be ushered and cloistered in. For are they not an element of the great Liberal party? The man who sacrificed Gordon to the disputes and difficulties of a discordant Cabinet of "the Great Liberal party." The man of no decisions except the one decision to govern England by the help of the great Liberal party, however composed. The man of many and mighty words but of obscurest meaning. Finally—and is the key which unlocks the casket of a life—the man, by his own confession, "of no intuitions." In their absence, the persuader of himself from day to day in an ever increasing ratio, by a process hard to describe in words, but, in his case, not difficult to understand, that the rule of Statecraft in every question, whether its title to consideration be Divine or human, is simply the rule of "practical politics." The intellect his king. The conditions and circumstances of the day, the guide of the conclusion of the day, ever shifting as the "exigencies" of the Governing Power may demand. Ending always at a lower point in the history of England's citizenship than that at which they stood the day, aye, the hour, before. Is there any public action wrongful in itself, injurious in fact, or by tendencies, to the Divine gift and Constitutional position of the Church of England, which Mr. Gladstone, the author of "The Church in Connection with the State, 1841" has not supported as leader of "the Great Liberal Party?" Is there any recognition of "magnifying" of that position which has not suffered in his hands when weighed in the balance of "practical politics?" For there is such a thing as condemnare diminuendo. We have an Anglicism upon this practice which I forbear to cite. It is to be found in the preface to Pope's "Satires." I am told that Mr. Gladstone, has lately written something against reasoning by syllogism. How like the man who must have his premises and conclusions upon every conceivable subject of human thought—Divine and human. And no doubt, reasoning by syllogism is found to be, in some cases, very inconvenient. Nevertheless, for myself, having still abiding in me respect and love for reasoning by syllogism, I will conclude with a syllogism, e. g. The first and greatest thing to care for in English life is "the backbone of the great Liberal party." "The Nonconformist is the backbone of the great Liberal party." The first and greatest thing to care for in English life is "The Nonconformist." Solvuntur riam tabula. What has become of all Mr. Gladstone's "Ayes" in Parliament and out of it for the Church of England in the last 45 years? "The Noes have it."

"Eheu! Amici, amici:
Sed magis amica
Veritas."

"East Brent, December 11."—Somerset, (Eng.), County Gazette.

Meat Contract.—Mr. Lawrence Goodacre has been awarded the contract for supplying the steamer Sir Jas. Douglas with fresh meats for the ensuing year.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

Interesting Facts as to Its Observance.

How the Chinese Date the Flight of Time.

The Decorations and Customs of To-Day.

The stroke of twelve last night ushered in the Chinese New Year. Its advent is invariably greeted by this peculiar people with greater rejoicings and more general commotions than that of any other festivals celebrated during the year.

TO THE CHINESE MIND,

New Year's Day is to be regarded by both young and old as the most important of all the days in the year, and from personal observations, we have found that to be the case in the land they have so proudly termed the Flowery Kingdom, as well as in other countries in which they have become temporary settlers. The Chinese as a people are peculiar. To the majority of us, their manners and customs are generally enveloped in a veil of mystery, as it were, that invariably attracts attention and excites our curiosity. Often times we would fain try and find out that which is behind the veil, but all our efforts in that direction have left us in as great a state of quandary as ever, and we had to console ourselves with saying, as Bret Harte says,

"THE CHINESE ARE PECULIAR."

In our issue of this morning, therefore, as we relate their many curious practices and customs attendant upon their New Year, we hope to be able to throw such light upon them as will be both interesting and instructive to our indulgent readers. It will be remembered that last year the festive day fell upon our Valentines day. Roughly calculating, then, there is a difference of eleven days; that is to say, the Chinese New Year has commenced eleven days earlier than it did last year, according to our method of computation. The solution of this apparent discrepancy is found in the fact that the Chinese reckon their time according to the motion of the moon—the time that luminary body takes to complete one revolution around the earth being the standard to the Chinese for one month, while our method of marking time is dependent upon the sun. According to their mode of computation, therefore,

A CHINESE MONTH

Must and does have either 29 or 30 days, of which six of the former and as many of the latter would make 354, while in making a complete revolution around the sun, the earth takes in round number 365 days, presenting a difference of 11 days, which they make up by adding a month twice in every five years, so that in some Chinese years there are as many as thirteen months. The year first commenced is of that description.

From the fact that they reckon their time by the moon, the Chinese have no special word for month as we have, but simply say

SO MANY MOONS,

the character for month and moon being identical. The advantage in the Chinese mode of computing time lies in the fact that sailors in general are able to tell with a degree of accuracy the day of the month from the different phases of the moon—the full moon indicating the 15th of the month, and its absence the first of the month. It may be interesting to our readers to know that Chinese have no distinctive names in common use for their months. January being called the first month and February the second, and so forth. So that a person knowing that month in Chinese is yuet, and that their numerals read, yut, yee, sahm, see, ng, luk, tset, pat, gow, shup, shap yut and shap yee, that person can express any month in the year by coupling any of the above numerals with the word, signifying month.

CHINATOWN,

with the gay and festive appearance it has assumed to-day, is well worth a visit. Everything that greets the eye is peculiarly Oriental. Over the roofs of many houses may be seen flags of an immense size waving in the air, indicating the day to be one of general rejoicing by the people. It is a fact known to many that the color of the Chinese flag is yellow, that it is triangular in shape, and that it is called a dragon flag, from the fact that the form of a dragon is printed on it, but how that design originated is known to but a few. The dragon is one of the four fabulous animals believed by them to have existed from time immemorial. They give it the credit of being a most terrible, powerful and imposing animal; hence they thought its image engraved upon their national banners and flags would be most effectual in inspiring the people with a saliant spirit, and in frightening off all foreign usurpers.

THE PRINCIPAL STORES

and business houses within the precinct of Chinatown all look nice and clean, they having been thoroughly renovated the evening preceding New Year. Every store of any importance at all has been washed from top to bottom, and some white-washed or papered afresh, as the case may be. New signs, containing felicitous phrases or mottoes, in the form of prayers or wishes, are pasted over the lintels and on the sides of the doors. To the Biblical student this is suggestive of a similar practice among the Hebrews in ancient times, as recorded in the 9th verse of the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy. On the walls of the more prominent stores and private dwelling houses are hung long paper rolls, containing pictures supposed to be likenesses of the three gods believed to be the givers of wealth and happiness and longevity.

IT IS AS IF TO BE IN KEEPING

with the general washing, cleansing and renovating of the houses and stores as described above, the Chinese give themselves such a thorough bath that perhaps it is doubtful if the Turkish method could surpass it, and they shave their heads so compulsorily clean that perhaps even our best tonsorial artists could not make them cleaner. The Chinese seem to think that it is most unlucky to go unshaved immediately before the advent of New Year, and it is our humble opinion that if they had been oftener of that frame of mind it would be the most lucky thing for the hygienic condition of Chinatown.

ON EN GUONG TABLE,

standing in the most prominent portion of a Chinese house and ornamented with the finest embroidery ever imported from China, may be seen a delicate dish containing a plant commonly known as the Chinese lily. There is a legend among the Chinese concerning the origin of this practice. It has been handed down from generation to generation, that formerly there lived a man who had two wives, each of whom presented him with a most handsome almond-eyed little darling. In course of time they grew up, and went to law over the unfair division of their patrimony. The judge who tried the case was heavily bribed by the son of the first wife, and accordingly, out of a rich estate, awarded the other son a miserable little tract of land that was scarcely good enough to grow common grass upon, but the legend goes on to recite, the poor man contented himself with abiding by the will of Heaven, and one night *fairies* were sent, and they caused a stream of clear *water* to flow through his little tract of land, and *flowers* of a particular kind immediately sprang up, which the owner sold and became rich by.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THIS

miraculous event, the Chinese have made it a practice of having a fine display of these Shui Seen Tah, or Water Fairy flowers, which, as we well know, Europeans have designated Chinese lilies. Plates containing a particular kind of oranges, rather small but sweet, are also among the articles set forth on New Year's day. The reason they choose this kind of oranges is because the name they are known by (i. e. gut) sounds exactly like the word for luck, and they superstitiously suppose if they eat a fair quantity of the former they will all through the year enjoy a large measure of the latter. By way of parenthesis, we might add that although a great many Chinese have not the least faith in this superstition, nevertheless they would not hesitate for a moment to indulge most freely in the eating of those oranges.

On New Year's Day Chinese gentlemen may be seen making calls with as much zeal and energy as the people of any other nationality. In fact it might be a subject of speculation whether the

CUSTOM OF MAKING CALLS

on New Year's Day did not originate in China instead of in Denmark, or any other European country. They have cards for the occasion also, which are always red, and are generally eight inches long and half as wide. The name of the caller is printed in the upper right hand corner of the card, and the size of the characters representing it varies in proportion to the wealth or official standing of the person presenting it.

The Chinese are not behind Europeans in the partaking of big dinners on New Year's and other holidays. No one that has observed the amount of rice and pork and chickens and so forth, that an ordinary Chinaman could do justice to upon almost every day of the year, can say that he tries very hard to be "genteel," so far as it concerns his appetite.

BUT AS TO DRINKING,

we must say to the credit of the Chinese that they are the most temperate people the sun has ever shed its rays upon. With due respect to the noble officer working so energetically and manfully in the cause of temperance, and to the many excellent self-denying ladies of the W. C. T. U., we say that there is no need of temperance societies in China, and that long before such praiseworthy societies had been known to exist the Chinese had regulated their habit of drinking according to the precepts recorded in one of the Chinese classics—written not by Confucius, but by one of the ancient sages, said to have flourished long before Solomon. The following is a translation of a short extract from that classic: "The Duke of Chan said, 'King Wan admonished and instructed the young and those in office managing public affairs, that they should not habitually drink spirits. In all the states he enjoined that their use be confined to times of sacrifices, and even then with such limitation that virtue should prevent drunkenness.'" The classic from which the extract is taken is among those daily studied by the Chinese in their schools and colleges. There are many other

PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS

that usually take place during the New Year season, such as firing off crackers, making presents, and so forth, but as we believe this particular phase of the subject has been pretty extensively dealt with in our issue of the 14th of February last year, we will forbear saying anything further concerning it. Therefore, we will now close, and wish our numerous readers, and the Chinese merchants of this city, "King hao fat tsoi, as sa yu e, tuk sum ying shau," or "Happy New Year, and may you have all your wishes gratified."

THE TRANS-PACIFIC LINE.

What Sir George Stephen Says About It.

On the return of Sir George Stephen, Bart, to Montreal, he was interviewed by a Gazette reporter to whom he stated that Canada Pacific stock had gone up from 45 to 70, consequent upon the earnings exceeding the estimate by $165,000. With regard to the proposal to place a line of steamships between Victoria and the Orient Sir George said—

"The contract for the mails is only part of our claims. We want a cash subsidy, and we believe we are worth it to the Imperial government. The Canadian government have aided this great national enterprise themselves without asking a cent from the Imperial government. The Canadian Pacific railway is now completed. It will no doubt prove of great use to the English government, and it would be very strange if they do not recognize its advantages in a practical way. The steamship line on the Pacific is just as much a part of the system as is the line itself north of Lake Superior. We say to the Imperial government the value of the line is not merely as a mail route, but it is of value from a national and Imperial point of view. It is valuable to you from a strategic point of view, because in an eastern war you can strike Russia on the Pacific coast before she could defend herself, except at a great disadvantage. It strengthens the arm of England tremendously on the Pacific ocean. Then again, in the event of a European war, it is the alternative route in case the Suez canal should be closed, and makes England the mistress of the situation."

"You expect to get the mail contract for China and the east?"

"Certainly; ours is the shortest and best route. We intend to put first-class steamers on the route, and nothing else will do to compete with San Francisco. If we did not put the best vessels on we would be beaten before we began."

"Do you expect an increased trade between Canada and Australia, New Zealand and the east?"

"I have no doubt that a large Canadian trade can be done with New Zealand, Australia and other places. We do not ask the imperial government to subsidize a steamship line to Australia. We want to get to Hongkong by way of Japan. If we had four or five steamers on that route they would be of great use to the imperial government in case of war with Russia. These vessels could be used as transport vessels."

"Can you successfully compete with American transcontinental routes for the through traffic?"

"No American route to the Pacific can carry as cheaply as we can. Traders have only one company to deal in the C. P. R., whereas the American through routes are under a number of distinct companies and that makes a great difference."

"Is it true, Sir George," asked our representative in conclusion, "as some people seem to think the C. P. R. will apply to the Canadian government for an additional subsidy at the next session of Parliament?"

"That is really so absurd," said the Baronet, "that it is not worth talking about. We intend to apply for no subsidy. We have nothing to apply for. The road is now complete and we have nothing to ask."

"Will you ask the Canadian government to subsidize the steamship line?"

"Not at all, the Imperial government will do that probably." The interview then terminated.

T. N. Hibben & Co.

Carry the largest stock of blank books and stationery in the province, and are better acquainted with the requirements of the upcountry trade than any other house in our line, having had for the last twenty-eight years, the pleasure of catering to our numerous customers both in the city and most distant parts of the province.

Servants in England.—Over in England in a great house thirty or forty servants are no unusual number, and when there is a party as many as 100 are often assembled, for each guest brings his own servant, and the various valets and maids, the extra coachmen and grooms, make up a company that rivals the array in the drawing-room for pretension and pride. For all these—especially the upper servants—must be placed according to the rank of their masters. The servant of a duke, of course, precedes the servant of an earl, and the valet of an ambassador naturally goes before the gentleman of a mere envoy. They are usually called by the names of their masters, so as to settle at once this point of precedence.

BISMARCK STARTLES GERMANY.

He Makes a Remarkable Speech

And Defies the Constitution.

Berlin, Jan. 28.—Prince Bismarck to-day, in a debate in the Prussian landtag on the expulsion of Poles from Germany, made a remarkable speech, occupying two hours in delivery. He said the primary cause of the government's action was the disloyalty of the Poles to the German crown. They were, he said, constantly engaged in intrigues against the government, and had made the most steady annoyance to Prussia. By acting as accomplices of the opposition in the German parliament they effected a majority against the government, and the crown could do nothing else than deny the demands of such majority, or destroy the evil element which made the majority possible. The Polish agitation in Germany, Bismarck said, always appeared to him an element of danger, and compelled him to keep his eye upon Russia. The Poles had been constantly, and not always unsuccessfully, endeavoring to set foreign states against Prussia. "Hence, continued the chancellor, "we have determined to buy out all real estate owned by Polish nobles in Prussian Poland, and place German colonists on the lands hitherto occupied by the expelled people. In order to make colonization inure to the permanent benefit of the empire, the colonists will be prohibited from marrying Poles. The cost of the undertaking will be about 300,000,000 marks (about $75,000,000), but the state will lose only about ten per cent. of this loss, made necessary by exigencies of the case in buying out an alien class to the Germans, while the gain to the empire will be immeasureable. "The government," said the chancellor, with great animation, "will never concede the restoration of Poland, nor a hair's breadth in that direction. The Poles played a suspicious part in Kulturcampf. Whosoever refuses to help protect and maintain the state is not entitled to claim anything from the state. As for me, I am ready to save my country, although it cost my head and honor. If anybody dares attack Prussia's frontiers, I shall say, like Gladstone, 'Hands off.' Referring to an insinuation that the government's religious prejudices had great influence in its treatment of the Poles, Bismarck said: "Religion is in no way connected with the expulsion. As a policy, kindness failed. It has become necessary to reduce the Polish element in Germany and increase the German element. This is the real reason for the expulsion, and the government has determined to persist in this work despite the opposition of the Reichstag. In conclusion, I will say that before allowing the fatherland to be endangered, I would counsel the emperor to make the federal government independent of the obstructionists now in the Reichstag, so far as the constitution and laws would permit, for I would hold any minister to be a coward who should hesitate to stake everything to save his fatherland from danger." The chancellor's speech was the general topic of conversation in the capital to-night. It is generally conceded the speech is equally capable of being interpreted to foreshadow a dissolution of the Reichstag or a *coup d'etat*.

The occasion of Prince Bismarck's speech was the discussion of a resolution introduced on Saturday last, expressing satisfaction at the passage in the speech from the throne, promising measures for the protection of German interests in east Prussia. Herr Achenbach moved that the resolution be adopted and the motion was supported by Herr Wehr, Dr. Windthorst opposed the motion.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—The discussion of the Polish expulsions was continued in the lower house of the Landtag this evening. The Polish members denied that Poles were trying to eliminate the German element from eastern Prussia, although they confessed that hope was entertained of the restoration of the Polish kingdom. Herr Von Puttkamer, minister of the interior, replied that any efforts to obtain the re-establishment of the Polish kingdom would constitute an act of high treason. The government, he said, did not wish to hamper the Poles in regard to their religion or their language, but it felt compelled to put an end to the dangerous agitation and enormous development of Polandism in Prussian Silesia and other parts of eastern Prussia. Prince Bismarck emphatically reiterated that the restoration of the kingdom of Poland would never be effected by constitutional means.

Useful Hints.

In boiling meat for soup put cold water to it and let it come slowly to a simmer to extract the juice. If meat is boiled for itself alone, put it into boiling water, which causes the outer surface to contract, and the richness of the meat is retained within.

Never put salt into soup when cooking till it has been thouroughly skimmed, as salt prevents the scum from rising.

A good rule for baking potatoes is to wash and boil them in the usual way until nearly done and then finish by baking. They are whiter and mealier than when baked the old way.

The whites of eggs, as used for meringues, or frosting for the tops of pies and puddings, will not fall or sweat after baking if thoroughly beaten with a silver fork or wire egg-beater on a platter, so that the dish may be inverted without fear of the frosting slipping off. Experience has proved that, excellent as the "Dover" and similar egg-beaters really are, they are not as successful in meringues as the old-fashioned method. Dip the knife in cold water to spread it.

A tablespoonful of stewed tomato or tomato ketchup added to the gravy of either roast or fried meats improves it greatly.

You may avoid the unpleasantness to the eyes when peeling onions by sitting in a draught of air, or by an open window or door, while doing it.

To keep butter had without ice, take a new earthen flower pot, wash it clean, wrap the outside of it in several thicknesses of wet cloth and set it over the dish containing butter where there will be a free circulation of air about it. This causes an evaporation of the water in the cloth and cools the butter.

Milk, if put in an earthen jar, or even a tin can, will keep sweet for a long time if well wrapped in a wet cloth—Mary Winchester.

Proud Days for Deaneville.

A Macon, Ga., despatch says: Deaneville is a little town in Marion County of 200 inhabitants. Notwithstanding the sparseness of the population it has had lively times since New Year's Day, since which date five births have taken place, in every one of which the result was twins or triplets. The wife of Ed. Stokes had triplets, Mrs. Boz Lunsford twins, Mrs. James Bacon twins, Mrs. W. L. Kinard twins, and Mrs. F. W. Griffin twins.

Shooting Match.—A rifle shooting match for $100 a side took place yesterday at Clover Point. The contestants were J. Curtis and T. Collins (both of H. M. S. Triumph), as against J. Bush and J. W. Griffiths of this city. Out of a possible 140, Curtis secured 117, Collins 107, Griffiths 102 and Bush 90, giving the two former the victory by 32 points.

The Fraser.—The Princess Louise went up as far as Port Hammond on Monday, cutting through the ice for a considerable distance and meeting with large quantities of float ice.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Northern Pacific Railway)

Chesley, Jan. 16.—Dr. Finlayson, of Paris, dropped dead here this morning of heart disease.

Toronto, Jan. 16.—Harry Anderson, painter, was killed on the Grand Trunk track at Logan's crossing this afternoon. His head was cut completely off. He was a widower, aged 60.

At the civil assizes this afternoon the jury in the libel suit of Warden Massie against the Irish Canadian after three hours' deliberation, brought in a verdict of $8,000 in favor of the plaintiff. It is understood that the defendants will appeal. The verdict is the heaviest given against a Canadian paper for many years. The jury wanted it to be understood that they gave heavy damages so as to check further similar attacks against the plaintiff.

A fire completely gutted Henderson's lumber mills early this morning. Loss, $30,000; insured for $25,000 in the Royal Canadian Fire Association, Phenix, Royal, Commercial Union and Queens.

Brockville, Jan. 15.—David Young, on paying a visit to the home of his mother on Perth street, on Wednesday, made a horrible discovery. His sister, Margaret Young, and a companion, Dema Derosia, were lying dead in their room, and his mother, though not dead, was unconscious. The chief of police, at once notified, visited the scene. In the little room a horrible sight was presented. Lying on the floor and with one foot resting on the bed lay the dead body of Margaret Young, clad only in undergarments and night dress. On the bed by the girl Derosia, also dead. The latter's face was partly buried in the pillow, while the girl Young lay face upward. The faces of both were calm and the bodies cold, indicating that death had taken place somewhat previously. On a table at the head of the bed was a pint flask with a few drops of what is supposed to be whiskey in the bottom, a small sponge and some other articles. Underneath the bed the neck of a small bottle covered with a white looking substance was found, and in the stand drawer a little bottle which seemed to contain a similar mixture.

Brussels, Jan. 22.—This morning at 4:20 the large furniture factory and planing mill, owned by James Bennet, was discovered on fire. The buildings being frame, and full of goods of a combustible nature, were soon a total loss, together with a large stock of furniture, about two car loads of which was ready for shipment. There was also a large amount of furniture destroyed that was nearly made. The loss is estimated to be fully $12,000, with an insurance of $2,000. The fire started in a shed used for piling lumber, and is supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

Galt, Jan. 22.—About 6 o'clock this evening a fire broke out in the drygoods and grocery establishment of Middlemiss & Robertson, on the north side of Main street, in the building owned by Wm. Watkins. The fire originated from the bursting of a coal oil lamp in the back part of the premises, and spread so rapidly, with a high wind blowing, that it was feared at one time a great part of the north side of Main street would be destroyed, but through the hard work performed by the fire brigade the flames were confined to Middlemiss & Robertson's store, which was completely gutted.

Kingston, Jan. 26.—Harry Horsey was yesterday sent to Kingston penitentiary for fourteen years for firing Robertson Bros., establishment on Friday. He is a mere youth, the son of a respectable citizen, and he did it for fun.

The Queen street Wesleyan Church was burned yesterday morning. Loss, $25,000; insured for $10,000.

Montreal, Jan. 26.—Patrick Munday, aged one hundred and thirteen years, died here yesterday. His window is one hundred and is still strong.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—Thos. C. Keefer, C. E., C. M. G., has been elected vice-president of the American Association of Civil Engineers. This is as high an honor as could be conferred on a Canadian.

Hamilton, Jan. 25.—Norman, son of G. M. Counsell, banker, had his skull fractured in a coasting accident yesterday.

Port Dalhousie, Jan. 25.—The dwelling owned and occupied by Captain Reid was burned Saturday morning; loss, thirteen hundred dollars, partly insured.

St. Catharines, Jan. 25.—A further examination of the body of Mrs. Bates, discovered in a burning farm house near Allenburgh Saturday, shows that she died by violence, her skull being fractured and there being three knife wounds in the body. Her husband's body will be examined to-morrow. The old couple had recently received a large sum of money, the proceeds of a sale of live stock.

Toronto, Jan. 26.—Wm. Kyle, wholesale liquor merchant, who will stand his trial at the present assizes for forgery, will have new charges of conspiracy to defraud the banks preferred against him.

W. Watson, general store, Tilsonburg, has assigned to Clarkson of this city. Liabilities thirteen thousand dollars.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 25.—Rev. A. D. Sylvester, who left Halifax, N. S., suddenly last week, leaving a number of unpaid bills, had received and accepted a call to the assistant rectorship of St. Luke's church in this city. He had begun work here when his credentials were withdrawn by the Bishop of Halifax. Bishop Paret prohibited him from further work in his diocese and he will take the next steamer for England. Mr. Sylvester admits having a number of unpaid bills in Halifax, but says his salary was was small and his expenses heavy on account of sickness.

Kingston, Jan. 25.—During the past three months about twenty incendiary fires have occurred in this city, some of them causing heavy losses. In some instances circumstances pointed towards the occupants, and in consequence they suffered in business. The evidence of incendiarism in each case was very strong. The citizens called a meeting and discussed the situation, and a number of special policemen were put on. On Friday night about 12 o'clock Skinner's wholesale drug store was discovered in flames, and before the fire was subdued the stock, valued at $35,000, was almost totally destroyed. While the fire was in progress John Hersey was proceeding homeward, when he saw smoke issuing from a back window in Thomas Robertson's crockery store, and instantly he called the police and ran back to the building just as they arrived a man was crawling out through a broken pane of glass. He was captured and found to be Harry Hersey, a brother of the other. He has been suspected by the police, and when arrested said, "You've caught me in the act this time." He is a son of one of Kingston's most esteemed citizens, and for years past has caused his parents great anxiety. Among the incendiary fires were one in his father's shop and another in that of his brother-in-law, for whom he worked, and who lost heavily. This fact has made the feeling against him very bitter. Shortly before Robertson's fire was discovered a fire was found in the back kitchen of Dr. Spark's residence and put out. The foot-prints in the snow correspond with Hersey's boots. Later it was found that attempts had been made to enter and fire the groceries of Alderman Redden and James Crawford. All these places are within 100 yards of each other, and in the central portion of the city, so that if the flames had got headway in each case the fire brigade would have been baffled and a disastrous conflagration would have occurred. The police think Hersey had accomplices, as it would be impossible for him to fire so many places in such a short space of time.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

One Good Turn Deserves Another.

Grantham Raised to the Bench.

The Irish of the East.

(Special Correspondence of The Colonist.)

London, Jan. 9, 1886.

As soon as possible after the house of commons has been constituted its attention will be drawn to the disposal by Lord Cranbrook of the office of clerk of the parliaments. This is a post which, if it were abolished, would not greatly affect the British constitution. A salary of £3,000 a year is attached to it. The work, such as it is, extends over only half the year, and the office is one of considerable personal and social distinction. Sir Erskine May naturally enough looked for the reversion of this post when it should become vacant. He has for more than a generation rendered conspicuous service in the house of commons at a lower salary than that paid for the ornamental office in the house of lords. There is not the slightest doubt that had the liberal government been in power when Sir William Rose died, Sir Erskine May would have obtained the promotion. But it falling out otherwise, Lord Cranbrook has clutched at the appointment, and positively bestowed it upon his son in law. If Lord Cranbrook were a poor man, and could not afford to endow his daughter, some kind of excuse might be made. But he is one of the wealthiest peers, and might well feel ashamed thus to deal with public moneys. What makes the thing worse is that the other natural candidate passed over is Mr. Disraeli. To Mr. Disraeli's brother Lord Cranbrook owes his political advancement and his peerage. The late Mr. Disraeli took him up when he was a plain country gentleman, living as far away as possible from the source of his wealth, which lies in iron mines. He made him home secretary, then secretary of state for India, and finally a peer. Here comes a chance by which he might make some acknowledgement of these favors by helping on the brother of his benefactor. But he deliberately turns aside from it, and stoops to lift up his son-in-law.

Mr. Grantham, Q. C.,

member for Croydon, has been raised to the bench, in succession to Mr. Justice Lopes, who has been raised to the court of appeal. I believe that Mr. Bradlaugh will not give much trouble before the discussion of the affirmation bill which is to be introduced by an independent liberal. His friends have shown that perfect reticence on his part is the best way in which he can help his own cause.

"The grand old man,"

the kindly nickname which the British public give to Mr. Gladstone, and for the invention of which they are indebted, I believe, to Mr. Charles Bradlaugh—has its counterpart in France. There President Grevy, with a thicker touch of familiarity, perhaps, is called *Le Vieux*—"The Old 'un." "The old 'un won't stand it." "The old 'un has given way," "What's the old 'un up to now?" are as commonplace utterances, during the current crisis beyond the channel as ever were *Pauline* and *Diable!* It is an old custom. Witness—"Long-shanks," "Spider-legs," "Bluff Hall," "Old Noll," "Bully Pitt," "Baby Peel" and "Dizzy." Smokers will be pleased with some regret that Juan Alvardy, the originator of the "Henry Clay" cigar is dead. In the United States alone Juan Alvardy drove a trade to the amount of three millions of pounds sterling a year.

Mr. Clifford Lloyd, perhaps more than any living man, has a right to boast of extraordinary experience in extraordinary methods of government as applied to extraordinary folk. In this way, Mr. Lloyd is quite an extraordinary man. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he should sometimes hit off extraordinary comparisons; and, certainly, the worth of his opinion and the justness of his conclusions are not to be impugned on that account. The world knows a good deal about Mr. Lloyd's experience in Egypt, and a good deal more about his experience in Ireland. He had an interesting letter in Chesney's Times a very interesting letter giving a glimpse of his experience in Burmah, where he served the British government for ten years. The rule is everything in Mr. Clifford Lloyd's opinion. His maxim is as summary as his methods: Good rule, good people; bad rule, bad people. Some are born to govern, others to be governed; and the latter will be good or bad according as the former behave themselves properly. He says: "The Burmese in the days gone by were by some called the 'Irish of the east.' They are a hearty, generous, cheery people, turbulent to a degree if permitted to be so, but most domestic and peaceable when suitably ruled."

Live Stock.

A sheep is just what you make it—good, bad, or indifferent; and if a man has a flock of poor sheep it is a sure sign that he needs to learn something about how to care for them, and how to breed them up.

There is much waste in throw