BELLE ADAMS' TRIAL.

Five Weeks' Adjournment to Secure a Defence Witness From Dawson.

Threats on the Part of the Deceased—Self Defence May Be the Plea.

Another postponement of five weeks was yesterday granted by Mr. Justice Walkem in the trial of Belle Adams, accused of the murder of Charles Kincaid. The trial had been set down for 10 o'clock yesterday morning, but as soon as the proceedings opened, Mr. George E. Powell, for the prisoner, asked for further delay, as Fred. Foss, the witness who had been expected by the steamer Danube from the North, had not come back from St. Michael, but had instead gone up the river on the steamer Yukoner, and could not possibly be reached and returned to Victoria until about the end of September. Mr. Powell asked for a postponement till the end of September, as the witness was an important one to the defence.

Mr. A. G. Smith, deputy attorney-general, who appeared for the crown, objected to further delay. It had been two months since the trial was set, and he did not see that there could be any good gained by waiting for Foss. Officers Perdue and Murray had interviewed Foss soon after the murder, and he had told them that he had heard some loud talking on the floor below his room the night of the murder, and had put his head out of his door, intending to go down to see what the trouble was; but as he heard some one leave Kincaid's room, he had returned to bed, and only learned of the murder next morning.

Mr. Powell put in affidavits from First Officer Lawrence of the Danube, showing that Foss had gone up the Yukon as one of the crew of the C. P. N. steamer Yukoner, and the intention was, said Mr. Powell, that Foss should return by the next trip of the Danube, which would meet the Yukoner at St. Michael. Mr. Powell also said that Foss had given other people a different story than he had told the police. In support of this, Mr. Powell put in an affidavit from Mr. Fred. Bevan, which stated that on the day after the murder Foss had said he had, a few minutes before the murder, heard Kincaid and the prisoner quarrelling. Kincaid was saying: "I'll cut your damned head off, I told you I would do it, and I will," and the woman had screamed and cried out for him not to kill her. Foss was on the point of going down, but heard some one leave the room, and so did not. Mr. J. A. Carthew, in a second affidavit, corroborates having heard Foss tell this story.

Mr. Justice Walkem recognized the difficulties on the part of the crown, but in the interest of giving the prisoner a fair trial, she must be allowed every possible chance to secure witnesses. He ordered a subpoena to be issued for Foss, and if that man was in British territory it could be served on him. If not, the defence might be able to persuade him to come down from St. Michael. The trial would, therefore, be adjourned for five weeks, to allow of Foss returning.

REV. T. B. KILPATRICK.

Something About the Visit to Canada and Victoria of This Eloquent Scottish Minister.

A summer session in theology was an experiment introduced five years ago by the Presbyterian church in Canada with the view of securing to the numerous mission fields the services of students during the winter months. To compensate for the sacrifice of those willing to give the hot summer months to the work of the class rooms the senate of Manitoba college, where the sessions are held every year, strengthens its own faculty with the best talent obtainable in Eastern Canada, the United States and the Old Country.

Among those who this year have lectured to the students is the Rev. T. B. Kilpatrick, B.D., of Ferry Hill Free Church, Aberdeen, Scotland. The course of lectures delivered bears the general title of "Christianity and Prosperity: An Historical Study," and is described by the learned principal of the college as "characterized by marked ability."

Having completed his engagement in Winnipeg Mr. Kilpatrick paid a hurried visit to the Pacific coast, being deeply impressed with our immense distances, magnificent scenery, general prosperity and especially with the beauty of Victoria and its surroundings.

On Sunday morning he preached in St. Andrew's church, taking as his text James I., 8: "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," together with Gen. XLIX., 4: "Unstable as water thou shalt not excell." With cleanness and vigor, with freshness of thought and conlousness of apt scriptural illustrations Mr. Kilpatrick showed how many lives are ruined both for time and eternity, not by positive vice but simply through lack of some all mastering principles—through instability. Then proceeding with increased power he made it equally clear that the only cure of instability was unreserved surrender into the hands of Christ who transformed the rash impetuous Simon into the rock-like Peter.

In the evening Mr. Kilpatrick preached in the First Presbyterian church, choosing as his text Matt. 10:32, "Whosoever shall confess me before men him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven."

Animated, earnest, clear and forceful the "impression he gives is that of a preacher eager to convince his hearer and to commend his message."

Mr. Kilpatrick, who is accompanied by his cousin, Mr. Ritchie, of Brechire, Forfarshire, left yesterday, travelling eastward over the Northern Pacific.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

There can be no doubt but His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has, to say the least, admirably succeeded in getting the political affairs of this province into a grand muddle. To dismiss a government having at least the support of one half the members of the house as a following, before the full election returns are at hand, is a case without parallel in the constitutional history of any country which is supposed to enjoy a system of constitutional government. For the governor to take the ground that the Turner government should not be entrusted with spending the people's money is at best a very lame excuse. If the Turner government, with one half the house at its back, should not be allowed to carry on the business and expend the appropriations voted at the last session of the legislature to defray the expense of government, is it consistent to suppose that it is proper that Mr. Semlin and his ministry, with only the other half of the house for a following, should carry out the wishes of the legislature? In any case the Governor had the power in his own hands, and by refusing to sanction what he considered an unwarrantable expenditure, could thus guard the interests of the people.

To make the situation more complicated and ridiculous even, the Governor, instead of calling on the leader of the opposition, Mr. Semlin, if he considered the Turner ministry not competent to advise His Honor, calls on Mr. Beaven, a defeated candidate, and who has not had a seat in the house for four years. He entrusts Mr. Beaven with the formation of a government, and after a vain attempt Mr. Beaven has to surrender his commission, as he found his task a hopeless one. His Honor then calls upon Mr. Semlin, who readily accepted.

The contention of several papers, particularly the Province, that Mr. Semlin should not have undertaken the task because the question of the leadership of the opposition had not been decided, is absurd in the extreme. But Mr. Semlin, in accepting the commission from His Honor, places himself in a false light before the public, and assumes much greater responsibility than what usually falls to the lot of any ministry. He and his cabinet must be prepared to condone and defend the action of the Lieutenant-Governor in committing the very arrogant act of dismissing the Turner government, then calling on Mr. Beaven. Had Mr. Semlin advised the Governor to call the house together as soon as the Cassiar elections were over, he would by his actions demonstrate to the electorate that he was imbued with an earnest desire to guard the prerogative of the Crown and to keep the public affairs from still farther drifting into a chaotic state. But to take the course he did, when he was not sure of a sufficient following in the house, shows unmistakably that he and his followers thought more of their ambition and desire to gain if possible the Treasury benches than to guard the interests of the country.

Mr. Semlin will find his task a heavy one, as the high-handed act of the Lieutenant-Governor has won for Mr. Turner and his associates sympathy from many quarters. Even though the party strife may be long and bitter, still the spirit of fair play and honest dealing is sufficiently recognized as a cordial principle of political ethics as to win sympathy for those who have been manifestly unjustly treated. The Eastern papers, which may be said to be able to view the matter from a thoroughly independent standpoint, unanimously condemn the action of Lieutenant-Governor McInnes.

As will be seen in another column, Mr. Semlin has, despite the opinion of the Province and other papers, been able to get two colleagues in the persons of Mr. Cotton and Mr. Joseph Martin to take portfolios. Joseph Martin at first flatly refused, but now has changed his mind, and his reason for doing so, as is given elsewhere, hardly justifies the attitude he at first assumed towards Mr. Semlin, the recognized leader of the opposition.

Doubtless Mr. Semlin will succeed in forming a cabinet, his greatest difficulties will then have to be met. In the first place, he must secure a following in the house. The disagreements and dissensions in the opposition ranks will have to be overcome. Mr. Semlin, being an ardent Conservative, will have to encounter the expressed dissatisfaction of several very stalwart Liberals, who have always been very zealous in having the elections run on the federal party lines. The chances of reversals to be met with incase of successful protests and bye-elections must be reckoned with. From all accounts the election of one of his followers, Mr. Prentice of East Lillooet, was void, as the member-elect was not a voter at the last election.

The worst feature in regard to the selection of the new cabinet is the fact that it is far from being representative. It will be seen that Vancouver Island has been entirely ignored. This will tend to aggravate the miserable sectional strife which has been so bitter during the past few years. In all justice the Island should have two representatives. Mr. Semlin, having only three followers on the Island, and these new, untried, and men comparatively unknown as far as public affairs are concerned, will find it very difficult to give the Island portion of the province the justice it deserves.—Vernon News.

A UNIQUE SITUATION.

The eyes of all Canada have been turned towards British Columbia during the past few weeks. The political situation has been unique, and the members of the present parliament will enjoy the distinction of sitting in a House during the most interesting session since confederation. What the final outcome of the complicated position will be no one can foretell with any degree of certainty. It goes without saying that Mr. Semlin will have the utmost difficulty in retaining power, and it seems hardly possible that another general election can be long delayed. Even with the tardy and evidently forced alliance of Joseph Martin, Mr. Semlin cannot expect to have more followers in the new House than Mr. Turner, who will lead a solid following of nineteen members, and when the legislature is convened—as it no doubt will be at an early date—and if those elected to support Mr. Turner's administration are loyal and hold together, Mr. Semlin's hastily arranged government is certain to meet defeat on the first division. Even had Mr. Semlin a majority—which he has not, the parties being evenly divided—it would be little short of impossible for the cabinet containing such conflicting elements as Martin, Cotton and Semlin to hold together. Even now the Province is accusing Mr. Semlin of a breach of faith, claiming that he agreed to leave the matter of the premiership open until a caucus which was to be held on the 26th inst., and Mr. Joseph Martin has more than once stated most emphatically that he would not consent to act under Mr. Semlin's leadership. True he has for the moment been placated in some way; but those acquainted with "fighting Joe" do not for a moment believe that he will rest content under such an arrangement as the present one. Looking at it from any possible standpoint Mr. Semlin's position is untenable, and it is impossible to imagine that he will be able to carry on the government of the province through a single session.—Vernon News.

THE CROWN AND ITS MINISTERS.

The discusion of the action of Lord Aberdeen in compelling the resignation of the Tupper cabinet has been revived, and the Toronto Telegram prints the following, which is singularly pertinent to the issue now before the people of British Columbia:

That the Crown cannot act except upon the advice of its constitutional advisers is a maxim so well recognized that it is quite unnecessary to quote authority in support of it. And that a ministry is presumed to possess the confidence of the country, and consequently is presumed to possess the confidence of the Crown, until defeated by the vote of parliament itself, is another constitutional proposition which it is impossible to assail. A ministry may, if it chooses, resign upon recognizing that it is defeated at the polls. But it has every right to continue in office until the new parliament has met and declared that the ministers no longer possess the confidence of the people. The latter was the invariable custom until 1868. Mr. Gladstone in 1874, the second occasion on which that custom was departed from, said:

"It should be known and remembered that in former times it has been the practice of a government that has not succeeded in obtaining a majority at a general election to refer the decision to the abitrament of parliament. And I will not disguise from myself that although no practical dangers could happen in the instances which have lately occurred, yet it is conceivable that a government that had been guilty of serious malversation might seek, by the immediate surrender of office, to void the judgment or to weaken the force of the judgment which it might have to anticipate from an adverse House of Commons."

And he, in fact, apologized for his course in resigning before meeting parliament by declaring that:

"Although it is a course which was justified by the circumstances, it is one which ought not to be adopted in the absence of strong justifying circumstances."

And Mr. Balfour, upon the Salisbury government, in 1892, meeting parliament instead of at once resigning, declared in the House of Commons:

"In meeting parliament we are strictly following the best precedent."

Sir Charles Tupper was, consequently, perfectly justified in continuing to act as His Excellency's adviser even until parliament should meet had he so desired to do. And so long as His Excellency retained him in that capacity Sir Charles had a perfect right to exercise his constitutional functions to the full, and His Excellency was as little justified in seeking and acting upon outside advice as he would have been had the ministry been sustained at the polls. But, instead of pursuing the constitutional course of acting, and acting solely on the advice of his constitutional advisers, His Excellency, chose, as the Tribune puts it, "to take a hand in the game"—in other words to betray the premiership and to intrigue with the political opponents of his advisers to block the carrying out of acts of administration those advisers were entirely within their rights in proceeding with. His partizanship was an aggravation is his unconstitutionality; for the representative of the Crown is presumed to act as an umpire in the disputes between political parties. But, leaving out of consideration his partizanship, his unconstitutional conduct in attempting to govern apart from the advice of his constitutional advisers is quite sufficient to merit the unqualified condemnation of all who appreciate the fundamental principle of responsible government and desire their perpetuation unimpaired. Lord Aberdeen's conduct was a revival of that personal government against which Canada has made such bitter struggles in the past and which it was fondly hoped had ceased in 1841, to become forever thereafter impossible of reintroduction. No one who appreciates the importance of that struggle for popular liberties can witness the subversion of those liberties without alarm and indignation. Lord Aberdeen's principles of government would carry us back to the early days of George III when the power of the nominal premier was inferior and subservient to that of the clique of irresponsible advisers known as "the King's Friends."

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA AFFAIR

The British Columbia incident will not be closed until it is made known why the Lieut.-Governor dismissed a ministry which was not clearly in a minority. His letter to the gentleman whom he summoned to his side after the dismissal of Premier Turner, gave one reason and only one for his action; and that was the result of the recent elections. Yet "at the time of writing," as the Complete Letter Writer says, the results of this election were not all known; and the high probability was that the Turner government would have the support of exactly one half of the house. The gentleman for whom he sent was not in the legislature at all, and there seemed to be no reason to believe that he had any effective support here.

But the letter also intimates that His Honor had felt the need of advisers in whom he could place full confidence and whose recommendations he could unhesitatingly approve. This would seem to indicate that he was personally dissatisfied with ministers. An interview given out by Mr. Beaven makes more plainly the same statement, and presents after a profession of reticence one case in point. His story is that the Attorney-General in the Turner government gave the Lieut.-Governor some advice which, if it had been followed, would have removed an important check on the paying of money out of the provincial treasury.

The dismissed Attorney-General will probably have something to say about this, and it is certainly important that we know the truth. A lieutenant-governor should not dismiss a ministry unless either he believes the people to have withdrawn their confidence from it, or he has good and sufficient reasons for withdrawing his own confidence. In the former score in this case, the conspicuously proper course was to call the newly elected legislature and let it speak for the people. As to the latter, one of the first acts of the new government must be to assume responsibility and make public the reasons which justify the act.

There is happily little doubt that this action of His Honor will be abundantly discussed when the legislature meets. The parties bid fair to be so close that it will be most difficult for any administration now in sight to carry on a government, and we may expect to hear this entire episode fully gone into on the floor of the house. It is rather a pity that Mr. Beaven will not be there to present his side of the story. But His Honor's advisers will certainly explain the reasons which prompted the conduct with which "the representative of the Quneen"—to quote His Honor's own description of himself—surprised the province, and, indeed, the country.—Montreal Star.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

The Russian menace in the East is directed not against British trade and influence alone but against the trade and influence of British America and Australia as well. China and Japan are becoming more than mere geographical terms to the people of Canada, and Canadians on the Pacific slope especially have been looking forward to a time when trade with the Far East would be as important to them as the trade of the Atlantic slope with the people of Europe is to us. Already there is the beginning of a trade with China that upon the awakening of that nation might grow to large proportions. In 1897 we sent $628,000 worth of manufactured cotton and $104,387 of lumber to China, besides some flour and other provisions, and bought from China, over a million dollars' worth of goods, chiefly tea, silks, drugs and rice. Our exports to China were greater than to France, with which we have an elaborate treaty, and over two-thirds as large as our exports to Germany. If Russia absorbs China and crushes Japan the Pacific will become a Russian lake, and Canada and Australia will not merely lose opportunity for trade but will always be open to the attack of Russian fleets and armies. We have not heretofore regarded Russia as a menace to Canada, partly no doubt because of a complacent belief that even if Great Britain and Russia went to war the United States would interfere to prevent the invasion of Canada by Russian troops. It may be that this belief would be justified by the result, but Canadians can hardly afford to stake their future on such a risky insurance policy. The facts before us are that relations between ourselves as part of the British Empire and Russia are decidedly strained and that a rupture may take place at any moment. Our Pacific coast is within twelve days' steaming of Port Arthur and ten days of Vladivostock, the chief Russian naval stations of the East, and would almost certainly be an object of attack in the event of a reverse of the British fleet in the Pacific. Hongkong is the headquarters of the China squadron, but if it were found untenable or its dry docks were destroyed the base to which the British fleet would retire is Esquimalt, B.C., to the defence of which Canada now contributes and which, as a result of the labor placed upon it by the Royal Engineers, will soon be one of the strongest fortresses on the Pacific.

Looking at the situation as it presents itself we cannot ignore the fact that the Canadian coast might be the theatre of war on the Pacific. It is a plain duty to do something toward defensive measures. There would be no menace to a mighty power like Russia in the moving of what little we have in artillery to the Pacific slope until the war cloud blows over. The garrison artillery of the permanent force can be accommodated as well at Esquimalt as at Quebec and will be nearer the scene of any unpleasantness. There are in the permanent force two batteries of field artillery armed with the most modern weapons. Guns from the militia stores might be added sufficient to make up the material for an efficient field artillery establishment of 24 guns. Such a contribution to the defence of the Pacific slope would be decidedly useful in case of trouble and would give confidence to the people of Vancouver and other coast towns which are not under the shelter of the guns of Esqimalt. By quietly moving some of our available means of defence to the Pacific the department of militia will give evidence of practical patriotism.—Toronto Globe.

SOOKE RIVER RUSH.

Probability of Paying Ground Being Found in the Nearby District.

One of the most amusing incidents of the little rush to Sooke river on Sunday, is said to have been afforded by George Keonig, the jovial proprietor of the Shawnigan Lake hotel. It was not exactly fun for George but the boys made him think it so nevertheless. Mr. Keonig was one of the first on the ground, in fact he was in with Messrs. Findley and Mansell on the discovery claim. He was working away like an old miner, in a hole that he had sunk about six feet, which was amusing enough in itself, when the sides caved in. George threw up his hands and cried: "Mine Gott, take me oudt of this!" He was soon picked out from among the rocks and when the crowd left he was still resting, and had hardly made up his mind to go back to work.

Dick Davies, who was one of the many who failed to reach the diggings, probably took the most comfort out of the rush. Dick found a cool spot on the banks of the river, where a few bottles could be kept cold, and opening his hamper, proceeded to enjoy himself, and wait for authentic reports of the find from those who had proceeded him.

Miners who have worked in the district have expressed the opinion that there is strong probability of the bedrock and bench diggings turning out well.

Karl's Clover Root Tea for Constipation It's the Best and if after using it you don't say so, return the package and get your money. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

BOUNDARY CREEK.

Bank of Montreal Party Survey the District With an Eye to Business.

Mr. Campbell Sweeny, manager of the Bank of Montreal, Vancouver, was in Midway lately on his way back to the Coast after having spent three or four weeks in the Kootenay country, both East and West. He was accompanied by Mr. G. A. Henderson, manager of the Vernon branch, who met him at Greenwood on Sunday. Mr. J. S. C. Fraser, manager of the Rossland branch of the bank, went over from Rossland with Mr. Sweeny. Messrs. Sweeny and Henderson spent some time talking over with residents the business prospects of Midway. It was pointed out that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has expressed its intention to make Midway the terminus for the time being of its railway line from the Columbia river, now in course of construction, that agricultural settlement is extending in the neighborhood, and that the town is drawing an increasing amount of trade from the new mining camps on the upper main Kettle river and its more important tributary creeks, whilst Anarchist Mountain, Camp McKinney, Baker Creek, Rock Creek, Meyers Creek, West Copper Creek, Graham's Camp, Central Camp and several mining camps situate south of the international boundary line on the reservation are doing more and more business here. Mr. Sweeny, of course, had little to say as to whether or not his bank contemplates soon opening branches in the Boundary country, but the impression give where is that the bank is not likely to come in ahead of the railway.—News-Advertiser.

CHILLED KIDNEYS.

Refuse to Work—Foreign Matters Collect and Disease Follows—South American Kidney Cure Relieves in Six Hours.

A remedy that has the crucial tests that South American Kidney Cure has had—a remedy which has met cases of kidney disease whose victims were at death's door and has led them back to perfect health—a remedy compounded for the kidneys alone—a liquid specific—a remedy that has testimony piled on testimony given unsolicited by those who have been cured—must be a remedy of wonderful merit. South American Kidney Cure heals Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, gravel, stone in the bladder, inflammation. It can be your life preserver.

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

Ask your grocer for Windsor Salt For Table and Dairy, Purest and Best

NO PROTEST EXISTS.

A Bogus Election Protest Served on the Member for West Lillooet.

Mr. Smith Finds That no Papers Were Filed With the Master.

A few days ago Mr. A. W. Smith, duly elected as member of the provincial parliament for the West Riding of Lillooet, arrived in Victoria as the result of an election protest served upon him on August 11. Mr. Smith, on reaching Victoria, put the matter in the hands of his legal adviser, Mr. Gordon Hunter, of the firm of Hunter & Oliver, and made over to him the voluminous bundle of papers purporting to be a copy of the election protest. The first one of these papers reads:

In the Supreme Court of British Columbia:

"Provincial Elections Act."

Election of a member for the legislative assembly of British Columbia for the West Riding of the Electoral district of Lillooet, holden on the 25th day of June and the 9th day of July, 1898.

Province of British Columbia, to wit:

Between Joseph H. Johnston, petitioner, and Alfred Wellington Smith, respondent.

Take notice that this 11th day of August, 1898, a petition was presented unto the court, and filed and delivered in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme court of British Columbia, at the court house, in the city of Victoria, by Joseph H. Johnston, a true copy of which said petition is herewith annexed.

And further take notice that at the time of the presentation of the said petition, security, as required by the Provincial Elections act, was given on behalf of the petitioner by depositing the sum of $2,000 with the registrar, a copy of whose receipt therefor is hereunto annexed.

Dated this 11th day of August, A. D. 1898. Yours, etc.,

D. S. WALLBRIDGE,
Solicitor for the Petitioner.

To Alfred Wellington Smith, the abovenamed respondent.

Mr. D. S. Wallbridge, who is named here as the solicitor for the petitioner, has his office at Room 7 in the Mackinnon block, in Vancouver.

Mr. Gordon Hunter sent over to the office of the Supreme court registrar to see the original of the protest, when to his very great surprise it was found that no such protest had ever been filed; that although a receipt purporting to be signed by Mr. B. H. T. Drake as master was attached to the papers served on Mr. Smith, no $2,000 security had been deposited with the master, and in fact the clerks in the registry office and Mr. Drake himself were perfectly ignorant of any protest.

One of the most astounding things in connection with this extraordinary case is that whereas Mr. Smith was served with the alleged protest on August 11 by Mr. Samuel Gibbs, a notary public, the papers served said upon their face that they were copies of the originals filed that very day in Victoria, and appended was the following, bearing date also of August 11:

In the Supreme Court of British Columbia:

"Provincial Elections Act."

Election of a member for the legislative assembly of British Columbia for the West riding of the Electoral district of Lillooet, holden on the 25th day of June and the 9th day of July, A. D. 1898.

Province of British Columbia, to wit:

Between Joseph H. Johnston, petitioner, and Alfred Wellington Smith, respondent.

Received from Joseph H. Johnston, the petitioner herein, the sum of two thousand dollars ($2,000) as security for the payment of all costs, charges and expenses that may become payable by the petitioner herein, pursuant to the provisions of the Provincial Elections act.

Dated at the Court House, in the city of Victoria, on this 11th day of August, A. D. 1898.

B. H. TYRWHITT DRAKE,
Master.

In the first place, it would have been perfectly impossible to have got that receipt and to have sent a copy of it up to Lillooet in time to have it served on Mr. Smith the same day, much less at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, when the registrar's office in Victoria only opens at 10 o'clock. In the next place, it will be seen that there is nothing on the face of the receipt to show it is a copy and not a forgery of Mr. Drake's name.

Attached to the receipt and the other document produced there is the so-called copy of an alleged petition by Joseph H. Johnston against Mr. Smith's election.

Here is a nice state of things. Mr. Smith is served with what can only be regarded as a bogus protest, because no protest is filed, and could not possibly have been filed at the very time that he was served. Then again, a bogus receipt for $2,000, signed with the master's name, is appended—a receipt that, as beforesaid, has nothing on the face of it to show that it was not a forgery, and, furthermore, a receipt that it would have been impossible to get in Victoria on August 11, and have the original or a copy in the hands of a man to serve at 11 o'clock the same day.

The dates on the papers themselves condemn the whole thing as an outrageous proceeding. Mr. Smith, considering that a bona fide protest had been filed against him, was put to the inconvenience and expense of coming to Victoria, only to find that there was no case for him to fight; that no protest had been entered, and as the time expired several days ago for filing protests against members elected at the recent general elections, no protest can be filed.

The whole matter will bear a good deal of looking into. Is the signature D. S. Wallbridge, affixed to the notice to Mr. Smith, genuine, and if not, where did Mr. Gibbs get the papers, or who is responsible?

GOVERNMENT OF THE YUKON.

Misdoings of Officials Call for Investigation—The Demand for Local Control.

The organs of the Dominion government resent the attention recently drawn by the opposition press to the administration of the Yukon and the charges made against certain officials. We are accused of siding with discontented miners from the United States, who wish to grab Canadian gold, and with many other misdemeanors which it is not worth while particularizing. The Gazette's attitude in the matter has been clear and consistent from the beginning, and there is nothing in it to be ashamed of—we can only repeat what we said in discussing this matter some time ago. No one will think of holding the Canadian officials guilty of any malpractice until they have had an opportunity to defend themselves. But the charges are certainly grave enough to demand a thorough investigation by the Dominion government.

The defenders of the government make a mistake in assuming that these complaints are made by the United States miners alone. A communication from a Montsealer now in Dawson City, which we publish elsewhere, shows that the Canadian miners are dissatisfied too. The Klondike Nugget, which may be presumed to correctly voice local feeling, says there is not a satisfied miner in the whole camp, and thousands have gone to the other side of the line rather than submit to the obnoxious regulations. Our correspondent writes: "We must have local government and have it at once," and there is much show of reason in his complaint that for lack of local knowledge the government is pursuing a penny wise and pound foolish policy. The problem of Yukon administration has become one of national importance, and will doubtless engage the attention of parliament to a large extent next session. Last session a bill to provide for the government of the Yukon was passed, but it hardly seems to go far enough. It received a fair discussion in the Senate, where it originated, but was passed in rather a hurry; it was then rushed through the Commons after a very short and inadequate discussion, considering the importance of the subject. It was represented at the time as a tentative measure, and it was intimated that an attempt would be made to amend it at no distant day.

The act cuts off from the Northwest Territories the district north of the 60th parallel of latitude and west of the watershed, and constitutes it a separate division under the name of the Yukon Territory, to be administered by a commissioner under the direction of the Dominion government or the Minister of the Interior. The commissioner is assisted by a council of six, consisting of ex officio members and others nominated by the Dominion government, doubtless on the commissioner's recommendation. The commissioner in council has extensive and rather ill-defined powers, but it is provided that he shall not (a) impose any tax or any duty of customs or excise or any penalty exceeding one hundred dollars, or (b) alter or repeal the punishment provided in any act of the parliament of Canada in force in the territory for any offence, or (c) appropriate any public money, lands or property of Canada without authority of parliament. The section gives the commissioners in council "the same powers to make ordinances for the government of the Territory as are at the date of this act possessed by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories." The Dominion government may further limit the powers by order-in-council, but, beyond that they can never exceed the power possessed by the provinces, it is difficult to say exactly how far they go. Hon. David Mills, who had charge of the bill in the Senate, said: "That must in a large degree be settled in the future by experience." The commissioner-in-council has no power to levy taxation, but he could give Dawson City a municipal council which would have that power.

There are two points on which the question of the commissioner's powers are of special interest—mining regulations and whiskey permits—and the article already referred to proves that they are being actively discussed in Dawson at the present time. Major Walsh is evidently of opinion that he has power to remit the mining royalties, and in so doing he is probably pursuing a reasonable and justifiable course under the circumstances, although, strictly speaking, it is illegal. The mining royalties are imposed by an order-in-council, passed by the Dominion government, and Major Walsh has no power to vary them. It seems clear that only the authority which imposed the royalties can remit them, and Major Walsh is not in a position to override the decisions of the government, although he may find it advisable to do so, even at some risk to himself, owing to the unwise decisions the government have arrived at. But this very point was raised during the discussion on the bill. Senator Ferguson asked if the commissioners-in-council would have power to make mining regulations, and the Minister of Justice replied: "Not unless the government were to confer that power upon them; and I do not think it is contemplated at the present moment to confer the right to make mining regulations."

The question of whiskey permits is not so clear. From the sections outlined above, it appears that the commissioner has the same power as the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories, unless the Dominion government expressly takes any power away from him. Unfortunately the powers of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories on this point are still in dispute. The Northwest Territories Act originally provided that:

"No intoxicating liquor or intoxicant shall be manufactured, compounded or made in the Territories, except by special permission of the Governor-in-Council; nor shall any intoxicating liquor or intoxicant be imported or brought into the Territories from any province of Canada or elsewhere, or be sold, exchanged, traded or bartered or had in possession therein, except by special permission in writing of the Lieutenant-Governor."

It was held that this power of issuing permits was possessed by the Lieutenant-Governor as an executive officer, acting without the advice of his council, and as a matter of practice it was exercised by him under the direction of the Minister of the Interior. But when the act of 1897 conferred responsible government upon the Northwest Territories, the executive council claimed that the Lieutenant-Governor could only exercise this power on their advice. Other authorities (including the Minister of the Interior) held that the Lieutenant-Governor's position was unchanged. There was a conflict of authority, and some confusion, and as both the Minister of the Interior and the Lieutenant-Governor continued to issue permits, a great deal more whiskey was imported into the Yukon than was absolutely necessary. Major Walsh is now trying to prevent its sale, but it is a question whether he will succeed. When the permits have run out, the authority to allow importation will presumably rest either with the commissioners personally or with the commissioner-in-council.—Montreal Gazette.

The author of the ever-delightful "Uncle Remus" has written some "Tales of the Home Folk in Peace and War," which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish ere long. In this work Mr. Joel Chancellor Harris has almost given up writing in a dialect. The tales concern a great many varieties of human being. Their locality is the Southern States.

HONEST HELP FREE TO WEAK MEN.

Rev A. H. Macfarlane, Franktown, Ontario, states that any man who is suffering from troubles resulting from overwork, excess or abuse, such as nervous debility, lost vibor, unnatural losses, lack of development, etc., can write to him in struct confidence and be instructed free of charge how to be thoroughly cured.

Knowing, to his sorrow, that so many sufferers are being imposed upon by unscrupulous quacks, this clergyman considers it his duty to give his fellow-men the benefit of his experience and assist them to a cure. Having nothing to sell, he asks for no money. Any man who sends for his advice and follows it can rely upon being cured. Of course only those actually needing help are expected to apply, enclosing a stamp.

Address as above and mention the Colonist, Victoria, B.C.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Dr. Fletcher's Meetings Were Sparsely Attended.

Dr. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, of Ottawa, has reached Winnipeg from British Columbia, where he has been delivering a series of lectures on Farmers' Institute work, noxious weeds and insects. The establishment of Farmers' Institutes is a new work in the Pacific province. To a Free Pres reporter, Dr. Fletcher said:

"I am just returning from holding a series of Farmers' Institute meetings, similar to those lately held throughout Manitoba with Mr. McKellar, in connection with the newly established system of Farmers' Institutes in British Columbia. These meetings were arranged direct from the department by Mr. Anderson, superintendent of Farmers' Institutes for British Columbia. I accompanied Mr. Anderson at all these meetings and gave addresses on the value of Farmers' Institutes to farmers on noxious weeds and insects. These subjects were of interest to the audiences, owing to the fact that the system of Farmers' Institutes has only just been started in British Columbia, with Mr. Anderson as superintendent. He is enthusiastic in the work, and has done good service to the province in drawing attention to and helping along all industries connected with agriculture. The subject of noxious weeds is not yet of such keen interest to British Columbia farmers as is the case in Manitoba, where farmers have now learned which are their worst enemies, and the best ways of fighting against them.

"The injurious insects most inquired about were those which attack the fruit crops, which are already of enormous importance in the Pacific Province, and are yearly becoming more so. Fruit of all kinds is grown of great excellence, and there are many young orchards just coming into bearing. Undoubtedly the best visited was that of His Excellency, the Governor-General, at Vernon, which, under the good management of Mr. Ricardo, may truly be called a model farm. There are extensive orchards of apples, plums and pears, as well as a magnificent hop gardens. All details are evidently well attended to; everything is kept in perfect order, and what is very noticeable is that there is a place for everything, and everything is in its place. I cannot see how such good management can result in anything but good profits, even upon the large outlay which has been made. At the present time fruit of this kind in British Columbia can be sold at 10 cents a pound, and it therefore becomes merely a matter of producing fruit of good quality and getting it to the market in proper condition. What Mr. Ricardo is doing by good management on the Coldstream ranch at Vernon can be and is being done by other fruit growers. The soil is very fertile in many districts, and the climate seems particularly well suited for the production of first class fruit and other farm crops.

"In the delta lands of the Fraser river, four tons of hay on meadows which have not been seeded down for ten or fifteen years is by no means unusual. This is not coarse marsh hay, but excellent hay, consisting of fine grasses and clover."

"Were your meetings as well attended as in Manitoba?"

"No. The Farmers' Institute system is quite new in British Columbia, and while under the circumstances the meetings were all well attended and very useful, as evidenced by the free discussion of the addresses, they could hardly be compared with your Manitoba meetings. The Department of Agriculture in this province is well organized under energetic heads who understand the needs of the province, and have for several years done their utmost to assist the farming community. Undoubtedly in British Columbia, as the country becomes more thickly settled, and the Farmers' Institute system better understood by the farmers, its benefits will be more apparent and soon equal those of this province.

"A particularly good meeting was held at Chilliwack, where a beautiful display was made of flowers and fruits. Of the the latter the peaches and plums were remarkably fine. At Kelowna, in the Okanagan Valley, a new industry has been developed, which I believe will in time draw much attention. It is the cultivation of an excellent quality of cigar tobacco. It is by far the best quality of tobacco as yet produced in Canada, lacking almost entirely the peculiar odor of northern grown tobaccos. This tobacco is now being manufactured into high-class cigars which have already drawn much attention on the Pacific Coast. The company this year has between twenty and thirty acres in crop. I visited the plantations and was struck with the luxuriant growth and healthy appearance of the plants. The pioneer in this venture is a Mr. Collins.

"One of the best meetings of the series was held at Agassiz, close to the Experimental Farm, and good meetings of representative farmers were held at Salmon Arm and Armstrong, both in the interior of the province.

THE PRESIDENT'S STORY.

A Slave to Chronic Catarrh for Years—Remedies Failed—Specialists Failed—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder (Simplest of all) Cured Him.

D. T. Sample, president of Sample's Installment Company, Washington, Pa., writes: "For years I was afflicted with chronic catarrh. Remedies and treatment by specialists only gave me temporary relief until I was induced to use Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. It has proved the one good thing in my case. In almost an instant after I had made the first applications I had relief, and a little perseverance in its use entirely rid me of this offensive malady. I would be glad to personally recommend it to any and everybody."

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.