The Colonist.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1898.

CITY TAXES.

If a taxpayer of Victoria pays his taxes before the first day of November, he is entitled to a reduction of one-sixth. This is an inducement to citizens to pay their taxes during October, but not to do so any earlier in the year.

Would it not be well to have the rebate arranged on a sliding scale? The months during which people are expected to pay their taxes are May, June, July, August, September and October—six in all. The rebate now is 16.66 per cent. on all paid before November 1st. Suppose this were changed and the maximum rebate were made 15 per cent., and were allowed to those who pay in May, and that the rebate be reduced on a sliding scale until November 1st. It would unquestionably secure the payment of taxes early in the year and keep the city in funds at all times, so that there would never be any occasion for overdrafts.

Another suggestion is that the city treasurer be required to accept taxes in instalments, where the amount is over a specified sum. This plan has been tried elsewhere with a great deal of satisfaction. It entails a little more work upon the treasurer, but not much, and it distributes his work throughout the year. An extra column on the tax roll enables the treasurer to keep track of the payments. The advantage of instalment payment is that it helps men who have to pay considerable taxes, but are not always able to raise the money when they need it, while they could much more readily pay one-half at a time, and thereby get the benefit of the rebate upon that portion of their liability. The first change above suggested would be rather more in favor of the wealthier taxpayers than any one else except the city; the last named would be in the interest almost altogether of those in moderate circumstances.

A CANADIAN MINT.

The President of the Canadian Bankers' Association has taken up the advocacy of a Canadian mint. He thinks it highly desirable that we should coin all the gold from the Yukon. It is hardly necessary to say that the people of British Columbia would be unanimously in favor of the establishment of a mint, for they have already given plenty of proof to that effect. The output of gold from the Yukon and British Columbia next year will be very large. The probability is that the amount will be so great that Canada will move up to the third place among producing countries. This being the case, it will be much to be regretted if none of this gold will be sent out in the form of a Canadian coin. We shall make no argument as to the business advantage of having a mint where miners could dispose of their gold for its full value. All this ground has been gone over time and time again. We do not know that the federal government is at all hostile to the idea of a mint, and believe the establishment of one is simply deferred for a time, but we think that the time has come for action and suggest that one of the first steps taken by parliament, when it meets, should be to authorize the government to erect a mint at some point on the Coast—we would naturally prefer Victoria—and have it in readiness by the time the spring clean-up comes out of the North. We notice that the Montreal Star is in favor of making some arrangement whereby the gold can be taken from the miners and Canadian coins be struck from it, and thinks the only objection that can be raised to the mint is on the score of expense. W do not think that this ought to stand in the way. Canada can afford a mint. The indirect advantages would far outweigh the cost. Any other arrangement would call for a good deal of explanation, but every gold miner knows what a mint is.

FRANCE RETIRES.

France has retired from an untenable position. That country loses nothing by this line of action. On the contrary it gains something, for it will find the people of Great Britain ready to act fairly by their neighbor. Things have reached such a condition in Great Britain that public opinion now fully control foreign politics. Whether or not Lord Salisbury actually said to the French ambassador that he could not disregard public opinion, there is not the slightest doubt that he could not. The people of Great Britain were determined to keep what they had won and to which they were fully entitled. Now that this point has been settled, there will be no disposition to drive a hard-bargain with France. Not even his own countrymen accord more praise to Marchand for his gallant exploit than do the British people and the admiration they feel will do more than anything else to make them ready to concede anything in reason in recognition of it.

The assertion made a few days ago, that France would insist upon the reopening of the whole Egyptian question, may be dismissed as without foundation. This would be an inauspicious time for anything of that kind. If ever there has been a period since 1883 when it was essential that British control should continue in Egypt, it is now when new and very heavy responsibilities have been cast upon the khedival government by the reconquest of the Soudan. No French statesman would be so absurd as to suggest a renewal of the joint control. This would make France the laughing stock of Europe. The only other powers, which by any stretch of the imagination could be supposed to be willing to interfere in regard to Egypt, are Russia and Germany. The former has her hands full. If there is one thing that Russia needs now it is peace. We can well believe that the Czar and his ministers are very sincere in their desire for disarmament, because if Russia could get a guarantee that the peace of the Old World would not be broken for a quarter of a century, she could ask nothing better. No country in the world has vaster or more difficult problems to deal with. As to Germany, her interests do not lie in disturbing the position of Great Britain in Egypt or anywhere else. She aims at a policy of expansion, and to carry this out peace is essential.

Looking the whole situation over, we think the indications are very favorable to a prolonged peace, provided the United States and Spain succeed in arranging the open questions between them. The withdrawal of France from Fashoda is the most satisfactory step taken by any European government in a long time.

THE NEW HERALD ANGEL.

It was not to be expected that the Kaiser would go to Jerusalem without saying something very sensational and not a little grotesque, but not many people expected that he would attempt a reproduction of the scene when the herald angels sang to the watching shepherds. He was equal even to this. He has proclaimed "Peace on Earth," which will be an excellent thing. The Kaiser has changed his tune considerably in recent years. It is not so long ago that he never tired of telling the German people that he was their war-lord. The transposition to a nineteenth century prince of peace is striking, but will doubtless be wholesome. There can be no doubt as to the sincerity of his intentions. The evolution of this remarkable man's character is well worth studying. There are, however, not lacking in the incidents connected with the visit to Jerusalem indicating that his mind is trending towards a religious monomania. The danger is that, regarding himself as on a plane higher than all other men, he may be carried away by the religious fervor now evidently inspiring his conduct and utterances.

A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

Commenting upon the requirements of the United States in regard to a standing army, the Oregonian takes the position that it will hereafter be necessary to keep a larger force, not for defence against enemies abroad, but to protect life and property at home. Our contemporary says that the officers charged with enforcing the law have not the strength of public opinion behind them, as they formerly had. Hence if a sheriff or other officer appeals to bystanders to aid him in the discharge of his duty, his request is usually ignored. This remark does not apply to cases where a man is charged with a crime, but to offences against property resulting from labor strikes and matters of that kind. So many instances of this have taken place during the last ten years that this indisposition of the people to sustain the law must be accepted as a permanent factor in the social condition of the United States. It has led already to frequent interference on the part of the state authorities by calling out the militia, and in one or two cases to the sending of United States troops to the scene of troubles. The Oregonian seems to think it doubtful if the state militia can be depended upon to deal with its fellow-citizens in cases where the acute questions between labor and capital are at issue, and hence that it will be found absolutely necessary in future to have a sufficient force of regular troops available to suppress any local troubles.

In this connection a constitutional difficulty arises. The government of the United States has nothing to do with matters of contract. These are governed by state laws and enforced by the state courts. Only in certain exceptional cases can the federal courts take cognizance of causes of action arising under contracts, and labor troubles arise out of contracts. In the case of the Chicago railway riots, President Cleveland sent the regular troops of the United States to the scene, because the strikers were interfering with the conveyance of the mails, and hence were preventing the due execution of the laws of the United States. In the cases which arose in Washington and Oregon, where regular soldiers were sent for to protect the property of the Northern Pacific railroad company, the position taken was that the road, being in the hands of a receiver under the order of the United States court, any interference with it or other property of the corporation was in defiance of the power of the federal government. In this case a federal judge issued an injunction directing certain strikers to refrain from interfering with the trains, and called in the troops to enforce the injunction.

A prophetic eye is not required to foresee that there is in all this the possibility of serious disorder, including a conflict between the federal and state authorities. This very nearly arose at Chicago, and at any time an ambitious state governor may precipitate a crisis. During the last quarter of a century there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of the American people towards their own institutions. The courts no longer command the degree of respect which is necessary to the safety of the community. The masses have lost confidence in the judiciary. They have seen even the Supreme Court of the United States packed for the purpose of obtaining a decision desired by the administration. They have seen the influence of great corporations paramount in the selection of state judges, whereby the law has been frequently interpreted in a manner favorable to the interests of the corporations and against those of the public. The result of this is an attitude on the part of a very large proportion of the people towards the courts, which seems destined to lead to difficulties of the gravest magnitude.

BRITAIN'S GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

Since history was written no nation has been burdened with so great responsibilities as Great Britain. A little consideration of the distribution of the Empire will make this manifest.

In North America it is coterminous with the United States, Mexico and Guatemala; in South America with Venezuela, Holland and Brazil; in Asia with Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, Thibet, China, France and Siam; in Africa with the Orange Free State, the South African Republic, Germany in four distinct places, France in at least three distinct places, Portugal in two distinct places, the Congo Free State, Somaliland, Abyssinia in two distinct places, and through the occupation of Egypt, with Turkey in two distinct places and Italy; in Europe with Spain. The only important powers with which the Empire is not coterminous are Austria and Russia, and the movement of events in China and on the Afghanistan frontier make a very close neighbor of the latter. The enormous responsibilities resulting from these simple geographical facts are such as no other nation was ever called upon to face. A few of them are at present occupying serious consideration. We have an international commission adjusting open questions with the United States, another settling a dispute with Venezuela; the attention of the Foreign Office, which has just settled a dispute with France in regard to West Africa, is being divided between the adjustment of the claims of the same power to a portion of Central Africa, and the relative rights of the Empire and Russia in China. There is an open question with Abyssinia, another with the Transvaal, another with Turkey and of course one as to the Afghanistan frontier. Doubtless there are some other matters which do not suggest themselves in a hasty review. There is the vast Indian empire, with all its conflicting interests, to be administered, and at intervals of very short duration difficulties with semi-barbarous tribes in almost inaccessible localitites have to be adjusted. At the head of this Empire, of unparalleled area and unprecedented responsibility, are two islands, which require immense importations of food products every year. Hence the sea must be under British control. The Irish question and other purely domestic problems need not be taken into account, although they call for the exercise of mature judgment and wise foresight.

The ease with which this burden is borne is as surprising as the nature of the burden itself. In this respect the contrast with our southern neighbors is very marked. They grow hysterical over the smallest international problem. Great Britain keeps cool under all circumstances. If events were to precipitate a great foreign war to-morrow, the nation would not lose its head. The British people have been sobered by long experience. They are the most conspicuous example the world has ever seen of a self-governing people. They individually govern themselves; that is, they keep themselves under control. It is this more than anything else which makes the government of the Empire possible. But for this racial characteristic, it would have gone to pieces long ago.

DUTY ON LEAD.

Mr. Hugh Sutherland, manager of the Evening Star and Columbia mines, near Slocan City, gave the Nelson Miner his views on the question of lead duties, and his observations are so interesting that we reproduce them elsewhere in full. Mr. Sutherland, it will be seen, proposes three remedies for the disadvantages under which Canadian mine-owners labor. One is the imposition of a tariff on lead that will practically be prohibitive of importations. The second is reciprocity on lead and its manufactures with the United States. The third is, that the government shall make advances on lead and hold it for a market, in a manner similar to that in which the government handles dairy products. We judge that Mr. Sutherland would personally prefer reciprocity in lead to either of the other plans, and we confess to the same view. Under such an arrangement the lead market would be left in its natural condition, and this would be more desirable than a forced market, either through prohibitive duties or government intervention. The very great importance of the lead industry makes it highly desirable that something should be done to assist it. If it can be aided in any way, the value of silver-lead mining properties will at once appreciate, to the great advantage of this province and to everyone interested in them.

We printed a letter from an "Amateur" in regard to the Victoria Theatre, and to-day we print one from a "Professional." With these the discussion of the matter must end as far as these columns are concerned, unless Mr. Jamieson wishes to say something more on the subject. Mr. Jamieson is a business man, and the management of the Victoria and Vancouver theatres is his business. He felt bound to take a certain course, and in the frankest possible manner explained his reason for so doing. He doubtless regretted more than any one else to be compelled to take such a course. He has also a right to be allowed to manage his own business in his own way, and he shall do so hereafter so far as communications to this paper are concerned, except should it happen that in the course of catering to public amusement he gives cause for criticism.

"Doctor, why is it my head aches so when I've come off a spree?"

"Because your brain is in sympathy with your stomach."

"It is! Well, it shows darned poor judgment."—Chicago Tribune.

A MATTER OF WITNESS FEES.

We present the statement this morning of four witnesses for the Crown in the Belle Adams case. Their statements are given publicity in order that they may be answered if incorrect, and that justice may be done the men, if they are in the right. If a bargain was made with them, that they should be paid $2 a day while waiting to give testimony, it was not an unreasonable one, and it ought to be carried out. The fact that it was made by an official under the late government makes no difference. A new government may properly repudiate the policy of its predecessors, but never its contracts, and a promise to a witness ought to be regarded as equally binding with any other. The suggestion is made that these men were refused their pay because their evidence was not satisfactory to the Crown officers. We can hardly credit this. We do not say that if witnesses grossly deceive the Crown officers, as to the nature of testimony they are prepared to give on a trial, they might not properly be deprived of any fees coming to them, but we do not understand this to have been the case in this instance. Possibly this reference to the matter will be sufficient to lead to such explanations as will set everything right and lead to justice being done the witnesses, if they have been wrongfully used in the premises.

It is said, we do not know on what authority, that the Hon. Joseph Martin is engaged upon an allegorical picture representing the political situation in this province as he sees it. British Columbia is to be depicted as a fair maiden in distress. Through the intervention of a mischief-making fairy, who is represented with luxuriant black whiskers, the maiden has been entrusted to the care of a well-meaning but very unsuspicious old man, whose features resemble those of the member from West Yale. Whispering into the ear of her guardian as a Machiavellian figure, whose countenance suggests a well-known newspaper man, who represents Vancouver in the legislature, and he is evidently trying to persuade the elderly guardian of the maiden that he ought to hand her over to his keeping. In the foreground is the Good Young Man, who has just arrived in the Nick of Time to save the Maiden from the Wiles of the Villain. Either modesty, or a feeling like that which led the Prophet of Korassan to wear a veil, has, led the creator of this work of art only a rear view of the Good Young Man; but a Winnipeg man, who claims to have seen the picture, says he would swear to the figure of the Good Young Man anywhere.

We think we have pretty warm politics in British Columbia, but we live in a refrigerator in this respect in comparison with our neighbors in the State of Washington. The congressional and state elections are now on there and the air is lurid with journalistic and oratorical pyrotechnics. The English language is being badly strained to afford adjectives that will do the opposite side justice, and the newspapers emphasize their views with big letters and fancy borders. To judge from the way the rivals talk about each other one would assume that "they never speak as they pass by," but that's the funny part of it. These terrific contests end on election day, and not the least feeling of soreness is left. On the latter score British Columbians could take a few lessons from their neighbors with profit.

It is a matter for profound amazement that out of some 3,000 votes, which might have been cast yesterday on the fire loan by-law, only 270 were cast in favor of it, and that the by-law was defeated. Such apathy on the part of the citizens may well be the despair of those who aim at advancing the interests of Victoria. We hope that no occasion will arise when the folly of yesterday's vote will be brought home to the people. The fire underwriters thought the proposed improvements were needed, the fire department thought so, the city council thought so. Nevertheless the city is to remain without adequate protection. Yesterday's vote may prove an expensive mistake.

The Kaiser's bodyguard in the Holy Land is a soldier, who is seven feet high and weighs 300 pounds. His chief merit, however, consists in his being the best swordsman in the army. How the little Emperor must envy his stalwart guard his majestic proportions and skill, and how strange it is that greatness of body and greatness of mind rarely go together. This observation only applies to height, for it is a fact that very many of the ablest men are very large of body. Henry Ward Beecher was credited with saying that a great orator needed a great stomach.

Public opinion in the East seems to be changing in regard to the Doukhobors, Mr. Sifton's latest addition to his colonization managerie. It is now said that they are very excellent people, and we observe that this is admitted by some of the minister's leading critics. The Colonist is very glad to be able to say this, for it would certainly be very unwise to locate a lot of undesirable settlers anywhere in even so vast a country as our Northwest.

The Nelson Miner says that the Colonist continues to complain of the royalty on Yukon gold. Our contemporary must have confounded some other paper with the Colonist. This paper has from the very first contended that a royalty should be collected. It has, however, on one or two occasions suggested that the rate might be varied so as to bear more lightly on the poorer claims.

Reference was made in the Colonist yesterday to the complaints of mariners because of the delay in placing the lights at Fiddler's Reef and Brotchie Ledge. Whatever merit there may be in the reasons given for the delay, there will be no disputing the proposition that the completion of these necessary aids to navigation should be hastened with all possible expedition.

Syracuse, N. Y., claims the doubtful honor of entertaining the devil just now. He is described as being very much like an ordinary man, except that his feet are cloven. Most people can recall more than one individual who possesses more than one resemblance to the personage in question.

The prospect of a rupture of negotiations between the United States and Spain is not by any means agreeable. We fear that if hostilities break out again, it may be difficult to confine them to the original combatants.

The case of Mrs. Kinsey, widow of Fireman Kinsey, who was buried yesterday, calls for attention. A list has been opened in the Colonist office to which those disposed to do so are invited to contribute.

If the Times knew that the alleged Klondike Nugget editorial was a hoax, that was all the more reason why it should not have printed it for a political purpose.

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

Premier Byrnes' Death Made Confusion in Queensland—New South Wales Ministry's Close Call.

The just elected parliament of New South Wales has had early opportunity of testing its strength—or weakness—on a straight want of confidence proposition, the debate upon which will be memorable.

The session had but barely been opened when the acts of the minister of public works, Mr. J. H. Young, in connection with the elections were held up to censure by the opposition leaders, and the Premier was led to appoint Mr. Justice Owen as a commissioner to investigate the alleged irregularities in the Hastings-Macleay division contest. This did not satisfy the opposition, however, and on the fourth day of the session Mr. Lyne moved:

"1. That in the opinion of this house the conduct of the minister for public works, Mr. J. H. Young, in relation to recent elections, is deserving of censure, and this house regrets to observe that such conduct has been defended by other ministers. 2. That the above resolution be communicated by address to His Excellency the Governor."

This proposition was formally read from the chair at half-past 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the 6th ultimo, and it was not until 9 o'clock the following morning that the vote was reached, and the government found itself sustained by the narrow margin of six votes, 52 members declaring in favor of the resolution and 58 against it, six pairs accounting for the other 12 members of the house.

The Queensland government is in difficulties. Following upon the death of Mr. Byrnes, the Governor sent for Mr. Dickson, who had been home secretary in the Byrnes administration, and charged him with the formation of a ministry. This Mr. Dickson did with a slight re-arrangement of portfolios, and leaving one vacant.

Immediately this was made known there was rumor of dissension. Thirteen members of the late government signed a round robin in favor of Mr. Philp, the treasurer, who, besides being an older member of the "Continuous Ministry" than Mr. Dickson, was a representative of the North.

A ministerialist caucus was summoned, at which nearly 40 members attended out of the 72 constituting the lower house. It then appeared that Mr. Philp had repeatedly declined to take the leadership of the government, and other ministers had likewise been backward, while promising support to Mr. Dickson, so that the summons of Lord Lamington found the latter gentleman in a strong position. The dissatisfaction was not altogether allayed, and although the caucus closed with a recognition of Mr. Dickson, the subsequent work of parliament showed this support to be nominal rather than actual.

It was felt that Mr. Dickson was not so well entitled as Mr. Philp by length of service to head the ministry. The former entered the government in 1897; Mr. Philp in 1893. Then dissatisfaction was felt with Mr. Dickson's attitude towards part of the Byrnes programme. However, the issue of the caucus was apparent party solidarity, and so Mr. Dickson met parliament."

CIVIC REFORM SCHEME.

St. Louis Man Proposes to Hang the Worst Man in Each Ward.

Mr. David J. Smythe, a resident of St. Louis, locally famous as a reformer, proposes that on each 1st of January, beginning with the approaching New Year's day, the citizens should hang the worst man in each ward, as a means of purifying the city. In order that there may be no mistakes made he proposes that the citizens of each ward decide by vote just who the worst citizen is. The man receiving the highest number of votes shall then be hanged at noon, January 1, by a hangman appointed by the Mayor. Candidates for the noose will be those of moral and personal wickedness and not only the men but the women should be entitled to vote. Smythe is perfectly honest and serious in his proposition and says that it would unquestionably result in purifying the social conditions of the city quicker than any other known means. He advances the argument that there are many wicked men in every ward and that the ward would be much better off if they were dead, but that it would be impracticable to hang them all. He believes that one would be an example, a martyr to the cause of social purity, and that the natural result would be that other wicked men of the ward would at once realize that another New Year's day was approaching and that unless they reformed they might the largest vote at the polls.

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IRISH REPARTEE.

Examples of the Wit of Some Noted Men.

London Telegraph.

Repartee and scarcasm are most wisely and skilfully used when they are employed in ridiculing humbugs, exposing shams, rebuking rudeness, punishing bullies and pricking the wind-bags of self-conceit. Chief Baron O'Grady, subsequently the first Lord Guillamore, had a dry humor and biting wit. The latter was so fine that its sarcasm was often unperceived by the object against whom it was directed. A legal friend of his, who was extremely studious, but in conversation exasperatingly dull, showed the judge over his newly-built house. The lawyer prided himself especially on a library, which he had contrived for his own use, so secluded from the rest of the building that he could never be disturbed in his private quite secure from disturbance. "This is capital," exclaimed O'Grady. "My dear fellow, you come here and study here from morning till night, and no human being would be one bit the wiser."

This recalls the capital story told of the late Father Healy, of Bray. A pompous friend was showing Father Healy and other guests through his new house, on which he had spend a good deal of furnishing and decorating. In the library the host, waving his hand toward the bookshelves, exclaimed: "Here, surrounded by these best friends, I feel most happy." "And I notice," said Father Healy, examining some of the volumes, "that, like a true friend, you never cut them."

During the famine of 1847 the local relief committee in Limerick had for one of its members a country landlord who had the reputation of being rather exacting to his tenants. "The people asked for bread, sir, and you threw them a stone," said a priest at one of the meetings of the committee. "Not at all, sir," replied the landlord; "they asked for potatoes, and I generally gave them half a stone." Potatoes are sold in Ireland by the stone weight. At a meeting of another of these local relief committees the question of a substitute for the potato was considered. "Don't you think, sir," said a member of the committee, addressing the chairman, "that turnips would be a wholesome and nutritious food for the people?" "Certainly," replied the chairman, "very wholesome and nutritious—with mutton, of course."

Charles Lever, the novelist, was once the guest of Dr. Whately, the Archbishop of Dublin, at his country seat. Among the other guests were some of the expectant clergy, who paid submissive court to their host. While the Archbishop and his guests were walking through the grounds the prelate plucked from a bush a leaf which, he declared, had a most nauseous flavor. "Taste it," said he, handing the leaf to one of the clergy. The latter smillingly obeyed, and then, with a wry face, subscribed to the botanical orthodoxy of the Archbishop. "Taste it, you, Lever," said the gratified prelate, handing the leaf to the novelist. "No, thank you," said Lever, laughing; "my brother is not in Your Grace's diocese."

Michael Joseph Barry, one of the "Young Ireland" poets, was appointed, long after 1848, a police magistrate in Dublin. During the Fenian troubles an Irish-American arrested in Dublin on suspicion of being in Ireland with serious designs was brought up before Barry. A constable swore that the suspect, when arrested, was wearing a Republican hat. "A Republican hat!" said the counsel for the prisoner; "does Your Worship know what that means?" "I presume," said Barry, "that a Republican hat is a hat without a crown."

A committee was formed to erect a monument over the grave of a popular Dublin physician who died some years ago and was buried at Mount Jerome cemetery. A witty citizen who was asked to suggest an inscription for the memorial recommended the use of the famous allusion to Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, in St. Paul's Cathedral, London: "Si monumentum requiris circumspice." "If you seek his monument look around; if you doubt his merit, behold his works." An eminent Dublin doctor was a member of a house party in the district in which he had begun his career. One day he was observed in a neighboring church yard. "What is he doing among the graves?" asked one of the party. "Paying a visit to some of his old patients," replied another.

There is one good old story of Irish repartee which had done duty for many years. It turns up again and again, but as there is real humor in it those who have often heard it must smile when it comes in their way. An English tourist, under the guidance of a peasant, was admiring the scenery of the Gatlee mountains. Pointing to a gap in the hills, the guide said it was known locally as "The Devil's Bit," and a low hill hard by was called "The Devil's Chair." "Indeed," remarked the Englishman, "the devil seems to have a good deal of property in these parts." "Yes, sir," rejoined the Irishman; "but he is an absentee landlord, and lives in England."

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. John Hendry, of the Hastings Mills, Says the Prospects Are Bright.

Mr. John Hendry, manager of the Hastings Saw Mill Co., returned on the Aorangi yesterday from a business visit to Australia, and was met by Mr. C. M. Beecher, of Vancouver, who informed him of the destruction of the company's mills by fire. Asked as to the prospect for trade in Australia, Mr. Hendry said he had not remained long enough to go very fully into the question, but from what he was able to observe and learn during his short stay he could say that the prospects were very promising. The business outlook for both lumber and in other lines was very good. The people of Australia were feeling more prosperous and there was consequently an increased demand. Mr. Hendry secured the service of an agent to look fully into the question of increasing his company's business in the Southern colony.

As to rebuilding the company's mills, he was not in a position to say anything.

Asserting Himself.—"I may be a hard drinker," said Tapley, with dignity, "and perhaps I show facial traces of it, but I'll have you to know, sir, that I am no Cyrano de Bergerac."—Philadelphia North American.

The Boston Girl.—"Were you out in all the rain?" asked the Clifton girl.

"No," said the young woman from Boston, "I was merely in the portion of the rain that descended in my immediate vicinity."—Cincinnati Enquirer.