The Colonist.

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"A POLITICAL EXODUS."

Under the above heading, our evening contemporary accuses the Premier, Mr. Robson, and the Attorney-General, Mr. Davie, of deserting their constituencies, because it has been rumored that the Premier, who now represents a Lower Fraser constituency, will run for some other place, and because Mr. Davie has chosen to contest Cowichan instead of Victoria City, and the organ asks

What stronger argument could be adduced than this, that the Times denunciation of these men has been based on good grounds." "They dare not stand for their old constituencies." Yet side by side with the article abusing Mr. Davie because he has chosen and Mr. Robson because it is rumored, that he will accept,—a new constituency, is the announcement that Mayor Grant, who has represented Cassiar for the last eight years, is one of "an admirable ticket" for the city of Victoria in the interests of the opposition. So that according to the Times Mr. Grant has "deserted" Cassiar; "dares not offer himself" there, and is open to the same "denunciation" which the Times has heaped upon the Premier and the Attorney-General.

Surely the Opposition ticket is weak enough without the Times crushing it in this way. The Times should try and be consistent sometimes, and not hurl boomerangs without recognising the nature or effect of the weapons it employs.

As to the Hon. the Premier, there is no likelihood of his not contesting a Lower Fraser constituency, in any one of which, or in any district of the Province, whether Mainland or Island, he would be returned with a triumphant majority, and as to the case of the Attorney-General, it is reasonable, and just, to other electoral districts that he should adopt a new constituency upon this the first opportunity which offers, as his colleague, Mr. Turner, the Finance Minister, already represents Victoria, and will offer himself here at the coming election, and other districts in the Province may naturally think that some of them have a claim to Cabinet representation as well as Victoria.

PEACE AND HARMONY.

The House of Commons on the 29th of last month saw the leader of the Government and the late leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Edward Blake, in complete accord and working zealously together to accomplish a common purpose. When Mr. Blake moved his amendment to the Finance Minister's motion that the House go into Committee of Supply he was ably and eloquently supported by Sir John Macdonald. As our readers, no doubt, remember, Mr. Blake's motion was to assert the expediency of providing means of referring laws passed by provincial legislatures as to the constitutionality of which there were grave doubts, to a high judicial tribunal. He prefaced his observations by saying that "recent events had convinced him that it was important in the public interest that this proposition should receive consideration during the present session. He propounded this proposition in no spirit of hostility towards the Administration."

Sir John Macdonald declared that he "accepted in the fullest sense the assurance given by his hon. friend that this matter had not been brought before the House in any spirit of hostility to the Administration of the day. On the contrary, he was grateful to the hon. gentleman for having brought in this subject in the very carefully prepared resolution that he had submitted, and still more for his able speech in which he had enforced the various propositions of the resolution. It was gratifying to know that there was in the House of Commons of Canada a gentleman who was able to give his time and his talents to bringing before the representatives of the people an important question like this."

It is most encouraging to see two of the ablest and most experienced legislators in the Dominion working thus cordially together for the good of the country. There are people in Canada who believe that if Sir John Macdonald said that an object was white it was Mr. Blake's bounden duty to declare it to be black, and we very much fear that these good people will begin to suspect that the two gentlemen were either not in earnest, or that one of them was disloyal to his principles when they thus complimented each other, and spoke on the same side on a subject of very great importance. But there are indications that the time has come when intelligent Canadians have ceased to regard those who differ with them on political matters as either reprobates or imbeciles, and the spectacle of these two statesmen, who have been life-long opponents, exchanging courtesies and expressing their cordial agreement with each other, will have the effect to make the rank and file of both parties more patient of each other's opinions and more appreciative of each other's good qualities.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY.

The Oregonian says that public opinion in the United States makes only a very feeble response to the declaration of the recent pan-American congress in favor of reciprocity treaties between this country and the Spanish Republics. It goes on to argue that reciprocity with neighboring nations is not beneficial to the United States as a whole. In proof of this assertion it declares that "it was proved fallacious in the case of Canada. Reciprocity with the Dominion simply opened our markets to her raw materials without materially increasing her demand for our manufactures. The benefits of the reciprocity were all on one side." This statement shows how readily even intelligent people are deceived by a misrepresentation. They too frequently repeat what they have heard without enquiring whether it is true or false. The Oregonian ought to know that there has never been a reciprocity treaty between the Dominion of Canada and the United States. The Dominion of Canada had no existence when the reciprocity treaty was entered into between Great Britain and the United States. What is now the Dominion was then a number of separate provinces, which, for purposes of trade, were as widely separated from each other as they were from the United States. The reciprocity treaty of 1854 was beneficial to the United States, perhaps, more beneficial than it was to the Provinces of British America. A reference to the trade statistics for the twelve years in which the treaty was in force, proves this beyond the shadow of a doubt.

A trade was then established between the Provinces which now form the Dominion, which has continued to flourish in spite of national jealousies and hostile tariffs.

That treaty was abrogated at the instance of the United States, not for commercial reasons, but on grounds that were almost purely sentimental. During the civil war many in British America favored the South, and were very demonstrative in the expression of their sympathy. This the people of the United States resented in the Trent affair, and the Alabama difficulty also caused the relations between the United States and Great Britain to be strained. It is well known that there was at the close of the war in the United States, particularly in the north and east, a strong feeling of resentment against Great Britain and Canada, and it was because this feeling was so active and so general that Congress, at the earliest day possible, gave the required notice of its intention to abrogate the Reciprocity Treaty.

It must be remembered, too, that the reciprocity under that Treaty was a partial reciprocity, a reciprocity of natural products only, and when the Oregonian objects that it did not increase Canada's demand for the manufactures of the United States, it finds fault with it for not doing what it was never intended to do. But even in this our contemporary is wrong, for the demand for American manufactured goods on this side of the line was quite considerable, and it went on increasing even after the Treaty was abrogated. One of the strongest arguments used by advocates of a protective tariff in Canada was that the Americans were making a slaughter market of the Dominion for its surplus manufactures, and by this means were making it impossible for manufactures to be carried on profitably in Canada.

We are a little surprised to see a United States newspaper disparaging reciprocity. The United States affords the most brilliant example of the good results of reciprocity in trade that is to be seen in the world. The trade reciprocity that exists between the different States of the Union is without doubt one of the chief causes of the wealth and the prosperity of the whole country. Californians do not enter into a minute calculation respecting the value of the commodities they send to Oregon. Neither do we see anything in the Oregonian about the balance of trade between Oregon and California, and it is the same between each State and all the others. Trade between them is as free as the winds that blow over the continent, and even freer, for there are no obstacles to prevent its taking its natural course.

If reciprocity is a good thing as between New York State and Washington State, and between California and Michigan, why should it not be good between Canada and California, or between the United States and the South American Republics? Why should not a principle which works so well over so large a portion of the continent work equally well over its whole extent? There may be political reasons why one part of the continent should forego the advantages of reciprocity in order to secure a purely national benefit, but it is difficult to see on economic grounds why the reciprocity, which produces such good results in one part of the continent, would not work equally well if its limits were extended.

Dr. Cronin's Final Burial.

CHICAGO, May 4.—Fully 5,000 people attended the ceremony of placing the body of the late Dr. Cronin in its last resting place at Calvary cemetery. The floral display was magnificent and the exercises touching. To-day is the first anniversary of the murder.

BALFOUR'S BILL.

The Irish Land Bill is the main topic of discussion among politicians in Great Britain just now. It is a scheme to enable the tenants of Ireland to purchase their holdings from the proprietors. The Government is to advance the purchase money and the tenant is to pay the Government by instalments; the period of payment is to extend over forty-nine years. The sale and purchase are to be voluntary. The bill, as far as we can learn, is not liked by either the landlords or the tenants. The landlords think it is too favorable to the tenantry and the tenants denounce it as a landlords' bill. Being condemned by both the parties concerned, it might be thought to be an impracticable measure, but that is not the opinion which competent men who have studied it carefully have formed of it. It is regarded by many as fair to all concerned—to the British taxpayer, to the Irish tenant, and to the Irish landlord. The bill is Mr. Balfour's, and he, by the way in which he defends it, has raised himself in the estimation of men of all parties.

The Secretary for Ireland is a growing man. He was first looked upon as a kind of political dude. But it was soon found that he was a man of unbending will and an opponent whom it was dangerous to attack. He is fast developing into a statesman whose ability commands the respect of even his most bitter opponents. His friends are, of course, delighted to see him working his way to the front. His Irish Land Purchase Bill, however, does not, by any means, please them all. At a meeting of the Fermanagh landlords held in the Enniskillen Court-house on the 5th of last month, not one of the speakers expressed himself favorably to the measure, while there were many who condemned it in very strong terms indeed. The Earl of Belmore, who presided, went so far as to say that it was "an honest attempt to take another step toward settling the land question; but neither Mr. Balfour, nor anyone else, could finally settle it." Another noble lord criticised it sharply and declared it ought to be called "A bill to facilitate the expulsion of the English garrison from Ireland." Mr. J. G. C. Porter "appealed to English and Scotch members not to pass, without any due cause, this violent measure, which was sure to lead to measures of similar violence in their own country." Mr. Montgomery characterized it as "an apple to discord, which was quite unnecessarily thrown between the two classes" (landlords and tenants). He also said: "Had half the ingenuity displayed in securing the British taxpayer from risks which he ought to be ashamed to shirk, been devoted to devising the means to smooth the working of the measure and to do some sort of justice to the landlord by enabling him to get a fair equivalent for the holding value of his property in good districts, without requiring special payment from tenants in such districts, the bill might have been an acceptable one."

If the opinion of these Fermanagh landlords is the one that has been formed of Mr. Balfour's bill by Irish landlords generally, it will have to be admitted that it could not have been drawn up with the view of increasing his popularity and the popularity of the Government with that class of the electorate in Ireland. The truth seems to be that he did not seek to please either landlord or tenant, but to devise a measure which would be fair to both, and which would have the effect of settling the land question in that greatly disturbed country.

A GREAT ENTERPRISE.

This is the day of great enterprises. Almost every day we hear of wonderful undertakings which, a few years ago, would have been set down as sheer impossibilities. We have in our day seen this continent crossed by a number of railroads. One ocean canal has been completed and two others have been commenced. Lines of floating palaces have been established, which cross the ocean with a speed that our fathers would have regarded as little less than miraculous. Cables have been laid under thousands of miles of ocean which convey intelligence from one continent to another with the speed of lightning. Over every civilized country is a network of telegraphs of great intricacy and of enormous length.

A railway is projected to cross the Continent of Asia from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and now we read of a syndicate of capitalists who have undertaken to construct a railway from Mexico, through the Central American States to Costa Rica. This syndicate is composed of Englishmen. These men have not been talking merely. They have been acting. They have explored the country through which their line is to run, and they have secured concessions from several of the Central American Governments. The Northern terminus is a place in Mexico called Oaxaca; the road is to run through Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua to Costa Rica. The country almost throughout its whole extent is productive, although as far it is not inhabited by people who are prepared to make the most of their advantages. The length of the line from the City of Mexico to Costa Rica is some 1,700 miles. On this line there are already 295 miles constructed and in operation; 780 are being surveyed and constructed, leaving 625 still to be located.

By this new road Central America will be connected with the railway systems of the whole North American continent. So that the time is not far distant when the traveller will be able to purchase a ticket in Victoria for Costa Rica direct. But more than this is proposed. There are, as the reader knows, railroads in South America. From the southern terminus of the Costa Rican road to the northern boundary of South America the distance is about 130 miles. There are no railroads as yet in the northern part of South America, but there are roads in Brazil, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, and Chili. Roads are being built in Bolivia and Peru. When these are finished there will be communication from Buenos Ayres to Cusco, in Peru, a distance of some 2,190 miles. But there are about 2,200 miles of the continent to traverse before the southern boundary of the Costa Rican Railroad is reached. That gap will be crossed, one of these days, and there will be railroad communication from one end of this great continent nearly to the other. A railroad journey from British Columbia to the Argentine Republic will be worth taking. Is the man who will take it yet born? Who knows?

A DEFENCE OF THE SENATE.

The Hon Mr. Abbott made a very able defence of the Senate a few days ago against an attack by Senator Poirier. This was Mr. Poirier's motion:

"That an humble address be presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty, praying for the amendment of the British North America act so that Senators shall hereafterward, as their seats become vacant, be appointed by the Provincial Legislatures, the Crown to retain the right of appointment of three or six additional Senators as now exists in the constitution."

Mr. Poirier, as the reader sees, wishes the Dominion to adopt the American plan of electing Senators. Mr. Abbott and the majority of the Senators were, as may readily be conjectured, opposed to Americanizing our institutions in this fashion. Mr. Abbott's plea for the continuation of the present constitution was exceedingly able, and his arguments showing that the nominative system is preferable to the elective, if they were not conclusive, were very ingenious. He maintained that the Dominion Senate does a great deal of very important work and that it does it well, and he spoke of the jokes which the newspapers are continually making at the expense of the Senate with good-humored contempt.

Mr. Abbott bears strong testimony to the ability and the patriotism of the members of the Dominion Senate. He said:

"My experience of the Senate proves that, whether its members be appointed by a Liberal or a Conservative Government, they have shown since I remember this House—and I have observed it more nearly since I have been more intimately acquainted with it of late—a disposition to study the true interest of the country in disregard of party feeling and party discussion, that befits them in the high position they hold as Senators of this Dominion. The result, therefore, in the opinion of my honfriend of the change he proposes to make, would be, that we would have better men, men of high standing in the country and men with less party feeling. In my opinion we would not have men of equal standing in the appointments which would be made by the local Legislatures; they would not probably be equal to the selections which are made by the Dominion Parliament from the whole Dominion of Canada. And, probably, they would be more likely to be animated by party feeling than those men who have had a large experience of the affairs of the Dominion itself, which is actually the case with three-fourths of the men sitting around me in this House. They would have a larger training on the great questions which are constantly arising; and would have a larger grasp of the measures which are fitted for the welfare and progress of their country. I think, therefore, on all these grounds—on the ground of independence, on the ground of absence of party feeling, on the ground of experience and breadth of views, and on the ground of better training for the high position which they hold—a better selection would be made by the Parliament of the Dominion than could be expected to be made by the Legislatures of the Provinces, without any exception. That is the deliberate conclusion I have come to, and I think the circumstances, and reason, and common sense, would indicate that from a larger field, a larger and more experienced body of men, from a larger collection of trained statesmen, we are more likely to get men fitted to be Senators of Canada than from the smaller Legislatures by selecting less experienced persons from the smaller circles of public men in the local Legislatures.

It cannot be denied that Mr. Abbott makes out a strong case for the Senate, and for the nominative system.

It is thought by many that the Senate does nothing—that during the session the Senators doze away the time in their magnificent and very comfortable chamber, and that their chief duty is to receive their sessional allowance. Some will go so far as to admit that they dot the i's and cross the t's of the bills sent up to them from the House of Commons, and that they now and then go so far as to make verbal alterations in the measures which it is their duty to consider and pass. Mr. Abbott corrects this mistake. He said:—

"Instead of being, as is supposed by some, mere registrars of the will of the Government in another House, bound by gratitude, like the hon. gentleman from New Westminster, to vote exactly for what they desire us to do, we find that last year we passed through this House twenty-five bills introduced in the House of Commons, of which thirteen were amended, many of them in a material degree, while the House was in session. We have already dealt this year with twenty-two of these bills of which sixteen have been amended, and every hon. gentleman knows that there are one or two important measures we have gone through with enormous care, which it is admitted on all hands we have benefitted to a most important extent, but which are not included in this list, not having been finished in this House. In the past year, from the House of Commons, we took up and disposed of thirty-seven public bills, of which fifteen were materially amended in this House, and we disposed of fifty-nine private bills, of which twenty were materially amended in the Senate; making a total last year of 121 bills considered by the Senate, of which forty-eight bills were materially amended in the course of their passage through the House. This year the number is not so great, because they have not all come before the Senate, but this year we have already disposed of eighty-eight Bills, of which forty-two have been materially amended in this House. Now, of all the Bills that have thus been amended which had first passed through the crucible of the House of Commons, and were sent back to that House, with amendments made by us, we have never had any hesitation shown by the Lower House in concurring in the amendments that we made, except in one instance. Last year we received in message from the Lower House informing us that they could not concur in one of our amendments, for reasons which they gave. Our committee met and examined the message and the reasons, and they sent to the lower House an answer to those reasons, as being the reasons which had induced them to make the amendment. The House of Commons immediately accepted the reasons which were given to them in reply, and adopted the amendments without further discussion. So, in point of fact, of this immense number of bills carefully gone through and amended in this House, every one has been accepted by the lower House without objection except one, and in that case, after consideration and hearing the reasons which had prompted this House to make the amendment, that one was accepted also, without further objection. We performed another branch of our duties last year—it was not particularly agreeable to me, but on the whole I respected the Senate for doing what the majority considered to be its duty on that occasion, and I am bound to believe that the majority was right. A Government Bill passed by the House of Commons, which the majority of this House disapproved of, was brought before the Senate and was unceremoniously rejected. I did my best to carry it through: I thought it ought to pass; I thought we were pledged to it in many ways. I gave various reasons why it ought to have passed the House and I think, abstractedly speaking, it ought to have passed the House, but the majority of the Senate were opposed to it, and notwithstanding their gratitude to the gentleman who appointed them they rejected the bill after a comparatively short discussion."

So much has there been said and written against the Senate, it has been ridiculed so mercilessly and abused so violently, that we thought it but fair to let our readers see part of what its leader had to say in its favor.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.

The Seattle incident, recorded in our sporting column of yesterday, is an example of what is continually going on in what is called the sporting world. "Put up jobs" are the rule, not the exception. The man who stakes his money on any event in which professional sports are the principals, may consider that the chances are ten to one in favor of his being victimized. The "tips" are oftener bad than good—the hints given to outsiders for the purpose of tempting them to risk their money. Smith thought he was doing a smart thing to get a "tip" from Cameron, who, if the match was to be fairly conducted, had no business to give one, and Smith's friends, who bet on Cameron, believing that he had arranged to win the match, did what was mean and dishonest, and it only served them right to lose their money. Their anger when they found they had lost, and their abuse of Cameron for deceiving them, appear to us to be very ridiculous. They did not hesitate to take what they considered a "tip" from Cameron, and to bet on what they were led to believe was "a dead sure thing." They took no chances. They willingly became Cameron's partners in a fraud, and they were served very well right when they lost their money. Whether or not they were the victims of a plot matters but little. They plotted to take an unfair advantage of others and if they were outwitted and cheated themselves they are not in the least to be pitied. There is nothing in the account that we have seen to show whether the letter from Quinn alleged to have been produced by Cameron was genuine or not. If it was it only adds another dishonest feature to the transaction.

The dishonesty of this professional sporting business has become so glaring and so notorious that we are surprised that it receives any countenance from men who believe in fair and open dealing. For our part we would rather lose money by having it stolen from us by a professional pickpocket than to be cheated out of it under the guise of betting by these professional sports. These men ought to be shunned. The young man who, deceived by their plausible manners and their emphatic declarations that everything is fair, risks his money on their sporting events is sure, sooner or later, to be victimized. As for the man who seeks what he regards as a "tip" in order that he may bet on a "dead sure thing," he deserves the worst that can befall him.

One of the bad results of this professional sporting is that it brings legitimate sport into disrepute. When it is known that many who follow sporting as an occupation are blacklegs, who will swindle those who trust them, the odium that very properly attaches to these sharpers is apt to fall upon men who engage in similar sports for recreation and healthy excitement. The way to avoid this is to have the distinction between "professionals," and amateurs made as distinct and as wide as possible.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Esquimalt Dock Papers to be Brought Down.

The Canadian Copyright Act to be Disallowed.

Newfoundland Receives Aid From Prince Edward Island in the Lobster Fishery Dispute.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, Ont., May 7.—Advices just received from England state that the Imperial government has definitely decided to disallow the Canadian Copyright Act of last session. The official reply to Sir John Thompson's message regarding the Act has not yet been received, and the government therefore will not act for the present.

Barron has asked a series of questions in reference to the McGreevy scandal.

Langevin has promised to table all papers relating to the Esquimalt contract.

The Opposition has made a last kick on the tariff resolution, Cartwright declaring that increased taxation was unnecessary in view of the surpluses. The motion was lost by 31 majority.

The Anti-Combines amendment bill has been finally rejected by the Senate to-night on a vote of 27 to 14.

A deputation asked Sir Adolphe Caron to-night for a grant of free ammunition for military league matches.

The Prince Edward Island legislature has adopted the resolution of Newfoundland in their protest against the lobster fishing modus vivendi.

WESTMINSTER SPECIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 7.—It has been learned from Ottawa, much to the surprise of our parliamentary aspirants, that the writ for the Westminster election has not been sent forward, but will be this week.

The B. C. Fruit Growers' association meeting concluded its business at Maple Ridge this morning. The annual meeting will be held in Westminster in August.

The carpenters' strike has ended in a complete victory for the men; the contractors having all signed the agreement for nine hours and $3 per day.

The new wharf for the Southern railway at Brownsville has been commenced.

THE SUPPLEMENTARIES.

One Million and a Half Dollars to be Voted.

Nearly $40,000 to be Expended in Victoria City.

A New Steamer to Replace the Sir James Douglas at a Cost of $70,000.

The Mail Subsidies to be Provided for in Further Supplementary Estimates.

No Appropriation for the Improvement of Victoria Harbor Until It Is Properly Surveyed.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 6.—The supplementary estimates for the next fiscal year were presented this evening. One million and a half is to be voted. British Columbia does well.

For Vancouver post office and Custom house $30,000 is appropriated.

For Victoria drill hall, the city furnishing the site free of cost, $10,000.

For Victoria post office improvements, $800.

Additional executive accommodation at Victoria, customs and inland revenue purposes, $1,200.

Victoria Dominion building, vault in Assistant Receiver General's office, $2,500.

Victoria military buildings, artillery barracks, $16,000.

Victoria guard room and gateway, $2,700.

Victoria examination warehouse, $6,000.

For Columbia river improvement, between the mouth of the Kootenay river and the international boundary, $6,000.

Nicomekle river, $500.

Skeena River, $2,000.

New dredging plant for the Columbia, $5,000.

Reconstruction of the telegraph line from Ashcroft to Barkerville, $12,000.

New steamer to replace the Sir James Douglas in the British Columbia service, to be purchased at a cost of $70,000.

For Indian schools on Cornorant Island, Alert Bay, $2,700.

Kootenay Industrial school, $2,500.

W. H. Robertson, trade instructor at the Metlakatla Indian school, $1,300.

Assistant-Inspector of Weights and Measures at Victoria, to be appointed, salary $600.

Miss Harriet Fraser receives an annuity of $250, and Roderick Fraser $150, in recognition of the services of their father in exploring British Columbia.

The total immigration vote is $200,000; and $5,000 for the Jamaica exhibition.

Mr. Earle was greatly surprised at there being no appropriation for mail services. He promptly saw Hon. Mr. Langevin, who stated that further supplementaries would contain an appropriation of $15,000 for the Victoria-Vancouver and Victoria-Westminster services.

There is no vote for the Nanaimo service.

There is nothing further voted for Victoria harbor. Hon. Mr. Langevin says the government must have an accurate survey of the harbor made before embarking on a scheme adequate to the needs of the port. He promises to have a survey made this summer.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

OTTAWA, May 6.—The government will grant a subsidy of 3,840 acres per mile to the Galt line for one hundred miles of railway from Lethbridge toward the Crow's Nest Pass.

Girard brought up in the Senate the question of exploration in the Mackenzie River district. Hon. Mr. Abbott said an exploratory expedition would be sent this year.

The Territories bill made slow progress in the Commons to-day. There is a report that the government is likely to withdraw the measure.

McCarthy tries again to strike out the dual language clause and leave the question of education with the legislature.

WESTMINSTER SPECIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., May 6.—The carpenters' strike is still on, but the situation has somewhat changed today. All the contractors, with three exceptions, have signed to return to the nine hour system, and their men have been given permits by the brotherhood to return to work. The boycott against the firms holding out is still strictly maintained. The victory of the men will be complete.

A deputation of directors of the Victoria, Saanich and Westminster railway waited on the mayor and council this afternoon, and laid the scheme before them. The directors declared their ability to have the road constructed and in running order before the end of the year, and wished to know what assistance Westminster would give the project. The mayor replied that the matter would be considered at an early date and every consideration given it.

The weather is very warm and rain is badly needed.

The river still continues to rise, greatly lessening the chances of a June flood.

The Fraser river at Sumas Landing has only another hundred yards to eat away, and then the river will burst into that fertile valley and find an exit to the sea through American territory. The bank is being eaten away every day, and unless prompt measures are taken the narrow strip will be gone before fall, and possibly much sooner. Increasing alarm is felt in the neighborhood of Sumas.

CABLE NEWS.

Shocking Revelations.

VIENNA, May 5.—The entire staff of the doctors, superintendents and wardens of the great government insane asylum at Pressburg have been placed under arrest in consequence of the disgraceful acts of cruelty and barbarity brought to light by the committee on investigation. The latter has been appointed by the minister of the interior in deference to popular outcry concerning the surprisingly frequent deaths that took place in the establishment. The scandal attracts widespread atten-

A SHROUD OF FLAME.

Fire in the Longue Pointe Lunatic Asylum,

The Maniacs Shrieked with Glee at the Flames.

Many Lives Lost Owing to the Impossibility of Rescuing the Demented Inmates.

LONGUE POINTE, Que., May 6.—A long line of gaunt towers is all one now sees of the Longue Pointe lunatic asylum, located ten miles from Montreal, and which, with many lives, was to-day consumed by flames. The sights witnessed during this tragic scene were such as can never be forgotten. Nothing could exceed the horror attending the terrible calamity, considering the number of the victims, the terrible nature of their death, and the manner in which the helpless victims received their fate.

What to the spectators was a scene of horror was to the lunatics one of the most supreme glee, and in their delight they disported themselves in the flames and waved their blazing limbs in tribulent satisfaction at the ruin that was about them, and not until the walls tumbled over their heads were their maniacal screams silenced.

There were incarcerated in Longue Pointe 1,300 lunatics, that asylum was a prison more than a hospital, and now not more than 1,100 are accounted for, but many escaped into the fields and woods and the dead are ashes amongst the ruins. What the number of the dead is, is purely a matter of conjecture and can never be ascertained, since no other record is kept than that in the asylum books, and they are destroyed. Taking into consideration the whole of the evidence from the firemen, half of that of the sane inmates and that of the sisters in charge, it is a conservative estimate to say 100 inmates met death, though some say the number is double that, and others place it below this figure. However, the fact remains that no such calamity has fallen on the province of Quebec since the earliest times.

From the construction of the building, there is doubt in some minds as to whether it was intended for an asylum or a blast furnace. In any case it served the latter purpose admirably. It was nonstructed of brick, and was 600 feet long, running back from the river. The main building occupied the centre, and on each side extended four wings six stories in height.

THE FIRE STARTED

in a cupboard in the second ward on the woman's side, in the upper story, by a careless patient, and as the ventilation was carried by a longitudinal shaft connected with the towers, the flames soon appeared blazing up through the roof in the centre of each tower. A telegram was sent to Montreal for aid, and the engine and reels started at once. They might as well have remained at home. In five minutes they exhausted the water supply. The only thing that could save the building was the St. Lawrence river, and it was half a mile distant. When the Associated Press reporter arrived with the firemen the dome of the towers had just fallen, and flames were bursting out everywhere.

As the heat increased the statues fell from their niches to the ground, and the inhabitants prostrated themselves, crying aloud that the saints had deserted them. Bedsteads and utensils of every description were being showered from the windows, and a stream of ill-clad men poured out of the eastern wing.

Not a male patient was lost. Among the women it was different. The less hopeless cases were placed in the lower wards, and they were removed with difficulty. From the upper ward, where the violent patients were placed, came the wildest screams, as they resisted the men who were trying to induce them to make their escape.

AT TIMES A MANIAC

would be seen peering through the bars, grinning and jabbering at the bright flame that went up to the sky. As the heat became more intense she would grasp the bars and remain there until the flames enveloped her. The inhabitants had come from all parts around about, attracted by the blaze, and in an hour the little village was full of surging, shouting, vociferating people.

When the firemen found they were powerless to save the building they turned their attention to the inmates and burst in the doors with axes. Inside, Chief Bevoil says, was such a sight as no fireman ever before witnessed. In one ward he entered there were twenty-five patients, and at his appearance they huddled together like a pack of beasts, entwining their arms into one mass of humanity. He seized the nearest, but, said the chief, "I could no more separate the crowd than I could the parts of your house." He tugged at them till the fire darted in their garments and enfolded them like a shroud of flame, and then he escaped with his life. In another ward three firemen were nearly trapped to death. They entered a room and the door, which had a spring lock, closed behind them. As is customary, there was no handle on the inside. The door resisted their axes and they rushed to a window but were driven back by the flames. The chief, suspecting their peril, sent aid to the other side and the men were carried down on ladders. The engineer of the building did good work, saving nine patients, and every fireman made a record of which he may feel proud.

ON THE FIRST ALARM

the engineer turned on the hose, but it was utterly useless, as the fire leaped along the ventilating shaft to the towers and burned in a dozen places at once. One of the nuns, Sister Mary, lay sick in the infirmary on the fifth floor, and to her rescue came three others, Demorest, Gilbert and Lumiere. They seized their companion and bore her in a blanket to the staircase, but they were met by a sheet of flame and all perished. None of these were over 30 years of age.

The Sisters worked with the persistence of heroines, by turns imploring, beseeching and commanding the patients, and finally saving a very large number, in view of the inadequate facilities at hand.

A loud explosion was followed by the crash of beams. The interior was giving way. Wild faces sank from the windows and shrieks of maniacs were lost in the general uproar, and, as one by one the walls toppled inward, a blaze burst up from the newly added part that rose to the dark sky and shot its glare over the St. Lawrence to the southern shore, and even tinged the crest of Mount Royal, ten miles distant. Then it died into blackness and nothing but the towers remained, bounded by a seething mass of metal and debris, under which are not the bodies, but the ashes, of a hundred victims. By this time it was 6 o'clock and growing dark and very cold. The spring rains had converted the place into a quagmire, and only horsemen could get from place to place.

THE POOR SISTERS,

most of them young and delicate, stood ankle-deep in the mud, assisting and superintending the removal of such furniture as had been saved. The patients wandered about aimlessly, clad in scant garments. When released many of them leaped for joy and bounded like deer across the fields to the woods. Patients of both sexes escaped, and though a cordon of police was thrown around, not all were included. As is customary, there was no handle on the inside. The door resisted their axes and they rushed to a window but were driven back by the flames. The chief, suspecting their peril, sent aid to the other side and the men were carried down on ladders. The engineer of the building did good work, saving nine patients, and every fireman made a record of which he may feel proud.

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EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

THE GOVERNMENT LICENSE BILL.

LONDON, May 7.—The fight which the radicals and temperance party are making against the government's bill reorganizing the system of licensing public houses, their opposition being directed particularly against the proposal to compensate publicans for the loss of their licenses by reason of the curtailment of the number to be issued, is becoming more formidable daily. The government is literally flooded with protests against the measure, and every member of the house of Commons, without regard to his politics, has received one or more petitions from his constituents, or some other source, beseeching him to vote down the offensive clause. The basis of the opposition of the total abstainers is the provision committing the public authorities to the purchase of the licenses to be revoked, which plan, they claim, open the way to collusion between the retiring publicans and the authorities to the end of defrauding the treasury. This question, they maintain, is of sufficient importance to justify its submission to a popular vote, when they hope to elect a number of purely temperance candidates to parliament on the issues raised.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

W. G. Wagstaff, the British consul of Taganrog, on the north shore of the Sea of Azov, reports that there are nearly half a million tons of wheat stored in the various Azov ports awaiting better prices in England. At the present prices the owners assert the shipment of grain to British ports would involve a heavy loss, despite the fact that vessels are easily obtainable at rates very little above the actual cost of carrying, owing to the stagnation of the shipping trade generally.

THE LABOR AGITATION.

The effect of the great labor agitation now prevalent is becoming more manifest in the voluntary or enforced concessions to their employes on the part of the masters. Already the master tailors are weakening, and a large number of striking journeymen are returning to work on the terms for which they struck, the result being that the strike which promised to become general yesterday is about over. The firm of H. W. Castor & Co., proprietors of one of the largest type foundries in England, have granted an eight hour day to their employes at the same pay they formerly received for ten hours' labor.

TELEGRAPH CONGRESS.

The German government has decided to request the other powers to participate in an international telegraph congress to be held in Paris, to discuss the feasibility of reducing telegraphic tolls throughout central Europe to a uniform rate of ten pfennigs (2½ cents) a word.

A NEW CONSULATE.

It is reported in Berlin that the United States government contemplates the establishment of a consulate at Cassaly.

Sealing schooner Venture arrived in from the West Coast last evening, with 150 skins and all well on board.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

ON AND AFTER THE SEVENTEENTH day of May, the workshops of the undersigned Horse shoers and Carriage builders will be closed every Saturday at one o'clock.

(Signed,)

W. C. BRYANT & SON, W. LEDINGHAM, M. J. CONLIN, JAMES HAY, GEO. LEDINGHAM, A. MCGREGOR, J. W. KNIGHT, JOHN MESTON, WM. MABLE, WM. MCCURRACH, W. J. HODGE, W. MCKITRIK, WM. POWELL, HUGH CALDWELL, P. W. DEMPSTER, F. F. BEEK.

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NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT we intend to make application in sixty days to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 160 acres of land, situated on the west shore of Oxtail river commencing at a stake marked B, then running 40 chains along the shore down the river to a stake marked D, to a place called Soldiers Camp, thence 40 chains in a westerly direction, thence 40 chains in a southerly direction, thence about 40 chains to point of beginning.

FRANK RYDSTEDT,
HERMANN BRANTLECHT.

Port Essington, 24 April