

the local trading community. And yet these men commit what would be in other businesses an unreciprocal act that would be tantamount to business suicide. One can scarcely wonder at "hard times," and complaining business men when there are such drones in the human hive; the only way to remedy such a state of affairs is to adopt the practice of the bees, and drive these contemptible drones out until they can learn more honest and helpful habits.

The meeting at The Victoria last Monday evening demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that Victoria will return four Government supporters July 7. The people realize the fact that in these days of financial unrest, when every country seems to be standing on the verge of a crisis, that it would be unwise to give the reins of Government into the hands of a party composed of antagonistic factions. As was pointed out by the Premier and the Finance Minister, the credit of British Columbia stands second in the money centres of the world. Supposing it should go forth that the people had dismissed a Government that had brought about this desirable condition of affairs and placed in power a lot of men who so far have not shown themselves to hold any view in common with one another except opposition to the party in power, the credit of the Province would soon be affected. Every financier and every business man appreciates the fact that British Columbia cannot afford to take risks with her credit, and furthermore, they can see the disaster that would be inevitable should British Columbia,—where our leading financial institutions have weathered the storm, and where our credit has stood firm in the face of commercial chaos in other parts of the world—return to power the men who are now knocking at the doors of the legislation halls.

Government is a business that in an eminent degree requires skill and training, and, with one or two exceptions, it may be asked, in what way have those now running in opposition to the Davie Government ever demonstrated the qualifications that are the essentials of a legislator. What sort of legislation might we expect from such men as Tom Keith? And it should be remembered that Mr. Keith is an aspirant for a seat in the cabinet, should the present Government be defeated. The Western States have had some experience of the legislation provided by men of the Keith stamp, with the result that capital, always sensitive and never more so than now, refused to participate in the doubtful security afforded by a lot of howling dervishes.

The first duty of the country, therefore, is to take care that a majority of members

are sent back to Parliament to support a Government that has always been prudent, always progressive, always economical, but seldom niggardly, and always ready to go the full length of public sentiment in reforming and simplifying the laws, ameliorating the condition of the masses of the people, protecting but regulating the professions, restraining the power and circumscribing the privileges of corporations, but maintaining as a first and paramount duty the credit and good financial repute of the Province.

There are many in Victoria who will deeply regret the heavy sentence which was passed on Erastus Wiman, and none more so than Mr. William Cullin, sr., the oldest printer in the city, who knew 'Ras Wiman intimately when he worked in the old *North-American* newspaper office in Toronto, years ago. The *North-American* was published by Hon. William McDougall, Mr. Wiman's uncle, and it was in that office that the man whose name a few years ago was on the lips of every politician in Canada and the United States secured his first knowledge of the newspaper business. At that time, which is nearly forty years ago, Mr. Wiman was a temperance enthusiast, and Mr. Cullin, who was a prime mover in the organization of temperance societies, had ample opportunity of observing the character of the young fellow. He says that Wiman was an impulsive young man. In everything he undertook, he acted on the spur of the moment. Possibly it was to this same impulsiveness that the downfall of Mr. Wiman can be attributed. Very few believe that the once great leader in the movement for commercial union committed with criminal intent the act for which he must now serve five years and a-half in State's prison.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

WHEN Mrs. Grover Cleveland was Miss Folsom and not long out of school, she visited a cousin who was at that time living in a little inland town in New York. Boarding at the same house with herself was a youth not overburdened with brains—in fact, a good deal of village butt. This young man came in Miss Folsom's way and was naturally introduced to her. Some days passed in her stay there, and he was conspicuously devoted in attentions that were very good naturedly received. Not very long ago this same fellow went down to Washington on one of the many cheap excursions. Some of his home tormentors thought it would be a good joke to propose that he should call at the White House and renew his acquaintance with the president's wife. He saw nothing ridiculous in the idea and followed it up. Of course Mrs. Cleveland

must have taken in the whole situation at a glance. She received her caller in the kindest manner, although with perfect dignity. He suggested that he should like to meet her husband, and she actually called the president in. Not a look nor word passed between them, but he, too, must have thoroughly understood, for he showed the guest every attention in the few minutes that he could give him. As the whole affair turned out, those who proposed the visit were fooled and not at all the supposititious victim.

A few successful women book agents find it profitable, it is said, to canvass the suburbs of New York city with coach and pair. They sell only expensive books, dress richly, approach well-appearing houses with confidence, send in a card that bears no business mark, and are usually ushered into the drawing-room or library, and received with consideration. The cost of travelling about in such fashion must be something near five dollars per day, and, apparently, there is enough profit in the business to justify the assuming of the expense.

Let me now, dear Lady Betty, writes Linkman in London *Truth*, present my social reports in the stereotyped newspaper style. During the past week the matrimonial trade has been very active, but widows have sold slowly and unsatisfactorily. English heiresses keep very dear. Peerages are a little cheaper in the best sorts, and eldest sons are not so expensive as hitherto. Some fat stock-jobbers have fetched good prices during the week. Younger sons and soldiers are going at low prices. Americans are very cheap, and company promoters inexpensive. There is a little change to record in the detrimental market. There has been a good supply, but a moderate demand. Ministerial private secretaries, Government clerks, and colonels on half-pay are all tending to lower prices. Curates are still dear. Musicians are fairly cheap, as are amateur gentlemen and elderly young men. Spring captains, adventurers, bankrupts and paupers are all plentiful, and country cousins are cheaper than usual owing to the depreciation in land. Transatlantic heiresses are now quite cheap. There have been good supplies from the Continent. German millionaires are coming in now that the English are going out. The weather has been excellent this week for flirting, there has been a fair amount of rainfall, but it has not disturbed engagements sufficiently to spoil sport, and in many of the London drawing-rooms very creditable results have been secured. There is tolerably good flirting in Rotten Row at this season, but it is best not to dally there, but to get higher up into