MR. SWORD WILL RUN.

Accredited as Ablest Legislator Extant and Having Ear of the Government.

He Says Victoria and Esquimalt Are Over R presented—Sentence on Alberni Reserved.

Premier Semlin States the Consequences of Rejecting His Private Secretary.

By Our Own Reporter.

Duncan's, Dec. 13.—A meeting of supporters of the Semlin government was held here to-night for the purpose of choosing a candidate to oppose Mr. W. R. Robertson, the choice of the electors of Cowichan at the general elections. At least that was the object according to the chairman, Mr. W. C. Duncan, but it was apparent before the meeting proceeded far that the candidate had already been decided upon by the small clique who are opposing Mr. Robertson, in the person of Mr. Sword, private secretary to the Premier, and who has been tried and rejected by the people of Dewdney.

A few evenings ago 22 electors got together and drew up a requisition asking Mr. Sword to accept the nomination. Yesterday, however, representatives of Dr. Lewis Hall, of Victoria, went through the district and threatened to upset the plans so carefully and quietly laid by the little committee. Premier Semlin was therefore sent for, and this evening he declared his preference for Mr. Sword, and succeeded in influencing about 40 electors at the meeting to accept his advice.

After Chairman Duncan had stated the object of the meeting to select a candidate, he read a requisition to Mr. Sword and called on that gentleman to speak. Mr. Sword expressed surprise at having been asked to run. He admitted that his being an outsider was a great disadvantage, and continuing said he felt that Mr. Robertson should not have been opposed, until the opposition decided to contest Alberni. Had they left Alberni alone, he would not have been a candidate in Cowichan. There was no fault to find with the electors for wishing a representative of the district to represent them; in fact, he considered Mr. Robertson a very good man, if he would only support the Semlin government. The speaker apologized for the failure of the committee to invite Mr. Robertson to attend the meeting. Since commencing his canvass he had been told that he should not run for an Island district, and also that Mr. Turner should not have been dismissed by the Lieutenant-Governor. He contended that the Lieutenant-Governor was justified in the action he had taken, but he could not understand his calling on Mr. Beaven.

Mr. Sword said he was one of those who thought Victoria over-represented, also Alberni and Esquimalt, although the development of Alberni might entitle that district to a member. He read the government platform, and said they were trying to carry out their promises, commencing with the re-organization of the civil service. After reference to a few other subjects, he concluded by stating that Premier Semlin was present and would no doubt endorse his candidature.

Premier Semlin did endorse Mr. Sword, principally because he had been a loyal supporter in opposition. He went so far as to say Mr. Sword was the ablest legislator in British Columbia, and were it not for this a resident of the district would be preferable. Besides, said Mr. Semlin, he has the ear of the present government, and he will be able to set the wants of the district before the government. All parts of the province are calling for public works, and the government is unable to grant all demands. While this is the case it is to the advantage of Cowichan to have a representative who has the ear of the government. The Premier attempted to justify the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, and closed by saying that, though Mr. Robertson had very strong claims to the seat, he desired Mr. Sword to have it. There were several other speakers who endorsed Mr. Sword's candidature. About half the meeting had left by this time, and when an invitation to endorse Mr. Sword's nomination was made, half the remaining audience stood up.

The prospects are that Mr. Robertson will be elected by a larger majority than at the general elections, many who opposed him in July now supporting him.

PIONEER OF SAPPERTON.

Death of a Forty Years' Resident—Chinaman Crushed by a Tree.

Vancouver, Dec. 13.—A Chinaman named Long Chong was killed yesterday at Port Moody while felling a tree.

Jas. Hall, a pioneer, died at Sapperton on Saturday, aged 69. He enlisted in the first corps of miners and sappers in 1859 and lived in the old camp from then until now. Mr. Hall leaves a widow and two children.

VOLUNTEERS CALLED HOME.

Six Regiments of Regular Infantry Ordered to Manila.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The war department has begun in earnest the relief of the volunteer troops now stationed at Manila by regulars. This afternoon Secretary Alger signed an order designating for this purpose six regiments of United States infantry out of eight held in reserve for service in sub-tropical countries. They will go forward to Manila as soon as transportation can be provided.

COLD PROSPECTS FOR THE FAIR

Paris' Great Dream of the New Century Exhibition Fails to Materialize Satisfactorily.

London, Dec. 10.—Very discouraging rumors are afloat regarding the prospects of the Paris exhibition of 1900. But little real progress has been made on the huge buildings, and the prospects of their completion in time are not of the brightest.

Committee of Fifty.—To-night the Citizens' Committee of Fifty meet at the city hall and much interest naturally centres round it as the time is getting on, and the civic elections are within measureable distance. It is likely that something will be done to-night towards the presentation of a citizens' platform for the coming civic elections.

RUGBY BOYS THE HOSTS.

The Wearers of the Red and White Employ Their Football Feet in Merry Dancing.

The Victoria Rugby Football Club's dance last evening will certainly rank as one of the successes of this season. Encouraged by the success of a smaller affair last fall, the club this year gave a dance in the A. O. U. W. hall, at which about 100 couples were present. The hall was prettily decorated with bunting and evergreens, while here and there loomed up the idol of the "Rugger" man's heart, the pigskin oval. Success on the field and success in the dance! May the club so continue on its course through the season of play and festivity.

The ladies of Victoria were present, wearing the familiar red and white, the fighting colors of "our boys," and with the fairest of Victoria's daughters spurring them on to victory, who can doubt the issue of the combat? While speaking of the ladies, it is certainly not out of place to mention the supper tables, provided to a large extent by the sisters, sweethearts and wives of the members, presided over by Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, to whom the club are most grateful. The tables fairly groaned under the weight of the viands and delicacies crowded upon them.

The music was provided by Bandmaster Mackie.

THE LAND OF PROGRESS.

Messrs. E. Blewett and H. W. Treat, the the two gentlemen who, in the opening up of rich Texada, have done so much toward pointing the world to the rich mineral resources of Vancouver and adjacent islands, are guests at the Hotel Driard. Their business here is in connection with the further improvement of the company's Texada properties, which promise very soon to be earning substantial profits for the shareholders.

"The Van Anda company has now been working continuously for three years," said Mr. Treat yesterday, "and is rapidly approaching the profit-making point. Between now and then, however, it is absolutely necessary that we have a fresh air drill plant, which we are beginning to put in, and also a smelter on the ground, a large additional expense being incurred in the meanwhile in the development of the property.

"All these new works will consume not less than $50,000, to be expended over a period of about four months. In order to make a net profit it is only necessary for us now to have a plant for the treatment and extraction of the gold in our ore in sufficient quantity to feed the smelter. Many of our stockholders are in Victoria—in fact, the thirteen original owners of the property were Victorians—and we are now here to confer with them in regard to the proposed further expenditures.

"Mr. Blewett and myself furnished the capital to develop the property in return for a half interest in it, and after we had spent many thousand dollars on it we organized a company, the Van Anda Gold Mining Company, which company now has a considerable quantity or stock in the treasury. We are obliged at present to raise a large amount of money for the proper development of the mine, and the only question is as to the best way of going about it—whether by an issue of stock or working on the credit of the company.

"The company has now its property free and clear of incumbrance, with sufficient ore in sight to justify the contemplated expenditure. The development will continue right along, while a gang of prospectors is continually employed looking for new mines. We had a little strike a few days ago, the men wanting an increase from $3 a day they were getting that is all over now, however, and everything is moving smoothly.

"The company's shipping mines at present time are the Cornell, with a capacity of thirty tons a day; the Copper Queen, turning out fourteen tons per diem; and the Little Billy and Frances, producing three tons each—or fifty tons a day in all, enough to run one furnace. We propose to put in two 50-ton furnaces, but use only one for the present.

"The ore will average $30 a ton in value, and as $10 a ton will cover all the costs of mining, handling and smelting, we will has a net profit for $20 a tons as soon as the smelting plant is finished and in operation. All four of these mines have already taken their place as actual shippers, the ore they have sent to outside smelters being uniformly rich enough to pay satisfactory net profits.

"There is every indication, too, that they will be reliable, lasting producers, the formation in all four being very similar—the ore lying between lime and porphry, and carrying copper and silver principally, but with from $5 to $10 in gold—running from $20 to $50 a ton. I look upon the latest find in the Cornell as establishing it in the position of the greatest mine in all America. I certainly have never before seen anything equalling it!"

Expedition Fitting Out at Seattle to Wreck the Steamer, in Consequence Abandoned.

BRIXHAM'S BACK BROKEN.

Diver McHardy returned from Seattle last evening where he had gone with the intention of joining the party that was to set sail from there on the tug Resolute for the scene of the wrecked Brixham yesterday morning. The party had the freighters Transit and a wrecking plant all ready for the voyage when the news was received through the arrival of the Farallon from the North that the Brixham's back had been broken. This changed plans and the party will now await further information concernig the wreck.

MARINE NOTES.

The bark Spinaway which put back to Esquimalt in distress a week or so ago will be obliged, as was first thought, to enter the dock. Her repairs are now being made with her deck load discharged and her hold still full of cargo, and will take but very few days to complete.

The City of Seattle was several hours late in leaving for the Sound last evening, her delay being in part due to seven carloads of hay, which she landed at the Brackman & Ker Milling Co.'s wharf.

Steamer Fastnet, it is said, will be to-day

Steamer Lapwing arrived from the Fraser last evening with a load of hay taken around to Esquimalt to be docked for the Brackman & Ker Milling Co.

You hardly realize that it is medicine when taking Carter's Little Liver Pills; they are very small; no bad effects; all troubles from torpid liver are relieved by their use.

STODDART V. PRENTICE

Mr. Justice Martin Dismisses the Application to Strike Off the Petition

First Round in the Legal Battle Goes Against Prentice—With Costs.

The first round in the East Lillooet election case went in favor of Mr. D. A. Stoddart yesterday, for Mr. Justice Martin dismissed with costs the preliminary objections by which counsel for Mr. Prentice sought to have the petition struck off the files. The reasons for his decision Mr. Justice Martin gives in the following judgment, which he handed down yesterday morning:

JUDGMENT.

Stoddart v. Prentice—East Lillooet Petition: Summons to strike election petition off the files of the court.

In this matter, which I dispose of at the request of the parties, there are seventeen objections to the petition, but with the exception of two of them, Nos. 13 and 17, the only ones argued, they are similar to those which have been disposed of in the judgment given by me on the 26th of October last, in the Esquimalt and other election petitions, which judgment was subsequently upheld by the Full court.

Objection 13 is that "No notice of the presentation of the said petition and no notice of the proposed security was ever signed or served on the respondent herein as required by the act."

Section 216 of the Provincial Elections act requires "Notice of the presentatioon of a petition under this act, and of the nature of the proposed security" to be served on the respondent. What purported to be a notice pursuant to this section was served on the last day for giving such notice, informing the respondent that "security as required by the Provincial Elections act will be given on behalf of petitioner by depositing the sum of $2,000 in cash with the registrar."

Mr. Duff contends that under the section "proposed security" means the security "offered" or "put forward," not what is "intended" in the mind of the petitioner to be put forward, and that to hold otherwise would lead to the respondent being left in a state of suspense as to whether the "intention" to give security in cash would be carried out. On the other hand Mr. Taylor argues that "proposed" here includes "intended," and that so far as the period of suspense is concerned the act contemplates such suspension, e.g., in case the petitions were served on the same day it was presented the respondent would then be in doubt for a period of three days as to the petitioner's intentions, i.e., until security was furnished or not.

I think I must decide this point in favor of the petitioner, and hold that the notice was a sufficient compliance with the section.

The seventeenth objection is "That no affidavit of service of the said petition or notice thereof was filed in accordance with the rules in that behlf." The rule referred to is No. 70 of the English Parliamentary Election Petition Rules of January 27, 1895, as follows:

"The petitioner or his agent shall, immediately after notice of the presentation of a petition and of the nature of the proposed security shall have been served, file with the master an affidavit of the time and manner of service thereof."

It is admitted that this provision has not been complied with, but Mr. Taylor takes the point that this rule is not in force here, and that the operation of section 268 of the said Provincial Elections act, which provide that "the rules framed in England under the Parliamentary Elections act, 1868, shall be observed so far as may be by this court, (until rules of court have been made under section 267 by the judges of the court?) relates back to the Revised Statutes of B.C., 1871, Cap. 167, Sec. 25, where the present section 268 will first be found. It is argued that the consolidation of the statutes of 1888, and the late revision of 1897 are a mere carrying forward of the original provision of 1871, and that the present section should be construed as of it had read in 1871 as the rules "now framed."

It is further argued that applying the principles laid down by Chancellor Boyd in License Commissioners of Frontenac v. The Corporation of the County of Frontenac, 14 Ont. 741 at p. 745, to section 9 of the act respecting the Revised Statutes (R.S.B.C. CXI) the rule in question does not apply for the reason that the revision of 1897 is merely declratory of section 268 as it stood in 1871.

I had the benefit on Saturday, the 10th instant, of an interesting and instructive argument on this point, and I should like to have the time to discuss it fully, but as I was requested to give judgment at the earliest possible moment, in view of the urgency of the matter, and the departure of the petitioner's counsel for England, I must content myself, at present, with stating that after a consideration of said section 9, and, also sections 3, 5 and 6 of the "Act Respecting the Revised Statutes" I have arrived at the opinion that even if the act of 1871 had read "now framed" instead of "framed," and had been so re-enacted in the revision of 1897, I should not be forced to construct it by a reversion to 1871: to hold otherwise would, it appears to me, to construe Sec. 6 as directing the Revised Statutes to come into force and have effect "as of and from the day on which the various acts were originally enacted." If the legislature contemplated the construction suggested by the petitioner it would, I should think, have used language similar to that employed by the Dominion parliament in 1874, when by the Controverted Elections act, Cap. 10, Sec. 45, in making a similar provision to ours for the use of the English Election Rules, it was provided that the English rules "at the time of the passing of this act" should be observed by the courts and judges.

This rule 70, then, in my opinion being in force here it becomes necessary to consider, briefly, the result of the seventeenth objection above stated.

It is argued by Mr. Duff that this requirement, though subsequent in point of time, is nevertheless, to adopt the language of Patterson, J., in the Lisgar Election Case, (1891) 20 S.C.R. at p. 10, "something prescribed to be done by the petitioner at the institution of the proceedings," the lack of compliance with which must be held fatal to the petition. The case of Williams v. The Mayor of Tenby (1879), 5 C.P.D. 135, is also relied on in support of this contention, and my attention is called to the language of the concluding paragraph in the judgment of Grove, J., at page 138. Reports of this case will also be found in 42 L.T.N.S. 187, and in 49 L.J.C.P. 325, and a careful consideration of these three reports leads me to believe that the learned judge was not considering the effect of the present rule 70, which was raised in one of the objections before him but not argued owing to its being dependent upon another and more weighty objection which was sustained.

The Lisgar Election Case assits more in the determination of the present point than any other case I have been referred to. There the neglect of the petitioner to leave, as required, at the time of filing the petition a copy thereof with the clerk for the purposes of publication, was held to be a fatal objection on the ground, as stated by Ritchie, C.J., that this was "an essential part of the presentation or filing of the petition." As appears from the judgment of Patterson, J., the fact that the neglect of the petitioner to leave the copy of the petition prevented its prompt publication by the returning officer was apparently deemed by the court a matter of considerable importance. It is to be noted that though Fournier, J., concurred in giving effect to this objection, yet he stated that if he had been sitting in the court of first instance, he would probably not have given effect to it, and Strong and Gwynne, J.J., overruled the objection. It is true that the judgment of the court upheld the point taken, yet I mention these circumstances as a guide for my action in the present case, where the objection taken is certainly not so weighty.

To give effect to the point under consideration I shall have to hold that immediate filing of the affidavit of service, after the notice of presentation of the petition, which is directed to be done for no apparent or declared purpose as existed in the Lisgar case, is nevertheless "an essential part of the presentation or filing of the petition" as above quoted. Am I justified in doing this? It is admitted by both counsel that the rule is of no benefit to either of their respective clients, and such being the case Mr. Duff contends that it must have been passed for the benefit and protection of the public, in order, for example, to enable proof of the service of the petition to be available in case of the death of the petitioner, and thus prevent a dismissal of the petition for lack of the important and primary proof of service, thus avoiding collusion. On the other hand it is argued by Mr. Taylor that if I hold this requirement peremptory, it would put a premium on collusion by leaving it in the power of one man, the petitioner, to prevent the trial of a petition simply by wrongfully neglecting to file the affidavit. What should be done under such circumstances? An answer to this will be found in the judgment of Strong, J. (now chief justice), in the Lisgar case, at page 7, where he says that a similar case might have been met by a stay of proceedings until compliance, and if that were not sufficient I think this court has other means of supplying the lack of evidence if the affidavit were not forthcoming.

I have come to the conclusion, after a very careful, I may say an anxious, consideration of this matter, and in spite of the exhaustive and able argument of Mr. Duff, which I regret I am unable, for reasons above stated, to deal with at greater length, that the objections to the petition cannot prevail.

In arriving at my decision, which I do with hesitation, I am not a little influenced by the following expressions of Chief Justice Sir Henry Strong in the case last referred to:

"I think that in dealing with election cases it should be a golden rule that if there is any possible way of avoiding giving effect to technical preliminary objections, and thus preventing the trial on the merits we should act upon it."

Summons dismissed: costs to petitioner in any event.

ARCHER MARTIN, J.

A CHARGE OF THEFT.

Kenneth A. Finlayson of the Dominion Savings Bank Under Arrest.

Leakages From the Treasury Have Been Occurring for About a Twelvemonth.

Kenneth A. Finlayson, receiving teller of the Dominion savings bank in this city, is under arrest, charged with stealing from the government sums aggregating $1,153. The story would seem to be the old result of paying a man in a very responsible position a miserable pittance in place of a fair salary. Young Finlayson received from the Dominion government $44 per month and out of this he helped to support his mother and several younger brothers. For the past five years Finlayson had received the same salary although he had time and again sent applications to Ottawa for an advance he never got it. Some suspicion that all was not right seems to have reached Ottawa, for on Sunday night Inspector Fraser arrived in town and began investigations with the result that there are twelve different charges against Finlayson, of stealing money. These shortages are for various sums ranging from $40 up and extend over a period from February 21 last to November 25. The extraordinary thing is that they were not discovered before.

Depositors on handing their money into the bank sign a slip and this in due course is forwarded on to Ottawa, a receipt being sent to the depositor from the deputy minister of finance. Should depositors not receive this receipt they are asked to notify the department. The twelve deposit slips covering the amount of the shortages were not forwarded to the department, but were found in Finlayson's private cash box. The department therefore knew nothing of them and the strange thing is that none of the depositors seem to have made any inquiry in consequence of not getting the receipt.

On Monday afternoon Inspector Fraser had made up his mind that he had all the evidence required, and early yesterday morning Constables Carson and Anderson arrested Finlayson whom they found asleep in his bed. A few hours later he appeared in the police court and was charged on the information of John Hugh McLaughlin with stealing the moneys in question.

The accused was defended by Mr. Frank Higgins, while Mr. W. H. Langley has charge of the case for the Dominion government. Mr. Langley asked for a remand until this morning, which was granted. The news of the arrest spread quickly, for Finlayson has always been a popular young fellow and took a leading part in yachting circles, as he is one of the best amateur sailors on the Coast. Much sympathy is felt for the family and a good many very uncomplimentary remarks were made yesterday as to the Dominion government's penuriousness in paying a wretched salary to a man and then putting him in a position where temptation was daily before him in the handling of large sums of money.

HYPNOTISM A DANGER

Students of Mental Science Regard Its Practice as a Menace to Society.

Some Plain Talk as to Mr. McEwen—Eminent Authorities Quoted.

Mr. P. H. McEwen's week in Victoria seems to have set everyone thinking, talking or writing on the subject of mental science, and more particularly those branches in which Mr. McEwen is so eminent an expert—mesmerism and hypnotism. It has remained for the Theosophical Society, or as it is now styled, Lodge 87 of the Universal Brotherhood, to come out as an organization with a positive arraignment of the practice of hypnotism as inimical to the welfare of the subject and society—that is, of course, the inducing of hypnosis for the purpose of entertainment. The members of the Brotherhood here include several gentlemen who have both read and investigated deeply the commonly termed mysteries of psychic force, and to one of these the readers of the Colonist are indebted for the following concise presentment of the views of the organization which he represents upon this just now very live subject. The gentleman referred to says:

"In attempting to present some outline of the rationale of hypnotism, the duality of mind first claims attention. It is with the lower mind that the hypnotist pre-eminently deals. He makes use chiefly of the faculties of imagination and will. By the power of imagination he creates, subjectively, an image or thought-form, in the plastic substance of the mental plane; by will-power he projects into that ideal shape a stream of atoms from the universal life force. This thought-form is then, by an act of will, projected into the mind of the subject, who is powerless to resist any suggestion.

"For withdrawal of nervous fluid from the capillary nerves, the sentries that keep the door of our nerves open, getting anaesthetized, allow these to get closed. Reason no longer rules. The instincts develop in a most surprising fashion. The hypnotic lowers himself to the level of the animal. An unbalanced, jarring condition prevails, for the abnormal inrush of animal energy into the personality precludes control by the reasoning, thinking principle from above.

"The subject is in a state of utter subjugation, devoid of reason as any marionette. Moreover, any evil psychic characteristics, active or latent, in the character of the operator are unconsciously but inevitably transferred to his puppet to ripen, it may be, after many days. Such is the result of the prostitution of soul-powers for personal gain.

"It is slave-holding of the most satanic sort, and the careless experimenter stands as on a slippery slope which leads to the engulfing blackness of ruin. An adept in the more recondite phases of psychology, H. P. Blavatsky, says:

"The amateur hypnotists of science dig with their own hands the graves of many a man's and woman's intellect; they enslave and paralyze free will in their 'subjects,' turn immortal men into soulless, irresponsible automata, and vivisect their souls with as much unconcern as they vivisect the bodies of rabbits and dogs. In fact, they are fast blooming into 'sorcerers,' and are turning science into a vast field of black magic."

The Theosophists, therefore, may be placed on record as favoring the state control of the practice of hypnotism, reserving such practice for the only occasions when it may be properly employed as an instrument or science for scientific or humane purposes.

Letters on the subject, resultant also from Mr. McEwen's visit, continue to come in in number. Here are two of these interesting communications which reached the Colonist yesterday:

HYPNOTISM AND THE BIBLE.

Sir: Now that Mr. McEwen is gone from our city, it may seem like "kicking a dead horse" to offer any criticisms on the peculiar remarks he made on the questions proposed in my letter of last week. Mr. McEwen did not need to say that I was not at his performances, as what was written was taken from the very full report in the Colonist, which he said was "correctly and scientifically" set forth. Mr. McEwen says "there is nothing in hypnotism opposed to the teachings of Christ." Now, we don't suppose anyone who has given any attention to this so-called science would assert that, when properly understood, and practiced for the good of humanity, there is in it anything to make it objectionable to the most puritanic Christian in the world.

But what all good people should object to is the abuse of a power which gives one person the opportunity of evil to another when in such a condition as to be defenceless. It is to the interests of all such men as Mr. McEwen to suppress the fears of the public on this score. It was an ill turn for Mr. McEwen to throw discredit on the work of Dr. J. Ochorowicz and his book on "Mental Suggestion." He was certainly in a corner when he took the ground that this work "is fifteen years behind the times." But Mr. McEwen had his own book to sell.

The proofs given by Dr. Ochorowicz on the practice of hypnotism "without conscious co-operation" cannot be overthrown. Among others he gives the case of the ruin of a poor young girl who was hypnotized by a crippled beggar whose very presence was repugnant to her. He took her from her father's house, and for weeks she followed him through the country until arrested and brought before the authorities. A full investigation was made, with the result that he was sentenced to a long term in prison, and so great was his power that the magistrate had to order him to turn his eyes from the court while the case was in progress. This in France.

Practically the same thing took place in a city in Canada a few years since. We do not wish to insinuate that Mr. McEwen would give himself to such diabolical business, but can anyone who witnessed his power over strong men in the opera house last week doubt his power for evil over some who are not so strong willed as to be able to resist? It is quite true there are those who cannot be effected against their will, but it is also true there are many who cannot, or know not how to, refuse co-operation against a skilled and powerful manipulator.

Mr. McEwen professes to be a believer in Christ, and at the same time he denies that there ever was such a thing as a miracle. We are not surprised at the latter position by a man who, in private conversation, had the audacity to say that the difference between Jesus and himself was one of degree and not one of nature. It is convenient for such "wandering stars" to call themselves Christians, but only simpletons will be taken in with such emasculated specimens of Christianity. Mr. McEwen did not attempt to answer my question re the case of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He is reported as saying that these men hypnotized themselves and so it was no miracle, and of course not, when there never was a miracle.

If there were no miracles wrought by Christ, then the Bible is false, and Christ, in whom Mr. McEwen professes to believe, was a deceiver of the people, for he certainly did profess to do miracles, and he knew the people were led to believe in Him on account of such superhuman acts. Did Christ hypnotize the water into wine? It is likely the answer would be "He hypnotized the people," and, we would add, so made fools of them, as seems to be—for Mr. McEwen a—profitable business in this time. We will not take time here to give proofs of the validity of the miracles as stated in the Holy Scriptures, for I recognize the fact that this letter is already too lengthy, and the sceptical would not take time to read such a discussion, but we have said sufficient to show the fallacious and dangerous teachings of the departed "show man." We do not wish to discount his power, but only to guard them in their proper sphere. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for so much space, I am, yours, etc., TAU.

HYPNOTISM.

Sir: The recent exhibitions, given by Mr. McEwen, proved interesting and instructive. There can be little doubt that Mr. McEwen has the necessary experience, self-confidence and influence to hypnotize a few willing subjects. A study of hypnotism will prove that all men and women are gifted, more or less, with the power to influence others. In daily life we act on suggestions, and our lot on this earth was decided in the Garden of Eden, when Adam acted on a suggestion from Mother Eve.

Medical men look upon hypnotism as a disease which leads to madness. In the British Medical Journal, 1893, Dr. Henry Raynor writes: "The risk of mental deterioration by the frequent induction of states of incomplete consciousness, hypnotic or other, should be taught, and the habit, for those of neurotic diathesis, labelled, 'Dangerous—this way madness lies.'"

Prof. M. Benedikt, of Vienna, states: "Hypnotic experiments have a demoralizing effect on the intellect, will power and physical independence of the patient."

Dr. A. B. Richardson, in the Cincinnati Lancet-Clinic, states: "There is but one class of cases in which hypnotism is justifiable, and that in persons who already possess such defective inhabition as to be in a pathological state."

Binnswanger, Mendel, Meynert, Von Ziemssen, Normann Kerr, Landon, Carter, Gray and numerous other high authorities in the medical world are of the opinion that hypnotism is injurious and dangerous. Two cases of the many may be briefly cited:

In the American Medical Journal, 1888, is a notice referring to the case of a lady who was hypnotized by her husban, a physician, to relieve pain during the extraction of a tooth. He made a few movements before her face; she screamed and fell dead. Another lady had been hypnotized by a doctor at the sounding of a gong. One day at noon she was crossing a square when the bells of a neighboring church began to ring. She became hypnotized, staggered and fell under the wheels of a vehicle. When picked up she was dead.

The danger is not sufficiently known, and due care should be taken, even by those who are willing to become subjects. T. D.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

Practical Experience Again Illustrates the Absurdity of Mr. Martin's Order.

It Conflicts With the Law and the Department Now Administers the Error.

No amount of argument could more effectively demonstrate the utter absurdity of Czar Joseph Martin's recent "instructions to coroners" than does the test of practical experiece, a sample illustration being presented for the consideration of Victorians in the case of old George Voltz, whose body will to-day be consigned to a grave in the Potter's Field.

Voltz was a man of perhaps fifty or fifty-five years of age; an old resident; and a hard drinker. He had on several occasions made his appearance in the city police court and there is not an officer in the city who did not know him, and scarcely a citizen who felt called upon to acknowledge himself a personal friend. Last Sunday poor old George was found lying dead in a ditch on Oswego street, and in obedience to common sense those who found the body reported the matter to the police, who in turn reported to the coroner.

According to Attorney-General Martin's mandate to coroners, Dr. Crompton before he could be permitted to proceed with the inquest, which any man of common intelligence would know to be necessary, was required to make a formal declaration, setting forth with various legal frills and formalities that

"From information received by me as coroner, I am of opinion that there is reason for believing that the deceased did not come to his death from natural causes, or from mere accident or mischance, but came to his death from violence, or unfair means, or culpable or negligent conduct of others, under circumstances requiring investigation by a coroner's jury."

Now it is just for the purpose of thus determining and fixing cause of death that inquests are held, and Coroner Crompton—not being a mind-reader, and thus able to discern the evidence that might be offered—did not make the declaration. Instead, he politely informed the attorney-general's department that their instructions conflicted with the obligations entailed by the Coroner's act, and received in reply a communication admitting that a variance existed. He then went ahead with the inquest in the ordinary, rational and business-like fashion.

Medical testimony disclosed that the stomach of the deceased George Voltz was full of alcoholic fluid, and that the mouth and air tubes were choked with mud and water, causing suffocation. The post mortem doctor therefore certified that death had been caused by drowning. Detective Mouat deposed to having seen Voltz in an intoxicated condition, and evidence was offered as to the finding of the body in an eighteen-inch ditch, face downward in about two inches of water.

The jury in accordance with this testimony declared that the deceased George Voltz came to his death by drowning, through falling into a ditch while in an intoxicated condition.

Asked as to his opinion of the attorney-general's instructions, Coroner Crompton yesterday positively declined to talk. His opinion is fairly well indicated, however, in his action. It will be interesting, now, to watch the action of the attorney-general's department in the first distinct case in which a coroner stands upon his authority and duty as defined by statute. Will the bills be paid or not?

EIGHT MEN MANGLED.

Stepped in Front of a Fast Express and Were Literally Ground to Pieces.

They Were Snow Shovellers Moving From the Path of Another Train.

One Body Hurled High in the Air and Dropped on a Passing Freight.

Buffalo, Dec. 13.—Eight men were killed and four injured at Winspear bridge, near Corfu, on the New York Central railway, this morning. All were Poles with the exception of John Warner, the foreman, who is among the killed. All were frightfully mutilated.

The men were engaged in shovelling snow, of which there were numerous drifts on the line. They stepped from one track to avoid an approaching train right in front of a fast express train running in the same direction, and were literally ground to pieces.

Engineer Smith, of the express, in an interview, said: "I could see nothing ahead of me, but thought the place looked bad, and blew my whistle. I had let up on the whistle when I heard my fireman give a yell. I did not call for brakes, but I slapped on the air the minute I heard him. He had seen a man beside the track, though he had not seen anyone struck then. A moment after I applied the brakes I saw a man shoot into the air on my side of the cab. He was as high as the smokestack when I saw him. He came down on the freight train which was running along on that side, and was carried a mile before he fell off.

"My train stopped in about two train lengths, and the sight that I saw when I got out was the most horrible I have ever witnessed. The dead and mangled were lying on both sides of the track just as they had been thrown.

"I did not see them until after we had struck them. I did not see them on the track, and until my fireman yelled I did not know they were there."

FISTICUFFS IN DEBATE

By Associated Press.

Paris, Dec. 12.—In the chamber of deputies to-day M. Groussel, radical socialist, interpellated the government on the directions to the general staff in the Dreyfus affair. He read extracts from newspaper articles which are alleged to have emanated from members of the general staff, which caused a violent uproar, during which the deputies rose and rushed at one another and engaged in a series of fist fights.

M. Groussel continued his remarks in midst of this tumult and recalled an article in the Intransigeant referring to letters from Emperor William and an interview with Count von Munster, the German ambassador at Paris, and M. Casimir-Perier, the former president of the republic.

Count Demon, the conservative leader, here interrupted the speaker and said he desired that the house be consulted as to whether the discussion should be allowed to continue. The premier, M. Dupuy, should as the head of the government protest against the language of the speaker, who had not measured its possible effect. (Great applause).

M. Derculede, revisionist, shouted: "Come off the tribune." This caused a redoubling of the uproar.

When semi-quiet had been restored, M. Groussel, said the centre of resistance to the revision of the Dreyfus case was no longer the ministry of war, it was elsewhere. As to the secret documents in the case, he pointed out that they had been ridiculed by Emperor William himself. (Loud protests).

M. Deschen, republican, invited the speaker not to mix foreign sovereigns in the debate any more than he should mix the president of the republic in them.

M. Groussel, continuing, spoke of the articles in the newspapers in which it was hinted that Russia and the Czar were mixed up in the Dreyfus affair, and he also alluded to the recent semi-official note relative to the minister of foreign affairs, M. Delcasse being obliged to explain certain statements to the German ambassador —(violent interruptions)—relative to the latter's daughter. (Uproar and hoots). Russia, Groussel said, was next mixed up in the affair. The speaker said he pointed out these matters in order to show that a press campaign had been inaugurated by interested persons to prevent the discovery of the truth. M. Groussel concluded with demanding whether the government was disposed to permit the centre of resistance to the law to pass from the ministry of war to the general staff or the military government of Paris; whether it would govern for the republic or for the Jesuits. (Applause from the extreme leftists and strong protests elsewhere).

The minister of war, M. de Freycinet, repudiated M. Groussel's allegations. He said that though there had been some indiscretions, it was unjust and imprudent to attack the whole army; unjust, because the army was excellent, devoted to its duty and incapable of the acts charged; imprudent, because it was liable to lead to a disorganization of the military institutions. The minister of war concluded with vigorously protesting against the accusation brought against the general staff and the military government of Paris of resisting the law. Mr. Dupuy asked the chamber to close the discussion and adopt the order of the day, which was done, by a vote of 463 to 78. The house then adjourned.

As one of the results of the insults exchanged during the debate in the chambers to-day Mantied Boyer, radical socialist, has sent his seconds to M. Derculede, revisionist, and to M. Ganthier, revisionist, who characterized M. Boyer as a "white-washed Panamaist."