

## EVENTS

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**T**HE Victoria Colonist says.

We do not believe in innuendoes in matters involving the honor of a government. They are cowardly. They either should not be made at all or the facts upon which they are based should be stated openly.

This is excellent doctrine and should be taken to heart by a great many Colonist contemporaries, who scarcely allow a day to go by without making innuendoes and insinuations against the honor of Canada's public men.

**R**OBERT BEITH, M. P., has come away from the biggest World's Fair ever held, that at St. Louis, bringing with him three first prizes for his hackney horses. Mr. Beith's pluck in going to St. Louis with a bunch of horses at considerable inconvenience and very great expense must elicit admiration, and we trust that the satisfaction which he must feel at his unique and unqualified success will be sufficient reward for the effort. What Mr. Beith does not know about horses is very difficult to find out.

**T**HERE is a lull in the interest in the quarrel between the French government and the Vatican which will last until the meeting of the Chamber. But M. Combes has made a statement during the last few days to a representative of the *Nene Freie Presse*, in which he said that he believed the maintenance of the Concordat to be impossible; that he would not resign so long as he retained the confidence of the Chamber; and that the Socialists must be returned en bloc. The prospect of losing the Protectorate of the Catholics in the East, so disquieting to many Frenchmen, has no terrors for M. Combes, who said that he would raise no difficulties if the

succession passed to Austria-Hungary, though as a friend of Austria-Hungary he would regret it. M. Combes said that he anticipated that the separation would follow the lines of the Draft bill adopted by a special committee of the Chamber associated with the name of the reporter, M. Briand. That bill assures liberty of conscience, prohibits all expenditure of public funds for public worship, and subjects the act of public worship to the same regulations as public meetings. The *Figaro* is collecting opinions on separation from ecclesiastical dignitaries, and both the Vicar-General of the Archbishopric of Paris and the Cardinal Archbishop of Rennes think separation inevitable, and say that they welcome it, only asking for such liberty as there is in America. They both seem to think that separation will make religion the dividing line in French politics.

**I**N the Japanese-Russian war it cannot be too often repeated that no evidence is worth having in this campaign save that which is officially certified to be true by one of the two combatant parties. Never in any war has the censorship been so exact; never has it been more successful. It is customary to remark upon the exactitude of the Japanese censorship. It is equally true that the Russians, though a Western people and therefore less accustomed to secrecy, have maintained an astonishing reserve. Nothing would seem easier, for instance, than for a correspondent properly disguised to have ascertained at any point upon the Trans-Siberian Railway what numbers were going through; no one has guessed even approximately.

**T**HE famous picture known as the portrait of Arisoto by Titian, which lately belonged to Lord Darnley, has been purchased by the British government for \$150,000 (of which \$90,000 has been subscribed by private persons) and is now on view in the Venetian Room in the National Gallery. This is a very large price, but it seems there is no portrait by Titian in the National Gallery. Some people in this country would be horrified if the