

SPECIAL WARRANTS.

There can be no doubt about the iniquity of spending the money of the country by special warrant except in circumstances calling for the exercise of the powers conferred by the statute. The work in Comox district may be urgent, but it cannot be contended with any force that it might not have waited until the money was voted in the regular way. There is consistency in newspapers which have always opposed such irregularities speaking their minds on this matter, but we protest that the organ of defunct Turnerism is barred by its record from raising its voice in denunciation of what under other circumstances it was constantly called upon to defend. The Lieut. Governor very properly refused to sanction a large expenditure for alleged works in Cassiar when the late Turner government were in the throes of dissolution, and it is a pity he was not equally firm in the case about which complaint has been made. The very men whose cause it is so strenuously advocating in Victoria, and whom it would no doubt be pleased to see again in control of the public affairs, have been sinners above all others in this matter and would be again if political exigencies seemed to warrant it.

TO INVADE CANADA.

The seed which the yellow journals of the United States have been so industriously sowing for many seasons has at last begun to bear fruit. The attempt to blow up the locks of the Welland canal, it is now known, was not the work of men desirous of keeping the grain trade of the West in the old channels, but was committed by the agents of a band of conspirators in the United States, who in their unreasoning animosity to everything British are prepared to commit the most devilish outrages to advance, as they would probably term it, the cause of freedom. We are told that if the tools of these conspirators had understood the nature of the explosive they used and had properly placed the charge they would have succeeded in their object and that a flood of waters would have been let loose which would have swept thousands of people out of existence and destroyed property to the value of many millions of dollars. This is the reward that it was proposed to mete out to Canadians for their part in the South African war. Certain United States newspapers, which do not appear to have any adequate idea of the responsibilities which rest upon them to guide public opinion in right channels, seem to deliberately set themselves to the task of inciting certain elements in their constituency to a condition of frenzy in which the blackest of crimes would appear simple acts of justice. The New York Sun tells its readers that Canada is defenceless and the Journal publishes a preposterous work of imagination from some Frenchman, so blinded with hatred of Britain as to be but slightly removed from imbecility, showing forth the probable invasion, subjugation and partition of the Empire, with the Dominion falling to the United States as its share of the universal plunder. These articles are of course copied and commented on by the smaller publications in all parts of the country, and naturally a certain number of their readers, with their minds perverted by the expansion ideas and lust of conquest at present in the air, think the time has come to strike a blow at tyranny and add to the domains of the republic.

The population of the United States is growing very rapidly, the greater part of the increase being made up of foreigners who are imbued with the notion, imbibed in lands where political freedom is doled out very gingerly, that monarchs are the curse of the world and that any means may be employed justifiably to injure those who tolerate such iniquities. Standing armies may be out of harmony with the institutions of this continent, and yet it seems we must take effective measures to guard against the mischief which our proximity to a country like the United States renders easy of infliction. This latest outrage illustrates what an easy thing it would be along a frontier extending for hundreds of miles through a country where the property is of great value to strike a blow which would inflict damage almost beyond computation, and for the loss of which it would be next to impossible to recover compensation from the government whose duty it is to protect a friendly country from such attacks. Proof of this assertion is furnished by what followed previous raids. We trust the Washington administration will do its duty and promptly suppress and disperse these filibustering expeditions in the early stages; but as the officials of that government seem to largely sympathize with the objects of these marauders, unfortunately no reliance can be placed on their efforts. As there is no probability of the Washington government bearing the burden of patrolling the frontier, it will of course devolve on the Canadian government to go to the expense of attending to this work, and the dispatches indicate that steps have already been taken to this end. No doubt the gentlemen who are organizing these expeditions, like their predecessors in similar undertakings, are filled with jubilation at the prospect of the large properties which will fall into their hands when they have completed their work. If they are misguided enough to cross the frontier in any force they will find there are still a few soldiers in Canada.

PENDING POLITICAL CHANGES.

It is understood that possibly before the end of the present week the British Columbia political kaleidoscope may be given another while. There is no foundation for the story that Mr. W. W. B. McInnes is to be given the portfolio of Finance although that is the department in which it is said the change is to be made. If the negotiations in progress prove successful it is said a prominent Mainland public man will be added to the government, and that Mr. Ryder will be allowed to disappear into his original obscurity. The proposed change will strengthen the government beyond doubt, and we think will be approved by all who desire to see this province governed according to the usages which we have been taught to regard as customary under responsible government. The point will be raised, no doubt, as to the constitutionality of a gentleman who was never a member of parliament, and probably never until very recently dreamt of being one, holding the post of Finance Minister for more than a month, and drawing salary for the same, without he or the government of which he was a member consulting the people about the matter. If there be any authority or precedent for such a case a lead might be removed from the mind of the public and a handicap from the back of the government by producing it.

PROHIBITION.

The prohibition resolutions have at last been reached in the House of Commons, and, while it is unlikely that anything will result from the debate save some ranting appeals to the electors for use in the coming campaign, the discussion will at least have the effect of clearing the political atmosphere and defining the attitude of the two parties on a matter which must be dealt with. The prohibitionists contend that the government should enact the legislation which they demand because a very small majority of the votes cast were in favor of such action; the anti-prohibitionists point out that only 44 per cent. of those entitled to vote took the trouble to express an opinion at all, and contend, with some reason, that it is more than probable that the 56 per cent. who did not vote were either anti or perfectly indifferent as to the outcome. It is clear to any one who has studied the question that to attempt to enforce a prohibitory law where public opinion is not largely in favor of it (some say overwhelmingly) would be most lamentable in its results. It would inflict a blow on the temperance cause from which it would not recover in a generation probably. You may declare it a criminal offence to sell or drink certain things, but such an enactment would not necessarily convince a large number of people that they were doing a wrong thing in partaking of what they have perhaps been brought up to regard as a perfectly harmless beverage. They might possibly be better without it—no doubt in many cases they would not suffer from the lack of it—but people will insist on judging for themselves in such matters. The minute you propose to curtail personal liberty you create a rebellion within certain limits, of course. No amount of argument will convince any man that it is possible to enforce prohibition in Victoria at the present time, and this city is not different from, but may be taken as a fair sample of, the other cities of Canada. In the rural districts it may be different. The people there are in favor of prohibition, but they do not need it, because the evils of intemperance are largely confined to the towns and cities. The day public opinion in towns and cities reaches the stage it has risen to in the country districts of Canada on the liquor traffic the country will be ready for prohibition and we shall certainly have it.

No doubt many public men will declare themselves in favor of the resolutions now before the House, but if they are candid they will admit that just yet the country is not ready for such drastic measures. Many of the leading ministers of the gospel have admitted this with sorrow, but they are of too candid and honest a nature to buoy up their followers with a false hope. Many have now taken their stand on new ground and ask for a prohibitory law for those provinces which have signified their approval of the principle of prohibition through the plebiscite. There appears to be an almost insurmountable difficulty standing in the way of this, too, because by the terms of union it is provided that there shall be absolute free trade between the various provinces of the Dominion, and no section could pass such a law without treading on forbidden ground. The subject is a most delicate one to handle, and the conviction is forced upon us that there remains a vast deal to be done in an educational way before the country is ripe for the total abolition of the liquor traffic.

A good deal of fuss has been made about the work of some of the correspondents at the seat of war, and it is well to remind the public that after all it is not picturesque language that is wanted for such work so much as reliability and ability to give a clear account of what has actually taken place. The London Times is not in the field of lurid journalism, but its correspondent gives an account of the march on Bloemfontein which ranks with the best that has yet appeared, and there is a ring of sincerity about it which somehow gives

the impression that one is reading something about which the writer received his information at first hand.

There is good reason to believe that if some form of guarantee were given to the Nansimo people that if Victorians would run an excursion to and liberally patronize the Lobar Day celebration in the Coal City the coming autumn the proposal to celebrate the Queen's Birthday there would be pulled off. It has been suggested that this would be a matter worthy of the consideration of the general committee in charge of the details of the Victoria demonstration.

Mr. McInnes seems at last to have settled on a constituency. It is hardly conceivable that he will oppose the government, and yet he is going to run against the Finance Minister. Now will some one be kind enough to furnish the key to this riddle?

THE GIRL OF LONG AGO.

Reared in many a lonely cabin,
Learning but in nature's school;
Proudly playing straw for game,
Perched upon a wooden stool,
Bounding through the dim old forests,
Finding where the wild flowers grow,
Dressed in homely linsey-wolsey,
Little girls of long ago.

Rowing up and down the river,
Singing, in a birch canoe;
Sticks for dolls, their only playthings,
Feet that seldom donned a shoe;
Watching mother at her spinning,
While she hummed some old tune low,
Crowding round the cheery fireplace,
Little girls of long ago.

Mush and milk their daily diet,
Baten from a pewter bowl;
Dancing on from goal to goal,
Bays as the bees in summer;
Helping father off to sow;
Gathering up the butts and apples,
Little girls of long ago.

Indians everywhere about them,
Wolves at bedtime howling near,
Yet they did not know the meaning
Of the misery of fear.
Following their elder brothers,
While they hunt with gun and bow,
Brave as any old settlers,
Little girls of long ago.

Building houses every autumn,
With the brown leaves scattered round,
Taking tea with bits of china,
Neatly laid upon the ground,
Sliding on the ponds in winter,
Twirling through the drifting snow,
To some distant neighbor's quilting,
Little girls of long ago.

Snow-white grew their shining tresses,
And at last they sweetly slept;
On their low mounds daisies blossomed,
Round and round the ivy crept,
Many a line they've left to tell us,
Early pleasures, later woes,
Dead and gone our great-grandmothers,
Little girls of long ago.

BETTER THAN NONE.

Goldwin Smith.
An American acquaintance tells me that a sensation has been made in American society by a pundit of social science, who maintains that nine marriages out of ten are unhappy. I have not the text of the pundit's production or his arguments before me. But I have always myself held and maintained the exactly opposite opinion. I believe that nine marriages out of ten are happy; not perfectly happy, or so happy as they ought to be, or as they would be if both parties did their best for the common happiness; but happier than a lonely life. However, by marriage I mean sacred and permanent union, not such a connection as an Illinois marriage, which is practically dissoluble at pleasure.

SUPPOSED MURDER.

John Merton, of Vancouver, Reported to Have Been Killed and His Body Mutilated.
(Special to the Times.)
Vancouver, May 2.—The news is given on good authority this afternoon that John Merton, of Vancouver, whose death was reported here this morning, was the victim of a foul murder.

The report was that the young man was killed at Plummer's Pass on Monday, his body being mutilated and bent up in small compass.

No further details are given. It is reported that the sergeant of police of Victoria and a coroner went to Plummer's Pass this morning by the Yosemite.

Merton was formerly in business here. He was about 25 years of age. He was a son of the late Sheriff Merton, of Hamilton, Ont., and was related to J. R. Seymour of this city.

FIRE NEAR GRAND FORKS.

Flames Spread Towards Building Containing Dynamite and Caused Great Excitement.

(Associated Press.)
Grand Forks, E. C., May 2.—The offices, shaft and power houses of the B. C. mine in Summit camp had a narrow escape from destruction by fire yesterday. A heap of brush along the railway spur near the dump was being burned, and the sparks, carried by the wind, ignited the adjacent dry grass, trees, cordwood, stumps, etc. Soon it extended over several acres. The heat was terrific.

All the miners above ground were formed into a bucket brigade, directed by Superintendent Scramled and Accountant Mackintosh. A fire hose did good service. The flames were not checked until they had reached within twenty feet of the power-house, where thousands of pounds of explosive were stored. One shack was destroyed and the occupant, a miner, had a narrow escape.

Standing on the spur were a number of cars loaded with dynamite. They received a scorching but were shifted down the track in time.

After half an hour's work the wind fortunately shifted in the opposite direction.

Fearful Disaster

Over Two Hundred Men Killed by an Explosion in a Utah Mine.

Many Still Unaccounted for and No Hope of Finding Them Alive.

(Associated Press.)

Salt Lake City, May 2.—Two hundred or more lives were lost in the explosion in mine No. 4 of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company yesterday, at Schofield, Utah. One hundred and thirty-seven bodies have already been recovered.

The work of the rescuers is still proceeding, although there is no hope that any of the men who are unaccounted for escaped death.

The scene of the disaster is just outside this place on the line of the Rio Grande Western railroad. The explosion, which occurred in the winter quarters of the mine, is attributed by some to the blowing up of a number of cans of blasting powder. A special train was sent from Salt Lake bearing Superintendent Sharp, of the Coal Company; Superintendent Wilby, of the Railroad Company, and some doctors. As fast as the bodies are reached they are taken to the building houses and other company buildings, where they are dressed and prepared for the coroner's inquest. These buildings are numerous, and in each are 10 to 15 bodies, which are laid in long rows. To those which have been identified are attached tags with names and addresses. These await the coming of relatives or friends. Two hundred coffins have been ordered through undertakers to be sent at once to the scene of the disaster.

Boys Among the Dead.

Salt Lake City, Utah, May 2.—A special to the Desert News from Schofield says: "At 10.30 a.m. 201 bodies had been recovered from mine No. 4. Between 300 and 400 men entered the mines, and it is known that a great majority were killed in the explosion of yesterday. Among the dead are about twenty young boys, who acted as couplers and trap boys. In one family alone seven are missing."

SURVIVOR'S STORY.

Bringing Up the Bodies of the Dead—Scenes at the Pit Head.

Salt Lake City, Utah, May 2.—A special train, bearing the seriously wounded, has started from Schofield for Salt Lake. The calamity appears to have been one of those accidents that are common to the very best regulated mines, and against the best endeavors from competent superintendents. The state mine inspector is still without the data to lay blame to any one. Of course an inquest will have to determine just where the blame rests, and perhaps it can never be determined.

W. C. Wilson was one of those fortunate ones in the lower level of No. 1 who escaped. He tells the story as follows:

"There was a low rumbling noise heard in the distance, followed by a sort of wave."

that can hardly be described, but that is known to all who have been in explosions, and I have been in several. I said to my partner, that if gas was known to exist in the mine I should say an explosion had occurred. I advised that we run to the tunnel, and with me call six men working in that section. In the main tunnel we met the driver and asked him if he had noticed the strange occurrence. He replied that he had almost been knocked off the bar by a rush of air. I was then convinced that it was indeed an explosion, and my comrades ran with me to the mouth. We met two others further on. They proceeded with us. We were none too soon, for the

After Damp reached us some three or four minutes before we reached the open air, almost suffocated.

The after-damp delayed the work of the rescuing party, but the magnitude of the disaster soon became apparent. After the foul air cleared away from No. 1, the work of rescue began, and it was found that a great many of the miners of No. 1 tunnel had been suffocated. Cars were then taken in and dead bodies brought to the mouth of the mine. Here the scene beggared all description, for the men, women and children, relatives of the dead miners, had begun to gather, and as the bodies were brought out and recognized by their families, their lamentations were heart rending.

The dead were all carried into the boarding houses opposite the mine, and at midnight 137 men, nearly all heads of families, had been laid out.

Cold in Death.

Nine-tenths of the men killed were Americans and Welshmen. This mine has been worked for over 20 years, and has the reputation of being one of the best ventilated and protected in the West.

J. M. Beattie, of Schofield, who is the company's storekeeper, said, on his arrival this morning, that no words could portray the horrors, the sadness and appalling extent of the catastrophe.

AN ANCIENT BELIEF.

The ancients believed that rheumatism was the work of a demon within a man. Any one who has had an attack of sciatic or inflammatory rheumatism will agree that the infliction is demonic enough to warrant the belief. It has never been claimed that Chamberlain's Pain Balm would cast out demons, but it will cure rheumatism, and hundreds bear testimony to the truth of this state. One application relieves the pain, and this quick relief which it affords is alone worth many times its cost. For sale by Henderson Bros., whole agents, Victoria and Vancouver.



Corticelli Skirt Protector with its soft, porous, elastic weave is the best kind of bottom finish for a winter skirt, because it dries out quickly. It is steam shrunk before it is dyed and it cannot draw or pucker the skirt bottom. Made of specially grown and spun wool. Sewed on flat—not turned over, one or two rows of stitching. Sold everywhere 4 cents a yard—See that it is labelled.

Corticelli



Dwell On It.

We have made a mark for square dealing and liberal prices which is beyond the reach of all our competitors. It is just like picking up money to deal with us. Our tea and coffee are the standard of perfection.

GRAHAM FLOUR, 10 lb. sacks.....2c.
GOLDEN CORN MEAL, 10 lb. sacks, 2c.
BUCKWHEAT FLOUR, 2 1/2 lb. pkgs. 2c.
GERMEL, 4 lb. pkgs.2c.
FLAKE BARLEY, 4 lb. pkgs.2c.
SNOWFLAKE FLOUR1c.

Dixie H. Ross & Co.
CASH GROCERS

HATS AND CAPS

A Large Assortment of all kinds of Hats and Caps also Girls' and Children's Sunbonnets and Tams.

We invite the TRADE to inspect our well assorted stock in all its departments.

J. PIERCY & CO.

To Our Patrons

LAST YEAR we had such a demand for our Seeds that we were SOLD OUT before the season was fairly over; therefore we start THIS YEAR with a FRESH, CLEAN AND NEW CROP.

SEEDS

Everything warranted to be such and true to name. We keep the very CHOICEST and CLEANEST stock of goods on the Coast. Wholesale price list now ready; write for it. Thanking you for kind patronage in the past and hoping to be favored with YOUR BIG ORDERS in the future, we are, yours very truly,

THE BRACKMAN & KER MILLING CO., LD., VICTORIA, B.C.

VITALLETS
MAKE STRONG AND MANLY MEN.

FREE TO MEN AND WOMEN.
VITALLETS
For Nerve Strength and Blood Health.

Vitallets are a powerful nerve, brain and blood food. They feed the brain, build up the system, strengthen the nerves, and give you the power to do your best. They are the only medicine that will cure you of all the ills that come from a weak nervous system. They are the only medicine that will cure you of all the ills that come from a weak nervous system. They are the only medicine that will cure you of all the ills that come from a weak nervous system.

MALYDOR MFG. CO., BOX 7130, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BLAZE AT ROSSLAND.

Storekeeper Arrested Charged With Attempting to Set Fire to a Building.

(Associated Press.)
Rossland, May 1.—Tony Soccomorran, who runs a fruit, tobacco and grocery store on First avenue, between Spokane and Washington streets, was arrested this morning on a charge of attempting to set fire to the building he occupies, and which is owned by Murchison & McDonald.

About 3:30 this morning as he looked along First avenue, Officer Raymer saw flames rising between the building occupied by Soccomorran and that adjoining it on the east, occupied by Ben Snell as a lodging house, both owned by Murchison & McDonald. He ran up and extinguished the flames before they had gained any headway. He then proceeded to investigate. He found that a narrow alley between the two buildings was blocked at the rear with old lumber. It is so far below the level of the sidewalk that a man standing in it would be breast high to the sidewalk. A side door from the prisoner's store opens on to it near the rear. Under the corner of the store the officer found a quantity of paper and sticks, the sticks being covered with kerosene. The prisoner was found with a pair of old shoes saturated with kerosene. The same inflammable material had been thrown on the walls at each side, half way up. He went down the alley,

HOW ONE GETS BILIOUS.

A sluggish liver fails to filter the bile from the blood, and when the poisonous matter goes through the body in the circulation, the whole system is tainted and deranged. This is called biliousness, and can be completely cured by Dr. A. W. Chase's "KIDNEY-LIVER PILLS," which act directly on the liver, making it healthy and active. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box. The cheapest medicine in the world.

THE RAILROAD STRIKE.

(Associated Press.)
Buffalo, May 2.—Superintendent Waite, of the motive power department of the New York Central, arrived here from New York this morning and was met by Commissioner Webster, of the board of mediation and arbitration. They are in conference with the strikers' executive committee this forenoon.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c. CATARRH CURE

Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. It cleans the bladder, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and is a permanent cure for Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

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