VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST



HE Chancellor of the Exchequer received at the offices of the Treasury a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who attended to urge the extension of the franchise to women, says the .

ondon Times. Mrs. Asquith and Miss Violet squith were present at the interview. Mrs. wcett, the president of the union, headed the putation, the other members of which inded Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Strachey, r. Bertrand Russell, Mrs. Philip Snowden, iss Bertha Mason, Miss Frances Hardcastle, iss Frances Sterling, Mrs. Allan Bright, Miss dith Dimock, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Miss Strachey, Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Falconer, Mrs. J. R. Macdonald, Mrs. F. Richrdson, Miss Emily Davies, Mr. J. P. Stevenn, Miss Bompas, and Miss Margery Corbett. Mrs. Fawcett, in introducing the deputa-

ion, said the National Union of Women's Sufrage Societies had existed for a number of years, and comprised 30 or 40 societies, which xisted for one object only-the extension of he franchise to women on the same terms as men. It had been said that if their object were chieved it would only have the effect of enranchising a few single women of "hat was an entire misconception of the facts. The bill for which they agitated would not, if carried, exclude married women; it would not include merely a small group of women of roperty; it would be representative of a very rge mass of working women. They had made n analysis in various constituencies, and ound that the immense majority of women ho would be affected would belong to the orking classes: They based their claim on astice and expediency. Almost all legislation iffected women as well as men. In the list of measures mentioned in the King's Speech on Wednesday there was hardly one which did not affect women closely. In industrial legis-lation in particular the voice of women should be heard. She referred to the large number of female employees in the textile industries, and said that when it came to legislation men had an opportunity of influencing it by their votes, but women were entirely excluded. A great change had of recent years been made in the

social and economic position of women, who

were now admitted to most of the learned pro-

essions; and there was today great inconsist-

ency between the wide social, educational, and

industrial freedom of women and their absolute political subordination. The present political

status of women was inferior to the political status of the lunatic and the criminal. Their

esent position constituted a danger, which

ndeavor to relieve. They appealed to him to

onsider their request, and to urge the Govern-

nent and his party to make the representative ystem complete by the enfranchisement of

Miss Sterling, honorary secretary of the

on, said that, besides women who worked

ith their hands, a very large number of wo-

ien who worked with their heads were affect-

as an enormous change in the minds of the

They had satisfied themselves that there

thought the wisdom of statesmen should

District of Metchosin

ND ACT

to carry on ousant te of British Columbi or effect all effect all or any of ompany to which the of the Legislature

extends. of the Company is

the capital of the million five hundred divided into ten thou-wo hundred and fifty

of the company in this te at Victoria, and i, insurance agent, Victoria, is the at-

Victoria, is the at-mpany. hand and seal of of-Province of British rd day of February, hundred and six. S. Y. WOOTTON, foint Stock Companies. which the Company ed and licensed are:-der the provisions of Ordinance, 1865." the sheretofore carried on surance Office, and for arry on in the Colony elsewhere, under the agency of the partner-now carrying on bus-y of Victoria, in the ong, and elsewhere in or elsewhere, the bus-on at Hongkong under of Jardine, Matheson person or Persons who

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the management and mpany, and when there be any person or per-and qualified and will-mer aforesaid, then and hder such management the Company shall ap-ss of marine insurance marine insurance in all luding the insurance harbour and river risk, ssels of all kinds, re-ure, bullion, merchan-property belonging to ompany or to strangers of ships and vessels or saling vessels, receiving or other sta-ports, in or on rivers, ports, in or on rivers, ports, in or on rivers, en by persons carrying of marine insurance: to sem de expedient, and to s which shall be deem-conducive to the at-above objects or any of

5 that I. Norman Har-B. C., occupation S.S. apply for permission to g described land: fore-e lot 54, Metchosin dispurposes: t a post planted at the of Bentinck Island, chains, thence routh 40 ast 40 chains, thence to point of commence-

NORMAN HARDIE. S.C., 13th January, 1980. EGISTRY ACT

of an application for a Indefeasible Title to 51, 52, and south 32 24 and 50 of Lot 1694 (Map 24). by given that it is my expiration of one month ublication hereof to is-certificate of Indefeas-ove land issued to Clin-on the 29th day of June red 183. Y. WOOTTON

Registrar-General. Office, Victoria, B.C., January, 1908.

member of the Government, am for the time being responsible. Those are the purposes to which, under our system, he it good or bad, deputations to ministers are usually confined. But I felt when I was asked to listen to the representatives of such a very responsible organization as yours, particularly in view of the past history of this question, that it would be stretching the rules of official etiquette to a pedantic point if I were to deny myself the opportunity, an opportunity which I very much welcome and appreciate, of hearing from your own hps what are your views with regard to this particular matter. I am bound to preface what I have to say with this, otherwise, if this were to become a precedent, I do not see how any minister is to guard against receiving de-

putations from any body of organized politicians on almost any possible reform which might be considered to be in the political ofting. But this is an exceptional case. I am not quite sure that I realize fully the object with which you have come to me, and me in particular, today. I am sure you do not share the view which I see is current in some quarters that my band of colleagues are ardent and unanimous in favor of the suffrage to women and that I am the solitary and sinister figure who is exercising with disastrous results a maleficent influence upon the fortunes of your

Mr. McLaren .-- I am sure that we do not think that.

Mr. Asquith .- I am sure you do not take that view. Therefore I have to ask myself the question whether the observations, the very ogent and admirable observations, which have been addressed to me today, are addressed to me as a man, or as a Minister, or as both.

Mrs. Fawcett .- As a leading member of the Government, influential in its counsels.

Mr. Asquith .-- I see. From my own personal point of view I may tell you at once I am not, and I do not think I ever have been, what is called a fanatic in this matter. I have done within the limits of my power what I could administratively to help the women who are engaged in industrial work in this country to we the advantage of seeing the law effectively administered through the agency of members of their own sex. When I was at the Home Office for the first time this enormous number of women and girls in the textile and other trades were enabled to be looked after by persons of their own sex, without whose intervention and supervision, I was then satisfied, and I am still more now, the Factory Act was largely a dead letter. I had the opprotunity of introducing a similar reform in connection with the administration of our prisons, where female prisoners and inmates required to be visited to a much larger extent by ladies and members of their own sex. I have supported

onsistently in Parliament for the last 20 years, I think, every measure that has been brought forward to remove the disabilities and to extend the opportunities of women in our municipal and local government work. Therefore I am not a case-hardened or fanatical opponent to the claims of women, I have listened today to arguments with which, of course, I am fairly familiar, and which have been presented with unusual precision and persuasiveness. Let me say in reference to those arguments that I will consider themm an

use perfectly plain and honest language than to use any ambiguity which is apt afterwards to give rise to misconstruction and charges of to give rise to misconstruction and enarges to breach of faith. I will, therefore, only reply to that part of the request by saying that I en-dorse what was said by my right hon. friend and colleague. Although I am not at all in a position to say what attitude members of the Government will take towards a measure inroduced from other quarters-that is a totally lifferent matter-yet if the suggestion is put forward that the Government itself should take the initiative, so far as I know their intentions and so far as I am capable of acting as their spokesman, I do not think that in this Parliament there is any probability of their do-ing it. But that does not in the least degree affect your action in the matter.

The deputation then withdrew.

HERBERT SPENCER ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

N a recent issue the London Times had the following letter to the editor:

Sir:-In these days, when so much is heard about "the franchise for women," it may interest some of your readers to know what was thought on

that subject by one whose opinions were not without weight-the late Mr. Herbert Spencer

Certain views he had expressed in his first book, "Social Statics," had caused Mr. Spencer to be looked upon as being in favor of granting the suffrage to women. Hence a request from Mr. John Stuart Mill in 1867 that he should join a society about to be formed to promote that object. The following letter, which will appear in the forthcoming volume, the "Life and Letters of Herbert Spencer," is the reply Mr. Spencer gave to Mr. Mill's request.

Truly yours, D. DUNCAN.

The Athenaeum, Pall-mall, S. W., Jan. 15. "Yarrow, 9 August, 1867. "Dear Mr. Mill .- Your note has reached me here, where I have been spending a few days

with Prof. Masson on my way north. "Probably you will remember that in a letter some time since, written in reply to one of yours, I indicated that my views had underone some modification since the time when I wrote 'Social Statics.' The modification goes as far as this, that, while I should advocate the extension of the suffrage, to women as an ultimate measure, I do not approve of it as an immediate measure, or even as a measure to be shortly taken. I hold, as I doubt not you also hold, that political liberties or powers like

that of voting, are simply means to an end, That end, you would probably say, is the se-curing of the good of the individuals exercising such powers; or otherwise, as I should say, it is the securing the greatest amount of individ-ual freedom of action to them. The unhindered exercise of faculties by each, limited only by the equal claims of others, is that which the ight of voting serves to obtain and to maintain. This is the real fiberty in comparison with which right' of yoting is but a nominal liberty

"The question with me, then, is, How may this substantial liberty to pursue the objects of life with least possible restriction be most extended? And as related to the matter in. hand the question is, Will giving the suffrage to women, which is in itself but a nominal extension of liberty, lead to a real extension of liberty?

"I am decidedly of opinion that it will not. The giving of political power to women would,' I believe, restrict, and indeed diminish, liberty in two ways. It would strengthen the hands of authority, both political and ecclesiastical; for women, as a mass, are habitually on the side of authority. Further, it would aid and stimulate all kinds of state administrations, the great mass of which are necessarily antagonistic to personal freedom. Men in their political actions are far too much swayed by proximate evils and benefits; and women would be thus swayed far more. Given some kind of social suffering to be cured or some boon to be got, and only the quite exceptional women would be able to appreciate detrimental reactions that would be entailed by legislative action. Political foresight of this kind, uncommon enough in men, is extremely rare in women. "Of course, whoever holds that the minds of men and women are alike, will feel no difficulty of this kind. But I hold them to be unlike, both quantitatively and qualitatively. I believe the difference to result from a physiological necessity, and that no amount of culture can obliterate it. And I believe further that the relative deficiency of the female mind is in just those most complex faculties; intellectual and moral, which have political action for their sphere.



HERE is no court that combines. splendor and bankruptcy in the same degree as that of Persia. The palace which Shah Mohammed Ali exhibits is stored with treasures of incalculable value. Yet the Shah finds himself nowadays almost with-

out the means of paying his current expenses. Under his predecessors the palace expenses were the first lien on whatever revenue the country produced. But nowadays there is a parliament, and the appropriation made for the Shah and his household for the current year is only \$500,000, says the London Express.

Though money goes a good way in Persia, this sum is not one fifth enough to maintain the establishment on its present scale. All the office-holders stormed and the harem of Nasr-ed-Din, grandfather of the present Shah, went in carriages to the Palace of Baharistan to remonstrate. But the Parliament stood pat, and when the Shah contemplated dissolving it and withdrawing the new constitution he found he would have too much trouble on his hands. Just how he will deal with the expense account remains to be seen; he certainly has done nothing to reduce it. The train of servants and attendants, high and low, still number more than 1,500 men, and there are more than 1,000 women in the anderoun, or harem, with their number rather increasing than diminish-

The Shah's palace is situated in the oldest quarter of Teheran, called the Ark. It consists of a number of houses and pavilions built at various times and located haphazard among beautiful gardens.

The buildings used by the Shah himself are called the biroun. There the staff of court ignitaries are on duty all day. They number altogether from 600 to 700 men.

Across the gulistan or gardens, in the most remote part of the enclosure, the Kadje-Bashi or chief of the eunuchs holds sway with his regiment of dusky guardians of the anderoun. The gardens are divided into the men's enclosure and the women's into which no man but the master may ever enter.

The walls are lined with encaustic tiles, rippling brooks intersect green lawns and gorgeous flower beds. Shade trees hang over deep pools that cool the air. Song-birds in vast aviaries concealed by shrubbery animate he scene with their carolling, and hidden musicians play in the summer houses all day and late into the night, a fashion borrowed, it is said, from India.

The women of the anderoun have a double nierarchy. There are in the first place the official authorities. There is also the purely social hierarchy, at the top of which are the princesses of the Kadjar line, the Shah's own amily, who have borne sons of rank to succeed to the throne. All women of the Kadjar race have undisputed precedence.

Next come the favorites of noble family and after them beauties of lower rank. Beneath these are the hundreds of attendants and companions, down to the kitchen maids. The system is much more aristocratic than the Sultan's seraglio, but any woman may secure a certain elevation by winning the notice of the Shah.

Some of the great princesses have pavilions all to themselves, with suites of attendants and

always on the aiert; there are 800 cooks and scullions in them.

The dishes are passed from these to a grade of attendants who may be said to correspond with our footmen. These pass them along to the chamberlains, who may serve them if no higher dignitary is on hand, but the highest official of the court who happens to be present has the right to present them to the Snah.

All the courses are served together. The staple dishes are rice and saffron, chicken fricassee, venison and roast mutton cut in chunks, served en brochette and called kebab. Besides these a vast number of sweet creams, luscious pastries and delicious fruit are served. The Shah gorges himself with sweetmeats as all Persians do, men and women alike.

If the Shah cares to fall back on the treasares of his palace he can keep the wolf from the door for many a year. Nobody knows the wealth stored up in it. In the building called the museum there are said to be bins full of emeralds, topazes, rubies, diamonds and pearls which have been accumulating for generations. There are besides priceless articles of pottery and metal work, Japanese and Chinese, Indian, Sevres, Dresden china, gold, silver and steel work from all parts of the Orient. The col-

lection of ancient arms and armor is worth perhaps a million dollars.

Then there are the gorgeous articles of harbaric splendor which make up the regalia. When the Shah appears in state he wears a tiara of brilliants, surmounted with an aigrette of precious stones.

On his forehead shimmers the famous diamond known as the Mountain of Light. 'His epaulets are studded with emeralds, sapphires and topazes. His belt glitters with diamonds and his sword handle and scabbard are incrusted with rubies.

The terrestrial globe made by his grandfather's orders shows all the continents and seas in precious stones, Persia being in diamonds. The celebrated peacock throne consists of a great square pedestal over which branches of foliage creep, all made of emeralds, with flowers in rubies and pearls.

The chair is of gold and seems to be splashed with blood, but it is only patches of rubies. Above the back shines a sun of diamonds, so set on wires that they tremble with the motion of the occupant of the chair, sending flashes of light in all difections like the sun itself. This hrone has been appraised as high as \$40,000,-

Besides his palace and his hunting lodges the Shah has several country houses with beautiful gardens, whither he goes to escape the heat, taking sections of the anderoun and regiments of servants with him. The present Shah has added automobiling to his pleasures,

FRENCH TRIBE IN SAHARA

S a result of the recent Arnaud-Cortier expedition into the southern Soudan the strange theory has been launched in Paris that the Tuaregs, the wild nomads of the Sahara, are of French origin. The assumption

is that they are the descendants of survivors of



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Ir. Asquith .- I confess it is not a prospect attracts me very much. (Laughter.) Walter MacLaren also spoke, and urgthe question should be dealt with on its alone.

men.

ot be blamed, and blamed with justice, colleagues and probably by my succes-having consented to receive this depudeputation which comes upon a subvery great importance, but totally uned with the duties of my own particular

trusted to receive his aid in this move-

nt. If he would pay them a visit she could arantee him large and enthusiastic meetings

was an enormous change in the innus of the electors on the question of woman suffrage. That had been evidenced by some of the re-cent by-elections, and she hoped that the way in which the subject was received at by-elec-tions would be of some importance to the Govthe weight which they must have with any Mr. Bertrand Russell said the present posireasonable person. I do not say what the reon was a painful dilemma to those who, like sult will be, but my best consideration, they mself, were in equal measure Liberals and fragists, and who were suffragists because y were Liberals. As Mr. Asquith had himsaid, the task of Liberalism was to comte the enfranchisement of the people; and to mplete that enfranchisement they felt that it as necessary that the present strong and owing demand of women should be recogzed. The House of Commons as at present ected represented an oligarchy just as freely did the House of Lords. All over the couna vast large proportion of women were ning to the conclusion that they could no ger work for a Government which did not gnize their right to vote. Some would y abstain, but an increasing number had ed either to devote themselves to the Laparty or to simply oppose whatever Govnent was in power. They earnestly hoped the Liberal party would take this matter consideration, and that the Government, e the present Parliament came to an end, ld introduce a measure for giving the franto women on the same terms as men. y asked it not only in the interests of wobut in the interests of Liberalism. Miss Ford (Leeds) spoke on behalf of the king women of the north of England, who, said, were under a deep debt of gratitude Mr. Asquith for introducing legislation in ection with women factory inspectors, and

certainly shall have. But after all it is a very unimportant point what the state of my convictions may be at any particular moment. I am sure you would not come here in order to make a solitary convert to your cause. Your object is to get a declaration from some member of the Government that the Government itself is prepared in this Parliament to take the initiative in this matter. And upon that point I must refer you to what was said in appropriate language by my right hon. friend and colleague, who is himself a strong supporter of your movement, Mr. Lloyd-George. Mr. Lloyd-George pointed out the other day that you could not expect a Government which came into power as ours did-charged by the country with a number, an enormous number, of most important and most urgent dutiesyou could not expect that Government to lay aside any part of its task for the purpose of asking the House of Commons to enter upon and initiate a very great constitutional change, which, whatever may be said of its merits or demerits, certainly was not prominently before the electors last general election. Miss Sterling referred to the by-elections. I daresay it is true, I know it is true, that at the byelections which have recently taken place this question has somewhat prominently come to the front. But no one who went through the general election of 1906 can pretend that the question of woman suffrage was in any sense one of the issues which determined the electoral vote. Although I do not press the docrine of what is called the mandate to the length that some people do-and I quite agree that the Imperial Parliament has power and sometimes is under a duty to effect changes. which were never thought of at the time of its lection, if it is convinced that they are not Asquith .-- Ladies, I am not sure that I only expedient, but urgent-yet, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of the case, I. do. not think that we as a Government . would be ustified ourselves, in this Parliament, in taking the initiative in a matter of this kind, even if we were, which I frankly tell you we are not, unanimous in our views as to the expediency with any legislation for which I, as a of the change itself. I think it is much fairer to

"When the state shall have been restricted to what I hold to be its true function-when it has become practically impossible for it to exceed that function-then it will be alike proximately and remotely equitable that women should have political power.

"To put the right construction on these reasonings of mine, you must bear in mind that to me the limitation of the functions of the state is the question of questions, in comparison with which all other political questions are trivial; and that to me electoral changes and other changes in forms of government are of interest mainly as they promise to make men freer, partly by the removal of direct injustices, and partly by the removal of those indirect injustices which all undue legislative action inolves.

"I greatly regret not to be able to coincide with you on this matter; and the more so because I recognize the nobility of your motive, and, could I reconcile it with my conscience; would fain follow your example. "I am, dear Mr. Mill, very sincerely yours, "HERBERT SPENCER."

servants. The other favorites five in groups with their households in common. The dress of the women consists of a jacket or bolero, called the yal, which is sleeveless and fastened across the breast with frogs of gold lace.

Beneath it is the diaphanous undergarment called pirahen. A skirt not much longer than a ballet dancer's, and sometimes fluffed out in the same way with stiffened underskirts, is called zirjoume. It only reaches to the knee. There are slippers for the feet, and a square fichu called tchargat is worn on the head and knotted under the chin. From under it the hair falls in luxurious curls to the shoulders.

All the women of the anderoun wear the same costume, though of course there are vast differences in material. The servants wear coarse linens and heavy mohairs; the princesses and favorites draw not only on the marts of Asia but those of Europe nowadays for their. choicest fabrics.

Gorgeous ornaments of gold and precious stones are worn by the favorites and their favorites. The rig is enchanting on young women, but the few Occidental women and a doctor or two who have had a peep into the anderoun speak with shuddering of the appearance of the old and middle-aged womenespecially as they say the Persian woman when she grows old always grows fat.

The Shah spends only his nights in the anderoun. He leaves it every morning at early prayer time. He spends his day in hunting, sleeping and eating, with occasional con-ferences with his ministers or receptions to foreign representatives.

The rooms of the biroun, the equivalent of the Turkish selamlik, are all decorated with glass. The floors are tiled, but the tiles are hidden under priceless carpets. The walls are panelled with mirrors or with moulded and engraved glass. Festoons of crystals hang from the ceilings.

The present Shah is indolent and Oriental in his habits. Sometimes he will spend half the day smoking and dozing. Capriciously he will start off for one of his five hunting lodges near the capital, where he can find any sort of ame from panthers down to a quail. He takes his meals wherever he happens to be when the desire seizes him. His kitchens are the crusading army which King Louis IX. (Saint Louis) landed at Tunis in 1270.

The King himself died there, and only a few stragglers of the many thousands who accompanied him ever made their way home. The general statement of history has always been that the rest died of pestilence or else were slaughtered on enslaved by the Mohammedans of the coast. Now it is suggested that a strong band, well armed and mounted, may have successfully resisted attack and made their way into the interior, incidentally securing wives by attacks on the nomad Arabs.

Many facts about the Tuaregs lend a color of possibility to this proposition. They clearly are not of the same race as the peoples surrounding them. They themselves believe that they do not belong to Africa. They have a tra-dition of migrating thither some centuries ago, out their story is that they are descended from the Turks and reached the Sahara via ngypt. Their status as intruders is further illustrated in the fact that they are irreconcilably at odds with all their neighbors. Whether among the Berbers of the north or the blacks of the south they have no friends.

They are a remarkable white race. Those of the north, who have intermarried little with Soudanese women, are known as the 'white Tuaregs.' In face and stature they suggest rather the European than the Turk. Their very strange habit of veiling their faces—the men, for the women go unveiled though they are Mohammedans-is explained by themselves do to their dignity; it is not worthy of a true man to allow himself to be looked at. it is generally believed that it is a survival of the need which strangers experienced to pro-tect their tender skin from the flying sand and dust of the desert. Now it is suggested that the veil is really a survival of the visor of the Crusader's helmet.

It is a family tradition that members of the family accompanied St. Louis on both of his crusading expeditions, the earlier of which came to grief in Egypt as the later one did at Tunis. It is a family tradition also, the Comte Amedor says, that on each expedition the re-presentative of his family failed to return.' He writes as if he were quite ready to embrace in the Tuareg chief a long lost even if somewhat distant cousin.—New York Sun.