

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1893.

A CONTENTED PEOPLE.

Mercier's denunciation of British rule is not so acceptable to the French Canadians as he would like our American neighbors to believe. What he said about British oppression and British intolerance was not true, and there are prominent French Canadians who do not hesitate to contradict him and to tell the world what they and their compatriots think of their treatment under British rule. Among these is Senator Tasse. That gentleman said, not long ago, to a friend who was enquiring into the truth of the statements made by M. Mercier: "Do not believe that the French Canadians are discontented, restless or eager for radical changes. We are a happy lot; we are full of hopes." Speaking of the way in which his compatriots feel towards Great Britain and their English-speaking countrymen, the Senator said:

"I think I am voicing the feeling of the great majority of my compatriots in saying that they are fully satisfied with the country, with their institutions and with their laws; that they find in the folds of the British flag all the protection which they would wish for their rights, and in building up a new nationality on the American continent with the sons of England, Scotland and Ireland—and they are worthy sons of all that I know of too—we are but repeating the history of England herself. We are but re-building that majestic structure which has stood the test of years, which was the work not only of the Saxon but also of the Briton and Norman. The Briton and the Norman were our ancestors, and they have made France also; and France and England are two of the most powerful factors of human progress."

This is, no doubt, nothing more than the simple truth. The inhabitants of Quebec of French extraction have nothing to complain of. They enjoy all the rights and privileges of their Canadian fellow subjects. There is no distinction made between them and their countrymen of English, Scotch and Irish descent, and they would be most unreasonable if they were discontented with their political condition. They are not unreasonable. They know that they are as free as any people under the sun, and that it is no fault of the British nation if they are not as happy as it is possible for them to be and as prosperous as the natural conditions under which they live permit. It is Sir Hector Langevin and Senator Tasse, and not Mr. Mercier, the discredited politician, who represent the real condition of the French Canadians.

PARTIAL PRESERVATION.

It is easy to see from the published interview that Sir John Thompson is very far from being satisfied with the sealing regulations which form part of the award of the Behring Sea Arbitration. He refused to attach his signature to those regulations, and it appears that Lord Hannan could only be induced to sign them by the consideration that if they were rejected the whole arbitration business would fall to the ground. "I may say," said Sir John, with emphasis, "that if Lord Hannan did not give his adhesion, no regulations could have been adopted. The three neutral arbitrators were favorable to these regulations, but were in the minority of the tribunal, and Lord Hannan's assent was necessary, therefore, to constitute the majority. "If regulations had not been adopted, no award would have been possible, even on the question of right, unless, indeed, we were able to award, by a majority, that no regulations were necessary, which would have been an impossible conclusion. The reason why no award could be made was that a final award was necessary, in order to be binding on either country."

We imagine that those who do not like the regulations will, when they come to think over the matter, prefer to have them, had as they are, than to have the question of the sovereignty of Behring Sea continued a disputed question, and to have the American fleet to claim the fur seals as their property which they might happen to stray. The settlement of these two questions adversely to the claims of the United States will, we believe, be found of the greatest advantage to British sealers in the future. If those questions had been left open there would have been no end to the disputes and the misunderstandings, some of which might be productive of very unpleasant consequences. Dr. Dawson placed his hand on the weak part of the award when he directed attention to the fact that the arbitrators were precluded from making any arrangements for the preservation of seal life on land. It does look almost absurd to see the arbitrators making elaborate and stringent regulations for the preservation of seal life on the sea, where the creatures have many chances of escape, while they could not interfere with the massacre of the seals on land, where they are completely at the mercy of the pursuers. Dr. Dawson said recently:

"Our investigations show conclusively that herefore the greatest injury to the seal fishery has resulted from excessive killing and careless methods upon the Pribilof Islands, where the seal land to breed each year. Being within the territorial limits of the United States the regulation of sealing upon those islands was not submitted to the decision of the arbitrators, but, as the United States may now rely upon more than adequate external protection, it remains for the Government of the country to carry out its professions with regard to killing them. The responsibility with regard to the future property of seal life now rests mainly with the United States, and if the seals do not increase and multiply it will be because of their acts upon the islands. But the preservers of seal life, who sat five months in Paris to consider how best they could accomplish the end they had in view, have not been able to do anything whatever towards lessening this "excessive killing" or towards improving or suppressing the "careless methods upon the Pribilof Islands." It is on those islands common sense points out that protection ought to be given. It is

there that it is most required, and there only can it be made effective. It is said that there is a limit to the seals which the Commercial Company may kill. Granting that for the sake of argument, and for that only, there is no limit to the number which the Company may mutilate and torture in their efforts to get the seals which it pays best to kill. When the American claim to property in the seals was disposed of, all that remained for the arbitrators to do was to make such provision as could most effectively extend to the seals which were to be preserved the protection of the species imperatively required. But they must have felt that any regulations they might make, as long as they could not touch the principal cause of the diminution of the seals, must be ridiculously inadequate. As long as the Commercial Company can do as they please with the seals on land, the restrictions on pelagic sealing will do very little towards the preservation of seal life. The sum and substance of the whole matter seems to be just now that it is the Commercial Company alone which will receive any immediate benefit from the award of the Behring Sea Arbitration. Dr. Dawson says that the United States Government may carry out its professions with regard to killing seals on the Pribilof Islands. That Government has hitherto been most lax in its oversight of the Company's operations and practices, and there is no reason for concluding that it will not be equally lax in the future.

THE REFERENDUM.

There are some persons in Canada who are quite in love with the plebiscite. They think that the people should have a more direct and a more influential voice in the enactment of laws than they have under our long-tried and, on the whole, successful representative system. These people do not seem to think that the plebiscite gives the people a chance to crystallize into laws their prejudices, their whims and their follies, as well as their wisdom and experience. It can be understood that proposals which agree with the popular whim of the moment may be embodied in law without proper consideration. People carried away by excitement may vote for a law that would not have a chance of being received and acted upon by a representative body composed of fairly intelligent men. This is what has lately taken place in Switzerland. A number of the electors disapprove of the Jewish mode of killing cattle to be used as food. The agitators have been able to get the requisite number of signatures to a demand for the "Referendum" or plebiscite, to enact a law making the slaughtering of cattle in this manner illegal. Leading citizens of Switzerland are deeply humiliated that the use of the Referendum should be inaugurated in this stupid retrogressive fashion, and a large committee headed by two ex-Presidents of the Republic has issued a circular pleading with voters not to thus disgrace the ancient cradle of liberty and toleration. We do not know whether or not this appeal has had the effect desired. But it is just as likely as not that the excited multitude, goaded on by the agitators, will carry out their silly and intolerant proceeding to its consummation. It is not to be supposed that in this tolerant age any deliberative body of legislators would entertain such a proposal as this. The days of religious persecution, under the sanction of law, are in all well-governed countries happily past, and this proposal to prevent a people from doing what their religion requires is nothing less than persecution. We do not say that the plebiscite would be used in this country in such a way as the Referendum is used in Switzerland, but there can be no doubt that it would in times of excitement be used to sanction the enactment of foolish, impracticable and unjust laws. A recourse to the plebiscite is without doubt tantamount to an admission that the representative system is a failure and that the time is near when all laws must be enacted directly by the people.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The statement of the Post Office Savings Bank for the year ended, 30th June, is an exceedingly satisfactory one, its review for a number of years previous augmenting the interest and rendering the remarkable success of the institution even more appreciable. In June, 1878, the amount of deposits was \$2,754,600 in the names of 25,535 persons, and at the end of the last fiscal year, the amount was \$24,153,194, owned by 114,275 persons. It is thus apparent that, while the number of people having Post Office Savings Bank accounts was more than quadrupled, the amount standing in the name of each has almost doubled. The augmentation has not been at the cost of the withdrawal of capital from business enterprises as the active commerce of the country has been immensely enlarged during that period, while in the chartered banks the deposits have been increased by about a hundred millions of dollars in fifteen years. The withdrawals last year were only \$6,631,580, or 10 per cent less than those in 1891-92. The number of new accounts opened last year was 3,470, the total deposits being \$7,707,588, an average for each additional deposit of \$221.13. The average of each deposit also went up last year from \$48.52 to \$51.75, and the number of withdrawals sank from 77,381, in 1891-92, to 73,361. All this goes to show that the responsibility of the Post Office Savings Bank is not only increasing, but that it is in an exceptionally good financial position, the circumstances tending to demonstrate the general prosperity of the Dominion.

A CURE FOR HEADACHE.

Headache arises from congestion, bad blood, dyspepsia or liver complaint. As B.B. cure all these complaints it is naturally the most successful headache cure existing. Once the cause is removed, the headache vanishes.

COMPLIMENTS EXCHANGED.

Public Meeting on the Work Estate—Sewerage and Civic Matters Discussed.

Ald. Baker and Mayor Beaven Have a Lively Personal Controversy.

The public meeting, called Friday evening to discuss civic matters, in the interests of the candidates for election as aldermen for North Ward, degenerated into a warm, wordy war between Ald. Baker and Mayor Beaven, interesting enough to the audience, but of small account for the candidates. The meeting was called to order promptly at 8 o'clock, and did not break up until after 11-30 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Blackett occupied the chair, and in his opening remarks regretted the lack of interest taken in the election, as shown by the slim attendance. This, he said, was due to the fact that it was late in the season, and no matter who should be elected very little could be done before the end of the term. But he thought a good many would be chosen, so he felt it was not possible in any way or order to bring order out of the present chaos in the regard to killing seals on the Pribilof Islands. That Government has hitherto been most lax in its oversight of the Company's operations and practices, and there is no reason for concluding that it will not be equally lax in the future.

Mr. Robertson said he had once before suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the North Ward taxpayers, and he was not knowing what the outcome of Saturday's voting would be, he would say he could stand defeat if he had to do so. Without making any promises as to what he would do, he thought the wards should be redistributed, so that the North Ward would have more representation. Taxes were now too heavy, without very much to show for the money, and more than that the taxes were to be collected two months earlier than usual, which would be a great hardship. Taking up the sewer question, he thought a mistake had been made. The Picking system was the best and should have been stuck to. He had no objection to the proposition to use the surface drains as sewers, but, of course, this was a question for the Council. As to the sewerage question, there was no doubt the city would eventually go to Goldstream, but for years to come Elk lake would be sufficient, as it must be remembered that the reduction of the salaries of city employees, and severely censured the Council for their neglect to apply the pruning knife. (Applause.) He did not like the Local Improvement By-law, which he thought was an unjust measure, with nothing for the square about it. Another thing he complained of was that property was assessed at boom prices, and the Court of Revision was not a Court of Equalization. He did not attempt to explain the lack of harmony in the City Council, but told how the business was done when he was there. The present arrangement, used to find fault with, had been made by Ald. Baker, who, as an alderman and a candidate for re-election, had fundamental principles. He had been at this meeting Ald. Baker had pretended to him, but now he had levelled this tirade of abuse against him. He had been the mover of the resolution awarding the contract to Coughlan & Mayo. Ald. Baker likewise supported the same. He had been the mover of the resolution awarding the contract to Coughlan & Mayo. Ald. Baker likewise supported the same.

Mayor Beaven did not want to leave this very hot meeting without saying a few very gross and glaring mistakes that had been made by Ald. Baker, who, as an alderman and a candidate for re-election, had fundamental principles. He had been at this meeting Ald. Baker had pretended to him, but now he had levelled this tirade of abuse against him. He had been the mover of the resolution awarding the contract to Coughlan & Mayo. Ald. Baker likewise supported the same.

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NYE'S CORRESPONDENTS.

Their Search for Information and the Enlightenment Which They Received.

Sponge Life—What is a Viking?—How to Do Up a Woman's Hair.

[Copyright, 1893, by Edgar W. Nye.] Napoleon Withum writes from Jackson, Tenn.: "I have been for a year making a study of animal and plant life, beginning with the two great divisions—viz., exogenous and endogenous plants—and studying everything regarding the flora and fauna of our own and prehistoric times. Could you tell me if sponges are or are not divided as to sex, as are most of the lower as well as higher order of life?"

Yes, the question is really considered settled by late authorities, though at first in grave doubt. Even mollusks are, many of them, now so divided. It is a wonderful study, Napoleon, the relation of sexes, for instance, in the public schools of Spanish mackerel, and the communities of gastropods, and the various types of conifers.

Who would think that away down in the bottom of the sea, where the bones of dead men lie covered with moss and the treasures that it has taken thousands of years to accumulate upon the face of the earth lie forgotten in the back yard of a polyp or echinoderm, the line is closely drawn, and the little sponges, some of them are playing circus and pirates, while the others contract play houses and carry dolls, while at the head of the school we may find a large carriage sponge as tutor, who tutes in summer and boards around sponging on her relatives in winter? All these are divided into two great classes, like the higher order of vertebrates.

It is not remarkable, Napoleon, that the sponge should love and be loved at the bottom of the deep, deep sea? Do you not wonder as you think that in the deep under the jagged, dark, and jagged fragments of broken hearts and envy and jealousy and unrequited love?

Away down in the bottom of the sea, where the Atlantic cable and McGINNIE lie together, sponge years for sponge with a great big yearn that distance and damp weather cannot destroy.

Once upon a little quiet sponge that had no parents living, and she was given to introspection and absorbed knowledge or anything else that came along, and she grew to be very beautiful, with blond tresses and features enough for a Sunday paper.

She grew up under the eye of an uncle who did not care for her and who cared in such a way as to give her the salty and disagreeable end of the joint, and in other ways he was unpopular with her.

She loved a large tan sponge with liquid eyes who sat near her on a rock the livelong day for 30 years, like an astronaut. He spoke of his love to the cruel old uncle, but he told him to go and soak his head.

And so while they suffered on, hoping for a merciful death to come and carry off the old girl, she was one day torn from the rock on which she had so long been seated that she seemed rooted to the spot, and now far away, where even the memory of the sea is never heard, she is the top of a sour and unhappy mulligan bottle on the deck of a man who writes and contributes the literature that is marked "Communicated."

Yes, Napoleon, even into all sponge life some rain must fall. Mortimer G. Tidd, Erin Prairie, Wis., writes: "I am a constant reader and a young man of 24 years of age. I was encouraged by what you have said to sort

the sky cat will get you if you do not get a great big move on you. You do not say you are a physician, but that is neither here nor there. You can practice even if you are not. That does not disturb you. But you must not give up just as the interest begins to disappear. You have not yet been kicked off a moving train by a copper-tongued conductor. That is something to remember. You can have no idea how in future years when you are a great and noted physician with a worldwide reputation and a clinic and a pharmacopoeia and that conductor is not to be forgotten. I will accept your own say."

"Ah, yes! I think I have met you before," and he will say: "I am not able, sir, at this moment to recall the incident. Had I met one of your worldwide reputation I could hardly so soon forget it."

"And you can say: 'Ah, it was when I was poor and unknown that I met you, and you sternly reproached me with your heavy kick boot for not having a ticket! But let me let you know that I have since prescribed for some of your folks. They spoke to me of you before they died. We will not speak of the past. All is forgotten now.'"

You have not been in jail yet, Mortimer, which shows that you have not made the effort that you should make. Bunyan wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" in jail. I have often envied people in jail. It is so cool and quiet there, and such a good place to write a book of travel. If I could get into jail and do it honorably, I believe I would do it. It is not too late yet. I will send you the money in a few days. I had a check made out for you, and before I could get it into the mail for I am living in the country—the bank busted. It will resume business, however, in a few days, and when it does the check will be good. I am keeping it for you.

Estelle Krippeo, of Peabody, I. T., asks: 1. What is a viking? 2. How would you arrange your hair if you were me? I am to be married a year from this fall to a very fine young man from Kansas City, and I do not wish to offend his artistic taste.

I. A viking was a Norwegian pirate in the past. He was one of the pioneers in that line and coarse to a degree. He sang ribald songs, stole, and sometimes had a cooking stove in his tent. He was one could detect the odor of liquor on his breath. A viking even after he had made his money always ate with his knife and wore a red mustache that would fill a teacup plumb full.

If a reformed viking tasted wine in his pudding sauce, it would arouse his old appetite, and he would load up with a churlish of vodka and sleep all night in the haymow instead of at the palace. Vikings loved to capture rich merchantmen and then take charge of the store themselves.

They also loved to capture beautiful ladies and offer them their hands in marriage. If the lady said no, she was already married, the viking would say that could be fixed in a few moments and would often throw the husband overboard with a cooking stove in his tent. He was one could detect the odor of liquor on his breath. A viking even after he had made his money always ate with his knife and wore a red mustache that would fill a teacup plumb full.

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She loved a large tan sponge with liquid eyes who sat near her on a rock the livelong day for 30 years, like an astronaut. He spoke of his love to the cruel old uncle, but he told him to go and soak his head.

And so while they suffered on, hoping for a merciful death to come and carry off the old girl, she was one day torn from the rock on which she had so long been seated that she seemed rooted to the spot, and now far away, where even the memory of the sea is never heard, she is the top of a sour and unhappy mulligan bottle on the deck of a man who writes and contributes the literature that is marked "Communicated."

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"Ah, yes! I think I have met you before," and he will say: "I am not able, sir, at this moment to recall the incident. Had I met one of your worldwide reputation I could hardly so soon forget it."

"And you can say: 'Ah, it was when I was poor and unknown that I met you, and you sternly reproached me with your heavy kick boot for not having a ticket! But let me let you know that I have since prescribed for some of your folks. They spoke to me of you before they died. We will not speak of the past. All is forgotten now.'"

You have not been in jail yet, Mortimer, which shows that you have not made the effort that you should make. Bunyan wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" in jail. I have often envied people in jail. It is so cool and quiet there, and such a good place to write a book of travel. If I could get into jail and do it honorably, I believe I would do it. It is not too late yet. I will send you the money in a few days. I had a check made out for you, and before I could get it into the mail for I am living in the country—the bank busted. It will resume business, however, in a few days, and when it does the check will be good. I am keeping it for you.

Estelle Krippeo, of Peabody, I. T., asks: 1. What is a viking? 2. How would you arrange your hair if you were me? I am to be married a year from this fall to a very fine young man from Kansas City, and I do not wish to offend his artistic taste.

I. A viking was a Norwegian pirate in the past. He was one of the pioneers in that line and coarse to a degree. He sang ribald songs, stole, and sometimes had a cooking stove in his tent. He was one could detect the odor of liquor on his breath. A viking even after he had made his money always ate with his knife and wore a red mustache that would fill a teacup plumb full.

If a reformed viking tasted wine in his pudding sauce, it would arouse his old appetite, and he would load up with a churlish of vodka and sleep all night in the haymow instead of at the palace. Vikings loved to capture rich merchantmen and then take charge of the store themselves.

They also loved to capture beautiful ladies and offer them their hands in marriage. If the lady said no, she was already married, the viking would say that could be fixed in a few moments and would often throw the husband overboard with a cooking stove in his tent. He was one could detect the odor of liquor on his breath. A viking even after he had made his money always ate with his knife and wore a red mustache that would fill a teacup plumb full.

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NYE'S CORRESPONDENTS.

Their Search for Information and the Enlightenment Which They Received.

Sponge Life—What is a Viking?—How to Do Up a Woman's Hair.

[Copyright, 1893, by Edgar W. Nye.] Napoleon Withum writes from Jackson, Tenn.: "I have been for a year making a study of animal and plant life, beginning with the two great divisions—viz., exogenous and endogenous plants—and studying everything regarding the flora and fauna of our own and prehistoric times. Could you tell me if sponges are or are not divided as to sex, as are most of the lower as well as higher order of life?"

Yes, the question is really considered settled by late authorities, though at first in grave doubt. Even mollusks are, many of them, now so divided. It is a wonderful study, Napoleon, the relation of sexes, for instance, in the public schools of Spanish mackerel, and the communities of gastropods, and the various types of conifers.

Who would think that away down in the bottom of the sea, where the bones of dead men lie covered with moss and the treasures that it has taken thousands of years to accumulate upon the face of the earth lie forgotten in the back yard of a polyp or echinoderm, the line is closely drawn, and the little sponges, some of them are playing circus and pirates, while the others contract play houses and carry dolls, while at the head of the school we may find a large carriage sponge as tutor, who tutes in summer and boards around sponging on her relatives in winter? All these are divided into two great classes, like the higher order of vertebrates.

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