

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1894.

## THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain matters concerning the Nakuap & Slocan Railway will be found in another column. It will be read with great interest by men of every shade of public opinion in the Province. So much was said and written last winter respecting the "unpleasant circumstances" connected with the extension of the Provincial guarantee to the bonds of the Nakuap & Slocan Company that the electors are naturally anxious to see the interpretation placed upon those circumstances by two gentlemen of known ability and long experience in weighing evidence of all kinds—gentlemen, too, of the highest character, who can have no possible motive in favoring one side or the other. It is seen that these able and impartial Commissioners, after inquiring into the matter carefully, have come to the conclusion that there is no reasonable ground on which to base even a suspicion that the Government, or any member of it, acted corruptly in the transaction of the business connected with the Nakuap & Slocan Railway. It is, in fact, impossible to imagine findings more favorable to the men whose motives were impugned and whose characters were assailed than those contained in the Report of the Commission. The Commissioners cannot see that the slightest blame is, in the matter inquired into, attached to any member of the Government.

The "irregularity" to which the Leader of the Opposition attached such weight and drew so many inferences unfavorable to the Government, so far from being regarded by the learned Commissioners as suspicious, is considered by them as strong proof that there was nothing wrong or hidden in the transaction. The "irregularity" they say "so far from demonstrating that the Minister was the agent of the Company points distinctly in the opposite direction, since it would be the first care and duty of such an agent to see that everything was in order." It is quite clear that a man conscious that he was making a corrupt use of the powers he possessed, would take very good care that he would make everything hard and fast, and not leave it in the power of the Legislature to undo what he had done.

The Commissioners are careful to say that they had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the arrangement "which was ratified by the Act of 1894 is more advantageous to the Province than the arrangement contemplated by the Act of 1893." But even if it were not they very properly say, "it does not follow that a bad bargain must be a corrupt bargain." He is a very lucky man indeed whose experience has not proved to him that this is as true a saying as ever was uttered.

As we have already indicated, the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners on every part of the subject inquired into are favorable to the Government, and those conclusions are expressed in language so simple and so clear that it will be impossible for the ablest and the most malignant of the enemies of the Administration to misunderstand or to misinterpret it.

The absence of the accusers of the Government is noticed in the Report, and it is shown that there is no excuse for it on the score of expense. The failure of the men who were so ready a short time ago to lead the public to believe that they were in possession of evidence with respect to the negotiations connected with the extension of the Government guarantee to the bonds of the Nakuap & Slocan Railroad most damaging to the Government, is proof, if proof were wanting, that they themselves were at the time convinced that there were no grounds for the accusations which they in so many ways, direct and indirect, preferred against the Government. The conclusion to which every man of sense must arrive, is that they did not attend the sittings of the Commission, because they knew that if they did, they would appear before the judges and the public as self-convicted slanderers. The Hon. Mr. Beaven, it is true, appeared before the Commission, but he declared more than once that he did not appear as a prosecutor of the Government, and that he did not accuse them of having committed corrupt acts.

## MISPLACED SYMPATHY.

The Coxeyites and their sympathizers have given the good people of Seattle a scare. On Saturday a band of the Communists in the custody of a number of deputy marshals were brought to Seattle from Yakima, in the State of Washington. The spectacle of a number of patriots on their way to the county jail was too much for their friends and sympathizers in the city. A large crowd of them gathered and the situation for a time looked threatening. The officers of the law were judicious and offered no more resistance to the mob than was necessary to secure their own safety. After making a good deal of noise the crowd dispersed. Judge Hanford, not liking the appearance of things, sent to Vancouver for a detachment of U.S. troops. In compliance with his request five companies of the Fourteenth United States Infantry, under command of Colonel Chetani, were sent to Seattle. Happily nothing more than the presence of the troops was required to preserve order.

On Monday the Coxeyites were arraigned before Judge Hanford on the charge of stealing two box cars at Ellensburg. There were some demonstrations in the court which the Judge promptly checked, but there was no disorder.

We see from this that the Coxeyites have many active sympathizers among the inhabitants of Seattle, and from other accounts it is quite evident that they

are looked upon with favor by a very considerable proportion of the population of the United States. It will be remembered that the officers of the law when they returned to Butte with a company of train stealers were treated in pretty much the same way as the deputy marshals were in Seattle. The mob evidently resented the capture of the train stealers and assumed a threatening attitude. It is beginning to be seen that respect for the law is not nearly so general in the United States as it was supposed to be. There are, in fact, indications that the time is not far distant when the law-abiding and law-respecting men of the country will be required to show in some impressive way that the law of the land must be obeyed or serious results will follow. The spirit exhibited by many in the United States does not promise well for the future peace and good government of the country.

## IMPUDENT FALSIFICATION.

The News-Advertiser, at a loss to account for the very peculiar part which the Opposition took before the Commission to inquire into their charges of corruption, in relation to the Nakuap & Slocan railway business, does not hesitate to state what is openly and impudently false. Commenting upon the fact that a warrant had been passed on Wednesday last for an open amount for the expenses connected with the investigation, it goes on to say: "Now people will be glad if Mr. Davis will explain what has caused this complete change of front on the part of the Government with respect to the matter. Turning to the report of the proceedings in the House, when the proposal of a Royal Commission was under discussion, we find that in answer to a question from the Opposition as to whether any funds would be provided for the necessary expenses for counsel and witnesses other than those for the defence of the Government, Mr. Davis replied 'not one dollar,' and he then proceeded to ridicule the suggestion."

We have turned to the reports of the House, with the result that the words quoted by the Advertiser are not to be found in them. What Mr. Davis said on that occasion referred wholly to the appointment of counsel, and had no reference whatever to the payment of the expenses of the investigation. Here is the report as it appears in the Times:

"He (Mr. Davis) contended that the Opposition tried to make a screaming farce of the Commission. They suggested that the Government should appoint men to both prosecute and defend them. The thing was too absurd to be thought of. There were precedents for the course of practice that should be followed in this case."

The reader sees that not a word is here said about expenses. The Premier's remarks were confined wholly to the appointment of counsel. The Commission should be conducted, he said, according to precedent.

The Colonist's report is fuller, but it is to the same effect as that in the Times. Here is an extract from it:

Honorable gentlemen opposite have made a sorry spectacle of themselves to-night. They have been saying that the Government proposes to make a farce of this investigation; and yet, sir, what do they propose but to make it a screaming farce? They propose that the Government should appoint a counsel to prosecute them. Well, sir, was absurdity like this ever uttered before? They have been comparing the Government in this matter to criminals. Well, accepting that comparison, did you ever hear of a case where a criminal in the dock had the right first of all to select without reference to anybody else to select a prosecutor or attorney-general to prosecute him? And that is exactly what the hon. members opposite propose for the Government to do. Now, if the Government were to do anything of the kind the thing as a fraud, an effort of the Government to whitewash themselves at the expense of the country, and would ask: "To whom does this lawyer owe allegiance but to the men that employed him?" I say the thing is not to be thought of for one moment.

Here again nothing is said of expense except incidentally, and then the inference is that the Government is to bear the whole expense of the Commission no matter how it did its work.

The report in the News-Advertiser itself is extremely meagre. All that it says is:

"Hon. Mr. Davis followed with what purported to be an exhaustive reply to hon. gentlemen opposite. He related the procedure in the case of the Texas Island case, when the late Mr. Robson, then in opposition, moved for an inquiry, and Mr. Davis said Mr. Beaven seconded a resolution to amend that of Mr. Robson in the sense that Mr. Davis contended that inasmuch as Mr. Robson had on that occasion confessed his own case, it was the clear duty of Mr. Beaven to do the same and that it was absurd to expect the Government to bear the expense of their own prosecution, more-over lay themselves open to an accusation of having induced the prosecuting counsel to work for the men that employed them."

There was some conversation respecting the Commission before Mr. Davis made the closing speech of the debate, but that gentleman is not reported as uttering the words attributed to him by the News-Advertiser and the Times. For on Monday the Times repeated the falsehood published by the News-Advertiser on Sunday. A reference to its own columns would show that its report did not contain the words attributed to the Premier, but this did not hinder its saying: "When the project to appoint the Nakuap Royal Commission was before the House, Premier Davis was asked whether the exchequer would supply funds for any expense that might be incurred in supporting the charges. His answer was a decided negative, 'not one dollar,' he said, would be provided for expenses of counsel or witnesses on the anti-Government side of the case, though on the Government side the expense would be borne by the public." The reader will look

## JOURNALISTIC INSOLENCE.

The man or the journal who states as facts what cannot possibly be known to be true is either exceedingly stupid or utterly regardless of the truth. The News-Advertiser has been speaking of the newspapers which support the Government as being supplied with material by the Leader of the Opposition, and as being his "journalistic servants." Now, it is perfectly impossible for the editor of that paper to know how or from whom the Government publishes its insouciant guesses as statements of fact he grossly violates the decencies of journalism, and he proves to the public that he is utterly reckless with respect to the truth of his assertions. Here is an example of both his mendacity and his insolence. In Sunday's issue he said: "Just at present it appears to be Mr. Davis's aim to keep his journalistic servants well supplied with material for the most absurd statements as to the Opposition's aim and policy."

This the editor of the Advertiser may consider a very clever way of misrepresenting opponents. For our part we look upon it as some degrees worse than open and direct lying. In the first place Mr. Davis has no "journalistic servants" that we know of. He has, as every leader of a Government has, supporters among the journalists of the Province, but they are very far from being his "servants." In the next place Mr. Davis does not keep them "well supplied" with "material" of any kind. Those journalists deal with the material with which the Opposition supplies them, in the manner they consider best, without dictation from the Leader of the Government or any of its members. The notion that every writer who favors the Administration has Mr. Davis perpetually at his shoulder directing him what to say or what not to say is simply absurd, and as far from the truth as possible.

"Just now," continues the veracious Advertiser, "he is urging on his journalistic supporters to aver that the Opposition when it comes to power . . . will rearrange the Parliamentary representation of the Province strictly in the line of representation by population." This is an instance of the "lie direct." Any man of common sense does not require the Leader of the Government to tell him that the Opposition, if by any miracle or mischance it should be elevated to power, would make ducks and drakes of the representation as well as of many other things of the first importance to the people of the Province. The second plank of the Nationalist platform which the exigencies of the situation compel the party of which the News-Advertiser is the organ to swallow, is: "That population be the only basis of legislative representation."

Articles have appeared in the Opposition newspapers in which this principle was asserted, and Opposition orators have insisted upon it with great earnestness and energy. When, therefore, the Government newspapers say that if the Opposition were entrusted with the management of the affairs of the Province they would rearrange the representation according to this principle, they only say that the Opposition when in office would act according to their declarations and professions when out of office. It needed no hint or suggestion from Mr. Davis or anyone else to induce them to take this ground. How does the Advertiser know that any scheme of representation that is not based on this principle of representation by population will receive the approbation of the men whose votes the Opposition are seeking? The Nationalists, who have declared to the world that population is the only basis of legislative representation, are not to be expected to repudiate their principles at the bidding of Mr. Cotton or Mr. Kitchen or Mr. Sword. It is a thousand times more likely that they will compel those politicians to accept the terms they dictate, than that, when they are masters of the situation, they will change their principles to please the men whose tenure of office depends entirely upon their will and pleasure.

## A MISTAKE.

The Nor' Wester of May 11, says: "The Government of British Columbia is accused of corruption in connection with a railway subsidy, and the charge is being investigated by a Royal Commission appointed, we understand, by the Dominion Executive." Our Winnipeg contemporary is mistaken. The Commission was not appointed by the Dominion Executive, but by the Provincial Government, which received the authority to do so from the Legislature of the Province. Accusations of corruption in the shape of insinuations, suggestions and hints were freely made last session by the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. As they did not demand a Commission to inquire into the truth of these charges the Premier moved a resolution praying the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the matters charged against the Government. That Commission was appointed

## A STRIKING ILLUSTRATION.

The old saying that "there is many a true word said in jest" was strikingly exemplified by a passage in the leading article of Tuesday's News-Advertiser, evidently intended to be popular. Commenting on what we said on the acceptance by Mr. Cotton of the term "demagogue" as applied to himself, our contemporary quotes the following sentence from our remarks: "He (Cotton) is cold-blooded and unsympathetic, and he panders to the prejudices and errors of men whom he despises," and then goes on to say: "This brings to our recollection a picture which we once saw in a little church in a secluded part of Spain, in which the Devil was represented as cooking men's souls in a frying pan." That painter was a genius. Nothing could give one a better idea of the cynical greed, cruelty and selfishness of a cold-blooded and cold-hearted demagogue who uses those who believe in him for his own bad and ambitious purposes than this picture of the Devil gloating over the souls of the men he is trying out for his own satisfaction. We have no doubt that there are people in Vancouver who could appropriately label the souls which the diabolic "demagogue" is engaged in frying out. The Advertiser's illustration is temptingly suggestive. It cannot be said that the Advertiser is complimentary to Mr. Cotton or that Mr. Cotton is very happy in the title he appropriates to himself. The one likens the new leader of the Opposition to Satan himself engaged in frying out the souls he has captured, and the other cheerfully takes to himself the title of "demagogue," including, of course, all that title, properly understood, signifies. The Advertiser suggests a tempting subject to the caricaturist.

In the new leader's capacity of "demagogue" he captures the souls of those who put their trust in him, and as Mephistopheles he fries them out when he has them securely in his power. As a jolt to the editor of the News-Advertiser, it must be admitted, is a signal success.

## WELL DONE.

It is needless to say that the passage of all the by-laws by so large a vote is a matter of gratification to us, as we were in favor of them all. But independently of that, it is most encouraging to see that the citizens of Victoria have faith in the future of their city and in the men whom they have placed in charge of its affairs. When times are hard, as they are at present, there are many who get discouraged and who try to depress and dishearten their neighbors. These faint-hearted people are not in the best times hopeful. They are never enterprising and when a period of depression comes they look so persistently at the dark side of things and talk in such a melancholy strain that they do what they can to make the times worse than they really are. We feared that the influence of persons of this class would have the effect of increasing the opposition to measures, no matter how good, and how necessary they might be, in favor of, and the weakness of the opposition to the by-laws, showed that our fears were to a great extent groundless. Victorians have not allowed themselves to be unduly depressed by croakers and obstructionists, and they are right. This city has a bright future before it. If its inhabitants make the most of its advantages, good times will be sure to come again, and they will reap the benefits which the improvements they have sanctioned are capable of yielding. The secret of the growth and prosperity of many of the most prosperous cities of this continent is the strong and abiding faith which their citizens have in themselves and in the cities that they are building up and making important. Faith in their case removed mountains and worked what appeared to many to be impossibilities. Victorians ought to believe in Victoria. It is well worth believing in and working for.

## TRIED AND FOUND WANTING.

It is to be remarked that it was the United States authorities that took measures to enforce the law against the train stealers in Washington State. The State officials seem to have been paralyzed. They saw the law violated without taking a single step to assert its supremacy. The same thing happened in the State of Kansas and if we mistake not in Montana also. In Kansas, as our readers have seen, the State authorities, following the example of the Governor were perfectly passive; they in fact became the aiders and abettors of the train stealers. In Washington State they appear to have been altogether inactive. If it were not for the Federal Government the Commonwealths apparently might overrun the States with impunity, doing what they pleased with the property of the citizens. As Yakima, the citizens of the place have been accused of participating in the crime of the train-stealers. We are not greatly surprised at their doing this. The descent of a horde of hungry men without money to pay for what they require, must be to the inhabitants of a country village a most unpleasant visitation. It is natural to suppose that they would be anxious to get rid of their unwelcome guests as speedily as possible. The temptation, therefore, to help them to get the means of transport is an unlawful way was not uncommonly strong, and it is no wonder

that men who are not protected from pillage and violence by the local authorities should be so. The inaction of the State authorities shows the weakness of State governments when action is to be taken against offenders who have votes or who are in sympathy with those who exercise the franchise. It is very evident that in the case of the Coxeyites State governments have been tried and found wanting.

## EASILY PLEASED.

We yesterday showed from the reports both of the Times and the News-Advertiser, that the words quoted by them as taken from a report of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are not to be found in any of those reports, and yet the Times cheerfully speaks of our exposure of its falsification as "entirely satisfactory." Our contemporary is easily pleased, certainly. There are papers which would exhibit some signs of shame and annoyance at being caught in the act of deliberately falsifying a public record, but our contemporary has evidently outgrown all such unphilosophical squeamishness. We must therefore be careful to verify alleged citations that appear in the Times within quotation marks.

## SEWER COMMISSIONERS.

Many of the ratepayers will be pleased to learn that the City Council last night signified its intention, if the sewer by-laws passed to-day, of appointing Messrs. J. H. Todd, W. J. Macaulay and B. W. Pearce as Sewer Commissioners. These are all gentlemen in whose integrity and prudence the citizens have perfect confidence. It would, in fact, be hard to make a better selection.

## MINERS AND OPERATORS.

CLEVELAND, May 16.—The first session of the conference of the coal operators with the delegates of the united miner workers was held yesterday afternoon. When the delegates appointed at the meeting of Pennsylvania operators held in Pittsburgh last Friday presented their credentials to the committee, they submitted a copy of the resolutions adopted at the meeting, a vote of 96 to 38 stating that the operators comprising the convention did not propose to be bound by any action taken at the Cleveland conference. The committee refused to receive the delegates upon such terms and decided that they must come into the conference as individuals if at all. The operators of Indiana had a clause in their credentials, which stated that they would not be bound by the action of the conference unless it was accepted by the operators of Central and Southern Illinois. This provision was not objected to by the committee. When the report on the resolutions of the Pennsylvania operators was read to the convention, J. McBrayer, president of the mine workers, made a speech in which he scored the operators on such terms as an insult to the body. The report of the committee was adopted, and of the ten men barred out two accepted the conditions imposed and entered the "convention" as individuals. It was decided after the report of the committee on the credentials of the operators that 195 miners and 160 operators' Organization was effected by the election of J. B. Sorbe, an operator of this city, as president. Patrick McBryde, of the miners' union, secretary, and Frank Brooke, an operator of Columbus, his assistant. The report was finally adopted, and the convention adjourned.

TACOMA, May 16.—General Manager John Kangley, of the Northern Pacific coal mines at Roslyn, is still in the East, and no information has been received for publication, that the company proposes to bring the strike from the East to take place in the mines, having been turned out to graze and there are no signs of an immediate move to return to work. The officers of the company seem to think that the matter of wages will be arbitrated and that no action will be made to bring in miners from the East. It was stated that the coal supply of the Northern Pacific was running low, and that in consequence of the shut down at the Roslyn mines the company would have to insist upon some sort of an arrangement in order to secure coal. Assistant Purchasing Agent Mason, however, states that while the supply of coal on hand for the district over which he has jurisdiction, being as far east as Ellensburg, will not last over thirty days, an abundant supply can be had from the Wilkeson mines, which are the source of most of the coal in his jurisdiction, and in fact of about all the coal used west of the Cascades. The Roslyn supply points east of the Cascades, as far east as Hope, Idaho, but in the event of the Roslyn supply running short, the railroad officials say the Wilkeson mines would probably be drawn on temporarily.

NEW YORK, May 16.—Fifty thousand tons of English and Nova Scotia coal have been bought for shipment to New York for the use of steamships, and negotiations are on foot for 100,000 tons more. The cost is within 45 to 50 cents a ton of the ordinary price of soft coal delivered here.

RUSSELLVILLE, Ky., May 16.—Fifteen hundred miners in the coal fields of Ohio and Michigan counties have struck. Non-union men seem to be joining with organization. This district represents over 375 per cent of the output of the entire Western field.

PROSBURG, Md., May 16.—Owing to the miners' strike 1,800 men are idle in this and surrounding towns, and many families are on the verge of starving.

SPRINGFIELD, N.Y., May 16.—The conference between the mine managers and the strikers yesterday had made no change in the situation here, and the men are still out. The situation is very grave. The pulp and paper men are still at work, but it is stated on good authority that these men will be ordered, one to-day or to-morrow unless there is a prospect of a settlement favorable to the strikers. Should this happen the mines would be flooded and the effect would be disastrous, as the town of Springfield is entirely dependent on the mines. The strike is severely felt on the Intercolonial railway, many train cars being laid off, while the traffic receipts are seriously affected. The outlook for another surplus in view of the strike is not good.

## Fruits Damaged by Frost.

NIAGARA, May 16.—This section of the country was visited last night by a heavy frost, which almost entirely destroyed the early strawberry crop, and the late peach crop will also be greatly lessened by cold.

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The Premier and His Colleagues Declared Blameless and Their Course Fully Justified.

Forster's Statement Pronounced to Be Not True—Comment Upon the Bargain Made.

"No Corrupt Motives of Any Kind Existed With or Influenced" the Ministers.

The Royal Commission in the matter of the Nakuap & Slocan Railway presented their report yesterday, and the complete text of it is given below. It will be noticed that the Commissioners, Chief Justice Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie and Exchequer Court Justice Gen. W. Burdick, pronounce the bargain made to have been a more advantageous one than that which it superseded, and that they completely justify the course of Premier Davis and his colleagues, besides declaring that there was no foundation whatever for the charge of wrongful motive in the matter. The Commissioners' report in full is as follows:

To the Honorable Edgar Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

We, the undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Commission of the twentieth day of April, 1894, to inquire into certain matters therein mentioned, concerning the Nakuap & Slocan Railway Company, have the honor to report that the manner in which that inquiry has been made, and the evidence taken thereof, will appear by the record of the proceedings of the Commission, which we have the honor to submit herewith.

It will be seen from the notes of evidence that, though full notice was given of the time and place of sitting, and also, in our opinion, a sufficient intimation that the reasonable expenses of witnesses would be repaid to them through the Commissioners, no one has thought fit to appear in support of the accusations.

The only person from whom we have received any assistance in this direction has been the Hon. Robert Beaven, M.P.P., who, though not responsible for making the charges, brought forward some facts upon which he suggested the absence accusers might have relied.

These were, first, irregularity in acting upon the Statute of 1893 before it had actually been brought into force, which could only be done by an Order-in-Council. But this seems, though an irregularity, to be quite inadequate to support the charge of corruption against the Minister. The Statute of 1893 was brought into operation by an Order-in-Council almost immediately afterwards. The whole transaction has been confirmed and ratified by the Statute of 1894, and the irregularity, so far from demonstrating that the Minister was the agent of the Company, points distinctly in the opposite direction, since it would have been the first care and duty of such an agent to see that everything was in order.

And secondly, Mr. Beaven pointed out that in the opinion of many persons, the undertaking which the Statute of 1894 imposed upon the Government, in lieu of that under the Statute of the former year, was so manifestly disadvantageous, that it was to be inferred that it could only have been introduced and supported through corrupt motives; though it must be added that he did not make such a charge.

It does not follow, of course, that a bad bargain must be a corrupt bargain. An honest Minister, with no motive or desire except to serve his Province, might make a mistake. We do not wish to suggest for a moment that any such mistake has occurred in the matter into which we have been inquiring. On the contrary we think that under the evidence adduced, and the arguments addressed to us, only one conclusion is open to us, and that is that the arrangement for the construction of the Nakuap & Slocan Railway, which was ratified by the Act of 1894, is more advantageous to the Province than the arrangement contemplated by the Act of 1893, and we have had no difficulty in arriving at that conclusion. But, however that may be, on the issues more directly submitted to us by the Commission, there is we think no room for doubt, and we find as follows, that is to say:

Firstly: That the Honorable the Premier of the Province, in advising the guarantees mentioned in the said Commission, did not work for the Company, but worked for the Province.

Secondly: That no corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced Your Honor's Ministers in the advice tendered by them to Your Honor in relation to the Nakuap and Slocan Railway Company.

Fourthly: That no one of Your Honor's Ministers has had, or has, any interest, directly or indirectly, in:

(a) The Nakuap and Slocan Railway Company; or

(b) The Construction Company by which such railway is being built; or

(c) In any contract by or with either of the said Companies, either in furnishing materials or supplies, or in any way whatsoever.

All of which is respectfully submitted. Dated the 15th day of May, A.D., 1894.

MATTHEW B. BEGBIE, CHIEF JUSTICE.

W. BURDICK, EXCHEQUER COURT JUSTICE.

THE INDUSTRIAL ARMY.

To THE EDITOR:—Everything now, to make it acceptable, must have a military tinge with it. The men on the march to Washington are spoken of as an army. They have their general and their rank and file, but are wanting in completion, having neither arms, ammunition nor commissariat.

History, it is said, repeats itself, for this Industrial army seems animated by the same spirit as that which influenced the political agitators, who some years since in England were clamorous for the charter and who expressed themselves in the following doggerel rhyme:

"Gods above, shower down your love  
In words as sharp as storks;  
To out the throats of gentle folks  
Who rob the poor of victuals."

W. K. B.

ROME, May 16.—The anti-Ministerial meeting voted on Monday in the Chamber, when there was no quorum present, was voted on again to-day and was rejected by 140 to 112.

## NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Nanaimo's Fire Limit.  
—Van Horne Unhappy.

Premier Davis Speaks.  
City—Interesting C at Vancouver.

(Special to the Colonist.)

## VANCOUVER.

MAY 15.—I notified the Electric Light company that they must not erect any masts without their permission. The City solicitor has given on that the extraordinary part of the company by the council and that these people were ultra vires, and it was not a legal by-law passed as these privileges.

The Women's Missionary conference held their initial convocation yesterday. Mrs. Concupit held the chair. Mrs. the meeting at the Hotel Hamilton. Several ladies from home stations delivered interesting Mrs. Raley of Kille-mat, 500 Victoria, being among the McCraney welcomed the deliever, and Mrs. Chapman, plied.

A largely attended Gospel meeting was held last night hall. Rev. J. M. McLeod, meeting and Rev. E. Robson addressed. Mr. Robson said the was part of the religion of y and that these people were viorated at the numerous World's Fair during the distress of religious. Mrs. B. Townsend, and the Rev. J. addressed the meeting.

The 10-year old son of Mr. Warden of Boston, Mass. suddenly at the Hotel Vancouver. Judge Gordon of the Oregon, is a guest of Mr. Peter

VANCOUVER, May 16.—The Macdonnell, charged with the Macdonnell, a C.P.R. track March last, came up for trial.

The evidence was all in at the jury retired. Justice D them to bring in one of dicta—guilty, not guilty slaughter. At 8:30 the jury with a verdict of "manslaughter, extreme provocation," and a tation to mercy. The judge said taken a more merciful view of had, but he would have to ing to their finding. It was no doubt that the prisoner stely waited for the unfortunate life he had taken, to prove

The prisoner was then he had anything to say tence should not be passed. who is a very small man, his not at all a vicious-looking rather a determined expression dock and hesitatingly answered to do it to protect myself. I ask The sentence of the court, "Duke, is that you be taken tentary and thence kept in one term of eight years."

WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster, May Van Horne was expected to Royal City, but he went East to out giving it a call, and there is appointment in consequence.

Premier Davis was in the city and addressed a meeting of Men's Political Association. T was not a public one, only the ing present.

The up-river districts are imter and vegetables from California. The city council has abandoned of reducing the assessment all rates will be equalized if any are found on the roll, and if further are taken the council will fight

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 16.—the Fraser has fallen 10 feet o week. Not since 1862, so say has the water in the river been this time of the year. If war comes, and the river rises, more snow on the mountains at ever before observed at this season.

Kali Tees ranch, at Texas bar, sold to American investors for \$4 will spend \$10,000 putting in a plant.

Li-Cok Peters, D.A.G., was to-day inspecting the arms of N pany. Forty stand of the latest, condemned and will be returned to the Victoria.

A boy seriously wounded a little an air gun yesterday. The police cided to confiscate all weapons of found in the hands of boys.

James Wardle, of Hope, has himself as a candidate for the wale in the government interest.

HALL'S PRAIRIE.

HALL'S PRAIRIE, May 16.—A pting was held here on Wednesday last, with Mr. C. D. McGroggie in to discuss the proposed steamer between Victoria, Vancouver, a Rook (Surrey). The chairman at necessity for some such an outl product of the settlement and rangers to support and snoot project. Mr. H. T. Thrift of E also addressed the meeting at son pointing out the advantages that cruce to the various settlements the boundary line were

section made as suggested. Mr. McElmore, Mr. Shields, Mr. Arm Cameron and several other gentl lowed, all urging the expediency an effort to secure the steamer or after which a resolution was adoptd these present to support the establisment. Resolutions were al asking the government to open o on the section line east from the on or two miles north of the boun and requesting the Surrey Council prove the Campbell river road was intersection with the Hall's Pra

A hearty vote of thanks to the terminated the proceedings of the

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, May 15.—Mayor Qua this morning for Douglas lake; he away until the end of the week.

L. Lawrence has been re-elected f the hook and ladder company, R. anstant, and A. E. Hilbert, secre

The twenty-eighth drawing of the Building Society will take place evening of Friday next, at the Y. M

The scholars of the 2nd and 3rd