

UP TO THE SOLID FOUR.

Three weeks of the first legislative session of the eleventh parliament of British Columbia have flown by with winged speed, and apparently no opportunity has occurred for the united four who represent this city to implement their pledges to accomplish something for Victoria. But we must not be impatient. Doubtless our members are but waiting for a favorable opportunity. It is not good form for novices in the legislature to be impetuous and to butt recklessly into the debates. We are assured that Messrs. McBride, Davey, Behnen and Thomson are on the alert and that when the time comes—say when rail connection with the mainland becomes a live topic of discussion or when the true intent of the university bills become apparent—that the valiant quartette will come to the front with a rush determined to let the House understand that Victoria has rights that cannot be overlooked by the government, even at the dictation of domineering Bowers, impetuous MacGowan, wily Gardner, diplomatic Tatlow, bold McGuire or sly Cotton. Nevertheless it may be for the Premier and his colleagues from Victoria to keep the weather eyes open, because there may be something behind the university bills that is hidden from all eyes by the shadow of the aggressive and patriotic sextette from the ambitious "village on the inlet." We have not the least doubt that when the time comes for action our representatives will hit the red hot iron and make the sparks fly. We are not very sure about the dauntless three, but we have had some experience of what the Premier can do when aroused, and we are confident that he will not sit in rumination if the fact should develop that there are more things in the diplomacy of the solid Vancouver manipulators than are comprehended in the philosophy of the unsuspecting members for Victoria. Our contingent must not be permitted to forget that they have solemnly promised to "do something for Victoria." We intend to continue to remind them of their pledges. Victorians are anxiously watching to see what they are going to do under the splendid opportunities placed so trustingly and so confidently in their hands.

GRAFT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The tremendous forces of nature and the vile forces of humanity seem to have combined to down unfortunate San Francisco. The case of that ill-fated city furnishes a forcible illustration of the fact that the inherent meanness and villainy in human nature is not confined to any particular section of the community. One might naturally have expected that the tremendous catastrophe of the earthquake would have awakened in the breast of every resident of San Francisco, and especially in the minds of the men who had been entrusted by their fellows with the task of civic government, a firm determination to sink all the natural human propensities to indulge in "graft" and to work patriotically for the building up of the business which nature had so unceremoniously leveled down. But the contrary proved to be the case. The extremity of the community appears to have been accepted as the opportunity of the persons so unfortunately entrusted with the powers of government. The civil administration was elected as representative of the reform element. One class had been on trial at the city hall for many years—the class denominated "politicians." It had not risen to its opportunities and was declared by the popular verdict to be lacking in civic patriotism. The "labor" element came in, and its failure, and the result of its comparatively short regime indicates beyond question that corruption is not confined to any particular class or clique, but that the whole community is rotten to the core. Schmitz and Ruff, elected as defenders of the rights of the people against corporations, sold themselves and those they represented absolutely into the hands of privilege-seeking corporations. They publicly posed as the champions of the people against the encroachment of Orientals, while they were secretly disposing to more bitter enemies of the citizens than Orientals could ever be franchise and property rights worth millions of dollars. For instance, the United Railways Company paid to each supervisor \$40,000, and to Schmitz and Ruff \$400,000. The Pacific States Telephone Company paid ten supervisors \$10,000 each, while the Home Telephone Company, besides investing \$6,000 each in seven supervisors, paid to Ruff and Schmitz \$150,000. The "Prize-Fight Trust"—a prominent California organization—paid \$10,000 to Schmitz and Ruff. The title is one of unexampled sordidity. The New York Post says that San Francisco is, of course, to be congratulated that the truth is coming to light at last. Some of her newspapers, which have resented the city's designation by the Evening Post as the most corrupt town on this continent, should sing a little smaller and devote themselves to rescuing their municipality from the depths to which it has fallen. It is true, of course, that San Francisco's story is the old one of corporate greed and corruption, of the

purchase of valuable franchises by public-service companies. This has happened in New York not once, but often. But nowhere else has there been quite such a combination of grafters, corrupt corporations, and labor-union rascals working hand in glove to defraud the public. It has been a perfect object-lesson of the lengths to which municipal corruption can go. And it is this same Schmitz-Ruff labor-union gang which has set itself up as censors of the habits and morals of the Japanese! No wonder that the San Francisco Post at the end of the Schmitz Labor-Union party is in slight. It is far more important that it should be destroyed than that the city should be rebuilt. The depressing feature of the case, however, lies in the fact that there is little probability of the "grafters" being punished. The law as administered in American cities is a very uncertain institution. In San Francisco its representatives are past masters in the art of raising technical issues. If they do not succeed in frustrating the efforts of the people to bring the culprits to trial, they will either get the evil-doers off entirely or succeed in keeping them out of jail after they are convicted. The proceedings in the courts will be watched with interest by the whole of the English-speaking world.

The cause of the war between the so-called republics of Nicaragua and Honduras has never appeared quite clear to our mind. Doubtless many of our readers have been similarly perplexed. But we have never had any doubts whatever that there was an important principle at the root of the trouble of the majority, if not all, of the Central American states would not have become involved in the sanguinary controversy. We are, therefore, gratified to observe that the light has penetrated in one quarter and enabled one authority to shed the light of truth upon the situation. Here is what the New York Post, a journal of penetrative mind, has to say upon the subject: "The situation in Central America is perfectly simple. Honduras is at war with Nicaragua over a strip of territory which both sides own, and both sides agreed to submit to arbitration. Both sides are winning; the Nicaraguans have apparently occupied the capital of Honduras and the Hondurans seem to have occupied the capital of Nicaragua. Evidently, then, all that is left to be done is for the combatants to turn their backs and go away back after President Zelaya of Nicaragua has recognized the revolutionary government of Honduras and President Bonilla of Honduras has recognized the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. President Zelaya, of course, is an enemy of President Bonilla, because President Bonilla overthrew an earlier President Bonilla of Honduras, who was a friend of President Zelaya and has helped him overthrow his predecessor. Salvador is getting ready to join Honduras, in which case Guatemala will join Nicaragua, and the whole Central American situation will be settled. The case of the Big Stick."

New Westminster News: Congratulations to Mr. Macdonald, M.P., on his "better terms" speech. It put the matter in the right light—put the spotlight on the right horse—and showed that the Liberal leader is capable of taking a broad and at the same time patriotic view of the relations between province and province, and between the provinces and the Dominion. The Opposition should have the speech circulated throughout the province. It would show the people "where they are at."

THE PRICE OF RECIPROcity.

The usually well informed Washington correspondent of the New York Post informs the readers of that journal that Ambassador Bryce and Secretary Root have reached an agreement which, if acceptable to the government of this country, will have the effect of placing the relations between Canada and the United States upon a basis of permanent peace and harmony. The understanding in question is a particularly interesting instrument in many respects, but in no respect is it more curious than in the aspect in which it places the views of the Mother Country with regard to her trade relations with her most important possession or colony or partner in the Imperial family establishment. It indicates more clearly than any Imperial ministerial expressions possibly could convey the sacrifices Great Britain is willing to make in order to cultivate and retain the goodwill of the United States. Could anything, for example, be more self-abnegating or more unselfish than the following, dealing with reciprocity between the United States and Canada: "Secretary Root proposed the adoption by Canada of the American tariff law against Great Britain and all other countries that wish to establish free trade between the United States and the Dominion. The secretary does not believe this solution would be acceptable to Canada, it having been declined when suggested some time ago, and he has asked to be advised of the concessions Canada is willing to accord to American manufacturers, offering in return to make every effort to secure a reduction of the tariff on Canadian raw materials. Unless Canada is willing to admit American manufactures free, or materially to reduce the duties, he does

not believe it advisable to enter into tariff negotiations. This is the most difficult question to be determined."

There are fourteen other questions considered as containing the seeds of possible dissensions, which have been adjusted to the satisfaction of Secretary Root and Mr. Bryce, and that will be submitted for the approval of the Canadian government, but this one of reciprocity is considered the most important of all and "the most difficult question to be determined." Canadians will readily accept the American view of this particular question. It will be generally agreed that Secretary Root has estimated the situation in this country correctly when he assumes that the adoption of the American fiscal system, even with the approval of Mr. Bryce and the government and people of this country, would not be acceptable to Canadians. We have adopted a tariff which experience teaches is most suitable to our circumstances, and we have no hesitation in expressing our conviction that free access to American markets, coupled with the elimination of all possible future sources of friction in our relations with our neighbors, could not compensate us for an increase of 50 per cent in customs duties upon imports from Great Britain and other nations. Besides such an agreement would involve the handing over to American statesmen of the fashioning of our tariff, and that is something that could not be considered for a moment. If that is the only form of reciprocity that is of special interest to us, we should be dismissed for all time. It would practically mean commercial annexation; and that we are not ready for just yet, even with the approval of a complacent and accommodating home government.

There is another item in this alleged programme of Messrs. Bryce and Root that is of special interest to the people of British Columbia. It deals with plagic sealing as follows: "A settlement of this question has been reached in principle. The two governments will revise the concurrent regulations determined upon by the Paris tribunal of arbitration for the protection of the herd through prohibition of plagic sealing. By restricting the killing to sealing grounds, and the surplus males, the secretary is confident it will be possible to secure about 60,000 skins per annum. The United States will pay annually to Great Britain 20 per cent of the gross amount received from the taking of seals, and Great Britain in return agrees to aid the United States to arrest and punish plagic sealers."

This cause contemplates the surrender by Canada of certain inalienable rights upon the high seas. Mr. Root seems to have no doubt that our objections to such a sacrifice can easily be overcome, as he is said to have expressed the opinion that the question of "reciprocity" was the only one that would give real trouble to the high negotiating parties. But if "Great Britain in return agrees to aid the United States to arrest and punish plagic sealers," Mr. Bryce seems to have overlooked a certain treaty with Japan, a nation which also has an active interest in the sealing business.

On the whole, we can easily understand the importance of the announcement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he is not aware of any definite negotiations with the United States looking to the adjustment of permanent relations with the republic. If the Washington correspondent writes with authority on this matter, as he usually does upon all subjects, we fear the discussion of the Bryce-Root programme will not be so prolonged as to prevent the Canadian premier from attendance at the Colonial Conference in London.

THE EXPECTORATION HABIT.

It is claimed that the by-law against expectoration in public places is "more honored in the breach than in the observance." We have been asked to call the attention of the police and the authorities who control the police to this undeniable fact. The custom of indiscriminate expectoration in public places is a menace to the general health of the community. Medical men tell us that a very large proportion of mankind are afflicted to a greater or lesser extent with either latent or advanced tuberculosis, and that in the sputa from this dangerous disease live and move with dangerous activity and are very liable to taint the atmosphere other persons breathe, finally finding a lodgement in the lungs and menacing the health of all who have not the vitality necessary to throw them off. This would appear to be a very reasonable hypothesis to those who have not opportunities to investigate for themselves or who may not have reason to regret the facts of dear-bought experience. Therefore it may be assumed that spitting in public places, voluntary or involuntary, is not only objectionable; it is dangerous. Consumption claims its thousands of victims every year. It is the cause of untold misery. Any measures that may be necessary to curtail its ravages are justifiable, even if they do occasionally encroach upon the "liberty" of the subject. It is unquestionable that the by-law is a most difficult one to enforce. We recognize and admit the perplexities that lie in the path of the police. Still, if an occasional offender were caught and dealt with, that would have the effect of calling attention to the existence of the ordin-

ance and would have a salutary effect. The state is spending very large sums yearly and private benevolence is constantly being appealed to for the purpose of affording asylums for the victims of alcoholism. Would it not be worth while to make an effort to arrest the spread of such a destructive disease by the enforcement of the precautionary measures provided under the law?

Doubtless numbers of people in British Columbia who take a general interest in the educational system of the province, but who do not comprehend thoroughly the relations which have been established between our system and McGill University of Montreal, have harbored more or less hazy ideas with respect to the benefits derived from "affiliation" with that enterprising institution. The letter of a "High School Teacher" published in this issue of the Times ought to enable them to reach a better understanding of the subject. We therefore commend the communication to the attention of our readers. The majority of the members of the Victoria School Board ought also to study the subject thoroughly in all its aspects before taking a step that will deliver our High School students absolutely into the hands of McGill. Our correspondent is not prejudiced against "affiliation." He simply states the facts, and recommends a course that would possibly be quite as beneficial as the proposed connection with McGill before taking a step that will deliver our High School students absolutely into the hands of McGill. Our correspondent is not prejudiced against "affiliation." He simply states the facts, and recommends a course that would possibly be quite as beneficial as the proposed connection with McGill before taking a step that will deliver our High School students absolutely into the hands of McGill. Our correspondent is not prejudiced against "affiliation." He simply states the facts, and recommends a course that would possibly be quite as beneficial as the proposed connection with McGill before taking a step that will deliver our High School students absolutely into the hands of McGill.

The Colonist still persists in its "regrets" that the Liberals did not go on "record" in favor of Mr. Macdonald's resolution on the subject of "better terms." The fact that the resolution is of record in the proceedings of the House—that it is the resolution of the leader—that it was voted for by all the Liberals—that it was defeated by the Conservatives on a party vote—is not denied; but the Colonist is evidently afraid that these facts may be forgotten in the show.

The recent slump in the "value" of stocks on the New York exchange was not an unlinked event. Contrary to the popular belief, it affected Canada to some extent. Twenty members of the Montreal exchange have cancelled orders for automobiles.

CELEBRATION OF VICTORIA DAY

Meeting Called by Mayor Appointed Committee--The Attractions for Two Day's Festivities

A meeting took place on Thursday evening last in the city hall, convened by Mayor Morley, to consider the annual celebration of Victoria Day. Mr. Morley presided, and Mr. J. E. Smart as secretary. A committee was appointed to continue the work, and it was decided that the celebration should extend over two days, May 24th and 25th.

Regarding a permanent secretary in this matter, as requested Herbert Cuthbert to act, providing the executive committee of the Tourist Association raised one objection. It was decided that the celebration should be held on Friday afternoon in addition to the lacrosse match between New Westminster and Vancouver, which takes place at Oak Bay. A horse parade will be held on the morning of the 24th.

HOSPITAL CONCERT.

Special Music Rendered Yesterday in Honor of Easter. (From Monday's Daily.) A particularly beautiful and appropriate programme was rendered yesterday at the Royal Jubilee hospital. The selections were thoroughly in keeping with the joyous Easter tide, chief among them being Vivanti's Silver Trumpets, which was played by Arthur Longfield. This is the production which always begins the Easter services at Rome. Wellington Dowler, Fitcher & Lohr offered the case of Bordeaux claret, value \$8, for best in novice class. V. C. K. C., cup for the best Scotch terrier. V. C. K. C., cup for best of opposite sex. J. W. Creighton, cup for best S. H. fox terrier owned in British Columbia. V. C. K. C., cup for the best white and black. V. C. K. C., cup for the best sable and white colie. Miss W. M. Davis, cup for the best colie bitch, any color. J. R. Saunders, medal for best in the novice class. A. Haggard, medal for the best in local class. 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