

Hon. David Mills deservedly enjoys the reputation of being one of the most instructive and philosophical speakers among Canada's public men. His speeches have perhaps too much the character of essays to make them popular with general audiences, but whatever their manner they are invariably logical, clear and convincing in matter. As an instance, the following passage is quoted from a recent address to his Bothwell constituents, dealing with the effect of protection on the agricultural industry, the present state of New England being particularly referred to by way of illustration: "In other sections of the republic the effect of protection has not been less mischievous upon the conditions of rural life. Men engage in those pursuits usually from which they can obtain the largest remuneration. The ambitious, who are possessed of physical or mental energies, are attracted under the protective system to the cities in a quest of fortunes which they hope in a short time to possess. They see upon the farm there must be severe toil, close attention to business, and a constant exercise of care and prudence. They do not realize how much less mental anxiety, how much less worry of mind there is in agricultural pursuits than in those in which men, for the most part, engage in towns and cities. They think that there may be easier and more pleasant roads to travel in their search for wealth than in the cultivation of the soil. They abandon the possessions of their fathers, and, in a great many cases, lose all that has been left them, in search for less laborious employment or for greater wealth. But melancholy as the picture is of farms lost and families impoverished, this is by no means its worst effect. The system attracts the most energetic and sometimes those best qualified to set examples of superior farming to their neighbors away from the rural districts, and where there is not a large influx of foreigners the lands fall to the least industrious and the least enterprising portion of the population. It is not surprising then that you find in so many portions of the Northern States farm buildings going to decay, fences out of repair, fields covered with weeds, and the land sometimes burdened with debt. So that apart altogether from the injustice of the system of levying a bounty on the farmer for the benefit of the manufacturer, it has a powerful tendency to diminish the intellectual and industrial power of the agricultural population, which is in the highest degree detrimental to the paramount industry of the country, and if there be one thing more than another that the farmers of this country should guard against, it is the perpetuation of the protective system. I believe that the style of farming in Ontario is better than the style of farming in the state of New York. My observation leads me to that conclusion. One would expect it, other things being equal, not to be as good. The farmers of New York, having so many more of an urban population to supply, might well be expected to engage more largely in high class farming but facts are otherwise. I take it that protection has acted like a conscription, and drawn away from the rural districts the most active and ambitious of the population. You may depend upon it that if it is continued it will produce the same injurious effects here, and the highest interests of the farmer demand that production shall be cheapened, and that his necessities for consumption shall not be artificially increased in price, and that he shall, in the struggle of life, have an equal chance with his neighbors engaged in other pursuits. I am far from saying that the difficulties of the farmers are solely due to the oppressive burdens which the protective system has laid upon him. They are bad enough, but the unrest, the discontent with rural life and rural occupations, which the hope of gain engenders, are far more serious evils, because, when once established, they will be found much more difficult to overcome. Turn the attention of the young men and young women away from the farm, make them discontented with one of the occupations the most enjoyable on earth, deprive some of its attractions and persuade them that there may be more culture, more refinement, more leisure for enjoyment, with some other occupation, and a mischief has been done that is never likely to be repaired. And the country no less than the parties suffers. . . . Every year the farmer must learn from farm with his head as well as with his hands, no occupation is more thoroughly scientific; no occupation involves or repays better careful observation; and in a freer market, under a fairer system of taxation, the farmer of Canada may become one of the most prosperous of his class to be found anywhere in the civilized world."

RE-DISTRIBUTION.
The Vancouver organ of the government modestly predicts that the "bill of fare" to be presented to the Legislative Assembly on Thursday will be a palatable one, both to the Assembly and to the province at large. As to the Assembly the World is no doubt right, for the majority there would accept with every outward indication of pleasure the most unpalatable dose the government could compound. The organ descends to particulars only in the matter of redistribution, which it is quite right in describing as the most important question to be dealt with this session. From its close intimacy with the head of the ministry the World may be supposed to have a

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basis for its speculations on this point, and therefore its foreshadowings are probably correct, so far as they go. We are told that the number of representatives is likely to be increased by two at least, though there is no decent excuse for any enlargement of the number. The public is for the present left to suppose that an increase best fits in with governmental schemes, wherefore an increase we must have and the people can pay the cost. Then the rural "blanket constitutions" are to be cut up into ridings, with one member each, "but whether the cities will be dealt with similarly is a problem which time only will solve." From which it would appear that the government has not yet decided whether a division of the city electoral districts would be advantageous to itself. Finally, the representation of some of the present small districts is to be reduced, the seats thus abolished being distributed among the city of Vancouver and those districts which are now under-represented. It will be remembered that this was the rock upon which the government struck last session. After it had gravely announced that "the time had come" for a change in the method of representation, and after it had prepared its scheme of redistribution, the stormy opposition of the members for the small districts, who objected to being wiped out, caused a postponement. The want of detailed information was offered as an excuse. We must suppose that in the interval the government has found some means of placating the gentlemen from the "pocket boroughs," whose feelings were thus consulted last session.

The Dominion excise revenue for the fiscal year of 1893 was \$8,520,230, compared with \$8,076,526 for the previous year. The quantity of spirits held in stock in Canada on July 1, 1893, was the largest by nearly half a million gallons that has been held by Canadian distillers, being 13,502,814 proof gallons as against an average of 11,574,806 gallons during the four preceding years. The quantity entered for consumption was 2,731,896 gallons as against 2,545,935 gallons for the preceding year. The revenue derived from excise duties and distilleries in 1893 was \$4,142,057 which is \$182,653 above the average of the four preceding years. The quantity of spirits produced during the year was 3,856,955 proof gallons as compared with 3,408,232 proof gallons produced in the previous fiscal year. The consumption per head of the population of spirits was .07 of a gallon, about 5 per cent. more than last year. There was a slight decrease in beer and tight wines and a small increase in the consumption of tobacco.

Lord Aberdeen, in his speech at the Toronto Board of Trade banquet, took occasion to express, though indirectly, his disapprobation of the P. P. A. Speaking of the successes gained by Ontario at the Chicago Fair, he said: "I will venture to say that we cannot but recognize the leading place which Ontario has taken not only on this occasion, but more and more for many past years, as, for instance, in education and so forth. I do venture to express the hope that Ontario will take the lead also in other respects, and lead in discouraging the use of the lottery and intemperance. The lead in promoting the more tolerant, sympathetic spirit, which is the true and necessary result and sequence of true civilization, enlightenment, and especially of true Christianity. I would explain, if I will venture once more to read from a speech of that distinguished man who has already furnished me with a text for some of my remarks. On a very important occasion—the last time he spoke in Canada—the Marquis of Dufferin used these earnest words: 'Divided as you are into various powerful religious communities, none of whom is entitled to claim either pre-eminence or ascendancy over the other, but each of which reckons among its adherents enormous masses of population, what can you hope can give except in mutual forbearance and generous liberality of sentiment?' It is in the application of that principle of religious toleration to public affairs, as well as to private life that we alone can look forward to that condition of happiness, equality and peace to which all aspire. I shall earnestly hope that nothing ever in Ontario will be prominent which would imply a contrary spirit to that tolerance and that broad comprehensive, sympathetic spirit which is the best kind of patriotism."

NANAIMO.
Vancouver, Jan. 15.—It is expected two of the delayed trains will arrive this afternoon.
It is rumored that agents of Queen Lilinokalani's supporters are recruiting a force of riflemen here to go to Honolulu to support her authority if she is returned to power.
The old council went out to-day. The mayor thanked them for past kindnesses but they neglected to pass the usual vote of thanks to him. The new council was sworn in and the committees appointed.
The police to-day arrested Charles Woodward for carrying a concealed weapon. Woodward is a merchant, and on his way home on Saturday narrowly missed shooting Charles Howe, whom he took for a footpad.

VANCOUVER.
Nanaimo, Jan. 15.—The district lodge of the Canadian order of Oddfellows opened here to-day, and delegates from all lodges in the province were present. Many important questions will be brought up, but probably none will be so important as the question touching the advisability of allowing a miner to join the order without having to pay a larger dose than the mechanics. Tomorrow evening a banquet will be tendered to the delegates at the Hotel Wilson; it will surpass anything of the kind ever given in this city.
On Saturday the New Vancouver Coal company paid out close to \$70,000 to their employees. Of course this enormous sum is not paid out solely to miners, but for all work being done by the company. It is stated that the company have secured many new contracts, and that the outlook for the city is now brighter than it has been for many months. It is also

expected the Protection Island shaft will be working to its full capacity within a few weeks, and this will mean the employment of about 200 more men.
Whist parties promise to become fashionable in Nanaimo society. A pleasant party was given by J. H. Simpson, bar-rister, on Saturday evening and passed off very successfully.
Those who have been looking forward to the appearance of the Calhoun opera company are disappointed in learning that the company cannot visit the city owing to a clash in the arrangements. It is very unlikely they will put in an appearance at all.
The recent rains have done much damage in various parts of the city, but the worst appears to have been suffered by the residents in the suburbs. At present the extent of the destruction cannot be ascertained.
The Nanaimo Rugby football team will not visit the Midwinter fair, being without funds. A well known doctor has introduced a change of plan, and a subscription list with \$100 if a trustworthy solicitor is sent around.

AGAINST THE CITY.
Peddlers Who Pay Market Fees Need No License.
The judgment of Mr. Justice Drake in the case of Kong Kee, a Chinese peddler, vs. the City of Victoria, was delivered yesterday. It is as follows:
"The defendant appeals from the decision of the police magistrate, by whom he was convicted for selling vegetables and farm produce on the 4th of August last without having taken out a license in that behalf. The license referred to is a peddler's license, as the defendant was summoned for carrying on the business of occupation of a peddler without a license. The appellant pleaded that the prosecution clearly showed that the defendant sold farm produce to various hotels and other places, out of a cart, in the streets of Victoria. The defendant admitted so doing, but claimed that he was within his rights under the market by-law, having paid dues to the city for that very purpose.
"The market by-law, No. 148, section 25, says that no farmer or other person shall sell or offer for sale any farm or garden produce upon any of the public streets unless he or she has been to the market with his or her articles and paid the proper fee thereon. The clause then permits farmers or gardeners to deliver to their customers farm produce upon their taking out a license under the market by-law, and thereupon these vendors shall not be liable to the provisions aforesaid, and the clause shall not apply to any person having a place of business for the sale of this class of articles.
"In July, 1893, the council passed the following resolution: 'That a tax of peddlers of \$20 for the half year. This by-law does not purport to repeal any portion of the market by-law, and the by-laws can reasonably stand together without conflicting, as it deals with a class of persons not affected by the market by-law. The appellant proved that he had paid the fees required by the market by-law at the time he was charged with selling produce.
"The prosecutor contended that the appellant was bound to pay a peddler's license, and when they arrive it will be impossible to furnish them with sitting room."
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How Old is the Earth?
This is a subject of very special interest to speculative minds, and one that has engaged the special attention of both physicists and geologists. Sir William Thomson, now Lord Kelvin, was among the earliest to approach the problem, and he based his calculations upon the rate of the earth's loss of heat by radiation, and concluded that the time which has elapsed since the consolidation of the surface of the globe, ranges somewhere between twenty million and four hundred million years. Another eminent physicist, Prof. George H. Darwin, computes from the influence of tidal friction on the retarding of the earth's rotation that probably fifty-seven million years have elapsed since the moon's mass was shed from the revolving molten earth, long before the formation of its crust. Prof. Guthrie Tait affirms that approximately ten million years are as much as the physicist can allow to the geologist. Geologists generally have been disposed to assume a far longer period, basing their calculation on the present rate of erosion of the earth's surface, and basing on land surfaces, and the thickness of the sedimentary rocks. The figures thus reached range from twenty-eight millions to several hundred million years for the earth's age. But while the estimates for the whole period vary so greatly, there is a fairly general agreement as to the relative age of the several geological periods. The ratios reached allow to the recent or quaternary period one-sixty-fourth part of all time since the beginning of the Cambrian period. In the current number of the Popular Science Monthly, Prof. Warden Upham weighs the evidence on both sides, and assuming one hundred thousand years for the deposit of the stratified rocks, his calculations on the duration of preceding ages on the changes of fauna and flora, he reaches from two to four million years for the probable duration of the tertiary period, and about one hundred millions for the deposit of the stratified rocks. These calculations may be open to very important revision in the future, but as Prof. Upham remarks, this limit of probable geologic duration seems fully worthy of the place of the once almost unlimited assumptions of geologists and writers on the evolutions of life.

Davis' Pain Killer.
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(Vernon News.)
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A great many hunters visited Deer lodge hotel, near the railroad, during the last week in December. This seems to be a favorable omen, which fits every body who always succeed in getting all the game they want.
Something ought to be done to prevent people from shooting deer wholesale at the head of Long lake. There are at present five or six men camped on the railroad, who are slaughtering deer by the score. They have also set poison all through the woods, some of it being so near the main road that more than one valuable dog has already been poisoned.
On Monday last the public school opened in the new school house, and it was apparent from the start that the two rooms furnished with desks will not be sufficient to contain the number of pupils who will be in attendance this term. In the principal's room Mr. Hoide has 50 scholars enrolled, which fits every seat at his disposal, while Mr. Buchanan is close behind with 49 children on his register. In addition to this there are a number of children who attended last term who have not yet put in an appearance, and when they arrive it will be impossible to furnish them with sitting room.
The election for reeve and councillors for the municipality of Spallumcheen takes place to-day, and considerable local interest centres in the result. For reeve the candidates are the Hon. G. G. G. and Josiah McDonald, and Messrs. Robert Wood and T. W. Fletcher will contest the Pleasant Valley ward for the office of councillor. J. A. Cameron, T. N. Hayes and Donald Macdonald were elected by acclamation. Spallumcheen, Okanagan and Salmon river wards respectively.
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