The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1891.

AMERICAN LAWS.

There are people in Canada who are continually telling their friends and acquaintances that the laws of the United States are superior to those of the Dominion. They say that in the United States the people rule, and that therefore the laws are made to suit the people. Especially is this the case, they declare, with respect to the laws affecting working men. The monarchical and aristocratic elements, they contend, make British laws hard on the wage-earner. Those laws were made by capitalists and their tools, and they are consequently unduly favorable to employers as a class.

This kind of talk sounds plausible, and many workingmen have come to believe that there is a great deal of truth in what the men who inveigh against British law say. They are not in a position to compare the laws of British countries with those of the United States, and they naturally place reliance on what is said with respect to those laws by men of their own class. But their trust has been abused. As a matter of fact there is very little difference between the laws of the United States and those of Great Britain and her dependencies. They are based on the same principles. With regard to the laws in which working men are peculiarly interested, those of monarchical Great Britain are in many respects more liberal than are those of the United States.

The virtual identity of the laws, with respect to the rights of labor, of the two nations, appears in a very strong light in a charge to the Grand Jury of King County, State of Washington, which Judge Osborn delivered a few days ago. The Grand Jury were specially summoned to consider and pronounce upon the recent mining troubles in that State. The charge is a long one, for the Judge expounded quite fully the law of Washington State respecting the rights of workingmen and employers. Our readers will see that the following exposition of the American judge of the principles of law bearing on the subject to be considered is wonderfully like the instructions which a British judge here in Victoria would give a grand jury under similar circumstances. He said:—

"For the purpose of informing you as to the nature of your duties and the scope of your authority, this court will state to you certain principles of law which may assist you in determining many of the questions that may arise for your consideration.

"The right of any individual to hire or be hired, or to contract to serve, and the payment for such services is a right that no person, persons or body, have a right to interfere with.

"The right to employ whoever may be willing to be employed and at such wages as the parties employing and employed may agree upon is also a right that no person or body of persons have a right to abridge or interfere with in any manner whatsoever.

"And whenever any person employed may see fit to quit such employment for cause, or without cause, he may do so, and there is no law by which such persons employed can be compelled to work or to desist from working. Such relation is purely a matter of contract and is a matter which concerns only the employer and employe.

"No person has a right to interfere in any manner whatsoever with these rights which I have just stated to you. If such persons refuse to work, any person or corporation have a right to go anywhere in this state or out of this state, and hire, and bring into this state such persons, and as many as they choose to do the work required, at such wages as the parties may agree upon."

With respect to intimidation and conspiracy, the reader will see that the law in the United States is quite as comprehensive and quite as severe as that of Canada. The following extract from the charge shows that if a man combines with others to intimidate or injure either his fellow workmen or his employers, he cannot escape punishment by pleading that he was not on the spot when the crime was committed, or the injury done. No British law could be more sweeping than this American one. This is what Judge Osborn said with respect to that phase of his subject:

"If any body of men or combination of men, by force, intimidation, threats or in any other manner, agree together to prevent the free and full exercise of these rights, such agreement or combination would be a conspiracy against the law. If persons combine to stand by one another in a breach of the peace with a general resolution to resist all opposer, and, in the execution of their design a murder is committed, all are equally principals in the murder, though at the time of the act some of them were at such a distance as to be out of view, if the murder is in furtherance of the common design.

"Persons entering into a conspiracy, previously formed, are deemed in law parties to all acts done by other parties before or afterwards in the furtherance of the common design. It is therefore unnecessary that it should be proved that a person, accused of conspiracy to commit a crime, was one of those with whom the conspiracy originated or that he met with others during the process of the concoction.

"One who inflames the minds of others and induces them by violent means to do an illegal act, is guilty of such act, though he takes no other part therein. If he contemplated the result he is answerable, though it is produced in a manner different from that contemplated by him. If he awoke into action an indiscriminate power, he is responsible. If he gave directions vaguely and incautiously, and the person receiving them acted accordingly to what he might have foreseen would be the understanding, he is responsible."

Many have loose notions as regards their right to defend their own property and their right to use fire-arms in case of attack. The limits of the rights of employers and property owners in this respect are clearly defined in the following passage:

"The right of any individual to protect his person and property, and the right of any number of individuals jointly, or of a corporation, to protect their property from injury or destruction is a natural right, and no law could be passed, nor can any individual or number of individuals, either directly or indirectly, interfere with that right. But this right to protect property from any threatened destruction or injury, or the free use and control thereof, cannot be used for the purpose of invading the rights of others. Such rights could be exercised only upon the premises of such individual or corporation, and must be confined to that. If any person, persons or corporation have, under the guise and pretence of protecting their property by the use of armed bodies of men, invaded the rights of others, and have produced a breach of the peace, or have invaded the rights of others, and if such persons so engaged have gone beyond the right of protecting their persons and property, whereby any person or persons have been killed or wounded by persons engaged in such acts, then all persons, if acting in concert with a common understanding and agreement previously made, would be responsible and amenable to the law for such killing or wounding."

That republican institutions and republican laws do not justify men in taking the law into their own hands, and usurping the functions of the Government is clearly seen from this extract:—

"It is in violation of the spirit of our institutions, and directly in violation of the provisions of our constitution that armed bodies of men should be called upon to come into our state or be raised or organized in the state, outside and independent of the militia or sheriff of this county and the lawfully constituted authorities, for any purpose whatever. If the constituted authorities have been derelict in their duty, so as to make it necessary for any person or corporation, in order to protect their property and their rights of property in this county, it is a burning shame and disgrace, and if any person or corporation have, without such necessity, called into this county armed bodies of men in violation of the provisions of our constitution, then such acts are not only disgraceful, but constitute a menace and invasion of the rights and liberties of the people of this state, and call loudly for such legislation as will effectually prevent a repetition of such acts."

We think that we have quoted enough from this excellent charge to convince our readers that in the United States all men—employers and workingmen—are required to respect each others' rights, and that no individual man, or combination of men, can encroach on the rights of their fellow citizens without violating the law and rendering themselves liable to punishment more or less severe. We are pretty sure that a careful perusal of those extracts will make it clear to any man of ordinary intelligence that United States law is quite as restrictive, as far as workingmen are concerned, and quite as hard on those who violate, it as Canadian law.

TENDER-HEARTED EDITORS.

We see that another Liberal paper, the New Westminster Ledger, is full of compassion for Owen E. Murphy. It speaks of him as a "poor fellow" and denounces the keen and close questioning of Mr. Osler as "a species of brutality." How very tender-hearted these Liberal editors! They evidently do not realize that Mr. Owen Murphy takes the witness-stand voluntarily to swear away the reputation of men, who have hitherto been highly esteemed in the community. If such a man as Murphy, for purposes of his own, charged one of them with having committed some serious crime, would that editor consider his counsel impertinent or brutal when he did his best to compel the "poor fellow" to prove himself to be a liar and a false accuser? The man whose character was at stake would, we venture to say, smile grimly when his accuser broke down on being shown that what he then swore to contradicted flatly his former testimony. Owen Murphy is not the man to faint when he feels the ground firm under his feet. He has nerve enough and impudence enough. It was when he was bewildered in a maze of contradictory assertions, and when he found that the cross-examination went a great deal further than he had anticipated, that his assurance and his nerves failed him. It is remarkable that the Toronto Globe, partisan as it is, has no tears to shed for Owen E. Murphy. It does not compassionate him and call him a "poor fellow." Neither has it any indignation to expend on Mr. Osler. But the soft-heartedness of the British Columbia Liberal journals causes them to out-herod Herod in partizan zeal.

THE DANGEROUS CLASS.

The visit of the Emperor of Germany to England has, we see, been an anxious time for the police of London. We venture to say that the men who caused the police anxiety were almost, to a man, foreigners. A British crowd is generally good humored, and, when it dislikes a public man, or disapproves of his acts, it may make unpleasant noises and say coarse and uncivil things, but it seldom, on a gala day, resorts to violence. The roughs, for instance, who here and there greeted the Prince of Wales with hoots and uncivil phrases, gave the police some annoyance, no doubt, but caused them no alarm whatever. They knew that he was as safe in his progress through the streets of London as he would be in his drawing-room in Sandringham. The man, even among the uncivil roughs, who would raise a hand to hurt the Heir Apparent would be torn to pieces by those who surrounded him. Englishmen are accustomed to liberty, and they know how to use it.

As far as the Emperor of Germany was concerned, he had nothing to fear—not even incivility—from the subjects of Queen Victoria. He was the nation's guest, and they all felt that he should be hospitably treated. We venture to say that the Emperor while he was in England did not hear an unpleasant word from a British subject. The men who caused the police and the Scotland Yard authorities to feel anxious and nervous were foreigners, anarchists of continental nations, and cranks who believed it to be heroic and patriotic to insult and to injure the German Emperor. There are many among them who consider killing a king no murder. The dynamiters, and believers in assassination generally, are numerous among them, and the fear that one, bolder than his fellows, and having a better opportunity to do harm, might commit some act of violence, or cause some disturbance, must have made the period of the Emperor's stay a time of great anxiety to the authorities. Great Britain is the asylum for European political agitators, and they do not always make a good use of her hospitality.

It is the same on this continent. Men who have been repressed at home do not know how to exercise the privileges of freemen which they enjoy in the United States. They retain the anarchist principles which they imbibed in their own country, but when they try to put them in practice they find the people themselves more severe and more prompt to punish than were the monarchical governments of their own country. This was the experience of the Chicago anarchists and the Italian assassins.

PECULIAR LEGISLATION.

We see that the bill to secure the better observance of the Lord's Day, agreed to by a special committee of the Dominion House of Commons, prohibits "the printing, publication and sale of any newspapers, provided, however, that the necessary office work may be performed after nine o'clock in the evening of the Lord's Day for the purpose of facilitating the publication of a Monday morning issue of any daily newspaper." The effect of this bill, if it becomes law, will be to condemn all who are connected with printing and publishing daily newspapers in British Columbia, to work on Sundays. In order to give printers, editors and reporters what is, in effect, the whole Lord's Day to themselves, it has become the custom here for daily papers to issue a Sunday morning edition and to have no Monday morning paper. Almost all the work of the Sunday paper is done on Saturday. On Saturday, editors and reporters do very nearly the whole of their work before twelve o'clock at night. Printers, proof-readers and pressmen work until two or three o'clock on Sunday morning, after which the whole staff are free to rest until Monday afternoon. Any one who has been employed on an Eastern morning paper feels the difference between getting out a Sunday morning paper and a Monday morning paper to be for him a blessed one. Where there is no Monday paper to think about and to work for, he has the whole of Sunday for himself. It is then, indeed, a Day of Rest, and he keenly enjoys the freedom from work and worry. Whereas, where there is a paper to be issued on Monday morning, those engaged on the literary part of it do not feel for a moment free on Sunday. There is Monday morning's paper to think about and to prepare for. Then there is a great deal of actual work to do before nine o'clock in the evening, when the law allows the compositors to go to work. Matter must be prepared for them, and that implies work for editors, reporters and telegraph operators. If the Monday morning's paper does not contain the very latest news the Sabbatarians will be among the first to complain. The Sunday morning's paper requires two or, at the most, three hours' work immediately after midnight on Sunday morning for compositors, proof readers, and pressmen, and, a little later, for carriers. Monday morning's paper compels editors and reporters to work the greater part of Sunday, and takes from compositors, proof readers and telegraph operators the whole of Sunday night. So that, as far as this province is concerned, the new law will take from newspaper men and printers the uninterrupted Sunday's rest which they have so long enjoyed, and make the Lord's Day to them the most unpleasant day in the week, for they will be condemned to work while seeing the rest of the community enjoying their Day of Rest.

We are quite at a loss to see on what ground the committee permitted those engaged in getting out a Monday morning paper to work from nine o'clock p.m. until midnight on the "Sabbath." If they legislate on the assumption that the day is a holy one, in which no manner of work can be done, how can they legitimatise the "desecration" of one hour or one minute of that day? Does the House of Commons possess the power to alter and amend the laws of God? Then, again, why cut three hours off the end of the Sabbath day for secular purposes and punish those who work during its first three hours? Are the last three hours of the day less holy than the first three hours? It does not require a logician to prove that if it is wicked to work from midnight to three o'clock on Sunday morning, it is equally wicked to work from nine o'clock on Sunday night to midnight. And, although we are ready to admit that Parliament is very powerful, we do not see our way to allow that it has power to make that which is morally wrong, right.

The advocates of Sabbath legislation will, perhaps, be surprised to find that the law which they make to compel the better observance of the Lord's Day will, in British Columbia, ensure its worse observance and deprive wearied and hard-working newspaper men of their greatly needed Day of Rest. And this is not, by any means, the only inconsistency by which they will find themselves annoyed and embarrassed if they succeed in carrying the measure now before the Dominion Parliament.

What's the Reason?

THE causes of summer complaint, diarrhœa, dysentery, cholera morbus, etc., are the excessive heat, eating green fruit, over-exertion, impure water and sudden chill. Dr. Fowler's Wild Strawberry is an infallible and prompt cure for all bowel complaints from whatever cause.

The Park committee state that the bear pit in Beacon Hill park was erected under the supervision of the park-keeper, Mr. Deakin, who has certainly made a good job of it.

UNCORROBORATED.

We are pleased to see that the Times has altered its tone somewhat with regard to the Tarte scandal and the evidence that has been adduced to support the charges that have been brought against Sir Hector Langevin. It denies that it sympathises with Owen E. Murphy, and it does not appear quite so jubilant as it was at the prospect—as it considered—of the condemnation of the men accused. It, however, says that Murphy's testimony "is not unsupported." As our contemporary believes that we are partial in the matter—which we are not—we will quote what a newspaper, which it will admit is both disinterested and impartial, says about that person's evidence. In an article, in which it gives a dispassionate and what it evidently desires to make a fair review of the enquiry as it then stood, the Toronto Mail of the 10th inst. says:

"Whether or not a Minister, a Member of Parliament, and an official have benefitted in any way through the alterations made in the contracts *rests for the present upon the testimony of Owen E. Murphy.* Partisans on one side accept Murphy's statements as gospel truth and cast reproach upon those who are said to have blackened his scarcely stainless record. Partisans on the other side pronounce him, off-hand, a "lying wretch," and call upon us to close our eyes to any future testimony, and at once and forever to decide that he is a perjurer. But it is too early to give judgment in his case. His word, uncorroborated, carries little weight, first, because he has described himself as a defaulter, and, secondly, because as regards certain important payments *there is no proof, beyond his own word, that the money drawn from the firm's account ever went out of his possession.*"

The italics are ours. The Toronto Mail, which professes to be independent and unbiassed, says that whether Sir Hector Langevin and Mr. Thomas McGreevy benefitted by the changes made in the contracts "rests upon the testimony of Owen E. Murphy," and adds that "his word, uncorroborated, carries little weight." As if to deepen the impression which these expressions are calculated to make, the Mail states clearly and definitely that, "There is no proof beyond his own word that the money drawn from the firm's account ever went out of his possession." Our contemporary therefore sees that it is in error when it tries to make its readers believe that Murphy's testimony is supported. There is not as yet a particle of evidence, documentary or oral, to confirm what that witness has sworn to. There is nothing to show that Nicholas Connolly was wrong when he stated as his conviction that Murphy put the money which he swears he gave to Sir Hector and to Mr. McGreevy into his own pocket.

We think it right to keep our readers posted with respect to the progress of this very important inquiry. Our space does not permit us to publish the proceedings of the committee, but we have kept them informed as to what has been proved and what has not been proved. We are quite sure that, while the great majority of them do not desire to see those who may have done wrong escape, they would be very sorry to see any one who is really innocent incur undeserved odium. Our desire in this matter is to be perfectly fair—"to hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

A PROJECTED TRANSFORMATION.

The Farmers' Alliance has economic, as well as political, ends in view. It desires, as our readers are already aware, to make the State the people's banker and money lender. It also proposes to make an immense corner in wheat. Some of the leaders of the organization want the farmers of the United States not to sell any wheat until the price rises to a point which, in their opinion, is high enough to remunerate those who raise it. There are some among them who desire not only to do this, but to bring the middlemen and the railways to terms. They believe that the merchant and the common carrier make altogether too much out of the farmer, and they contend that the tillers of the soil, if they unite and hold out resolutely and long enough, will be able to make their own terms with the rest of the world.

The Alliance proposes to transform itself into an immense co-operative concern, not only for selling produce but for the purchase and distribution of merchandise. The state is to be the farmers' banker, and the Alliance is to be their merchant—wholesale and retail. The projectors of this gigantic scheme are H. H. Balch, secretary of the National Cordage Company, and Oswald Wilson, president of the Farmers' Alliance Exchange, New York. They have already taken the initiatory steps towards the establishment of this immense trading branch of the Farmers' Alliance. If the leaders of the organization have their way the farmer will be on top everywhere and in all things, politically, commercially and socially. The plutocracy must give way to him, and the democracy will be at his feet. When he comes to his own, trusts and combines and syndicates will become powerless, and the whole framework of society will be put together again on altogether new principles. When the Alliance will not only be the great land-owner and bread-producer of the United States, but the sole holder of political power and distributor of political honors, the great merchant and manufacturer and the only manager of railways and telegraphs, where will the politicians, the monopolists and the millionaires be? There is a good time coming for the farmer, is the burden of the song of the Alliance orators and advocates all over the United States.

We are very much afraid that these dreams will not be realized in our time. The social system, which has taken thousands of year to grow, is not to be upset and re-organized by an organization of farmers in a single generation. The sanguine projectors of the "National Alliance Union" will find, when they attempt to put their fine theories into practice, that they had no conception of the difficulties that stood in their way, and that they did not understand the material with which they proposed to work what reflecting men know are really miracles.

THE PROPER COURSE.

We are surprised at the course pursued by some of the city councillors with respect to the appointment of Mr. Belyea to the office of police magistrate. Some time ago the Council appointed Mr. Belyea to that position. By that action, deliberately taken, the Council pledged itself to Mr. Belyea and the public. It could not, without a flagrant breach of good faith, and without confessing that it had acted foolishly and with undue haste, undo what it had done. When Alderman Richards asked the Council to reconsider Mr. Belyea's appointment he surely could not have realized that he required it to commit an act of gross dishonesty as far as it related to Mr. Belyea, and also to stultify itself. Nothing can be more childish than for a body of men entrusted with the performance of important duties to be continually chopping and changing, going back on themselves, and undoing this week what they had done the week before. We are very glad to see that the majority viewed the matter of the appointment of Mr. Belyea in this light. If they had done what Alderman Richards and Alderman Robertson wanted them to do they would have committed an act of serious injustice, and would have forfeited every claim they had to be considered a body of practical business men. The majority of the Council have done right. They have acted as honest, self-respecting men should have acted, and we have no doubt that their action meets with the hearty approval of the great majority of their fellow-citizens.

TRICKY OFFICIALS.

It is said that misery loves company, and it may be a sort of consolation to those who grieve over the delinquencies of Ottawa civil servants to find that in the departments in Washington clerks of different degrees are not above resorting mean and dishonest tricks to get money from the treasury which they did not earn. It was lately suspected that matters were not exactly correct in the Department of the Treasury, and the Secretary caused an investigation to be made. It was then found that quite a number of irregularities existed and had been allowed to exist for a long time. The Secretary found that the only evidence of the existence of many clerks who had been booked absent for a month was the occasional appearance of a physician's certificate and the regular issue of a monthly cheque. One clerk, a woman, had not been on duty for two years, and a chief of division, who had been appointed early in the present administration, reported that he had never seen a certain clerk whose name was on the roll, and who, of course, drew his pay every month. The Secretary dealt summarily with all these clever people, and most probably his treatment will be more effective in bringing about the recovery of the invalid clerks than that of the physicians who supply them with certificates. We do not think that matters are quite so bad as this at Ottawa, but they are bad enough.

DISAPPOINTING AND DEPLORABLE.

It is disheartening to read of the irregularities that have been found to exist in some of the departments in Ottawa. It was supposed that, whatever the practices of politicians might be, the civil servants of the Dominion were strictly honest, and that the deputy heads of the departments were so strict and so scrupulous that they would not, for a single moment, tolerate the slightest irregularity with respect to money matters. It is sadly disappointing to find that this estimate of the civil service is not wholly correct. Irregularities and practices of more than a questionable nature have been found to exist in the Department of the Interior, and that, too, under a deputy head who bears a high character for diligence, fidelity and ability. This discovery leads to the suspicion that similar, if not worse, irregularities exist in the other Departments. It is quite evident that public opinion will demand the strictest examination into every branch of the civil service, and the prompt punishment of any public servant, let him be high or low, who shall be proved to be guilty of any improper practice. The Government will be required to perform this duty promptly, impartially, and effectively. There must be no room left for suspicion. Every civil servant must be made to feel that it is not only wrong, but exceedingly foolish, to depart in the slightest degree from the path of strict rectitude. He must be made to know, when he commits an act which is in any respect dishonest, that he will, if discovered, assuredly lose both his character and his position. The Government must show by its treatment of offenders, that it cannot, and will not, condone offenses of the kind that have been found to exist in the Department of the Interior. With such offenders as Mr. Perley there is but one course to pursue, and the Government has taken that course. The public servant who takes a bribe, no matter in what shape, is unfit for any position of trust. He may be in many respects a capable official and an estimable man, but he has exhibited a weakness, and a want of moral stamina that cannot be offset by any amount of ability or any number of virtues. The Dominion civil service must be as clean and as incorrupt as care and vigilance, and strict and impartial administration of justice, can make it.

Mrs. W. D. McGregor and daughter returned last night from a visit to Vancouver.

RAPID CONSUMPTION.

The timber experts of the United States have calculated that the supply of timber in the whole territory of the Union will not last more than eleven years longer. The white pine of the Eastern and Northern States is already nearly exhausted. The consumption is at the rate of 9,500,000,000 feet a year. In six years the whole of the white pine will be gone, and the other kinds of timber in Oregon, Washington, California and the Southern States will be all used in the remaining five years of the eleven. This calculation may not be mathematically correct, but it may be taken for granted that in the year 1902 there will be very little timber left in the United States.

The certainty that this will be the case should console owners of timber lands in this province for any temporary slackness in the timber trade. Growing timber is steadily and rapidly increasing in value, and it will not take many years to make a timber limit, situated in any accessible part of the province worth twice its present value. It is not difficult to see that the magnificent timber of British Columbia will in the course of a very few years be worth a great deal more than it is now to its inhabitants and to the rest of the world.

The people of the United States, as wood gets scarcer, will be compelled to use stone, brick, iron and steel for building material more generally than they do now, but timber will always be in demand because it will be difficult to find a substitute for it in many arts and manufactures. Aluminum, some say, is what in the future will take the place of wood. It is light, easily worked, and can be produced cheaply and in indefinite quantities. There are others, however, who declare that aluminum is a fraud, and that the greater number of those who sing its praises know nothing whatever about it. However this may be, it is certain that before very long wood will be scarce on this continent, and that the forests that are preserved on it will be very valuable indeed.

A NEW NATION.

The Contemporary Review, for July, contains a very interesting article on the Union of the Australias, from the pen of the veteran statesman Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of New South Wales. Sir Henry tells his readers that the coast line of the vast island of Australia is 8,850 miles long, and that the sea coast of the different colonies is as follows: New South Wales, 680 miles; Victoria, 600 miles; South Australia, inclusive of the northern territory, 2,000 miles; Western Australia, 3,000 miles, and Queensland, 2,550 miles. Tasmania makes the sixth state of the new commonwealth. These figures will give the reader some idea of the great extent of these antipodean colonies, but not of their population and wealth. Their population may be said to be almost in the inverse ratio of their length of coast line. The population of the whole of Australia is in round numbers 3,226,000. New South Wales is the most populous, it contains 1,140,000 inhabitants. Next comes Victoria, which has a population of 1,133,846. Queensland has 426,796 inhabitants, South Australia, 332,700; West Australia, 46,940, and Tasmania, 146,150. West Australia is by far the largest of the Australian colonies, and Tasmania is the smallest.

This is the material out of which the new Commonwealth is to be made. Sir Henry Parkes gives a lively sketch of the rise and progress of the federation movement in Australia. It was commenced more than a quarter of a century ago by Mr. William Charles Wentworth and Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy. Its progress at first was not at all rapid. The idea of federation was entertained and cherished by a few choice spirits who were more patriotic than their fellow colonists, and saw further into the future. Among the ablest and most energetic advocates of confederation must be placed Sir Henry Parkes himself. He is evidently one of the men who delight to face a difficulty, and who feel a pleasure in fighting their way forward. Federation in Australia had, and still has, many opponents. The anti-federationists held meetings and gave Sir Henry Parkes and his fellow federationists a pretty hard time of it, but in spite of all opposition—perhaps on account of it—federation in Australia has made rapid progress. The Australian Premier deals with his opponents in a style which is refreshingly trenchant, as will be seen from the following quotation from his article:—

"It is natural—while human nature, especially political human nature, remains what it is—that the announcement of this Constitution should awaken opponents and even enemies. To begin with the little crowd of parochial aspirants, who see themselves excluded from the larger arena of Federal politics, what else could be expected? They must buzz about some object which has the qualities of being both nutritive and reachable; and their delight is in hearing their own buzz. There is that rather numerous class of pessimists, who count all things, apart from themselves, for the worse. With them, a new constellation would be out of place or out of season. There are the well-meaning, who cannot see beyond the things to which their dull senses have been accustomed; and the respectable, who see all change in the light of how it may affect their own interests. There are the rank and file of politicians without principle, who are ever seeking to turn occurrences to their own account, and who delight in mischief with the unavowed calculations that some advantage to themselves may flow out of it. There is the class, which I am afraid exists everywhere, who decide all questions by their personal dislikes or prejudices. There are the honest provincialists, who thoroughly believe that the colony where they have themselves fared well, will do best by standing aloof from the other colonies. They say, with a simple minded stupidity, that what has been good enough for them, is good enough for others. These various hostile bands are augmented by those who swell all noisy crowds in a large city, and who are always prepared to cheer any wild and vituperative language. But all these elements of perversity and trouble will throw up no real barrier to the march of Federation. Other forces will decide for the coming nation, and their discordant voice will be hardly heard. Already the question of questions is raised above the turgid heat of parties, and in the first parliamentary divisions protectionists will sit side by side with free-traders in the memorable vote for Australian union."

The Australian federationists have still difficulties to overcome, objections to meet, and conflicting interests to adjust; but it appears now as if the stress and heat of the contest were over. When Confederation in Canada reached the stage at which Federation in Australia has arrived when the Constitution Act had been drawn up and submitted to the Legislatures of the different provinces for acceptance and approval, the fight may be said to have been over. The Nova Scotians kicked a little, the New Brunswickers hesitated, and the Prince Edward Islanders held out for a few years longer, but the Confederation was quickly formed, and its course has ever since been tolerably smooth. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island joined it in good time. Manitoba was made a province and the wilderness of the Northwest became part and parcel of the Dominion. The career of the Australian Commonwealth, we have no doubt, will be in every respect similar. Opposition will be overcome, and the whole of the Australian colonies will in a short time be united into a prosperous and powerful Commonwealth.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE crop prospect in the Northwest Territories is cheering. The weather has been favorable and the growth has been luxuriant. This is what the Regina Leader says about the magnificent crops:

"Reports from the grain fields are still the same: 'Crops never looked better.' A large proportion of the wheat, around Regina and elsewhere in the Assiniboias, is well headed out; the straw long and thick and the grain generally remarkably heavy. Although we had but little hot weather, all crops have advanced rapidly, and with a strong growth that bids fair to defy the worst the elements can do. In Regina and Moose Jaw districts especially there has been during the whole season rather a surplus than a deficiency of rain, which has been interspersed with days like yesterday—clear and warm. Such weather as we have had leaves nothing to be desired, and all reports point to an abundant harvest."

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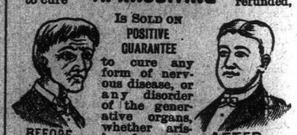

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From THE DAILY COLONIST,

LOCAL AND PROVI

City School Trustee

The school trustees appoin cities of Victoria, Vancouver, minster and Nanaimo, are publ last number of the official gaze

New Westminster By-

New Westminster is advertis making by-law, a by-law to ra to establish an electric plant lighting, and another to raise the completion of its water wor

Oddfellowship at Esqui

The inauguration of a new lo fellows, at Esquimalt, which w to have come off last night, ha poned till Wednesday, when it the new organization will begin bership of about forty.

Presbyterian Indian Mi

Rev. J. A. McDonald, B.A., pointed by the Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian church, to l in British Columbia, as m the Indians, arrived in the city ago. He left last night for a v Duncan's, and other Missions, to starting this new Mission.

For the North.

Following is a list of the pas went North on the steamer Pri last night: D. McLean, J. M Brushby, H. Parkinson, C. Lomes, R. Street, W. Townsen D. T. Thomas, H. Bell-Irving, Crae, G. Hoskins, D. Kirsc Grant and family, and Kate Du

Officials Return.

Hon. P. O'Reilly, Comm Indian Reserves, and Mr. Ashd of the Indian Department, ha from their northern trip on Douglas. They were absent weeks, and visited an island Queen Charlotte Sound. The of investigation for the purpo taining the character of the isl spection was made of any of the

A Call from Nanaim

Rev. D. MacRae came down yesterday, having been holding of the Presbyterian congregatio mo, which resulted in an un to Rev. D. A. MacRae, who the congregation for the past They guarantee a salary of $2,0 and manse. The congregation ing to build a much larger and church than the present one, increasing demands for sittings.

The Late Charles Bart

The funeral of the late Cha took place, yesterday afternoon Lockhart's undertaking rooms, An appropriate service was c Rev. P. McF. Macleod before sion moved off to Ross Bay cem pallbearers were John Trimble, Angus McDonald and John Wa son of the deceased, who had Vancouver, was present, and th ing on the building where he m attended in good numbers.

Love at First Sight.

A rancher on Hall's Prairie, trict, came to the conclusion, ago, that a lonely life was no He was prospering, growing w he wanted to get married. He for a wife, and his advertis answered by a Vancouver spins 5 o'clock, Wednesday evening couple first met. "Love at fi no way to describe the emotion each felt, and after a hurried a carriage was procured, and Maitland tied the nuptial knot

Back from the San Juan

Michael Davitt left for the Es well pleased with the provin Columbia and with Victoria hopes to return with his family late Fall. The last few days Vancouver Island have been San Juan Valley, where it is settle the Scottish Crofters, secured many good negatives Kodak. He is particularly im the immense forest and sea res well favored valley, which sufficient time to thoroughly his opinion is that lumbering should pay immense profits managed.

Arrested on Suspicio

About eight o'clock, last nig received at the police station of policemen were wanted at Yosemite. Constables Taylor were at once sent down, wh Roberts gave in charge two John Campbell and John Moras ion of broaching cargo. Whe went on board, at Vancouver, perfectly sober, but, on reachi they were found to be very dru ion being aroused, a search was it was discovered that a case whiskey had been broken into nine bottles were missing. The tered on the sheet is that of ste key, the property of the C.P.N.

Where the Pinch Will

There is one phase of the Be question that calls for immediat It is of not so much import nation as to the individual, bu distress and suffering in ma unless prompt relief is provid the present season opened, ha or more schooners were manned sailors and hunters, whose families they left behind in t Coast provinces. Their passag advanced, and the Coast cate about repay the fares and the given to the wives at home, bread-winners signed articles. men are returning from the Be unable to carry out the work they crossed the continent. M will be absolutely penniless; a are to provide for the loved one with winter coming on, is a p looks dark just now.

At Oak Bay Beach.

This pleasant resort, now so sible by the tram cars, was visi day afternoon by a number pleasure seekers. Among oth was a very enjoyable garden par Mr. Woolley and a cricket m was well contested, the players ing to the fair sex. Several hun people belonging to St. James' an excursion to and picnic at thi spot, all having a splendid tim are looking lively in the way stantial development of the local Berry's house is rapidly approa pletion. A strong force of men upon the pavilion, in connection a fleet of row and sail boats a plying on the Bay. The Improv pany are making headway with