

POLICE MAGISTRATE MACRAE.

Efforts are being made to throw dust in the eyes of the public as to the reasons why Police Magistrate Macrae was suspended, and attempts are being made to show that Mr. Macrae is a very much injured man, and that the attorney-general has done the public a grievous disservice by relieving him from duty. It is hardly likely that any Victorian who has given the slightest attention to public questions for the past few years will be deceived by these endeavors to paint in false colors the facts of his case. The seaman, Liddy, who was so summarily dealt with by the magistrate, has, while settling himself right in a very vigorous and manly fashion, done an important bit of work for the city by bringing to a head a matter that had long called for treatment. Liddy was undoubtedly treated with injustice by the police magistrate. The facts of his case are briefly these: He was discharged from the steamer Tartar, but subsequently, while on board, received an order, which he, being no longer in the employ of the ship, refused to obey. In the police court the company's side of the story was heard. The sailor had been ordered to do something and refused to do it. Liddy's side of the story was not heard. The absurdity of giving an order to a man who no longer had any right to take orders would have been clear. Mr. Macrae's action in sending the sailor to prison was arbitrary, a travesty on justice, as the attorney-general has well expressed it.

For a long time past the conduct of Police Magistrate Macrae on the bench has not given satisfaction. The facts of his case are briefly these: He had been removed from duty because he was in receipt of a very large income from the various offices which he occupied, something like \$4,000 a year in the aggregate. The police magistrate brought him two hundred dollars a month, and the fact brings up again the ridiculous and anomalous position of Victoria in this matter. The police magistrate is appointed by the provincial government, and his salary is fixed by the same body, the city having "no say" in the matter at all. It is opportune now to suggest that the next appointee be paid the reasonable sum of one hundred dollars a month, with liberty to engage in private practice. The government will do a very popular as well as a just thing by introducing the change we have suggested. The city will save thereby, and this may serve as a start to the much-needed scheme of retrenchment and economy in municipal affairs. To assert, as has been done with much cheap vehemence and in a wearisome prolix manner by the local censor of men and things, that the removal of Police Magistrate Macrae was due to political causes, and in revenge for certain actions in the past, is to assert a very silly thing; the idea is too nonsensical for discussion. The reasons why Police Magistrate Macrae was dismissed are too patent to be lost sight of even under a catarrh of hysterical verbiage. Another point that is brought up by this case is the withholding of prisoners' money for their keep while in custody. This is surely an unjust and inexcusable thing to do. The right has the police custody, the city to cover a very small part of the cost to defray in any case, money or no money? If the prisoner had no money would they sell his clothes to get their pay for his board? The thing is another of those gross absurdities of which there are over many hereabouts. In other places the prisoners have their money, and property found in their possession at the time of arrest, returned to them on leaving the custody of the police; to do anything else is to be dishonest towards people who need good example and kindly protection. The time for those comic opera ideas of justice has surely passed in this province.

IS IT TO BE WORTH?

Victorians have had within the past week a practical illustration of "war's rude alarms;" they have had the privilege of seeing almost at their very doors the interesting operation of a first-class squadron being made ready not only for battle with a strong enemy; they have had a good chance to realize what it is to have the stern facts of the matter brought home to their thoughts and under their very eyes. It is when those things are done so near us that we think very seriously on the great game of war, and in a way that those who live where there are no garrisons or fleets, and whose only mode of military or naval staff and battle are to be seen, can hardly appreciate. It may be no one can say that those gallant ships, of which we are all so paradoxically proud, and whose brave sailors and marines—"soldier and sailor, too"—may, ere they return to the quiet "haven under the hill" at Esquimaux, be called upon to meet "the chivalry of France" on the high seas, and uphold the glorious traditions of the British race as their forbears did under Blake and Rodney, Duncan and Boscawen, Nelson and Collingwood on all "The Seven Seas." It all depends now apparently, on the attitude to be adopted by France, whether the war shall be a war, and France, unfortunately, is not celebratory for the calm, calculating disposition in such matters that might justify the hope that the world would see that she had been making a fool of herself in this business, and so honorably retire. The Napoleonic inheritance is still very much in evidence in France; the same sort of spirit that hurled the conqueror into the ruins, struggles with Germany in 1870, and the mobs that paraded the boulevards in that year shouted "A Berlin!" would shout as eagerly tomorrow: "A London!" Yet it is difficult to believe that France is acting alone in this affair. It is that not the shadow of the bear on the wall behind Jean Crapaud? And is there not something besides the national asinine in the frenzied shriek of the fighting press of Paris—a little, Maccabeanic, say? The very latest news received by the Times to-day gives good ground for the

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A MENACE

Coast Guardsmen Britain Order Mobilize

France to Get Marchand

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London, Nov. 3.—Bryce, former under foreign affairs, submitted a report in the House of Commons, speaking of the Fashoda controversy, and the waters in the Nile Egypt.

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