The Colonist
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 1890.

RISES TO EXPLAIN.

The organ of the Opposition has thrown up the sponge in the contest on the Education question which it so wantonly provoked. It, in Wednesday's issue, virtually acknowledges defeat. It made the very strange admission that the strictures on section nine "and its economical fatilities" were not directed against the Minister of Education. Its accusations and its denunciations, numerous and fierce as they were, were not, it now confesses, directed against anyone. It has all along, according to its own admission, been fighting with the creations of its own imagination. Our readers may well be excused if they think that in saying this we are amusing ourselves at their expense. But we are thoroughly in earnest, as the following extract from the article headed "The Orthography of the Education Office" will very clearly show. In that article our contemporary says:

"The Premier chooses to regard the Times' strictures of section nine and its consequent features as DISTORTED ARGUMENT MISSPELLS THE TEMPER OF THE GENTLEMAN IS IN SEASON. The Times objects to the law and the blending in one man of the highest political and educational functions in the province."

According to this the Times, for the last five or six months, has not been condemning the Premier for what he has done, but for what he might, could, would or should have done. The Times now declares, in effect, that it never said that the Government has transformed the Education Department into a political machine; that it never meant to convey the idea that the Minister of Education intimidated teachers and bullied trustees; that it never tried to create the impression that the Premier is an autocrat in the Department of Education, and that teachers tremble before him for fear that he should suspend them or cancel their certificates. We are greatly pleased to know this and are sorry that it expressed itself so unhappily as to lead the readers of the Times to believe that it wished it to be understood that the Premier was guilty of all these offences, and that he was playing the part of educational despot. The public know now that this was all a mistake, and that its diatribes against the Department of Education and a certain personage on whom it conferred the title of "Honest John," were not directed against the Premier, and if he or any one else thinks so he is in error.

We confess that we were among the multitude who misunderstood the utterances of the Times on the education question. We really believed that it was trying to bring the Premier and his government into discredit by endeavoring to make the people believe that they were treating those teachers who would not consent to become their humble and obedient servants in matters political harshly and unjustly. The Times, however, tells us that we were wrong, and we would not for the world think of contradicting the Times in a matter in which it is necessarily the best judge. It has absolved the Premier and his colleagues, or rather, has declared that it did not intend to accuse them of wrong-doing with respect to their administration of the Education Department. We would be very unreasonable if we were not satisfied with this declaration, and very impolite if we did not express implicit belief in every word of our contemporary's recantation.

The Leader of the Government's promptness in insisting upon the enquiry suggested by Mr. Semlin's motion, which he showed no great zeal in bringing before the House, had of course nothing whatever to do with our contemporary's very unexpected disavowal. Mr. Robson's action did not "strike terror" into its heart. But the train of thought it suggested evidently led the Times to see the necessity of correcting the misunderstanding which its articles had caused. We infer from the article before us that it believes that the correspondence asked for, when it is laid on the table of the House, will, to use its own figure, be "as straight as a string," and that it will prove that the Premier had not abused the power vested in him. When this correspondence is "ventilated in the House" our contemporary seems to be convinced that there would not be found in it any evidence of "crookedness or bulldozing," and that it does not contain a word to substantiate the accusation that "Honest John" ever "bulldozed a pedagogue or wheedled a trustee." Seeing that the organ of the Opposition believed that the correspondence asked for by Mr. Semlin would show in the clearest manner that there is not the very slightest grounds for any charge of tyranny and injustice that might be brought against the head of the Department it is not surprising that our contemporary has tried to assure its readers and the public generally that it never thought of making any such accusation, and that Mr. Semlin had no other motive in asking for the correspondence than a wish "to study the orthography and the syntax of the chiefs of the Education Department." Is it not pleasant to be told that Mr. Semlin is so innocently studious and that the organ of the Opposition is so delightfully ingenuous?

DISGUSTED WITH ITSELF.

The Times has expressed its desire to let the accusation which it has brought against the Attorney-General respecting the term "foreigner" drop. It has, it asserts, become a "chestnut." We have no doubt that like the demand which we made for facts to substantiate its charges against the Education Department, it has heard more about it than it liked. The "iteration" had become "nauseating." The quiet but very severe rebuke administered to it by "A British Columbian" was a most unpleasant pill for it to swallow. But would it not have been better if it had not undertaken to misrepresent the Attorney-General's language? Its trying to do so was a very mean, paltry piece of business, and we are not surprised to find that now, when it is brought to see its very contemptible conduct in its true light, it feels somewhat ashamed and wants to hear nothing more about the matter. The Opposition has been most unfortunate in its attacks on the Government. In its attempts to bring the administration into disrepute it has only shown in a very conspicuous way how weak and dishonest it is. It now confesses that it had no grounds whatever for its violent assault on the Educational Department, and it finds that its attempt to bring discredit upon the Attorney-General is considered so stupid and at the same time so malignant that, for its own credit's sake, it is only too glad to let it drop. If the organ would only try for a little while to be honest and fair and civil it would not, we think, be disappointed with the result of the experiment.

TOO LATE FOR ARBITRATION.

Some American editors who have not taken the trouble to enquire into the matter represent Great Britain as having taken advantage of Portugal's weakness—as having acted the part of a bully and a bulldozer. There are others, more moderate, who believe that the British government ought to have referred the questions in dispute between Great Britain and Portugal to arbitration. These critics seem to forget that Portugal was the aggressor in this matter, that without giving warning of its intentions and without declaring war, it invaded territory under the protection of Great Britain and mowed down with galling guns the natives who would not submit to its rule. What is any nation to do in a case of this kind? Is it not bound to repel force by force. Arbitration is to be resorted to before force is used—to prevent the assertion of alleged rights by a resort to arms. Had the Portuguese before Major Serpa Pinto invaded Makololo offered to submit the claims of the two countries to sovereignty over this and the other territories in dispute, to arbitration, and had Great Britain declined the offer, there would then be good reason to blame Lord Salisbury. But that is exactly what Serpa Pinto and the Portuguese authorities did not do. That officer was very busy for some months in collecting a force of some 4,000 men, giving out that he merely intended to take his expedition into the interior for scientific purposes. When he was prepared he began his journey. When he entered the Makololo country he threw off the mask and required the chiefs to submit to him and to acknowledge the sovereignty of Portugal. The missionaries, whose advice was asked, counselled the chiefs to submit to Serpa Pinto for the time, and some of them did so. But one of the chiefs, Mlauri, would not be restrained. He was determined to resist the invaders, and he bitterly reproached the British, who had promised him protection, with not being as good as their word. The patriotic savage was unsuccessful. His warriors were slaughtered and his village was burned by the invaders. The prestige of Great Britain was destroyed in that part of Africa. The natives naturally believed that Great Britain did not protect them, because she was not able to do so. Another effect of Serpa Pinto's successful invasion was to endanger the lives of the missionaries, who are stationed in considerable numbers in the country claimed by the Portuguese. The Rev. C. A. Smythie, bishop of the Universities Mission, who had been in the country during Pinto's invasion, writing from Mozambique on December 5th, says:

"The position has now become exceedingly critical, and the British residents in the district who have sacrificed so many lives and spent so much money in the country, and have been for so many years the only European residents, are most anxiously waiting to hear what help is to be given them from home, and how the assurances of the Government are to be regarded."

Under these circumstances how was the British Government to act? Was it to spend time in negotiations which would confirm the natives of Africa in their opinion of their protector's powerlessness, and still further endanger the lives and the property of the British residents; or should it insist upon the withdrawal of the Portuguese troops from Makololo and the Shire highlands and demand reparation for the injuries done to the people whom Great Britain had taken under her protection? It is very evident that prompt action was required. The natives should be made to know that Great Britain is powerful enough to protect them, and the subjects of Queen Victoria who had taken up their abode among the negro tribes should have reason to feel that they were safe as long as the Union Jack floated over them. It would be time enough to talk about arbitration after Great Britain had asserted her right, and the country was in, as nearly as possible, the same condition as it was before Major Serpa Pinto made his raid upon his peaceful and unoffending neighbors, who, depending upon British protection, were not in a position to offer him any resistance that was in the least effectual.

Our readers will see that if the British Government had hesitated to demand instant satisfaction from the Portuguese Government it would have acted wisely and unwisely. To have consented to an arbitration then would have been to condone the offence that Major Pinto had committed and to offer a premium on violence. Arbitration is prescribed by the Act of the Berlin Conference as a preventive of warlike operations. If Portugal believed that it had a valid claim to the land it invaded, it should have proposed arbitration before it attempted to enforce that claim by the last argument of kings. Having had recourse to that argument it is only right that it should be compelled to abide by the result.

We are quite sure that if Portugal had defied any other European power in the same way as it defied Great Britain it would not have been treated with so much consideration. Lord Salisbury was not peremptory until he was forced to demand an immediate answer from a shuffling and prevaricating Government.

From Bad to Worse

SCROFULA leads to consumption. From three to six bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters will cure scrofula, salt rheum, erysipelas, boils, pimples, blotches, tetter, shingles, scald head, sore eyes, and all skin affections, by cleansing the system and removing all impure matter that caused bad blood. swf

The Great Annual Boot Sale.

At Russell, McDonald & Co.'s, opposite the iron church, Douglas street, is now on. All goods are being sold at an immense reduction.

WANTED, ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS.

We are glad to see that the able letters of our esteemed correspondent "A Victorian" have attracted the attention of the city council. He has shown that the city's finances are not in a satisfactory condition, and that there are some things in the city treasurer's annual statement that need explanation. We trust that the mayor is prepared to give full and clear answers to his questions. It will not do to say, as he does that the fact that "every one of the old council who had offered himself for re-election had been returned . . . was the best answer that Victorian could receive." We find that men in a representative capacity look upon a re-election as a kind of absolution. They wish people to believe that their being re-elected is proof positive that all that had been said against them previous to their going to the polls is untrue. But facts and figures after the election are precisely the same as before it took place. The election proved nothing and changed nothing. If the finances of the city were in a muddle before the election the mere fact of the old Councillors being returned did not straighten them out. If the last Council had expended money that was borrowed for a certain specified purpose in an unauthorized way, some of its members being elected again this year did not relieve them of their responsibility. The re-election of men who did not keep a watchful eye over the city's expenditure shows merely that the ratepayers were careless and did not institute the enquiries necessary to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the state of the city's accounts. If they voted for members who, by their careless and extravagant administration of the city's affairs had proved themselves unworthy of their confidence, it only showed that they were too trustful and not sufficiently vigilant. Assuming that the last Council spent more money than it ought to have spent, and diverted loans to wrong uses, the re-election of the men who committed these offences did not make them faithful servants and careful administrators. They are in fact the "same old sixpences," ready to plunge the city into more and greater difficulties, if the ratepayers give them the opportunity of again making ducks and drakes of the city's finances. The answer, therefore, to to which the Mayor directed attention was no answer at all, and we are surprised that in so serious a matter he makes a reply at once so frivolous and so unsatisfactory.

We happen to know that Victorian's letters have attracted much attention, and have set people thinking who had, up to their appearance, paid very little attention to civic affairs. A large number of the most intelligent of our citizens are anxiously looking for an answer to the questions which our correspondent has propounded. They have, no doubt, looked upon the Mayor's answer, as reported in yesterday morning's issue, as evasive, and their suspicion that last year's city accounts will not bear a close analysis is strengthened.

The objection raised because our correspondent did not sign his own name to the letters is frivolous. The question with the ratepayers is not Who is Victorian? but Are the statements he has made true, and can the Mayor answer the questions he asks satisfactorily? When a man writes about a public question ably and seriously as our correspondent has done, his personality is of no consequence whatever. A name will not make what is true false, or what is reasonable unreasonable. It is sometimes indeed best to clear public questions of personal considerations of all kinds. It is not Victorian alone who needs the information he asks for, but every ratepayer in the city who is asked to place more money in the hands of the City Council, and the Mayor and Councillors are not wise if they withhold that information. The natural question and the proper question for the ratepayers to ask before they vote the corporation a new loan is, What have they done with the loans that have been already voted? Have they made a good use of them? Have they expended the money on the objects for which it was borrowed, and on those alone? The ratepayers should insist upon receiving clear and definite answers to these questions, before they give the Corporation power to borrow more money.

THE CORPORATION RESPONSIBLE.

It would appear from observations made by Alderman McKillican at the last meeting of the City Council that the Corporation has determined to take upon itself no responsibility with respect to the disposal of the garbage of the city. He is reported to have said that the scavengers are working for private individuals and as they dump the city's filth outside the city limits the corporation had no control over them in any way. The city government cannot get clear of what is their plain duty in that jaunty way. The filth is removed according to their ordinance, and they are bound to find some way of disposing of it. The employment of scavengers by the householders is a mere matter of arrangement. It has been decided that the offensive matter can be removed more readily in that way than if the Corporation took upon itself the business of having it taken to some place where it can do no harm. When the city built the wharf at Ross Bay it recognized its responsibility. The disposal of garbage is a work that devolves upon all city governments. Some get rid of it in one way and some in another, but they all acknowledge it to be their duty to dispose of it in some manner. In Montreal, for instance, garbage was for a long time dumped in open spaces outside the city limits. But the inhabitants of the country near the noisome heaps protested against the nuisance, and the Corporation was obliged at a very considerable cost to have furnaces erected for consuming the filth. Our City Fathers must find some way of getting rid of the garbage which they very properly do not permit to remain within the bounds of the city. They have made it unlawful for the citizens to dig pits and to have cesspools on their premises. The garbage and excrementitious matter must be removed. This is all right. But it will not do for the Corporation to stop there. If they compel the citizens to remove the refuse they must find some place in which it is to be deposited. No matter where the scavengers may dump it there will be people within smelling distance who will not permit it to remain in their neighborhood. Throwing it into the sea seems, under the present circumstances, the best means of putting it where it will do the least harm. Alderman McKillican said that "he had been informed that while the city had obtained permission to build the garbage wharf they had not obtained permission to dump refuse from it." This is very strange indeed. One would think that the permission to build a garbage wharf carried with it the permission to use it for the purpose for which it was built. Surely those who gave the permission to build the wharf did not expect that it was to remain unused or that the city went to the expense of erecting it merely for ornamental purposes. We cannot think that Alderman McKillican has been correctly informed. To give the Corporation permission to build a garbage wharf and refuse it permission to dump garbage from it would be like making a man a present of a cost on condition that he should never put it on.

Whether the corporation can legally use the garbage wharf or not it cannot divest itself of the responsibility of providing some way for disposing of the city's refuse. The health of the city demands that the scavengers go on with their work. That work cannot be safely allowed to cease for twenty-four hours. But if they cannot dump the refuse anywhere, except at the risk of a lawsuit which they are certain to lose, they will have to cease. It is not pleasant to imagine the condition of the city after the cessation has continued a very short time.

This is a very important matter, and the City Council should give it their most serious attention. If some means of disposing of the refuse is not provided, the whole work of keeping the city clean will devolve upon the corporation. The scavenging must be done, and if the conditions are such that private citizens cannot undertake the work, it must be done by the corporation itself.

THE DUTY ON MINING MACHINERY.

The Minister of Customs wants to be convinced that the mining machinery for the duty on which the Government of this province has applied for a refund, could not be manufactured in Canada. The Government have not been able to prove this, therefore the refund was refused. It is to be hoped that the Minister of Finance will not apply this very singular test to the request that mining machinery imported into British Columbia be placed on the free list. Circumstances in this province are such that miners must import the machinery they use. Whether it can be manufactured in the Dominion or not matters very little to them. When the mines for gold or silver or lead needs machinery he is forced to go for it to the United States and matter what his circumstances are or what other difficulties he has to contend with, the government which has promised to protect him and to foster weak and struggling native industries adds more than a third to its cost before he is allowed to ship it for the mines. The machinery he needs cannot be procured anywhere else, and if it could, the expense of carrying it from any of the large manufacturing centres of the Dominion would add very materially to its cost. No valid reason can be given why the mining industry of British Columbia should be handicapped in this way. The duty on mining machinery is a discouragement to the mining industry of this province. It is a greater load than it can, in its present condition, bear. The miner feels that he is unfairly treated. He cannot see why, when other industries, far less important, are fostered and protected, the one in which he is engaged is heavily burdened from the very start. It seems to us that the refusals to grant the British Columbia miners the measure of justice and fairplay that they ask is conceived in the spirit of bureaucracy of the narrowest and most obstructive kind. It appears to us that the men who cannot make allowance for the peculiar circumstances in which the miners of this province are placed have come to regard the whole Dominion as specially created for their particular Bureau and not the Bureau for the Dominion. If the Government acted in accordance with the spirit of the National Policy it would not, when it was fully informed as to the condition of the province and the peculiar position in which the mining industry stands, hesitate a single moment in placing every tool and every piece of machinery that is imported for the use of the miners on the free list.

The Treasury of the Dominion would lose very little indeed by pursuing so liberal and so consistent a policy, and the encouragement thus received would give a stimulus to the mining industry of the province which would go very far towards building it up and placing it in a prosperous condition. The Government, too, would earn the good-will and the gratitude of every miner in the province, and every capitalist, large or small, who had an interest in mines. Its popularity would be fairly and honorably earned. If, however, the Government refuses the very reasonable request of almost every man in British Columbia, whether he be a miner or not, the people of the province will consider that they have been unfairly treated.

We do not think that the Government wishes British Columbians to be soured and discontented, and ready to listen to agitators who tell them that the yoke of the Dominion is hard and its burdens heavy.

Death of Baron Lamington.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Alexander Dundas Cochrane Baillie, first Baron Lamington, is dead. He was 73 years of age. The succession of his son, Hon. Chas. Walkan Cochrane Baillie, to the peerage, will make vacant the parliamentary seat for South Saint Pancras, which the Conservatives won at the last election by a majority of 281 in a total vote of 5,450.

REVISION.

For some time there have been men in the Presbyterian church, both in Great Britain and the United States, who believe that the time has come for a revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith. The advocates of revision were at first few and they spoke timidly and chiefly in private. Now and then a voice was raised in favor of revision in the Presbyteries and Synods, but the feeling against them was so general and so strong that the cause they advocated made but little headway. But the cause of revision has kept on growing stronger and stronger. It was contended that there are some doctrines in the Confession that are not now held by many members of the Presbyterian church, that are not taught from the majority of Presbyterian pulpits and that should not therefore be retained in the Presbyterian standards. The revisionists have obtained the ear of the public and are warmly supported by members of many congregations. The Conservative element of the Presbyterian church has been doing its best to keep down the agitation. Those who compose it believe that nothing but harm will come out of an attempt to remove the old religious landmarks. They consider that the new party has become too latitudinarian and that they desire to change the Confession of Faith rather to meet the views of the sceptical and the worldly than to have the doctrines of the church entirely in accord with the word of God.

It is to be expected that the controversy on a subject of such great moment should be earnest and that some of the disputants on both sides should go a little beyond the bounds of moderation, and should not be always observant of the rules of Christian courtesy. But, on the whole, the discussion has been carried on with decorum and with less bitterness than might be expected. Theological discussions are apt to become acrimonious and those engaged in them do not always remember that one man has as good a right to form opinions as another. But we live in an age of toleration, and where complete freedom of speech is enjoyed men find that it is necessary to hear opinions differing widely from their own with equanimity and so treat opponents with forbearance and courtesy.

The question of the revision of the Westminster Confession has been warmly discussed by the New York Presbytery. There were some very strong expressions of opinion on both sides. The passages in the Confession to which objection is taken are on a subject about which very little is heard in these days. Dr. Biggs, who is one of the revisionist party, summarized the points which he and those who think as he does wish to see eliminated from the Confession of Faith. They are "first, reprobation; second, damnation of infants; third, damnation of the entire heathen world; fourth, Roman Catholics are idolators; fifth, the Pope is Antichrist."

"Those," he added, "are the only five points which the committee has asked to be removed."

The following is the overture agreed to by the Presbytery of New York by a division of sixty-seven to fifteen:

"The Presbytery would regard with apprehension any attempts to remodel the Confession of Faith, as endangering the integrity of our system of doctrine. We deprecate most earnestly all such changes as would impair the essential articles of our faith, contained in that confession which has so long served as our standard, and to which we are bound by so many historic and personal ties.

"We ask only such changes as seem to us urgently needed and generally desired, to wit:

"First—We desire that the third chapter after the first section be so recast as to include these things only: The sovereignty of God in election; the general love of God for all mankind; the salvation of Christ Jesus provided for all and to be preached to every creature.

"Secondly—We desire that the tenth chapter be so revised as not to appear to discriminate concerning infants dying in infancy, or so as to omit all reference to them (section 3); and so as to preclude that explanation of section 4, which makes it teach the damnation of all the heathen, or makes it deny that there are any elect heathen, who are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, and who endeavor to walk in penitence and humility, according to the measure of light which God has been pleased to grant them.

"While there are other points which the Presbytery would be glad to see modified or changed—as conspicuously chapter xxiv., 3, and xxv., 6—nevertheless, we prefer to confine our suggestions for revision to the third and the tenth chapters, as above indicated."

This is not by any means as far as the extreme revisionists wish to go. Some of them would do away with the Confession of Faith altogether as a standard of the Presbyterian Church, and substitute for it some short form of creed that can easily be remembered, and that may be frequently rehearsed. But the above overture was the utmost that the majority of the Presbytery could be prevailed upon to accept.

For the information of those who have not the Confession of Faith to refer to we reproduce sections 3, 4 and 5 of chapter three. They refer, as the reader sees to the much discussed doctrine of predestination:—

"By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death.

"These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

"The rest of mankind (the non-elect) God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as He pleaseth, for the glory of His sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sins, to the praise of His glorious justice."

What the Confession of Faith teaches with respect to the salvation of infants and the fate of the heathen in the next world are contained in clauses three and four of chapter 10. They are as follows:

"3. Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who worketh in them, and when, and how He pleaseth. So, also, are all other elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

"4. Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ, and, therefore, cannot be saved. Much less can men not professing the Christian religion be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the law of that religion they do profess; and to assert and maintain that they may is very pernicious, and to be detested."

Persons who have never read the Westminster Confession of Faith frequently represent these passages to be very different from what they really are; and many who do read them take from them a meaning which they were not intended to convey. Those stern divines who taught that infants not "a span long" will be found "writhing in hell," can find no ground for this dreadful doctrine in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Divines in these days are for the most part wisely silent on subjects such as these. They do not like it to be their duty to pronounce upon matters on which it looks like presumption for short-sighted and ignorant mortals to pronounce. But to show that men of standing in the Presbyterian Church do not hold the extreme doctrines which some theologians say the Westminster Confession of Faith teaches we reproduce what Dr. Henry Van Dyke is reported to have said in the debate on the committee's report:

"I intend," he said, "to teach that there are no infants in hell; that there is no limit to God's love, and that no man is punished save for his own sin. I intend to teach that God loves all mankind, and with a love we cannot fathom or understand."

"Is that Calvinism? Before God I do not know and I do not care. It is Christianity." The reporter adds: "This created quite a sensation in the galleries."

This decision of the New York Presbytery will, no doubt, have an influence on the Presbyteries of other parts of the United States and perhaps it may have some effect on the denomination in Canada. The question of revision will be taken to the General Assembly where it will be very fully discussed by the ablest men of the Presbyterian body in the United States. What the result will be it might be rash to predict, but as the spirit of the age is opposed to iron-bound creeds, and as many at the New York Presbytery said, "revision is in the air," it does seem probable that the revisionists in the United States, at any rate, will sooner or later gain the day.

AN OVERSIGHT.

We were surprised to find on looking over the Dominion estimates, that no provision has been made for the conveyance of the mails by steamer between Victoria and the landings at the mouth of the Fraser river and New Westminster. The service is one that accommodates quite a large and a very important section of the province. The inhabitants of no part of British Columbia better deserve good treatment at the hands of the Dominion Government than the farmers and canners of the Lower Fraser. To withhold the subsidy hitherto given to keep up the regular mail and steamboat connection with this section will be to do them a very serious injustice. We trust that the representatives of the province in Ottawa will exert themselves to get the grant placed on the supplementary estimates. There is no need to remind Messrs. Prior and Earle of the importance of the service and of the necessity there is of doing all they can to have the subsidy renewed. Owing to the illness of Mr. Chisholm, they have the interests of Westminster to look after as well as those of their own constituents. We are quite sure that any efforts they may make to keep up the regular mail communication between Victoria and the settlements on the Lower Fraser will be highly appreciated by the inhabitants, both of Victoria and the Westminster district.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE Premier scored one yesterday in Committee of the Whole on Mr. Beaven's Municipal bill. In dealing with the section which provides that, in a city two-thirds of the lot owners and resident householders must petition for a liquor license before it can be issued, Mr. Robson managed to have the words "and their wives" inserted, thereby giving women an equal voice with men in the matter. One member objected, remarking: "If you do that, no new licenses will be issued," to which the Premier replied: "So much the better." As the author of the amendment truly said, the matter is one which concerns women as much as men, and they should have an equal voice in determining whether a house in their neighborhood shall, or shall not, be licensed to sell intoxicating liquor. They have that power already in rural districts. Why should they not have it in cities? We consider this an important step in temperance reform, and it is to be hoped that the women will not be slow to make good use of their newly acquired power.

THE farmers of Ontario are under no delusion as to the worthlessness to them of the duty on wheat. They see that it affords them no protection whatever, and they are therefore ready to consent to have it removed. The Ontario Central Farmers' Institute spent some time lately in considering the grievance of the millers of the province. They did not give their assent to an increase of the duty on flour, but they recommended that both wheat an flour be placed on the free list. This is the resolution that they passed by a majority of nearly two to one—the figures were forty-four to twenty-three:

"That whereas we believe that the milling industry of this Dominion is suffering by discriminations in the tariff, and that they should receive some relief, be it therefore resolved that this Institute memorialize the Dominion Government to place wheat and wheat products upon the free list."

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth! If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. myl-eod-d&w

BRITISH COLUMBIA MILITARY.

Annual Report of Lieut.-Col. Holmes on the State of the Active Militia of the Province.

(From Advance Sheets of the Militia Report.)

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 11.

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA, B. C., 8th Nov., 1889.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Major-General Commanding, the following report on the state of the active militia of this district for the current year:—

ESTABLISHED STRENGTH.

	Officers.	Men.
Artillery, Garrison (4 Batteries)	10	157
Rifles (1 Company)		41
Total		198
Authorized to Drill		200
Performing Drill to date		
	Officers.	Men.
Batteries (8)	10	115

The officers commanding the artillery and rifles at New Westminster have applied for authority to carry out their annual drill during the coming winter.

The Headquarters batteries, British Columbia brigade garrison artillery, have completed their drill, and were inspected by me on the afternoon of the 7th inst., and their appearance on parade, and drill generally, was extremely creditable, considering the great disadvantage they labor under in not having a creditable drill shed, &c. Those batteries have all performed their gun practice in accordance with orders for annual drill. Gun used, 64-pr., R. M. L., range, 1,350 yards—no longer one available. Scores were very good. The score sheets have been forwarded to the inspector of artillery. Inspection report forwarded herewith.

These corps also furnished the guard of honor to His Excellency the Governor-General on his arrival at Victoria, on the 31st October last, and His Excellency was pleased to express his approval of the smart appearance of officers and men.

Master Gunner Cornish, R. G. A., has acted as instructor to these batteries, and credit is due to him for the careful manner in which they have been drilled and turned out on parade.

I would again strongly recommend a supply of rifled guns for the battery at New Westminster. The artillery equipment of this battery is now complete, and in very good order. Still, as the oldest battery in the district and one of the best, I think it due them that this change be made, the present equipment being handed over to one of the new corps recommended.

DRILL SHEDS.

The drill sheds in the district are not at all suited for the requirements of the force, being too small, and in Victoria badly situated.

BATTERIES.

Batteries are in fairly good condition, and until work is commenced on the new forts for the defence of Esquimalt, need only slight repairs from time to time, as may be necessary.

MAGAZINES.

Attention is again called to the absolute necessity of a new magazine for the storage of gunpowder and ammunition. The present one is badly situated and a new one should, and I hope will, be built within the barrack enclosure.

STAFF.

Capt. Jones has given me all the assistance in his power in carrying out the various duties. I would respectfully urge that extra pay be given him for the great addition to his work caused by his having to act as paymast to the "C" Battery Royal School of Artillery.

I have also to report that, as far as possible, all orders in connection with the performance of annual drill have been carried out.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. G. HOLMES, Lieut.-Col.
Acting Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 11.

ANNUAL REPORT ON "C" BATTERY, REGIMENT OF CANADIAN ARTILLERY, AND ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY.

VICTORIA, B. C., 8th Nov., 1889.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Major-General Commanding, this my annual report on the state of "C" Battery, R. C. A., and Royal School of Artillery, under my command for the past year, and to again recommend for favorable consideration the various suggestions made by me in my last report, under the following heads:

Present strength,
Establishment,
Barracks,
Arms, accoutrements and clothing,
Hospital,
Divine service,
Status and discipline,
Pay and allowance,
Forage allowance,
Artillery instruction.

BAND.

This is, considering the reduced numbers at present, owing to casualties from discharge and desertion, in a very fair state. It may, however, be expected that unless a considerable draft of men is sent to us before long it will be necessary to break up the band entirely, as it will be required to take up regular military duty, such as guards, etc., in regular turn, owing to the want of duty men.

OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESSES.

These are still kept up and in a satisfactory state. The want of suitable mess premises for each is much felt, as the present quarters are poor in the extreme. The cost of messing is about one-third higher than in eastern stations.

FORTS AND ARMAMENTS.

These are now in want of certain small repairs, such as new platforms and partially new revetments.

Caretaker's quarters at Macauley Point and artillery and shell store and magazine on Brother's Island are required.

Magazine accommodation too small, and store and side-arms incomplete.

Many articles destroyed last year at Brother's Island not yet replaced.

A boat is much needed, to enable visits to be made to Brother's Island.

The annual allowance of three rounds per gun was fired from 7-inch guns; results not satisfactory; 8-inch guns not fired owing to want of sights.

Two carriages for 64-pr. guns are required. Naval slides for 7-inch and 8-inch guns should be replaced by traversing platforms.

MAIN MAGAZINE.

This is situated in the public park, Victoria, and the municipal authorities are excavating the ground close to it for a small pond. This will not tend to make it a suitable place for the storage of all of the gunpowder on charge.

It is time that steps were taken for the construction of a magazine in the new barracks, where the sentry at the main gate could overlook it. The present magazine is entirely without military protection.

RIFLE PRACTICE.

This is being carried out under the supervision of Major Peters (who is very enthusiastic with regard to it), and with good results.

The practice last year was not completed, owing to the closing of the only available range, and it is only through the kindness of Mr. Henly, of Clover Point, that we are enabled to carry out the practice this year. If possible, a range should be purchased near the new barracks, in order that no stoppage of this important part of a soldier's training may occur.

INSPECTION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Battery was honored with an inspection at the temporary barracks by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Stanley of Preston, on the 2nd of November last, who was good enough to not express himself much pleased with the appearance of the Battery on parade, as well as with the arrangements of the barrack room, guard room, offices, &c., &c.

His Excellency also, on the 4th inst., visited the Battery at McCauley Point and the new barrack huts, at Work Point.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

I deem it important, in conclusion, to point out that at the end of October next year, the period of engagement of 37 men out of a total present strength of 72 will be completed, and on enquiry, only three of them have expressed their willingness to re-engage.

As it is clearly proved, after two year's trial that men cannot be got upon this coast to fill the ranks, something must be done towards sending drafts from the Eastern Provinces. It would be better, if it is intended to maintain the Battery, to send a draft now of enough to fill vacancies—28 in all—in order that they may be instructed and qualified to become Non-Commissioned Officers, the want of suitable men to fill these positions being, even now, much felt. Should nothing be done, I may safely say that on the 1st of November next year, the strength of "C" Battery will be about 25 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, or only the fourth part of the authorized establishment.

I wish to express my satisfaction with the way that the officers and non-commissioned officers, generally, have carried on the duties during the past year under circumstances most trying and discouraging.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant.

J. G. HOLMES,
Lt.-Col., R. C. A., Commandant.
The Officer Commanding, Regiment, Canadian Artillery, Ottawa.

Not Welcome as Neighbors.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—General Nelson A. Miles and Governor Louis Wolfrey of Arizona, addressed the house committee on Indian affairs to-day in opposition to transferring the Apache Indian prisoners of war now held at Mount Vernon barracks, Alabama, to the Fort Sill reservation, Indian Territory.

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