The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1895.

A FRIEND IN THE EAST.

It is cheering to see that the sealers of British Columbia have with them the sympathy of their countrymen east of the Rocky Mountains. The Montreal Gazette understands their case fully and is indignant at the way in which the United States Congress has refused to confirm the arrangement made with the Secretary of State, Mr. Gresham. It says:

It is gratifying to learn that the claims of the British Columbia sealers for compensation on account of the illegal seizure of their vessels by the United States are not being lost sight of by the Imperial Government or the British House of Commons. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British representative at Washington, has been pressing the subject on the attention of the United States Government, and in view of the delay that seems likely to take place before the claims are settled, the British Government has under consideration the advisability of paying the claimants something on account. Some action in this direction, either by the Imperial or the Dominion Government, would be justifiable.

After relating some of the particulars of the illegal seizures and commenting upon the decision arrived at by the Paris arbitrators, the Gazette goes on to say:

The matter was brought to the notice of the United States by Sir Julian Pauncefote, and United States Secretary Gresham, with the approval of President Cleveland, offered a sum of $425,000 in settlement, which was accepted by Great Britain after being approved by the Canadian Government. Congress, after delaying consideration of the question as long as it could, refused to pay the money; and thus the whole business has to be begun over again. Negotiations must be entered into to fix the amount of damages, and as Congress has refused to pay a lump sum in settlement, reference to a specially established international tribunal seems inevitable. But no steps can be taken in this direction without the consent of the United States Senate, and in the ordinary course of things the Senate will not meet again till December. Thus a settlement is still further deferred, and it is no wonder if the wronged sealers of British Columbia become impatient. The high-handed proceedings of the United States have been declared to be entirely without warrant by the tribunal to which the question was referred, and it is a matter of national honor, nay of common decency, that the United States Government should compensate those whom it has injured and insulted in the lawful pursuit of their livelihood. This policy of shuffling and evading a claim whose justice has been established beyond all question is unworthy of a great nation.

The action of both Representatives and Senators has in this matter of the Behring Sea Question been, to say the very least, most unbusiness-like. They have presumed to try a case that has already been tried by a competent tribunal after a long and searching investigation. They seem to think that they, prejudiced as they are, and insufficiently informed as they must necessarily be, are in a better position to arrive at a just and reasonable decision than the able and impartial men who were appointed by the two Governments to adjudicate upon the question. The truth is the carping and quibbling in Congress were nothing more than pretexts for refusing to give effect to a decision which was distasteful to its members.

A NEW IMBROGLIO.

The murder of Italians in Colorado is certain to lead to unpleasantness between Italy and the United States. The New Orleans trouble some years ago showed that the United States Government occupies a very singular position with respect to foreign countries whose citizens are killed or injured in its territory by mob violence. The Federal Government is the only United States Government known to foreign nations, yet that Government has no more power to prosecute and punish American citizens who do violence to the subjects of a foreign king in any of the States than has that king himself. The New Orleans rioters could laugh at the officers of the Federal Government. They were perfectly safe as long as the State authorities refrained from prosecuting them, and the Federal Government has no authority in such a matter over the Government of the State. When the Italian ambassador demanded the punishment of the New Orleans lynchers the Federal authorities first quibbled and then were obliged to confess that they were powerless in the matter. And it is almost certain that it will be the same in Colorado. If the sympathies of the populace are, as is most probably the case, with the men who in such a savage and cowardly manner murdered the Italians, the Government of Italy will demand justice in vain. Without the co-operation of the State authorities it will be impossible to deal with the murderers as justice demands, and if the people show that they approve of the crimes that have been committed the officers of justice in the State will be paralysed. They dare not exercise their authority in opposition to the will of the mob.

A short time ago, when the Federal authorities interfered in Colorado to protect property and to put down disorder, the Governor of the State openly interposed to save the rioters from the punishment they so well deserved. If, then, the native population side with the murderers, the Federal Government will be powerless. The Colorado demagogues have no regard for the national honor. They have not the most remote conception of what is due to the Governments of foreign nations whose subjects reside in their country.

It is surprising that there is not in the United States a determination among respectable, law-abiding men to put down lynching and other forms of lawlessness. The United States is earning for itself an unenviable character abroad for barbarism and brutality. It might be supposed that men who value the reputation of their country would exert themselves energetically and fearlessly to assert the supremacy of the law. Until they do so matters will grow worse and worse, and the character of the Americans as a nation will sink lower and lower. This work must be done, and the longer it is deferred the more difficult will it be to perform.

UNCLE SAM'S MONEY MATTERS.

The amount of money which the United States Congress expends, or rather authorizes to be expended, is enormous. The Fifty-first Congress was on account of its immense appropriations called the Billion Dollar Congress. Every Congress since has been a billion dollar Congress or very near it. The appropriations of the Fifty-first Congress amounted to $1,035,000,000; those of the Fifty-second Congress to $1,027,000,000, and the Congress whose term has just expired voted away $990,000,000. It will be seen by this that the Democrats did not spend quite so much money as the Republicans. The former have cut down the pension list to the extent of about $30,000,000, and we have no doubt that it could be cut down still further without doing the slightest injustice to any really deserving person. The United States pension list is the most stupendous fraud of the age. It costs almost, if not altogether, as much to maintain the United States pensioners for services rendered thirty years or so ago, as it does to support the immense standing army of Germany.

One of the consequences of these enormous appropriations is to dissipate the great surpluses of which the Americans under Cleveland's former administration used to boast. The United States is no longer a bloated capitalist. Like the rest of the world it is just now hard up. Its revenue is not large enough to pay running expenses. Uncle Sam is obliged to borrow money to meet his notes. Indeed, it looked a little while ago as if he would have to suspend payment or meet his obligations with depreciated silver. He, however, turned that corner cleverly. The Britishers came to his aid and now he is in funds again. His expenditure has been for a considerable time in excess of his receipts, but his income is slowly increasing, so that there is hope that he will before very long be able to made both ends meet. It must not be supposed that, because he is short at the present time, he has grown poor. He is not poor. He has plenty of money's worth, but much of it is not available just now. For one thing, he has in his vaults $508,859,907 worth of silver coined and uncoined, but, as all the world knows, silver is a drug in the market, and so Uncle Sam must hold on to this a while longer. His gold reserve is, since the last loan, quite large enough for business purposes. It amounted a week or so ago to $91,112,075. He had in his treasury gold coin and bullion amounting to $138,503,218. He had, therefore, at the end of the first week of the present month gold and silver of the value of more than six hundred millions of dollars. So we may safely conclude that Uncle Sam with good management will be able to pull through.

WRONG AS USUAL.

Our ingenious evening contemporary invented a wonderful theory to account for Sir Donald A. Smith's alleged refusal to accept the Conservative nomination for a Montreal constituency. We wonder what it will have to say now that his acceptance of the nomination has shown its theory to be groundless. Which side is the C. P. R to take in the contest, or is Sir Donald A.'s permitting himself to be put in nomination indicative in any way of the action that the great corporation will take? Mr. Van Horne's mind-reading would come in very handy just now. Perhaps he has read "the signs of the times" to some effect and finds that Laurier's star is not in the ascendant.

"FURNACES AND FOUNDRIES."

When the Times the other day echoed the blast of the Hamilton Times against the protection and encouragement given by the Dominion to the smelting of iron in Canada it neglected to mention, accidentally of course, that the Grit Government of Ontario has gone into the business of fostering native industries. Sir Oliver Mowat, as regards "furnaces and foundries," has adopted the bounty system, which the Grits denounced, when it was resorted to by the Dominion Government, in the fiercest terms, and in the most unqualified way.

The Iron Age when recounting the advantages which the Hamilton furnace—of which enterprise, by the way, a certain Mr. Robert Jaffray, whose name has a familiar sound, in connection with the affairs of the Toronto Globe, is one of the leading promoters—says:

There is still another advantage which a blast furnace in Ontario is offered, or at least will have an opportunity in starting, over other pig iron establishments not only in foreign lands but in all other provinces in Canada, this is the bounty offered by the Ontario Parliament at its last session. This bounty is payable to the miners or producers of iron ore in the province, but as the conditions require that in order to secure the bounty the ore shall also be smelted in the Province it will be seen that the furnace man's position will enable him to obtain much if not all the benefit, especially if there be competition in the production of the ore. The sum of money appropriated for these iron bounties is $125,000, and is available for a period of five years from July 1, 1894. The miners or producers are to be paid the equivalent of $1 per short ton of the pig metal produced from their ores, but not more than $25,000 is to be paid in any one year. If more ore is mined and smelted than the $25,000 at $1 per ton of pig would be sufficient to meet, the payments are to be on a pro rata basis per ton. Consequently, if 25,000 short tons of pig iron be made in one year from Ontario ores, the makers will possibly enjoy in the reduced price of ore the equivalent of a bounty of $1 per short ton of pig iron; if 50,000 tons of iron be similarly produced in one year, the bounty would be equivalent to 50 cents per ton of smelted iron.

Here we have a system of bounties established in the Grit province of Ontario by the Grit Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat. If it is right for the Grit Government of Ontario to encourage the manufacture of pig iron at Hamilton, by means of bounties, it cannot be a very dreadful crime for the Conservative Government of the Dominion to encourage the manufacture of pig iron by similar means in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

UNINTENTIONAL PRAISE.

We are glad to see that the organ of the Opposition is bearing the strongest testimony to the fidelity of the COLONIST to the interests of the people of British Columbia in general and to those of the city of Victoria in particular. It is also proving that the COLONIST is independent and outspoken as well as faithful. This testimony is the more valuable because it is indirect and not intended to benefit the COLONIST. We trust that our contemporary will continue to show the people that in every crisis of the Province's history and in every instance in which the services of an independent advocate were required, the COLONIST did not hesitate to take the side of the people, even if in doing so it found it necessary to give utterance to what some supporters of the Government may have considered unpalatable truth. We trust, too, that our contemporary will see how foolish and how unjust it has been to accuse of servility a paper which on its own showing did not hesitate to censure the Government, when in its opinion blame was deserved.

BRAZENING IT OUT.

The Times meets our exposure of its misstatements in the matter of the Bella Coola colonists in its usual way. Instead of trying to prove that we were mistaken in our conclusions and that our reporter had misreported the Rev. Mr. Saugstad it repeats its misrepresentations, flavoring them with somewhat more than the usual amount of vilification. Instead of asking Mr. Saugstad if the COLONIST interviewer had put words in his mouth which he had not uttered, as could easily have been done, it, with an effrontery and a disregard of truth which we regret to have to say have become its characteristics, impudently says: "Now we do not think so meanly of the Rev. Mr. Saugstad as to suppose that he would make statements one day and take them back the next, and we are therefore left to the conclusion that the COLONIST has calmly invented 'denials' and put them in his mouth."

The Times has no excuse for making this statement, which is maliciously false, for Mr. Saugstad was in town on Friday and could have been seen and questioned as to the truth of the interview that appeared in that morning's COLONIST. But instead of trying to find out whether or not Mr. Saugstad had been misrepresented the Times found it easier and more convenient to invent a false accusation against the COLONIST.

If, as our contemporary asserts, "the COLONIST has calmly invented denials and put them in his mouth," Mr. Saugstad would have been only too glad of the opportunity to expose the untruthfulness of the COLONIST interviewer. Indeed, if he had been made, as the Times assumes, to contradict himself it is difficult to understand why he had, not, through the columns of the Times, promptly assured the public that words had been attributed to him by the COLONIST which he had never uttered, and no doubt if the case had been as the Times has represented, this is the course he would have pursued. There would have been plenty of times for the Danube did not sail until Friday evening.

The Times adds to its false accusation a statement equally false. "This work," it says, "is done under the direction of the Government." The Times would have the public believe that there is always a member of the Government at the editor of the COLONIST's elbow telling him what to write and what to keep out of the paper. Nothing could possibly be more untrue than this. If the Times only knew how little the Government and those connected with the Government have to do with the COLONIST it would be astonished. But the habit it has of taking its guesses and surmises to be facts has become so confirmed that it seems to have forgotten that well ascertained truth is the "essential element" of statements that are intended to be considered reliable. In what it says of the relations between the Government and the COLONIST it gives full rein to its imagination, and it seems to consider the "essential element" wholly unnecessary. We suppose that the habit has become inveterate and that as far as the Times is concerned there is no use protesting against its gross and wilful misrepresentations.

THE ORPHANS' HOME.

There is no charitable institution more creditable to this city than the Protestant Orphans' Home. It is well and wisely managed. It gives a comfortable home and an excellent training to a large number of orphans who would without it have been neglected and either died miserably in their childhood or grown up to be nuisances to the community. The good which the Orphans' Home has done, and is doing, is not easily calculated. It is pleasant to know that it has heretofore been not only well, but generously supported. People have given to it liberally and with the utmost cheerfulness—so much so that a gentleman who had been appointed to collect contributions for it, when the times were better than they are now, declared in the writer's presence that though he entered upon the work reluctantly he found it "a picnic." Everyone gave readily and more than he expected. Times are harder now, but we trust that the good citizens of Victoria will not allow the Orphans' Home to languish for want of support. The little ones need to be taken care of now as badly as ever they did, and the alternative of throwing them forlorn and helpless upon the world is even more dreadful to contemplate to-day than it was a few years ago.

It will need more energy and greater sacrifices to maintain the Protestant Orphans' Home now than when times were better, but we are sure that the necessary exertion will be made, and that those who have hitherto contributed to its support will not grow weary of well-doing.

Appointing an Orphans' Sunday and securing the aid of the Baptists as a denomination are steps in the right direction. Those who contribute to the support of the Protestant Orphans' Home will have the satisfaction of knowing that every cent given will be carefully administered. The Board of Directors have hitherto been both zealous and judicious, and they have been most fortunate in their selection of a matron. It would, we believe, be impossible to secure the services of a lady who would perform the responsible and very difficult duties of the position more conscientiously and with better judgment.

WINTER WEATHER.

A good many persons imagine that people are healthier in winter than in summer. They talk of the bracing effect of the winter's cold and of its biting breezes. But when man get on the wrong side of fifty they find that the talk about the stimulating effect of frosty weather is nonsense. The uncommonly cold weather of the present winter in Great Britain has increased the death rate to a degree surprising to many people who believe that winter is the healthiest season of the year. This is what Harold Frederic, the accomplished correspondent of the New York Times, says about the effect of the cold spell on the public health:

It is many years since there was experienced a winter so fatal to elderly people. Influenza and allied affections of the respiratory organs last week took 1,450 victims in London, of whom more than half were persons over sixty years of age. The total death rate of the metropolis has risen to 38⅓, which is without precedent, while Liverpool has reached the terrible rate of 55½. In the death advertisements of the newspapers the proportion of old folk seems two or three to one. Naturally the obituary columns are crowded with notices of moderately distinguished clerics, soldiers, writers and the like, of advanced years. Professor John Stuart Blackie in Edinburgh, and Sir Henry Rawlinson in London have given this week's list a world-wide importance.

DULY ELECTED.

The Government is to be congratulated on the return of the Hon. Mr. Eberts by acclamation. The electors of South Victoria took the sensible course when they refused to give encouragement to ambitious politicians, who went to the district fishing for a nomination. It was, perhaps, a little cruel to crush the hopes of the aspiring gentlemen. An unsuccessful contest would give one of them thenotoriety for which he is pining, and would help him to establish a claim on the consideration of the Opposition which could be put forward on some future occasion. But the electors of the District have something else to do just now than to waste their time in furthering the selfish designs of political schemers. They are represented by a good man, who will do more to further their interests and the interests of the electors of the whole province than a regiment of peripatetic politicians.

THE CHAMPION WIDOW.

A Sinnemahoning Valley local newspaper prints the notice of the marriage of Mrs. Sarah Elder to David Bailey, but does not state that Mrs. Bailey was the champion widow of the country before she became Mrs. Bailey, says a Roulette (Pa.) correspondent. Her maiden name was Orr, but her name became in time by marriage Barnes, Calahan, Rix, Enos, Robinson, Elder, and now Bailey. Each of her six dead husbands had been a soldier in the late war, and she married the first one in 1863, when she was 17.

It is hardly fair to say, either, that these husbands were exactly six, for not one of them had all of himself left when he succeeded to the title of husband of this admirer of the military. Three of the husbands had only one leg apiece; one had only seven fingers, besides being short a leg; another wooed and won the widow with one leg and one arm, and the sixth was minus an eye. This one died three years ago the 11th of May, the day that Mrs. Sarah Orr-Barnes-Calahan-Rix-Enos-Robinson-Elder added her eighth name of Bailey. This husband is not a veteran of the war, and has all his legs, arms, fingers and eyes. Mrs. Bailey is not yet 49, and is the mother of twelve children, two each by her soldier husbands.

CAUGHT AGAIN.

Friday Constable Palmer, of the city police, arrested a man named Brownlee, alias Baker, alias Lafelle, who, while serving an 18 months' term in Westminster jail four years ago for highway robbery, escaped from the chain gang. Some days ago Mr. Anderson, formerly a member of the provincial police at Westminster, saw Brownlee on the street and put the police on his trail. Mr. Moresby, warden of the provincial jail, was in town for the last few days, and Brownlee afraid of being recognized kept out of the way until yesterday morning, when, Mr. Moresby having gone home, the coast seemed clear again. However Constable Palmer saw his man on the street and promptly arrested him. Brownlee denied he was the man wanted, but was identified by Mr. Anderson. He then owned up and this morning was taken to Westminster by provincial constable McKenna. Brownlee under the name of Baker served a six months' term in this city lately for stealing. When he escaped from Westminster he had only served about two months out of eighteen, so he has a lengthy residence there to look forward to.

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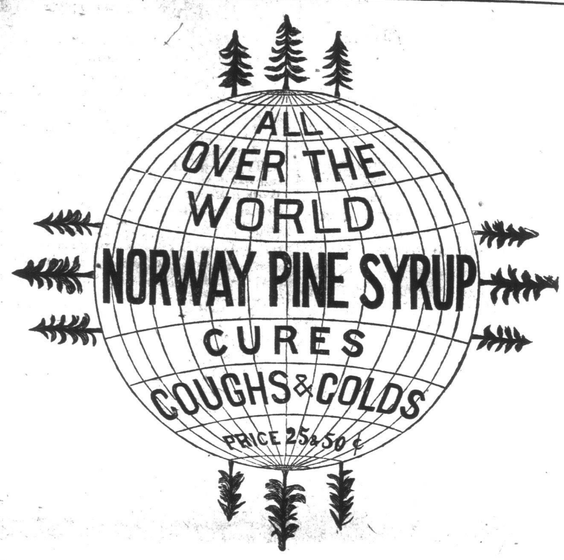

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