The Colonist.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1900.

THE WAR.

Gen. Hunter's capture will probably reach the 5,000 originally telegraphed. What is very impressive in this connection is the vast amount of materiel which the enemy had with them on the eastern frontier. They were certainly admirably equipped. The loss in this respect is beyond remedy, and no matter how active the small bodies now at large in the Orange River Colony may be, they cannot hope to accomplish anything very important or form the nucleus of any defined resistance. They are a dashing lot of fellows, nevertheless, as the raid against the railway south of Kroonstad shows. Incidents of this kind may be looked for during the next month or so, but they will be fewer in number hereafter.

The report that Christian Dewet is dead is important, if true. He was a vigorous commander, and if the Boers have lost him they will not feel like continuing their guerilla operations much longer. The death of Dewet would doubtless also lead to the early surrender of Botha. The defeat of a Boer party north of Kroonstad and the capture of their wagons and cattle will smooth the way for an early restoration of quietness in that part of the country. Ian Hamilton will soon relieve Rustenburg, and it is to be hoped that after that the western part of the Transvaal will remain tranquil.

"THE OLD BRIGADE."

We will be pardoned for once more referring to our gallant boys in South Africa. One of the First Contingent tells us in simple yet eloquent words, the story of the entry into Pretoria. When the remnant of the Canadians—three hundred and fifty out of a thousand of the flower of Canadian youth—marched past the Commander-in-Chief, the band played "The Boys of the Old Brigade," and our correspondent tells us that the boys straightened themselves up with a feeling of pride, and well they might, for on that day both they and the country, which sent them forth to fight for Queen and Empire, were honored as Colonials were never before honored in the history of the world.

Canada cannot feel too proud of its Boys of the Old Brigade. Not only have they gained for her unperishable renown, but they have won for the name Canadian a place of honor in the eyes of mankind. Hereafter no man need hesitate to avow himself a Canadian. It is something to be proud of to belong to the stock which sent the glorious First Contingent to the front, and it is a subject of profound satisfaction that marching through Pretoria with the boys of British blood were sons of Quebec, whose part in the achievements of Smith-Dorrien's division were equally glorious with that of Highlander, Englishman or English-Canadian.

Our correspondent reckoned a little too soon upon coming home and upon having no more fighting. The boys have been face to face with the enemy since then, but always with honor to themselves and disaster to their foes. The wish to get back to Canada again is natural enough, but it will not interfere with them in the discharge of their duty. The First Contingent when last heard from was seven hundred strong, as many men as marched through Pretoria having recovered from wounds and sickness and taken their places again.

HOW GAMES ARE SPOILED.

A leading London paper directs attention to the fact that "Lord's" is rapidly becoming a place to which persons desirous of seeing a gentlemanly game of cricket will cease to resort. Everything, it says, is being sacrificed to money-making. Vendors of all manner of abominations are allowed full swing, and one's ears are vexed by their cries and one's toes are victims of their clumsiness. There is nothing better than an honest athletic game of any sort. It is not only worth looking at, but such games beget wholesome rivalry and tend not only to develop physically those who participate in them, but have an excellent effect morally. The spirit of fair play engendered in a match of any kind, conducted as a gentlemaniy recreation , is altogether good. When, however, games are merely adjuncts to money-making projects; when the tricks and practices of the professional player for pay comes in, and when betting becomes a conspicuous feature, they cease to be worthy of public recognition. There ought to be some games left free from these things, some exhibitions of physical skill where there shall be nothing to mar what is otherwise thoroughly enjoyable.

THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY.

The observer of public events may well adopt the words of the Apostle Paul and say that "we see through a glass darkly." Never in the recollection of living men has such a combination of circumstances existed; never was the outlook for the future so uncertain. There are a few persons who can recollect when the name of Napoleon hung like a great shadow over Europe, though they must be few indeed; but when the governments of Europe had to deal with the great Corsican, they had to think of influences with the nature of which they were familiar, if they had never been presented in such magnitude. There were historical precedents for Napoleon, though perhaps none of his predecessors in ambition for imperial sway over Europe was quite his equal. The problems which confront European statesmen, and those of America as well, to-day are unique. Even those presented by the irruption of the Barbarians of the North against Imperial Rome were unlike those arising to-day. The political world can only stand aghast when brought face to face with the relation of China to Occidental civilization. Ingenuity will exhaust itself in vain in an effort to find a satisfactory solution.

Nor is the Oriental question the only one presenting tremendous difficulties. Other issues arising nearer home are being forced to the front. It is useless to cry peace, when there is no peace. Social questions have been raised which, like Banquo's ghost, will not "down" at any one's bidding. Respect for law is endangered. Anthority is becoming hateful. More than one imperium in imperio is being established, to which men bind themselves in unquestioning obedience.

Perhaps we do not speak too strongly when we say that the Twentieth Century bids fair to open with Occidental civilization upon its trial against dangers from within as well as from without. Is the Yellow Peril about to descend upon us? Are the forces, which have for the last quarter of a century been seething beneath the surface of society, about to break forth? If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative, who will attempt to forecast the result? It is rank folly to decline to read the signs of the times, to flatter ourselves with a smug complacency that, no matter what fate may have befallen other civilizations, ours is too firmly grounded to be overthrown. Doubtless there were men in ancient Egypt, Persia and Rome who made a similar claim. There is danger ahead, and there is no chart of the route that must be followed, and no pilot who can see far enough ahead to avoid the shallows, rocks and quicksands.

AN ACADEMIC RESOLUTION.

Mr. Ralph Smith introduced a resolution into the house yesterday looking towards compulsory arbitration. The resolution contemplates certain legislation, but Mr. Smith was careful to state that he would not pretend to say what the nature of the legislation might be. Indeed the resolution is purely academic, and, as its language shows, any man might vote for it. Such resolutions do not, to our mind, in any way promote the object which Mr. Smith has at heart. They leave things just as they find them. They give members an opportunity of making speeches, but what the country needs, if it needs anything at all—and we think it does need something to provide for the settlement of labor disputes—is something specific, which can be examined into in all its details. If the act referred to in the resolution is unworkable, or useless, for other reasons, the defect ought to be remedied, and it is the duty of the government to discover the remedy if possible. Mr. Smith in moving the resolution said that he did not expect anything to be done this session, which is a reasonable enough proposition, for it would undoubtedly be impossible to mature and pass such legislation as would be necessary at the present session.

We think the better practice, where a member wishes to submit a matter to the notice of the house and the government, is to bring it up on a motion to adjourn the house. This gives full latitude of discussion and enables the house to avoid from expressing opinions upon purely academic propositions. The legislature is not a debating society, but a body created for the purpose of making laws. When a resolution is introduced the presumption is that effect will be given to it by the introduction of a bill; but Mr. Smith's motion contemplates nothing of that kind.

In making these observations, we do not wish to be understood as expressing any opinion upon the subject of compulsory arbitration. On the abstract principle, we are all in favor of compelling other people to arbitrate their differences, although as a rule we want to have our own way, when we have a dispute with some one. But when compulsory arbitration is spoken of something very explicit is meant. No one can say whether or not he is in favor of such a thing until he knows what it is. This illustrates the supreme uselessness of what we have called academic reolutions.

RAIL TO THE NORTH.

Speaking of railway construction to the North, a correspondent of a contemporary said that when Eastern people thought about it what they had in mind was a line by way of Edmonton. This is not wholly true, for the preliminary survey ordered by the Department of Railways provides for a line from Fort Simpson to the Yukon. But even if it were true, it would afford no reason why the people of British Columbia should not use every effort in their power to secure a line from a British Columbia seaport. If we do not fight our own battles, who will? To our mind, the surest way to prevent Eastern co-operation with us in building a line from our own coast to the North is to encourage the construction of lines from points in possession of the United States. If we permit these to be built, we must expect Eastern people to say that we ourselves do not appreciate the importance of an all-Canadian line through British Columbia, for we will have shown that we are ready to contribute towards the building up of towns on harbors in the possession of a foreign country.

Yesterday the Colonist asked Capt. John Irving how long it would take to go from Victoria to the head of Kitimaat Arm, if a railway were built to Hardy Bay and a fast steamer were put on the intervening water stretch. To this he replied "Not more than twenty-eight hours." From Kitimaat Arm to Atlin will not exceed five hundred miles, and at twenty miles an hour the distance can be covered in twenty-five hours. This would give fifty-three hours from Victoria to Atlin. Another hundred miles, or a five hours' run by rail, would land the traveller in White Horse. Forty-eight hours more would take him to Dawson, or one hundred and six hours from the capital of British Columbia to the capital of the Yukon, or four days and ten hours. Two days of the time being consumed in the journey from White Horse to Dawson, the comparison is less favorable to the all-Canadian route, when Dawson is taken as the terminal point, than will be the case if the point of destination is further south.

When it is considered that the portion of this province through which such a road would run is rich in minerals and timber, besides possessing many acres of land adapted to settlement, are we not right when we say that the project, which we have advocated, and which we shall continue to urge upon the attention of the provincial and federal governments, is one of the most important that can be suggested, not only to Victoria but to the whole of British Columbia and the Yukon country? We believe that there is nothing to which the government could better turn its attention. This is not to say that there are not other railway projects calling for consideration. We advocate as strongly as ever the direct line to Kootenay, and do not wish what may be said in regard to this northern line as in any way intended to deprive the Kootenay road of the place which it ought to occupy in the public mind. But we feel so strongly in regard to this question of northern transportation, and the necessity of having at the earliest possible day a railway which will develop our own province, build up on our own soil a city from the trade of our own country, and be free from vexatious interruption on the part of an unfriendly government, that we think it well to keep this project in the forefront at the present time. It is claimed on behalf of other proposed lines that they will afford relief; but they will not do so. The White Pass & Yukon people are not in the railway business for philanthropic motives, and never pretended to be. They built their line because they thought it would pay. In fixing their tariffs they will undoubtedly aim to make money and at the same time to develop business. If they pretended otherwise no one would believe them. It is utter nonsense for any railway promoter to pretend that he is going to build a railway for the public benefit. He has his own profit in view and nothing else, and when he tells us that if we authorize him to build a line he will soon cut down rates, we are safe in treating the statement as a myth. There are not in North America two competing railways running between the same points, and there never will be. The first thing that rival roads do is to get together and fix up a mutually satisfactory schedule of rates. We can get relief in the matter of northern trade only when we provide a line that will present entirely different conditions from those now existing. This an all-Canadian line will do, and more than this, it will open to settlement an area of great possibilities within our own province, thereby increasing the population of the country, producing property that will contribute to the revenue of British Columbia, and building up the commercial importance of Victoria, Vancouver and the other cities in this vicinity.

IN CHINA.

It is really impossible to make head or tail of the despatches in regard to China. We are inclined to believe that many of them originate much nearer home. All accounts seem to agree as to the members of the foreign legations being alive, but as to whether they are simply guarded by the government troops to save them from massacre, or are hostages, held to prevent the advance of the relieving force, nothing is known with certainty. Neither is it possible to form an intelligent idea of the state of affairs in Pekin. We do not even know if there is such a thing as a Chinese government. All manner of conflicting reports come Manchuria, where it is alleged that the Russians and Chinese are engaged in quite serious military operations, in which the successes are not by any means means all on one side.

The despatch of three divisions from India shows that the British government does not expect the difficulties to end with the entry of the allies into Pekin. There ought be force enough to open the way to the capital already on the ground, that is, unless the situation is much more grave than has been represented.

While it is too soon to attempt a forecast of what will transpire after the ministers have been rescued, if they are still alive, it is timely to reflect upon some of the possibilities. One of these relates to the attitude of Japan. This country has many things to settle with Russia, and she will most certainly not be content that the Czar's government shall become the paramount power in northern China. This may, we think, be taken for granted. Yet Russia will be satisfied with nothing less. Hence we anticipate that, no matter what else may happen, before there is peace again in the Orient, Japan and Russia will have tried conclusions with each other on many a battlefield. We have been told authoritatively that the British government will not permit the partition of China, and if Japan undertakes to resist Russian aggression at the expense of that empire, we may feel very sure that not a gun will be fired by us against her. But Japan will not fight Russia single-handed. She will summon to her aid the hosts of China, and it will be simply impossible for Russia to make headway against such a combination. It is dangerous to attempt to anticipate the outcome of so involved a situation, but we venture to guess that one result of it will be the pushing back of Russia from the shore of the Yellow Sea, and the establishment of a Chino-Japanese alliance, which will restrict Moscovite aggression and preserve China intact.

Ontario and Quebec between them owe the Dominion a very tidy sum of money. These provinces are always in the forefront of the opposition to a recognition of the claims of British Columbia to ordinary fair treatment.

The Colonist is opposed to the establishment in British Columbia of separate public schools by any denomination; but it thinks the effect would not be to separate the youth of the country into "hostile camps." Nevertheless it is good advice, which a Vancouver Orange lodge gives to the government, to beware of the thin edge of the wedge.

Mr. Smith Curtis was at a loss to find out how the Colonist came to know so much about the finances of British Columbia. The explanation is that the Colonist keeps itself posted on current events. There is no use asking the Finance Minister conundrums about it. He does not know anything about how the Colonist gets its news.

The news received during the week has not appreciably relieved public anxiety as to the fate of the foreign legations in Pekin. We may feel quite sure that they were safe a week or so ago—that is, those of them who had not fallen in the fight—but no one can say what may have happened to them since. This morning's news indicates that the advance of the allies to the capital may prove extremely difficult.

The Colonist presents its readers today with sixteen pages of matter, and on some of them are engravings which will compare favorably with any that have appeared in the daily press. The original intention was to give more reading matter and more pictures, but the demands of advertisers were so great that it was impossible to do so. The business people of Victoria appreciate the effort made by the Colonist to present its readers occasionally with something out of the ordinary, and this is a source of much satisfaction.

If it proves to be correct that the Admiralty have ordered the construction of steam launches in this city, the Colonist can claim to have scored a point. A reporter of this paper saw in a contemporary the statement that the Admiralty contemplated having steam launches built in Canada, and immediately thereafter Mr. John Bryden, of the Albion Iron Works, was seen on the subject. Mr. Bryden and two representatives of this paper at once waited upon the Mayor and asked him to telegraph to the authorities officially that the work could be done here. This His Worship very gladly did, and if the result of the message has been to bring the work to Victoria, it will be one more proof of the advantage to a community to have a newspaper with a wide-awake staff.

In August last the Colonist printed the following translation of an alleged ancient Chinese prophecy:

"When an old hag governs and a young man reigns,
"When dearth and deluge distress the land,
"When the Temple of Heaven no more remains,
"Then watch for the sword which is close at hand."

The Temple of Heaven was situated in Pekin, and was struck by lightning and destroyed shortly after the accession of the young Emperor, concerning whose fate there is so much speculation. The dearth and deluge part of the prophecy has been fully realized during the last five years, and the old hag and the young man may refer to the Dowager Empress and the young Emperor. Certainly the sword is close at hand. In commenting on this alleged prophecy a year ago, we expressed the opinion that it was probably an ex post facto composition, like that attributed to Mother Shipton, but if it were really manufactured within a few years it has proved to be at least a very shrewd guess.

The time has come for a great awakening of the conscience of civilization. It has already slumbered too long. That part of the world which calls itself Christendom has strayed very far from the principles laid down by Him whose name it bears. What seems to be needed is a more general sense of individual responsibility. During the last twenty-five years there has been a marked disposition to substitute statutory enactments or the edicts of organizations for the dictates of individual consciences. The effect is wholly injurious in the long run, although temporarily something apparently salutary may be accomplished. Depend upon it, there is nothing that will so conserve our civilization and make it worth preserving as the development of an enlightened Christian conscience. Never had the church greater work to do than now. She is dealing with new conditions. If our civilization is on trial, so also is Christianity. Therefore it is time for religious organizations of all kinds to get together and be ready to meet a common foe. And it is not enough simply for them to act in concert. They must realize the demands of the hour, must learn that to a very large proportion of the population of so-called Christian countries they no longer speak with authority. Only the reasonableness of their teachings, and, above all, the convincing proof of right example can accomplish the work that must be done if disaster is to be averted.

Provincial Rifle Matches

Good Shooting Is Made in Spite of the Dazzling Sunlight.

Cunningham, of Westminster, Wins Victoria Cup—Annual Meeting.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—In spite of the dazzling sunlight making the sighting somewhat difficult, the second day's shooting of the British Columbia Rifle Association was above the average and on the whole better than the first day. In the Helmcken match, Pittendrigh and Miller tied, both making the very high score of 99 at 3 ranges. They were ordered to shoot off the tie, when Miller made 3 bulls and Pittendrigh 3 magpies. The cup was, however, afterwards awarded to Pittendrigh, as it was decided by the range committee that Pittendrigh, according to D. R. A. rules, slightly led Miller, and that the shooting off should not have taken place. The money is divided, the cup going to Pittendrigh.

In the Victoria Corporation match, Cunningham will own the cup, as he won it before in 1897.

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Rifle Association took place at noon in the marquee at the rifle range, Major Bennett in the chair.

Cordial votes of thanks were passed to Sir Henri Joly, S. M. Robins, superintendent of the New Vancouver Coal Co., Mr. H. D. Helmcken and Major Bennett, for donations to the prize lists.

The financial statement was read, showing the association in good standing. It was decided that the rules of the Dominion Rifle Association be printed in full in the programme in future.

A resolution was passed that one member be added to the council to represent interior British Columbia. It was also decided that each local association shall elect their representatives to the council of the provincial association.

The officers of 1900 will be elected tomorrow.

The list of prize winners to-day follows:

VICTORIA CORPORATION MATCH.

500 yards kneeling; 600 yards any position 7 shots at each range; possible, 70.

The cup, presented by the corporation of Victoria, in 1897, to become the property of any competitor winning it twce. Winners, in 1897, Gr. T. Cunningham; in 1898, Sergt. Lettice; in 1899, Gr. S. C. Mortimore.

	Score.	Prize.
Corp. Cunningham, N. West. (cup)..	66	$10 00
Pte. Turnbull, New West.....	64	8 00
Lance Corp. Mortimore, Van..	64	7 00
C.-S.-M. Richardson, Victoria ..	63	6 00
Bomb. J. Caven, Victoria	62	5 00
C.-S.-M. McDougall, Victoria ..	62	4 00
Pte. W. Miller, New West.	62	4 00
G. E. Pittendrigh, Nanaimo ..	62	4 00
Gr. Brayshaw, Victoria	61	3 00
Lt.-Col. Hood, Montreal	61	3 00
Pte. G. A. Boult, Vancouver ..	60	3 00
Sgt. W. A. Taylor, Vancouver..	60	3 00
Capt. J. Duff Stuart, Vancouver	60	2 50
Capt. J. R. Titre, Vancouver ..	60	2 50
J. A. Baxter, Nanaimo	60	2 50
W. H. Forrest, Vancouver	59	2 50
C.-S.-M. Lettice, Victoria	59	2 50
Capt. Henderson, New West...	59	2 50
Lt. Dockerell, New West.	58	2 00
R. Adams, Nanaimo	58	2 00
Pte. R. Wilson, New West.	58	2 00
Stff.-Sgt. Kennedy, Vancouver.	58	2 00
G. W. Pumfrey, Victoria	56	2 00

Restricted to Tyros.

	Score.	Prize.
W. J. McAllan, Nanaimo	55	2 00
Corp. W. Winsby, Victoria ..	55	2 00
Sgt.-Maj. Bundy, Vancouver ..	54	2 00
Bugler Thicke, Vancouver	52	2 00
Gr. Burgess, Victoria	51	2 00
Tptr. J. Webb, Victoria	51	1 00
Col.-Sgt. Foster, Vancouver ..	51	1 00
Corp. Good, Vancouver	51	1 00
W. M. Tippell, Nanaimo	49	1 00
Corp. Bush, Vancouver.....	49	1 00
Corp. W. J. Savory, Victoria ..	48	1 00
Pte. Pickard, Revelstoke.	48	1 00
Major Whyte, New West.	46	1 00
Pte. H. Earle, Vancouver	46	1 00
Pte. W. Hunt, Vancouver	46	1 00

HELMCKEN MATCH.

200, 500, and 600 yards; 7 shots at each range; possible, 105.

Medal presented annually by Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken, Q.C., M.P.P. The cup, presented by Hon. C. F. Cornwall, when Lieutenant-Governor, to become the property of any competitor winning it twice in succession. Winner in 1899, Bomb. Bodley.

	Score.	Prize.
G. E. Pittendrigh, Nanaimo (medal)	99	$10 00
Pte. M. Miller, New West.	99	8 00
Sgt. Taylor, Vancouver	97	7 00
Corp. Cunningham, N. W.	97	6 00
C.-S.-M. Richardson, Victoria ..	97	6 00
Col. Sgt. Kendall, Vancouver ..	96	5 00
Pte. R. Wilson, New West.....	96	5 00
Corp. Graham, Vancouver	95	5 00
Capt. J. D. Stuart, Vancouver..	95	4 00
W. Tippell, Nanaimo	95	4 00
Lt.-Col. Hood, Montreal	94	4 00
Bomb. J. Caven, Victoria	94	4 00
Pte. G. Turnbull, New West. ..	93	3 00
Sgt.-Maj. Bundy, Vancouver ..	93	3 00
Stff-Sgt. Winsby, Victoria	93	3 00
Lt.-Cor. Mortimore, Vancouver	93	3 00
W. J. McAllan, ..anaimo	93	3 00
Tptr. Webb, Victoria	93	2 50
Corp. W. Winsby, Victoria	92	2 50
W. H. Wall, Nanaimo	92	2 50
Sgt. W. A. Sloan, New West.	92	2 50
Stff.-Sgt. Kennedy, Vancouver	92	2 00
Gr. W. Pumfrey Victoria	92	2 00
Sgt. H. J. Ferris, Vancouver ..	91	2 00
Corp. E. Chapman, Vancouver	91	2 00
Col.-Sgt. Corbett, New West...	91	2 00
W. Duncan, New West.	90	2 00

Restricted to Tyros.

	Score.	Prize.
J. A. Baxter, Nanaimo	89	2 00
Lt. Dockerill, New West.	89	2 00
Pte. G. A. Boult, Vancouver ..	88	2 00
Col.-Sgt. Foster, Vancouver ..	88	2 00
Pte. McKenzie, New West. ..	86	2 00
Capt. Henderson, New West. ..	86	1 00
Bugler Thicke, Vancouver	86	1 00
Pte. H. Earle, Vancouver	85	1 00
Gr. A. Brayshaw, Victora	82	1 00
Gr. A. Burgess, Victoria	82	1 00
Pte. T. Pickard, Revelstoke ..	82	1 00
Pte. Williams, Vancouver.. ..	82	1 00
Corp. J. Goad, Vancouver	81	1 00
Dr. McInnes, Vancouver	80	1 00
Sgt. Sperring, Vancouver	80	1 00

BENNETT MATCH.

500 yards; 5 shots in one minute. Target remains up one minute. Unlimited entries. Orthoptics barred in this match. Possible, 25.

$25.00 presented by Major C. C. Bennett, with $25.00 added by the associaton.

	Score.	Prize.
Capt. J. D. Stuart, Vancouver .	25	$8 00
Capt. Henderson, New West. ..	24	6 00
Pte. Reid, New West.	24	5 00
Pte. Boult, Vancouver	24	4 00
Pte. R. Wilson, New West. ..	23	3 00
Sgt. Sloan, New West.	22	3 00
Stff.-Sgt. Kennedy, Vancouver.	22	3 00
Col.-Sgt. Corbett, New West. ..	22	2 00
L.-Corp. Mortimore, Vancouver	21	2 00
Gr. W. Miller, New West.	21	2 00
Corp. Graham, Vancouver	21	2 00
W. Cuckow, Vancouver	21	2 00

Four prizes for tyros not made out to night. In the B. C. Electric Railway cup for teams of ten men from each city, Vancouver won. Scores in positions of the teams were not available to-night.

'TWASN'T MARK TWAIN.

Audience Took Temperance Lecturer for Famous Humorist.

"Mark Twain is a good talker, and invariably prepares himself, though he skillfully hides his preparation by his method of delivery, which denotes that he is getting his ideas and phrases as he proceeds. He is an accomplished artist in this way. His peculiar mode of expression always seems contagious with an audience, and a laugh would follow the most sober remark. It is a singular fact that an audience will be in a laughing mood, when they first enter the lecture room; they are ready to burst out at anything and everything. In the town of Colchester, Connecticut, there was a good illustration of this, the Hon. Demsham Hornet having a most unpleasant experience at the expense of Mark Twain. Mr. Clemens was advertised to lecture in the town of Colchester, but for some reason failed to arrive. In the emergency the lecture committee decided to employ Mr. Hornet to deliver his celebrated lecture on temperance, but so late in the day was this arrangement made that no bills announcing it could be circulated, and the audience assembled, expecting to hear Mark Twain. No one in the town knew Mr. Clemens, or had ever heard him lecture, and they entertained the idea that he was funny, and went to the lecture prepared to laugh. Even those upon the platform, excepting the chairman, did not know Mr. Hornet from Mark Twain, and so, when he was introduced, thought nothing of the name, as they knew Mark Twain was a pen-name, and supposed his real name was Hornet.

"Mr. Hornet bowed politely, looked about him, and remarked: 'Intemperance is the curse of the country.' The audience burst into a merry laugh. He knew it could not be his remark, and thought his clothes must be awry, and he asked the chairman, in a whisper, if he was all right, and received 'yes' for an answer. Then he said: 'Rum slays more than disease!' Another, but louder laugh followed. He could not understand it, but proceeded: 'It breaks up happy homes!' Still louder mirth. 'It is carrying young men down to death and hell!' Then came a perfect roar of applause. Mr. Hornet began to get excited. He thought they were poking fun at him, but went on: 'were poking fun at him, but he went on: 'We must crush the serpent!' A tremendous howl of laughter. The men on the platform, except the chairman, squirmed as they laughed. Then Hornet got mad. 'What I say is Gospel truth,' he cried. The audience fairly bellowed with mirth. Hornet turned to a man on the stage, and said: 'Do you see anything very ridiculous in my remarks or behaviour?' 'Yes, ha, ha! It's intensely funny—ha, ha, ha! Go on!' replied the roaring man. 'This is an insult,' cried Hornet, wildly dancing about. More laughter, and cries of, 'Go on, Twain!' Then the chairman began to see through a glass darkly, and rose and quelled the merriment, and explained the situation, and the men on the stage suddenly ceased laughing, and the folks in the audience looked sheepish, and they quit laughing, too, and then the excited Mr. Hornet, being thoroughly cured, told them he had never got into a town so entirely populated with asses and idiots, and having said that, he left the hall in disgust, followed by the audience in deep gloom."—Will. M. Clemens in Ainslee's.

BIG FOREST FIRE.

Dundee Concentrator at Ymir Destroyed by the Flames.

A disastrous forest fire has raged about the town of Ymir for two days, says the Nelson Tribune of Wednesday, and at last reports was spreading rapidly before a steady breeze. The most serious item in the list of damages is the destruction of the mill at the Dundee mine, which was abandoned to the flames last night.

The bush fire started on Monday. The origin is said to have been at the Sweet ranch, several miles below Ymir, where the owner was clearing ground and burning cut timber. A fire lighted for this purpose, it is said, got beyond the control of the ranchers and started through the bush toward the town. On Monday night it was feared the town of Ymir would be destroyed, and the residents of the town were up all night preparing to fight the flames. Just as the situation was assuming a most alarming aspect a change of wind set in, and the flames headed off at a right angle.

The change of wind relieved the situation at Ymir, but it was fatal for the Dundee mine. The 50-ton concentrator, put in about 18 months ago, was in the line of the fire, and all efforts to divert the flames failed.

AMNESTY TO BOXERS.

Li Hung Chang Preparing a Proclamation.

Shanghai, Aug. 3.—Li Hung Chang is preparing a proclamation granting virtual amnesty to Boxers on condition that they cease creating disturbances.

THE WOULD-BE MURDERER.

Had He Killed the Shah He Would Have Attempted the Czar's Life.

Paris. Aug. 3.—Saison, the Shah's assailant, was more communicative today, and when an effort was made to interrogate him he spoke freely of yesterday's attempt and ventilated his anarchistic ideas, but when asked if he acted as the instrument of others he declined, saying, however, that had he killed the Shah and escaped he would have killed the Czar. His punishment probably will be a life sentence at hard labor, though he may be condemned to the guillotine. The statutes provide the death penalty for attempted assassination.

Paris has not recovered from its indignation at the attempt on the life of its royal guest. The press is filled with apologies and expressions of regret, and urges as a further protection for public officials the suppression of anarchists. The curious crowd which surrounded the palace of sovereigns to-day was prevented from approaching the palace when the Shah started for Vincennes, where a military review was held in his honor. The Shah seems the least concerned of all over the effort to take his life, and he has not curtailed the programme he had in view.

Watchfulness Bears Fruit.

Colonist Enterprise Likely to Prove of Much Benefit to Victoria.

Rumored That Imperial Government Will Build Steel Launches Here.

A little watchfulness on the part of the Colonist about two months ago and the prompt action of Mayor Hayward will probably result in the expenditure of a considerable sum of money in Victoria by the Imperial government, for yesterday the announcement was made that local iron works have been asked to submit tenders for the construction of two steel torpedo launches for the Admiralty, and that tenders have been forwarded to the home government for the building of these craft, which are to be 50 feet long, 12 feet beam and 6 feet deep, and provided with very powerful engines. The service for which the launches are intended, according to naval people who tell of their construction, are for use around and about the forts in laying torpedo mines and similar work.

The Colonist about two months ago noticed a small item in one of the Vancouver papers to the effect that the Imperial government's agent at Halifax had written to the mayor of Vancouver asking if facilities existed in Vancouver for the construction of craft and dimensions mentioned above. The letter was turned over to a Vancouver firm for reply. The Colonist at once took steps to ascertain what were the facilities existing in Victoria for doing the work mentioned, and finding they were adequate, suggested to Mayor Hayward that he should wire the Halifax official, giving him the information he sought. This His Worship did, and in due time received a reply to the effect that his action was much appreciated.

It now appears that the Colonist's alertness has borne fruit, although Mr. Seabrook, of the Albion Iron Works, does not know anything of the submission of these tenders—that is, for publication. He will not, in fact, talk of the matter at all. One would, however, gather from a conversation with him, while he does not say that the vessels are to be built, or yet deny it, that such a step is contemplated by the Admiralty.

ON SHOW IN CAGES.

How the Chinaman Has Treated European Prisoners.

It is now many years ago since the Chinese confined Europeans in their notorious cage prisons, and it is to be hoped that none of the foreign residents in the Celestial Empire will experience the treatment at this end of the present century. The Chinese cage prisons, however, still exist, and are used for the criminals of the empire, and therefore as they are at hand and may be used, some few facts about them may be interesting.

The cages vary in size, but the "torture" prisons are generally about a yard long and a yard high, with a width of bout three feet. The cages are made of wooden bars, and as the prisoner is handcuffed, and, in addition, often has a chain round his neck, the torture of sitting cramped in such a cage for several hours a day is indescribable. It would not be so bad if the bottom of the cage was made of solid wood, but as the floor consists of four or five wooden bars, the suffering is much worse than would otherwise be the case.

If the Chinese wish to torture any prisoner to an even greater degree there are cages much smaller in dimensions than those already detailed, and several times during the last century English women as well as men have been confined in this instrument of torture. In addition to being handcuffed, an iron ring has been placed round their necks and fastened by a chain to the roof of the cage to compel them to keep an upright position. The Chinese officials delight in inflicting this punishment, and when the prisoners are released for exercise, banter them upon their speedy return to what is indeed "durance vile."

The authorities do not believe in establishments like Newgate, and their houses and prisons are so built that they may easily be removed at any time, and especially when these are in danger of floods. When such removals are made the prisoners are put in the cages and carried through the streets to the new prison habitation, a journey that is most uncomfortable.

Sometimes cages of somewhat different type are used for the public exhibition of notorious criminals who are condemned to death by starvation. These are placed on a kind of pedestal, or platform, in the streets, and are guarded by soldiers, who will not permit any one to give food to the condemned. If food is given, the sentries risk incarceration in a similar cage.

Other criminals not condemned to starvation are often placed in the cages in the streets, and are left dependent upon the bounty of passers-by for sustenance.

JAPANESE MINISTER.

New Representative to the United States Makes His Formal Call.

Washington, Aug. 3.—The new Japanese minister, Mr. Kogoro Takahira, laid his credentials before the President today. He came to the state department in full diplomatic dress just before 11 o'clock this morning, accompanied by Mr. Nabeshima, the charge and secretary of legation. Secretary Hay escorted them to the White House, where they were received by the President in the blue room. The speeches on this occasion did not contain any references to the present troubles in China. The President dwelt upon the splendid material progress making in Japan, while the minister spoke for an enlargement of the growing interest of the two countries.

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Provincial Legisla

Debate Opens on Mr. Motion Referring to bitration.

Most of the Day Spent mittee on the Lice Bill.

The sitting of the legislature ly devoted yesterday to that ing stage of the growth of law called committee work. The cense bill took up the bulk o without, however, being finish amendments were suggested, them being accepted by the h several others were stood ov ther consideration. The Ju which had been so much dis winter, went through the comm yesterday in but a few mi amendments being offered.

Besides such routine work done. Both the opening and c punctuated with debates. Smith's resolution on compul tration opened the ball, but o the second speaker, Hon. M the discussion was adjourned nesday. Before closing a wordy war was occasioned changes suggested by the gov the make-up of the standing on railways.

After prayers by Rev. Mr. Helmcken, chairman of the committee, presented the fourt favor of the Vancouver char ments bill and that of the New ster synod.

Mr. Pooley, chairman of t committee, followed with a r ing the Vancouver and West the Rock Bay and Salmon way bills. To the former of had been added by the commit inserted along the lines of test to prohibit the employm atics on its construction.

Ralph Smith's resolution f was seconded by the member lo, Mr. Green, and ran as fo

That considering the unsati ture of the present act intitul to provide for the formation to time as disputes may ari cils of Labor Conciliation "tion," chapter 109, Revised 1897, to accomplish such pur pressed in title, and in cons the labor disputes occurring which ought to be immediate the public good, and inasm an act would involve the ex public moneys and cannot presented to this house by member, that this house urge sity of such provision as al as practicable.

In speaking to his resolutio urged strongly its importan cessity at the present time ince. There could be no qu present juncture about wasti its division, neither was th to make it a political issue; great strikes before the eye lic as had been lately expe it was high time that some be devised so that influen brought to bear to solve st as had arisen without hav the last recourse, namely, That the Dominion governm ly convinced of this need their recent enactment an pointment of commissioners these questions. What was was that the province sho such steps too. There was act on the statute book con iation and arbitration, but was practically of none measures could only be bro eration by the application to the dispute. In bad case useless, and that just whe ed. He had confined his one of general statement, highest interests of the ca force or embarrass the go were thus in all the bet make a definite statemen next session of the house some action. Such a stat that he required at the

Several suggestions migh made. One of these was bureau be established by useful data and statistics lected. Another was the some provision for the i trade unions. This was under the Dominion laws cial status was necessary enable the employers of with a corporate body, a ner's objection in the would be met.

Precedents were to be ha for an act of compulsory had been in force there, that as a result there had strike in the past six yea strikes recently troubling both been settled too, by rect government interfere way and the other in ano industries and interests sh and he hoped that durin matter would be considere ment with the result th some such legislation wo as he desired.

Hon. Mr. Turner, in con pointed out the general to resolution was couched. ration was not directly although it was suggested it been more drastically not be wholly acceptabl Indeed, as it was, it app of the members had no import, and it was a qu good deal of consideration indeed that there were u this principle of arbitrat

Mr. Smith—Some union

Mr. Turner continued doubts as to its effective as that recently happeni would be almost impos award against the fisher them go out. Were the day, it would run the r down, and as its importa he thought it would be matter until Wednesday.

To this Mr. Smith asse tin would not, and aro motion to adjourn. T said, were unpleasantly ters might hold that thi measure, and so in con ment that held them t the move was concerne either. It said nothing he no advantage in an it.

Mr. Martin was the point of order by Hon though he managed to by reiterating that the said nothing, meant no