

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1895.

A QUER AMENDMENT.

The wording of Mr. McGregor's amendment to the local Mines Regulation Act is peculiar. We may say here that the proposed legislation is not by any means complimentary to the managers of the coal mines. It assumes that those managers are so incredibly stupid and so blind to their own interests that they must be prevented by a stringent law from employing weak-minded persons and cripples to work in their mines. Everyone knows that an accident in a mine is most disastrous to its owners and that the profits of a year or of many years may be lost by the blunder of a stupid or a careless miner. It is therefore the owners' interest to have none but capable men occupying important positions in the mines. But Mr. McGregor's amendment presupposes that the managers are not fit to be treated with the selection of the men. Why is this? Has he found the managers of the mines in and around Nanaimo so stupid and so reckless that a law is required to compel the Welling-ton miners to employ only blunders in the choice of men that they may have made?

Here we come to the question we propounded yesterday. Is Mr. McGregor's amendment necessary? Has the Legislature, as it is in duty and in justice bound to do, taken any measures to inform itself on the subject? Do its members know that the managers are in the habit of employing weak-minded and weak-bodied men to work in the mines? Have they any idea of the number and the nature of the accidents which the employment of men who are mentally and physically weak has caused? If they have not been informed on these subjects, why are they asked to pass Mr. McGregor's amendment? They have no more right to interfere in the management of a mine, without good and substantial reasons, than they have to interfere in the management of the establishments of grocers and tailors. This is the principal part of the amendment:

2. The powers and duties of the Inspector under section 69 of the "Coal Mines Regulation Act" shall extend to the case of those being employed in a mine any person who, by want of understanding, knowledge, or skill, or owing to mental or physical incapacity or incompetency for the performance of the particular task or duty upon which he is engaged, or who from any cause is unable to clearly understand instructions conveyed to him, or is or may be a source of danger to any other person in the mine in which such person is for the time being employed, or whose presence or employment in such mine exposes or may expose any person to the risk of bodily injury; and it shall be the duty of the Inspector of Mines, on the application in writing of any three miners, whether employed in such mine or not, to examine any person or persons employed in any mine for the purpose of ascertaining whether any such want of understanding, knowledge, or skill, or any such mental, physical, or other incapacity or incompetency exists on the part of any person or persons so employed; and the employment in any mine of any person or persons in whom such want of understanding or skill, or such mental, physical, or other incapacity or incompetency exists, or is found by the Inspector of Mines to exist, shall be deemed to be a matter, thing, or practice in or connected with such mine, and to be dangerous and defective within the meaning of the said "Coal Mines Regulation Act."

The Coal Mines on this Island of Vancouver have been in operation many years. It would not be at all difficult to find out whether or not the mine-owners and the miners have suffered from the carelessness or inexperience of the managers in selecting men to work in the mines. Common sense and common justice both dictate that such an enactment as the above should be based on ascertained facts. It is said that the Legislature should not wait until an accident happens to pass the law. The answer to this is, the present system has been in operation for over thirty years, and if the managers in all that time have shown that they are fit to be trusted with the selection of the men they employ it is only reasonable to presume that they will continue to act prudently and carefully in this matter. They are not likely at once to become cranks or imbeciles. Sensible men do not legislate upon mere probabilities or remote contingencies. Experience is or should be their guide.

TOLERATION.

Toleration is not very well or very generally understood even in these days. A great many people seem to think that they confer a favor on those who differ from them in matters of religion when they refrain from treating them harshly and speaking of them unkindly. They boast with considerable self-satisfaction of allowing others to believe as they like and to worship God as they may see fit. It never seems to occur to them that there is no place for allowance in the matter. Who gave them the power to allow others to entertain such opinions on religious questions as recommend themselves to their reason? They do not recognize the right in others to allow them to think as they please in matters of religion. They ought to be able to see that these others are in precisely the same position with respect to them. No man or woman holds his religious opinions on sufferance. These are his peculiar possession. He is beholden to no one for them and no one has a right to reproach him or to meddle with him in any way on account of them. It is really as reasonable to say or to think that he allows his neighbor to breathe or to enjoy the sunlight as to imagine that he tolerates him when he expresses religious opinions different from his own. No one speaks of toleration in connection with the enjoyment of the beauties of nature. No one thinks of saying, "I allow my neighbor to take pleasure in the beauty of the landscape," or, "I allow him to enjoy the scent of flowers and the flavor of

fruits." But many a one does say, "I can tolerate Calvinists, but I cannot abide Unitarians; I did not quarrel with the Unitarians for I allow everyone to think as he pleases in such matters." The idea that some men have the right to prevent others from forming such opinions as seem best to them on the subject of religion, appears to be hidden under what most people say one thinks about religious differences. This shows that the old spirit of intolerance is not yet departed. We see it burning out now and then where its existence could hardly be suspected.

However, there is this to say, most people in these days and in this country have the grace or the enlightenment to be ashamed of any exhibition of intolerance. Nearly every one admits—in words at least—that every one else has as good a right to his opinions on religion as he has. Admitting this, then it follows that every one has as good a right to have his religious opinions and beliefs respected as everyone else has. It is therefore as great an insult to ridicule what a man holds sacred in matters of religion as in his presence to make fun of his personal appearance. A man has no more right to abuse and vilify another for the creed he holds than he has to slap his face or to pull his nose. Both are infringements of rights which every man is bound to respect and which every decent, well-behaved man will respect. The man who wantonly attacks an unoffending citizen on the street is, by all right-thinking citizens, set down as a bully and a blackguard; the man who insults his neighbor on account of his creed is made even baser material and is still less regarded of the rights of others. As every man has a right to believe the creed that appears to him most reasonable, so every man has a right to have his opinions on religion respected by his fellow-citizens. This should not be forgotten.

CANADA'S PROGRESS.

Those who listen to the jeremiads of Liberal orators and read the blue-ruin articles in the Liberal papers would be apt to conclude that this Dominion, under the National Policy, had made no progress, that instead of going forward since 1878 the country had retrograded. In fact, the more reckless of the Grit orators and writers say this in distinct terms. What they say is, of course, not true, but it is said in such a confident manner that a good many have come to believe that there is some truth in it. The Grits, they say, cannot be so atrocious and such foolish liars as to state as true what can easily be disproved. They forget that the orators and writers calculate that of every hundred who hear the false statements and believe them to be true, not ten will see their exposure. They conclude that the balance will live and vote in the comfortable assurance that the Dominion under Conservative rule has for the last seventeen years been going to the dogs, and that if Mr. Laurier and his Grits do not prevent it, it will get there in a very short time. If the Liberals can only keep up this delusion for a few months they believe that they will stand some chance of being elevated to power.

The Conservatives, however, are determined that if the delusion is not dissipated it will not be their fault. Their leading men have undertaken to disseminate correct information among the people, and their newspaper press is doing what it can to undeceive those whom the Grits have been trying to delude. Hon. Mr. Foster is already in the field. Though not a silver-tongued orator skilled in the art of making the worse appear the better reason, Mr. Foster is an able speaker and a well-informed man. He is a thinker and a reasoner, and he is more intent upon giving the people reliable information from authentic sources than he is upon composing fine sounding sentences which are pleasant to hear, in which there is the minimum of information in the maximum of words. Mr. Foster, in a speech which he made last week at Ingersoll, showed very clearly that Canada since 1878 has, in many directions, made very considerable progress. His speech contains the following paragraphs, which deserve the serious attention of the electors:

Let us take the index on distribution since 1878, and first we will take the foreign trade index and see what is the fact with reference to that from 1878 to 1893. We find, sir, that the exports of Canada in 1878 were \$71,000,000, and in 1893 they had risen to \$118,000,000, an increase of 66 per cent. under the National policy. (Applause.) There is also that part of trade which comes to us, the imports from foreign countries, also a measure and index of the prosperity of a country. The imports to Canada in 1878 amounted to \$81,000,000, and in 1893 to \$129,000,000, an increase of 60 per cent. in the same period. Taking the total trade together, that is, the foreign trade, the imports and the exports, in 1878, we did business with foreign countries amounting to \$152,000,000, while in 1893 we did a business of \$247,000,000, an increase of 63 per cent. in the total foreign trade of the country in that time. Well, sir, there is also another index of the distribution of trade. It is the carriers, the ships which frequent our ports, the railways which distribute these products from one part of the country to another. If you take the sea tonnage alone, in 1878 there were 6,500,000 tons entered and cleared from Canada. In 1893 there were 10,500,000 tons, an increase of 60 per cent. in the period. Take the coasting trade. The tonnage which entered and cleared in 1878 was 11,000,000 tons, and in 1893 it had increased to 24,500,000 tons, an increase of 123 per cent. in that period. That is with reference to the foreign trade. Sometimes you make the mistake of looking entirely at the foreign trade, believing that it is the great index of the country's business life. It is one, and an important index; but another great test of every country's prosperity is the internal trade, which is carried on between one part of the country and another. Now, then, what are the indications of that inland trade? If you take the inland water tonnage? In 1878 there were 5,000,000 tons entered and cleared at the inland ports of Canada, and in 1893 there had increased to 8,000,000 tons, an increase of 60 per cent. Railways are the other great distributor. In 1878 there were 5,454 miles of railway in Canada; in 1893 they had increased to

15,000 miles, an increase of 120 per cent. (Applause.) What are these railways built for? For carrying people and freight. In 1878 they carried 9,000,000 passengers; in 1893 they carried 18,500,000 passengers, 109 per cent. of an increase. In 1878 they carried 8,000,000 tons of freight; in 1893 they carried 22,000,000 tons, an increase of 60 per cent. in that period. In the canal carrying trade there has also been a measurable proportion of increase. You must also remember that the distribution that is effected by other mechanism. There is, for instance, the banking institutions and the circulation of bank notes. In 1878 the bank circulation, not taking into account the Government notes, was \$10,000,000, and in 1893 it had been raised to \$34,000,000, an increase of 80 per cent. in that time. There is no more need of testimony to the business activity of a people than the circulation of specie or bank notes by which business is carried on. We might also take the telegraphic system and the post-office business. They have increased, as well as the export trade of the Dominion of Canada.

GENERAL HERBERT'S cup, the gift of which he announced during his recent visit to this city, has arrived from Ottawa, and yesterday was placed on exhibition in Hibben's window. It is a neat and valuable trophy in sterling silver, and bears the following inscription: "Company efficiency Battalion of Garrison Artillery by Major-General Ivor Herbert 1894." A striking group picture of the non-commissioned officers of No. 3 company having been completed yesterday was placed in the same window, and the juxtaposition of the two exhibits gave rise to the belief that the cup had already been won by No. 3. The victory, however, is a pleasure yet in store, and will probably be determined in connection with the approaching inspection, all the companies here and at Vancouver being competitors.

MISS GOWARD wishes to thank all who were so kind as to send contributions of books to the sealers. A very hearty response was made to the appeal, 137 volumes, 642 periodicals and 710 magazines having been received. Forty-four schooners have been supplied with literature, and parcels are in readiness for the remainder of the fleet. The port-warden has kindly allowed his reading matter to remain at his office till with the help of some of the men called for. At a similar appeal will be made at the end of the year, it is hoped all interested in the sealers will set aside for their benefit any books or magazines that can be spared.

SIX MONTHS SUSPENSION.

The Council of Public Instruction Find the Charge Against Teacher Heath Sustained.

No New Witnesses Called—The Facts of the Now Celebrated Case Briefly Reviewed.

The Council of Public Instruction have lost no time in emphasizing their opinion in the matter of the complaint against Mr. Neil Heath, master of the second division of the Victoria collegiate institute. The facts are still fresh in the public mind, and it was only on Monday last that Mr. Heath was suspended from his position as teacher pending the investigation of the charges against him by the education department. On Wednesday the council of public instruction met to take up the complaint against Mr. Heath—that he had violated the spirit of article 16 of the public school rules and regulations in having brought religion into contempt when teaching a history lesson to his class on the morning of January 16 last. Mr. Heath was present, but it was deemed unnecessary to re-examine any of the witnesses previously heard or to produce testimony or evidence in rebuttal to produce.

The results of the inquiry is that Mr. Heath will be suspended from the office of teacher for six months, the Council of Public Instruction being determined to stamp out the first appearance of sectarianism in the schools. Article 16 of the school rules and regulations, under which the charge against Mr. Heath was laid, provides that "the highest morality shall be inculcated, but no religious dogma nor creed shall be taught. The Lord's Prayer may be used in opening or closing the school."

Briefly stated, the facts of Mr. Heath's offending, as they were developed in the evidence of the pupils, were that in dealing with the text act of the reign of Charles II he undertook to explain to his class the doctrine of transubstantiation. He then unnecessarily introduced an anecdote of his personal experience in Paris, and remarked in words to the effect that if the doctrine of transubstantiation was to be believed Christ



COPPER RIVETED OVERALLS SPRING BOTTOM PANTS EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED. ADDRESS SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

must have had a very large body to supply so many. That he made this statement Mr. Heath denies. His class are, however, practically their testimony on this point was accepted as conclusive both by the Board of School Trustees and the Council of Public Instruction.

HOSPITAL AT HOME.

The ladies' auxiliary of the Jubilee hospital have a happy family of carrying out in an energetic and satisfactory way what they undertake to do. The delightful at home held by them at the A. O. U. hall last night proved that the ladies had entered heartily into the work of preparation and had laid and executed their plans well. Everything went without a hitch, and the result was that people enjoyed themselves and will look forward with pleasure to the next at home, for it is understood that this was only one of a series to be given for the same good object—the benefit of the hospital. The fine hall was suitably filled to give room on the floor for all who cared to dance to the excellent music of the Richardson orchestra. Then the supper prepared by the ladies was very daintily laid out in the supper room, flowers and plants making the tables look very pretty. People who preferred to do so could while away a pleasant hour or two in the card room, or could sit enjoying the animated scene in the ball room from the spectators' gallery. The ladies' auxiliary, with the help of some of the gentlemen, succeeded admirably in making people feel at home, and the whole affair was one that the hostesses may look back upon with satisfaction, knowing that their efforts were well appreciated.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

Capt. Colston, of the schooner Falcon, at San Francisco from Gray's harbor with lumber, on Wednesday reported passing the dismantled hull of a big double-decked vessel in latitude 48 deg. 50 min. north and longitude 125 deg. 10 min. west, on Jan. 28. Glasses were brought to bear on it and the captain had no difficulty in making out the hull of a double-decker with only the stump of a mainmast. The derelict was about seven miles away, but no marks could be distinguished about it which would give the identity of the vessel. The wreck was about west by south of Clayoquot Sound and about thirty-five miles out from shore. It was impossible at the time for the schooner to attempt to go to the assistance of the vessel in distress, as the seas were washing clear over the Falcon and it was all the crew could do to save the schooner.

GERMANS IN SAMOA.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—The North German Gazette confirming the statements of the Post in regard to the work of the Tripartite Samoan land committee, adds that the German alone are now in possession of the plantations in Samoa.

The annual general meeting of the Victoria Lawn Tennis Club is to be held at 5 o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, the 19th inst., at the office of Mr. W. Ridgway Wilson, Bastion square.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Medal and Diploma.

E. M. JOHNSON

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In contiguous Blocks; Beautifully watered; forming one of the finest estates in the Province; house and farm buildings, 2000 cattle; 50 to 80 horses, easy approach; good roads; railways projected to property and the estate is in close proximity to some of the best developed, most promising gold mines in the District. The price of the whole is extremely moderate. Principals only treated with.

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About 1000 Acres of which is Ploughable Prairie of First-class Quality.

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Ow Sheds, etc., etc.

7 Miles (about) Standing Fences, in good order; Corralles, &c.

Small Lot Household Furniture, Store and Pipes, Crockery, etc., etc.

Reaper, Wagon, Sleds and usual Farm Implements. Chain Harness, Bull Chains, Saddles (ladies and gent's), Bridles, etc.

Bellows, Anvil and Tools and Carpenters' Tools. (single roofed; Stable for 10 horses, with hay loft above; Stone Root-house, Store Buildings, Dairy, etc., etc., etc.)

Store and Pipes, Crockery, etc., etc.

This Property is within easy distance of many of the most important gold, silver and coal mines in West Kootenay. The soil is the best bottom land, and the locality is one of the few places in the Province where so large a piece of good farm land can be found in one block. A river runs through the property, and rainbow trout are plentiful and afford capital sport. Deer abound in considerable numbers. Bear, Wolf, Coyote and other large game are to be found in the hills. There are two creeks recorded and belonging to the estate, one flows all the year round. Limestone and brick clay are to be had in the valley.

The Cattle are well bred; a much larger herd could be farmed with the place. The bunch grass on the hills in the vicinity covers many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valleys.

The Climate is not severe, the station was for many years the winter quarters of the H. B. Co.'s pack trains.

The Title is Crown Grant. Immediate possession can be given.

The South West Kootenay and Osoyoos Divisions of Yale judgment from the actual ore products of the mine to date, are destined in the next year or two to be the richest and most important mineral centres in the world.

P. O. BOX 188.

TELEPHONE NO. 74.

PROVINCIAL

First Session

FOR

The Speaker Prayers by Mr. McLELLIN. An act respecting tramway, telegraph lines in West first time.

Mr. Booth bearing interest serious disability properly constructed lumber to the vessels which trade being un- lumber and timber forest of timber ship-building parties this time wooden vessels ing trade by building yards such vessels equipped; and of the ship-build stimulate every large demand for revenue of the the Lieutenant means to ac- to insure the building industry mover contende ability of wood of iron, for the and expressed of the great dist the place of pro- special effort sh the building of vince.

MR. SEMLIN that this resolve the revenue, and by be introduced crown.

THE SPEAKER adopt? were not could not be con- were accordingly.

MR. SEMLIN claiming that it cannot compete in many places vince, it is used up shipbuilding.

MR. RITCHIE of the navigation placing the pro- left off about pointed out the been abandoned thought there was built in the next constructed in the experience has been or wooden ship the resolution for the carrying years ago there shipbuilding on date the carrying which can only U. S. register, else, the industry He thought it was to the country go into the building of these ships that afforded merce of the best adapted to that wooden ship capacity, strength, tage over from case. When at to be undertaken not begin what about start on for this and or not support the After further was put and for Mr. Kitchen Perseverance is the bill respect

GOVERNMENT

HON. MR. T Semlin said that played as immit to December 31 month to the month afterwards He is not now.

HON. MR. T speaking the first time.

HON. MR. T on the motion Sunday observance is not required.

DR. WALKER bill though he in some respect

HON. COL. B Sunday property there must be opinions of the what constitute not think we of Sunday law the whole we now he did not wish

HON. MR. T see that the salmo at least back, but like it come parts of support. He provide that a town and not a country on Sun thought there the rational en not be interfer to vote against all the objects in committee to left.

MR. HUNTER thought would every person is CAPT. IRVING ple, contending showed to be able bounds, p

MR. GRAHAM this bill should contained the case, all the m loath to say they should a case of this thought it was some restraint to the Sabbath liquor traffic.

MR. BLAIR which he they from a great do not agree Seventh Day whose Sabbath thought it was letters to prop Mr. Heath to