

THE COMING SESSION.

Members on the opposition side of the house are to be commended for expressing a readiness to sacrifice their personal convenience, if need be, in order that provincial business may be properly looked after at the coming session.

TWO OUT OF THREE.

Out of the three bye-elections yesterday the government won two, the Liberal-Patron candidate in North Ontario being practically a government supporter. This makes an addition of four to the government's majority in the house, and if this proportion of two gains out of three contests were to be kept up through all the bye-elections the relative strength of the parties would be materially changed.

Scotsmen are so much exercised over the use of the words "England" and "English" when "Britain" and "British" are meant that they are circulating for signatures a petition to the Queen claiming the fulfillment of one of the principal conditions of the treaty of union between Scotland and England, namely, that the new kingdom shall not be called England, neither its people nor its interests shall be spoken of as English.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION.

An interesting review of "social and economic legislation in the United States in 1896" appears in the last number of the Quarterly Journal of Economics, from the pen of William B. Shaw. As legislation of this character has become a somewhat absorbing topic, and as our neighbors are supposed to be peculiarly advanced on this line, we take the liberty of reproducing from an American contemporary a summary of Mr. Shaw's paper.

An especially interesting feature is the legislation dealing with labor problems, notably with factory inspection and sweatshops. New York has passed what has been attempted so many times without success—the placing of certain restrictions upon the conduct of the great mercantile establishments. In order to do this it was necessary to make the primary object sanitary improvement, and to put the enforcement of the health department in the hands of that factory inspection.

In Ohio a sweatshop law has been passed which is remarkably explicit and satisfactory. It is a good law, and the protection of the public health and the restrictions are made to apply to all rooms occupied for carrying on any process of making any kind of wearing apparel, or goods for male or female wear, or for smoking, or for the manufacture of cigars, cigarettes or tobacco in any form, when such wearing apparel or other goods are to be exposed for sale

or to be sold by manufacturers, wholesale or jobbers, to the trade or by retail. Rooms so used must be separate from any living or sleeping apartment of any dwelling, and must have neither door nor window into such living or sleeping room. Nor may the factory or workshop rooms be used as living or sleeping rooms, and neither bedding nor cooking utensils are allowed in them. Persons employed in these workrooms must be allowed 250 cubic feet of air space by day and 400 feet at night. Provision is also made for toilet convenience and health inspectors are empowered to close any establishment which fails to comply with the regulations.

In Maryland a law was passed prohibiting the use of coal oil or gasoline in sweatshops and requiring fire escapes. New Jersey has passed a law similar to that already in force in New York, relating to the regulation of bakeshops, their sanitary conditions and hours of labor. Ohio and Massachusetts have passed similar laws in relation to the business of state legislation, passed a very good law relative to the employment of women and children in mines or smelters, the employment of any female children under fourteen being prohibited. Eight hours was made a legal day's work in such employment and the supreme court of the state has upheld the law.

KOOTENAY'S MINES.

In a recent issue the Rossland Miner thus refers to the mineral production of West Kootenay district. "This report (for the month of January) shows that the shipments of ore from the district for the month, exclusive of the ore which went out by way of Nakusp, amounted in value to \$257,778. The material produced at the Nelson and Trail smelters and shipped during the same period amounted in value to \$416,727. The total value of ore and matte amounted to \$674,506. This is at the rate of over \$8,000,000 for the year. A month ago we called attention to the report of Collector Johnston for December. The aggregate shipments of ore and matte for the month amounted in value to \$483,450. The report for January shows an increase in value of \$192,156. We do not imagine this extraordinary ratio of increase will be kept up through the year, though it may be. The district is but in its infancy. Her smelters, which shipped nearly half a million dollars' worth of copper matte during January have been in operation hardly one year, and the whole amount of ore mined in the district in 1893 was perhaps not worth \$100,000. Any mining district which can show such development in the same space of three years is certainly worthy of the confidence and respect of the entire mining world."

The World thinks that Vancouver is "bound to be the centre" for mining districts to the north, and that the trade "comes to Vancouver for much the same reason that water flows down hill, because it is natural for it to do so." Why it should be down-hill to Vancouver and uphill to Victoria from the district in question a geographer would be puzzled to tell. The World "gets down to business" when it speaks of the enterprise of the Union Steamship Co. Enterprise in this, as in other lines, brings its own reward.

The following paragraph appears in a late issue of the London Times: "The British Columbia Gazette shows that 336 companies were organized in the province last year for mining development. Their capital is \$345,000,000. This immense capitalization is regarded as an indication that something is radically wrong with the provincial mining laws."

Medical men the world over have pretty well come to the conclusion that consumption is communicative and that with isolation of patients and proper sanitation it can to a large extent be stamped out. To educate the public, especially that portion directly affected, to the need of the isolation of patients may take years, but there should be no delay in bringing about proper sanitary conditions to prevent the spread of this and other diseases. Pure water, good sewers, clean streets and premises may cost a little more than impure water, poor sewers and unclean streets and premises, but they are well worth the difference in price.

The Colonist (vide its editorial of this morning), has got a platform. "It doesn't tell us what that platform is, but makes public the main plank, which after all, is the chief point. This is the Colonist's main plank: 'Every man, woman and child ought to resolve that, come what may, differ as they may on politics or anything else, they will stand shoulder to shoulder and work for the advancement of our magnificent province.' It will be observed that infants in arms are excluded, which seems a little invidious, but that possibly is because, like our disinterested contemporary, they are fed on pap."

There are few Republicans, according to press reports, in the United States who did not have the refusal of a cabinet position. And they are not such unpleasant things to accept either.

It took the legislature of Washington several weeks to elect a senator, who may, after all, be unelected, and now they are spending more time enquiring into charges of bribery and corruption,

in connection with said election. A trial before a judge would appear to be much simpler. A legislator who has taken a bribe is hardly likely to find himself guilty and impose sentence upon himself and his companions in crime.

The evidence being given in the senatorial bribery enquiry, at Olympia goes to show that votes were worth something during the contest.

This and That.

"New brooms sweep clean." In order to rectify the proverb the city council is proposing to buy a horse-broom for use in the principal streets. It is to be hoped that this new labor-saving appliance will meet with better success than the broom which was used by the streets from its labors. Perhaps the new street committee of the new city council will resurrect this ancient contrivance for keeping our streets clean.

Mayor Redfern's idea of borrowing \$100,000 seems likely to bear fruit, at least in the minds of the street committee. There is much to commend it. It will make the horse-broom which is a very important item in the make-up of Victoria. Next, it will put a large number of streets in order; Victoria West, James Bay, Work Estate and the outlying sections of the city need street making badly. Then it will add to the city debt which nobody but a few cranks will mind. An addition of \$5,000 per year to the interest and sinking fund will not make much difference anyhow, and further it will give contractors and workmen something to do, which is needed badly these hard times. Lastly, it will make the people of the next generation pay for what we use and want to-day, like Mayor Beaven's loan for streets, roads and bridges. So let the petition-makers go to work and the fun will begin. It is an excellent scheme.

Why wasn't the school teachers satisfied? First one and then another wrote for increase of salary, as if the trustees were not to be satisfied with the teachers what the value of their services is. The \$800 limit is a good idea, as it gives a young girl fresh from obtaining a certificate as large a salary as a teacher that may have taught ten or twenty years, and consequently gives a young teacher an exalted idea of teaching and of her own particular value. It adds to the cost a little, no doubt, but what matters that when we can get any anyhow and the money saved would be spent in other ways.

I like Trustee Hall's motion to charge fees for the High School. Education is too cheap and nearly everybody now days is getting educated. "Jack is as good as his master." Would you believe it, that my butcher's boy receipted my last month's bill in a beautiful clear handwriting, and handed it to me with a polite bow flung at me a Latin quotation. What the translation was of I do not know, but I retained enough to make me feel that I was being looked to him, which is a very agreeable thing to be treated. Oh, yes, education is far too easy and cheap. Not only the high school but the public school should charge fees, and gradually the whole system would be self-supporting. This would be hard upon the poorer citizens, but people have no right to be poor in a province like ours. W. T.

THE FARMERS' POSITION.

To the Editor:—It seems that it was inevitable that the two associations of the dairymen's and fruit-growers, which met in convention in Victoria last week, should pass resolutions so conservative that the tariff, as it affects British Columbia, are assuredly conservative in their mode of thinking, and perhaps take that worst form of conservatism that reaches its conclusions from a narrow and ungenerous view of the conditions of life in our province and Dominion. The remedy proposed for the grievances of the farmers, namely, an increase in protection, reminds one of the Dominion policy, which is a simple one to do with a rope too short but felt to be too long. Surely someone was struck with the glaring absurdity of every interest in the Dominion policy, and every protection for themselves "and the devil take the hindmost."

A house so divided against itself cannot stand, and one feels inclined to believe that a policy so well calculated to keep the confederation from fusing must have been concocted by the devil himself, especially when we remember it was christened hypocritically. The National Policy. But that the tariff does not work uniformly need not be stated, as we all feel it too well; and that it does not work effectively for the farmer is easily shown, as we live in the Dominion and there being no limitations to the production of farm produce, energetic people soon reached the point when exportation was required to get rid of their surplus produce, and then the price was fixed not by the tariff but by world-wide competition. The enormous increase in the facilities for transportation is fast making the remnants of protection in British Columbia simply a delusion.

The steady progress of farm produce in our own province means also that we will soon gain our own markets at "starvation" prices at all seasons, as we do in some seasons already. With eggs and butter at 12 and 13 cents, and a remarkably small margin of profit for the Yankee to pay duty and transportation charges. When we think of the Britain of 1800 and again of 1900 and

ask ourselves the reason of her position, the fact of her trade policy must bulk largely in our minds. All the world is largely in the hands of her feet, and she gladly accepts them all. Germany supplies her with sugar at 4 cents a pound and charges her own citizens 12 cents. The way she eclipses all the nations in her colonial policy is only equalled by her free trade, and how could her merchant fleet and her money go to the ends of the earth to return with their increase if it was not for open ports? Surely it is time now for farmers to look below the crest and seek sane reasons for the handicap of our position.

We have some of the finest land and an intelligent energetic people. It is not a confession of weakness to say that we cannot hold our own with anyone. If the 5 cents a pound is all we are living on, God help our families. If that that people is keeping out the "Yankee" may we not tremble? Where did we learn the cry? I'm afraid from those who have a purpose in deceiving us, and if we are not in the well and the fox out of it, the things are not what they seem. Would it not be manlier to adopt co-operation and stand by each other in the buying and selling of our goods, instead of fighting the others for the better? The sheriff was notified, and armed with a warrant is searching for the perpetrators of the outrage.

CRETE INSURRECTION

Italian Volunteers Have Started for Crete to Take Part.

Horrible Scenes Witnessed in Connection With the Massacres at Carò.

London, Feb. 6.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily News announces that Italian volunteers have started for Greece for the purpose of joining the insurrection on the island of Crete. The government has ordered the admiral commanding the Italian squadron at Smyrna to send reinforcements to Candia. It is also announced that the Italian cruiser Etna has already transferred 700 refugees from the island of Crete to Grecian ports.

Dear Sir,—The memorial of your association, signed by you, dated 11th January, is just received. The order-in-council ratifying the agreement which I came to in Washington about the 20th December was passed on the 11th inst. Your memorial therefore was too late to have any effect. I must say that I received a telegram from Mr. Bosworth, M.P., informing me that the memorial would come, and I understood somewhat of the views contained in it. I regret extremely that you should have any such gloomy anticipations of the result of the memorial, but from my own knowledge of agricultural matters and belief in the energy, activity and capacity of our British Columbia people, I trust that these anticipations will not be fulfilled. The regulations are imposed purely and simply for the purpose of guarding the health of our animals. We would not be justified at all in using them for purposes of trade restriction, or protection, as it is commonly called. This very moment farmers and the public generally in Canada are denouncing England because she has imposed quarantine regulations in regard to our cattle without justification as far as disease is concerned, and as we say, evidently for protective purposes. The universal feeling in this country is one of indignation against this action on her part. It would therefore be very inconsistent for our government here to take the same course in regard to the matter upon which you write me. I must point out, however, that there is already a duty on the importation of cattle, and you do not consider that sufficiently high. A committee investigating the tariff is the proper medium to apply to for a remedy. I must further say that the agricultural interests of this whole country in my opinion are far as disease is concerned by the arrangement which I have made with the Americans and it is my duty to carry out such a policy as is in the interest of the farmers whom I represent over the whole country and to point out to you further that the mining population of Southern Kootenay, whose market you wish to retain, is so close to the boundary line that it is in the States would have no trouble in slaughtering on the south of the line and sending the dead meat in, thereby preventing your raising those large profits which you so much desire. I don't believe therefore that the change will materially injure you and I trust that you will be able to still reap an

enormous benefit from the mining population which all Canada is hoping to see enter British Columbia the coming summer. Trusting this explanation will show you the necessity of my action, and that the results will be better than you fear. Yours truly, SYDNEY FISHER. ROUGHLY TREATED. Members of an Opera Company Roughly Handled by Cowboys. Spokane, Wash., Feb. 8.—Superintendent Russell Hadding, of the Great Northern Railway, has received a report from Agent Shelby, at Junction, Mont., to the effect that the members of the Columbia Opera Company were roughly treated by a gang of cowboys upon their arrival there. As the train carrying the theatrical people pulled into the depot the cowboys treated them with a fusillade from revolvers, firing with the men and insulting the women. When the station agent interfered the cowboys threatened to kill him, and he was compelled to hide in a warehouse near by. The sheriff was notified, and armed with a warrant is searching for the perpetrators of the outrage.

Cures Talk

"Cures talk" in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla, as if for no other medicine. Its great cures recorded in truthful, convincing language of grateful men and women, constitute its most effective advertising. Many of these cures are marvelous. They have won the confidence of the people; have given Hood's Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world, and have made necessary for its manufacture the greatest laboratory on earth. Hood's Sarsaparilla is known by the cure it has made—cures of scrofula, salt rheum and eczema, cures of rheumatism, neuralgia and weak nerves, cures of dyspepsia, liver troubles, catarrh—cures which prove

FOR STARVING INDIA.

One Thousand Tons of Corn for the Famine Sufferers.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The India famine committee has made arrangements with the Southern Pacific Company whereby that corporation will transport free of charge to San Francisco 1,000 tons of grain for the benefit of the suffering in India. The committee to-day wired the Nebraska relief committee that the Southern Pacific Company would handle 1,000 tons of Nebraska corn free from Ogden west, and suggested that the Nebraska committee obtain the same terms from the Union Pacific.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills take easy to obtain sale.

HEALTH OF THE POPE

Despite Reports to the Contrary, He suffers From Fainting Spells.

Feeling in Regard to Legislation in British House of Commons.

London, Feb. 7.—The Daily News has received the following from a correspondent at Rome: Despite the statement of Dr. Laponnas to the contrary, I am informed that the Pope is on Friday found lying on the back of his chair. He was unconscious when discovered, and was only restored to consciousness by inhaling ether. The attack is the greatest which he has suffered during the past two years, and is attributed to increasing cerebral atonia.

The government's education bill is hotly denounced in no wise states in step towards sectarianism and distinctly unjust to the board schools. The defeat of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Dewar, by Mr. Woods, Liberal, in the election in the Westminster division of Essex, was largely due to the extreme proposals. Withamstow is a poor board school district, and the Liberals made a great point during the campaign of the unfairness of the Conservatives in giving state aid to sectarian schools, while not doing the necessitous board schools. During the debate on the measure in the House of Commons the small numbers of government supporters showed the existence of much discontent among its party, and a significant fact was that the government, whose supporters number 480, only received 206, 332 and 283 on the principal divisions.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, still further enhanced his reputation in a splendid fighting speech in reply to Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the Liberal leader, who fared very badly at his hands. The newspapers generally warmly complimented the minister upon his speech, which has undoubtedly greatly strengthened his position among Conservatives. The Liberal "Gleaner" has issued a manifesto denouncing the bill as a violation of every principle of the Liberal education policy, and urging demonstrations throughout the country to kill the bill.

The second reading of the women's franchise bill in no wise states in step towards sectarianism and distinctly unjust to the board schools. The defeat of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Dewar, by Mr. Woods, Liberal, in the election in the Westminster division of Essex, was largely due to the extreme proposals. Withamstow is a poor board school district, and the Liberals made a great point during the campaign of the unfairness of the Conservatives in giving state aid to sectarian schools, while not doing the necessitous board schools. During the debate on the measure in the House of Commons the small numbers of government supporters showed the existence of much discontent among its party, and a significant fact was that the government, whose supporters number 480, only received 206, 332 and 283 on the principal divisions.

Society is also opposed to the transfer, as the absence of the young Guardsmen would deprive the season of much interest. The proposal to add another battalion to recruit in Canada, which has also received with little favor from the Cameronians, who pride themselves upon being recruited from the heather, and the proposed addition would, they claim, simply mean the enlistment of a host of East End Cockneys, who have already made other Highland regiments the butt of considerable chaff. The Globe expresses surprise that nothing has been said of the Canadian proposal to recruit a regiment of the line locally, and assumes that the plan has occurred. The Globe adds: "It would certainly be an enormous gain if all the colonies would undertake to contribute to the Imperial defence on the lines suggested by the Canadian proposal."

SQUANDERED HER FORTUNE.

Countess de La Ferronays Living on a Pension From a Friend.

Paris, Feb. 8.—The news that Countess de La Ferronays, whose salon is one of the foremost in Paris, had squandered her large fortune in stock exchange gambling, fell like a thunderbolt on Parisian society. She was a shrewd woman of the world, with birth, position and talent, and seemingly the last person to desire to gamble. She had retired to the provinces, where she had lived on the pension of a friend. The incident recalls the tragic death of her husband, who was a friend of Count de Chambord. One day in arranging invitations for a hunting party, the Count suggested to de La Ferronays that he invite M. Bontoux, who was the celebrated engineer who afterwards conducted the propaganda which did the royalties a great deal of harm.

The estimates of the measures that have been framed with due regard to the exigencies of the province, in consequence of rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public. The estimates of the measures that have been framed with due regard to the exigencies of the province, in consequence of rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public. The estimates of the measures that have been framed with due regard to the exigencies of the province, in consequence of rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public.

Joseph Hunter, M.P.P., returned from the Mainland last evening.

OPENING OF HOUSE

Provincial Legislature Opened the Lieutenant Governor This Afternoon.

Mr. Helmcken Has a Number of Important Motions and Questions on the Board.

The provincial legislature was opened this afternoon with the usual pomp and ceremony. A guard of honor, accompanied by the Fifth Regiment band, drawn up outside the legislative building. His Honor entered the chamber, read the speech, and left members to their deliberations.

The speech follows: Mr. Speaker, Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: I extend my cordial greeting to you on this third session of our seventh parliament, feeling confident that you will all strive to the responsibility of positions, and that you will consider the interests of the people with the wisdom and thoughtfulness which has always characterized your legislative labors.

It gives me great satisfaction to see that the widespread discovery of a general mineral wealth throughout the province has attracted capital from various financial centres, and that this activity is manifested in the development of our mining industry, as evidence of the large increase of public revenue. Notwithstanding that the output of is less than last year, from the increased competition in the San Francisco market, the value of the annual export minerals of all kinds exhibits a large increase.

It gives me pleasure to notice that timber industry is recovering from depression of the last few years, that there is reasonable expectation of a healthy development of the vast resources of the province. Our products from agriculture suffered from the long and unproductive drought of last summer, except wheat, which has been successful in proving the security afforded by useful adjunct to farming. The steps taken for the encouragement of dairy farming have already resulted in a satisfactory increase in the establishment of several creameries, there is a prospect of others being in operation in the near future.

I am gratified to find that the horticultural industry, as the Growers' Association, has been active and successfully engaged in fostering the profitable resources of the province. I regret that the horticultural industry has not been so successful as last year, and the uncertainty existing as to possible changes in the regulations will necessarily affect the hunting and killing seals.

The salmon and other fishing industry have shown a catch above the average of previous years, and an interesting experiment has been made by the successful introduction of lobsters, the waters on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The discovery of our extensive mineral resources and the prospect for the consideration of a railway project which will prove adequate to transportation facilities for the development of the natural wealth which we possess, and a measure which has been submitted to you which will have for its object financial aid in the construction of such public works as will tend to profitable development of the resources of the province.

The provincial board of health has been actively engaged in attending to the sanitary condition of the province in view of the lamentable outbreak of plague in India, further steps have been taken for further sanitation. The draft consolidation and revision of the Statute Law of the province, which has been entrusted to the Hon. Chief Justice of British Columbia, has been completed and the result of his labor has been submitted for final examination and review to a commission consisting of his excellency the two judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

It is with pleasure I have to inform you that the action brought to test the question of the ownership of the pre-metals in the Island railway grant between the province and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, decided in favor of the province. It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of the late Mr. J. P. India in consequence of a spread of pneumonia, and I commend for your consideration some measure of practical sympathy through the Indian Relief Fund.

I feel every confidence that staunch loyalty will prompt you to the expression of heartfelt congratulatory Her Most Gracious Majesty on her attainment of the longest reign of any sovereign of England, and that you will dignify join with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects in expressions of joy to her crown and person.

Among the measures to be submitted for your consideration during the session will be— "An act to amend the 'Compensation Act.'" "An act for the encouragement of Farmers' Institutes."

"An act to amend the 'Lunacy Act.'" It is gratifying to find that the mated revenue for last year has fully justified. The estimates of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing year to be submitted before you, will be found to be framed with due regard to the exigencies of the province, in consequence of rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public.

With every confidence that your zeal will be pursued with energy and vigor, I now leave you to your deliberations, trusting that the Supreme Court will direct your efforts. The formal motions were passed,