

ments of the city in the matter of filter beds, those long talked of works would long ago have been completed. All this time the members of the council have been discussing *ad nauseam* the respective merits of works done by contractors and by the day under the direction of the city's own officials. Much of this talk has been got up in order to cultivate the working man who all this time has been suffering personally and in his family because of the water which it has pleased the present Board of City fathers to provide them. We have heard it said that whatever their demerits may be—and they are many—this one is the best talking council Victoria has had for years. The members are manifestly utilizing their chamber as a school of debate.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA.

Commenting on the Newfoundland negotiations the *Imperial Institute Journal* says: "The alliance between Canada and Newfoundland cannot result in anything else but benefit to the latter, and we see no reason why such an alliance should not take place. That grave mistakes have been made is beyond question, but that is no reason why a right and firm policy should not even yet rectify them, late in the day as it is." This reference to "grave mistakes" is rather ambiguous. So far, on this subject we do not see that Canada has made any mistakes. It was the fault of the islanders alone that they did not enter into the Confederation, and judging from what has since occurred, we cannot but think that their unwillingness to join us may have been advantageous to the at present contemplated union. We trust however that the Dominion will not allow itself to make compromising concessions to the bankrupt colony whose maladministration and obstinacy has been the cause of all its troubles. For our part we are willing to take the

islanders in but not as a matter of charitable consideration or desire to round off the Dominion.

#### UNION WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

It would, as a correspondent suggested, certainly be well for the Government to declare whether or not the Finance Minister, as has been reported, is to negotiate the new Provincial loan on the understanding and pledge that the Government of British Columbia will not become involved in further obligations and responsibilities. For our part we are not prepared to see the bonds of the administration tied up in this way in response to the clamors of partizan obstructionists. No province in the Dominion needs more development than does the one in which we live and something must be done to open it up. Until certain local and unreasoning prejudices were aroused the provincial credit stood A 1 in London and nothing that we are aware of has occurred since then to lower the value of our securities. British Columbia is an advancing province and we regret to see that a certain element should have so deliberately set to work to stop its progress.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is this year arranging to enlarge and improve its refrigerator car service to the Pacific Coast, thus affording ample opportunities for the safe handling of butter and other perishable commodities.

The advent of the whaleback was an important event in the history of the trade of the Pacific Coast. That class of vessel having been shown to be specially well adapted for the trade of the great lakes, a successful trial was made of these vessels in the coasting

trade of B. C., Puget Sound and a portion of the Pacific Coast. And now what is called a turret steamship which is regarded as the latest and best thing in that line is to be put on by the Messrs. Duns-muir between the B. C. coal mines and San Francisco.

Under the new Tariff which the Finance Minister has brought down it is proposed to levy a half cent duty per pound on raw sugar and on the sugar at present dutiable an additional half cent per pound. The duty on spirits has also been increased twelve and a half cents per proof gallon. This it is expected will be the means of restoring the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, the deficit this year being \$1,500,000 caused by the sweeping manner in which the customs duties have been reduced in the interest of the consumers.

The Victoria City Council are at present in a quandary, having before them the somewhat difficult task of determining what constitutes a wholesale and what a retail merchant. The city license levy on wholesalers is just double what it is on retailers and the complaint has been made that in collection the line has not been properly drawn. At the last meeting of the city fathers considerable eloquence was expended in the discussion, and after all the subject was shirked, the point being left for the city officials to decide. It is thus a case of as you were, no one being any more enlightened on the subject than he was before the subject was brought up. We may therefore expect the same amount of disputation and dissatisfaction as ever there was.

The employe who looks after his employer's interests as faithfully as if they were his own, won't have to wait always to have interests of his own to look after.