The Colonist.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1897.

COAL DUTIES.

The proposed duty on coal provided in the Dingley tariff bill now before the United States congress, 75 cents a ton, is likely to evoke considerable opposition. Interviewed on this subject last week, Finance Minister Fielding said:

The policy of the present Canadian government has been toward a reduction of the duty, rather than toward an increase. We still desire to move in that direction, unless events on the other side of the line make it impossible for us to do so. We recognize the fact that where our policy touches our trade relations with our neighbors to the south, it may have to be, to a considerable extent, influenced by their disposition toward us. The present Canadian duty is considerably higher than the American duty. That fact has already been used to our disadvantage at Washington. This has been advanced as a reason why the American duty should be raised. We are disposed to proceed on the line of reduction if our neighbors are willing to do what is fair. If this be clearly understood, and if those in the United States who are interested in holding their Canadian market for coal bestir themselves, the increase of the American duty which you regard as likely to occur may not be made. If, however, your view is correct, and it turns out that the United States duty is raised to a high figure, then we shall claim and exercise the right to revise our views respecting the Canadian duty, and we shall feel bound to impose a duty, not only on bituminous coal, but also on anthracite coal, which at present comes into our market from the United States free of duty. We should much prefer, however, to move in the other direction, and we shall still hope that nothing may occur at Washington to prevent our carrying out our desires.

The New York Times wants to know what the coal mine owners of Ohio and Pennsylvania think of this. Their only foreign market is Canada and if they are to be shut out of this, they will lose the sale of nearly $10,000,000 of coal a year. The export of American coal to Canada in 1896 was, according to the Times, valued at $9,281,757. The New York paper says that the only coal interest demanding a duty in the Canadian product is one on Western Virginia; but this is hardly correct. The coal mine owners of the State of Washington also want the McKinley duty restored. They profess to believe that it is the lack of a higher duty which prevents them from supplying the California market, when every one in the trade knows the real reason to be that their coal is of inferior quality. The Times thinks that Canada holds the whip hand in this coal business and will not be to blame if she makes the United States feel the lash. It is a poor sort of business for two countries to be engaged in, but if that is the sort of reciprocity our neighbors want it would be a pity not to accommodate them.

SALISBURY'S CRETAN POLICY.

A great deal of impatience is manifested in some quarters over the action of the British government in regard to Crete, but it is not well founded. As has been pointed out, Salisbury's policy is to avoid a rupture of the peace. He does not fail to appreciate the natural desires of the Greeks and Cretans; he probably understands as well as anyone else how the Christian subjects of the Sultan may chafe under Mohammedan rule; but he must weigh the consequences of every line of policy as best he can—he must, if he is able, so shape the course of events as to do the greatest good to the greatest number. It may be, and doubtless is, a grievous thing for 50,000 or so Cretans, who call themselves Christians, to be subject to the tyranny of rulers, alien in blood and religion; but as between a peaceful, though prolonged, method of affording relief, and an instant appeal to the arbitrament of the sword, there can hardly be any question. If the whole Cretan population, Moslems included, should be exterminated at one blow, the loss of life would not be much greater than would occur in a single campaign between the great European powers. If a battleship should be sunk in a sea fight, the sacrifice would be greater, the suffering and bereavement resulting would be more widespread than would result from a dozen Cretan massacres. If a general European war should break out the interruption to business would create incalculable distress the world over. It may be said that this is not the language of heroic statesmanship, and perhaps it is not; but it is the language of practical, every day common sense. It is an easy thing to grow heroic over somebody else's duty to take the responsibility of precipitating a European war; it is another thing to assume that responsibility.

In view of the great uncertainty as to the result of a general European war, of the certain great loss of life and waste of property which it would entail and of its immediate and far-reaching effects upon business, Lord Salisbury's efforts to preserve the peace, while they may expose him to the cheap criticism of irresponsible persons, are deserving of the warmest approval. Not to go further afield than our own Province, we can see abundant reasons why, from our own point of view, it is desirable that the peace should be maintained. We are looking anxiously to London for money to develop our great resources. War will tighten the money market instantly, even if Great Britain is not in it. Referring to the proposed tariff changes in the United States, a leading English financial journal said recently that it was to be hoped they would not be very radical, for the only other menace to a general revival of prosperity was the prospect of war over Crete, and this it believed could be avoided. Some people are under the delusion that war makes good times. It does in so far as it stimulates a demand for provisions, but this benefit is more than counterbalanced by the set back given to all enterprises, except those directly bearing upon the conduct of hostilities. Therefore we hope that Salisbury's policy will be successful and that the powers will be able to discover some means of solving the Cretan question other than by a resort to arms.

ATHLETIC AMALGAMATION.

A movement is on foot in Victoria to bring about an amalgamation of all the athletic organizations in the city into one general club, which shall have a fine club house, with gymnasium and other things incidental thereto. This general club would have different departments under the control of committees, but instead of there being a cricket club, a lacrosse club, a boating club, a tennis club, a bicycle club, and so on, there would be a Victoria Athletic Club with departments devoted to the several sports. This club would have its own colors, and when representative teams were selected to meet strangers here or to go abroad, they would have all the athletes of the city behind them, which it is thought would give them a better standing, and ensure cheaper and more satisfactory management.

In most cities where athletic sports are popular the amalgamation idea has prevailed with excellent results. To go no further away than Seattle, we find that city now prominent in athletics, although before the organization of the S. A. C. it was hardly known in this field. Victoria is particularly strong in its athletes, and a club representing the whole city would at once take great prominence in the athletic world. The movement is one that most people would like to see successful. In fact it is not easy to suggest any good reason why it ought not to succeed. We make this reference to it with the object of stimulating interest in the matter. It is a fit subject for brief newspaper discussion.

THE Seattle Times alleges that ex-Governor McGraw of the state of Washington embezzled $10,000 of the money of King county when he was sheriff and says that the only reason why he is not prosecuted is that prosecutions for crimes are barred in that state by the statute of limitation after three years. It says that the ex-governor offered to make good the amount if the defalcation was not made public. A number of ex-officials of the same county are under arrest for forgery and embezzlement and others are likely to be arrested at any moment. It is right to add that Mr. McGraw says the defalcation occurred without his knowledge and has offered to turn over all his property to be applied in settlement of the shortage.

THE Halifax Chronicle says that all the Tory papers from Halifax to Victoria have joined in the cry that the government shall spend $20,000,000 on the Crow's Nest Pass railway. The COLONIST is not able to keep tab on the Eastern press, but has a pretty fair idea of what the British Columbia press has said on the subject and so far as it is able to recall the only paper in this province that has done anything, which could be twisted to mean that the government should spend any such sum on the above named road is the Vancouver World, whose Toryism has certainly not been conspicuous. Even the World made no such demand. No paper in British Columbia did. The Chronicle is an able-bodied romancer.

THE Golden Era cannot understand why Mr. Speaker ruled out Mr. Forster's railway resolution on the ground that it involved the expenditure of public money, and thinks that is the very reason why it ought to have been discussed. Perhaps it may be well to explain for the benefit of the Era and others in British Columbia who are unfamiliar with the British parliamentary system that any bill or resolution involving the expenditure of public money must be accompanied by a message from the crown or its representative recommending it.

THE amount of energy which our Eastern Canadian contemporaries are devoting to the discussion of the Crow's Nest Pass railway would, if directed in the right direction, build the road and operate it, that is if railways can be run on wind. Meanwhile the C. P. R., has its engineers on the ground and is making all the preliminary arrangements to build the line.

A CURIOUS error appears in the Comox News. That paper says that the editor of the San Francisco Examiner has been arrested for bribery in attempting to get a bill passed through the California legislature. The arrest was for charging bribery against a state senator. The charge was held to be a breach of privilege, or a contempt, or something of that nature.

IT appears more than doubtful if the Australian premiers will be able to visit London during the diamond jubilee or even if Mr. Laurier will be able to go. It is a case of business before pleasure.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

THE FAILURE OF ASPHALT.

The condition of the Yonge street pavement, especially between College and Queen streets, may possibly be an indication that asphalt is not a successful paving material in this climate, but it certainly seems to show that it is not a success for streets through which the trolleys run.—Toronto Star.

LAURIER'S OPPORTUNITY.

Mr. Laurier to-day holds the future of the West, and with it the future of Canada in his hand, and should take every possible precaution to prevent ulterior considerations from interfering with the manifest duty he owes to the country at large.—Calgary Herald.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"How did you happen to become such a pronounced vegetarian?" asked the oldest inhabitant. "All my subscribers paid that way," replied the country editor.—Yonkers Statesman.

"I never saw such stupidity," said the Colonel from Kentucky. "I went into a saloon in Boston and called for a little whisk, and they handed me a small broom."—New York Journal.

Mrs. Kuddler—Do you know, George, that everybody says the baby is just like me? Mr. Kuddler—Nonsense, Anne; the baby is now more than six months old, and it has never spoken a word.—Boston Transcript.

"What are these cups for?" asked a well-dressed man of a jeweller, pointing to some elegant silver cups on the counter. "These are race cups, to be given as prizes." "If that's so, suppose you and I race for one?" And the stranger, with the cup in hand, started, the jeweller after him. The stranger won the cup.—Pick-Me-Up.

The judge, addressing himself to a witness of the female persuasion, who is visibly afflicted with at least 40 years: "Mademoiselle, your age, if you please." (After a long and interesting hesitation).—"Twenty-four, your honor." (To the clerk)—"You may now administer the oath." She takes the oath. "And now, mademoiselle, remember that you must tell the truth."—L'Illustre de Poche.

"Mother," said a thoughtful Boston child to his maternal relative.

"What is it, Waldo?"

"Is Philadelphia older than Boston, mother?"

"Of course not, my son. The first settlement was made in Charlestown in 1630, while William Penn did not arrive on the site of Philadelphia until 52 years later."

"That was always my impression, mother, but how is it that Philadelphia is mentioned in the Bible, while Boston is not?"

"Pushpen is a ready writer, isn't he?" "Yes, he writes readily enough, but the trouble is he can't think."—Chicago Record.

Papa—I'm surprised that you are at the foot of your class, Tommy. Why aren't you at the head sometimes, like little Willie Bigbee? Tommy—You see, papa, Willie's got an awful smart father, and I guess he takes after him.—Harper's Bazar.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

TO THE EDITOR:—The question of suffrage for women is likely to cause discussion in this province, as it has done in other parts of the world. That the enfranchisement of women will come ultimately is almost certain.

This century has brought many changes; and woman to-day occupies a higher place, leads a larger life, obtains a higher education, acquires prominent positions in arts and sciences, practises and professions; and we find her holding positions of trust in all lines of life. It is not that woman has changed so much, but that the world has changed and this is only part of a great industrial and social change that has been going on universally, and which could scarcely fail to effect the larger half of the human race whose progress has been involved.

To-day woman asks for the right of franchise—a right which they once possessed in Great Britain and Europe—women's interests are identical with man's. They can only wish for this right for the betterment of the race, for, in the nature of things woman can never be opposed to the welfare of man (to some of his habits probably, but to his welfare never.) Mothers of the nation must necessarily be interested in the country's rights, laws and progress; they must take an interest in the matters of those laws, which they have to obey with others? Why should they not vote for law makers as well as men?

A woman can hold property and be taxed for it, loan money and be taxed for it. Is she capable to judge what property she shall purchase, yet not capable of deciding in a matter of casting a vote—not to care or take a share in deciding who shall govern the country in which she has to live.

Many women have to bring up families and launch them into the world without aid or advice from any man, and do this well and nobly, but are they to take no thought or interest in the conditions and needs of the country into which they have sent their children. Home is and must ever be the dearest place to woman, but the very safeguard of that home—the laws that protect life and property—are to be in the hands of those who are not in any way responsible to women for the laws they make.

"To give woman the franchise will upset the home." How? Will the right to cast a vote once or so in five years for the legislature take a woman much from her home—will it occupy her more than tennis, golf, afternoon teas, and club meetings? That the bill for the enfranchisement for woman in England was carried to its second reading is a sign that the time is coming when that measure will be granted, and the absurdity of some of the speeches against it only shows the weakness of the opposition to the measure. Ridicule is no argument—the monkey can grimace but has no wisdom.

The remark of Sir William Harcourt, to the effect that most women do not desire it, has to be proved and in itself is no more an argument against it than is the fact that some men, who have the right to vote, and do not trouble themselves to go to the polls, is an argument that their franchise should be taken away.

Surely, now, at this day, none will presume to say the average woman would not be capable of using her vote to the best interests of the country in which she has her home, property or interest at stake.

In fact, looking at the question from an impartial point of view, any person would be compelled to wish for the vote of responsible women to balance the vote of irresponsible men, who are so often led by the saloon owners and who have not one noble ideal or highest interest in life. Would not any candidate for the legislature have far greater honor receiving his election at the hands of capable earnest women than by such votes as these? Women's votes will be worth as much as a man's and have as great a weight.

If the British Columbia legislature refuse the petition which is to be presented to them and will not grant the right of franchise to the women of this province, then let that body be consistent and just, remove taxes from women, allow them to hold property, invest money, own claims and develop them, loan money, build houses, hold land all free from provincial taxation.

"No taxation without representation," was the cry that gave Vancouver Island its first legislative council. Let this apply to women if they are not to have the franchise. Do not allow them to remain in the same situation as the Chinaman, who is taxed and has no voice in the matter.

ONWARD.

THEIR SECOND APPEARANCE.

The second presentation of "The Silent Witness" by the Pastime Amateur Dramatic society drew a fair crowd to the A.O.U.W. hall Saturday night, and in point of merit was decidedly better than Friday night's performance. This was accounted for through the fact that many of the actors, who had had no previous stage experience, acquired confidence in themselves during the first evening. Mr. F. W. Kelly, the "Rufus Stone" of the play, filled a double part, also acting as stage manager and performing his dual duties with equal cleverness. Mr. Kelly has good knowledge of theatricals from having been connected with the Victoria for some years. He himself has written a drama that will be rehearsed next week and that will be presented very shortly. Mr. R. Hutchison is another star in the company whose talent was devoted in more than one way—firstly in the excellent lighting effects produced, then as "Harry Romons" and next as "Hugh Thompson." Mr. and Mrs. D. McLeod, who took parts of "John Andrewe" and "Ruth Armour" respectively; Miss N. Murphy as "Kate Armour;" Miss K. Kelly as "Mrs. Hiram Spriggs;" Mr. D. Daville as "Bill Stearns;" Mr. H. Bechtel as "Thos. Dalton;" Mr. B. B. Temple as "Hiram Spriggs;" Mr. P. Murphy as "Jim Mosied" and "Solomon Goldstein;" and Master Hutchison as "Jimmie" were the other members of the cast, all of whom with a little devotion to the stage art promise well. Assisting the performers were the Serenade Mandolin Club, which played a number of pretty selections, Mr. F. W. Hall, who helped in the stage management, and Mr. B. Temple, who sang very acceptably.

FOUGHT THE BEAR WITH FIRE.

An English tourist recently returned from Nevada, tells how he narrowly escaped from the clutches of a bear. He had scrambled to the top of a large boulder and the bear, wounded in one of its legs, began scratching in the ground at the foot of the boulder, says the Weekly Telegraph.

"Suddenly," he says, "I felt the boulder on which I stood shake and give a sudden downward lurch. It then dawned upon me that the bear was undermining my stronghold, and within a few minutes it would topple over and I be delivered over to his tender mercy. In this emergency I bethought myself of a bottle of brandy which I carried in my pocket. Thinking by pouring its contents over the ground the bear would desist from his mining operations, emptied half of it, but he seemed to be all the more refreshed by the smell and worked away more vigorously than ever.

"There was but half of the brandy left and things were beginning to look serious, when I tried, as a last chance, the extreme remedy of emptying the remainder of the flask onto the back of the bear and throwing a lighted match to the brandy. The flames immediately enveloped the animal, and, with shrieks and yells of pain he skedaddled to my great relief.

"I was presently rejoined by my companions, and with loaded gun we followed up the bear, whom we soon discovered licking his burnt sides, on which very little fur remained. He was so weak after his adventure at the bowlder that we had no difficulty in dispatching him."

IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

LONDON, March 20.—Rev. George F. Pentecost, who recently resigned the pastorate of the Marylebone Presbyterian church in order to accept a call to the First Presbyterian church of Yonkers, N. Y., is a passenger on board the Mohawk, which left London for New York on Thursday last.

LIVERPOOL, March 20.—Monsignor Merri del Val, papal delegate to Canada, sailed for New York to-day on board the Cunard steamer Umbria. He was accompanied to the steamer by a number of friends.

OTTAWA, March 20.—Governor MacIntosh, of the Northwest Territories, is here on business with the government. There is said to be no truth in the story that he intends resigning and settling at Rossland.

ABANDONS SILVER.

NEW YORK, March 20.—S. Uchida, consul of Japan in this city, sent the following communication to the Associated Press today: "I am authorized to say that our country will not dispose of silver, even after she will have adopted the gold standard, as all the available stock of silver is to be coined into subsidiary coins.

EASY VICTIMS.

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Do you shun society?
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Do you have dizziness?
Are your thoughts gloomy?
Is your memory poor?
Have you weak back?
Do your kidneys pain?
Have you exhausted your vitality?
Are your nerves unstrung?
Do you contemplate marriage
Are you fit for matrimony?

WOMEN

Have you periodical headaches?
Do you have bearing-down pains?
Do you feel tired or languid?
Is your womb disarranged?
Is your complexion sallow?
Are you subject to dizzy spells?
Are you constipated?
Are you losing your appetite?
Have you ringing in the ears?
Have you leucorrhoeal discharges?
Have you hysteria?
Is your sleep sound?
Do you have cold feet?

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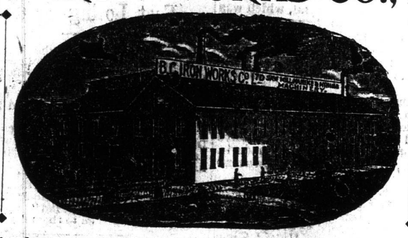

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