

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mrs. J. F. Hall has returned from California much improved in health.

Mr. William Allan contemplates paying a visit to the Old Country shortly.

Mr. Thos. Evans and Miss Alcock, of Vancouver, were married, last Wednesday.

Mrs. A. A. Green and family and Miss Worlock have returned from a visit to England.

Hon. D. W. Higgins and Mrs. Raymur have returned from a short visit to the Midwinter Fair.

The *bal poudre* given by Miss McMicking's class, last Thursday evening, was a highly enjoyable affair.

Mr. A. S. McRae and Miss Annie Reddie were married by Rev. Dr. Campbell, last Wednesday evening.

Mr. E. V. Bodwell, who has been confined to his room through illness, is again able to attend to his law practice.

Mr. Frank R. Higgins, who has been attending the law lecture course at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, is home on a visit.

The Young Ladies' Institute gave a dance in Harmony Hall, Thursday evening. Bantly's orchestra furnished the music.

Mrs. T. N. Hibben leaves for California to-morrow. She will be accompanied by Miss Ella Nelson. Both will visit friends at San Francisco.

An attractive programme has been arranged for the concert to be given in the schoolroom of the Reformed Episcopal church on Wednesday evening, 16th inst.

The leading society event of the week was the marriage, last Wednesday, of Mr. A. S. Innes to Miss Annie Crichton Christie. The bridesmaids were Misses Isabel and Carrie Christie and the groomsmen, Mr. J. G. Innes.

NOT WANTED IN CANADA.

There are signs, says the *Toronto Globe*, that we are drifting far toward the ostentation of royalty at Ottawa. It is a far step from Dublin Castle to democratic Canada. Many fashions and displays that would perhaps seem imposing in the old land, amid aristocratic surroundings and sanctioned by ancient customs, verge upon the grotesque here. What this country wants is plain business methods, and plain, business administration. We may go out on the street corners to look at the four-horse team, and hear the band and see the soldiers go by; but we regard the parade very much as we do

the circus procession with the prancing steeds and the gilded cages and the steam piano. The glittering Windsor uniforms and the richly upholstered pages at the State levee must always seem an unreal part of life in this community, and must always be out of harmony with every true Canadian "function." So the regulations for admission to the presence of vice-royalty which set apart a Senator's entrance, an entrance reserved for members, their wives and daughters, and a third reserved for "ladies and gentlemen other than those mentioned" are absurd, offensive and wholly out of touch with the best Canadian ideals. Lord and Lady Aberdeen have won a close place in the esteem of the mass of the Canadian people. It will be a pity if they encourage the imported ostentation, class distinctions and general social tomfoolery which seem to be on the increase at the Capital. We have the circus and amateur theatricals at the regular rates of admission. Why should we endow either as a regular institution?

SLAVISH SUPPORTERS.

It has not been without reason that the almost slavish support given by the British Columbia members to the Ottawa Government has been commented upon by the Opposition press. The Eastern papers have time and again dwelt upon this peculiarity. It is not to be wondered at that, to a certain extent, the members from an isolated Province like ours should give the administration their first consideration, if such support be at all consistent with the principles of right and justice. Moreover, to look at the matter from the lowest point of consideration, it is not to the Opposition that one must look for the obtainment of the special objects that are at time required, and the courses of the leaders of the Opposition toward this and other distant Provinces, even when they happened to be in power, was not such as to warrant any very high expectations being founded upon their sense of justice, not to say liberality. We, however, must say that we are inclined to think that one and all of our members, with the exception of Senator McInnes,—whose reasons for his political course are well understood—have fully carried out the ideas expressed by the late Sir John Macdonald, when he said that he did not want his friends to specially support him when he was right; for on such occasions almost every one did so; but it was when he was in the wrong that he required endorsement.

Now, for what reasons we know not, it is hard if not impossible to recall a single vote against the Government which has been registered by the members for British Columbia. We may recall two instances of unreasonable servility—if not worse—on their part. Several weeks ago Hon. David Mills, at one time Minister of the Interior, and by no means an inefficient and unreasoning head of a Department, made a proposition that timber and Indian lands should be sold

by public auction. This, he said, would prevent such cases as that of Mr. Rykert, who had bought a limit for \$316 and sold it within a few months for \$50,000. Now the Rykert scandal was a notorious one and stamped that gentleman and those who supported him as being the principal in and the aiders and abettors of a great national steal. To this motion Hon. Mr. Daly offered an amendment that the limits be sold by public competition, that is to say, we presume, by tender, thus preventing the rivalry of competitors from attaining its best results in the public interests and, moreover, allowing the heads of the Department, to say which in their estimation was the most advantageous tender, and in fact defeat the objects of a public sale.

The public is well aware how the interests of the people have time and again been prejudiced by juggling with tenders. In all cases of the kind to which we refer there should not only be a public sale but an upset price, based not upon the opinions of interested parties or those who are likely to be influenced, but upon that of thoroughly posted individuals as to whose honesty and integrity there could not be the slightest question. On the vote on that question however, neither Mr. Earle nor Col. Prior were heard from. That ought to be borne in mind and remembered when the day of election comes, unless they are able to give satisfactory explanations. Mr. Haslam and Mr. Mara voted for Mr. Daly's amendment. We should like to know whether it is by public competition of the description we have mentioned that the Songhees Reserve is to be disposed of when the time comes for its alienation from the Indians. When that time does come, will, we may ask, a ring or combine arrange to shut out all competition and get the lands on their own terms which already are said to have been negotiated for?

Then Mr. Mulock moved—and we must admit that we do not generally take very much stock in him, "that in accordance with the resolutions adopted unanimously by the house in the sessions of 1891 and 1892, it is desirable that any witnesses called before the select standing committee on public accounts be examined under oath or affirmation touching any matter coming before it." As the terms of the resolution show this was no innovation, and the result of the departure made in 1891 and 1892 had been the discovery of a variety of discreditable and dishonest transactions in connection with the McGreevy and other contracts. Why the Government should desire to cover up matters of this kind and others which have not yet come to light seems hard to understand; but whatever it was the British Columbia members were equal to the situation and gave the Government their hearty support to an amendment offered by Sir C. H. Tupper, so as to render it possible, when there might be anything which it was desirable to hide, for majority vote of Government supporters to prevent a thorough investigation that would be safeguarded by the administration of oaths or affirmations administered to the witnesses who might be called.—*British Columbia Commercial Journal.*