The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1888.

## THE PRESS SLANDERED.

It is, it appears, impossible for the Organ of the Opposition to tell the truth. It cannot resist the temptation to misstate and misrepresent. Its violations of the truth are so frequent and so impudent that we are almost weary of directing attention to them. In Wednesday's issue it says that if we are to believe THE COLONIST all the papers of the province support the Robson Government. Then it asks, "Has it really come to this that the newspapers of British Columbia have sacrificed their independence for Government pap." According to our contemporary no newspaper can say a good word for the Government unless its favorable criticisms are well paid for. We are proud to know that the Times does its contemporaries a grievous injustice. The newspapers of British Columbia speak well of the Government when they see that it deserves commendation and they condemn the Opposition when they are convinced that it merits censure. They do this without thought of reward as independent organs of public opinion. The Opposition organ slanders its contemporaries and grossly misrepresents what we said regarding them. In commenting upon the favorable manner in which the policy of the Government was noticed by the press of the province we took especial care to show that some of them do not support the Government. We said expressly that the News-Advertiser is not a recognized supporter of the Government. We said that The Truth of Westminster was not a Government organ. But we did say that, with the exception of the Times, the newspapers of the province were fair and even generous in their criticisms of the present Government. This is very different from claiming them as organs.

Matters have come to a pretty pass in this province when an independent newspaper cannot say a favorable word of the course pursued by the Government in any matter without being reproached by the organ of the Opposition as being subsidized. This is what the Times says of the papers which have lately commended the Government and condemned the line of action taken by the Opposition.

"The Government organs are paid for their support out of the taxes contributed by the poor farmers and by the miners of the province. That is, perhaps, the reason for so many newspapers being on the side of Robson & Co. It pays them."

This is the meanest kind of criticism. There is not, we venture to say, a single newspaper in the province that depends to any considerable extent on Government patronage. If any one of them happened to be in so unfortunate a position as to be dependent on what it received from the Government for means to maintain its existence it would die of inanition in a very short time. What the organ says about "pap" is the merest clap-trap. The Government has very little indeed to give newspapers. It keeps its own printing establishment and all that it has to give in the shape of advertising would not go a very long way towards supporting one newspaper office. This the Times knows very well, but it thinks to bulldoze the independent newspapers by spreading the report that those of them which say a word favorable of the Administration are well paid out of the taxes paid by the poor farmers and by the miners of the province. It also flatters itself that the "poor farmers" and miners will be prejudiced against the papers which, according to it, are paid to support the Government. But those farmers and miners know that Government pays the newspapers for the legitimate work which they do for it and nothing else. It pays for its advertising and other work just as it pays for other business concerns do. No one thinks of calling what a newspaper proprietor gets from a business house for the work he does for it "pap," and why should the money which is paid for doing precisely the same kind of work for the Government be spoken of as if it was a crime to receive it? The attempt of the Times to bring discredit on the newspapers of the province because they approve of what the Government is doing is very contemptible. There is not one of them, we venture to say, that is not quite as independent as to the opinions expressed as is the Times of Victoria. We have no desire to allude in any way to the business of our contemporary or to the motives and influences which make it the Organ of the Opposition, but if it wishes its contemporaries to preserve a decent silence on such subjects it should refrain from attributing to them mercenary motives.

## PREJUDICED AND MALICIOUS

Our evening contemporary permits its prejudices and its antipathies to be altogether too conspicuous. It can never bring itself to say a good word for the Hon. John Robson, and it is abundantly evident that one of the principal articles of its political creed is that the Hon. Theodore Davie can do nothing right or with a proper motive. A few days ago the Attorney-General introduced a bill to change the provincial opium license fee from $250 to $100. He spoke in the most moderate way with regard to the bill and expressed his willingness to accept suggestions from members on either side of the House. His reasons for making the change were purely economic. The high license now imposed brings no revenue, and he was of opinion that if the license were lowered the revenue would be benefitted and the illicit trade in opium stopped. The Leader of the Opposition took the ground that the Chinese dealers would not pay the lower license, but his objections to the bill were not at all strong, and they were expressed very mildly. Mr Duck objected to the bill as it stood, because it would interfere with the municipal regulations with respect to the sale of opium by encouraging illicit traders to set up opium joints in the suburbs just outside the town limits. The Attorney-General saw that there was some force in Mr. Duck's objection, and accepted an amendment which he made, but which was afterwards withdrawn because it was not calculated to accomplish the end intended. But any one could see that Mr. Davie was not particular as to the details of his bill and that he was as anxious as any one else that it would not act unfavorably to the towns. He was quite willing to accept any modification that would remove Mr. Duck's objection, which happens to be the only one which the Times has to advance against the measure. The Attorney-General did not think that the bill as it stood, if it became law, would have the effect which Mr. Duck feared, but to satisfy him and others he was ready to accept any amendment that would be regarded by the objectors themselves as effective. Under such circumstances, for the Times to accuse the Attorney-General of legislating in the interests of a class is simply absurd. No one in the House was so foolish as to prefer such an accusation. The member who would do so when Mr. Davie was so willing to find some way of meeting the objection that had been urged against it would, not to put to fine a point on it, make a fool of himself. But the Times does, without hesitation, what no member of the Assembly was so stupid, so wanting in self-respect and so lost to all sense of decency as to attempt.

## PROLIFIC LEGISLATORS.

The legislators of the new State of Washington appear determined to make a prodigal use of their recently acquired powers. They seem bound to give the young State laws enough to last it for half a century. The members of the legislature do not hesitate to use the tactics of older, more experienced and presumably less scrupulous law makers. They may have some of the freshness but they have but little of the innocence of youth. Their industry has given considerable uneasiness to those who have a regard for the welfare of the state. The Post Intelligencer begs them in all kindness to hold their hand. Its expostulations are almost pathetic. It says that

"A few, a very few, laws are needed for putting into execution powers conferred upon the state and heretofore exercised by the federal government or held in abeyance; and laws affording proper authority for the adoption by our chief cities of charters adapted to their advanced condition and future prospects. Beyond this the people neither desire nor will approve your going."

But the callow legislators do not appear to have the least intention of following such good advice. They are evidently under the impression that the new state will not be able to get along unless they make laws for all classes and conditions of men, and for the regulation of every interest in the community. They have evidently, by their fussiness, made the Post-Intelligencer tired. It has become weary of witnessing their attempts to become a second Providence for the state that has been placed under their jurisdiction, for it goes on to say:

"Class legislation, laws for the protection of this, that, and the other special interest, or to reflect as many cranky notions; medical bills or bills against vaccination bills and wild boars, bills against Canadian thistles and on scores of similar subjects can with perfect safety, and without the least danger of public disapproval, be relegated to the limbo of a convenient hereafter."

It says in effect, "do what is necessary and no more, and then go home and take a rest." But the Legislature has no idea of being guided by the common-sense of Seattle's leading newspaper. They are bound to let the people of the State of Washington see that they know what is good for them and what is hurtful, and that they will compel them to walk in the way that they should go. For instance, the wise men in Olympia see that the citizens of Washington swallow altogether too much patent medicine, that they drench themselves with preparations without having the slightest idea as to what they are composed of. They have, therefore, enacted a law making it illegal to sell any patent medicine which shall not have written in English upon the label or wrapper thereof its full and accurate formula. The wise men of Washington State think that if the sick and those who imagine themselves sick know what it is they are recommended to swallow they will be less apt than they are to buy the drugs. But this is quite a mistake. Let the patient once take it into his head that there is a curative virtue in any substance whatever, and he will use it readily whether he is familiar with its name or not. The Post-Intelligencer very properly protests against what it calls "monkeying with the statute book." It is folly to attempt to regulate the lives of men and women by statute law. A margin must be left for the exercise of individual judgment, and the wider that margin is the better.

All the legislation of the Solons of Olympia is not of the grandmotherly kind. Our Seattle contemporary says:

"In many cases the propositions, which are moulded into the form of legal enactment, are but flimsily disguised schemes for selfish aggrandisement, but more frequently they make the state a solemn and binding enactment of the author's narrow bias and prejudice."

The manœuvres of those who are engeavoring to engineer railroad bills through the legislature shows that the first part of our contemporary's criticism is just. Those who are trying to get their pet projects through the House, and those who are doing their best to kill other people's pet projects, are creating as much confusion in Olympia as scheming politicians are in older centres of legislation." Let us hope that the legislators of Washington State will grow wiser as they grow older, and that experience will convince some of the schemers that, after all, honesty is the best policy.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth! If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind. myH-eod-w

## NOT TO BE BURKED.

Those who went to the Assembly on Friday evening to hear a debate on the already much discussed education question were disappointed. Mr. Semlin was not prepared to go on with his motion. We are not surprised that Mr. Semlin felt indisposed to proceed with the matter. It is more than likely that the enquiries he had made convinced him that it was best for his own credit and for the interests of the party to which he belongs to let the matter drop. If would have been more prudent if he had made his enquiries before he handed in his notice of motion, instead of after it had been some time before the House and the public. If he had taken the former course he would have found that matters were not as they were represented to him, and that nothing was to be gained by taking up a bad cause that had been so recklessly handled by clumsy and unprincipled advocates. The Government, however, are not disposed to permit Mr. Semlin to retreat in this manner. He has gone too far to draw back. The enemies of the Government must have no pretext for saying that, they allowed matters connected with the Education Department to be covered up. The information asked for must be placed before the House and the country. Mr. Semlin and those whose stories he listened to, and whose suggestions he adopted, must be told all they wanted to know, and perhaps a little more. The Government court enquiry into the way in which the Department of Education is administered and if that enquiry brings to light more than Mr. Semlin and those who tried to use him for their own purposes wanted to be made public they must only blame themselves.

## A PARLIAMENTARY DIFFICULTY.

There has been a tremendous row in the United States House of Representatives. Speaker Reed has had as much as he could do—and a little more—to keep the members in anything like decent order. Parties are pretty evenly divided in that body. The Republicans number 188 and have a majority of seven. But it requires 185 members to make a quorum, so that if four of the Republican members are absent there will not be enough of that party present to form a quorum. The Democrats have with regard to certain questions respecting elections pursued an obstructive policy. They have hit upon a device to bring the work of the House to a complete standstill. They hold that if members in the House refrain from voting they must be considered as absent, and that in making up the quorum they cannot be counted. If this rule were accepted no business could be done in the House if there were not 185 Republicans present, no matter how many Democrats might be in their seats. With us there cannot be a "count out" if there is a quorum present, and in making up the quorum all members are counted, no matter to what party they belong or whether they vote or not. Speaker Reed has ruled that a member who is in the House cannot be considered as absent, but must be counted whether he likes it or not. This is the practice that obtains in the British House of Commons. A member if he is within the purlieus of the House does not possess the right to be absent from the chamber when the vote is taken. He cannot be compelled to vote, but he can be challenged for not voting, and his reason is taken down and put on the records of the House. When the division bell rings and "Absent members" is called by the Speaker, every representative in the building is supposed to take his seat. If the practice which the American Democrats sought to establish were allowed the minority could do pretty much what they pleased. All that they had to do in order to defeat any measure to which they were opposed would be to refrain from voting. But the Democrats, wily tacticians as they are, were defeated by the firmness of the Speaker. It is surprising that the Democratic party should try to obstruct the business of the House and to gain their ends by a device that looks suspiciously like a fraud. For a man who is immediately under the Speaker's nose, so to speak, to insist upon being considered as absent, seems about as impudent a demand as could be made. But it appears that the Democrats could cite some venerable precedent in favor of their contention, which they tried to make the most of. But they could make no impression on the Speaker. He stood firmly by his ruling, although the storm raised by the disappointed Democrats was something terrific. He was upheld by the House, and will be, no doubt, upheld by the country.

## ANGRY AND ABUSIVE.

Our remarks on the return called for by Mr. Grant have roused the ire of both our Vancouver contemporaries. The News-Advertiser fairly boils over with rage, and attempts to crush us under the weight of one of the heaviest articles we ever had the ill fortune to read. The World is more moderate in the expression of its indignation, but its language is the reverse of complimentary. What have we done to bring down on our unfortunate head such an avalanche of abuse? Simply commented upon official figures which show that the citizens of Victoria possess nearly seven times as much personal property and income as do those of Vancouver. We are afraid that it is the publication of this fact in a form which makes contradiction impossible that vexes our touchy contemporaries. We did not, in the article which is so obnoxious to them both, say one word in disparagement of Vancouver. We did not try to belittle the terminal city in any way. We merely contrasted the official statement with the attempts which certain boomers in Vancouver are continually making to lower Victoria in the estimation of visitors and the inhabitants of the other provinces. That is the head and front of our offending. There is hardly a day in which some statement does not reach us, made by persons interested in booming Vancouver in which this city is grossly traduced and misrepresented. So often are remarks of this character repeated to us that we have come to the conclusion that an organized attempt is made by real estate speculators and others on the other side of the Gulf to exalt Vancouver at the expense of Victoria. We took the opportunity that the publication of the Return afforded to let these very clever people know that we in Victoria are aware of the little game that they are playing, and to direct attention to the fact that nine-tenths of what is said by them to the prejudice of this city can easily be proved to be utterly devoid of truth. Is there anything wrong in Victorians taking their own part? Is it wicked in those who feel an interest in the welfare directing the attention of the strangers whom her business are attempting to deceive to facts and figures which clearly prove that what is said against her is, for the most part, malicious falsehoods? Are Victorians to make no reply to those who make a business of maligning their city? Are they to be called all sorts of names because they, in a perfectly legitimate way, expose the lies of their maligners? Let them, now and then, without exposing themselves to a perfect storm of vituperation, blow their own trumpet.

We want our irate contemporaries to observe that we did not follow the bad example of the Vancouver boomers. We did not write one word that can be considered injurious to Vancouver. We do not feel inclined to do anything of the kind. We are glad to see Vancouver prosper. We believe that the mainland city has a brilliant future before it. We would listen with interest and amusement to the booming of its boomers if they would only make up their minds to refrain from running down Victoria. They surely can expatiate upon the advantages of Vancouver without inventing disadvantages for Victoria. They can magnify their own city as much as they like, but it cannot be expected that we will allow them to minify ours without our uttering a word of contradiction or remonstrance. It was against this practice of disparaging Victoria that we protested in the article which has given the World and the News-Advertiser such offence. Our remarks were directed against those only who indulge in this mischievous practice—against whom, by the way, neither of the Vancouver papers has a word to say. It may be that the cap fitted them too well, and hence the outbursts of indignation. But we advise them to keep cool; their strong language does not give us the least concern. We have given them no cause of offence. We have said nothing against them or their city. We have simply begun to take our own part.

## GOADED TO DESPERATION.

Those who are resisting despotism in Russia possess the courage of despair. The devotion of the Nihilists to the cause they have espoused is extraordinary. Not only do strong men engage in desperate enterprises, but weak women take their lives in their hands to carry out the deadly designs of the conspirators. There are among these Nihilists men, women and boys. Their nature seems to be completely changed by the contemplation of the wrongs which the people of Russia are compelled to endure. People living in a free country like this can hardly imagine circumstances which would induce a young girl, delicately nurtured and of irreproachable character, in the ordinary sense of the terms, to engage in a plot to assassinate public officials and to carry about with her the means to accomplish the design of the conspiracy when the opportunity offered. But such women are found in Russia. Olga Goutcharensko was one of them. She is described as being nineteen years of age and was the only daughter of the director of Government telegraphs at Moscow. What could such a girl, moving in such a sphere, have to do with plots and plotters? Balls and parties and excursions of pleasure of one kind or another would, one would think, with her domestic duties, occupy the whole of her attention. But Olga, though the daughter of a public official, was a Nihilist, and attended the meetings of Nihilists. The Chief of the Secret National Police of Moscow received information that the Nihilists met in the house of M. Andrieff. He made up his mind to visit the residence of this M. Andrieff to see if his information was correct. He concealed himself in a place from which he could see all who entered and left the house. He saw several persons enter, and among them some that were under the surveillance of the police. He determined to arrest the next person who should ring the bell. This person was the young lady we have named. He went up to her and touched her arm. He had scarcely done so when she turned upon him and fired a revolver which she must have held in her hand. The ball entered the brain of the officer and he died instantly. Olga, without a moment's hesitation, held the pistol to her own head and fell a corpse across the body of the man she had murdered. No doubt she had made up her mind to do this long before. She knew that escape was impossible, and that death was preferable to the treatment she would be sure to receive at the hands of those to whom the administration of the law was entrusted. The house in which the meeting was to be held was afterwards searched by the police, but no one was found there.

The fate of this unfortunate girl will not deter others from following her example. There is a fascination about Nihilism for some Russians—it is impossible to say how many. They will join the conspiracy in spite of every difficulty and every restraint, and they are ready to sacrifice their lives in order to accomplish its purposes. The organization is a wonderful one, and the resolution and fortitude shown by those who belong to it are truly marvellous.

## AWFULLY SLOW.

We see now and then in the American newspapers assertions that the United States Pacific railroads were built by private enterprise, and that Canadian roads which have been subsidized by the Dominion should not be permitted to compete with them for American freight. This statement does not agree with what we see. We see that the very big Pacific railroads are now asking for more aid. We notice, for instance, that San Francisco people think the Senate committee on Pacific railroads will make a report favoring an extension of time for the payment of the Union Pacific debt of fifty years, at three per cent, and that the Central Pacific will be given a hundred years to pay its indebtedness, at two per cent. From this we find that the people of the United States have lent immense sums to those roads which they say enable, or unwilling, to pay. Roads that were built by public money, borrowed at low rates of interest, hardly be said to be private enterprises in the strict sense of the term, and when it comes to be known that the railway companies have paid neither principal nor interest it is something like an abuse of language to call them private enterprises. We have heard, too, of grants of land being given to these Pacific railway companies. When the public money and the public land that were contributed to construct these roads are taken into consideration, it will be seen that the Government and people of the United States have done almost, if not altogether, as much for the American Pacific railroads as the Dominion Government has done for the Canadian Pacific. As for the Grand Trunk, it was built almost altogether by private enterprise. The assistance it received from the Government was comparatively trifling.

## THE "TIMES" AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

It is a precious small business when a newspaper has to resort to perpetual misrepresentation and the distortion of truth in order to make points against its opponents. Yet this is the course of the Opposition newspaper in this city, which has not yet since the opening of the present session discussed the merits of a single measure brought before the House, but has contented itself, first of all, with misreporting what has occurred in the Legislature, and in the next place, torturing the sayings and doings of every public man not in sympathy with the Opposition. This course of conduct has not been confined to a few instances, but has been and is the policy of the Times, until at last it has been taken to task by every contemporary in the province, both friends as well as opponents.

A newspaper by acting in this way entirely destroys any capacity for good which it may have, as by gaining the reputation of an habitual falsifier the intelligent public fail to appreciate any point made by it, even when, as is very seldom, it speaks the truth.

It first utters a falsehood, and then, when exposed, instead of acknowledging its error it ignores the correction, and either withdraws from the subject or else goes on repeating the mistatement. The organ was thoroughly exposed in its untruthfulness about the Attorney-General and the other members of the Government on the Legal Professions' bill, since which exposure it has carefully avoided alluding to the subject. A month or two ago, it asserted in reference to something which appeared in the "World" newspaper that if that journal would call attention to a solitary measure carried through the House by the Hon. the Attorney-General which did not legislate for the classes as against the masses, it would make the amende honorable. The World in September challenged the Times to refer to a single instance of class legislation introduced by the Attorney-General, and then instanced a string of measures brought in by the Hon. the Attorney-General directly favoring and helping the condition of the workingman; but there was neither the "amende honorable" from the Times nor a word calling in question the accuracy of the World's facts or the soundness of its arguments.

Now, when the Times thinks that the little incident we have alluded to has passed out of mind, it comes out again, and accuses the Attorney-General of class legislation and this time, because a measure is introduced having for its object, the reduction of the license upon opium in country districts, where high license produces no addition to the revenue at all. Instead of recognizing the public utility of the measure, the object of which is to gain revenue where none is now collected, the Times affects to recognize only an effort to favor those selling opium and returns to its charge of class legislation, from which it injudiciously retired six weeks ago. The argument, if it can be termed such, that the measure, as originally introduced, would have the effect of destroying the revenue from this source in municipalities by traders going outside of the cities to establish places of business was entirely demolished in the House by the arguments of the Premier and the Attorney-General, and by the very illustration put by our evening contemporary in its Wednesday's issue, when it argued that if whiskey licenses were higher in cities than they were outside that saloons would be more plentiful and better patronized, when situated outside the cities, because they could sell cheaper. Yet the high license in cities for saloons and a comparatively trifling license fee outside of cities is exactly what obtains at the present time, and does this difference increase the business of the country houses, or make them sell cheaper? Every day's experience answers this question, and so does the contention that a country trader in opium, or any other article, would, in consequence of a lower license be enabled to undersell a concern in the heart of a city paying a higher license.

Our contemporary, however, prefers not to discuss the merits of the case, but to misquote, and falsify, the language of its adversaries.

We leave it alone in such a miserable course and should advise it before again connecting the name of the Hon. Theo. Davie with class legislation, to answer the World's refutation of its previous assertion to the same effect.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

In any measure that is passed during the present session for the preservation of game there should be a provision forbidding the killing of elk for at least five years. The only elk that are left are to be found on the Island of Vancouver. They were once plentiful on the mainland, but they appear to have been totally exterminated. The elk still living on the island will soon share the same fate if something is not done to preserve them from destruction. The measure that we recommend here is, in the opinion of men who have considered the subject carefully, the only one that has any chance of proving effective.

Now that a permanent assessor and building inspector has been appointed would it not be well for the City Council to make new regulations with respect to the erection of buildings within the city's limits? Should not each person proposing to build be required to notify the inspector and to send with the notification a description of the building which he proposed to erect, with full particulars as to its dimensions, the materials to be used and the probable cost? Such particulars when put on record would be useful for reference in various ways, and would be a good guide in making assessments in the future. The building regulations might be revised with benefit to all concerned, and rules should be made with respect to the amount of street obstruction allowable to builders, both as to the breadth of street they might occupy and the time that the obstruction should be allowed to stand. Whatever regulations are made should be strictly and impartially carried out.

It is beginning to be suspected that the revolution in Brazil has not advanced in a cause of human freedom in the slightest degree. The people of Brazil find that the revolutionists have dethroned a mild and humane ruler who governed the country according to the constitution, to place in authority a military dictator who is neither wiser nor better than the Emperor he deposed and whose methods are very far from being constitutional. The people of Brazil were at first surprised into silence and acquiescence. They have had time since to get over the shock which Fonseca's "coup d'etat" caused, and they are no longer silent and acquiescent. There are indications of uneasiness and discontent in many places, and the provincial Government is said to have resorted to means the reverse of mild to quell revolts and to prevent the discontented giving expression to their complaints. The truth seems to be that neither the people nor the self-appointed rulers of Brazil are fit to work republican institutions. The great bulk of the people are extremely ignorant. They do not know what their rights as free men are, and if they did know, they are unfit to exercise them. They want to be governed. They require institutions which will save them the trouble of thinking and acting for themselves. They may rebel against Fonseca's dictatorship, but it will be only to place power in the hands of some other dictator. There are not enough republicans in Brazil to run a republic, and it is to be feared that the people have a stormy time ahead of them.

## GAME PRESERVATION.

TO THE EDITOR:—I am much interested in some of your recent correspondence, in connection with game preservation. "Chee Chako's" propositions are a step in the right direction, but he does not go far enough. Instead of muleting visitors in a heavy sporting license we should be prepared to lighten our own purses. Visitors would, I think, look upon us as a rather miserly community, if we entered our game laws by means of the money extracted from their pockets in the shape of a heavy license, while we Islanders enjoyed the enhanced sport duty free. If we are beginning at the wrong end of the stick; we should look at home for the remedy which shall preserve for us in perpetuity the game which forms one of the principal attractions of our Island. Let us begin with our game birds, birds indigenous to the soil, willow and blue grouse. There are a great number of sportsmen on the island who never shoot out of season, and who would scorn to shoot a bird sitting in a tree; their idea is to match their skill and cunning with that of the bird. They like to see the bird do his best to escape and then to do their best to overtake him, not for the pleasure of eating him, but for the satisfaction which follows a quick difficult shot, where eye, finger and gun must act as one machine for compassing the end in view. The true sportsman does not consider a bird sitting in a tree as a bird doing his best to escape, and therefore will not shoot at him. Now, who are they that do do this sitting shot business? Chiefly small boys who, having been imprudently armed with a gun by thoughtless parents, think themselves accomplished sportsmen because they have murdered two or three grouse sitting in a tree, forgetting that the hitting of a brick-bat on top of a stump requires as equal amount of skill, now, as these small boys are legion during the shooting season, it follows that an immense amount of game is killed and miserably unfair manner, the poor bird stands no chance whatever. If parents, admiring the precocity of their small boys, wish them to learn the art of hitting something in a tree with a charge of shot, the result can readily be arrived at by sending each one of them alone into the forest with a brick-bat in his pocket, this he can put on top of a stump and blaze away until the requisite amount of precision has been attained; the juvenile sporting annals of this province are sufficiently sad to prove simply the folly of allowing several boys to go out shooting together. During last year I had unusual opportunity for observing the destruction of game out of season; this game of course was not exposed for sale in the butchers' shops, but it was either eaten or disposed of in some way satisfactory to the killer, and it is a wonder to me that there is any game of any kind left in the inhabited part of the island. And now, let me turn to deer shooting. The true sportsman never kills a deer for the sake of eating or selling him; he does it as a means of healthful exercise and to satisfy himself of his skill with a bullet, and yet I will venture to assert that 90 per cent. of all the deer killed in Vancouver Island are slaughtered for the sake of the few dollars that may be made out of their flesh; and often for the hide or horns alone. If a man kills deer on his own property, for his own use or that of his friends during open season, he cannot very well be blamed if he makes a few dollars by sale of meat, hide and horns; the assumption is that with an eye to future profit he will take care not to exterminate his game. But no man should be allowed to kill game of any kind, for sale, upon government lands, by so doing he is working an injury to the public, who are the owners of such lands and of the game thereon; if any man by shooting or otherwise makes money upon public property, the public ought to have a share in the proceeds. Almost every farmer in this country carries a gun for shooting deer, but few of them are satisfied with the deadly weapon, they must needs call in the services of dogs to chase the deer, taking up a position which experience has taught them the terrified animals will most likely pass, while trouble to the poor hounds is entailed in following the game over the mainland, but they appear to have been totally unnerved. The elk still living on the island will soon share the same fate if something is not done to preserve them from destruction. The measure that we recommend here is, in the opinion of men who have considered the subject carefully, the only one that has any chance of proving effective.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Victoria, B. C., May 16th, 1887. eod-tf-dw

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42 in. Cashmeres, colors, 45c.
42 in. Cashmeres, union colors, 25c.
46 in. Amazon Cloth, excellent quality, sold at $1.15, now 90c.
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A few splendid dress ends in Black, Peau De Soe, Merv, etc., ranging from 87½c. to $1.35. These are rare bargains.
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From $4 to $8 per yard.

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My daughter, after a severe attack of Scarlet Fever, was completely broken down. I spent hundreds of dollars in doctors' bills with but little satisfaction. Before she had taken one bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters, there was a remarkable change, and now she is entirely cured. MRS. HOPPERSON.

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THIRTY-SECO

THE SPECIAL REPO

Of the Commission Presen to Parliament.

The Times' Parnell Letter wa Forgery.

The Clan-na-Gael Engaged in Prome the use of Dynamite for Destructio of Life and Property.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The report of Parnell special commission presente parliament to-day finds that some m leaders of the House of Commons were members of the conspiracy to estab the absolute independence of Irel but that some of them, together Michael Davitt, joined the Land Le with the intention of accomplishing its means the independence of Ire of a separate nation. The com who wrote for Parnell and the other prominent members of insincerity in t letters of the Phœnix Park m forgeries, and finds that the fac mitted, which he published in the Times, p which this charge was chiefly basc against Parnell, was a forgery. respondents did not directly in crime except intimidation, which di die with the result that the crimes outrages were committed by those inc The commission also finds that the spondents defended agrarian prison but the charge was not proved that were intimate with the criminals or they hel