Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1885

MR. STEPHEN'S LETTER.

The letter of Mr. Geo. Stephen, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to which allusion was made yesterday, has been laid before parliament. Mr. Stephen complains that the credit of the company has been damaged by reports industriously circulated to the effect that the line would never pay working expenses and that the government would be compelled to take possession and work it at a loss variously estimated at from $3,000,000 to $3,000,000 per annum. These statements, he says, frightened capitalists, and the stock became unsaleable above 40; that the amount of the loan provided by the act of last session was $22,500,000, $7,500,000 of which were appropriated to pay existing obligations, leaving $15,000,000, for the purpose of completing the contract, and this amount, taken with the $12,710,000 unpaid subsidy then in the hands of the government, made a total of $27,710,000, which was available to carry on the work under contract; that the mode provided by the act for obtaining payment out of this fund made it impossible that any part of it could be drawn from the government for any purpose except for the bare cost of construction and for rolling stock; that the government advanced the money to the company, less 10 per cent., upon the actual cost of the work. The company report that they expended on main line and branches $52,595,842; on equipment, $9,168,755; on improvement of government lines, $1,241,780; the material on hand amounts to $3,687,720. They have expended on advances to secure access to the seaboard, and for other purposes within the charter, and on based lines, $5,857,223. The total expenditure to 31st December last was $72,551,329. The company have received from the government about 700 miles of railway costing about $32,000,000; subsidy, $25,000,000; loan, $22,500,000; and government guarantee for $7,500,000; the company have received from the public treasury to pay interest on dividends, $5,372,000; interest on land grant bonds, $532,734. There remains in the hands of the government the sum which the company intends shall be applied, not to the railway, but to pay the stockholders' dividends, amounting to $14,228,288, making a total of $20,300,000. Mr. Stephen says that the expenditure during the year, outside of the contract for the purpose of furnishing machinery, elevators and workshops, and providing terminal facilities, will amount to about $5,000,000, and that in order to keep faith with the shareholders provision had to be made for the payment of the promised extra dividend, so that the interest paid during the year amounted to $8,000,000. Mr. Stephen says that the amount remaining in the hands of the government on the 31st December last was $8,726,949, being sufficient to complete the performance of all the obligations of the company under the contract. In order that the company may procure additional capital for the efficient working of the road, Mr. Stephen proposes that the $35,000,000 of unsold stock shall be cancelled; that authority be given the company to issue in lieu thereof $35,000,000 of 4 per cent 50 year mortgage bonds, that shall be a first charge upon the road; that the government shall accept $15,000,000 of these bonds in part settlement of the loan to the company, and that the balance of the loan is to be paid off by a reduction of the land grant at the rate of $2 per acre. The company propose to build the Manitoba and Southwestern Railway, and to complete the line to Sault and Ste. Marie; to secure connection with the city of Quebec, and with reasonable aid from the government to extend the C. P. R. to some ocean port in the maritime provinces, and to extend the Ontario division to the Detroit river. To enable the company to provide for present wants, they ask for a loan of $5,000,000 for a period of eighteen months, to be secured by a lien on the postal subsidy payable by the government, and by a deposit with the company of $5,000,000 of 4 per cent mortgage bonds. If these terms are accepted, the company ask that an amount of the land grant in the hands of the government, equivalent to the number of acres deducted from the land grant must be cancelled, the balance of these bonds to be returned to the company. The London Advertiser and other liberal journals say that the company have aid far beyond their actual expenses, and call on parliament to carefully consider the whole matter. It is even suggested by some journals who profess to be alarmed at the way in which the Canadian Pacific company have involved the finances of the country that the opposition in parliament should talk against time and thus precipitate a catastrophe which all British citizens should wish to see averted, viz: the ruin of the Canadian Pacific company.

COLONEL OTTER'S BOLD DASH.

The dash of Colonel Otter on Poundmaker's forces was successful. It was made against orders; and Poundmaker was routed and taken prisoner, together with 130 of his followers. It was a bold and plucky thing in this citizen soldier to attack an enemy numerically his superior and posted on ground of his own selection. The exploit is seasoned with the spice that Lord Nelson found so pleasant at Copenhagen—disobedience. Gen. Middleton's plan was to relieve Prince Albert, where Colonel Irvine and 300 mounted police are beleagured, and then, taking steamboats, to relieve Battleford, defeating Poundmaker and Big Bear on the way. Colonel Otter, we take it, was instructed to stand on the defensive; but he is a man of action, and preferred to do a little fighting on his own account. His losses are very severe, the dead numbering 41 and the wounded numbering probably twice as many more. The aim of a wise commander is to waste as few lives in attaining his object as possible. Hence, Gen. Middleton at the battle of Fish Creek lost only eight men killed and some 36 wounded; and in the fighting at Batouche, which lasted three days, he lost but six killed outright and 32 wounded. Col. Otter in his single fight with Poundmaker, begun contrary to orders, has lost in killed and wounded at least 150 men. This is a terrible mortality, indeed; and we cannot help thinking that if Gen. Middleton's orders had not been transgressed much, if not all, of the loss might have been prevented. A commander who wilfully disobeys the orders of his chief assumes a heavy responsibility; and when through his disobedience is involved a loss of life which, had he not been restive under control, might have been wholly or in part avoided, the weight of the responsibility is increased one hundredfold. Gen. Middleton has aimed from the first to save his men while inflicting the most deadly injury upon the enemy. Col. Otter, perhaps, has thought more of glory than of the safety of his army; and although he won—for which we feel thankful—who will say that his victory was not bought at a fearful price? Had he waited for Middleton Poundmaker might have surrendered without firing a shot.

THE SPECIAL JURORS.

The jurors who tried the case of the Kwong Lee Co. and failed to agree publish a card expressive of indignation at the remark of the chief justice when discharging them. The jury in question was particularly able, intelligent and respectable, and their failure to come to a decision is not, we feel sure, attributable to an unworthy cause. They differed and differed honestly. It must be remembered, however, that the chief justice did not say the jury was open to bribery. The remark was that Chinese would imagine that white juries were open to bribery. The remark was certainly not merited and was one of those things that had better be left unsaid.

VLADIVOSTOCK—ITS IMPORTANCE TO RUSSIA.

If the trouble between Russia and Great Britain should result in war the Asiatic coast of Russia will probably become a scene of great naval activity. From that port Russian cruisers may go forth to prey on British commerce or strike a deadly blow at British power on the Pacific by a sudden descent on the harbors of Victoria and Esquimalt. Vladivostock stands on the upper Japan Sea, near the Chinese and Corean frontier, in a deep bight in the coast line. It is fully fifty miles southwest of the point where the Amoor river empties into the Sea of Okhotsk. Up to the time of the Orimean War, a large portion of the lower Amoor Valley belonged nominally to China, but the Russians had established themselves at the mouth of this river, and waited patiently until they had a chance to extend and consolidate their authority. In 1858, by the treaty of the Aigune, China ceded to Russia the left bank of the Amoor river down to the confluence of the Tsuri, and below that point both banks. This treaty was afterwards disavowed by the Chinese authorities, but their difficulty with France and England, whose armies occupied Peking, enabled Gen. Ignatieff to obtain a second treaty in November, 1860, which confirmed his sovereign in possession of the territories above named, and more minutely defined the boundaries. "This acquisition of territory," said a writer in the Edinburgh Review twelve years ago, "magnificent as it was in the vast extent of country thereby added to the Russian dominions, had its chief value—for the moment at least—in the fact of its conferring the long-coveted advantages of accessible harbors on the Pacific coast in a comparatively temperate latitude, where navigation is impeded by ice for, at the most, three or four months during the year. The southernmost gulf of the newly-ceded region, lying in latitude 43 degs. N., contains numerous fine harbors and inlets." The river Tumen was now the southern boundary of Russia in these parts, and divided its province from the kingdom of Corea. The territory has been finally rounded off and completed, as it were, by the treaty with Japan, made in 1875, by which the latter cedes to Russia, in exchange for the Kurile Islands, the southern portion of the great island of Saghalien.

Vladivostock, which lies near the southern point of the territory thus acquired, stands on one of the finest harbors in the world, with anchorage for sixty or seventy ships of war and two hundred merchantmen. There is an outer anchorage, which is a fairly snug roadstead, called the Eastern Bosphorous. From this runs direct to the right the inner harbor, called the Golden Horn, after a less convenient, if more celebrated, port in Europe. This is about three miles long, and not much above half a mile wide. The largest ships can ride within a few yards of the shore. The peculiar form of the port renders its defense by torpedoes and batteries easy.

The necessaries of life, which have to be brought from Corea and Manchuria, are dear, but the great necessity of warlike operations—coal—is available in case of blockade, as there is a seam of coal near by, although not of the best quality. Extensive dry docks have been constructed by the Russian government. The harbor is free from ice during ten months of the year.

PORT HAMILTON—ITS VALUE TO ENGLAND.

While Russia has been concentrating stores and warlike appliances at Vladivostock, England has made a counter-move by the seizure of Port Hamilton, some 600 miles to the south, which commands the Corean Straits, the southern entrance to the Sea of Japan. The Nan How group of islands consists of the two large islands Sodo and Sushodo, with a smaller island, called Observatory Island. The larger islands are deeply indented, their northern ends almost meeting, while Observatory Island is situated between their southeastern points, forming the spacious and well-sheltered harbor known as Port Hamilton, the main entrance to which is in the southeastern part of the group. This entrance will admit vessels of the greatest draught, while the northern entrance, 250 yards wide, may be used by small vessels in fine weather. The holding-ground is excellent, and there is room in the harbor for a large fleet. Port Hamilton is so well protected that it affords shelter in the worst weather. Sodo, the largest of these islands, is 650 feet high, and Sushodo is 783 feet. They both present rugged, bold sides on either side of the entrance, and, if fortified, in connection with Observatory Island, could be defended against any force. There are several Corean villages on these islands containing about two thousand people. Every available spot is cultivated, the principal crop being millet. Port Hamilton is over thirty miles off the main Corean coast and forty miles north of the large island of Quelpart. By occupying these islands England has removed her base of supplies, in the event of war, over 1000 miles nearer to Vladivostock, as Port Hamilton is only 140 miles from Nagasaki, where the inexhaustible coal mines are being worked, and she can, within two weeks, make a depot of coal which will last her fleet for months. Sufficient supplies can also be gathered in a short time from Hongkong and the Chinese and Japanese ports to make her quite independent of neutrals after war is declared. The English fleet will not only guard the Corean strait, but can gather at Port Hamilton for any descent upon the Russian possessions in Siberia. With the Corean strait thus guarded, and one or two ironclads in the Straits of La Perouse and Tsugar, the Russian fleet will be practically confined to the Sea of Japan, and no vessel can escape to prey upon English commerce. The reasons which influenced the British government to seize upon Port Hamilton are thus made plain. The Russian cruisers in the Sea of Japan must remain there, and those out in the North Pacific will be kept from reaching their base of supplies. What Corea thinks of England's action is quite an unimportant matter, without the treaty powers interpose some objections. Japan will certainly be disgusted to find that she has such a powerful neighbor, and China will be equally indignant when she realizes that England is almost one thousand miles nearer Pekin. Hongkong has been a thorn in her side for many years, and Port Hamilton will be even a sharper one.

THE NEW WESTMINSTER MEETING.

The resolutions passed by the public meeting at New Westminster ought to open the eyes of the Ottawa government to the pernicious effect that the land and timber regulations promulgated by the recent order in council will exert on the chief industries of the province. If the rate charged for public lands is advanced to $2.50 an acre, and if the proposed heavy tax on timber is imposed, settlement on the railway belt will cease, scores who are already there will throw up their holdings and quit the country, and provincial lumber mills, unable to compete with mills on the American side will shut down. In this threatening state of affairs what is to be done? Appeal to the Ottawa government to rescind the order in council and failing relief to declare the union dissolved and British Columbia free to return to her allegiance to the old flag! A sentiment similar to this, expressed at New Westminster, was ominously applauded. The new regulations are most hurtful to the province and are not what were stipulated under the Settlement Act. They are, in fact, a direct violation of that remedial measure and will not be tolerated without a struggle which may end in a disturbance of the friendly relations between the Canada and the province.

WOUNDED AT BATOUCHE.—Lieut. Laidlaw, of the Midland battallion, who was wounded at the battle of Batouche, is a son of George Laidlaw, Esq., of Toronto. Lieut. Laidlaw and his brother passed some weeks in Victoria last summer. His wound is happily slight.

CHEMAINUS.—The sawmill is running night and day, and is turning out large quantities of lumber.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 9th.

GOING FOR THE FRENCHMEN.

There was a lively time in the chamber yesterday respecting an editorial which recently appeared in the Toronto News. That journal on several occasions recently has been giving the French Canadians what the Yankees term "Helen Blazes;" but a week ago it transcended all its previous efforts in a violent attack on the Quebecers, intimating plainly that the French-speaking province was the great drag on the wheels of confederation and that all its representatives were actuated only by personal interest, grabbing everything for themselves and leaving nothing for the other provinces. The indignation of the Frenchmen is at white heat, and seemingly the matter was brought up in the house to ascertain which party the paper spoke for. The leaders on both sides disavowed it, each striving to make out that the News represented the other side. The real facts in the case are that the News was originally started by the proprietors of the Toronto Mail. About a year ago it was sold to E. E. Sheppard, a Canadian who has had an extensive training on the press of the United States. He is a democrat of the most pronounced type, goes in for Americanizing our institutions, and while pretending to be independent gives a general support to the reform party from the fact that his platform is in accord with many of the planks in the liberal one. His journal, however, can by no means be considered as committing any political party to its views.

THE NEW LIBRARIAN.

Talking of matters journalistic reminds me that the present editor of the Mail will soon receive his reward at the hands of his party. The other evening the question of reorganising the staff of the parliamentary library came up for discussion. As your readers are aware the chief librarian, Dr. Alpheus Todd, died about a year ago. Since his demise the duties of the office have been performed by Mr. Decelles, the first assistant librarian. It is now proposed to divide the duties of librarian by creating two offices—parliamentary librarian and general librarian. Mr. Decelles will occupy one position and the other is to be given to Mr. J. Griffin, both gentlemen to receive a salary of $3000 each. I am personally acquainted with Mr. Griffin and know him to be well qualified for the position. He has a thorough knowledge of books, is an excellent scholar and a clever writer, if the latter were a necessary qualification for the post. At the same time I am bound to say his appointment is not a popular one. He is hated by the reformers for the way he has slashed at them in the Mail during the past five years, while the Quebecers, on the other hand, maintain that there was no necessity for a dual headship in the library, but that the position should have been given to Mr. Decelles, an English Canadian having held the post previously, and turn about is their motto.

THE PROHIBITION MOVEMENT.

The upper chamber this week has been wrestling with the Scott Act. Two amendments by Senator McInnes (B. C.) were accepted. One provides that cities should be included in the electoral districts of British Columbia and the other substituting that the notice provided for in section 6 of the act shall, as far as relates to British Columbia, be deposited in the registry offices in the respective electoral districts, or in the sheriffs' offices in such districts; the notices to be deposited in the offices of the registrar of voters in Barkerville for the electoral district of Cariboo; Kamloops for the district of Kamloops; in the cities of New Westminster, Victoria and Nanaimo for the districts of New Westminster, Victoria and Vancouver. The chief amendment made by the senate is of a retrograde character so far as the principle of prohibition goes. It is in the direction of the liberal temperance movement, to which I referred in a previous communication, and the advocates of the movement are in the seventh heaven of delight at the unexpected impetus given to their propositions. The section inserted provides that dealers in ales, porter, lager beer, cider and light wines containing not more than 12 per cent. of alcohol be exempt from the operation of the Act. It is generally believed that when the bill goes back to the commons for concurrence that it will be struck out immediately. Temperance sentiment in the lower chamber is too strong to permit of any trifling on the question, the tendency of the times being to make still stronger the bands of prohibition rather than to weaken them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Henceforth the house will commence to sit at one o'clock and continue until two a. m. All the committee work is over, and in the mornings members air themselves on the brow of Parliament Hill overlooking Ottawa river.

The deputy governor-general, Sir Wm. Ritchie, came down to the senate last week and gave the royal assent to 39 measures passed this session.

The senate has nothing to do. The most potent, grave and reverend seigniors have accordingly adjourned until the 20th inst.

Col. Strange Reaches Edmonton.

Big Bear and the Frog Lake Massacre.

How the Foul Deeds were Done.

The Edmonton Bulletin of May 2 has arrived. It announces the arrival of General Strange's command on the preceding Friday. Colonel Smith's battalion was expected in a few days. The mounted men of the force crossed first followed by the rifles, and these by the ammunition and supply train of about 200 wagons and carts. As the 65th formed on the north side they were given three hearty cheers by the crowd on the bank above them, to which they responded. The mounted men proceeded directly to the race course in rear of the town and camped. The 65th marched into the fort, where company 5 remained, and companies 2, 6 and 7 proceeded to the race course, where the teams were also sent.

BIG BEAR AND THE FROG LAKE MASSACRE.

Big Bear, who is the prime mover in the late bloody work at Fort Pitt, is well known to many residents of Edmonton, who formerly resided at Fort Pitt. Mr. J. Sinclair, who was in charge of Fort Pitt for the H. B. Co., for twelve years, is well acquainted with him, and gives the following particulars: He is a plain Cree, a native of the Carlton region, and is about 60 years of age. He is of short stature, thin and odd looking. His appearance is anything but impressive. He speaks with a loud voice, but is short of breath, and is not an orator by any means. About twenty years ago he removed from Carlton to Pitt, and became the head man of a small band of his relatives who resided at Pitt, numbering about twelve tents, or perhaps twenty men. He never was recognized as a chief until after treaty six was made, and he removed to Cypress Hills. At Fort Pitt he was frequently employed by the Hudson's Bay Company as a buffalo hunter, and had the reputation of being a good Indian. His band, however, were generally rascals, the greatest his nephew named Little Poplar. During a famine which occured thirteen years ago, caused by the buffalo leaving for the south, and the Indians being unable to follow them, they began to kill the Hudson's Bay cattle, but were prevented from continuing the practice through the efforts of Big Bear. He and his band seldom engaged in war, but they were notorious for stealing horses from the Blackfeet. He was thought to be rather cowardly. On one occasion four Crees were attacked opposite Fort Pitt by a large band of Blackfeet, while Big Bear was in the fort with eight men. He refused to go to their assistance, although Mr. Sinclair offered him the use of the boat and the Hudson's Bay horses. The four Crees, however, succeeded in escaping. On several occasions his actions showed that his courage was not of the highest order. At the making of treaty No. 6, in 1865, Big Bear refused to accept the terms offered to and accepted by the rest. He wanted to see first how the promises made by the government would be carried out. Pending a decision he removed to Cypress Hills, where he remained for six or seven years, gathering a larger number of discontented spirits around him each year. Between frequent spats with the Blackfoet and incursions to the States his men became much more expert than formerly in the art of war, and he came to be looked upon as a big chief, equal in importance to Pi-a-pot. At last circumstances, in the shape of a few buffalo and many United States troops, coupled with profuse promises from the Indian department, induced the Bear to return to his old stamping ground near Pitt some two years ago. Although he took the treaty he refused to go on a reserve, always having an excuse ready. During the winter before last he freighted one trip from Pitt to Edmonton. He always kept moving about and fomented discontent wherever he went, which the management of the Indian department made easy, especially among the Fort Pitt Indians, who never had a good reputation, and of whom he seems to have secured control. A large number of the original band of Sweet Grass, then head chief of the Crees, but now dead for several years, seems to be under his control, and have taken a prominent part in the Fort Pitt butchery. The remainder of the band of Sweet Grass are near Battleford under Little Pine. Report has it that Little Bear, who has a wall-eye, killed three of the white men, probably the mill hands; Pa-pa-mo-cha-qua-o (the moving spirit) killed Delaney, the farm instructor; and Wa-pa-soos (light hair) killed Rev. Pere Fafar. The manner of their death is confirmed as first stated in the Bulletin, and not as stated in the Battleford report. Quinn, Delaney and the two priests were taken prisoners in their homes. Quinn refused to consider himself a prisoner or to obey the Indians in going where he was told. The Indian having him in charge then shot him. Delaney and his wife, seeing this, began to run, when Delaney was shot and his wife taken again. The priests were shot while attempting to perform service over the bodies. Their blood being up, the Indians then went and cleaned out the five mill hands but the manner of their death is not yet known here. There is an enthusiastic and universal desire among Mr. Bear's numerous acquaintances to see him wind up his long, if not useful career, looking through a hempen collar. They think if the band is broken up and not destroyed, they will take refuge in the woods, and be a terror to settlers, at least as horse thieves for years. Unlike most of the Saskatchewan Crees, Big Bear and his band make no pretentions to any form of Christianity. By strict attention to business they have succeeded in amassing a reputation for unadulterated deviltry which is equalled by few and excelled by none.

MRS. DELANEY'S FATE.

Mrs. Delaney is being terribly used being traded around among the Indians, and cannot live long. Twelve days ago Big Bear was camped on the east side of Fog Creek, with forty tents, awaiting the return of his scouts, four of whom went to Whitefish Lake, six to Lac la Biche, and fifteen southward. Unless he can largely increase his band he will probably join Poundmaker.

Hat Creek Wagon Road.

TO THE EDITOR: "Traveller," in the Times to-night, says this is another of those foolish expenses governments get let in for at elections. Probably "Traveler" did not get paid for his vote at the last election (at least, I would infer so from his letter), otherwise he might have bought some land along the Howe Sound road (people who speak English call it the Howe Sound trail.) "Traveller" does not speak definitely when he says the Howe Sound humbug road cost, say $40,000. What does any person say who says this Hat Creek road would benefit half a dozen settlers, but he does not say how many more. Now, Mr. Editor, I say the Hat Creek wagon road would benefit at least fifty settlers, and let me say that these settlers do not probably owe no tax in this province, which "Traveller" does (at least, I would so infer from his letter), and I further say that "Traveller" is not conversant with the country when he states that the Hat Creek road comes out at the 108 Mile house, for there is no house at or near the 108 mile post on the Cariboo wagon road—(Yale and Clinton.) He says this is a steamboat owners' little game. I cannot see it, nor can anyone that knows the upper country, for steamboat owners do not, generally speaking, take freight over a wagon road, unless it is a portage. He says steamers run by Kamloops, 150 miles further around. Can any man in British Columbia tell me how freight could be taken 150 miles further around by Kamloops? "Traveller" should study the geography of the interior before he informs the public of the table of distances on the mainland. The distance, Mr. Editor, from Yale to Savona ferry by wagon road is 133 miles, which is the furthest point east that freight would be taken. From there to Kamloops is some 25 or 26 miles by water, and freight taken from Savona to Kamloops would have to be returned to Savona for shipment to Cariboo. "Traveller" says the proposed road could not be used in winter, besides being "probably" 70 miles further. I say, from personal acquaintance with both roads, that the Hat Creek road as proposed will be some 50 or 60 miles shorter for the settlers of Lillooet and vicinity than the present road via Clinton, and will be passable in the winter season at all times, which the present road is not. I have no interest in either road, Mr. Editor, but have many warm friends in the interior, and I feel it my duty to reply in their behalf to "Traveller's" ungrateful and discourteous letter.

WM. CROFT.

Beecher on Cranks.

NEW YORK, May 17.—Beecher said in his discourse that he had come to have a great respect for fanatics. "I think that fifty years of the American Bible Society, of the American Tract Society and of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions combined did not amount to as much in the way of impulse toward freeing men from bondage as the desperate, despairing effort of noble John Brown to rescue the slave. In that there was something that fixed the heart of the whole world. John Brown was a fanatic. I wouldn't want many men like him, and we are not likely to have them, yet fanaticism in a great soul is often 1,000 times more beneficial to men than the lack of it."

THE POST.—This lively evening contemporary has entered upon its fourth year and gives evidence of increased vitality.

A LONDON CLUB HOUSE ROW.

The Status of the Samoa Islands.

How Gordon was Left to Die.

LONDON, May 11.—There was a serious disturbance in the vicinity of Tottenham Court road about midnight on Saturday. Four or five men, who had been ejected from the European Club, raised the cry that they had been swindled and assaulted in the club house. A mob of roughs quickly collected, and smashed the windows of the building. A force of police soon arrived, and while some surrounded the building others proceeded to search the premises. The police failed to find the alleged gamblers, and jumping to the conclusion that they had escaped to a to a neighboring social democratic club the police hastened thither and forced open the doors. While the police were searching the upper floors of this building the mob smashed in the windows below and looted the refreshment bar in the basement, taking liquors, cigars, and even coats and umbrellas belonging to members of the club. The members, among whom were Socialists of all nationalities, resented the intrusion of the police, asserting that there had been no gambling in the club. A free fight with the police ensued, many of the members being badly injured. Fifty of them were arrested, and were arraigned this morning, when all but six were liberated after their wounds had been dressed. No gamblers were found. The six men detained will be charged with hindering the police in the execution of their duty. It turned out later that the men who were ejected from the European club were desperados who had forced their way into the club house. When ejected, they created a row. The European is simply a social club.

LONDON, May 11.—Earl Derby, Colonial Secretary, replying to a strong request from the Government of New Zealand to the English Government to annex the Samoa Islands on the ground that the native chiefs wished union with England, sent a despatch of January fifth, announcing that the German Government had given ample assurances that it would respect the independence of Samoa. If, therefore, he concluded, New Zealand should unfortunately send a Colonial Secretary to Samoa, Germany would be justified in annexing the Island. The Premier of New Zealand then suggested an alternative treaty between England, Germany and America to respect the neutrality of the Island.

LONDON, May 4.—A profound sensation has been caused in and around the War Office by the explosion of a rhetorical torpedo, in the Fortnightly Review, which publishes an article by Charles Williams, Soudan correspondent of the Chronicle, substantially proving the incompetency of Sir Charles Wilson and the virtual manslaughter of Gordon by his negligence. Mr. Williams' story, fortified by data of his own observation, is that Sir Charles Wilson, an officer of engineers, never having made command, but strong in influence at the Horse Guards, was under Stewart, who fell at Abu-Klea. By a sheer technical accident, Lord Wolseley in his general orders not having named a second in command, the direction to make further march on Khartoum came to Sir Charles Wilson. On Wednesday, January 21st, he was on the Nile, near Metemmeh, where Lord Charles Beresford had two steamers already examined and repaired by naval artificers. Before 3 o'clock on that afternoon they could have started for Khartoum, but did not go, through their departure was urged by Kashin el Nus, who commanded Gordon's fleet. Wednesday passed. Thursday was "dawdled away in conversation with Gordon's steamer crews. Friday came and went in the same aimless fashion; but on Friday night it was given out that the steamers would certainly start in the morning." Saturday morning came, but Sir Charles Wilson did not start. It was high noon on Saturday before he went, sixty-nine hours after he had been urged to start by Kasin el Nus. When he did go at noon on Saturday Sir Charles Wilson insisted on stopping for the night just above the camp, under the piles of woodingthe vessels, which were then crammed with wood enough for many days' steaming. Gordon perished on Monday, the 26th, Wilson got near Khartoum on Wednesday, the 28th. Leaving on the morning of the 25th, he was three days on the way. Had he started when urged by Gordon's deputy on the 21st he would have reached Khartoum on Saturday the 24th, or, at most, Sunday, the 25th, and in time to relieve Gordon. Mr. Williams shows that Sir Charles Wilson's orders were peremptory to proceed at once. Even when getting near Khartoum he made no effort to learn the whys and wherefores or to ascertain the fate of Gordon.

LONDON, May 11.—During the discussion in the House of Lords, this afternoon, concerning the Government's position with Russia, a dramatic and exciting incident occurred. The Duke of Argyle was making a speech in defense of Mr. Gladstone's policy on Egyptian matters, when the solemn body was startled out of all propriety by a piercing shriek. The cry came from Baron Dormer, Liberal. He sprang to his feet and then sank to the floor. It was soon seen that the Baron was in a fit and unconscious. Doctor were summoned, and they succeeded, after much labor, in restoring consciousness, and the Baron was soon afterward removed to his home.

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.

Narrow Escape of a Clerk in the Dead-Letter Office.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Among the articles received at the Dead letter Office yesterday was an oblong pasteboard box that had been forwarded from Springfield, Ill. A sudden explosion followed the removal of the lid, and at the same minute a bullet went whizzing across the room and buried itself in the wainscotting directly opposite. Had the position of the box been reversed the person opening it would have received the bullet in his body. An examination of the box showed a wicked-looking revolver of the "bulldog" pattern, which was so connected with the lid as to explode the instant the latter was touched. The box is believed to have been sent from Boston, Mass. It was addressed to a young lady of Springfield, to whom, in some way, it failed to be delivered; and after having been held the required number of weeks it was sent to the Dead-Letter Office here. The postal authorities will endeavor to discover the identity of the sender.

FOR COMOX.—Mr. D. H. McNeil, government guide, left for Comox yesterday with a party of settlers in search of land.

EXPOSED AGAIN.

Mrs. Reynolds Materializes Spirits in Stockton.

A Disastrous Seance—Irreverent Reporters. Fraud Unveiled—Spirits in Trouble. The Show Ends in a Row.

(Stockton Independent, May 13th.)

Stockton contains, outside of the insane asylum, a number of unfortunates given over to an implicit belief in professional spiritualism. The list of these debilitated minds includes not only the lower orders of intellect, but some of the highest, and among the believers in the absurd pretence of spirit materialization are professional gentlemen who should know better. In the beginning of this week there came to Stockton Mrs. Elsie Reynolds, a professional "spirit materializing medium," who announced that through her would appear to visitors of her seances the spirits of departed friends, whom she would materalize into flesh and bone for a time sufficient for them to talk and kiss believing relatives. She secured rooms at the Avon House, opposite the Grand Central Hotel, and on Monday night held her first Stockton seance. Her assistant was a smooth-faced young man, aged about 25 years. The seance was attended by a number of the faithful, who left with additional convicted that Elsie was a true medium. Last night she gave another seance, for which she announced "startling developments." The Independent, which is conducted on a strictly cash basis, and which takes little stock in anything supernatural, kindly decided to assist Mrs. Reynolds in fulfilling the letter of her announcement, and bringing about sufficiently startling developements to satisfy the audience. About 8 o'clock four members of the Independent staff went to the Avon House and were met by the smooth faced young man of the combination, who ushered them into the room for which a circus performance was preordained. In one corner of the room was arranged a "cabinet," made by two black curtains hung to form a triangular space with the wall corners. Near the cabinet, and immediately by a door leading into another room, was a table, on which stood a lighted lamp, giving the only light in the room.

ELSIE AND HER AUDIENCE.

At this table sat Mrs. Reynolds, a giddy girl of about 45 years, wrinkled, homely, and evidently suffering from wear and tear by the spirits. In a number of chairs, arranged in a semicircle, were Dr. A. S. Hudson and Dr. A. T. Hudson (both believers), Dr. L. E. Cross, Howard Hogan, an old, white-bearded gentleman and his wife, whose names were not learned, and a lady aged about 28 years, fine-looking, impressionable, and a believer. When the first two newspaper representatives entered, their hats were taken into the other room, and a close circle was formed of the first comers, the new arrivals being given back seats, where they would be, presumably, unable to reach the cabinet for interference with the spirits. When the other two Independent visitors came, they also were given back seats. Ben Armington of the Mail was the last visitor admitted.

Mrs. Reynolds sighed heavily, and remarked: "Sometimes I have circles composed entirely of ladies, sometimes entirely of gentlemen; but then the manifestations are not so good, because there is too much positive force."

"How will they be to-night?" asked Dr. Hudson.

"I think they will be good," and Mrs. Reynolds then ordered Harry, the smooth-faced young man, to open the cabinet. Harry said the performance would begin with collections, and he passed the hat for $1 per head, which was paid. The cabinet curtains were drawn aside, and skeptics were invited to inspect the apartment. One visitor examined the curtains, tapped the floor and found nothing but what showed on the surface.

"Try the walls," suggested Dr. A. T. Hudson, sarcastically, and he then proceeded to punch the wall with his cane, the sound given indicating reasonable solidity.

Harry then locked the doors, and darkened the room by placing a large funnel over the lamp, which was turned low to burn dimly. Harry and the medium began singing "In the Sweet By and By," the visitors being requested to join. Just as the song was finished Mrs. Reynolds said some one was calling her to come into the cabinet. She wore a dark dress, and at the same time was seated directly against the cabinet curtains. "Nearer, my God, to Thee," was then sung, and the spirits drew Elsie and her chair into the cabinet. Soon afterward the curtains were parted and a white figure appeared, but only for a moment. The medium then said "little Effa" was there, and immediately following came the words, in a child girl's voice, "Dood evening. I am here again."

Mrs. Reynolds had with her a large tin horn, through which she talked in a gruff voice, resembling that of a large-lunged man.

"Who is with you?" she asked of Effie.

"Susie. She wouldn't tell me her other name last night, but now she says it is Organ. She says her first name was Evaas."

AN OBSERVING SPIRIT.

The curtains parted, and a white-robed figure took one step from the cabinet.

"What is your name?" asked a visitor.

"Lily. Lily Roberts."

The figure stepped back, and Mrs. Reynolds sang, in a harsh voice, through the horn, a sailor's song.

"I am sing better'n that," said Effie, and on request she came to the front of the cabinet, appearing about two feet in height, and sang in a childish voice.

"Say!" exclaimed Effie, from the interior of the cabinet, "there is a newspaper here."

"She is very observing," said the medium.

"He's tross," said Effie, "and he needn't talk to me unless he wants to."

The newspaper man wouldn't talk, even when Effie said he was the good-looking man on the back seat. Several other "spirit forms" then appeared. One of them coughed, and in a scarcely intelligible whisper, said her name was Sarah. Another said her name was Lucy. One shook hand with Dr. A. S. Hudson, who was presumed to be a relative. The good doctor took a measuring-stick and measured several spirits, saying they were of different heights.

At this juncture there was knocking on the door by late visitors, one of whom was H. G. Boiseller.

"They don't come in," said Effie.

"Oh yes, let them in," in the medium's voice.

"No, they must tome aain; the door's locked," insisted Effie, and good Doctor A. S. Hudson said to the tardy ones, "You will be needed on Thursday night; you are two late now."

The spirit of J. S. Utter's sister appeared and informed the circle that her brother, who was taken down to San Francisco yesterday to have his leg amputated, would die if Dr. —— cut off the limb. This piece of information from the spirit would appear to coincide with the views of Dr. A. T. Hudson, who gave vent to his pleasure with several expressive "er hums."

Another song was sung, and the medium told Harry to put a table in front of the cabinet. He did so, and there appeared a girl, who kept repeating rapidly: "Cookie, cookie, cookie." She would not advance beyond the table, and refused to be measured. Other farcical business was gone through, including the delivery of a message of thanks to Walter Organ, from "Frank Betchel," for kindness shown him during his last illness. Two "spirits" were then shown together. First came one, a young woman who said her name was Sarah Dodge. The good-looking lady who was among the spectators recognized her as her sister. The spirit came forward, shook hands with the live sister, and they embraced and kissed, the deluded sister being much agitated. The spirit went back, and again the curtain was raised, showing two spirit forms. Sarah and a dead sister. The live sister became very nervous, and asked for a message. "Sarah" said their father was Jonathan Dodge. "Tell him Sarah wishes to see him very soon."

A CRISIS IN AFFAIRS.

During all this time the Drs. Hudson talked with the several spirits and acted like either confederates or completely gulled simpletons. The medium announced, "There is in the band an Indian girl who comes out and puts lace under the chairs of medium persons, and a lace girl who picks up the lace. The Indian girl is not seen placing the lace. The lace girl has not been with us for some time, but she is coming." The curtains were parted, and behind the guarding table was seen another "spirit," that of the lace girl, who said: "Somebody's got my lace. Somebody's got my lace." The figure, which, like all the others, was robed in white, advanced from the side of the table to the middle of the floor. The Dodge sister asked if she would shake hands.

"No," said the lace girl, "I can't."

"Oh, yes," suggested Dr. A. T. Hudson. "No one will harm you."

Reassured, the "spirit" came forward another step and stood before the Dodge lady.

"Will you shake hands with me now?" the lady asked.

At this important moment an Independent man was seized with an irresistible desire to embrace the lace girl. With agility stimulated by a bad spirit kept for private use in the office he leaped over the shoulders of Drs. A. T. Hudson and L. E. Cross and gained the middle of the floor, between the circle and the cabinet. The lace girl attempted to regain the cabinet, but was caught in the strong grip of the Independent spirit. At the same instant "Harry" deserted his post and collared the reporter by the throat. Another Independent man lighted a candle, which was immediately blown out by Dr. A. T. Hudson. Dr. A. T. Hudson then grabbed the first disturber by the back of the neck, and a tussel followed, but the spirit could not get away. Mr. Bossilier and other outsiders broke open the door. The second Independent man pulled the paper funnel from the lamp, and turned up the light. The two other Independent representatives, assisted by Bossilier and Hogan, came in to take a fall out of anybody within reach, and pulled Dr. A. T. Hudson from his too fond embrace on the neck of the first reporter. "Harry fought desperately, but was subdued, and then begged for mercy, adding, 'Mother, are you hurt?' The woman is hurt. Let her up." Chairs and tables were overturned and broken. Dr. A. T. Hudson then lost no time in taking his departure.

THE DENOUEMENT.

Mrs. Reynolds, who was found to be the lace girl around whom the first assailant's arms were locked, was placed in the chair in the cabinet. She seemed as though fainting, but recovered sufficiently to attempt to kiss the reporter, saying, "Please have pity on me. Let me go, for I am only a poor girl." Mrs. Reynolds was in her chemise and stocking feet. Her dress had been left in the cabinet, in which were found three small pillows, used to dress for spirits when more than one should be required, and white robes and masks worn by Elsie in her various impersonations. The Dodge lady was prompt into going into hysterics. She screamed, cried, fell into the arms of a visitor, and said, "I can hardly believe it, for I saw the spirits of my two sisters, and kissed one of them." She was taken into the next room, where she fainted. Attention was called to the masks and robes. Harry attempted to take them away, but was held by a reporter until the articles were sufficiently inspected. Some one demanded the return of his dollar, and Harry promptly began to return the admission fees. Mrs. Reynolds retired to her bedroom.

"Will you give another seance on Monday?" was asked of Harry.

"We may," responded the smooth-faced young man.

"Do you admit now that this thing is a fraud?"

"We admit nothing.