The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1893.

STILL HARPING.

The Times should have more discretion than to keep harping on the mission of the Leeds farmers to the State of New York and its results. The object of that mission was to find out whether the farmers of the State of New York are better off than the farmers opposite them on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence. They found out that the American farmers are, on the whole, worse off than their Canadian neighbors.

The Times does not venture to assert that the report of the Leeds farmers is not true and that the conclusions which they drew from the facts that came to their knowledge are not fair and legitimate. It, in effect, admits that the delegates told the truth. Instead of swallowing the unpleasant dose of hard and unquestioned facts as cheerfully as it can, it hesitates and frames what it considers unanswerable questions, based on the assumption that the condition of the farmers on the other side of the line is not as it is represented by the Leeds delegates. The reason it does this is not far to seek. The report which the Canadian farmers brought home knocks into a cocked hat the statements made by annexationist Liberals, that American farmers are far better off than Canadian farmers, and that the latter are great fools to live miserably under British rule when they could, by changing their allegiance, be prosperous and happy as citizens of the Great Republic.

This was the burden of the song of the Canadian annexationists; and the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity sang the same tune to slightly different words. "The market of the sixty-five millions" was the burden of their lay.

Now, when it is proved beyond controversy that the song sung by both annexationists and the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity, was a lying and a deceptive song, the singers are angry, not at themselves for having tried to humbug their neighbors, as they ought to be, but at the men who have exposed the delusion they taught, and the snare they were at such pains to set for the people of Canada.

When the Times and its friends again try to expatiate on the advantages of unrestricted reciprocity, with an eye to annexation in the not distant future, all that their opponents will have to do will be to point to the condition of the farmers of New York and other Eastern States, who enjoy the full advantages of the big market, and to the state of the farmers of Kansas and other States which are not as well situated with respect to that market. A reference to known and undisputed facts will soon brush the gilding off the annexation gingerbread.

THE AGONY OVER.

It appears that France has been prevailed upon to worry Siam no longer. Admiral Humann has raised the blockade, and the River Menam is again open to the commerce of the world. We see that the British warships during the whole negotiations remained within the blockade limits. This is a very significant fact and we may infer from it that British influence had not a little to do with the apparent forbearance of France. We see that an anti-British San Francisco paper, a little while ago, talked about "England's backdown" and said that "in spite of England's bluster and bravado, France went right along until she had obtained from Siam all she wanted, paying no more attention to England than she would have paid to the protests and threats of interference from Switzerland."

There are people in San Francisco whom this sort of writing will please, but intelligent men know that England did not indulge in bluster and bravado with respect to France's interference in Siam's affairs. On the contrary, England's tone throughout was moderate, and her attitude forbearing. It was said that Lord Rosebery sympathised with the French Government and was not at all disposed to increase the difficulties which noisy and irresponsible French journalists and professional politicians were placing in its way. It was feared that the howls, the taunts and the angry reproaches of these blatherskites would derive the Government to act in a way which their better judgment would disapprove, and the British Foreign Minister was careful not to give them any assistance. This they more than suspected, and the belief that the British Government held its hand in order to frustrate their designs made them more violent and more unreasonable. But a settlement was arrived at in spite of their frantic efforts to embroil Great Britain and France. Their object was not so much to provoke a war as to make the Government of France unpopular, in the hope that when the change which they were endeavoring to bring about was effected, they would come in for a share of the spoils. France is just now cursed with as unscrupulous and as unprincipled a set of politicians as ever tried to ruin a country. They were, however, baulked in their efforts to embarrass the Government on the Siamese question, and this was done, it can hardly be doubted, through the influence of Great Britain, judiciously exercised.

What part Great Britain has taken in the settlement of the Siamese question will perhaps never be known. There are diplomatic situations which are kept studiously concealed from the public. The world sees the results, but exactly how they were brought about, is only known to a few, who are careful to keep their knowledge to themselves. It is safe, however, to conclude, that if Siam is not dismembered, it owes its preservation to Great Britain. From the tone assumed by France at the beginning of the difficulty, it was easy to see that it was determined to add Siam to its Eastern possessions; and if Great Britain had not been Siam's neighbor, that purpose would, no doubt, have been effected.

BROKEN BANKS.

As a great deal had been said about the failures of banks in the United States, the New York Times, a week ago, instituted an enquiry as to the number that had actually gone under. It found that there are in the United States 3,785 national banks. Of this number only 105 had failed, and of these a very considerable percentage were in only temporary difficulties. Here are some of its figures:

Out of the total of 105 closed, but 37 have gone into the hands of receivers, the balance either having re-opened or are still in the hands of examiners, with strong prospects of re-opening. Five of the 105 banks are capitalized in the amount of $1,000,000 each. 1 at $600,000, 6 at $500,000, 36 at $50,000, and the remaining at $300,000, $250,000, $100,000, and less, but more than $50,000; the greater number, however, being from $100,000 to $150,000.

Fourteen of these 105 banks had, last week, resumed business under favorable conditions and were possessed of the confidence of the communities in which they were situated. The State of Colorado was the greatest sufferer. Out of thirty-one banks in that State fifteen closed their doors, but they were not by any means hopelessly bankrupt. The geographical distribution of the bank disasters is as follows: New England States 2, Middle and Mississippi Valley States 15, Eastern States 2, Northwestern States 6, Western States 55, Southern States 25. We find that in many States there was not a single failure. For instance, in the State of Pennsylvania, in which there are 397 national banks, not one failed. Not one of Virginia's thirty-six banks closed its doors. All New Jersey's banks are sound, so are those of Minnesota. The banks of Massachusetts, which number 269, are all unshaken, and there was not a bank failure in Louisiana, Maine and Maryland.

It is to be hoped that the worst was over when the Times made out its list, and that those that were safe at that date will weather the storm. It is said that the majority of the banks that failed are absolutely solvent, and only closed through an unwarranted lack of confidence in them, causing disastrous runs. In a time like this, there are always croakers and busybodies who do their best to paint the situation in the darkest colors, and to delay the return of public confidence. From all that we can learn, we are led to conclude that the greater number of the commercial disasters that have taken place in the United States, and the financial stringency generally, have been in great part caused by panic. A few people, at first, took fright, they hardly knew at what, and the contagion of fear spread like wildfire, and caused a crisis for which there was no adequate cause, and the origin of which it will, by and by, be impossible to discover.

THE BEST NOVEL.

The discussions that are every now and then seen in the newspapers and elsewhere about the best novel, or the best half dozen novels, are not very satisfactory. Tastes differ, perhaps, more widely with respect to novels than they do about many other things. This being the case, it is nearly always unsafe to read a novel because it has been recommended by another, even though he or she may be considered a good judge. The novel that one person regards as charming, another may find to be dull and uninteresting. The style that pleases some, may be to others the reverse of pleasant. There are many who care nothing at all about the style, what interests them is the story. To such persons the delicate strokes of art, which may have cost the author infinite pains, and which may have gone far to make his reputation are completely lost. The finest passages are "skipped," and if they occur frequently the book is voted stupid and unreadable.

Then the same book is judged differently by the same reader at different periods of his life. The novel that he eagerly devoured when he was young he, when he gets up in years, throws aside in disgust. It is hard for the middle-aged gentleman to realize that there ever was a time that he believed, say, Thaddeus of Warsaw to be the best book ever written. And the old lady, when by accident she takes up a book she cried over when she was a girl, wonders how she ever could have been such a fool. And there are people who in the matter of novel reading never get over the youthful stage. We have all read of the old gentleman to whom Robinson Crusoe was always a fountain of delight, and who reproached the man who told him it was a fiction with having destroyed one of the greatest pleasures of his life.

It is not always safe to undertake to read a novel because it was written by a man who is generally regarded as a great novelist. There are very many in these days who find most of Sir Walter Scott's novels unreadable, and there are others who are at a loss to see what the world saw in George Elliot's novels to like. There are many who regard Dickens as "ridiculous" and who pronounce Thackeray to be prosy. How many are there who will agree with the eastern editor who pronounces Lorna Doone the best story ever written, or who believe that Henry Esmond is the finest novel in the English or any other language? It was a critic considered competent who declared Brett Harte's Luck of Roaring Camp to be the masterpiece of short stories. If everyone who reads novels—and there are very few in these days who do not—would honestly say what story it was that gave him or her the most pleasure, we would have a very large and an exceedingly varied collection of "best novels." There would be, we are very much afraid, among them very many of what the critics would stigmatize as "unmitigated trash." For our own part, we are not disposed to judge the lovers of "trash," provided it is not vicious trash, harshly. A correct and delicate taste in literature does not come to every one by instinct; it takes time to grow and to develop, and the devourer of trash this year may, five or six years hence, be the keenly appreciative reader of the best writing. But we question whether his development will be much aided by self-constituted instructors or self-satisfied critics.

BI-METALLISM.

London, Aug. 5.—During the recent discussion of the estimates, the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, who was president of the Board of Agriculture in Lord Salisbury's administration, attempted to raise the long deferred debate on the question of bi-metallism by moving a reduction of the salary drawn by the Prime minister. Every bi-metallist member of the House was on the alert, primed to attack the Government for suspending the free mintage of silver in India, but their hopes of ventilating their views and opinions were quashed by the chairman, who ruled the motion out of order. This decision will be highly gratifying to the ministerialists, who were anxious to avoid a long discussion on the question the bi-metallists are anxious to raise.

The Government supporters are anxious to avoid as long as possible an official disclosure of the failure of the India currency policy. As proof of the continued non-success of the India Council to sell their drafts on India, it is noted that, on Wednesday last, bills to the amount of forty laks of rupees were offered, without an allotment being made. The only tender made was for ten laks at one shilling and three pence three farthings per rupee. The tender was refused. For five consecutive weeks the India Council has failed to obtain tenders for bills, being unwilling to make allotments except at one shilling and four pence, or the smallest fraction under that price.

VICTORIA'S NEW WHARF.

It is now Almost Completed and Will Soon be Ready to Receive Vessels.

Remarkable Undertaking of One Man Which Will Greatly Benefit the City.

A few days more will see the completion of the outer wharf, the building of which was contemplated several years ago, and vessels of the deepest draught will be unloading their cargoes alongside the most substantial and commodious wharf on the Pacific coast.

Ten years ago R. P. Rithet conceived the idea of building a wharf parallel with the old dock, which he then rightly believed would be necessary to the growing needs of Victoria. To think was to act and at once steps were taken to carry out the ideas formed and a large enterprise was put under way. A great amount of dredging was necessary to carry out the scheme in its completeness and two dredgers of much capacity were constructed at an expense of $10,000 and $25,000 respectively. The larger one with a 90 foot boom could carry material a distance of 160 feet and the two combined being operated almost daily for the past two years have removed thousands of tons of earth and rock from the bottom to permit the largest ship of the ocean to lie alongside the dock in perfect safety. So thoroughly have the excavations been made, that at the present time there is a depth at the wharf of over 30 feet at low tide.

In conjunction with the construction of the dock, Mr. Rithet has reclaimed upwards of six acres of waste and rocky land, and what at one time was merely an expanse of water, by filling in the space with the debris brought from the depths by the big dredgers. This was comparatively an easy matter, as the material was dumped in scows, lashed to the dredging machines and conveyed to the desired spots but a short distance away, with the assistance of a tug boat, and dumped overboard. The land thus reclaimed adjacent to the wharf, is being levelled and made suitable for the erection of manufacturing plants of various kinds, which will be estabished there.

An idea of the immense amount of material used in the foundations may be gained from the statement that no less than 130,000 tons of rock were used in forming the south and west dump wall. This was brought from the Koksilah quarries. The face of the dock is solid masonry, and the big blocks of sandstone, some of them weighing from two to eight tons, were set in cement and put in place by divers who worked from 24 to 38 feet beneath the surface of the water. About 8,000 cubic yards of masonry is contained in this front. An excavation of 52,000 cubic yards was necessary to make the dump wall.

The old dock is 120 feet wide and 1,100 feet in length, while the new one extends 1,400 feet into deep water, and is 210 feet in width, the warehouse being 600 by 60 feet in size. Five or six large ships can be accommodated at one time with ease, and there is an abundance of room at the head of the dock for smaller craft. Every accommodation and convenience is afforded vessels of every size and absolute safety to shipping is assured, as the vessels can be loaded during the heaviest gale which might arise outside the well sheltered harbor.

The importance of such an undertaking as the outer wharf to the commercial interests of Victoria, cannot well be understood and such an enterprise promoted by a single man is all the more remarkable, inasmuch as it is indicative of Mr. Rithet's faith in the future of the city's commerce. In expending the sum of $300,000 in this work, begun before the completion of the C.P.R., or the Pacific steamship lines to the Orient, were ever thought of, and the merchant marine was small in comparison to what it now is, the gentleman exhibited remarkable business foresight and courage. At its inception many thought the scheme wild and visionary, but none now admit otherwise than that his head is level and his judgment extremely good.

London, Aug. 4.—An Earthquake shock was felt last evening in the Charnwood Forest district, eight miles from Leicester. The shock was also felt in Leicester, but less distinctly.

London, Aug. 4.—The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways have issued a circular to London merchants, warning them that after September 1 all credits will be withdrawn, as the privilege of running accounts has been abolished.

THE CITY.

From the Daily Colonist, August 6.

Mr. H. P. Johnson takes the organ at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church in the absence of Mr. Burnett.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartley have the sympathy of many friends, as they to-day mourn the loss of their only child, Harriet Evelyn.

The successful candidates at the recent law examinations, final, were J. A. Aikman, J. Pelly, T. R. E. McInnes and W. H. Edmonds, who are now admitted as barristers and solicitors for the Province.

No trace has yet been discovered of the boat which was missed from Cadboro bay, and in which it is now supposed McDonald, the jail-breaker, not Rev. A. R. Reams, made good his escape to the other side of the line.

The Sunday school of St. Saviour's, Victoria West, enjoyed their annual picnic at the Gorge yesterday, the weather being cool and delightful and the programme of sports and games an interesting and complete one.

Ald. Bragg has given notice of a resolution that the Council name room 1 of the public market building as the polling place for an election to fill the vacancy on the Public School Board, caused by the resignation of Trustee F. G. Richards.

Mr. J. L. McKay and his bride, the former principal of the Wellington school, are spending the first few days of their wedded life in Victoria. Mrs. McKay was, until yesterday morning, Miss Sadie Ramsay, of Nanaimo, in which city the marriage was solemnized.

O. M. Crozier, accused of having been an accessory before the fact to the robbery of Charles Hannigar by Edward Much, yesterday secured his release from the Provincial jail, where he was awaiting trial, on furnishing $1,000 bail; two sureties in $250 each and himself in $500.

There are two cases set down for trial in the Supreme court next week, both having been called and adjourned before the long vacation set in. They are Jackson v. Jackson & Mylius, on Monday at 11 a.m., and DeCosmos v. Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company, on Wednesday at 11 a.m., before the Chief Justice. County court will also be held on Monday, when there are a number of cases to be disposed of.

The Canadian Gazette, (London), has the following: "Who can say that civilization has not had its effect on the Indians? The Indians of Nitinat are said to have furnished their houses luxuriously with carpets and furniture, taken without leave from the wreck of the steamship Michigan. They have also lately enjoyed many choice cigars and not a little liquor obtained from the same source. Happily the Indians of Canada generally take civilization in a far more practical way."

A recent telegram from Washington, D.C., announces that there are now only ten important consulships to be filled by the United States Government, one of them being that at Victoria. There are many who hope that Hon. Levi W. Myers, the present consul, will be continued in the office in which he has done such good work. If a new appointment is to be made, however, it will be announced in the course of the next week or ten days—so says the dispatch referred to.

Dr. Hugh Watt, M.P.P. for Cariboo, arrived home last evening after an extended trip to Chicago and Eastern Canada. The doctor looks very well after his trip, and says he enjoyed the rest very much. At the time he was in Chicago, in May, the British Columbia exhibit was not in as good shape as it has since been put in, but this was the same with a good many other exhibits. The remainder of the three months Dr. Watt has been away was spent with old friends in Eastern Canada. It is his intention to visit Cariboo shortly, and he will probably only remain in Victoria a few days before going to the upper country.

Mr. A. D. MacRae, ex-reeve of Maxville, Ont., arrived from the Mainland by Friday night's steamer. Mr. MacRae, who is one of the leading farmers of the county of Glengarry, is a brother of Rev. D. MacRae, who he is now visiting, and Mr. Duncan MacRae, provincial inspector of timber, Vancouver. Having before visited the Province—six years ago—he expresses surprise at the progress of town and country in that time. He expects to spend some time visiting different parts of the Province before his return, with the view, among other things, of being able to give information to parties in Eastern Ontario contemplating making British Columbia their home.

An Ottawa exchange says: "Mr. John R. M. Greenfield, who has been for twenty years in the employ of the postoffice department, inside service of the Dominion, and living in this city, has been transferred to Victoria, B.C., postoffice. Mr. Greenfield has been a member of St. George's church, Metcalfe street, and since the formation of its Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, about a year ago, he has been an indefatigable worker, both in the Sunday school and the Gloucester street mission, which has been conducted by brotherhood men. As there is no Chapter of St. Andrew's Brotherhood in Victoria, Mr. Greenfield will have an opportunity to have one formed. On Wednesday evening the 27th inst., Mr. Greenfield and family left for the Pacific Coast by the midnight train, a deputation of the St. George's Chapter of St. Andrew's Brotherhood seeing them off. His old friends in Ottawa will be pleased to learn of his success in Victoria."

In the last few months considerable interest has been manifested in the different stone quarries of the Province, and especially is this so in the case of the Haddington Island Quarry, owned and operated by the Haddington Stone Co. The product of this quarry is a sandstone of a beautiful silver-grey color, and very uniform, both as to texture and color. When quarried, it is very easily worked into any required shape, and as it consists of a fine even grain throughout, it presents a fine surface for carving. Unlike the majority of stone, it hardens and improves in appearance with exposure to the atmosphere. Testimonials have been received from a number of scientific and practical men, who have thoroughly tested the stone, and pronounce it the best and most durable sandstone for building purposes to be found on the Pacific Coast, as it is practically fireproof, frost-proof, and impervious to moisture. No saws are required in the quarrying of the stone, as it lies in a natural bed, and can be removed in any sized blocks desired. The proprietors have two large gang saws, which they intend setting up here as soon as they procure a suitable wharf, and it is their intention to put in the latest improved machinery for sawing, planing and turning the stone. At present, the only building in Victoria in the erection of which the Haddington stone was used, is the Adelphi building, but in this, it presents a very handsome and substantial appearance, and it is safe to predict that it will take front rank among the building stones of British Columbia.

A. G. Daniel was arrested by Sergt. Hawton last evening on telegraphic instruction from the Chief of Police of Tacoma. He is charged with stealing a double barrelled shotgun and other minor articles too numerous to mention.

The School Board applied to the Council of Public Instruction for a temporary certificate for Miss Armstrong, principal of the girls' school, and yesterday received the decision of the latter body. The Council held that, before the application could be considered by the Board, it should satisfy itself that a suitably qualified person could not be found to fill the position. At a meeting held yesterday morning, the Board instructed the secretary to write to the Council that a suitable teacher might be obtained, but that, in consideration of Miss Armstrong's faithful services, it was hoped a temporary certificate would be granted her.

Those who were not present at Market hall last evening missed a musical treat such as may not be duplicated in Victoria for a long time. The hundreds who were there felt fully repaid. The combined bands of "C" Battery and H.M.S. Royal Arthur, numbering in all 37 pieces, rendered the programme of selections as given in yesterday's Colonist in such a finished manner as to charm the large audience. The concert was for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the ill-fated seamen of H.M.S. Victoria, and the B.C. Benevolent Society. Of the chairs placed near the band on the ground floor but few were occupied as the majority understanding the acoustic properties of the hall preferred the galleries which were lined with spectators. The occasion was one of informality to an extent and between the selections the time was spent in promenading around the spacious hall or engaging in social converse. The entertainment was under the direction of T. McKay, bandmaster H.M.S. Royal Arthur, and E. Pterdner, "C" Battery, R.C.A. British Columbians have perhaps never before had a better opportunity of listening to such grand music as was furnished last evening and every one was more than pleased at having been present.

The Victoria correspondent of the War Cry thus refers to the recent week of farewells in the Army here: On Thursday night, Lieutenant Johnston "farewelled" for the Northwest, and Cadet Dwyer for the field. The latter has fought in our ranks as a soldier since her arrival from Newfoundland. About six months ago she was made War Cry Sergeant, which position she faithfully filled until her promotion. The next to say good-bye was Staff-Captain Banks. We have learned to love her dearly during her stay here, for besides being D O, she was a soldier of the Victoria corps, and many a time her appearance at the soldiers' meetings has been a means of inspiration and blessing to many. At her farewell meeting all Sunday the soldiers rolled up in full force, and although no one came out publicly for salvation, yet we believe that the result of the day's fight will be seen in eternity. On Monday night the Staff Captain led the open-air and a good collection towards her fare was taken up. A good crowd assembled at the barracks for the meeting. Two interesting features were the dedication of Sergeant and Mrs. Clark's little daughter to God and the Salvation Army and the commissioning of our new treasurer, Sister Barber, one of the hallelujah family recently arrived from Brussels, Belgium. Captains Smith and Rennie were present from the Rescue Home, and when they had each given their testimony, Staff-Captain earnestly pleaded with those present to get ready to meet her in heaven.

WRECKED DURING A FOG.

The Chilian Bark Eritrea Bound for Vancouver Goes Ashore at Dungeness Spit.

Crew Safely off With Personal Effects—The Vessel Probably a Total Wreck.

Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co., the Victoria agents for Lloyd's, received a telegram yesterday afternoon, stating that the Chilian bark Eritrea had gone ashore at Dungeness spit. The vessel was bound for Vancouver to load lumber, and was coming up in ballast. This was all the information contained in the dispatch, but later advices received give a few more particulars.

The Eritrea went ashore during a thick fog and will probably be a total wreck. The vessel came up the Straits in a thick fog before a fresh westerly wind, and the captain lost his bearings, getting too far in shore. The bark, with all sails set, ran head on near the base of the spit. It was low water and she listed over. The wind and the sea steadily drove her ashore, where she now lies. She is embedded in the sand. The crew got safely ashore with their personal effects. The tugs Pioneer and Holyoke went down to render assistance to-day. The Eritrea was bound from Valparaiso for Moodyville, B.C., to load a cargo of lumber. She was built in Nova Scotia and placed under the Italian flag, being called the Entallia. Subsequently she was purchased by the Chilians and named "President Balmaceda," and loaded lumber at Burrard Inlet two years ago for Valparaiso, where her name was again changed to "Eritrea," and placed under the command of Capt. Provo.

FRANCE AND SIAM.

Bangkok, Aug. 5.—The Siam papers say that there was some severe fighting between Siamese and French on July 20 on the Mekong river. It is said 300 Siamese were killed, while the French loss was slight. The French have occupied several more islands.

London, Aug. 5.—Rumor has had it that the great strike of coal miners that began July 28 has been settled, the reports, however, are not true. The price of coal is rising in consequence of the strike, and this fact is causing a suspension of work in many factories in Lancashire and Yorkshire. It is probable that 500,000 hands who depend on mining, shipping and manufacturing for their living, have been thrown out of work through the strike.

WHAT SAY THEY?

In popularity increasing. In reliability the standard. In merit the first. In fact, the best remedy for all summer complaints, diarrhœa, dysentery, cramps, colic, cholera infantum, etc., is Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. All medicine dealers sell it.

THE SUMMER FAIR.

Prospects Bright and Hopes High of a Fine Exhibition and a Good Attendance.

Work Commenced Out at the Grounds—Seating Accommodation Has Now Been Provided.

It will have to be an unlucky and unexpected circumstance, indeed, that will prevent the first summer exhibition under the management of the B.C. Agricultural Association being a great success. While some of the departments may, owing to the early date, not make quite as good a showing as usual, any deficiency there may be in this way will be more than made up by the superior excellence of others. A great deal of the available space has already been allotted, and the constant inquiries that are being made indicate that there are a considerable number of intending exhibitors who have not yet made their entries.

Supt. Lambert was out at the grounds nearly the whole of yesterday looking after a number of men he has at work making necessary changes, alterations and repairs. So far as the handsome central building itself is concerned very little has had to be done beyond a little painting, but the experience of the past has suggested an improvement in the accommodation which will surely be welcomed by those who make it their pleasure to attend. Heretofore all along the railing upstairs there has been a row of tables on which fruit and vegetable exhibits have been placed. This somewhat narrowed the walk around; but its greatest inconvenience was that the sightseers could not get quite close enough to the railing to look over, and were obliged to content themselves with a general view of the tops of pyramids, etc. This year all these tables have been removed, and in their place has been placed a row of seats on which the weary ones can rest while they enjoy the music and take in the attractions below. How much the lack of seating accommodation has been felt by visitors to the fair, they and they only can tell, for the complaints one heard constantly only represented the feelings of a small proportion of those who felt the inconvenience. Nor does the taking away of these tables reduce the space for exhibits very materially, as what is cut off on one side can be allowed on the other.

Already the work of putting up the decorations has begun, while the scores of men around the building, the different piles of manufactured goods and the "sound of the hammer and the saw" show that the exhibitors themselves are not going to be very much, if any, behindhand. The two earliest arrivals on the grounds were the Albion Iron Works and W. J. Pendray, both of whom will make fine showings. Pendray's Soap Works will be elaborately advertised at the exhibition in rather a unique and certainly an attractive way. There will be two immense blocks of soap—the mottled marbly kind that looks so pretty and hard—and a reward or prize of $10 is offered to the person who guesses nearest the weight of the big cakes, a second prize of $5 going to the one who shall come next. The fancy part of this exhibit will be models carved in soap of the old parliament buildings and also of the new ones, showing the contrast between the old "Chinese pagoda" style of architecture in which the buildings were erected thirty years ago, and the modern massive style which has been determined on for the new structure on which work is now going on.

Other exhibitors are also moving rapidly into their place, and by the end of this week will have completed arrangements so that by Monday they will be able to "open for business," with only the finishing touches to be put on. The electrician, Mr. R. B. McMicking, was out at the building yesterday to get the electric lighting apparatus in order and superintend the erection of the big arc lights on the grounds. Everything so far has worked very smoothly, and there is no reason to expect anything but the first-class service which will make the building brilliant, and enable the visitors at night to see everything as well as in the day time.

As a matter of course there has not as yet been so much done on the grounds as in the building; but the preliminary preparations have been made. The stables and sheds are all clean and well aired, so that they will be ready to accommodate stock. All the long grass has been cut and the ground has been rolled, the city's steam "Jumbo" being used for this purpose. Over on the race track some good work has been done during the summer in cutting out about eight feet of sod next the pole all around the ring. This has been thrown up against the fence on the outside of the track, and gives it a greater dip to the centre. This eight feet is, of course, somewhat soft yet, but it is a great place to "work" the horses in training, and when it comes to race days a fair quantity of water sprinkled over it will keep the dust down. The balance of the track is quite hard and needs more sprinkling, but the difficulty is to get the water, which only trickles through the pipes, so that it takes a long time to fill up the cart and tank. At the stables there are at present only a few horses, but several are expected down from Vancouver and the Mainland, while a number of local owned horses are being got into condition on the owners' farms. Horsemen are taking a good deal of interest in the racing events of the week, and promise to do their share towards making the exhibition the complete success hoped for.

San Francisco, Aug. 5.—A convention of county commissioners of the Midwinter Fair was held this afternoon, when the following resolutions were passed: "Whereas California has undertaken the matter of holding a midwinter international exposition and is raising $500,000 by subscription for the erection of the buildings, resolved—That we urge the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature to make a state appropriation of $500,000 additional for the said exposition, also to pass an act empowering the county boards of supervisors to appropriate money for the respective county exhibits.

London, Aug. 4.—The Berlin correspondent of the Times say: "The work of the German Anti Slavery committee will shortly come to an end. It has been a gigantic failure. The committee's funds, amounting to 2,000,000 marks, have been thrown away in two years without any appreciable result. This is partially owing to the incapacity and extravagance of Herr Borchert, the leader of the second expedition to East Africa."

Toronto, Aug. 5.—The five-year-old daughter of John Quigley, of Woodbine avenue, was burned to death yesterday. She pulled a burning stick out of the kitchen stove, which set fire to her clothing.

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