

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1892.

THE MAYOR MISTAKEN.

In one of the Times' editorials that are to be found in its local columns, fault is found with an assistant health officer who refused to take orders from any one except the Provincial Health Officer with respect to the destruction of infected articles. This the Times elegantly calls "cheek." Now, if the Times understood anything about the duties of the officer whose conduct it condemns it would have known that it is the peculiar business of the Health Officer to decide what articles are infected and ought to be destroyed and what are innocuous and safe to be used. Any sensible man who reflects for a moment must see that the care, labor and expense of freeing the city of smallpox would be thrown away if the officials of the corporation from motives of economy, so-called, allowed articles of clothing, bedding, &c., that have been in contact with smallpox patients and smallpox suspects to go into general use. The safest and the cheapest way to dispose of many of such articles is to burn them. The Health Officers burn the bedding and clothes of poor people who have had smallpox in their homes to prevent the spread of the disease, although they know that many of them can but ill afford to lose the property so destroyed. And are the health authorities to be eminently indulgent to the Corporation and spare its property when they know that the preservation of the public health requires it to be destroyed? However, it will not do to be too hard on a wretched reporter who presumes to take the editor's place, when no less a person than the Mayor expresses himself quite as ignorantly and unreasonably. On the day on which the Times' article appeared, Mayor Beaven sent the following letter to the Provincial Health Officer:

VICTORIA, B.C., Aug. 15, 1892.
J. C. Davis, Esq., M.D.:
DEAR SIR—I am informed that the suspects at Ross Bay station are all to be discharged in a few days. I have not been favored with your views upon the subject but I desire to point out to you that the corporation cannot permit any destruction of property there other than such as may be done by their consent.
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN, Mayor.

To this letter Dr. Davis sent the following reply:

VICTORIA, B.C., Aug. 16, 1892.
Mayor Beaven:
SIR—In answer to your letter to me of the 15th inst., I beg leave to refer you to the Provincial Health Regulations by which you will find I am authorized as Provincial Health Officer to see that the local health officers carry out the provisions of the same.
Your obedient servant,
J. C. DAVIS, Provincial Health Officer.

Independently of the unreasonableness of Mayor Beaven's peremptory notification he should have known that it was his place as Chairman of the Local Board of Health to receive his instructions from the Provincial Health Officer, and not to presume to dictate to him in matters relating to his professional and official duties. Such a scrupulous observer of law as Mayor Beaven professes to be should have consulted the statute before he undertook to give directions to the Provincial Health Officer. If he did so, he would have found in section 5, of the Health Act, that it is "the duty of the Health Officer to provide that the Local Boards carry out the orders in Council." Dr. Davis is, therefore, in all matters relating to Health, as long as the present invasion of smallpox lasts, the Chairman of the Local Board's superior in office, whose duty it is to supervise what Mr. Beaven does, and to give him directions.

Dr. Davis has charge of the suspect station, and it is his duty to leave it and all it contains in such a condition that there will not be the remotest chance of their conveying the smallpox infection to any one at any time. We are quite certain that Dr. Davis will take the proper measures to leave them in this state, no matter what Mayor Beaven may say or write. He has done his duty thoroughly heretofore, and he will not begin to slough it now.

LET US HAVE THE DATES.

The organ of the Opposition on Monday, in trying to show "where inconsistency lies," says:

"The city Board of Health was slow in moving at the first, and the Times performed what it deemed its duty in striving to urge it on."

A little further on in the article it continues:

"Whether as a result of the Times' prodding or as a result of their own observations, the civic authorities did take hold of the work, and were proceeding with it when the Government interfered unwarrantably."

Perhaps the Times will give us the exact date of the civic authorities taking hold between the time it was doing the "prodding" and the interference of the Government. This is a case in which dates are important, for if the civic authorities "did take hold," they must have done it so secretly and so mysteriously as to escape the observation of everyone in the city except themselves and the editor of the Times. We have a very lively recollection of the state of public feeling at the time when the Government's sense of duty compelled them to interfere, and of the general feeling of relief when it was known that the work of fighting the smallpox was in capable hands. But when our contemporary gives us the dates the people will be able to judge whether the interference of the Government was unwarrantable or not. Reference to its own columns will aid the Times in fixing upon the exact time when the interference of the Government became unwarrantable.

A PACIFIC CABLE.

The scheme of a Pacific cable is again being discussed. The advantages of connecting Great Britain with Australia by a telegraph line, the land parts of which are all on British territory, and the cable section at the bottom of an ocean, where it can be secured no matter what convulsions are going on on the surface of the earth, are too many and too plain to require either explanation or discussion. The only question that really requires to be considered is the question of expense. The laying of a Pacific cable is all that is needed to complete the connection. The Pacific coast is already connected with Great Britain by cable and by land wires, and can be communicated with as readily as certainly, and almost as rapidly, as if they were only a few hundred miles apart.

The laying of a Pacific cable is certainly a very expensive enterprise, and it is not surprising that there is some hesitation in undertaking it. It has been found to be quite feasible. Mr. Sandford Fleming, who is an enthusiastic advocate of the cable, said in a recent letter on the subject:

"Following up these and more specific representations of the members of the conference, the admiralty was induced to undertake a nautical survey to test the practicability of the route. The survey has been carried on during the intervening years. The soundings are all that could be desired, proving as they do, the existence of a floor, probably not less favorable for cable laying than that of the Atlantic, which is used for this purpose. The results of the survey are satisfactory as may be judged from the fact that sounding operations have been closed, and the admiralty have taken possession of a number of islands in the Pacific, for the purpose of establishing mid-ocean stations wherever they may be required."

It would appear from this that everything is ready except the money to go on with the work. Who is to supply the funds? The Australian colonies have suggested that the governments of the different countries concerned, undertake to lay and operate the cable. The sum needed to meet all requirements is calculated to be half a million of dollars annually. This is a large amount, certainly, but if the cable is made a matter of Imperial concern it does not seem too great considering its usefulness and importance. It must not be forgotten that the cable will be certain to bring in a large revenue, which, though not sufficient to make it pay as a commercial enterprise for some time to come, will greatly lighten the burden which the different Governments will have to bear.

It appears, however, that the Imperial Government is not prepared to take a share in the enterprise. Lord Knutsford thus expressed the conclusion to which his Government had arrived on the subject. He said:

"While therefore I expressed my willingness to bring before Her Majesty's Government the wishes of the members that a line might be constructed for military purposes to be exclusively controlled by the British Government, I could not hold out any hope that such a scheme would be favorably received."

Although the Imperial Government is unwilling to take upon itself the whole expense of the cable, it is not by any means unlikely that it and the Governments of the Dominion and of the colonies of Australasia would give material aid to any company that would undertake to lay the cable as a private enterprise. This, we believe, is the way in which it will be laid eventually, and there are, we are quite satisfied, men in the Mother Country and the colonies who are courageous enough to engage in the enterprise, and who have ability enough to carry it out to a successful conclusion. The laying of the Pacific cable, though a task of great magnitude, and perhaps some difficulty, is not by any means a work so titanic in its nature as the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Yet that road from its inception to its completion was the work of Canadians.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY.

Those who believe that all United States citizens are narrowly and intensely exclusive in matters of trade and commerce make a serious mistake. There are among them men of wide and liberal views, who regard McKinley as the policy of unenlightened self-interest. They believe that it is in the interest of the United States to deal liberally with her neighbors, and they know that there is a trade reciprocity which is beneficial to both the nations who agree to carry it on. This reciprocity is a real reciprocity, not what Harper's Weekly calls the "misbegotten thing," which is now in the United States passing by the name of reciprocity, but which is neither more nor less than a system of retaliation.

The advocates of a more liberal trade policy are already numerous in the States, and they are growing. It was the knowledge that there were very many in different parts of the Union who were dissatisfied with the high protective tariff that caused Mr. Blaine to advocate reciprocity. But his system of mutual free trade was very different, indeed, from the thing misnamed reciprocity which was reluctantly tacked on to the McKinley Bill, a measure conceived in a spirit of worse than Chinese exclusiveness. But the liberal trader, though defeated for the time by the McKinley Congress, are still alive and still a power in the land. This is what Harper's Weekly says of the movement inaugurated by Mr. Blaine in favor of true reciprocity:

"But though Mr. Blaine failed to carry out his particular plan to meet the desire and need of the country, and of a large part of the Republican party, for a policy of free trade, the force that created the movement he sought to direct have not died out. They cannot. They are inherent in the evolution of the American people. With the growth of our population, the development of our vast and varied resources, the marvellous force, range and intensity of American ingenuity and enterprise and capacity for industry and commerce, the production of the country steadily

leads to outstrip even our great power of consumption. The tariff question has ceased to be one of protection to infant industries, because our industries are no longer infants. They are in the full vigor of young manhood, and they find even their spacious home too small for them. They look out into the world and feel ready for its strife and eager for its prizes. It will not be long before the barriers that confine them will be removed. Under all the confusion of partisan conflict this is the significant, decisive fact. It may not determine the elections of this year, though it now looks as if it would. But soon or late, and more likely soon than late, American industries will demand the emancipation of trade, and will compel it."

It is pleasant to learn from so good an authority as Harper's Weekly that our southern neighbors are not always to be obnoxious, touchy and exacting in matters of trade; that there is a liberal element in the population that must before long make itself felt in the councils of the nation. Although Canadians are not prepared to make unworthy concessions to obtain free trade intercourse with the United States, they can get under the present administration, they are fully alive to the advantages of reciprocity, and will be always ready to meet liberal Americans more than halfway when free trade relations can be had without a sacrifice of loyalty or self-respect.

THE RIGHT DATES.

The Times has replied to our demand for dates in a way that shows the untenable position it has taken. It asserted that between the time that it "prodded" the civic authorities and the date of the interference of the Government the civic authorities had "taken hold." These are the words it uses in its article of the 16th.

"Whether as a result of the Times' prodding or as a result of their own observations, the civic authorities did take hold of the work, and were proceeding with it when the Government interfered unwarrantably."

Our contemporary did its prodding on the 6th and the 7th of July. On both those days it urged the Government to apply "a desperate remedy" to "a desperate disease." Now, if the prodding had a stimulating effect on the civic authorities, they must have shown some indications of it on the 6th, for it was on the 9th that the Government interfered, "unwarrantably," as the Times now asserts. Where is the evidence that the civic authorities, prodded as they were by the Times, made the slightest stir in the right direction on the 8th of last month?

The Times knows very well, as every citizen in Victoria knows, that the civic authorities were completely paralyzed on that day. So conspicuous was their inability to meet the crisis, that the citizens lost all faith in them and were looking about them for some way of fighting the smallpox which was gaining ground every hour in the most alarming way, outside the Corporation. The civic authorities were, we venture to say, never so low in the estimation of the citizens, and of the people of the province generally, as they were on the 8th of July last, when the Times would have us believe that its "prodding" had been effective, and that they had "taken hold."

On that day the Times, whether exhausted by its exertions in prodding the local Board of Health or in despair, appears to have been as completely paralyzed as the civic authorities themselves. It had not a word to say about the smallpox visitation, yet this was the day in which the civic authorities, according to the Times, "took hold."

On the 9th, the day in which the Government came to the rescue of Victoria, the Times threw off its lethargy. It told its readers that "our citizens" were "at last aroused," and it gave a full account of the meeting of medical men held in the office of the Hon. Theodore Davis. It did not then say that the interference of the Premier was "unwarrantable." It did not say as much as hint that the civic authorities had "taken hold" and that the interference of the Government was unnecessary. It did not even do anything so unbecomingly foolish as to say that the Government was unwarrantable.

On the 11th, which was the day in which the Health Regulations were issued and the Government interfered a good deal more than it had on the Saturday previous, our contemporary did not enter its protest against the Premier's "unwarrantable interference." So far from taking this ridiculous course, it wisely approved of what had been done, and called loudly and emphatically for a sanitary district. This is what it said:

"THE PRESENT IS A TIME WHEN A WISE AUTOCRAT, WHO FEARED NO MAN, CARED FOR NO EXPENSE, AND LOOKED UPON EVERY OBSTACLE AS A STRAW IN HIS PATH, WOULD BE OF INCALCULABLE VALUE TO THE CITY."

We have given this passage, as it well deserves, a good deal more prominence than was allowed it by the modest editor in the article from which it was taken. It is a sentence that deserves to be written in letters of gold, as it describes most aptly the kind of man that was required to deal with the smallpox visitation and the nature of the policy he ought to pursue.

In the Times of the 11th is also an article on the health regulations issued by the Government, in which they are characterized as "wise regulations," and their rigid enforcement strongly recommended. Yet these regulations not only interfere with the authority of the Corporation but, in some cases, completely supersede it. Yet the Times did not protest against the interference or characterize it as unwarrantable. Then was the time for our contemporary to have put in its protest and to uphold the jurisdiction of the civic authorities, for all that was subsequently done, as the News-Advertiser honestly admits, was done within the scope of the Health Act and the Health Regulations issued under the authority of that act.

It will not do for the Times to shift its

ground and to say that it was on the 19th of July that the Government was guilty of its first unwarrantable interference, when Dr. Milne was removed from office. Dr. Milne's removal was only one of the consequences of the interference of the Government on the 9th and 11th of July. Besides it cannot be said that the civic authorities had "taken hold" after the appointment by the Government of the Provincial Health Officer. Everything after that was done under his direction. Dr. Davis was the benign autocrat that the Times demanded in the hour of stress and danger, and well he has performed the duties, and exercised the authority of the Times own autocrat. We cannot allow our contemporary to chop and change in any way that suits its convenience. It said that the civic authorities had taken hold when the Government interfered unwarrantably. Now, the date of the Government's interference, in the 9th day of July, 1892. And we have plainly shown that our contemporary itself regarded that interference at the time it was made, as the reverse of unwarrantable.

THE GLADSTONE MINISTRY.

It is to be remarked that Mr. Gladstone could not find a place in his ministry for either a Radical or an Irish Home Ruler. It was fully expected by many that Mr. Labouchere would be offered a seat in the next Gladstone Cabinet. He occupies an influential position in Mr. Gladstone's party, and he has done as much as any one member of it now living, to bring about its success. But Mr. Labouchere has made himself too obnoxious to Royalty to be accepted by the Queen as one of her advisers. The only Home Ruler who has made a position for himself in the world is Mr. Justin McCarthy, but it is evident that he is considered by British politicians as ineligible for a seat in the Government, for in all the rumours that were made concerning the personnel of Mr. Gladstone's Ministry—and their name is legion—the name of Mr. McCarthy has not been once mentioned.

The best that can be said of the new ministry is that it is respectable. The only one in it, besides Mr. Gladstone himself, who are looked upon as possessing exceptional ability, are Mr. John Morley, Sir William Harcourt and Lord Rosebery. As Secretary of Foreign Affairs—at this juncture a most important position—his appointment will receive the approbation of men of all parties. It is, indeed, believed that he is the only man of the Gladstone party who is fit to fill the position. Some of the untidied men may, if time is afforded them, show that they possess the qualifications that statesmen to be successful must possess, but it is quite as likely that they may prove dismal failures.

It is evident that Mr. Gladstone, unaided, will not be able to perform the duties of leader of the House of Commons. Some one must be chosen to perform the duties of leader in Mr. Gladstone's absence from the House. The probability is that the man who will occupy the position of the Premier's first lieutenant will be Sir William Vernon Harcourt. He is an able man certainly, but it is questionable whether he is by disposition or temper calculated to make a successful leader of the House of Commons.

The new Government has a hard time before it, both at home and abroad. The Opposition is truly formidable, both as to numbers and talent. Its being so well and so enthusiastically supported in the country will give it a moral strength that an Opposition to the Government of Great Britain seldom possesses. As we have previously shown, the Unionist Opposition has a majority of 71 members of Parliament in England, and a majority for the whole Island of Great Britain of 15. This is an uncommonly strong position for an Opposition to occupy. When the votes polled for the present Government and the present Opposition are compared the position of the Unionist Opposition party appears still stronger.

The votes polled for the Gladstone party in the United Kingdom amounted to 2,447,856. The total Unionist vote was 2,274,842, which leaves a majority for the Gladstone party of only 203,014, which, according to the average number of votes polled for each member, would give the Separatists a majority of less than 30. The Conservatives know that a very slight change of opinion in Great Britain will cause Mr. Gladstone's majority to melt away like snow exposed to the sun of midsummer. This conviction will give them courage, not only to maintain the ground they occupy, but to make every exertion to regain that which they have lost. That they will succeed before long in turning the tables on Mr. Gladstone or his successor, if he is taken away while in office, those who are best able to form an opinion, are well convinced. So the Unionist party take possession of the Opposition benches with high hopes and show an undaunted front.

THE CHOLERA.

The approach of the cholera from the East still continues to alarm the inhabitants of Europe and America. Its advance has been rapid, but it has been steady and continuous. The cases in St. Petersburg, which were considered sporadic, have been followed by others, which have shown that the disease had reached that point in its westward progress. It has also appeared in Moscow. The mortality has been considerable, but not so great as might be expected considering the weakened condition of many of the inhabitants of the famine-stricken districts. Cholera riots have been of frequent occurrence in different parts of Russia. Agitators, both social and political, have tried to influence the minds of the populace against the physicians, and in many cases

they have been only too successful. Hospitals have been attacked and murders have been committed by the excited and misguided mobs. These mobs it appears are no respecters of persons. They resolutely attack all who endeavor to quiet them and to persuade them not to do mischief whether they are medical men, Government or municipal officials or priests. In one place they killed a druggist and his assistant, and in another they fell upon a priest and beat him very severely, and in a third they turned upon the police who were trying to restore order mortally wounding one of their number. The ignorant and panic-stricken peasants are cruelly suspicious and are ready to do violence to any one whom they foolishly believe is trying to injure them.

This tendency to disorder among the peasantry has caused the authorities to be very severe. Proclamations have been issued against the unprincipled agitators who, for purposes of their own, take advantage of the cholera panic to create trouble and disturbance. General Baraoff announces that he will have every agitator who is caught in the act of stirring up the common people hanged on the spot, while his accomplices will be hanged by martial law. A little wholesome severity in such circumstances is really merited and may avert greater evils.

In some parts of Russia there seems to have been such an exodus as must have left the districts almost without inhabitants. We read that about 120,000 of the inhabitants fled from Baku, a city on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, the population of which, according to our gazetteer, is only 64,000. The population of the province, however, is 567,992. The flight of so large a proportion of the inhabitants shows how greatly the people of that part of Russia fear the approach of the cholera. The plague has appeared on the east coast of the Caspian, carrying off quite a number of persons, and the people of the west coast, taking the alarm, hoped to escape its ravages by going to Tiflis and other cities, which it is said they crowded.

The cholera has not yet, as far as we can learn, gone beyond the Russian border. A most rigid quarantine has been established against Russia in the Danubian principalities, and in Germany and Austria. Enquiry has shown that what was believed to be the Asiatic cholera in Paris, was caused by the drinking water, of part of the inhabitants. The disease broke out in a lunatic asylum in Chartres. Forty cases were reported, and there were twenty deaths. It is believed that the outbreak was caused by some infected linen sent to the asylum from a laundry near Paris.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The meeting to be held to-night cannot complain of the bill of fare that is set before it. Almost any one of the subjects would require a whole evening for its discussion alone. How are the taxpayers to get a good idea of any one of the subjects upon which they are required to vote if an attempt be made to discuss all the by-laws on which they are called upon to vote. If the attempt be made the speeches must necessarily be rambling and the result most unsatisfactory to all concerned. If the discussion is to be an intelligent one, and anything like thorough, it will be best for the meeting to confine itself to the consideration of one of the by-laws, or at most, two of them.

It is pleasant to see Mayor Beaven and the Provincial Health Officer working together, as they do in the telegram to the Mayor of Seattle, for the good of the city and for the credit of the Province. If the civic authorities had all along worked harmoniously and heartily with the Provincial Health Officer and his subordinates, both they and the citizens would have been spared much unnecessary unpleasantness and annoyance.

The statements made within that telegram are much within the truth. The gentlemen could have informed the Mayor of Seattle that the smallpox has not spread on the island of Vancouver beyond the limits of the city of Victoria. An observance of the ordinary health regulations has been sufficient to keep the smallpox from spreading not only to Nanaimo, but to the intervening settlements and villages. There is not to-day on the island of Vancouver a single case of smallpox outside the boundaries of the quarantine station, and the patients in there are nearly all convalescent.

The Mayor has, we see, issued another political manifesto on health matters. He professes to have found out, at this late date, that the law under which the smallpox has been stamped out in this city, is "shorn, attenuated and obsolete." We are not a lawyer as Mr. Beaven is, but we must say that for an attenuated law, the Health Act has shown itself to be very vigorous, and if it is obsolete, the experience of both Victoria and Vancouver has proven that it is exactly suited to the circumstances of the present time. When the municipalities, great and small, from the blundering and the incapacity of popularly-hungry civic authorities, it does the whole community a service of incalculable value. It would be a bad thing for British Columbia if the judges should declare the Health Act obsolete. In that case, the Legislature would be compelled, in the public interest, to enact a new one, even more stringent in its provisions, without loss of time.

Free or Convict Labor?

CHASTANOCOA, Tenn., Aug. 16.—The miners attacked the stockade at Oliver Springs this morning. They marched to the stockade at 10 o'clock and ordered the convicts turned over to them. They were refused and a sharp encounter followed. The guards showed pluck and easily repulsed the miners, who fell back suddenly to prepare for a second attack. In the meanwhile the government was notified and he ordered the troops of Third Infantry, under Col. Woolford to be collected for action. The regiment left here this afternoon for Oliver Springs. The people in the neighborhood are all in sympathy with the miners and it is believed will give the troops trouble. It is said that Governor Buchanan will go to Coal Creek to-night and will then declare the lease system void on the ground that it is illegal.

Against Epidemics.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—Surgeon-General Wyman of the Marine hospital has issued to the United Press reporter last night that a reported arrival of an infected yellow fever vessel off the coast of Tampa, Fla., was correct, but that every precaution had been taken to prevent communication with the shore, and no danger of an epidemic was apprehended from this source. In regard to two other dreaded plagues, smallpox and cholera, Dr. Wyman said that there had been a sort of pan-epidemic of smallpox throughout the United States, slightly more than usual, brought over, he believed,

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Sir Charles Tupper has started for St. Petersburg, as Canadian delegate to the International railway conference which opens next week.

AMERICAN NEWS.

A Bloody Sham Fight—An Old Man's Contribution to Russia's Incendiary Fund.

Blaine Takes the Stamp—Gigantic Lumber Pool—S. S. Line to Honolulu.

Outcome of a Sham Fight.

CAMP WHITE, Niantic, Conn., Aug. 17.—To-day's battle at Gordon's Mills, was supposed to be a sham encounter, but the victims in the hospital are inclined to a very different opinion. The third and fourth regiments proceeded to the battle ground and half an hour after the battle began all military tactics were forgotten. It became a series of rushes and hand-to-hand encounters. A clubbing match with muskets resulted when the forces reached the bridge, and 12 men were badly used up. The injuries are in most cases of a serious nature. The faces of the injured were filled with powder, the flesh was blown off, and one man lost an ear. The officers of both regiments are being severely criticised for allowing their men to adopt such unusual tactics.

False Pretences of the O'Donovan.

NEW YORK, Aug. 17.—Wm. Doyle, an infirm old man, 63 years of age, arrived in this city about five weeks ago, from the Sisters' Hospital in Buffalo. His mission was to find O'Donovan Rossa, to donate \$50 towards the burning of England. He gave a guide \$5 to take him to the editor of the United Irishman, who told him in all candor that the old man was dead, and that if he insisted on donating the money it would be taken in return for a life subscription. Doyle gave him the \$50. Rossa took the man to his home, and now Doyle claims that Rossa obtained \$110 from him by false pretences, and has retained the money. It appears from the reports of the housekeeper with whom he subsequently boarded that Doyle's mind is unbalanced.

Blaine in Maine.

BOSTON, Aug. 17.—A despatch from Bar Harbor says authoritatively that Blaine will speak in the coming campaign in the state of Maine. He does not feel strong enough to make the regular stamping tour, as in former years, but he will make a series of speeches at various points in the state.

Steamship Line to Honolulu.

SEATTLE, Aug. 17.—At a meeting of the trustees of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday, a letter was received from H. W. Baker & Co., Seattle, Washington, offering to build a line of steamships between Seattle and Honolulu for a period of six months a steamship line between Puget Sound and Honolulu would be established. The vessels would bring to this city fruit and other goods from the Hawaiian Islands, and would turn four and coal. Going from here she would touch at Portland, where she would finish discharging and receiving cargo, and thence back to Hawaii.

Lumber Pool.

TACOMA, Aug. 16.—An effort is being made by San Francisco firms to pool the water output of all coast sawmills, amounting to \$1,000,000 per month. In the next few days a meeting will be held at which the subject will be created, showing that from \$40,000 to \$100,000 per year will be used in subsidizing the smaller mills which will not be in the competition with the larger ones. It is believed that the pool will be organized. The greatest fear of the association seems to be the efforts of several Eastern traders to break up the pool and thereby reap a harvest in commission. However, there is not the least show of weakness by the Washington and Oregon concern. On the other hand it is increasing its strength and now has upwards of fifty mills in the combine.

"An Old Man's Darling."

SEATTLE, Aug. 17.—John P. Felt, at the age of 74 years, has brought suit for divorce from Maria Felt, whom he married in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, in 1840. In his complaint he alleges that she deserted him in 1877, and has since that time lived with him. By saying up his small earnings he has managed to buy a little property in this city, and the suit is really brought to protect his rights in it. He asks the court for a decree of divorce and to have the property set aside as his own.

Tennessee Miners Still Menacing.

NASHVILLE, Aug. 16.—The attack of the mob of miners on the stockade at Oliver Springs occurred at 8 o'clock this morning. Two guards were fatally injured and eight persons were shot. The miners were finally repulsed, and a harvest in commission. However, there is not the least show of weakness by the Washington and Oregon concern. On the other hand it is increasing its strength and now has upwards of fifty mills in the combine.

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is immigrants' baggage. There was smallpox in New York and on the southern border of Canada, but not enough to cause apprehension of a general epidemic of smallpox at a place called Hiram, Ga., where there was about 100 cases. In that instance the health authorities had been compelled to burn numbers of cases which the patients were living, and remove them to barracks and in way they wiped out the epidemic in short order. In regard to the possible importation of Asiatic cholera from the United States, Dr. Wyman said that the utmost vigilance was being exercised. Congress in the Sundry Civil Bill has appropriated \$100,000 for the express purpose of meeting this danger, and the Marine hospital service had an unexpended balance of \$97,000, which also was applicable in case of necessity. The bureau was in first-class working order and in readiness for any epidemic that might appear at the shortest notice.

THE FIRST REPORT.

Of the Department of Agriculture for the Province of British Columbia.

Col. Wolfenden, Queen's printer, yesterday issued from the Government printing office the first report of the Department of Agriculture for the Province of British Columbia. The report is a very valuable work in the first place, has been no small task, the number of pages of printed matter being nearly 900, and Mr. James R. Anderson, the statistician, has done exceedingly good work in getting into the space filled with so much valuable information as to the state of agriculture, stock raising, fruit growing and the like in the Province.

In its introductory remarks Mr. Anderson draws attention to the difficulties with which he was beset in the preparation of the report. He says: "The absence of any material from which to form comparisons of the difficulty of procuring reliable data upon which to work, the great distances together with the different means of locomotion, rendering some parts of the province very difficult of access, all combined make the work of collecting information, and becoming conversant with the various subjects so necessary in connection with the preparation of an intelligent report on the agricultural and other industries relating thereto, a matter of much difficulty."

Amongst other opinions expressed by Mr. Anderson is the following: "There is too great a disposition on the part of farmers and others to acquire large tracts of land and keep them locked up. This policy is very detrimental to the best interests of the province, inasmuch as many seeking homesteads are compelled either to take up the poor or worthless parts of the country or go elsewhere. By returning to the land, not less than 10 per cent of the land reported owned is cultivated."

Referring to the result of last year's work in various parts of the province, the report says: "The weather in all parts has been exceptional. In the lower country, a late cold and wet spring was followed by a short hot summer, and a very early and continuous fall rains, with scarcely any frost or snow to the end of the year. In the upper country, the small snowfall of the preceding winter caused a serious water in many places for irrigating purposes. The spring was as a rule late and hot, and the summer dry and hot. In Okanagan and Spallumcheen, however, some early summer rain, and a good deal at Grand Prairie (near Duncans), doing much good. The harvest weather was good. Early summer frosts at Okanagan and near Kelowna did some damage, but not to grain, except at high altitudes. Towards the Cariboo country, the summer was the driest experienced in twenty years."

"The grain and fruit crop, taking the country as a whole, was short, and the root and vegetable crop good. In the lower country, the late spring prevented early seeding in many places. The preceding hot and dry weather was unfavorable to the full development of grain crops, and the early fall rains caused much loss in the midst of their harvest, occasioning much loss of the grain that was saved being destroyed, and much was lost by sprouting and lodging before it was cut. In fruit, the apple crop was not up to the average, pears a fair crop, cherries very abundant, and plums almost a total failure, the late cold having injured the blossoms. Small fruits did well, but some loss in strawberries is reported through the late upper country the grain crop generally was short, owing to the lack of water for irrigation. In parts, however, it was good, whilst in others it was a total failure. The harvesting weather was good. Fruit, whether in culture or root crops generally, were good. Some potatoes were frosted, but that only occurred on the high lands. The hay crop was good throughout the country, and well saved, the dry weather in the lower country having come on at the right time."

The report contains excellent chapters under the following heads: "Diseases and Pests of Cattle and Horses," "Diseases and Pests of Sheep," "Diseases and Pests of Swine," "Diseases and Pests of Poultry," "Diseases and Pests of Fish," "Diseases and Pests of Insects," "Diseases and Pests of Plants," "Diseases and Pests of Animals," "Diseases and Pests of Humans," "Diseases and Pests of the Environment," "Diseases and Pests of the Atmosphere," "Diseases and Pests of the Earth," "Diseases and Pests of the Sky," "Diseases and Pests of the Sea," "Diseases and Pests of the Land," "Diseases and Pests of the Air," "Diseases and Pests of the