

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The government is to be congratulated upon the debate upon the address. Most of the opposition members complained that there was nothing in the speech to reply to, and made their excuse for not attacking the general policy of the government. But this is a mistake only, not an excuse. The debate on the address is the opposition's opportunity. Parliamentary practice gives them free scope to deal with every subject that has come or ought to come within the purview of the administration. They have the right to criticize the government for everything it has done and to attack it for what it has not done. The whole past, present and future of the government's policy and performance may be reviewed. The government of this province does what the government of other provinces does. It places the public accounts in the hands of members before the passage of the address, and gives them plenty of time to examine them before the address is moved. In most other legislatures the practice is to withhold everything until the address has been passed. Yet with the records of previous sessions at their disposal, with their intimate knowledge of what has been done throughout the province during the past year, and with the public accounts in their hands, the members of the opposition were unable to score a single point against the administration. This is a subject for congratulation, not only to the government, but to the whole province, for it is a most excellent thing that affairs have been so conducted that the keen and critical gentlemen on the left of the Speaker could find in the five days since the legislature met so little to say that called for any explanation and nothing whatever that called for any defence.

MISSTATING HISTORY.

Much feeling is expressed in the New York Sun over the manner in which the history of the United States is taught in the schools of the Southern States. Extracts from the school books certainly give color to the claim that the youth of the South is being educated to entertain a prejudice against the North and that the free of sectionalism are being kept alive. In this the South is only following the example set in the North. There is nothing quite so absurd as a Northern American school history. It deals with the War of the Revolution and that of 1812 as though there was nothing else in the history of mankind worthy of even casual mention. The school children across the border are taught that the military record of their country is the admiration of humanity, and that wherever the Stars and Stripes have been seen, on land or sea, there the Goddess of Victory has smiled. The consequence of this is that there is growing up in that country an abridgement of braggarism, which would be laughable if there was not a dangerous side to it. The danger consists in the fact that some day an irresponsible set of legislators may plunge the nation into a war, or at least place it in such a position that it cannot retreat without discredit or a lance without disaster. During the last twelve months the people of the United States have been seriously told by braggarism in congress and the public press that the country needs a war. There is danger, they have been assured, of the nation becoming enervated if there is not a lot of bloodshed at the earliest opportunity. We are not at all exaggerating when we use this language, for it is literally correct. That such an abominable and unchristian doctrine should be advocated is the direct result of the incendiary manner in which history is taught in the schools. Those who have not been brought very closely in touch with the matter can have no idea how this spurious militarism prevails among the younger generation of Americans. Taught to believe that their arms have been invincible on land and their fleets unconquerable at sea, they look with considerable longing for the time to come when new laurels can be added to what they have been led to believe is a garland of glory which the world regards with reverence. Tell these youths that neither in the war of the Revolution nor in that of 1812 was there a first class military or naval operation and they regard you as either falsifying history or being lamentably ignorant of its greatest facts.

The newspapers pander to this false patriotism. If a war vessel is launched, no matter what her actual character may be, she is at once described as a new terror of the sea, as the most powerful vessel afloat, and as able to sink anything that carries a foreign flag. "It has been proved," said a leading American paper during the Venezuelan affairs, "that man for man American sailors are twice as good as any others in the world." Of course the man who wrote that did not believe it; he was simply playing upon the absurd notions which the school histories have inculcated into the minds of the younger element of the population.

The other heads in the country are not deceived by such nonsense. The senate committee on coast defence last year examined a number of witnesses. Among them was Admiral Walker. He

was asked what sort of defence the American navy could make against the whole navy of Great Britain. His answer was that if Great Britain should send against the United States such vessels as she could spare without weakening herself on her regular stations, she could capture every city on the coast. General Miles was asked if it was not true that a million men would spring to arms in the event of war. He said he did not doubt it, but there were no guns wherewith to arm them, no ammunition wherewith to supply them, no uniforms wherewith to clothe them, no provisions wherewith to feed them, no plans for transportation wherewith to move them.

The truth of the matter is that the teaching of history in the United States has proceeded on wrong lines. The people of that country are in some respects the greatest in the world; but they have yet to prove their greatness in arms. The triumphs of that country have been among the greatest in history, but they are the triumphs of peace and not of war. Its conquests have been imperial, but they have been made with the axe, the shovel and the plough, and not with the sword or artillery.

HEROES IN COMMON LIFE.

The Roseland Miner pays a deserved tribute to Peter Joyce and James Hemsworth who have recently risked their lives for their fellow men. The story of Joyce is that of a foreman, who knowing that every step he took into the mine might be his last, went bravely on in the hope of rescuing the victims of an explosion. Hemsworth saved two men from being killed by a falling block filled with ore by interposing his arm with the revolving machinery. It was a deliberate offering of his limb and for all he knew, his life to save others. When asked if he was much hurt he bravely answered: "— the difference so long as I saved the boys." If there is a heart that does not beat the quicker for this short story it must be dead to an appreciation of lofty courage.

USE AND ABUSE OF CHECK REINS.

A lady has asked the Colonist for something regarding the use of check reins on horses. The subject is one upon which much has been written with good results as a rule; but there is some danger in overdoing the matter. A check rein is not necessarily an instrument of torture. There are two cases in which it is, namely, when it keeps the horse's head and neck in an unnatural position, thereby interfering with respiration and putting a strain on muscles not intended to bear it, and where, as in the case of draught horses, it prevents them from settling their necks properly in the collar. In example of the latter it may be mentioned that two dray-horses, which passed up Government street yesterday which were tight manes drew the corner of their mouths up showing that the animals in order to pull their loads more comfortably would have liked to get their heads lower. The horses were well kept and showed that their drivers took pride in them. The harness seemed to fit well and was so made apparently as to prevent chafing. In ordinary circumstances these horses would probably suffer no discomfort from their check-reins, but unquestionably it would be better if the reins were unhooked when the drays are loaded. This illustrates one of the points. The other class of cases includes principally coach horses, or those driven to driving carts. In these the tendency is to pull the horse's head higher than he would naturally carry it. No hard and fast rules can be laid down in such cases. Men who train trotting horses will tell you that the overdraw rein is, in possibly the majority of cases, a help to the animal, and those people who work so commendably in the cause of dumb animals may feel assured that such a rein would be better care than anything else in the class of cases. This illustrates another point. The other class of cases includes principally coach horses, or those driven to driving carts. In these the tendency is to pull the horse's head higher than he would naturally carry it. No hard and fast rules can be laid down in such cases. Men who train trotting horses will tell you that the overdraw rein is, in possibly the majority of cases, a help to the animal, and those people who work so commendably in the cause of dumb animals may feel assured that such a rein would be better care than anything else in the class of cases. This illustrates another point.

Certain conditions are known to exist which are not consistent with the old idea as to the fitness of the globe at the Poles, and cannot be explained satisfactorily by reference to any ascertainable facts. One of these is the existence of an irregular belt of maximum coldness of the North Pole. This is much colder in Labrador than in Norway, which is further north; much colder in Russia than in the same latitude in France; much colder in some parts of Siberia than in others in the same latitude. The position of the Magnetic Pole is another unexplained fact, and there are certain phenomena in connection with the Antarctic zone for which science is not yet able to account, or in fact present any reasonable hypothesis.

Forty years ago Dr. Kane came back from the Arctic seas, where he had been searching for Sir John Franklin, and told an incredulous public that the further North his expedition went, the milder the temperature became, and also told of facts observed by himself and his subordinate which formed prima facie evidence of an open Polar sea. All subsequent explorers in very high latitudes brought back similar reports, and even Sir George Nares, whose progress Northward was blocked by what he named paleocrystic ice, to signify its great age, declared himself convinced that beyond that ice there was an open sea. Dr. Nansen said that one of the things which his expedition demonstrated was the correctness of the theory that the cold grew less intense the nearer the approach to the Pole.

In regard to the Antarctic world so very little is known that one must speak very guardedly in reference to it. About all that can be said with certainty is that an immense belt of water surrounds the globe South of Africa, South America and Australia, and that this is bounded on the South by a wall of ice, presumably resting upon a continent; that vegetable life exists on this continent to

a limited extent and in low forms, and that in the interior are several active volcanoes. What lies beyond the Southern sea barrier, except the volcanoes, no one pretends to know. Until a year or so ago it was not considered possible to effect a landing on the Antarctic continent. A harbor has been found where a vessel can apparently lie in safety, and from which an expedition can penetrate the interior. Several parties have been formed to take advantage of this discovery, and this year may witness some valuable contributions to our knowledge of the extreme South. Interest is added to this field of search by the fact that some objects made of clay were found on the shore of the harbor just mentioned, which appeared to have been the work of human hands. It will be a very remarkable thing to find on the Southern continent a new race of men. The imagination can hardly conceive of what an incomprehensible revelation it would be to such a race that outside of the ice belt and "circumambulant ocean" there are continents occupied by hundreds of millions of people enjoying a high degree of civilization. Some imaginative writers have suggested that just as great surprises await us when our explorers have gone far enough North and South. A few weeks ago a French aviator got the scientific world to listen while he told that the earth was hollow and filled with gas. This suggestion is entirely opposed to the received ideas, but not more so than Captain Symmes' proposition, at which the scientific world of fifty years ago laughed most heartily, that the world was hollow, but was inhabited on the inside. We may dismiss these fancies with a passing notice and yet we cannot disguise the fact that "the ends of the earth" have a story to tell and it may be one of surpassing interest.

The relations of Greece and Turkey are becoming more threatening than ever. It is interesting to remember in this connection that the King of Greece is uncle of the Czar and brother of the Princess of Wales. Of course in these days monarchs have not all to say about the making of war, but relationship counts for something. The population of Greece at the last census was 2,187,208. Its standing army is a little over 25,000 men, with a reserve of 104,000, and what is called a territorial army of 146,000 men. The navy consists of five armored vessels and thirty-two other vessels, manned by a force of 3,165 men. Turkey, exclusive of her tributary states, has a population of 27,688,000. Her army numbers 700,200 effective men. Her navy consists of 95 ships afloat and 22 building; but of the former only a small number are of any value as fighting ships.

The Economist is a new monthly periodical issued at Toronto by the Economist Printing and Publishing Co. William Sanderson, M.A., lately editor of Money and Risks, is the editor. The Economist is devoted to banking, mining, industries, trade and commerce. If subsequent issues fulfil the promise of the first, it will be a valuable publication.

It is surprising as novel to read in the Comox News an urgent plea against better transportation facilities for that town "Our isolation is our salvation" it says, and adds that if the people know that is best for them they will not be in a hurry for cheap and easy transportation.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and the wind of Thursday night, while it blew many ugly waves across the gulf and the strait, blew the wayfarer Mackinac afloat, which for the latter is an odd kind of prank for Boreas to play.

The fire in the departmental building at Ottawa is, if we remember right, the second of the kind that has occurred. It is to be hoped that Hon. Mr. Tarte is not mistaken when he says that all the recent and important records are safe.

The esteemed Columbian is unable to discover anything in provincial affairs that is a subject for congratulation, except that the revenue is increasing and mining booming. For this much of an exception let us be duly thankful.

The Post-Intelligencer says: "The act of Jim Hemsworth in saving the lives of the miners at Roseland was that of a hero."

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

EXPLORATION COMPANIES.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Mr. Bryden gave the house something new. The habit in all legislatures is to express no opinion but sympathy with the farmer and to represent him as a long-suffering and oppressed individual, who needs the sustaining hand of the government every year. Mr. Bryden treated the house to the novelty of a suggestion that the farmers could do something to help themselves. If he will take the time to talk a little more on this subject, he will do good. Farmers do not serve every possible assistance that can be extended to them, but they should never forget that, after all, self-reliance and good business methods are the only certain passports to success in their as in every other business.

Mr. Sword's point that if the speech had gone more into details there would have been less unanimity over it, may be well. It is proved, however, that Governments do not usually go into details in the speech, which is simply a sort of general intimation of the lines which are intended to follow during the session. To open the session with a statement in detail of prospective legislation would be something new.

Mr. Huff was made to say in the Colonist report of Thursday's debate that he hoped the bill for a railway to Alberta would receive serious consideration. What Mr. Huff said was that at least two projects for a railway to Alberta would be submitted, and he hoped the matter would receive serious consideration.

Mr. Rogers, in his speech on the address, pointed out that Cariboo was among those sections of the province which were increasing their contributions to the revenue. Last year it paid \$1,000 more into the provincial treasury than in any year in its palmy days.

The legislative catechism is growing long and some of the questions to be asked of the government are interesting. While it is impossible to gauge the physical and mental anguish caused to individuals by disease and death, attempts have been made to estimate this loss to the community. Sir Ed. Ross, Chief Justice, estimates that loss in the case of an adult male at \$100—say \$70; other authorities at \$100—say \$48.

It does not appear to be unreasonable for the purpose in view of placing the loss to the community by the death of an adult male at \$400, of an adult female at \$300, and of a child at \$50. For a case of sickness it will hardly be thought that \$15 is an unreasonable amount.

On this basis we have the loss to the community in this city for the year 1896 as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes adult males at \$400, adult females at \$300, 21 children at \$50, 1,562 cases of sickness at \$15, and a total loss of nearly \$40,000 in one year.

The issues of life and death, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, are in the hands of a higher power than our own, and we contend that by an intelligent and comprehensive adoption of the best means recommended by modern science, the rates of death and sickness can be reduced to a minimum.

DR SELWYN'S BREAK.

To THE EDITOR:—Dr. Selwyn has not added to his popularity by throwing doubt on the predictions of Eastern people under the influence of mining fever who assert that Canada will soon become one of the greatest gold producing countries in the world. Making allowance, however, for Dr. Selwyn's annoyance at extreme statements which at present have little to justify them, I think he went to the other extreme when he declared the Dominion would never make as good a gold record as any of the principal Australian colonies.

SKIN DISEASES!

One Remedy Which has Never Failed—Tried and Tested Ointment. Because other alleged remedies for piles, scrofula, scabetic eruptions, scald head, chafing, black heads, salt rheum and skin diseases generally have proved useless, we recommend Dr. Chase's Ointment. It has never been known to fail. For instance, Nelson Simmonds, Meyersburg, Ont., writes: "I have been afflicted with piles for many years. I used Dr. Chase's Ointment for Piles, and can recommend it highly. It has given me relief and perfect freedom from the disease."

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. Mother's greatest remedy for coughs, colds, bronchial and lung affections is Dr. Chase's Syrup of Limes and Turpentine. The medicinal taste is wholly disguised making it pleasant to take. Large bottle 25 cents.

Assuming the population to have remained about the same there has been a decrease of 21 deaths since the sanitary conditions of the city have been improved, to which it is reasonable to assume that this decrease is due. It is not, however, in a reduction in the death rate alone that an observance of hygiene is to be brought about. Dr. Lyon Playfair calculates that every preventable death 28 cases of disease would give us 21 lives saved and 588 cases of sickness prevented to the great and general benefit of the community.

The death rate in Victoria should not exceed 12 per 1,000 under the most healthy attainable conditions; assuming the population, as has been frequently estimated in reports, to be 29,000, the deaths per annum exclusive of those due to accident should not exceed 349.

We have then an excess for the past year of 59 deaths and 1,652 cases of preventable sickness.

The statement for 1891 gives the following ratio of mortality in sex and age: Males, over 15 years of age, 196. Males, over 15 years of age, 69. Females, over 15 years of age, 44. This makes a total of 346.

It would appear that the preponderance of deaths of males over those of females is more than might be reasonably anticipated, yet the table states that there were no less than 86 deaths of males between twenty and sixty years of age. It is probable, however, that the majority of the accidental deaths, numbering 23, took place among the adult males. We will assume that they all died so; in which case the deaths from disease are in the following ratios: Adult males 43.75 per cent., adult females, 39.91 per cent., and children, 35.31 per cent.

With this proportion the excess of 59 deaths would be adult males 26, of adult females 15, and of children 21; it is perhaps needless to discriminate between the sexes and ages of children who suffered from preventable sickness.

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SITUATION

Affairs in Crete and Trouble in Power

Their Oppressor

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Crete is attracting no small interest in the Greek islands has given government so much. After many unsuccessful attempts in 1886, stop the insurrection, and did not succeed. The Turkish authorities have been long for annexation to the Ottoman Empire, but the powers have landed a large force of troops in Crete. The Turkish authorities have been long for annexation to the Ottoman Empire, but the powers have landed a large force of troops in Crete.

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