

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1896.

PRESERVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

An impression seems to prevail that if quarantine arrangements are good and if quarantine regulations are faithfully carried out, contagious diseases cannot be brought into the country by ships. But it should be remembered that it is an absolute impossibility to make a quarantine perfect—to carry it out with the precision of a chemical experiment. There are always weak places in the system, and disease can be, and in practice is, smuggled into a country in the face of the most rigid regulations.

This is so well known in Great Britain that quarantine has gone into disrepute and the country has to depend almost wholly on what is called its inner line of defence against disease. The question of quarantine is dealt with very fully in the Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1892-93. After dwelling on the efficacy of sanitary authorities, port, riparian and inland, the Report goes on to say:

"On the other hand we have often seen that when governments in their attempts to cope with the risk of imported infection have drawn lines about their countries—call them quarantine or any other name—and have said against cholera, 'Thou shalt not go, but no farther,' a false confidence has been engendered, apathy has taken the place of efficient sanitary administration, and the consequence has been that vigor in quarantine restrictions has nearly always corresponded with laxity in public health administration, and with a high rate of mortality from preventable diseases, often including cholera itself."

When the British Government had presented to it the alternative of abandoning state quarantine restrictions or making their inland machinery for the preservation of the public health more effective, they chose the latter alternative, and with the best effect. They found, even as regards the danger of the importation of disease from abroad boards of health were a better safeguard than quarantine."

Dr. Thorne, in the same report, says: "Former experience of cholera in England justified the presence of imported cases of the disease at various spots in the country will not be capable of causing much injury to the population, if the places receiving the infection have had the advantage of proper sanitary administration; and, in order that all local populations may make their self-defence as effective as they can, it will be well for them to have regard to the present state of knowledge concerning the mode in which epidemics of cholera (at least in this country) are produced."

We see from this that British health authorities believe that boards of health are effective not only in preserving the health of the inhabitants of both town and country, but that they are the best defence against the invasion of diseases from abroad. And, after all, epidemics of cholera and smallpox are not by any means the greatest dangers against which the inhabitants of a country require to be preserved. There are agents infinitely more insidious and more deadly continually active in the murderous work of undermining the health of the community. And these agents are most successful. They kill thousands upon thousands of old and young, rich and poor, in town and in country every year. It should not for a moment be forgotten that scientific enquiry has proved that one death in every three is caused by some disease that obedience to the laws of health could have prevented. These agents work so quietly and so unobtrusively that comparatively few are aware of their existence. Children die in their infancy, youths and maidens are cut off at the most promising stage of existence, and it seems hard to say that a very large proportion of them are the victims of criminal neglect and inexcusable ignorance, but such is unhappily the case. Is it not the duty of our legislators—their very first duty—to use any means that human skill has devised to prevent this wanton waste of life, this unnecessary addition to the sorrows of the community?

Experience has proved that boards of health can improve the sanitary condition under which people live. They can insist upon obedience to the laws of health, and the Legislature, instead of taking steps to abolish the Provincial Board of Health, should do what it can to increase its influence and authority, and make it more effective. There is no institution of the Government capable of doing more to advance the comfort and the happiness of the community than the Provincial Board of Health.

A HIGH COMPLIMENT.

Our readers who admired so heartily Mr. Olive Phillips-Wolley's spirited verses "The Sea Queen Wakes," will be pleased to know that they have been published in full, with a note of the warmest praise, in the London Spectator of the 8th instant. It is no small honor for an author to be noticed in this way by one of the first literary periodicals of Great Britain. Mr. Wolley deserves the compliment, and

we are glad to see that his lines are appreciated so highly by so good a judge of poetic merit.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell's speech in reply to Senator McInnes' tirade on the appointment of Col. Prior to a seat in the Cabinet, which the reader will find in another column, is well worth reading by all who desire to form an intelligent opinion on that much discussed subject. The Premier in simple language and in the clearest manner shows that Col. Prior's appointment was perfectly constitutional. He also shows from first to last that the course which he pursued with regard to that appointment was altogether fair both to Mr. Prior and to the electors of Victoria.

It is not very creditable to the intelligence or the honesty of the Liberals of Victoria that exception was taken to the constitutionality of Col. Prior's appointment in the first place, and that many of those whom better things might have been expected persisted in declaring that he was not a Cabinet minister even after it was known that he had taken the oath of office and his seat in the Cabinet. Such an impudent denial of an accomplished fact could only be caused by ignorance or dishonesty. Those who keep on declaring that Col. Prior is not a cabinet minister in the fullest sense of the term must know very little indeed about the constitution of their country, or they wish to throw doubt on the validity of his appointment, to deceive the electors in order to accomplish a political purpose.

Senator McInnes must be surprised to find that Col. Prior is a Cabinet Minister, and that, too, with the unwilling acquiescence of the Liberal party. If there was anything wrong or illegal in Col. Prior's appointment, what have Mr. Laurier and his co-laborers been about that they have not taken means to oust him from his seat in the Cabinet? There can be no doubt that if the Liberals could convince the Governor-General that Col. Prior's appointment is unconstitutional, they would without delay set about correcting the mistake he had made in consenting to that appointment. But those Liberals whose opinion is worth listening to do not venture to assert that Col. Prior is not a Cabinet Minister. The most they say is that the appointment is extraordinary and incongruous, but there they stop. They do not stultify themselves, as Senator McInnes has done, by declaring that it is unconstitutional. It is no wonder that the Premier expressed his surprise that Senator McInnes throws a doubt on Col. Prior's position. "Even to-day when Colonel Prior is sitting at the Council Board giving advice upon every question brought before it—whether it be one of trade policy or a fast line or a cable by which the different outlying parts of the Empire may be connected with this country and with England." Such imperviousness to evidence of the strongest kind is more like mulish obstinacy than intelligent doubt.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

It is recognized by the legislatures of all nations that it is their duty to protect the inhabitants of the countries which they govern from the ravages of preventable diseases. China and Japan are the home of smallpox and cholera. British Columbia is thus continually threatened from these sources, and the danger is constantly becoming greater as intercourse becomes more frequent. Two lines of defence exist for British Columbia: The external line of defence—quarantine; the internal line of defence—general sanitation. The first line of defence—quarantine—is a matter over which the Dominion Government exercises exclusive control. The second line of defence is altogether within the authority of the Province.

As regards the external line of defence—quarantine—this is such an interference with commerce that it is always objectionable. Quarantine is, after all, but a weak line of defence. It must, and always is, full of loopholes. Disease invariably passes through this line of defence; all history proves this to be the case. A country which relies upon quarantine to keep it free from epidemic disease is relying upon a broken reed. England, for these reasons, has done away with quarantine.

As regards the second line of defence—general sanitation—all sanitarians recognize that this is the true defence against preventable disease, not only smallpox and cholera, but typhoid fever, typhus fever, scarlet fever, measles, glanders, tubercular diseases, etc. England relies entirely upon this internal line of defence, and has proved that by general sanitation she can control the whole mass of preventable diseases. The means by which she effects this is by having a complete health bureau or organization, viz.: A central board of health, with sub or local boards to carry out the rules and regulations of the central board.

British Columbia has at the present time a Provincial or central Board of Health, which has been in existence now some three months. The object of the Board is to effect the general sanitation of the Province, thereby to put an end to the mortality from diseases of a preventable character. The proportion of the death rate which preventable diseases produce is one-third of the whole

mass. It is recognized in all civilized countries that preventable disease can only be successfully combated by a state organization—a state or provincial board of health. This organization will cost the province only a small sum of money annually. It is very much like a small fire insurance premium to guard against a possible great loss by fire. Yet some members of the Opposition in our Legislature, and, rumor says, some supposed supporters of the present Government, are so short-sighted as to move for doing away with the Provincial Board of Health. The province cannot afford to allow this—it wants no repetition of the experience of 1892—which cost the province an immense sum of money.

The time to prepare for war is not when a country is attacked by a foe but in time of peace—it is the same with health matters. The Province must be prepared for its invasion by disease—this very preparation ensures its safety. The establishment of a Central Board of Health is a sensible and progressive measure. To abolish it would be a retrograde movement, and would earn our legislature the contempt of all intelligent men.

Retrenchment is the order of the day—therefore let the affairs of the Board be managed with all economy—but let not the legislature stultify itself—and show itself so devoid of all sense of duty as to absolutely say we care not for the lives of our constituents.

FOOLS AND FIREBRANDS.

It has become quite evident that nearly all the fools and firebrands of the United States Congress are to be found in the Senate. In the Senate are seated the men who, in order to enrich a few silver producing States, would imperil the credit of their country and throw its business into confusion. It is in the Senate that the jingoes have played the most fantastical of their fantastic tricks, and by their hysterical speeches and their crazy resolutions would have plunged a completely defenceless country into all the horrors of war. The men who would have the United States mix itself up in the complications of European politics in order to attempt to relieve the Armenians have seats in the Senate. Senators have joined the ignorant and thoughtless mob who are clamoring for the recognition of the Cuban insurgents as belligerents. So ridiculous have Senators made themselves with respect to the relations of their country with foreign nations that they have lowered the character of the body to which they belong and have made themselves the laughing-stock of thoughtful and intelligent men both at home and abroad.

"Nothing," says Harper's Weekly, "can be more painful to an American citizen proud of his country than the manner in which the attention of the world abroad is called to the degeneracy of our public men in high places by the treatment of foreign affairs by the Senate of the United States. . . . It is a fact doubly humiliating to American pride that the utterances in foreign affairs of our so-called statesmen in representative place are not taken seriously by the world abroad. But where would be the end of our perplexities if they were?"

MANITOBA'S "PROTEST."

The resolution moved in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly yesterday by Attorney-General Sifton was, in our opinion, merely another move in the Grit political game which Laurier, Greenway & Co. have been for some time playing. What can be more hypocritical than the expression of regret contained in the opening sentence of the resolution:

"It is to be sincerely regretted that the repeated and earnest invitations for an inquiry have been absolutely ignored by the advisers of His Excellency, who propose without complete information themselves to ask coercive legislation from a Parliament the great majority of whose members are necessarily without a full knowledge of the facts relative to the past and present school systems of Manitoba."

It is to be supposed that the courts of Canada and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council arrived at intelligent and equitable conclusions on the question without a full knowledge of the facts relative to the past and present systems of education in Manitoba. The evidence heard at the trials, the arguments of counsel and the elaborate decisions of the judges are all accessible to members of parliament, and are, we submit, more reliable sources of information on the subject than any report of Commissioners, however able they might be or however long they might sit.

Anyone tolerably well acquainted with the subject and with what has been said and written upon it, must be satisfied that it is not possible for a Commission to find out a single fact connected with it that is not already well known. And members of parliament who will not study the evidence submitted to the courts, the judgments and the representations of counsel, will, we may be sure, not take the trouble to read a long and dry report on a subject that has already become hackneyed.

It would be almost as reasonable to appoint a commission to inquire into the correctness of the multiplication table or to test the logical soundness

of the demonstrations of the propositions and problems of the First Book of Euclid as to appoint a commission to inquire into the grievance of the denominational minority in Manitoba. The subject is completely threshed out, not a single new fact or fresh argument can reward the labor of the investigator.

Every impartial man must see, whether he is Conservative or Grit—a supporter of religious education or an advocate of secular schools—that the demand for a Commission on the part of the Grits, whether they are in Winnipeg or in Ontario, is nothing more than a device to gain time and to shirk the question.

Both the Government and the Legislature of Manitoba know well that the Administration have gone into this Manitoba school business most unwillingly, that they would at any time have entertained and eagerly considered any advance towards a settlement that Manitoba might make. They also know that they themselves have persistently denied that the minority have any grievance to complain of and that they have contentiously rejected every proposal to settle the question fairly and amicably. Even now in the face of the judgment of the Privy Council Mr. Sifton asks the Legislature of Manitoba to declare "That no case has ever been made out for interference with our school law by the Dominion Parliament." It is said that many believe that the introduction to the resolution is merely the first part of the programme for the settlement of the question arranged by Sir Donald A. Smith. We are at a loss to see in the resolution any grounds for such a surmise; the whole document reads to us far more like an electioneering manifesto than a statement preliminary to an amicable settlement.

A MILD TONE.

The tone of the American press on the subject of the Venezuelan boundary dispute has become greatly more moderate than it was a few weeks ago. Our neighbors are beginning to see that Great Britain is not the greedy, unscrupulous monster that the tail-twisters, in and out of Congress, have represented her to be. A little inquiry has shown them that the British case is very much stronger than they supposed it to be, and since their attention has been directed to Venezuela and the South American republics generally, they have been compelled to come to the conclusion that they are composed of men whose quarrels sensible Americans and honest Americans would not readily take up. They see that those republics are not a very promising set of protégés and that it will not do for the United States to be too intimate in her intercourse with them or to place too much confidence in the statements they make. If she has too much to do with them she may find herself mixed up in transactions of a questionable character and committed to a policy which it will not be easy to justify. The standards of right and wrong are considerably different in the small republics of the tropical South from what they are in the great commonwealth of the cold and calculating North.

The Americans, too, are finding that they have wasted a great deal of hatred and abuse on the cool and good tempered Britfishers. The latter, while they listened to the tall talk of the tail-twisters, only laughed good-naturedly and told them frankly that they were not half so angry as they thought they were, and that when they had blown their surplus steam off they would find that they were making a great deal of fuss about a matter of very little importance. And this has turned out to be the case. John and Jonathan are much better friends to-day than they were a month or two ago.

ONTARIO'S FINANCES.

We are told by the Times about Ontario's wonderful surplus—on paper, "and when Provincial Treasurer Hartcock made his budget speech the other day, he made the almost unprecedented announcement that the expenditure for the past fiscal year had been less and the revenue more than had been estimated."

A good deal depends upon the way in which a story is told. It may be that in this matter of finance as in some others "distance lends enchantment to the view," for some of those who live in the capital of Ontario the financial position of Ontario does not appear anything like so brilliant as when it is viewed from so distant a point as Victoria, B. C. The Daily Mail and Empire of Toronto, in an article on Ontario's finances, says:

According to the Ontario public accounts there was a balance of \$268,578 lying to our credit at the end of 1894. During 1895 we expended \$3,755,535. This amount so far exceeded the current receipts as to reduce the credit balance to \$87,580. In other words, there is a deficit on the year's operations of \$171,000. To bring the figures up to this apparently reasonable basis it has been necessary to sell annuities, which means to borrow or to add to the debt, the sum realized by this process being \$171,520. The amount by which we have gone behind is therefore \$343,000 in round figures. Approximately the outgo was ten per cent. more than the income. It is very clear that the Government saw some years ago that the revenue would soon be insufficient to meet the expenditure upon the scale on which it was being conducted. To avoid difficulties it appropriated revenues that were largely

municipal, notably the license revenue. Last year in this way added to its resources by \$290,000. A further expedient was that of laying taxes upon the estates of deceased persons. It now takes, except where the estate is small, a proportion of the property which the people who are economical accumulate during their lifetime. The amount it secured last year was \$298,000. There was very good reason for the precautionary measures upon which the Government embarked, for there has been a constant increase in the expenditures, and, truth to tell, we do not see the end of them yet.

Nothing can be more unreasonable or more unfair than, as the Times flippantly does, to compare the financial position and methods of a young province like British Columbia, in which the Government is required to do nearly everything, with those of an old province like Ontario, in which there is comparatively little for the Government to do and in which municipalities relieve the Government of a very large share of the expenditure on roads, bridges, schools and improvements generally. The Times would have its readers believe that Ontario is economical because its Government is Grit, but the Mail and Empire shows conclusively that Grit Provincial governments are, as a rule, the reverse of economical. It says:

Mercier found Quebec expending \$3,000,000 a year. He added to the outlays, increased the debt, and left the annual expenditure at \$4,446,000. Mr. Fielding took over the affairs of Nova Scotia when it was spending \$620,000. He has brought the amount up to a million and a half. When Mr. Greenway took hold of Manitoba the expenditure was \$484,000. Now it is \$900,000, and there is a debt of \$4,000,000 odd, with nothing to show for it.

RACING FOR MILLIONS.

(From the Spokane Chronicle.) Deputy United States Marshal Sam Vinson has returned from Marcus, where he went to be present in case any trouble or disturbances might arise incident to the rush for the new gold fields in the Colville reservation. He witnessed the wild stampede from Marcus when the word was given that the President had signed the bill, and says: "It was the most exciting event I believe that I have ever witnessed. The town was overrun with prospectors and all kinds of people, all feverishly awaiting the intelligence that was to be the signal for the great race for wealth in the rich mineral country across the river. Everybody fully expected many conflicts of a serious nature would be the result of the wild scramble and their expectations may be realized. 'My impression is that the very fact that everybody is looking for trouble will be the means of preventing it. One of the most exciting incidents of the rush from Marcus was the race for what is known as the Le Fleur mine, on Fourth of July creek, about fifty miles from Marcus. This property is known to be very valuable, and two syndicates have had it in view with the intention of locating it as soon as the reservation was opened. Government Surveyor Reynolds is at the head of one of these syndicates and Collector of Customs Hugh McCool the other. Each syndicate knew that the other intended to make for this property and each made extraordinary efforts to get a man there first."

"Hugh McCool proposed to make the race himself, while the Reynolds syndicate make Mark Gilliam, a brother of Lane Gilliam, an offer of \$500 if he would make the race and get there first. Each party was watching the other closely. The word reached Marcus about 2:30 Wednesday afternoon when the race for prospective millions began. McCool and Gilliam were both mounted on two of the best horses to be had. They struck the trail across the river to about an even start. Then followed perhaps the most desperate struggle for wealth that has ever been witnessed. 'The route taken was up the Kettle river. There was no advantage to be gained in short cuts as only the one trail led to the goal and that a tortuous one. It was simply a question of the endurance of the respective horses. It will give you an idea of what a struggle it was when I tell you that an average speed of ten miles an hour was made over the rough trail for the entire distance. Who won? Why, McCool did. Gilliam's horse proved the better of the two, and he beat McCool nearly half an hour. Notwithstanding that, however, McCool was first on the ground and posted the necessary notices of location first. Gilliam returned to Marcus yesterday. It is said the reason he did not locate the mine was because he did not care to be shot."

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Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the inventor of Chlorodyne, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was literally true, and he regretted to say that it had been sworn to—Times, July 18, 1862. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE IS THE BEST AND MOST CERTAIN REMEDY IN COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, &c. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE is prescribed by scores of orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus singularly popular if it did not "supply a want and fill a place."—Medical Times, January 12, 1883. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE is a certain cure for Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, &c. CAUTION—None genuine unless with the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne on the Stamp." Overwhelming medical testimony accompanies each bottle. Sole manufacturer, J. W. DAVENPORT, 21, Fleet Street, London. Sold at 1s, 1/2d, 2s, 3d, 4s. secy

THIRTY-EIGHT NEWS OF THE PR

Arrival of Mormon Missions Evidence in the Mower nevis Salvage Ca

Vancouver School Trustees Unadvisable to Cut S of the Teachers

(Special to the Colonist) VANCOUVER, Feb. 27.—The voters' list will, when the reduction, due to the total figures of 1895. Tax also coming in slowly.

The Mormons have favored an Australian line since the construction. They represent a portion of the traveling. A number of missionaries are in Australia yesterday and Portland.

The evidence of the Captain Mowra was taken before the U. S. marine committee, J. M. Ashton, representing the Straiters' people claim that the Mowra was for Victoria when the Canadian-Australian ship supplied them with two provisions, but did not get an alleged entailing them. To-day the evidence of the second officers was taken. It is the case will be heard Majesty's admiralty court in H.M.S.S. Royal Arthur are in port.

Mr. R. P. McLennan has been president of the Vancouver city, and G. Campbell secretary. Messrs. Robert Ward & Company premises on the corner and Homer streets as a branch Victoria establishment.

A special meeting of trustees yesterday it was decided was inadvisable to carry out of cutting of teachers' salaries salary for teachers in the districts of the province who were the principal government teachers per month, while that of the teachers was some twenty-six month less.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 28.—The violently on Burrard Inlet and the warships in port were to put out an extra anchor. Successful shooting was being from Agassiz reporting Mrs. Tapley, widow of Tapley, has returned to the two children.

The American schooner W is in port, and will load Moodyville. Theatre-goers are talking of performance of the T. Co. and big houses are assured four performances. Western largely represented.

The board of revision to a reduction of a million dollars assessment of the city, market \$14,000,000. Block 264 A. valued 20 per cent., and 540, WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 28.—E who became insane in Caribbea has been brought to Westminster in the provincial jail examination.

A joint meeting of a committee of the council and board of trustees last night to consider the situation. It was decided to call for \$500 cash to enable the to secure a suitable, desirable salary information. There are parties desirous of erecting here.

A special important meeting of the local club was held with closed doors. The quo warranto proceeding Ald. Holmes have been with NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Feb. 27.—A meeting of the Nanaimo Angling Club will be the Windsor on Saturday. H.M.S. Royal Arthur are called on Tuesday evening yesterday.

The city council estimated receipts for the year at \$3 this on a reduced assessment call for tenders for a new brick street with Newcastle townsite. A number of miners are at arrival of the Willapa, who leave for the Yukon.

During the week business markedly quiet, but the outlook more satisfactory. The coal have been larger. KAMLOOPS.

(From the Inland Sentinel) At an adjourned meeting of presidency of Mr. James M. motion was adopted: "The opinion of this board it is unchante, traders and farmers. It is the duty of the R. C. to continue the practice of supplies by means of a store resolved, that this board regarding of supplies by a grievance, and ask the through R. Marpole, superintendent remove its store car from the ritory."

Some experiments have recently by a local company of testing the quality of some of the town for brick-making purposes. If the experiments succeed, several brick built near future will be the result. The Consolation last mo