The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1900.

TOWNSEND & ROSE.

Dawson, Y. T.,
Dec'r. 19, 1899.

Victoria Daily Colonist.

Your papers as ordered come to hand "O.K." Please draw on us here for your account and send us in your bill monthly. Send us the Daily Colonist every mail that leaves. The Colonist IS THE ONLY PAPER in Dawson since navigation closed.

Yours respectfully,
TOWNSEND & ROSE.

The above letter is from the agents of the Colonist in the Klondike capital. During the months when navigation is open a large number of the Colonist is sent them by every available steamer. During the winter 100 copies—50 each of the latest issues of the Daily and Semi-Weekly—have been forwarded by every mail, the postal charge being six cents per copy. The fact will be noted that the Colonist is the ONLY OUTSIDE PAPER reaching Dawson since the close of navigation. While the number sent is small, the effect must be excellent, for it can be safely asserted that each copy will be read by at least a dozen different people.

We direct the attention of Victoria wholesalers and manufacturers, who are not at present advertising in the Colonist, to the above mentioned facts. If for no other reason than the advantage of the Dawson circulation, their business announcements should be in the columns of the Colonist. Besides the Dawson circulation, regular consignments of the Colonist are forwarded to Skagway, Bennett and Atlin, while the general circulation of the Colonist is the most valuable for advertisers in British Columbia.

ROUGH RIDERS ATTENTION.

Lord Strathcona's munificent offer to equip four hundred rough riders for South Africa has been accepted and so has the offer of British Columbia to send a company of mounted men. The men are to be recruited in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. This gives our province the opportunity which has been so ardently desired.

We understand that His Worship Mayor Hayward intends to call a meeting to be held in the city hall on some evening next week for the purpose of passing suitable resolutions and taking any steps that may be thought necessary in this connection.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

THE WAR.

The extraordinary lull in news from the front is explicable only on the hypothesis that there is actually nothing to report. The expected arrival of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener may have some thing to do with the inaction on our side, and now that they are upon the ground, it is the most natural thing in the world that the commanders of our several columns should await some communication from the Commander-in-Chief before taking any new step. But this does not account for the inactivity of the enemy. "M Quad" in one of his funny sketches describes a case of "Sotness," where a man and his wife had quarrelled and each was sitting perfectly still endeavoring to wear out the other's patience. It looks just now as if we are being treated to a case of "Sotness" in South Africa.

The noble offer of Lord Strathcona to equip a corps of four hundred mounted men from Canada to serve in South Africa will send a wave of enthusiasm from one end of the Dominion to the other. We appreciate any hesitancy, which the government may have about denuding Canada of its best officers, but there is no pressing need for them at home just now, and other men will be available when they are wanted. It is also highly gratifying to learn that if the government decides that the corps shall be raised, British Columbia will be given the opportunity to contribute a large proportion of it. Words fail us when we endeavor to express appreciation of Lord Strathcona's conspicuous patriotism. He has on many previous occasions shown that he knows how to put his great wealth to noble uses, but he has as yet done nothing which so appeals to the imagination as this. Strathcona, though not a Canadian born, is truly representative of the spirit of this "true North." Every man, woman and child in Canada, when they hear of his munificent offer, will feel proud to know that they are fellow Canadian of this great-hearted patriot.

Gen. Buller appears to have begun his long expected flank movement, although in a direction different to that expected. His despatch announcing that he had occupied the south bank of the Tugela was sent from Springfield. This village is on the highway from Frere to Harrismith by way of Bethany. It may also be reached by highway from Estcourt. It is about sixteen miles from Frere and about twenty from Estcourt. Potgeiter's Drift, or rapid, where the bridge is that Buller has seized, may be six and possibly eight miles north of Springfield. It is from ten to twelve miles from Ladysmith and about the same distance from Bester's station, on the line of railway between Ladysmith and Harrismith. The estimates of distance are, however, only approximations, and the maps vary so greatly as to be untrustworthy. The distances given above are from the map of Ladysmith and vicinity issued by the Intelligence Department of the War Office. This movement, it is suggested, is intended as a feint to cover an attack upon the Boer position on the Inhlawe mountain, which lies south of the Tugela and about as far east of Frere as Springfield is to the west. This may be so, but on the other hand it seems as though the occupation of a crossing of the Tugela to the west of the Boer lines is more than a mere feint. If Buller can get a considerable force across the river here, he may be able to force his way north and so render the Boer position along the river on either side of Colenso of very little value. He probably has a sufficient number of men to keep the enemy busy in front, where their heavy guns are, while he works around their flank.

Our losses at Ladysmith on the occasion of the late Boer repulse were heavy, but not as much so as at first reported. Thirteen officers and 135 of the rank and file were killed, and 27 officers and 242 of the rank and file wounded, in all 148 killed and 269 wounded, or a total casualty list of 417—about half what we were told in the first despatch. The Boer loss is said to have been very much greater. In this connection reference may be made to the ridiculous Pretoria yarn that the enemy had only four killed in the assault. How ridiculous this claim is will be realized when we remember that they were repulsed. The idea of an attack being repulsed when only four men had been killed is too absurd even for Boer credulity.

Col. Pilcher and his Canadians and Queenslanders seem to have an aptitude for reconnaissance work. They made a quick and brilliant movement westward as far as Douglas and captured a number of rebels, and now we find them making a dash eastwardly into the Orange Free State. They have yet to have a taste of very serious fighting, but the preliminary work they are now doing is the best kind of preparation for it. When our boys are called upon to meet the enemy face to face there need be no fear that they will not give a good account of themselves.

The feeling on the London stock market was buoyant, which indicates a general opinion that we are over the worst in South Africa. There is no doubt that the Imperial government did not fully appreciate the magnitude of the undertaking in hand, but the public shared the error with them. On almost every hand we have complaints made that a strong enough force was not sent out, but it is only a couple of months since everybody was disposed to regard the size of the force sent to South Africa as needlessly great, the European press intimating that it must be intended for a demonstration in the Orient.

Our despatches report a very hopeful feeling in Great Britain, which seems to be attributable to the fact that Gen. Buller has begun a flank movement. Gen. Warren's column is considerably to the west of the Boer line of entrenchments, and as the country, according to the best available maps, appears to be open, he may find no serious obstacle between Potgeiter's Drift and Dewdorp. It is announced from Pretoria that 5,000 Boers have been sent to meet Gen. Warren, but as they will have to meet him without the protection of carefully prepared entrenchments, there need be no fear of the result. Dewdorp is eight miles from Ladysmith and must be even nearer Gen. White's outposts. The country is intersected in all directions by roads, and the war office map shows only a few isolated hills in the vicinity. It is to be assumed that Dewdorp is Gen. Warren's first objective point.

What little news has been received from Gen. French confirms the opinion that he is a shrewd and careful commander. He seems on the eve of completely outgeneralling his opponents and achieving the first permanent success in Cape Colony without any serious loss of life.

THE C. & W. SUBSIDY.

If it is correct that when a railway company, incorporated in this province and entitled to a subsidy under our provincial laws, as long as it is under the jurisdiction of our provincial railway act, ceases to be under that act when it obtains a Dominion charter, and hence forfeits its claim to the conditional subsidy, the proposal of the government to substitute a cash subsidy for a land subsidy to the Columbia & Western is misleading. The speech contains the statement that the Columbia & Western having completed its charter is entitled to a subsidy of approximately 2,500,000 acres of land. Is this statement true? If it is not true the proposal to give the company cash in lieu of land is in reality to give a cash subsidy to a completed railway, that is not entitled to any subsidy at all. Many members may be quite ready to vote to give cash in lieu of land, if the company is entitled to the land, who would not be willing to give a dollar or an acre to a company not entitled to either. This question must be faced some time, and we submit that now is the time to face it, before the house commits itself to a position from which it may be impossible to recede.

OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS.

The Seattle armory was packed a night or two ago by an audience composed largely of ladies, assembled to hear Great Britain denounced and to pass resolutions of sympathy with the Boers. We do not propose to deal with the speeches or the speakers, but a few observations seem called for. The people who held this meeting are the same, to all intents and purposes, as those, who invited our citizen soldiery to go over to Seattle year before last and join with them in celebrating the Fourth of July. They are the same people who wished our regiment to go over and help them celebrate the return of the Washington volunteers from Manila, the same people whose sons and brothers the people of Victoria turned out in thousands to welcome on their way home from fighting their country's battles. They are the same people who beslobbered the British Empire with praise, when we alone of all the nations of the world extended sympathy to them at the time of their war with Spain. They are a very grateful, a very friendly lot. Our people will understand in future at what value to reckon their protestations of good will.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Mr. Higgins in his speech upon the address touched upon the eight-hour law, and expressed his surprise that the government had not proposed dealing with it in any way. He said that the least that could have been done was to propose the appointment of a royal commission to examine into the working of the law, and report upon the whole question. We have felt for some time that this was the best way to deal with this important question, and if coupled with the appointment of the Commission there was a provision suspending the operation of the law pending a report from the commission, we believe the difficulties between the mine owners and the miners would automatically adjust themselves, and in the end an agreement would be reached as to legislation, which would be satisfactory to all concerned. The working miners of British Columbia are as a rule reasonable men, and so are the mine owners, and if they could be got together with the law temporarily out of the way, they would readily reach an understanding. "Peace with honor" is possible between the contending interests, if the legislature only smooths the way.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH.

The board of trade has acted wisely in bringing up the development of Omineca for consideration. The expression "Omineca" when used in this connection must be taken in the wide sense of embracing the whole northern interior of the province. This is a subject upon which too little has been heard recently. When the British Pacific project was before the public very much appeared in the press concerning this portion of the province. Of late years news of the progress of the mining operations in the valleys of Manson, Germansen and other creeks has been all the reading public has been told in this connection. The consequence has been that people have got out of the way of thinking of this portion of the province as one that is adapted for settlement, and some of those who have come lately to the Coast are disposed to take very little stock in what is occasionally said about it. To such people and to the province generally we wish to say that ten years ago those who looked forward to great things for British Columbia based their anticipations upon Cariboo, Omineca and the great region lying between these districts and the Pacific. Kootenay was hardly taken into account. There had been some rich placers at widely separated points in the southern portion of the province, but they had been worked out, and all that used to be said about that prosperous and growing region was that in a few places the excellence of the soil and the favorable nature of the climate made it likely that fruit growing would be a very profitable industry. If a few people thought otherwise, they were never able to impress their faith upon others. Every one then looked to the North as the source of British Columbia's future greatness.

Then unexpectedly Kootenay forged to the front, and engrossed the attention of every one. A new population came into the province, and when those, who remembered about what was known and whata was expected from the region on the other side of the Canadian Pacific, ventured to express the belief that something ought to be done to develop its latent resources, these newcomers laughed them to scorn. Yet it is as true now as ever it was that in Cariboo and Omineca there are large areas of excellent hydraulic ground, that there are many deposits of metalliferous ores, that there is a wide expanse of country fit for grazing and millions of acres of fertile farming land, where the long days of summer make the profitable cultivation of crops of almost every kind possible. It is as true now as it was when Alexander Mackenzie and George Simpson explored the great Central Plateau and its vicinity, that in that portion of the province there may be established many prosperous communities.

It is not necessary to make an argument on this point to Victoria readers, or to go into details. A simple reminder of what is already within their knowledge will be sufficient; but it is important to point out to them the necessity of being on the alert so as to see that the highways by which the resources of this great region will be developed shall be located so as to advance the interests of their city. It is practically certain that within five years a railway will be built into Northern British Columbia from the East, and when this has been done and traffic has been given an eastern trend it will be no easy matter to divert it in this direction, no matter what we may do. Kootenay is teaching us lessons in this regard. Nothing is to be gained by refusing to recognize this fact; there is no advantage in finding fault with the powers that be, through whose policy the construction of such a line of railway has been made possible. The Colonist has contained from time to time many articles regarding the resources of the northern part of the province. They were written with the hope that the people of Victoria would be a unit in an effort to secure some means of opening that part of the province. These articles, which produced little or no effect here, except an occasional complimentary reference from some one on the street, have been read with interest in the East, and Eastern capitalists have asked for further information on the subject. Two very prominent railway promoters from Eastern Canada, not at that time acting in concert, called upon the Colonist for the purpose of obtaining all the information at its disposal concerning this region and both of them afterwards sent to Victoria for copies of all reports and maps that would be of value in the study of routes and the resources of the country. Meanwhile Victoria's own people, who have so much at stake, have remained dormant. Surely there is call for a new departure in this regard.

Northern British Columbia must be opened from the coast, if not only Victoria, but Vancouver also, is to enjoy the full benefit of what is there accomplished. There will be an eastern connection later, but what we want is the first chance at the business to be developed. So as not to arouse political controversy, we shall let by-gones be by-gones, and not speak of what might have been accomplished under other circumstances than those existing to-day, and come to what can be done now. What is needed is a railroad from some point on the northern coast of the mainland, so located as to open the way both to the Omineca and the Yukon. The province can afford to contribute largely towards securing the construction of such a line. In connection with this a railway to the north end of Vancouver Island is essential. Given these things and Victoria and Vancouver can obtain control of the district in question and hold it against Eastern competition. Without such means of communication these cities will be handicapped in the worst possible way. Can this be brought about? We believe it can be, but we also believe it will not be unless we ourselves show a disposition to bring it about. The citizens of Victoria spoke on Thursday in no uncertain terms for improved facilities of transportation. By an almost unprecedented majority they elected as mayor a gentleman, who made this the signal feature of his platform. Let this be followed up. The board of trade expressed its views yesterday. Let the people express theirs in public meetings. Let us go to the local and provincial government as men who are in earnest, who know what we want and mean to get it. Let us make up our minds as to what we need, and by energetic and persistent clamor make our wishes a part of the issue of the day. Let us not sit down supinely and say that we are few in number and can do nothing. We can do far more than any of us think, if we go to work at it vigorously and unitedly. What Victoria needs just now is more enthusiasm. We treat things too much from the matter-of-course standpoint. We see new avenues of trade being opened up all over Canada, and we congratulate ourselves upon the splendid view from the Dallas road. We hear that the fields where our trade ought to remain supreme will be invaded by rivals, and we tell each other that there is nothing finer for boating than the Arm. The reference is not to the business houses, which are active enough and successful enough in securing business within their reach; but to the mass of the people, who have everything to gain from the progress of the city, and who remain apparently indifferent to the necessity for action. We repeat that the people of Victoria ought to make up their minds as to what they want, and to set about getting it. Unity of effort, determination and enthusiasm will win.

A MATTER OF ALLIES.

The government papers are making a great deal of talk about the relations of the opposition and Mr. Martin. We confess not to be able to see why. There is no mystery about those relations. The opposition stands just where it did. Mr. Martin has fallen out with the people with whom he formerly worked in concert, but with whom he never pretended to have any sympathy. It suits his purpose to aid the opposition in his own way in ousting the government. The opposition are not so absurd as to refuse his assistance. They know that when this desirable end has been reached, their ways and Mr. Martin's will diverge, unless he can see that his duty to the province requires that he should throw his assistance to the present opposition party. But that is for him to decide. The opposition do not expect his support after a government defeat, and if he accords it he will do so of his own free will. It might be possible for the opposition, if placed in power, to frame such a policy that Mr. Martin would feel constrained to give it his support, but at present this seems to be a very unlikely consummation, for the junior member for Vancouver is of that peculiar make-up that he must be "aut Caesar, aut nullus," and as Caesar neither the opposition nor the province would receive him. But all this is in the future. Probably the reasons why Mr. Martin wishes to oust the government, those that inspire Mr. Higgins in the same laudable desire, and those that prevail with any individual member of the old opposition party may be very different. But are all the members of the government party, or of the government itself, influenced by the same reasons? Does Mr. Semlin wish to hold office for the same reason as Mr. Cotton does? Well, hardly; for Mr. Cotton hopes if they can weather the cape, his trick at the wheel will come. Is there any real sympathy between, say, Mr. Wells and Mr. Neill? Are they not as wide asunder in their political ideas as their respective constituencies, and the breadth of the whole province lies between them? Does the member from—well, no matter where—who supports the government so as to avoid if possible a dissolution, claim that he is in sympathy with the member from another constituency, who is known to be in the house simply as the hired man of a corporation, which has no other object at present than to do injury to another corporation which is supposed to be friendly to the opposition? The gulf between Mr. Martin and Mr. Turner may be wide, but there are equally wide ones on the other side of the house.

VICTORIA-CHILLIWACK.

One of the pieces of business left unfinished by the late city council is the Victoria-Chilliwack railway by-law. The present council will act very wisely if they allow it to remain unfinished for the present. We are not sure that it ought not to be considered de novo by the new council, for the present body is different in some essential particulars from that which agreed by a majority vote to the very extraordinary terms of that agreement. The by-law proposes that the city shall assume a liability which may run up into the millions. There is absolutely no limit fixed under the by-law to the amount of money which the city may ultimately have to pay. The proposed $500,000 of stock may only be the entering wedge of an expenditure that may be vastly greater. We submit to the new members of the city council that they should pause and very carefully examine this proposal before submitting it to the ratepayers. We do not suggest that no proposal should be submitted, but only that the best possible proposal should be placed before the people, a proposal that we can all unite in supporting.

DAIRYING.

If full effect could be given to its deliberations, probably the proceedings of the Dairymen's Association, which has been in session in an upper room in the Parliament Building during the last two days, would mean more to the province than what is being transacted in the larger chamber and by the more ambitious body downstairs. What with real estate speculation at first and mining afterwards, the attention of the people of this province has never been directed towards its agricultural resources and capabilities as it ought to be, and of all departments of agriculture dairying is easily of the chief importance, the more so because in a country where mixed farming is prosecuted it embraces all the others. Dairy products, including milk, cream, cheese and butter, form the most costly item in ordinary living, and it is readily demonstrable that whatever tends to cheapening the cost of producing these and improving their quality leads directly to a reduction in the cost of production and improvement in the quality of all the other products of mixed farming.

The man who masters dairying appreciates that farming is both a science and a business. He learns it is a science because to be successful he must know the best methods by which the elements in the soil and atmosphere can be converted into finished products for the table. He learns it is a business because he finds out the importance of keeping down the cost of production, of studying the requirements of the market and of handling his output to the best advantage. The dairy farmer has a certain area of soil of a certain degree of fertility and all the atmosphere there is. His business is to discover how he can most readily, and with the greatest profit, take from that soil and that atmosphere the ingredients which compose valued articles of table use, and in doing so make the most of the by-products. It is very evident that to do this successfully nothing may safely be left to haphazard, that there is room for intelligent investigation at every stage.

To drop the theoretical and take up the practical side of this question, it may be mentioned first that in butter-making quality counts for everything. Price is a secondary matter. No one ever saw anywhere a surplus of really first-class butter. It must be a quarter of a century ago that Mr. Darlington, of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, made his offer of a dollar a pound for all butter up to the standard of the "gilt-edged" variety produced at his farm in the Ramapo Valley, N. J. Mr. Darlington undoubtedly brought butter-making up to its highest notch. To sit at table with him in his beautiful home and hear him talk about butter was to have a new field of knowledge opened. He prided himself upon a peculiar delicate nutty flavor which his butter had. He explained this by saying that in his butter the little globules were preserved uninjured and were broken in the mouth, when they gave off this peculiar flavor, which is very volatile and is dissipated when the globules are broken in the process of manufacture. But he would tell you that this flavor need never be looked for in butter except from cows cleanly fed and cleanly housed, whose milk was handled at all stages with absolute cleanliness, the same scrupulous care being taken with the butter after it is made. "Now you have tasted the butter, come and see how it is made," he said one day, and he led the way from the dining room to the stable, where forty choice Jersey cows were being milked. "The air is just as sweet here as it is out doors," was his remark. The dairy itself was fresh, cool and marked everywhere by absolute cleanliness. The marble butter closet set into the side of the ice-house was spotless. "My cows," he said, "pasture on that hillside, where they have plenty of grass and white clover, with pure spring water. And now do you wonder that my butter is what it is?" When told that this dairy was a rich man's plaything, he denied it, and maintained that it paid handsomely at the price paid in New York for prime Jersey butter. When asked if his offer of a dollar a pound for butter was meant seriously, he said it was, and he added that a reputation for its bread and butter was the best advertisement a hotel could have. "I want the guests at the Fifth Avenue to say that they get at its tables the best butter in the world." It is probably not possible for every dairyman in British Columbia to reach the point of excellence attained by Mr. Darlington, but if they follow his methods they can approach approximately to the same results.

The question of what is the best dairy cow is an open one, notwithstanding all that the champions of some particular breed may say. Much depends upon the special family from which the stock is bred, much upon the nature of the pasturage, and very much indeed upon the care and judgment exercised in feeding. There is an old saying that "feed is more than breed," and there is a volume of truth in it. Nevertheless there is a great deal in the breed. Yet other things must be considered. Take the Shorthorns, for example: Some of the Shorthorn families are good butter-makers; others again run to beef. The Polled Angus has no sort of reputation as a dairy cow, yet sometimes strains of this stock are found that are very good. The Red Polls under favorable conditions come as near to the ideal of a breed that it good both for butter and beef. Norfolk is their original home, and possibly they might be found very well adapted to some of the coast districts of this province. There are portions of British Columbia where the Ayrshire ought to be at its best. The Holstein ought to be adapted to the lower levels, and the Jersey will do very well almost anywhere, if it does not have to hunt too much for its food. The intelligent dairyman will not be influenced too much by names, however. He ought not to allow himself to be misled by extraordinary records; for he may, and most probably will, find it hopeless for him to reproduce the conditions under which those records were made. What he wants is what Prof. Shutt calls a butter-making machine, and so that he has this it matters little whether it has an imposing pedigree or is just a plain cow. A man may develop on his farm a stock of excellent butter-makers, and it may be mentioned that in this way all the best breeds of cattle were produced.

WELL DONE, VERNON!

Mr. Price Ellison, M.P.P., as soon as it seemed likely that a British Columbia contingent will be sent to the front asked Premier Semlin if Vernon might be allowed to send twenty men, and on receiving the Premier's approval wired the fact to Mr I. A. McKelvie, editor of the Vernon News. He received the following reply on Friday:

"Yes; beyond a doubt. Will go myself if you can make arrangements."

Yesterday he received the following from Mr. McKelvie: "Can you get quota doubled? Twenty-one applicants in Vernon already."

Well done, Vernon, say we, and every Colonist reader will echo "Well done."

The Rossland Miner stumbled upon a home truth in its issue of the 10th. It says that "20,000 snares" were sold on the Exchange the day before. Thus does the intelligent compositor inadvertently hit the mark occasionally.

Dr. McKechnie was good enough to say yesterday that the Colonist's opinions were always right in its opinion. The genial physician of the Vancouver Coal Company has diagnosed the case accurately. The Colonist never expresses an opinion which it does not think is right. May we ask him if he can truthfully say the same?

The government was in great straits yesterday and found itself compelled to call a caucus of its supporters in order, if possible, to keep them in line until after the passage of the address. What success attended the effort we are not at this moment informed; but we submit it is preposterous for a government to attempt to carry on affairs, when it dare not lose sight of its supporters over night for fear of being defeated the next day.

Are none of the newspapers supporting the government going to defend Mr. Semlin from the charges of breach of trust and absolute incapacity made against him on the floor of the legislature by Mr. Joseph Martin? What Mr. Martin said is either true or it is not true. If it is not true, it can at least be denied. Only a few months ago the government press swore by everything that Mr. Martin said. The Colonist did not. When Mr. Martin said anything which this paper did not agree with, we joined issue with him without delay. But the above matters are of such a nature that we cannot be expected to know anything about them. On the other hand the government press ought to know all about them. Why do they not at least deny what their former idol has stated?

HUMORS OF THE SESSION.

Odds and Ends That Lighten the Severity of Parliamentary Duty.

The present session of the local legislature is not without its humors, and already more than one opportunity has been afforded for loosing the reverberating smile. One of these presented itself on Friday evening while the statesman from Kamloops was expounding the virtues of the great and good government of which he is a supporter, and his cogent reasons for regarding Joe Martin "with pity, not with anger-kindling eye."

Suddenly there was a crash and commotion at the end of the government rear rank, where for a brief but happy moment the air was full of accentuated legs. Mr. Neill of Alberni had answered to an encore on Joe Martin's memorable somersault of last session; and having measured his not inconsiderable length on the carpet (regardless of what Mr. Gore might say), resumed his trenchcrous chair with blushes, disregarding the commendatory applause of both government and opposition.

Mr. Deane paused in his oration—but for an instant. Such a little thing as an honorable member turning neck-springs for the edification of the assembled wisdom of the province was not to be permitted to woo him from his theme. He was proceeding with his accustomed vigor when—

Col. Baker caught Mr. Speaker's eye and rose to protest. Surely Mr. Speaker had noticed, he said, that the honorable member for Alberni "had the floor."

But the situation was not to be monopolized by the opposition. With due severity the honorable the Attorney-General rose to protest.

He regretted, he said, to see that the opposition were so eager to direct the attention of the house and country to a supporter of the government "going over."

And thus it was that the incident closed, honors being even.

* * *

The sapient philosophy of childhood was aptly illustrated by an incident that broke the silence of yesterday afternoon over in the chamber, several of the members being at their desks writing letters, looking wise, and presumably thinking great thoughts. A page had made so bold as to stroll in, and was lolling luxuriously in the chair of the honorable member for Rossland, his gaze directed ceiling-ward. As everyone is aware, an immense net has been spread under the vaulted roof to improve the accoustic properties of the chamber. This caught his eye.

"What's that net for?" he asked, miscellaneously addressing himself to the member for Chilliwack, a brother page, and the resting representative of British Columbia's greatest morning newspaper. The member for Chilliwack made reply.

"That, my lad," he observed, "is to catch any stray words of wisdom that peradventure may get loose, and which otherwise might unhappily be lost"!

The page thought it over for a few moments in meditative silence. Then he said:

"It don't seem to have been worn very much."

* * *

In view of the many complications and curious proposals for a redefinition of the parties in provincial politics, a discovery has been made from the favorable elevation of the press gallery that comes as a great light of hope. By a careful counting of pates a member has secured the information that there are 23 bald-headed men in the legislature with more or less pronounced convictions—as against 15 whose domes of thought are to be described as strictly arable and fully in crop. He therefore suggests the organization of a bald-headed government with a safe working majority of seven. The only difficulty suggesting itself is that each of the 15 is liable in time to qualify for crossing to the treasury benches.

* * *

What a faculty words have sometimes of sounding like something else! The genial members for Dewdney and the Slocan were walking down the corridor on Friday in sweet converse, when a stranger to the halls of legislation applied to one of the always civil servants for information.

"Who are those two?" he asked somewhat abruptly.

"McBride and Green," answered the C. S. with equal brevity, as he hurried by.

"Bride and groom," repeated the puzzled visitor in astonishment. "Why, I meant the two gentlemen."

This may not have really happened, but the Civil Servant says it did.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

W. D. Howells said the other day in the course of an interview that when the great American novel came to be written, at least a portion of it would have to be enacted on Wall street, New York, that being a typical place of peculiarly American life.

According to the letter of a Bostonian who had been travelling in Cuba and spending some time in Havana, the streets of that city are now cleaner than those of either New York or Boston. The credit for this condition is given to General Ludlow and his subordinates.

The Elections...

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quarter of the British Empi
to be found a community m
with feelings of the highest
than Victoria. On the stree
club, restaurant and saloon,
ever men do congregate, the
conversation is the war in S
and the offer of the Britis
government to raise and equi
of mounted men for service
The news published in the
terday morning that British
offer had been accepted, as h
of Lord Strathcona to raise
mounted contingent, aroused
spirit among Victorians to
dented degree Among the
forward and take definite
Sam Matson, the well know
agent. After reading the a
in the Colonist, Mr. Matson
termined that anything th
affected by him to aid the
British arms in the Transva
done, so he promptly offe
Joseph T. Matthews, a me
Fifth Regiment R.C.A., his
horse "Dan," should Mr. M
cide to join the contingent
scouts from British Columbi
thews promptly accepted M
offer. The former was amon
volunteer when the first co
called for and successfully
doctors' examination, but,
ried man, he was persuade
and so retired. But now,
Matthews is determined to
Matson's gift was therefor
cepted. "Dan," the horse w
given to Mr. Matthews, w
Broadmead farm and is i
suitable for military purpos
five years old and standing
high.
Mr. Joseph H. Matthews,
of Mr. Matson's patriotic
been a resident of Victoria
years and has been in the
for two years. He is wel
with South Africa, having
for three years and travers
try all the way from Capet
berley. Should it be arran
Matthews shall go to th
nothing now appears to s
way of it—he is certain to
account of himself, being
young man in perfect health
life, and of athletic build.
best known to Victorians a
man for contractor John B
It is quite certain that
days will witness a perfe
offers pouring in upon Lie
ory, the officer commandi
Regiment, who is himself
to go to the front, having b
appointed in his endeavor t
in the fray in South Africa
Major Hibben is another
ious to serve his Queen a
this trying hour, and he l
go in accordance with th
Nearly all of the rank and
by similar feelings or
there is likely to be a ple
cants for positions on th
will in far-off Africa fight
tenance of British suprem
fy, with their lives if ne
loyalty and patriotism o
ants of the province of Bri
The public meeting sug
Colonist yesterday mornin
in the Victoria theatre
evening and steps will b
citizens to secure for Vi
representation on the prov
contingent and also for a
Capt. John Irving, M. P
waited on Premier Sem
with Inspector Woodhous
M. P., and offered to
for Mr. Woodhouse th
horses which the Cap
Broadmead Farm. Cap
ticularly enthusiastic ov
British Columbia to sup
of mounted scouts, and
furnish horses for frien
sire to go.
From all parts of th
offers from experienced
rifle shots, to join L
and the provincial cont
arrived last evening fro
men who are anxious to
and came to Victoria
claims. They are Mess
Frank Haynes, John
Houson and Link Ew
their own horses and
they ask is permission
tingent. They say the
of men "up country"
horsemen and crack s
join.

PROVINCIAL

A well attended meet
of the Provincial Rifle
held last night at the
cer's room at the drill
present besides the rep
Victoria, viz., Lt.-Col.
Williams and Messrs.
tice, representatives f
New Westminster and
persons of Capt. Tite,
M.P., and Messrs. Sloa
tendrigh.
This council had be