

THAT BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

The boundary dispute with Venezuela is not regarded as very important by the British public. Were it not for the American newspapers very little indeed would have been heard of the misunderstanding with Venezuela.

"In 1797," he says, "Great Britain took the territory of Guiana from the Dutch, and finding that no very definite limits had been set between them and their Spanish neighbors, proceeded to demarcate a rough boundary line following as closely as possible the extreme limits of the borders of their predecessors."

This, then, is the claim of Great Britain. The territory over which the Dutch exercised sovereignty is the only territory which she claims to hold. And not even that, for she seems to have been quite willing to give up some of the land which the Dutch had acquired which had been within the limits of the colony of Venezuela.

In 1850 gold was discovered in the Guyana country. It was no longer considered a worthless region, and consequently the Venezuelans claimed it as theirs and proceeded to act as if they were its owners.

"The English Government," says Mr. Somers, "in view of the increased value of their territory ordered a small force to the gold mining region, and demanded of Venezuela a recognition of their boundary rights as they stood, until such time as a more full survey of the country should have been made by both Governments, and a final and definite frontier decided upon."

The English, we are told, have on several occasions offered to withdraw from the extreme frontiers which they have so long guarded. The Venezuelans, on the other hand, have demanded a complete evacuation of a country which was never before claimed as Spanish.

It cannot be said with any approach to truth that Great Britain has acted the part of a bully and a land-grabber in this Venezuelan business. She has permitted the boundary question to remain open for nearly a hundred years without insisting on what she considers her rights, and she was all that time immeasurably the superior of Venezuela. She has been most patient with the little republic and treated its unreasonable and sometimes insolent Government with the greatest forbearance.

A SPLENDID SPEECH.

The speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which we published yesterday, was such a good one and so timely, that it is highly praised by the newspapers of both parties. The Times notices it in the most complimentary terms; the Daily News, an appreciative notice, and the Tory Standard regards it as a most statesmanlike utterance. This is part of what the Daily News says about it:

Mr. Chamberlain not only settled a considerable colonial difficulty yesterday, but joined in the celebration of a great step in colonial progress. There is in Englishmen quite a new pride in their colonies, and in the colonies there is a growing disposition to glory in the imperial connection. We have not much faith in the dream of Imperial Federation, but we cordially admit Mr. Chamberlain's plea that it is a dream which has vividly impressed itself on the minds of the English-speaking race.

A CAPITAL SUGGESTION.

Alderman Williams, when he on Monday night said that the proper functions of an alderman were purely legislative, gave utterance to a very important truth, and one which, if acted upon, would do much towards making municipal government efficient. As long as aldermen confine themselves to making laws and to drawing up rules and regulations they cannot go far astray. It is when they attempt to do business requiring for its proper performance professional and mechanical knowledge and skill that they blunder and waste the people's money.

What, for instance, does the ordinary common councillor know about hydraulics and hydraulics, and the conditions necessary to ensure a city a plentiful supply of pure water? Yet a committee of the City Council have full control of the city's waterworks. It is true that they have the assistance of the city engineer and other skilled men, but it is astonishing to see how soon some common councillors are convinced that they can dispense with the advice of an engineer.

"I know it all," and that professional men and experts are nothing better than humbugs and faddists. By and by they get themselves and their committees into scrapes, but experience does not teach them caution or lessen in the slightest degree their confidence in their own skill and wisdom. And so they go on wasting the ratepayers' money and giving the citizens the worst kind of service; yet the poor men wonder why it is the people are not satisfied. It is the same with street making and street repairing, the construction of sewers, electric lighting and other services which can only be properly performed by men who thoroughly understand their business. There is not, we venture to say, a mercantile or a mechanical concern in the country that would not be run into the ground in a very short time if it were managed in the same way as the city's affairs are managed.

It is to be hoped when the Municipalities Act is again before the Legislature for amendment some enlightened and courageous legislator will reconstruct it in such a way as to take executive work out of the hands of the aldermen and place it in those of men who have been trained to do the work they undertake to perform. When this change is made the citizens may expect to get good value for the taxes they pay, and not before.

ALL WRONG.

A telegram from Washington, D. C. which purports to give the public reliable information respecting seals and sealers in Behring Sea, says: "In accordance with the findings of the Paris arbitration, sealers are now permitted to hunt seals in Behring Sea with spears in a zone sixty miles around the islands from the first of August."

British or American, is allowed to kill a seal with spear or any other weapon. Outside that zone sealers are permitted to hunt during the short season that the weather permits, but inside it they dare not go at any time on pain of forfeiture.

DISAPPOINTED JAPAN.

The Japanese have certainly not gained so much from their victories over the Chinese as they had good reason to expect. They have been obliged to evacuate Port Arthur and the whole peninsula of Liaoning, and now they find it necessary to scuttle out of Korea. It was evidently with the hope of gaining a footing in Korea that the Japanese began the war. That peninsula was the bone of contention between them and the Chinese, and there can be no doubt that if it were not for the interference of Russia Korea would be day-by-day Japanese rule.

When the Japanese considered the position that they might have occupied but for the interference of foreigners who did nothing to help them in their war with China, it is not surprising that they are angry and sore. The fruits of victory have been snatched out of their hands, and there were indications not long ago that Russia would gain a great deal more from China's defeat and humiliation than her conquerors. It is not improbable that this will in the long run be the case. It is not at all certain that increasing the power of Russia in Eastern Asia will be more conducive to the prosperity of that part of the world and to the interests of peace in general than to have permitted Japan to enjoy, without check or restraint, the superiority she had fairly gained by her military prowess.

We congratulate Japan on the reversal of the erroneous policy which it has so persistently pursued in the peninsula, and no matter whether its present course has been dictated by fear or by wisdom, the end that is in view is the same. Its retreat alike in Liaoning and Korea have been governed by the necessities of the time. It would have saved little short of madness had Japan stood up against such an alliance of the Powers that actually came publicly to the front in the first instance, and would in the second, had it been necessary, have been prepared to inevitably demonstrate against that which Japan could have done against them, had it been so foolish as to be defiant towards them.

DISCOURAGING NEWS.

The report of the Nicaraguan Canal Commission forces the reader to the conclusion that there has been hitherto any amount of lying and deception with respect to that great work. If the conclusions arrived at by the commissioners are warranted by the facts and conditions, the Company and its officials and agents must have been either a set of thickheaded blunderers or a pack of knaves who deliberately attempted to gull the public on both sides of the Atlantic.

This means simply that no reliance should be placed on what has hitherto been said or written or done by the company with regard to the Canal, and that if the work is to be undertaken at all it will have to be placed upon an altogether new basis. The information evidently believes that the "information obtained by those who have had the work in hand is not sufficient to enable them to come to a satisfactory conclusion as to whether or not this canal project is feasible. They say that the sum of \$350,000 is still required to prosecute preliminary inquiries to enable them to form intelligent opinions as to the "feasibility, permanency and cost" of the work.

If the Company were to be believed, to construct the canal, if only the means to go on with were available, was as easy as rolling off a log. Nature had provided the greater part of the waterway, and all that was to be done by art was, comparatively speaking, trifling. Its official estimate of the cost of the undertaking was \$69,893,860. The Commission puts the cost, provisionally and approximately, at nearly double that sum, \$132,472,893. This estimate is, of course, not to be relied upon as anything like exact, for the Commissioners say that "the existing data are inadequate as a basis for estimating the cost of many structures. An examination of the difference of the estimates of the Company and the Commission is given. A "rock fill" dam on the St. Juan river is by the Company estimated to cost \$977,273. The Commissioners say that such a dam cannot be built in that part of the river for less than \$4,000,000. From the report of the Commission it is evident

that if the construction of the Nicaragua Canal is to depend upon the assistance given it by the United States Government it will not be even commenced for many years. The report of the Commission will doubtless give the project a most serious set back. It will undermine the faith of the public in its feasibility and it will give its enemies good ground for opposing any assistance being given it by Congress.

WORK FOR THE SCIENTISTS.

A man of very peculiar character and extraordinary gifts, named Schliater, has set out for the philosophers and psychical inquirers a good deal of serious work. Schliater seems to be a devoted, simple-minded, unpretentious man whom multitudes believe to be endowed with the gift of healing. He from the accounts we have read of him none of the arts of the charlatan. He does not administer medicine of any kind; he is generous with his blessings and he directs some of those who apply to him for relief and cure to use handkerchiefs which he gives. He makes no charges and he returns the money that is sent him by letter. He fasts and he prays and he spends much time in solitary meditation.

While he was at Denver the house in which he lodged was besieged by people afflicted with all sorts of infirmities. It does not appear that faith is considered by him as a pre-requisite to cure. It would seem that he does all he can to help those that apply to him for aid, without regard to age, sex or condition. It is not the ignorant and credulous who alone have faith in the healing power of Schliater. Men of intelligence and of a sceptical turn of mind have come to look upon him as a veritable healer. One of his devout believers in Colorado is a prominent railway man, and railway men are, we believe, not remarkable for credulity or any form of freshness. He was, we are told, "enlisted among the admirers of the strange man through a marvellous cure effected in his family." Others who were ashamed to have it known that they had applied to the healer were cured or relieved by him. While in Denver "he treated at the rate of a thousand a day for the first month, and then the popularity of the healing influence spread until he was pressed for time to administer to rich and poor." "For a week," the New York Herald's account of this singular man and his work says, "Schliater was like an athlete preparing for another severe drain on his physical resources by a course of training that has characterized all his migrations. He believes in mortifying the flesh, and for a period of something less than ten days had been tapering off on the amount of food taken into the system. He has not taken a full meal during the last seven days, and the entire nourishment absorbed in that time would scarcely serve for a single dinner for a laborer. A bite of bread and a cup of tea or milk are all that passed his lips."

The particulars of several remarkable cures, with names and dates, are given. The afflictions of the patients are of various kinds. We will name a few of them which occur in the list of cases: Swollen hands and feet, asthma, a cripple from birth, catarrh in the head and lung troubles, stiff wrist and hand trouble, blind from a mine explosion, stiff arm on account of unskillful setting, chronic inflammation of the bladder, cancer in the breast, crooked wrists belonging to a septic who would not go to see the healer. The persons afflicted as above, and very many more, believed themselves to be healed greatly relieved or completely cured by the healer's treatment. Some were cured by personal contact and others at a distance by handkerchiefs which the healer had sent them. There are many who consider that the afflicted persons were deceived; that they were not really cured but imagined themselves better. The answer of some of these persons to the doubters very much resembles that of the blind man who we have all of us read of, "Whereas I was blind now I see." "All I know," they say, "is that before I went to see the healer I was sick and suffering, now I am well and feel no pain." It is, we must confess, very hard to meet such an argument as this.

Whether Schliater is an impostor or not, healing by the laying on of hands is nothing new. The power to a greater or less extent has been attributed to many men and women in different ages. To us must be said in Schliater's favor—he is no vulgar quack. He makes no pretensions. To one who tried to find the secret of his power "he gave the impression that he was merely a tool in the hands of an all-powerful being who was directing his movements, and that he was simply executing the will of one who was more potent than any human comprehension could fathom."

This man's character and the nature of the work he claims to do will, without doubt, be closely inquired into, and it will be interesting to know how the inquiry will be conducted and the conclusions at which the inquirers will arrive. The public have certainly not heard the last of Schliater.

THE BISHOP'S REPLY.

To the Editor:—The only criticism which I have to make upon Mr. Paul's statement that he does not know of one "vicious boy" in his school is that his experience must be almost unique.

It would certainly not be true of our great English public schools of Eton or Harrow or Winchester. In the University of Oxford, to which I have the honor to belong, there is not a single college in which the Fellows do not know of "vicious young men," and in the national elementary schools the question is constantly brought before managers point out that in writing this I am not "blackening wholesale" these establishments which are naturally near and dear to my heart as an Englishman. But I desire to return to my original point. It is not a question for discussion in the newspapers, but it is a question which the mothers of Victoria ought to decide. For this a great spoke as I did at the annual meeting of the Local Council of Women, and during the past fortnight I have heard from many lips the same complaint: "Of course we do not like our girls to attend the same schools as the boys, but what are we to do?" I answer, let the Local Council of Women organize a canvass throughout the city with one simple question: "Would you prefer that your girls should be taught in separate schools from the boys?" And I venture to prophesy that the answer would be by an overwhelming majority in agreement with Mr. Paul's own statement "that boys ought to be the companions of boys and girls of girls."

SCALDS and Burns are soothed at once with Perry Davis' PAIN KILLER. It takes out the fire, reduces the inflammation, and prevents blistering. It is the quickest and most effectual remedy for pain that is known. Keep it by you.

HARDWARE SPECIALTIES. Enterprise Raisin Seeders. Meat Cutters, Enamelled and Tinned. Dietz Tubular Driving Lamp. Marty's Rat and Mouse Traps. Sargent's Wood and Iron Planes. Miller Padlocks and Night Latches (non-pickable). Ship Augers and Bits. Chain Saw Ties. Also a full line of Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Wagons and Farm Implements. FOR SALE BY E. G. PRIOR & CO., LTD. LBY. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER and KAMLOOPS.

The Occidental Hotel, COR. WHARF AND JOHNSON STREETS, VICTORIA.

This popular and well known Hotel will re-open about November 15th, under the management of Wm. Jensen, its founder with everything new and bright. It will be conducted as of former years, aiming to make it homelike for its guests.

AN APPRECIATIVE VISITOR.

Mr. Acton Burrows is known to be a keen observer. He paid British Columbia a visit lately and this he said of it to a representative of the Toronto Telegram:

I have been visiting it twice a year for several years past, and every time I go there I am more firmly convinced that it is almost certain to become the richest province in the Dominion. Its great resources, minerals, fish and timber are not affected by the weather, and are always producing money, let it rain or shine. The mineral wealth is there all right, but there has been a great want of capital to develop it, and I think Eastern Canadians are making a great mistake in not paying more attention to British Columbia. Everyone has heard of the enormous amount of gold taken out of the Cariboo country in the sixties. But with the primitive appliances then available the ground was only skimmed over, and the bulk of the wealth has been left to be brought out by modern hydraulizing. Of course the remoteness of the district, some 200 miles north of Ashcroft, on the main line of the C.P.R., has very much retarded development, and considerable capital is required to make a start. Some three years ago two companies, the Horse Fly and the Cariboo, composed principally of Montrealers, started in on a large scale. One of them has already covered twenty miles of steel pipe to convey the water to the monitors, and when it is remembered that the whole of this had to be teamed from Ashcroft, some idea of the cost may be imagined. The wash-ups so far made have been very satisfactory and the investors are very well satisfied.

THE CITY MARKETS.

The arrival of Japanese oranges, Cape Cod cranberries, and Oregon apples during the past week gives attractions to the fruit stores which greatly improve their general appearance and make the business in this particular line more active. A large consignment of oranges was received by the last C.P.R. steamship from the Orient, but the demand is brisk and they are selling well at from 60 to 70 cents per box. Some lots are going cheaper than others owing, it is said, to the desiccative manner in which they are repacked here.

In the grain market, wheat especially is scarce, and a small advance on oats with a still rising tendency. In fact wheat as usual at present unchanged in price is also likely to go up. Grouse will this week disappear from the market, as on Saturday the shooting season for this species of venison or any other variety of light meat, for the supply more than equals the demand. In the Sound cities this year turkeys are selling at three cents per pound less than twelve months ago. Current retail quotations:

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, Oats, Potatoes, Cabbage, Bacon, etc.

It you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills for sick headache, biliousness or constipation, you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable, mild and easy to take. Don't forget this. Milburn's Cod Liver Oil Emulsion with Wild Cherry and Hypophosphites is the surest and best cure for coughs, colds, hoarseness, bronchitis and asthma. Price 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. MONTREAL, Nov. 27.—Thomas Patton was seized with a sudden fainting fit at the wedding of his niece at St. Gabriel's Presbyterian church, and died before the ceremony was concluded.

Patch Grief with Proverbs. PNY-PECTORAL. Large Bottle, 25 Cents.