Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1885.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

To-morrow the Prince and Princess of Wales will set foot on Irish soil in pursuance of the programme recently announced. Many prognostications have been made as to the attitude and conduct of the Irish people on this unusual occasion. There are some who fear the future king and queen will be subjected to insult. Others feel they will be received (as Parnell advises) with "respectful neutrality," and a few affect to think that they will receive a loyal welcome. All is mere conjecture. The Irish are an excitable race; but they are very hospitable and if they should choose to regard the prince and princess as the guests of the nation they will welcome and entertain them as such. The lord mayor of Dublin has figured in a very contemptible light in this business. He first declared that with his own hands he would haul down the Mansion House flag rather than allow it to wave in honor of the royal visitors. This declaration pleased the rabble mightily; but the lord mayor afterwards apologized for the disloyal remark and now he is the most unpopular man in Dublin and has to be guarded by the police. The object that is hoped to attain by the visit remains unexplained; but that it will lead to nullify and conciliate the Irish people is doubtful. We do not anticipate scenes of violence, but there is reason to fear that the visit will not produce good results. Since August, 1822, when Geo. IV. landed at Howth on his first and only visit to Ireland, professedly for a month's stay, but in fact for August, 1849, when the Queen, twelve years after her accession, went to Ireland, visits of the Sovereign were unknown. In the latter year the Queen was accompanied by the late Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the late Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt, then Princess Alice. The royal party reached Kingstown on August 5, 1849, and, going to Dublin, remained there four days, their reception being everywhere of a royal kind. Four years afterwards, on August 29, 1853, Her Majesty, accompanied by her husband and the Prince of Wales, again went to Dublin, when the royal party visited the Great Industrial Exhibition. Their reception then was quite as cordial as previously; and eight years later, in the August of 1861, the Queen paid another visit to Ireland, when she was welcomed with the heartiest enthusiasm. The Prince of Wales was at that time doing military duty at Curragh, and thither Her Majesty and the Prince Consort proceeded, and a review of the troops was held, and from that point the Queen and Prince Consort proceeded to Killarney, where they were entertained by Lord Castlerosse and Mr. Herbert, leaving Kingstown on their way to Balmoral. That was the last occasion on which Her Majesty visited Ireland, either as a throb of pride a few years ago. The present visit is understood to have been and strongly pressed by Lord Spencer. Mr. Gladstone concurred with the view of the lord lieutenant; so did the cabinet, or a large majority of the cabinet, and upon the representations submitted to Her Majesty the opposition, or rather reluctance, of the Queen was finally overcome and the decision taken. There was no difficulty with the Prince himself. He declared himself delighted with the prospect of a visit to Ireland. If he had been less so the public spirit he has so often shown would have led him to assent cordially to the wishes of his father and the Princess. Without the Princess the visit would have lost half, or more than half, its charm. In the London press there is but one voice. Congratulations are addressed to the Prince and Princess on the open hand and to Ireland on the other. The visit is regarded, of course, as a very considerable political event. It is to be followed by a visit of the Prince of Wales to Paris, and a visit of the prince of royalty on Irish soil. The visit will take place early in April. The Prince and Princess will hold a levee and a drawing-room in the Queen's rooms in Dublin Castle. From Dublin they will journey to "several parts" of the country; what parts we are left to conjecture, and it is probable enough that the route to be taken and the places to be visited are not yet determined. The Prince and Princess must go to Londonderry in recognition of the loyalty of Londonderry. They must go to Cork with a lively sense of loyalty to come as a reward for their presence, and they must extend their tour to Limerick and to Galway unless they mean to give Limerick and Galway an excuse for professing less devotion to the crown than Londonderry and Cork and Dublin itself.

IN CASE OF WAR.

Russian finance is in an extremely bad state, but a war with England would cripple that finance in a variety of ways, directly, as every one can see, by increasing largely the military expenditure, and indirectly by the blockade of the Russian ports. At present the Russian export trade consists almost entirely of raw material, such as corn, flax, hemp and the like. A war would immediately lead to the blockade of the whole of the Russian ports, and all these products would be shut in, or else could be exported only through Germany and Austria. The roundabout export would increase greatly the expense, and there would consequently be an immense falling off in the exports of the empire. The peasants, already crippled by exorbitant taxation and low prices, would be hurt by this prohibition of exports; their markets would be closed against them; and they would have no profitable sale of their surplus production. The Saturday Review says the result might be an agricultural revolt; but in any case it would increase enormously the difficulties of the government in meeting the interest upon its foreign debt. In the case of India, on the other hand, there would be no blockade; while the Russian blockade would diminish the competition with Indian wheat, and would thus benefit the Indian farmers. Moreover, if a great fight out in Central Asia, Indian production would be stimulated by the demands of all kinds for the supply of the troops; and in the long run, doubtless, markets would be opened up in Central Asia for many Indian products. The cost of the war at the same time would be very heavy; would disorganize Indian finances, and press heavily upon the Indian taxpayer. But against these disadvantages is to be set, undoubtedly, the stimulus to production of all kinds to which we have referred. Not is there any reason to suppose that there is anything like so large a speculation for the rise in the case of Indian government securities as is known to exist in the case of Russian government securities. Therefore it is not probable that the fall in Indian government securities would be nearly as heavy as in Russian government securities, and, in fact, the fall that has now occurred is due not exclusively to political causes.

THE INDIANS AND RIEL.

In Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney's report, January, 1884, he stated that "the wise policy pursued by the Canadian government in their treatment of the Indians is now bearing fruit." ... They are quiet and law-abiding as "a whole." In turning to the report, of the same date, by the commissioner of the mounted police, we get a somewhat different view of the matter. A large number of Indians in the vicinity of the Cypress hills "required constant police surveillance." A body of Indians visited the camp of Mr. Le France and "forbade the cutting of any more timber." Mr. Le France and his men were "thoroughly frightened." The Indians at Maple creek "were the assistant Indian commissioner considered, in a very unsettled state." In compliance with his "urgent request, more men were stationed there." At Edmonton, the Indian agent informed the post officers of "exorbitant demands made by the Indians in a most overbearing manner, and repeated police assistance. An officer and ten men were sent there." From Fort Pitt "reports reached his honor that the Indians on reserves in that vicinity were likely to give serious trouble. I stationed an officer and twenty-five men there." The country was infested by horse-thieves (Indians and whites), from U. S. territory. War parties of Canadian Indians surreptitiously crossed the boundary line on their stealing expeditions. Now, the question is which of these two reports are we to believe—that of the lieutenant-governor or that of the police commissioner. Later events incline us to attach credence to the latter. It is manifest that both along the boundary and along the North Saskatchewan (300 miles to the north) the Indians, more than a year ago, were very discontented. A further cause has added to their dissatisfaction, namely, the enforced removal of many of the people from the vicinity of the boundary to the country north of the C. P. Railway. The commissioner's report shows that this was done by force against the will of the Indians. However necessary it may have been, for international reasons, to prevent the possibility of horse stealing raids from Canadian territory, the domestic result was to concentrate along the North Saskatchewan a number of brooding, discontented Indians, the particular grievance of whose hearts which has always caused Indian wars on this continent. The numerous half-breeds within the same territorial limits have totally different interests from the Indians. The Canadian government has lacked insight and statesmanship in dealing with both ones. Riel, a bold, influential, unscrupulous, disappointed man, has taken advantage of the situation. He is about down Indian department in this province has its too faithful counterpart east of the Rocky Mountains.

OUR VOLUNTEERS.

"There is one thing in this very lamentable business, says the Toronto Mail in an article on the present rebellion in the Northwest, which is of an encouraging and most satisfactory character; and that is the steady loyalty and manly enthusiasm shown by the militia and volunteers in responding to the call of duty. Never for any more pleasant or parade has there been such a full and spirited mustering of the troops. Young men to whom the militia service has hitherto been a pastime, are eager for active service now that the occasion has arisen which turns the pastime into serious duty, and the presence of war into its dangerous reality. The country, perhaps, needs an occasional reminder of the fact that the militia service of the Dominion is a real service, a service of duty demanding public respect, and a service of danger to which honor is due. On this occasion such a signal reminder has been given, and Hon. Mr. Caron will on the next parliamentary occasion not have to beg for his estimates to defend his demands on the public treasury for the necessary defence of the country and the necessary equipment of its defenders. As our young men march past the streets, as they flock to their mustering places, the spirited citizens will be a throb of pride at the keenness they exhibit, at the soldierly spirit they display, at the evident desire to do duty in its real sense, and to prove to a critical people that the days of dress parade have not been vain exhibitions, and that those who played at being soldiers will such skill and grace are ready to show that they can be real soldiers with entire devotion to their dangerous duty when they are called to arms. We are not disposed needlessly to exaggerate the dangers of the service or claim for our militia and volunteers a glory greater than is due. But nothing is lighting no matter how brief the battle may be; and the spirit we see exhibited now in this expedition against a rebellious half-breed and Indian force, and, above all, British, Canadian, troops; it is the spirit which was exhibited when Arnold was forced from the walls of Quebec, when Brock fell at Queenston Heights, when the invaders were driven back from Ridgeway. Our young soldiers are the fitting descendants of our old heroes; and the public will award them the tribute of praise and honor which is the reward of valor and fidelity."

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

An agreement has been arrived at between the Powers in reference to the finances of Egypt. It would seem, from the statement made by Mr. Childers in the House of Commons last week, that an agreement has been made to guarantee a loan of $45,000,000, which is to be used in lifting the present Egyptian debt. This loan is to be liquidated by the redemption of the sum of $1,575,000 in each and every year until the whole loan is extinguished. The normal annual expenses of the Egyptian Government are fixed at $26,185,000, $1,000,000 of which is to go to pay the expense of maintaining the Egyptian army. There is to be a 5 per cent. reduction in the coupon payments, and ½ per cent. in the interest on the Suez Canal shares. Under this agreement he Khedive is empowered, in the event of any necessity for further reduction, to summon an international convention to consider the propriety of making them. Provision is made for the free navigation of the Suez Canal, which is to be finally delt with by a conference to be held at Paris. With reference to the taxation of foreigners who have hitherto been exempted from taxation by the Egyptain Government, it is provided that they shall be subjected to the ordinary burdens that are imposed upon native property holders similarly situated. The interest on the new loan, it is agreed, shall not exceed 3½ per cent. No doubt the financial arrangement will be carefully criticized, and we shall know more about it when it is made the subject of Parliamentary discussion.

"The Moderate Drinker."

To the Editor:—Dear Sir,—In your report of the entertainment given by the Blue Ribbon Club contained in your issue of yesterday appears a speech in favor of the moderate drinker. I neither applauded nor condemned the moderate drinker, that was not my object. But what I did say was—there are many who are upright, conscientious living men who take wine habitually, whose sympathies and influence might be enlisted against the prevailing drinking usages of the day, and I could see no reason why the total abstainer should refuse the co-operation and association of such men against the flaunting, glaring wiles which all honorable men condemn. I made no remarks that could be possibly construed as in favor of the moderate drinker, but on the other hand I said safety, health, wealth and happiness were all on the side of the total abstainer. I may say I have a good deal of respect for the man who never allows his appetite to get the better of him and lives an abstemious, temperate life, but I have more respect for the man who, not only for his own safety but for the good influence he may exert upon others, abstains altogether from the use of wine. The latter part of my address referred rather to the correct methods of winning the young to a life of temperance and sobriety than to the encouragement of such tactics as were suggested by the gentleman who succeeded me.

Thanking you, sir, for the opportunity granted me of correcting myself.

I remain yours, etc.,

JNO. B. FURGUSON.

Victoria, April 6th, 1885.

Death.—Mrs. Wm. Rothwell died yesterday aged 79. She had been a resident of Esquimalt since 1858 and was very well off.

New Coal Mine.—The first shipment of coal from the Black Diamond colliery was made over the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad on Friday, consisting of about thirty cars, which will be dumped into the bark Germania.

ALBERNI

Steady Progress of the Settlement.

What the Settlers Require.

River Bend, Alberni, March 30.—The steam schooner Grace arrived here on the 19th of this month, with quite a list of passengers and a large quantity of freight for this place. There were several strangers on board who came here with a view to settle and they had no difficulty in finding good locations still convenient to the water. They have recorded their claims and will soon return with their supplies. There was a party of four on board who lately came out with Mr. Halpenny. They were returning with their supplies, and are now improving their lands. We have had already a considerable

Addition to our population this spring, which now counts upwards of sixty white inhabitants. Besides those coming here from Victoria there are many coming in from Nanaimo to see the place. It is astonishing to see the change a few months have made with regard to this place. A year ago the name of Alberni was scarcely mentioned out of its neighborhood. Now go where you may on the island and you meet individuals everywhere who mention this place in favorable terms. There is now no longer any doubt with regard to the future of Alberni. It is bound to become very soon one of the most important places on the west coast. Its central position, its facilities for communication with other places, and its great extent for farming purposes, will make it a place of importance. Its harbor, though difficult of access, is a good one when once you get up to it. It is quite sufficient for the small craft that will be required for some time to come. Some improvements will have to be made before we, and in order to assist and induce people to stay here who may come to see the place, it is to be greatly desired that our government should wisely make use of every means in their power to help those who would like to settle here if some of the drawbacks and obstacles now in the way were removed. There are those who have come here lately who have seen

Fine lands suitable for settlement but because of the want of communication in the valley they have been afraid to bring their families here and trust to the future for good improvement. A few roads made through the valley would be a great inducement, and would tend to keep a class of settlers here who, under present circumstances, cannot think of bringing families into the heart of the valley with such obstacles in the way. There is perhaps at present nothing more discouraging to those coming in in search of land than the difficulty to find out the boundaries of those already settled here, and even those in many cases are afraid to proceed with their improvement for fear of being on some other man's claim, and at some future time when a general survey is made, losing the land they value most. A settler here some time ago built a house, but found to his loss that it was erected on his neighbor's claim. There are others, no doubt, in the same fix. All this is very discouraging and tends to act as a drag on the settlement of the valley, besides causing much ill feeling among present settlers, and will most assuredly create in the end an amount of trouble and confusion unless a remedy is provided at once.

A general survey would remedy all this, and would assist greatly the development of the place. Every settler here would be only too glad to pay a small sum, say six or eight dollars each, to have their lands surveyed, and this would very nearly pay the expenses of the surveyor engaged by the government to do the work.

The want of a mail is also a drawback to Alberni and the people here are anxiously waiting to hear the result of their memorial on general last fall. If we do not succeed for the present to open up communication by the west coast we have to look to the Alberni route, by canoe and portage, or a good wagon road to Nanaimo or some other subpoint on the east coast; either the one or the other is indispensable as the importance of our settlement cannot much longer allow us to remain isolated as we are at present. The only way that people can come here for some time to come is from Qualicum by the trail as the schooners are all out sealing and will not probably return to town until about June. Some people are afraid to tackle the trail but in fine weather the scenery on the way will repay them for their trouble without speaking of the advantage of climbing the divide, which is sure to give them a good appetite.

The weather has been during this month has been most beautiful and dry, enabling those who have land in cultivation to plow and put in their grain in splendid condition. Pasture is getting good and nature generally is putting on her summer garment. I have never seen such glorious weather, Mr. Editor, since I left my native land in Jersey, twenty-three years ago. In Ontario they are very glad when they get in May such weather as we have had here in Alberni in March. John C. Mollet.

J. E. Ferguson & Co.

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THE DUST OF THE VANDERBILTS.

To Lie Beneath a $250,000 Tomb.

Quincy, Mass., March 21.—McKenzie & Patterson, granite dealers of this city, received an order yesterday from Wm. H. Vanderbilt, of New York, for the building of a family tomb. The tomb, which was designed by Architect Richard M. Hunt, of New York, will be of the Romanesque style 100 by 110 feet on the ground, and 63 feet from the surface to the apex of the domes, of which there will be two. The exposed portions of the structure will be composed of the world-renowned Quincy granite, while the vestibule and catacombs which will be built of marble and the arches and peers of lime-stone. The structure is to be erected in Marmarian cemetery, New Drop, Staten Island. It will require about 8,000,000 pounds of granite, marble and limestone combined to complete it. The cost is estimated at $250,000. The tomb is to be finished by December. This is the most elaborate piece of work ever contracted by Quincy parties. The firm will have to add over 100 men to their working force in order to prosecute the work.

Much Hair no Sign of Strength.—Abundant hair is not a sign of bodily or mental strength, the story of Samson having given rise to the notion that hairy men are strong physically, while the fact is that the Chinese, who are the most enduring of all races, are nearly bald; and as to the supposition that long or thick hair is a sign or token of intellectuality, all antiquity, all mad-houses, all common observation are against it. The easily wheedled Esau was hairy, the mighty Cæsar was bald. Long haired men are generally weak and fanatical, and men with scant hair are the philosophers and soldiers and statesmen of the world.—*The Lancet.*

THE DRY DOCK.

Progress of the Work.

A visit to the works on the dry dock at Esquimalt yesterday showed that the work is being pushed with commendable skill and despatch. The contract is being carried on by Messrs. Larkin, Connolly & Co., who have charge of the construction of several large Dominion works, and are the most successful contractors in the Dominion. After passing through the yard, where large blocks of stone are scattered around, and on to the wharf the first thing that strikes one is the amount of machinery that is used for handling the stone. The first load of sandstone came down from the Salt Spring Island quarries Friday on the barge Taylor. The stone is a superior sandstone almost as hard as granite. This is quarried and prepared at Salt Spring Island for its proper place in the dock, marked as such, and forwarded. The stone is unloaded by means of a derrick worked by a steam winch; it is then passed to another derrick which lowers the stone to the building derricks on the floor of the dock. On the wharf is situated a 35 horse-power engine used for drawing the surface water and further on a steam for the steam rock drills; also the two mills for mixing the concrete on the Mesrent principle. When the stone is passed to the building derrick, which is double and worked by two steam engines, it is taken by it and dropped into the particular place that it is to occupy in the dock, thus saving a great amount of hand labor. The derricks are on wheels and placed on iron rails and can easily be transferred to any portion of the dock. Several feet in the bottom of the dock is placed the blocks of stone, some of which weigh from eight to ten tons. This floor has a curvature of six inches from centre to sides, and a drainage from end to end of one foot in 400. The sandstone is pick-faced, one foot 6 inches in depth with headers of two feet. The walls from the floor up will be 36 feet six inches in height, composed of sandstone. This will enable a vessel of 65 feet beam and 500 feet in length to be docked, and in all probability will accommodate the largest vessels that enter here or are likely to enter. There will be a depth of twenty-six and a half feet of water in the dock at ordinary spring tides. Along the floors are drains for surface water to the culvert, where the large pumps convey the water into the harbor. A small steam pump for forcing the water required to all portions of the dock. The derricks are provided with a steel cable wire having a lifting capacity of 36,000 pounds, while the derrick has a lifting dead weight capacity of ten tons. The stone is put together with one part of cement and one of sand. So soon as sufficient quantities of stone can be sent from the quarries a large force will be put on and the work rapidly pushed. Three more single derricks are now under construction for this purpose, and also for use in excavating for extension of the dock, as lately decided upon. When excavation is commenced about 250 men will be employed at Esquimalt, while 225 are now at work quarrying and dressing the stone at Salt Spring.

The caisson berth for regulating the in and outflow of water is 16 feet wide and 130 feet in length. To do this it is only necessary to move the caisson three-fourths of an inch, which is done by the pressure of the water. The caisson berth is built in an inverted arch, with an earth, concrete and brick floor. The stop quoins of the caisson are of hard granite. Behind these are another set of stop quoins in case of any repairs that may be necessary to make to the caisson, which can be easily removed for the purpose and the dock pumped dry. About eighty men are at present employed on the dock, and considerable work has been done, the machinery built and placed in position. In connection with the works is a blacksmith and carpenter shop. Underneath the wharf is a tank of 40,000 gallons, while another of 30,000 gallons is above. A flume conveys the surface water to these tanks for the use of the engines, but during the dry weather it will be brought on steam and pumped into the tank.

The office of the contractors is at the south end of the dock, where Mr. J. Connolly, one of the firm, resides. The work is in charge of Mr. Bennett, C. E., representing the Dominion interests, while Mr. Vogel, C. E., is the contractors' engineer.

Frank Pixley on Spiritualism

"All who believe in spiritualism are fools. All who practice it are knaves. Any man or woman holding seances, giving exhibitions of materialization, or performing tricks in secret places by use of cabinets, sliding panels, masks and machinery, are vicious and mercenary rogues, playing upon the susceptibilities of the innocent, the ignorant, the superstitious, the sentimental and the inquisitive. Spiritualism is the last refuge of persons who have cut loose from all religion, and think it necessary to hold on to some last rag of delusion as an apology for believing nothing. I admit that there are some very excellent, amiable, conscientious, good people who do sincerely and honestly believe there is something in spiritualism. I respect these people—not because they are right, but because they think they are right. We know they are wrong, and that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, in the claim that any intelligent glimpse comes, or has ever come, or will come, from the beyond the grave. To the living the dead are dead; they never communicate with this world after they have gone beyond it; beyond the tomb we do not speculate; the dark curtain that veils the beyond is never lifted; what in this world has never happened, never will happen. I do not attempt to penetrate the future. Not all the intelligence in all the ages has caught a ray of light from the soul as it passed the clay; not the scintillation of an intelligent thought has ever been reflected from the human mind freed from its imprisonment in the living body."—*Argonaut.*

Teachers' Institute.

Yesterday marked an era in the educational history of British Columbia. A teachers' institute was organized, Mr. Pope, Supt. of Education, President; J. A. Halliday, Secretary. Thirty-two teachers responded to the call to meet at the education office. Dr. Tolmie made some very pertinent remarks. Rev. D. Pressagar spoke on the advantages of such an institution. Mr. Pope gave his reasons for wishing to establish a teachers' institute. Mr. Halliday drew the attention of those present to the difficulties that beset the last one, which ended some months years ago. Mr. Wilson spoke of his experience in the working of such institutes in New Brunswick and the very great benefit teachers derived from meeting each other and discussing methods, etc. Mr. Offerhaus hoped to see much good come from co-operation. Other teachers spoke on the subject from their own stand point. Committees on constitution and by-laws and on the programme for the next meeting, to be held on the second Wednesday in July, were appointed. An interesting session may be expected in the midsummer holidays.

The British Sight-seer.

A short time ago the visit of Lord S. member of the House of Lords, and family, consisting of Lady S. and daughter, was announced to Victor Hugo. When the poet entered the drawingroom Lord S. turned to his wife saying: "M. Victor Hugo, great poet." The poet bowed. Then the noble lord addressed his daughters: "Victor Hugo. Notre Dame de Paris!" The poet bowed again.

After a moment's pause Lord S. produced a large pocket-book, seeing which Victor Hugo was prepared to be asked for his autograph. Instead of making that request, however, the visitor looked at his watch, then again at his pocket-book, and said: "At 10 o'clock the giraffe at the Jardin d'Acclimation," after which speech the noble party of sight-seers withdrew.—Pall Mall Gazette.

CAN WE DO WITHOUT CLOTHES?

A Tantalizing Question to Ask on Cold Days.

(London Free Press.)

Seeing that there have been forty consecutive days, ending yesterday last, during which the temperature was at or considerably below zero, the suggestion that we may all be able to do with fewer clothes sends something like a shiver through one's bones. Yet it is seriously advocated. Not here, just yet, it is true, but still in other portions of the "temperate zone." A correspondent, "Hallyards," suggests the following examples:

1. Aristophanes bewails (in the clouds) that the youth of Athens had recently given up the habit of marching (for drill) naked, with the snow on the ground. But, even then, boys spent hours naked in the gymnasia, and all athletic contests were gone through by men perfectly naked, though Thucydides tells us that this custom was copied from the barbarians. Surely all this must have been perfectly safe, or it would have been changed.

2. Some ancient friezes, etc., represent all warriors perfectly naked, save sword, buckler, helm and greaves. They could hardly have left their kit in camp if they had one.

3. Virgil says, "Nudus ara, sere nudus." If this farm work was done in January, the "nudus" would be necessary.

4. St. Peter (and a fortiori, all his contemporaries) fished perfectly naked (John xxi. 7.)

5. At the Saturnalia in Rome, in mid-December, young men used to run about the streets naked. They would hardly have found fun in this if it had entailed bronchitis.

6. St. Gregory the Great uses naked wrestlers as an illustration.

7. Froude, as an example of the barbarism of Ireland in the Tudor period, a chief named O'Kane, who comes into his own hall, perfectly naked, and sits down by the fire, having been hunting all day in that state.

8. In 1806 two women were condemned in Bedfordshire for having kept a girl, their daughter and sister, entirely without clothes, until her death at the age of 17. Her stomach had never been distended with a full meal, and was the size proper for the age of 5. She was kept constantly at lace-making. Now, if a naked person can resist cold without natural food for seventeen years, I fine say why, with due nourishment, clothes might not be dispensed with entirely.

9. Mr. D. Urquhart kept a son of his own entirely naked for the first years of his life, night and day, in the bitter wind even.

10. Many persons, from sheer necessity, wear a mere apology for clothing in the severest weather.

11. Many men, from choice, wear nothing on their chests but a thin fold of linen. The chest is the weakest part. What it can bear the rest can bear. The linen is hardly to be called clothes.

12. I have often gone out in frost, in kilts without drawers, never regretting absence of trousers.

13. Mr. Williams tries to show that the Britons could not have gone naked in winter—when "the Roman armies rarely marched." True, but how could they live in winter quarters without seeing a great deal of the natives, from whom alone they could obtain supplies? Where have I read of a Roman chief who explained his indifference to nudity by that climate (for Cæsar never) that of Britain (of Cæsar never!) by saying, "I am all fleece." No doubt, if we wore cloth masks, with holes, from infancy, we should be half destroyed if we ever left them off.

14. Heurges himself that while he was disputed caves with man for the sake of warmth. Indeed, lions, foxes and rabbits have not yet discarded dens, earths and warrens. "Sance for the goose, sauce for the gander." If men lived with the beast why not we they?

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

The Northwest Rebellion.

British Columbia Matters.

The Esquimalt Dry Dock to be Lengthened.

Sir John and Mr. Blake.

(Special Correspondence.)

The Half-Breed Rising.

Under the Manitoba act of 1870 each half-breed born in that province before July 1st of that year was granted 240 acres of land free, in satisfaction of their title. There were, however, certain half-breed settlements beyond the confines of that province to which no provision was made. One of these was at St. Laurent, established in 1862. About ten years ago the latter asked to be placed on the same footing as their fellows in Manitoba as regards free homesteads. Their request has been unheeded, with the result, as we know now, that when Riel came over from Montana there appears to be something like a united movement on their part. At a meeting held at St. Laurent last fall they proposed that we called a bill of rights setting forth their demands on the government. The principal points are the securing of patents for the farms they have been cultivating for many years, and grants of 240 acres for those of them who have not yet taken up land. If the government had given a favorable reply to the petition of the half-breeds, it would have been a great boon to them, and would have saved much ill feeling. Yesterday being Annunciation day, and a holiday round the house and parliament buildings, some of the juniors in the press gallery set forth to see if they were qualified to act as

War correspondents.

Among the sensational dispatches concocted, the following is generally acknowledged to "take the cake." It was read to a large number of members in the house, and was provocative of much amusement:

"Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 25.—Said half-breeds have torn up track between Regina and Prince Albert. Serious encounter taken place between mounted police and insurgents near Fort Carlton. Mounted police read large number opposition budget speeches, and repeated Riel's famous lines. Rebels completely demoralized and expressed great indignation at this cruel and barbarous method of warfare."

It is a sad commentary on the intellectual calibre of some members of parliament that many of them did not know that no line of railway between Prince Albert and Regina exists.

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Esquimalt graving dock fifty feet, which, with this addition, will make the dock 450 (450?) feet in length. He also stated that the expenditure on telegraph and signal service in British Columbia for the last year was about $5,500 more than receipts. At last we have got rid of

The budget debate, the closing speeches being of a livelier and more exciting description than any of those which preceded them. Every day inquiries have been made by Mr. Blake or some other member of the opposition as to the progress of affairs in connection with the Northwest events. Sir John unanimously yesterday afternoon that as a precautionary measure the 90th Battalion of Winnipeg militia had been ordered to Qu'Appelle, they to make the journey north to Fort Carlton, if necessary required. Mr. Blake then spoke, in very exceedingly indignant, because the consent of parliament was not asked before the government took this step, and he intimated that later on in the day he would move a resolution to censure on the ministry. After a two hours' harangue from Hesson, an Ontario member, on the benefits which had accrued to the country by the adoption of the N. P., Mr. Blake rose and moved an amendment to the motion for the house to resolve itself into committee of ways and means; the motion I may say with which the finance minister always concludes his budget speech, and on which the budget debate always takes place. He moved that it was the duty of the government to lay before the house the fullest information with regard to the grievances of which the Metis (half-breeds) complain. He entered into a long tirade against the government for not having seen the trouble and taken precautions to prevent a rising. He practically acknowledged himself as a champion of the half breeds, and while deploring that they had taken to arms, he said he could not blame them for so doing. This point was strongly brought out by the premier in his reply. It was a little after 10 o'clock when Sir John rose. The house was full and the galleries were crowded with eager and attentive listeners. The premier showed a tremendous rebound from his supporters and settled down to the task of annihilating Blake in a manner which took all parties in the house completely by surprise. Never have I heard the grand old man in better form. His speech was not only a complete vindication of the government but was delivered with such force and energy as to demonstrate clearly what a wonderful man he is. When he characterized Blake's utterances as being unpatriotic in the highest degree, as showing nothing but factious opposition and tending to incite the half breeds to further revolt, the answering cheers of the house was a sufficient acquiescence in the premier's statement. It is useless for me to attempt to epitomize Sir John's utterances; they must be read in their entirety to be fully appreciated. I will just say this however, that he announced the appointment of a commission some time ago to settle the claims of the Metis, and it is safe to say that if Riel had not come from the states and stirred them up as should have heard nothing of any disturbance. The house divided and Mr. Blake's amendment was put upon to the tune of 67 majority, the numbers being yeas 57, nays 122. All the B. C. representatives voted in the majority. Tremendous cries of "question" then arose and before any of the back benches members could rise to wear the house with the N. P., the speaker put the main question, declared the motion carried, and the house went into

Committee on the tariff resolutions. Before the day's session was brought to a close the opposition had recourse to articles of prison labor was adopted and henceforth no articles of this description can be imported into Canada to the injury of Canadian artisans. It was announced the other day that

Mr. Baker's request for increased aid had been under consideration by the government; but that it had not been accepted. The objections urged by the government to the company's proposition appear to be, first, they are not willing to accept 7,500,000 acres as security for half of last year's loan; but would probably accept all the lands now covered by the loan, viz: 20,000,000 acres, and, second, they will not accept $15,000,000 of bonds at their face value, as the bonds might not fetch more than 75 on the market. It does seem unreasonable to ask the government to take the bonds at par, when the general public may be able to purchase them at a much less cost. This point has also been settled, that no further cash subsidy shall be given. The C. P. R. are now preparing another proposition for the consideration of the government which, it is believed, will be satisfactory to all parties. While there is a sincere desire to help the company to complete their big undertaking, public opinion seems to be with the government in the dignified course they have taken on the first proposals of the company.

The Northwest.

Just as I am closing this letter the startling news reaches us from the Northwest that a conflict has taken place between Major Crozier's men and the half breeds, and that twelve of the police have been killed. The greatest excitement prevails about the house, and everybody is on the qui vive for news. The police are being moved forward toward Fort Carlton, where the disturbance has taken place, and in a few days we may hope to hear that Riel and his followers have been dispersed without bloodshed. Yesterday being Annunciation day, and a holiday round the house and parliament buildings, some of the juniors in the press gallery set forth to see if they were qualified to act as

War correspondents.

Among the sensational dispatches concocted, the following is generally acknowledged to "take the cake." It was read to a large number of members in the house, and was provocative of much amusement:

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