The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 1889.

A DECISION AT LAST.

We are glad to see that the Board of Aldermen have at last decided upon a system of sewerage for the city. Victoria has been left undrained much too long. The system which they have adopted is, it appears to us, that which is best suited to the situation and the circumstances of the city. It is thorough. The drains in connection with the main sewers will reach every section of the city—the low parts of it as well as the high. It is suited to the future as well as to the present needs of the city. When the work is once done the drainage of Victoria will be complete. As the city grows all that will be needed will be extension. There will be no cobbling, no altering of levels. The system will grow, but it will not be changed. This will be a very great advantage, and will, in the long run, be economical. The old saying, "Well begun is half done," applies with peculiar force to a work like the drainage of a city intended to be permanent.

We trust the aldermen will take every precaution to have the work honestly and properly done. There should be no trusting to the honesty and the good-will of the contractors to have all the stipulations of the contract strictly carried out. No loose bargain should be made like that with the Victoria, Saanich and New Westminster Railroad Company. Nothing should be left to the discretion of the contractors. All that is required of them should be specifically set forth in their agreement, and adequate security required for the fulfilment of all its conditions. We would not have insisted upon the business being done in a business like way had not recent experience convinced us that in making bargains for the city the aldermen do not act as prudently in transacting the city's business as they do in conducting their own.

In dealing with the railway company they left almost everything to the honesty and the honor of its directors. They seemed to have an unaccountable dislike to putting down exactly what they required for their money in black and white. They gave the company a free hand while they bound the city only. This is why we take the liberty of reminding them that it is not safe to do business loosely with sewer or any other contractors. "Safe bind safe find" is a good motto in the transaction of public as well as of private business. The aldermen are to be commended for having made up their minds to lose no more time in giving the city a good system of drainage, but we think it no harm to remind them that the citizens depend upon their going about the business in a business-like way and getting as much for the public as if they intended to construct the sewers out of their private means.

We are sorry to see that in the execution of the project the aldermen have commenced badly and not as if they were spending their own money. They have voted to give the contract privately. They have a pet contractor and t him they have given the work without having once asked what others are willing to do it for. We have no prejudice against outsiders, but we do not think that favors should be shown them by the Board of Aldermen to the prejudice of residents of the province. So large and important a work as the construction of a system of sewers for the city should be open to competition. Resident contractors should, at the very least, have an opportunity afforded them of bidding for the work. Tenders should be advertised for and if an outsider obtained the contract under fair and open competition we would be the last to complain, but we must protest and protest as strongly as we can, against the work being given to any one—resident or non-resident—without every one who is in a position to do the work being afforded the chance of making an offer. We are greatly surprised that Aldermen Coughlan and McKillican should move and second the motion that Mr. Hill's tender for constructing Mr. Pickering's sewer system be accepted; and we are still more surprised that some member of the Board did not immediately move in amendment that advertisements asking for tenders should be inserted in the provincial and other newspapers. The sum to be expended is very large, and it is not prudent that the contract should be given to any firm without competition at its own figures. If the Aldermen continue this work as they have begun we would not be surprised that, before it is finished, it will cost the city twice the estimate or more.

The Board of Aldermen should remember that the money to construct the sewers is not yet in their possession, and if they do not show more prudence and business ability than they have exhibited of late, there is a probability that they never will be entrusted with it. Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars is a very large sum, and the citizens should have some guarantee before they vote it for even so necessary a work as the construction of sewers that it will be economically expended. The best thing that the Board of Aldermen can do is to rescind their vote of Wednesday night and call for tenders immediately.

AN UNJUST ASPERSION.

The language used by the Times yesterday evening was not by any means complimentary to the electors of Victoria. Alluding to the fight made by Dr. Milne, it speaks of him as "an untried man, unfamiliar with the art of placating the mob."

So the electors of Victoria are in the estimation of the organ of the opposition "a mob," which needs to be placated. The Times must feel defeat very keenly indeed when it thus insults the whole electorate of Victoria.

To represent the electors of Victoria as a "mob," which needs to be "placated" by the candidates, is to give the whole constituency a very bad character indeed, and one which it is very far from deserving. The public meetings held during the campaign were orderly, and as far as the great body of the electors was concerned, well-conducted. The only men who were at all disorderly were two or three prominent members of the Opposition, and their vagaries completely disgusted the majority of their own party. We are surprised that the organ should, now that the campaign is over, speak of the electors who attended the meetings as a mob who could only be kept in good humor and induced to behave decently by the oily tongue of a practised orator. Our contemporary has got into such a habit of calling names that it cannot refrain from villifying every one who does not do exactly as it advises.

"A CHANGE OF AIR."

The August number of the Nineteenth Century contains a very interesting article "on change of air" by an eminent English physician, Dr. Burney Yeo. The essayist shows why a change of air is sometimes desirable, and he indicates what changes are beneficial and what are the reverse. He, like every observant man and woman, is a great believer in atmospheric influences. He believes that both health and disease are often in the air. He says:

"Our worst aërial enemies are silent, unseen, inexorable. I had almost said they were no respecters of persons, but if I were to say so I would be in danger of conveying a false impression; for it is indeed most remarkable how insensible some persons are to these subtle influences. And it is greatly owing to this fact that mankind remained so long in ignorance of these atmospheric dangers. Men were mystified by what they saw, and it seemed to them as though a mysterious intelligent agency, a malign spirit, hovered over them, unseen but active, touching with baleful finger certain predestined victims."

It is surprising what great numbers there are still who cannot be brought to believe that disease can be borne into their houses on the air they breathe. They cannot realize that air can be poisoned more readily than water or any other liquid. They shudder at the idea of the poisoned draught, and they regard the wretch who holds it to the lips of friend or relative as the most malignantly treacherous of all murderers. But they frequently look upon those who permit delicate women and innocent children to be poisoned by the air they inhale every day and all day long as their dearest friends.

Those who think that editors and others who warn the public against the dangers of a poisoned atmosphere are alarmists who make a great fuss about a small matter will perhaps listen with respect to what an eminent London physician tells them about the evil consequences of breathing air which is made dangerous by the ignorance and the laziness of men. Dr. Yeo says:

"But if the atmosphere surrounding us is occasionally fraught with dangers and laden with mischief, does it not often bring with it a beneficent, health-giving influence? For its evil effects are we not often ourselves responsible? By our ignorance, or by our indifference and carelessness, do we not often corrupt 'the pure air of heaven,' and make it a danger when it should be a delight?"

This is seen almost everywhere. In this city, which is surrounded by as pure and as exhilirating an atmosphere as is to be found anywhere on the face of the globe, it is allowed to be vitiated and made, instead of life-giving, life-destroying. It is breathing this air, poisoned by the carelessness of man, that makes a change of air to the inhabitants of many cities an absolute necessity.

There is another element of impurity and, consequently, of danger to health in the air of cities against which Dr. Yeo warns his readers. This is DUST. Here is what he says about dust in the air of cities:

"But the atmosphere of towns gets often positively and grossly dirty. The dust that is raised by a strong wind and blown into our air passages, as well as into our eyes and ears, is in a large town composed in part of most offensive ingredients, often capable, there can be little doubt of exiting disease in delicate, sensitive persons. I have long been convinced that a considerable portion of the illnesses caused by a prevalence of cold and strong east winds may be traceable to the effect of the PERNICIOUS, INFECTIOUS qualities of the dust that is blown into our air passages at the time. Imagine for a moment what the dust of a large city must be composed of, mixed up by the eddying wind carried backwards and forwards from place to place! And yet we marvel how infective diseases are spread abroad!"

This is something for those to whom the preservation of the public health in this town is entrusted to think about. They have the word of a high medical authority that the dust which fills the atmosphere at times, as well as the foul smelling air which almost suffocates the passer-by is disease-producing.

Persons whose systems have been deranged, and whose health has been undermined by breathing the bad air of the cities and inhaling their deleterious dust need a change of air. It is evident that the best place for them to go to is where there is no contaminated air and no clouds of filthy dust. The quiet, pure, sweet-smelling country gives the citizen who is not too far gone a new lease of life. A sea voyage is accompanied by the same atmospheric conditions, and to some persons it is most beneficial. The air of the sea is pure. It is not contaminated by either foul gases or dust, and the moisture it contains is refreshing. But there are inconveniences and hardships which the person who takes a sea voyage, even under the most favorable circumstances, which very delicate invalids cannot endure. They therefore receive little or no benefiit from it. But to a person who is simply "run down" by hard work in a foul atmosphere, but who has still left a good supply of vitality, a sea voyage is, in Dr. Yeo's estimation, among the best means of recuperation. But to persons worn out by disease, consumption or any other, a sea voyage is too great a tax on their strength.

While reading this article it occurred to us more than once if Victoria were under as good sanitary regulations as it needs, it would be just the place to which a physician like Dr. Yeo would send a very large class of his patients. It possesses naturally all the advantages which, in his opinion, a good watering place ought to have. This city, in fact, ought to be the sanitarium not only of the Pacific Coast, but of the whole northern and eastern part of the continent.

The Oklahoma Boom

FORMS an instance of a wild rush for an uncertainty, which is just the opposite of the steady boom enjoyed by Burdock Blood Bitters. Buyers of this medicine get a certainty—an unequalled remedy for all diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels, kidneys and the blood. s w-f

AN UNPRECEDENTED OUTRAGE.

It is something unprecedented to hear of a British judge being guilty of an act of violence. Whatever may be the real character of an occupant of the Bench in Great Britain or any of her dependencies, he is surrounded by such an atmosphere of conventionality and is subject to so many restraints that he must, in the eye of the world at any rate, assume the virtues of peacefulness and propriety if he has them not. It would be almost as unreasonable to expect the Archbishop of Canterbury himself to treat with personal violence any one who had offended him, no matter how deeply, as to suppose that a British judge would in a public place attack a gentlemen who, in the performance of his duty, had done him or any one whom he esteemed, what he considered an injustice. Whatever may be said with respect to the decision of judges in countries under British rule (and they are by no means exempt from criticism,) no one, not even the most lawless, ever thinks of assaulting the judge on account of any judgment he has rendered. If a divinity does not hedge a British judge, he is by his office lifted above ordinary men, and it would in a British community be considered an unpardonable outrage for any man who felt himself injured by a jedge's decision to assail him with fist or pistol.

But they do things differently in the United States. Judges there do not occupy such a high place in the public estimation, and it is by no means uncommon to hear of judges and ex-judges being mixed up in unseemly squabbles. Ex-Judge Terry did not consider that he was committing any very serious crime when he attacked the judge of the supreme court when he met him in a restaurant. He did not seem to hesitate a moment. He assailed Judge Field as soon as he saw him. He struck him once and was proceeding to repeat the blow, when, after being warned, he was shot by Marshal Neagle. It is true that Judge Field did not return the blow; he depended for defense upon the officer who had been charged with the duty of protecting him from violence. But that country must be in a very peculiar condition in which a judge of its Supreme Court needs protection from the violence of those who are affected by his official decisions.

Judge Terry, it is true, was an unscrupulous man of violent temper. In the early days of California's settlement he narrowly escaped being hanged for an act of violence. He afterwards shot a man who had been his friend in a duel with as much coolness as most men would shoot a hare or a pheasant. His quarrel with Judge Field was on account of a decision which that judge gave in the famous Sharon case. Sharon was a millionaire. After he died a woman named Sarah Althea Hill claimed to be his wife and resorted to law to get what, were she his lawful wife, would be her share of the property. Judge Terry was her counsel. During the progress of the suit he married the claimant. A little more than a year ago the Supreme Court decided that the marriage had been proved and that Mrs. Terry was entitled to a share of the estate. The executors, however, applied to Judge Field last autumn for a bill to revive and carry into execution a former claim adjudging the marriage contract to be a forgery, and directing its cancellaflon. The judge's decision was favorable to the executors. Immediately after it was delivered Mrs. Terry jumped up and accused the judge of being bribed. She was, of course, forcibly removed from court. Her husband, while this was being done, interfered. He drew a formidable knife and attempted to stab the officers who were holding him. Judge Terry and his wife were tried for contempt of court. They were found guilty and he was sentenced to six months imprisonment and his wife to thirty days. The meeting a few days ago, when Terry attacked Judge Field and was shot dead by Marshal Neagle, was the first that took place between them since Terry's liberation. We may say here that Judge Field's decision relative to the marriage was confirmed by the higher court. That tribunal found that the marriage was illegal on account of its secrecy, even if the contract had been genuine. It is a matter of wonder how a man of Judge Terry's character and antecedents ever came to occupy the position of judge. Under the British system he would have never been elevated to the Bench. It is hard for a British subject to imagine the state of things which resulted in the shooting of Judge Terry by an officer of the law. The question now to be decided by the Courts of California is, Was Marshal Neagle guilty of wilful murder, or was his killing Judge Terry, while in the act of attacking Mr. Justice Field, justifiable homicide?

RUSSIA'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

It has been said of late years that the only thing which prevented Russia from going to war, and setting Europe in a flame, was her poverty. She did not possess the sinews of war, and therefore was not in a position to fight. But Russia is no longer hard up. Her financial position is greatly improved. She has now as much money as she needs for ordinary purposes, and her credit is good. The paper rouble, which was a little while ago worth only 37½, has risen to 52½, and the tendency is still upwards. A conversion has been made of the debt by which a very large sum is saved annually. An enormous issue of five per cent bonds has been converted into four per cents on terms very favorable to the government. The tariff on foreign imports has been raised, and there is consequently a very considerable increase of the revenue. How long this will last, no one is at present in a position to say, but the result at present is to raise Russia very considerably in the money markets of the world. Manufactures in Russia have taken a start, and their progress promises to be continuous. The harvest, on the other hand, is a very poor one, and Russia this year has but a small quantity of wheat to sell. Wheat is, too, her staple export. It must be remembered that the Czar is living on a volcano. His enemies are everywhere. They plot in secret, and notwithstanding the watchfulness of a police force which is really ubiquitous, they carry out their schemes with wonderful skill. Whether war would or would not make these conspirators more formidable cannot be readily foreseen. It is easily seen that if the attention of the Government was taken up by a great war it would have less time than it has now to watch the nihilists. But the war would have to be successful. An unsuccessful war would raise for the Emperor and his Government a host of domestic enemies, and give the revolutionists an opportunity that they would not be slow to embrace. The chances of Russia being successful or unsuccessful depends upon the enemies she would have to contend with. The present aspect of Europe leads the observer to conclude that there would be Russia and France on one side, and Germany, Austria, Italy, and perhaps Great Britain, on the other. When such a struggle comes, as come it will, who will undertake to say which side will be victorious? War has appeared not far off in Europe for a long time, and the favorable financial condition of Russia, to all appearance, brings it many steps nearer.

THE DIAMOND MARKET.

The diamond market has its ups and downs like the market for any other commodity. The sources of supply are not many, and the annual output does not seem to vary a great deal. Diamonds come from diggings in Madras, Brazil and South Africa. The Cape diamonds are not of as good a qualty as those found in the old mines, but it requires an expert to distinguish them apart, so to the ordinary buyer of diamonds the difference of quality is of very little consequence. The product of the South African field is valued at about $5,000,000 a year. It does not appear to be known what quantity of diamonds is bought for use in a year, but it is conjectured that the citizens of the United States alone spend every year somewhere about $3,000,000 in diamonds. The total import of precious stones and pearls into the United States is valued at $10,000,000 annually. Diamonds are sold by the carat. Before the French Revolution diamonds were as high as $80 a carat. But that revolution was very hard on the wearers of diamonds. Many of them were compelled to sell their diamonds to purchase the necessaries of life. So many diamonds were then thrown upon the market and so few were able to buy diamonds that the price fell from $80 to $25 the carat. But when society became settled and the world was more peaceful diamonds rose again. In the first half of the present century they had advanced to about $100 the carat. When the discovery of gold in California and British Columbia made a good many people suddenly rich the demand for diamonds—the outward and visible sign of a full purse—became very brisk and they sold in New York and San Francisco for $150 the carat. But the discovery of a diamond field in South Africa caused a very heavy fall in the values of this very precious jewel and its price went down to $50 a carat. But the panic in the diamond market did not last long. It was found that the product of the Cape mines did not glut the market, so diamonds began to go up again and now $75 and $90 a carat are asked for diamonds of the first water. But diamonds advance in price in a geometrical ratio. If a one carat diamond costs $90 it by no means follows that a two carat stone of equal purity can be had for $180. The two carat stone will be worth $300 or $360, and the three carat diamond of equal quality cannot be had for less than $675 or $800, and so on until the largest stones bring fabulous prices. Our readers perhaps will be glad to hear that a fall in the price of diamonds is expected in the near future, so that if any of them wants to become the proud possessor of "The Mountain of Light" he will, if he waits a little while, be able to get it at a reasonable figure.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WHAT does the organ mean by saying that Mr. Davie "ran behind his ticket?" At the general election held in July, 1886, Col. Prior who was the Conservative candidate that polled the greatest number of votes stood at the close of the poll 540. The attorney-general's vote on Wednesday last was 578. This does not look as if Mr. Davie "ran behind his ticket." We cannot see what the organ has to gain by trying to belittle the Government victory of Wednesday.

WE are a little surprised that the organ of the Opposition should set before its readers so blue-mouldy a chestnut as this: "Mr. Davie's victory is practically a moral defeat." These "moral defeats" are played out. A majority of 111, after a contest in which the Mayor used all his influence in favor of Mr. Davie's opponent, and after the leader of the Opposition made extraordinary efforts to secure Dr. Milne's return, was a very considerable moral victory both for the Government and Mr. Davie. Mayor Grant, we venture to say, thinks so, and Mr. Beaven is, no doubt, very much of the same opinion. These gentlemen the day before the election expressed themselves as morally certain that Mr. Davie would be defeated, and now that it turns out that they were greatly mistaken, and their candidate made a victim of, the organ tries to make the public believe that "Mr. Davie's victory was practically a moral defeat." This is altogether too thin.

A late number of the New York Herald contains a searching and an impartial examination into the claim of the United States to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Behring's Sea. The conclusion to which the writer comes is adverse to the pretension of the Government of the United States. He sums up the discussion of the merits of the claim in the following paragraphs which are as strong a condemnation of the American claim as anything that has appeared in the Canadian newspapers:

"The pivotal question, then, is whether Behring's Sea is an open or a closed sea.

"Geographically it is an open sea, and has always been so defined by geographers. It has always been so considered by writers on international law and by the leading maritime nations of the world. It was so regarded by England when she protested against the claim set up by Russia. It was so treated by the United States when we denied the Russian claim half a century ago. We made the same concession two years ago, when the Government at Washington invited the foreign Powers interested to hold an international conference to agree upon some arrangement for the protection of the seal fisheries.

"Hence against the present claim of the State Department may be massed the authority of geographers, the principles of international law, the consensus of foreign nations and even our own diplomatic record. All these must be met and overcome by Mr. Blaine to defend successfully the seizure policy that has been inaugurated in Behring's Sea."

A DAY or two ago we showed how an unprincipled and ungrateful husband took advantage of the badness of the divorce laws of the state of New York, and the laxity of their administration to commit a cruel fraud on his wife. We have since seen how a treacherous wife has been able by the aid of the same laws to trick the confiding husband out of both his fortune and his wife. The wife, it appears, entered proceedings for a divorce. The husband begged and prayed her to withdraw them. This she consented to do on condition that he would make over to her the whole of his fortune. He consented, and executed the documents required. Will it be believed that the woman after this carried on the suit secretly and obtained a decree divorcing her from her fond and confiding husband? The incomprehensible part of this bad business is that she continued to live with her husband while she was prosecuting the divorce suit, so the poor dupe had not the slightest suspicion of what was in store for him. Whether she will be able to enjoy the fruits of her duplicity and treachery is as yet unknown.

THE SEALING INDUSTRY.

Its Early History in British Columbia.

The Vessels Engaged in the Trade from 1865 to 1889.

Value of the Vessels Now Engaged in the Industry, with the Number of Schooners Seized, Etc.

With respect to the early history of the sealing industry in British Columbia, it is well known that, owing to the sparse settlement on the west coast of Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, the taking of seal and the hunting of the sea otter was followed only by our Indian population, who pursued this industry in their own primitive manner,—that is, by using the canoe and spear, and seldom venturing beyond sight of land. Their success was only known to the traders who had stores or stations, or trading schooners, usually visiting the west coast during that season; the white population up to later years being chiefly engaged in other occupations. Sealing and deep-sea fishing did not seem to attract much attention. The few seals caught by the Indians adjacent to the coast was not considered sufficient inducement to our seamen, and also the habits of the seal, their yearly migration from Behring Sea, and their long journey and return following the food fish, were all matters not fully known or understood by our people. At all events, it does not appear that the knowledge possessed of the seal life by our hunters, presented any extra inducement to them to follow this hazardous occupation.

Up to the year 1865-6, the sealing industry remained in the hands of the west coast Indians, but in the year 1866 the schooner Kate, of Victoria, B. C., in charge of Dutch Harry and H. Ogilvie, left Victoria on a sealing and trading venture to the North Pacific and Behring Sea. The success of the venture is unknown. It is said that this voyage was more for trading than seal hunting, and as expeditions of the former kind were plentiful at that time, the United States having about that time acquired possession of Alaska, it is now generally believed that they did not enter Behring's Sea for the purpose of sealing. At all events, the parties are now dead, and and no authentic record can be found as to their success, if any, as a sealing voyage. After that time, some few years appear to have elapsed before the sealing business was much noted, it being attractive to only a few traders engaged on the west coast in the usual barter and exchange with Indians.

The pioneers of the sealing industry, namely, James D. Warren, Hugh McKay and William Spring (of whom the first mentioned only survives to impart the early history of the now important industry) reaped the reward of toil and retired to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

About the years 1878-9 the schooners belonging to the port of Victoria, B. C., began to extend their voyages seawards, and the migration of the seals became better understood. Schooners cruising southerly in the early spring would meet the returning seals, bound northward. At this time the following schooners engaged in this traffic:

Thornton, owned by Capt. J. D. Warren.

Anna Beck, owned by Captain J. D. Warren.

Favorite, owned by Capt. Hugh McKay.

Onward, owned by Capt. Hugh McKay.

In the year 1880 the schooner Mary Ellen, a vessel of 63 tons, was purchased by William Spring and added to the sealing fleet of Victoria; and in the years 1881-2 auxiliary steam power was added to the Anna Beck and Thornton, and several new vessels were built. The sealing industry at this time was considered in a fairly prosperous condition.

In the year 1883 the American schooner San Diego, of San Francisco, of which Daniel McLean was master, his brother Alex McLean being mate (both Nova Scotians) fitted out in San Francisco for the North Pacific and Behring's Sea on a walrussing and sealing voyage. With a crew of thirteen men they hunted along the west coast of California and British Columbia, starting about the 1st June, 1883. During the voyage, which lasted till the end of August, they spoke no vessel or revenue cutter nor had any communication with any one. They returned to Victoria after a successful voyage.

The following vessels were engaged on the west coast as sealers in the years 1882-3, but they did not enter Behring's Sea. All were fairly successful:

Schooner	Favorite	80 Tons
"	Alfred Adams	60 "
"	Anna Beck	40 "
"	Dolphin	60 "
"	Grace	77 "
"	Onward	35 "
"	Thornton	29 "
"	W. P. Sayward	60 "
"	Black Diamond	82 "

In the year 1884 the schooner Mary Ellen, of Victoria, B. C., Daniel McLean, master, fitted out at San Francisco with a crew of 16 men to hunt seals along the west coast, and entered Behring's sea about the 15th June, and left about the end of August of the same year. The voyage was satisfactory to owners and crew. They prosecuted their legitimate and peaceful voyage on the high seas without any interference from any one.

In the same year the schooners Favorite, Anna Beck, Alfred Adams, Dolphin, Grace, Onward, Thornton, W. P. Sayward and Black Diamond were all engaged in the sealing industry in the North Pacific.

In the year 1885—considered a prosperous one for sealers—the Mary Ellen and Favorite, of Victoria, entered Behring's Sea during June and left about the end of August. The other schooners, as per list attached hereto, hunted in the North Pacific, but did not enter Behring's Sea.

A number of vessels were added to the fleet in the following year (1886) and the enterprising firm, Carne & Munsie, brought around Cape Horn the schooner Pathfinder. This latter led to some immigration from eastern provinces of the hardy class of seamen so well adapted to the sealing industry. All the vessels clearing from Victoria, B. C., entered Behring's Sea with the exception of the schooners Active and Rustler, lost off Vancouver Island.

The same year (1886) is also remarkable for the seizures of the Carolina, Onward and Thornton, the attending circumstances of which are now a matter of history. These vessels, fitted out at Victoria for sealing in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea, and at the time of seizure (August 1 and 2, 1886,) were about 70 miles from the nearest land. The U. S. revenue cutter took them to Ounalaska. The crews of the Carolina and Thornton, with the exception of the captain and one man detained on board, were sent to San Francisco, nearly a thousand miles from home, and turned adrift to beg their bread and by appealing to the charity of the humane to find their way back to their homes on Vancouver Island. The crew of the Onward were kept at Ounalaska. The master and mate of the Thornton were brought to trial before a judge named Dawson, in the United States District Court at Sitka. And if half the stories that are told are true as to the manner in which courts are conducted in Alaska, we cannot be surprised at the verdict. The trial was a farce on justice, where international law or comity had no consideration. "The Britisher must suffer," and he was found guilty accordingly. The master of the Thornton was sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment and a fine of $500; the mate to 30 days' imprisonment and a fine of $300. The master and mates of the Onward, as also the officers of the Carolina, were likewise mulcted of similar penalties. The master of the latter vessel, one James Ogilvie, an old man, and a pioneer of British Columbia, well thought of by owners and crews sailing from his port of Victoria, after suffering harsh and inhuman treatment at the hands of the servants of the mighty Republic which blatantly proclaims its love for the right, was suffered to wander into the woods, where he died from want and exposure. The other masters and mates, after remaining in prison for several months, were released by order of the governor of Alaska upon his being besought by the inhabitants of Sitka in the interests of humanity. They were turned out of confinement literally destitute, without food or shelter, and compelled to find their way back as best they might to their homes 1500 miles distant, reached only by a long and costly voyage or by the friendly help of the Indian and a canoe over a tempestuous wintry ocean.

The story of poor Ogilvie, the taunts of an unscrupulous judge, who characterised the sealers as pirates and robbers; the subsequent imprisonment in a foul Alaskan prison (fit only for a savage Aleut) will long be told as a travesty on the humane acts of a friendly government.

The schooners have since lain on the beach at Ounalaska, worm-eaten and worthless. In 1887 the government of the United States concluded to give these vessels up, and in a letter from Mr. Bayard to Sir L. West, dated 11th October, 1887, the following extracts appear:—

"In the meantime, in acknowledging your note, I take occasion to state my impressions that if the three vessels seized and ordered to be released have not been re-possessed by their owners, it is not because of any hindrance on the part of any official of this government or failure to obey the order for release, but probably because of the remoteness of the locality (Ounalaska) where they were taken after arrest for adjudication, and the proceedings having been (in rem) the owners have not seen proper to proceed to Alaska to repossess themselves of the property in question."

Again, on the 13th of October of the same year, we find the following from Mr. Bayard to Sir L. West:—

"Department of State, Washington, 13th October, 1887.

"SIR:—Continuing my reply to your note of the 29th ultimo, enquiring the reason for the delay in complying with the order issued in January last for the release of the British vessels seized last year in Behring's Sea, I beg leave to inform you that I have this day received a communication from my colleague, the attorney-general, informing me that his telegram to the United States' marshal at Sitka, of the 26th January last, ordering the release of the British schooners "Onward," "Carolina" and "Thornton," owing to some misconception and mistake on the part of the official to whom it had been addressed, had not been acted upon. A renewed order has gone forward for their release as had been distinctly directed last January, and which I had no reason to doubt had been promptly obeyed. (Signed) T. F. BAYARD."

From the foregoing it naturally would be believed by all reasonable people that the Secretary of the United States would have had due respect for the proprieties of international comity and see that his order would be carried into effect before the close of the year 1887. Such was not the case, whatever interfered in this diplomatic shuffle. It did not materialize before the 1st November, 1888, and not until the 10th of November of that year did Messrs. Carne & Munsie receive the following:—

DISTRICT OF ALASKA,
U. S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
SITKA, November 1st, 1888.

E. H. WAHL, Esq.,
U. S. Deputy Collector of Customs,
Ounalaska, Alaska.

SIR,—You are hereby authorized and directed to deliver to the rightful owner, Messrs. Munsie & Co., Victoria, B. C., the seized schooner Carolina, of Victoria, B.C., her tackle, apparel and furniture, as she now lies in the harbor of Ounalaska.

(Signed,) BARTON ATKINS,
U. S. Marshal.

DISTRICT OF ALASKA,
U. S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
SITKA, November 1st, 1888.

MESSRS. MUNSIE & CO.,
VICTORIA, B. C.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Hon. Attorney-General of the United States, orders to release to the rightful owners the schooner Carolina, her tackle, apparel and furniture as she now lies at the harbor of Ounalaska, in the district of Alaska. The order on the Deputy Collector of Customs at Ounalaska to deliver to you the property is herewith enclosed. Very respectfully,

(Signed,) BARTON ATKINS,
U. S. Marshal.

In the year 1887 the vessels enumerated on list as below, entered Behrings sea after finishing the spring season. The names of the schooners, and dates of seizure together with dates of their sale at Port Townsend, W. T., where they were taken after postponements and delays, also appear. They were sold on the 26th March, 1889, it being currently reported at the time that they were disposed of at a nominal value.

All the vessels named on the list went to sea, and were, with the exception of the Auranarh, which was seized, very successful. This seizure was made on July 1st of that year, by the Russian steamer Alexander II., and taken to the Port of Vladivostok, Russian Siberia.

All the vessels enumerated on page ——, went to Behring Sea in 1889, and the return of the Triumph and capture of the Black Diamond, and subsequent escape, are all fresh in the memories of our people, and need not be here repeated.

I have omitted remarks on the many questions arising in regard to the seizure of our vessels, feeling assured that the Government is doing everything to bring the matter to a speedy settlement. Also in regard to the habits of the seal, many erroneous opinions having been given in the American press, and by the paid officials of the Alaska Fur Company, as to the loss of seals by wanton slaughter (as they term it) of our seals. I have made due and diligent enquiry as to the percentage of seals liable to be lost after being shot, and, from what I have gathered, it amounts, at most, to only six per cent.

The habits of the seal are now well understood. They travel singly and in pairs—not in droves or numbers, as has been supposed by some, and cover a large expanse of water. They are found 400 miles westward of Vancouver Island, and migrate to Behring Sea in September and October. The pups leave later in November, the temperature of the water having some influence upon their movement, but they always return to Behring Sea in June of every year.

Vessels Cleared for North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea, 1885:

Schooner.	Tons.	
Mary Ellen	63	White crew and hunters.
Favorite	80	White crew and Indian hunters.

Vessels Cleared for North Pacific Ocean, but did not enter Behring's Sea:

Schooner.	Tons.	
Alfred Adams	60	
Anna Beck	40	
Black Diamond	82	
Carolina	32	
Dolphin	60	
Grace	77	
Kate	58	
Mountain Chief	23	
Onward	35	
Thornton	29	
W. P. Sayward	60	

Vessels Cleared for North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea, 1886:

Schooner.	Tons.	
Alfred Adams	69	
Anna Beck	40	
Active	42	(Foundered April 1st, 1887.)
Black Diamond	32	
Dolphin	60	
Favorite	80	
Grace	77	
Carolina	32	(Seized Aug. 2d, 1886, by U.S. government)
Kate	58	
Mountain Chief	23	
Mary Ellen	63	
Onward	35	(Seized Aug. 1st, 1886, by U.S. government)
Penelope	70	
Pathfinder	66	
W. P. Sayward	60	
Thornton	29	(Seized Aug. 1st, 1886, by U.S. government)
Teresa	63	
Rustler	29	(Wrecked Feb. 26th, 1887.)

The Rustler did not enter Behring's Sea.

Vessels Cleared for North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea, 1887:

Schr.	Tons.	Disposition.
Ada	35	Seized Aug. 25, 1887, and sold by U. S. Gov't at Port Townsend, W. T., Mar. 26, 1889.
Alfred Adams	69	
Anna Beck	40	Seized July 2, 1887, and sold by U. S. Gov't at Port Townsend, W. T., Mar. 26, 1889.
Black Diamond	82	
Dolphin	60	Seized July 12, 1887, and sold by U. S. Gov't at Port Townsend, W. T., March 26, 1889.
Favorite	80	
Grace	77	Seized July 17, 1887, and sold by U. S. Gov't at Port Townsend, Mar. 26, 1889.
Juanita	40	
Kate	58	
Mary Taylor	43	
Mountain Chief	23	
Mary Ellen	63	
Penelope	70	
Pathfinder	66	
Sapphire	124	
W. P. Sayward	60	Seized July 9, 1887, by U. S. Government and released under bonds.
Triumph	15	
Teresa	63	
Viva	92	
Wanderer	16	
Lottie Fairfield	150	

Vessels Cleared for North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea, 1888:

Schr.	Tons.	Disposition.
Annie C. Moore	113	
Araunah	71	Seized July 1, 1888, by the Russian Gov't.
Aurora	41	
Black Diamond	82	
Favorite	80	
Juanita	40	
Kate	58	
Lily	69	
Letitia	28	
Mary Taylor	43	
Mountain Chief	23	
Mary Ellen	63	
Maggie Mc	71	
Penelope	70	
Pathfinder	66	
Sapphire	124	
W. P. Sayward	60	
Triumph	15	
Teresa	63	
Triumph	98	
Viva	92	
Wanderer	16	
Winifred	13	

Vessels cleared for North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea.

VESSEL	Tonnage.	Value with Outfit.	Wh't Men.	Indians.
Mary Taylor	43	$ 8,000	5	22
Pathfinder	66	10,000	22	..
Viva	92	12,000	22	..
Mary Ellen	63	8,000	21	..
Triumph	98	14,000	30	..
Favorite	80	8,000	7	30
Kate	58	7,000	5	30
Aurora	41	8,000	4	24
Minnie	46	8,500	4	30
Sapphire	124	15,000	6	40
Winfred	13	2,500	5	12
Black Diamond	82	9,500	5	30
Lily	69	8,500	5	36
Penelope	70	10,000	20	..
Maggie Mc	71	10,000	21	..
W. P. Sayward	60	8,000	5	30
Juanita	40	6,000	2	28
Annie C. Moore	113	15,000	22	..
Teresa	63	10,000	20	..
Ariel	90	9,000	21	..
Mountain Chief	23	3,000	..	20
Wanderer	16	5,500	3	20
Triumph	15	3,000	3	15
Letitia	28	2,000	..	20
Total	1,464	$200,500	262	375

Besides our own 24 British vessels, it is said that 32 of other nations have cleared at San Francisco and Puget Sound ports, all intending to go to Behring's Sea this year.

Estimate of the amount paid for wages, etc., by the Victoria sealing fleet, and the probable returns:

Wages of crew and hunters per vessel	$ 7,000 00
Ins. prem. on $8,000 at 7 per cent.	560 00
Provisions, salt, ammunition, etc.	3,000 00
Total per vessel	$ 10,560 00
For 20 vessels employed	$211,200 00
An average catch per vessel, say 2,000 skins	
Value per skin $7 50–$15,000 00	
Total value for 20 vessels employed	$300,000 00

Two thousand skins is a low estimate per vessel, and were it not for the interference of the U. S. cutters in Behring's Sea the average catch would be quite 3,000 skins per vessel.

MALIGNANT OPPONENTS.

TO THE EDITOR:—I really think the tactics of the opposition in their display of malignity towards the Hon. John Robson are simply disgraceful. I suppose John Robson has incurred the resentment of the Times and its patrons principally from the public stand he takes as a sincere Christian. If the inferences drawn from the expressions of his political opponents be correct, viz., that the Premier assumes the cloak of Religion for Political ends, he must undoubtedly have reached the very pinnacle of moral turpitude. But, so far as I can see, they have entirely failed to adduce any evidence which would in the most remote way go to substantiate so grave a charge. In the course of my travels, which have embraced no inconsi