The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1892.

## MAYOR BEAVEN'S LETTER.

Mayor Beaven's letter to the Attorney General, which we published in yesterday's issue, is characteristic of the man. The Attorney General wrote the Mayor of Victoria a purely business letter; the Mayor's reply is a political manifesto. It is evident from the first line to the last of Mayor Beaven's letter, that it is intended for political effect. The letter should properly have been addressed to the electors of Victoria.

Like most political manifestos from the same source, Mr. Beaven's letter is full of inaccurate and misleading statements and inuendos, which are calculated to produce false impressions.

In the second sentence of his letter, he says: "I have no doubt inconvenience will arise in consequence of the interference with municipal affairs of irresponsible persons." The Mayor, of course, wishes the readers of his letter to believe that irresponsible persons have interfered in municipal affairs. But such has not been the case. There has been no irresponsible or unauthorized or unwarranted interference with municipal affairs. Every official who has taken part in the stamping out of the smallpox is responsible to either the municipality or the Government for the way in which he performs his duties. As we showed, yesterday, the law in certain contingencies authorises the Government to interfere in the health affairs of municipalities. The officials appointed by the Government in those contingencies cannot, therefore, with any approach to truth, be said to be "irresponsible."

Mr. Beaven asserts that "the Board of Health and the Finance Committee are quite competent to attend to their duties." The law of the land assumes that when there is reason to apprehend the invasion of any contagious disease the Local Board of Health are not competent to cope with it. It is then the duty of the Board of Health to place itself under the direction of the Health Officer appointed by the Government, and to carry out the Orders-in-Council. Has the Local Board of Health attended to its duty in this respect? Is it not because it refuses to co-operate with the Health Officer that the difficulty between it and the Government has arisen? We wonder if the Mayor realizes that the attitude which he assumes with respect to the health affairs of the city is opposed to law and to constituted authority. The Government and the officials of the Government have not gone a hairsbreadth beyond the powers which the law, for the safety of the community, places in their hands, but the Mayor, and those whom he influences, by placing difficulties in the way of the Health Officer, and by stigmatizing those who are acting under his authority as irresponsible and unauthorized, are placing themselves in antagonism to the law, and that, too, in a matter of the utmost importance to the city.

The flourish about the punctuality with which the Corporation pays the workmen whom it employes was certainly not intended for the Attorney-General's edification. But the boast is an empty one, and can have but little effect in the face of the fact that the Corporation has refused to pay workingmen whom one of its officials has employed. It is poor comfort to these men to be told that they shall be paid "at the earliest moment the statute permits." The visitation has lasted long enough to permit the corporation to make arrangements to pay all employed in the health department without an hour's delay. There are exigencies in which the City Council must take upon themselves the responsibility of acting independently of the statute, and most people will say that an outbreak of the smallpox is one of these contingencies.

The mayor's letter is an exceedingly weak production, even when it is looked upon as an appeal to the electors. It does not contain even the semblance of an excuse for the course which the mayor is pursuing in placing himself in opposition to the Provincial authorities, who are in a legal and constitutional manner working with might and main, and working, too, most successfully, to stamp out the smallpox, the presence of which in the city has done it such an immense amount of harm.

## INFORMATION WANTED.

No reason has been given for raising the amount asked for by the City Council for health purposes from fifty thousand to seventy-five thousand dollars. Before such a change as this was made, the Finance Committee were bound to show to the Council and the ratepayers that the fifty thousand dollars first put in the by-law was not sufficient. But no figures have been given, not even, as far as we know, has an approximate statement been published. Wild assertions, we see, have been made about the extravagance of the officials in charge of the suspect station, but it is very clear that they have been made at random and with the object of bringing the Health officer and those whom he has employed into disrepute. But the ratepayers naturally require something more definite than this.

From what we have heard, we believe that the fifty thousand dollars first asked for, will be more then sufficient to meet all demands arising out of the outbreak of the smallpox. It would not be difficult for the Chairman of the Finance Committee to find out the expense that has been already incurred. He knows what was spent on the Albert Head station. Mr. Davies will, no doubt, be happy to inform him what the expenses of the Jubilee Hospital station have been up to date, and we think if he tries very hard, he will be able to find out what that horrible bugbear of his, the suspect station, has cost the city. As the end of the outbreak is now happily within a measurable distance, it will not be difficult to estimate what the probable expenses will be. Of course this estimate cannot be mathematically correct, but the worthy chairman, if he sets about the work in earnest, will be able to come within a hundred dollars or so of the amount.

We think that it is due to the ratepayers who are to vote upon the by-law to let them know that the City Council is asking for what will be reasonably near the amount required.

It will be recollected that provision is made for the ordinary expenses of the health department in another by law, in which $15,000 is allowed for the "Board of Health—all purposes." This is a moderate sum, but we presume that it is sufficient. We mention this because it might be thought by the reader, who had not seen the by-laws, that the $75,000 was all that the Council wants to raise for health purposes. In point of fact they propose to raise $90,000 for current health expenditure. When it is known approximately what the expenses connected with the smallpox visitation are, the ratepayers will be in a position to judge of the reasonableness of the Council's requirement.

We may say here that we have good reason to believe that the cost of stamping out the smallpox in the city will be, in proportion to the number of cases, very much less than it will be in Vancouver and other places in which there have been outbreaks, and that consequently it will be found that there has been no ground for the accusations of extravagance which have been preferred against those who are engaged in freeing this city from the dread disease.

## CONGRESS CLOSED.

The session of Congress which closed on the 5th inst. was not a very eventful one. It might be supposed that when the Democrats had a majority of 140 in the House of Representatives, the policy of the United States would be democratic. But it was nothing of the kind. A Republican President and a Republican Senate more than counteracted the efforts of the Democratic House to give the policy of the Administration a Democratic tinge. In spite of the overwhelming majority of Democrats in what would be called here the popular branch of the Legislature, the policy of the Government of the United States continued to be Republican. The defeat at the polls did not affect the action of the Government in any perceptible degree.

It will be very different, indeed, in Great Britain. There, in a House of 670 members, the Gladstonian party has a majority of only forty, yet the Salisbury Government will not, in the face of that small majority, attempt to direct the affairs of the nation after the adverse vote, which shows them to be in a minority. Lord Salisbury's resignation will be in the hands of the Queen in a very few hours after the will of the House is known, and a new Premier will assume the reins of power. In this the Government of Great Britain is more democratic than the Government of the United States. As soon as the will of the people is expressed in a constitutional manner, it is respected by the Government of the country, but, as we have seen, the Government of the United States carries out its policy unchanged for two years after it has been condemned by an immense majority of the people's representatives.

The truth, however, appears to be that the Democratic House of Representatives were only half-hearted in their endeavors to carry out their own policy. Although the Democrats profess to be in favor of tariff reform, their attempts to alter the trade policy of the Republic were very feeble indeed. They were, as described by one of their own party, of the "popgun" order. Most of the tariff bills were killed in their passage through the Legislature. Only two of them succeeded in getting through in the normal way. These were bills for taking the duty off binding twine, bagging for cotton and its machinery, and wool.

The Democrats condemned the Republicans for their extravagance, and they no doubt deserved the condemnation. The billion dollar Congress was the title they gave the Republican Congress which the Democrats displaced. Well, the Republicans spent $462,000,000 during the first session of the billion dollar Congress, but the Democrats voted away $510,000,000 of the people's money in the course of the session that has just ended. This certainly does not say much for the economy of the Democrats. It must be admitted that it is a very difficult thing for the Congress that succeeds an uncommonly liberal one to be economical. The electors, even those who condemned the Republicans for their extravagance, have a weakness for appropriations, and they expect their friends to do as well for them as their opponents did. This, we think, is the secret of the expenditure of more than half a billion in one session. The immense pension list of the Republicans had to be kept up, and their bounty and their subsidy legislation could not be repealed.

The virtues of the Democratic House, according to the dictum of one of its apologists, were chiefly negative. He says "It did not increase taxes; it passed no subsidy bill; it passed no bills to overthrow elections in the States; it vacated no Republican seats for Democratic contestants, except in one case, and that upon a practically unanimous committee report; it did not rob the minority of their rights nor serviley surrender its own rights into the hands of its Speaker and its Committee on Rules."

Do not wear impermeable and tight fitting hats that constrict the blood-vessels of the scalp. Use Hall's Hair Renewer occasionally and you will not be bald.

Special to the COLONIST.]

## M. QUAD'S SKETCHES.

### A Voyage Which Began and Ended in Tragedy—The Captain of Company B.

[Copyright, 1892, by Charles B. Lewis.]

In the month of November, 1868, the Liverpool ship John Hunnewell left Melbourne, Australia, for the voyage home. She carried as passengers two brothers, John and Joseph Layton. They were twins, forty-two years old, and neither had ever married. They had come out to Australia at the age of twenty, made their fortunes in sheep and were now going back to the old country on a visit. The fact of their taking passage in a sailing craft was due to their intimate acquaintance with the captain. He was, if I remember right, a distant relative.

We had made a fast run of half the distance to the Cape and all had gone well with everybody on board when there came a dead calm which lasted two days and nights. On the afternoon of the second day a strange sea bird made its appearance and hovered about the ship. None of the crew had ever seen a bird like it, and its visit caused some little excitement. One of the twins, John, determined to secure the bird as a specimen, and he brought up a fowling piece to get a shot. The bird was very shy, and after moving about from point to point the man finally mounted the port rail abreast of the mizzenmast. The sea was like glass, the ship steady on her keel and he had raised his gun to fire when he somehow lost his balance and dropped into the sea with a great splash. There was a general shout of laughter at his mishap, and both mates, who were on deck at the time, ran to heave him a rope. We heard him call out in jovial tones, but even as he seized the end of a rope flung at him he uttered a shriek and was pulled out of sight in an instant. A shark had taken him. There was a swirl of waters, a few air bubbles rose to the surface and all was over.

Everything had passed so swiftly that we could not at once realize what had happened. When we did understand the situation the surviving brother was so determined on going overboard to search for his brother that it took four or five men to hold him. He raved like a crazy man, and for the next week he had to be closely watched to guard against suicide. He was as badly broken up as a man who had lost wife and children. The loss of his brother under such distressing circumstances developed a singular mania. I knew nothing of it until we reached Cape Town. Joseph had determined to revenge his brother's death. He ended his voyage at the Cape, bought an American brig, which had been picked up as a derelict and towed in, and the first I knew of his plans was when the captain offered to release me to let me take the position of second mate on the brig. I wish to give you some of the particulars of our outfitting, because I believe The Revenge, as Joseph renamed the brig, was the only vessel ever fitted out for such a voyage. When I reported on board he detailed his plans. They were very simple. We were to cruise for sharks, and to destroy as many as possible until his desire for revenge was satiated.

The brig had to be pretty thoroughly overhauled, and it was six weeks before we got away. During this time Joseph sought to post himself in every possible way, and we had chemists, electricians, carpenters and machinists aboard of us every day. One of his ideas was to use an electric battery, but the scheme could not be made to work satisfactorily. We had a furnace built for heating brick, and we took 5,000 bricks into the hold. A portion of the bulwarks on each quarter was arranged so that it could be taken out at will. Under my personal supervision a blacksmith made 100 shark hooks, and Joseph purchased thirty barrels of pork for no other use than shark bait. He provided the brig with four lances and as many harpoons, and he bought up every sort of poison which the drug stores had in stock. A false deck of heavy planks was laid, a capstan set in the deck just abaft the mainmast and, in addition to a full crew to work the brig, three big Cape canoemen were hired as extra hands. Joseph must have had fully $30,000 invested when we finally set sail.

Sharks are of course to be found in every sea, but Joseph had consulted many seafaring men and had determined on making for the Sunda islands first. This group includes Sumatra and Java, and from the beginning, at Acheen head, to the east end, at Timor, is a distance of 3,000 miles. To the south of these islands, two hundred or more altogether, rolls the wide expanse of the Indian ocean. One day, after a voyage of weeks, we spoke a French merchantman which had loaded at the port of Java and touched at the Cocos islands to leave a colony of twenty-five Javanese. We were told that there were sharks enough in the surrounding waters to keep all hands busy for a year. Three days later we came to anchor on the south side of the larger of the four islands, which is called Reefer island. This is the only one with a name. It is a wooded island, about four miles long by two broad. None of the others is over 100 acres in extent. The anchor had not yet been let go when the dorsal fins of a score of sharks were cutting the water around us.

We came to anchor about 10 o'clock in the morning. The Javanese had made a camp just opposite where we lay, and after a bit three of them came off to us in a sampan. When informed of the object of our presence they informed us that they had already lost three of their number through the voraciousness of the monsters gliding about. A party were fishing in the sampan just outside the coral reef, when a huge shark leaped out of the water and fell upon the gunwale of the sampan and upset her. The men were dragged down at once, while the tide carried the craft to the beach. The natives remained with us an hour or so, and when ready to depart became so rattled at the number of sharks in sight that we lowered a boat and rowed them ashore. During the forenoon we cleared up the decks and made everything snug, and no fishing was done until after dinner. We began operations with the lances. There was no need to throw anything overboard to bring the sharks within striking distance. The sight of a man on the rail acted like magic. I myself threw the first lance and wounded the first fish. You could not have counted ten from the first flow of blood to the rush of his fellows to seize him. He was a big fellow, and the wound I had inflicted was trifling, but he was set upon by a dozen or more and eaten alive inside of sixty seconds. The same fate awaited every other one wounded, and such was the rushing and swirling that our decks were wet with the spray thrown on board. It was two hours before the school got enough of it, and in that time I believe we caused the death of more than half a hundred. Those who had not been wounded ate their fill and left a dozen half eaten bodies floating about us. Joseph went about rubbing his hands in a pleased way, and I saw him smile for the first time since the accident of months before.

When I turned out on the second morning the sea was like glass and not a shark fin in sight. Before breakfast had been dispatched there were at least a hundred around us. The furnace for heating bricks was lighted, and about 9 o'clock we were ready to give the crowd a surprise. It may seem a cruel piece of business to some, and they had best skip the next few lines. Joseph had purchased a great lot of native grass cloth at the Cape. It was now cut into pieces about two feet square and put to soak. About fifty bricks were placed to heat, and when as hot as fire could make them they were lifted out with tongs, the wet cloth wrapped around them and secured with a turn of small stuff, and the "food" was tossed over the rail. In as many as seven or eight instances I saw the brick caught before it touched the water. In other cases five or six fish rushed for it at once. A dozen bricks had been gulped down before we witnessed any results, and then they were startling. The first had been swallowed by a shark about twelve feet long. He suddenly jumped almost his full length out of water, and then went dashing about in the most frantic manner. In a minute or two he had plenty of company, and the ocean around us was set boiling by the movements of the school. Some ran out to sea, some upon the reef, and others swam in circles of which the brig was the center and finally turned belly up and died. Those who failed to get one of the bricks finally became alarmed and disappeared, nor did we see another fin until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Then, as I happened to glance over the port quarter, I saw a hammerhead about two feet below the surface. While this species is not more voracious than either the white or the blue shark, he is the most repulsive fish of the sea. No old sailor can look at him even from the deck of a ship without a shudder. When I had reported the presence of this monster it was determined to capture him and have him on deck. A hook was got out and baited, the section of bulwarks removed and the bait flung over. He seized it on the instant, and a sharp pull at the rope fastened the hook in his maw. The strength of the fellow was amazing, and it was nearly an hour before we had him on deck. After he had been killed his stomach was examined, and among other articles discovered was an old pistol, which perhaps the French captain had tossed overboard. The length of the shark was 16 feet 2 inches. His jaws had a spread of three feet and more, and he could have bolted a nail keg as easy as a man could swallow a kernel of corn.

We remained at the Cocos for twenty two days, and each day for the first two weeks was a slaughter. After that our prey began to grow scarce, and during the last two days we did not see a shark, though we sailed all around the islands. Joseph kept tally every day as near as we could come to it, and when we sailed away for Christmas island, which was directly in our path to the Java coast, he figured up something like 600 of the monsters which had yielded up their lives to gratify his thirst for revenge. The hands were all sick and tired of the business when we finally sailed away, but the surviving brother announced that business had only begun. When about 200 miles northeast of the Cocos we captured the shark whose wide open jaws have been a source of interest to thousands of visitors at the Royal Museum of Natural History in London. It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the day, with the wind falling light, when this monster was sighted by a hand aloft. He was forty feet from the vessel and two or three feet below the surface, and was keeping us company. We got a hook out, but for an hour or more he did not change his position. Then his appetite suddenly sharpened up and he dropped into our wake, but for half an hour longer he refused to take the bait. When he did go for it and was fairly hooked it seemed as if his struggles would check our way. It was our largest hook, with a new inch rope fastened to the chain, and the outfit was strong enough for a yoke of oxen to pull a sawlog with. When we finally tired him out and got him alongside and a whip hoose over his tail, some of the men declared that he was a young whale. From nose to tip he measured 27 feet 8 inches. His girth was exactly that of a pork barrel. When his jaws were pried open we rolled an empty flour barrel into the cavity, with room to spare. He was spotted in color like a leopard, and English naturalists had declared his species extinct. The jaws were all that we preserved of the fish, and they were transferred to an English man-of-war off the Java coast. We found in his stomach the remains of a sailor's sou'wester, a smooth stone as large as a man's fist, a horn handle to a knife, a piece of rope and a champagne bottle.

At Christmas island we found sharks about as plentiful as at the Cocos, and we went at them in the same fashion. Joseph experimented with his poisons here for the first time, and the results were most surprising. Meat thoroughly impregnated with arsenic or strychnine had not the least effect as we could discover. A pint bottle of fresh water was charged with arsenic until the stuff would no longer dissolve. It was then lowered over the side by a string, and all of us saw a big shark swallow it. The contents must have emptied into his stomach, but we could not see that he was affected in the least. We were at Christmas island twenty-eight days, and then ran into the port of Java, on the island of that name. The score then stood at about 1,300, but Joseph declared that it should be ten times as large before he would be satisfied. On leaving port after three or four days' stay we ran east to Baly island, which is off the east coast of Java. We remained in these waters upward of a month, killing whenever we sighted a fin, and then sailed further east to Sandalwood island. We had been there sixteen days, when upward of 200 natives came out to our anchorage in canoes and warned us that if we did not cease our warfare they would destroy us. We had lined the whole coast with bodies of sharks. As we weighed anchor we headed across the great bight for the west coast of Australia, and had been out only two days when we overhauled a schooner in the sandalwood trade. She had lost her foremast and been abandoned. I was put aboard of her with two men to carry her up to Java, while the brig held on for Australia. From that day to this she has never been heard of. She was neither spoken nor reported after I left her. When she went down she took all hands with her, nor was ever boat or spar or plank sighted by any one. Joseph had a score of more than 3,000 sharks when we left Sandalwood, but the monsters he had so relentlessly pursued triumphed over him after all.

### THE CAPTAIN OF COMPANY B.

After the first year of the war the rank and file sized up an officer on his merits within ten minutes of the opening of a battle. No matter how much they saw of him in camp, no verdict was rendered until he had been tried by fire. While every man is a portion of a great machine in battle, the rank and file moves only as directly commanded. We looked to be led. We depended not upon each other, but upon the one single man in command. He must be brave; he must be cool; he must have good judgment. He must even know when he is whipped and how to retreat to the best advantage.

Many officers made the mistake of trying to pass off bravado for the genuine article. For instance, they talked in loud tones, not thinking that the sharp eared men could easily detect the tremor of their voices. If bullets and shells were flying over the line they so controlled their nerves as not to duck and dodge. When they looked around for admiration they saw faces wearing signs of doubt.

"He is holding himself up—he's no good!" was the criticism which went up and down the lines, and it always had a sure foundation.

Nobody has any sympathy for a private who became rattled, although it was not always a sign of cowardice, but there was never a more pitiful sight than the spectacle of a captain breaking down on the battlefield. Watch him as the regiment suddenly receives the order to move by the right flank from the shelter of the hill into an open field to fill a gap. It's his first fight. In camp he has been a bulldozer and a martinet. Back there with the reserves, safe from the missiles of war, he has folded his arms and assumed theatrical poses, talked very loudly, handled his sword and examined his revolvers. Other captains have watched him and perhaps envied his nerve, but the men have muttered to each other:

"He's too cool—too much showing off—wait!"

As we move out and a shell comes screaming over our heads and a man is struck here and there by a bullet, our captain grows white faced and looks uneasily about him. There's a single gun on a knoll to our right as we fill the gap. If it is supported, we cannot see the infantry. It is a glorious opportunity for a hundred men to distinguish themselves.

"Captain Blank, take your company and bring back that gun," shouts the colonel as he rides up.

"Attention, Company B! Forward—guide right—march!"

Is that the voice of our captain? It is, but it is so changed that no man can identify it. His lips are as white as one lying dead for a day, and he drags his feet as if there was no spring to his knees. There are ninety-two of us. We leave almost 900 men in the lines behind us, each one hoping for our success, but each one a critic.

"Whizz! Scream! Whew-ew-ew-ew!" comes a shell, just clearing our heads, and our captain falls flat on his face. He leaps up to wave his sword in a frantic way and shout for us to charge. We do not obey. We are not near enough for that.

"Boom! Rattle—wish! wish! wish!" come the grapeshot, but not a man is struck.

Our captain has thrown down his sword, and is crying and laughing in a hystericky fashion. I am near him and I can hear him muttering:

"We can't do it—can't do it—we shall all be killed! We must go back! Company B, about face!"

"Now, men, there's our gun and away we go—charge!" shouts our first lieutenant, and with a yell we spring forward.

The captain ran after us. Then he turned and ran back. Then he advanced again, waving a stick he had picked up on the ground. We dashed for the gun and got it, but as we were drawing it off a full regiment of the enemy suddenly came into view from behind a heavy fringe of bushes.

"By the left flank—left flank—left flank!" screamed the captain.

"By the right flank!" shouted the first lieutenant, and we tumbled into a dry ravine and fired volley after volley into the advancing regiment, holding it in check until our lines came up.

The left flank was an open plain. One volley from that regiment would have wiped us out. We did not go back. Company B had advanced the battle line to the ravine. We were cheered and cheered again by the 900 men.

"What's it for—what do they mean?" shouted our captain. "Oh, yes, I know. Hip—hurrah! Yes. We got the gun! Glorious old Company B! I am proud to lead you!"

We had sized him up. He had lost his head in battle and we had no further use for him. Not a man in Company B but what pitied him, but not a man would have gone into battle with him again if refusal had been called mutiny. He had no "good-bys" to make. The officers of the regiment turned away from him as from an outcast, and the men sat in their tents and knew not when he went. He had better left his body on the field—a thousand times better.

M. QUAD.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 6.—(Special)—In the boat races at Minnetonka yesterday, the Winnipegs were first in the junior fours and senior singles, and third in the junior doubles. In the races to-day the Winnipegs lost the senior fours by four feet, and won the senior doubles easily. Out of six events the Winnipegs captured first place in three.

## MAYOR BEAVEN'S LETTER.

### His Worship Insists That the Business of the City Must be Carried on "According to Statute."

### And Deprecates "Interference With Municipal Affairs by Irresponsible Persons."

By request of His Worship Mayor Beaven, the following letter, addressed by him to the Premier, Hon. Theo. Davie, is published. It contains his answer to Hon. Mr. Davie's request that the city make early provision for the payment of men employed in smallpox matters, whose circumstances do not permit of them keeping an open account with the Corporation. The necessities of some of these civic employes have since been relieved by the Provincial Government coming to their rescue:

VICTORIA, B.C., August 8th, 1892.

*The Hon. Theodore Davie, Premier, etc.*

SIR,—Your letter of Saturday's date is before me. I have no doubt inconvenience will arise in consequence of the interference with municipal affairs of irresponsible persons. It will be a fortunate circumstance if nothing worse should result. The Board of Health and Finance committee are quite competent to attend to their duties. The corporation will provide in due course for officers and persons employed by them.

Persons unauthorized by the proper city authorities have been employing men and purchasing supplies on account of the corporation. A proper enquiry is necessary.

Some of the men you name will be paid at the earliest moment the statute permits, others have been employed without city authority, some classified as guards are in excess of the number authorized, and other irregularities exist.

I cannot deprecate too strongly the employment of men upon duties of this character, leading them to suppose that they would be paid by the corporation, without first ascertaining that they could be paid.

Dr. Milne, I am informed, has not employed any person on behalf of the corporation to attend to smallpox matters since the 20th July.

It is the practice of the corporation to pay every person they employ; more especially do they desire to promptly pay men who have little else but their labor to depend upon. No doubt these men have all been employed by some one and should be paid but we have a duty also to the taxpayers who intrust their funds to us. You also owe a duty to the Provincial taxpayers.

We endeavor to carry on the business of the city in the manner indicated by the statute.

It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that you, who were prominent last year in the appointment of commissioners at a cost to the city of over $4,000 to inquire into alleged infractions of law by our predecessors in office, should this year apparently desire to bring about a state of affairs which, in my opinion, would be a disregard of the law upon our part.

Experience has convinced me of the correctness of my estimate as to the tendency of some of the provisions you were instrumental, unfortunately, in inducing the members of the assembly to incorporate into the Municipal Act last session. Yours truly,

ROBERT BEAVEN,
Mayor.

## CHEMICAL WORKS

### To be Established in Victoria for the Manufacture of Explosive Acids.

### An Enterprising English Firm Will Locate Here—Looking for a Site for the Factory.

Another manufacturing establishment is to be added to the number now to be counted in Victoria. The new factory will be started this fall, and will, for the present, be devoted to the manufacture of acids for explosives, etc. Later on other branches will be added considerably extending the industry.

The gentlemen who have the matter in hand are Messrs. Hall and Moor, of Manchester, England, both chemists of high standing in the old country and experts at the business. Mr. Hall, who holds a Master of Science degree from one of the English universities, is at present superintendent and general manager for the famous Clayton Analine Company of Manchester. He will not come here until the buildings are completed and the works are ready for operation. His partner, Mr. Moor, sailed on one of the Beaver Line steamers from Liverpool about the end of July and is expected here next week. Mr. Moor will immediately decide upon a site for the factory and as soon as possible active operations will be commenced.

Raw materials in plenty are to be found on Vancouver Island for the manufacture of such acids as it is intended to make at first, and the necessary sulphur can be imported cheaply from Japan. The extent of the present trade is shown by the Customs returns for the past two years. The average import of acids of one kind and another, during that period, has been some 8,000 pounds per week—a very considerable quantity.

The new establishment may not be the most extensive business for a while, but it will stop one of the small leaks and prevent a good many dollars now being sent away to Portland and San Francisco from leaving the province, and will, besides, give employment to a small number of men. Both the gentlemen interested are able and energetic, and have behind them the capital necessary to make their enterprise a success. Mr. Hall is a cousin of Mr. Jensen, of the Dallas Hotel.

## MIGHTY WEARING ON A MAN.

The lord of the manor slept, says the Detroit Tribune, although the baby had the colic and was in nowise disposed to suffer in silence. "Wah—oop—oo—oo—wah!" wailed the infant. Distracted at the child's distress the mother rushed wildly to the cradle. "Hush-a-bye, hush-a-bye," cooed she. "Gr—r—r—siss—poo!" snored the lord of the manor. The woman made ten quick laps around the room, danced the suffering babe vigorously and performed a great variety of exhaustive antics popularly supposed to make young children forget their troubles. "Woop!" yelled the little one. "Hush-a-bye baby on the tree——" "Gr-r-r-o—siss—poo!" The lord of the manor slept. One by one the sands of time flowed through the hour glass. Minutes grew into hours. Just as the rising sun was coloring the eastern horizon with a delicate glow the baby fell asleep. With a smile of tender radiance the mother placed her darling in the cradle and imprinting a soft kiss upon its brow turned to her own couch. The lord of the manor stirred and opened his eyes. "Can I help you, Maria?" he feebly asked, with a yawn. The wife and mother sighed. "No, John," she wearily rejoined. They slept. "I shouldn't be surprised——" It was the lord of the manor talking to a friend next day. "If I looked mighty haggard. This being up nights——" He gaped prodigiously. "With the baby is mighty wearing on a man." The lord of the manor looked decidedly dissatisfied with life.

### $60,000,000 Gold Shipment.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 5.—A local paper is the authority for the statement that $60,000,000 in gold coin left this city last night for Washington, guarded by thirty-nine picked men of the railway mail service. The paper goes on to state that the accumulated store of gold at San Francisco has been steadily increasing during the past 20 years. When J. P. Jackson assumed the office of sub-treasurer he found more than $70,000,0000 in the vaults of that institution. Since then the amount has increased to $76,000,000, and the accumulation was seriously crowding the vaults. In the mint, too, there had been a steady accumulation. At the time of the Chilean trouble the Government had stored here more than $100,000,000. It was then that attention was directed to the danger of carrying such an accumulation of treasure, not only in San Francisco, but in any sea port city. A proposition to remove the bulk of the coin in the sub-treasury vaults to Washington was mooted, and it has come up regularly from time to time since, finally resulting in its shipment to Washington under a strong guard last night.

### He Married a Baroness.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 4.—The Baroness Emma de Hodemonte de Neau was married yesterday to Charles S. Reed, the representative of a Chicago piano house. He met her about two months ago while searching for a boarding house. The Baroness was the subject of a diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Holland some time ago. Her grandfather was wealthy and Miss de Neau, who was reared in a St. Louis convent, was imprisoned in an Ursuline convent at Eyeden, Holland, when she was 15. Application was made to the state department for an investigation. It was said that the second cousin of Miss de Neau, Count de Rosemond, 56 years old, was determined to make her marry him or become a nun. The American consul made inquiries, but in the interval Miss de Neau went to visit relatives and then hurried to America. She is said to be very wealthy. "I am the only living descendant of the Baron Emanuel de Hodeamonte," she said yesterday, "and am justly entitled to be called a baroness, but I prefer now to be simply Mrs. Chas. Reed."

### YACHTING.

#### VICTORY FOR THE KAISER.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The Meteor beat the Iverna in the race, to-day, by six minutes.

A meeting of the Victoria Yacht Club was held, last evening, in the office of the Underwriters' Association. In the absence of the Comodore, Capt. Cox, the chair was taken by Capt. Charles, but owing to the non-attendance of some members entrusted with the drafting of by-laws, etc., that important subject was not dealt with. The following delegates were appointed to attend the convention at Fairhaven, for the establishment of an international yacht club: Comodore Cox, Capt. Foote, A. Scroggs, H. Sealey, G. A. McTavish and Mr. Piper. It was also decided to have Victoria represented at the forthcoming regatta at Tacoma. A committee was appointed to arrange for suitable club rooms.

### Excursion to Victoria.

The House Committee of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce contemplate a series of excursions, the first of which will probably be to Port Angeles and Victoria, within the next two weeks.

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| Lake Winnipeg | do | Aug. 31st |
| Lake Ontario | do | Sept. 7th |
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