

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1896.

IS A BARGAIN A BARGAIN?

It was thought that the Paris arbitration was a complete and final settlement of the fur seal question. That arrangement was made by persons supposed to be competent, and after an inquiry which was believed to be exhaustive. It was thought at the time by many that, practically, the Americans had much the best of the bargain. It was, it is true, decided that they had no property in the seals found swimming in the high seas, but it was believed by both British subjects and American citizens that the regulations agreed upon were almost, if not altogether, as favorable to American interests as if the claim of the United States to property in the seals had been acknowledged. A close season was established in order that the seals should not be disturbed during the breeding season, and a zone sixty miles in diameter around the Pribilof Islands was marked off as a preserve for the seals. Then there were restrictions as to the weapons to be used in killing the seals, which by many were regarded as prohibitory. Everything necessary to make the arbitration binding was done by the high contracting parties.

Then, again, the consequences of pelagic sealing were as well known when the arbitration was going on as they are now. A great deal was then heard about the evil of killing female seals "heavy with young," and of the waste in killing them with firearms. All the conditions of sealing were as well understood then as they are now, and it could not be said that the arbitrators were ignorant of any material fact connected with the dispute on which they were adjudicating.

The United States Government was well and ably represented on the Board of Arbitrators, and it employed the best counsel that could be found to present its side of the case and to insist upon its rights being considered. Such an arbitration between individuals would have been regarded as final, and the parties to it would be compelled to abide by its award. But the United States Congress does not see the arbitration in this light. Only one sealing season has passed since the award was made, and members of that august body, not satisfied with the results, ignore the work of the Paris tribunal, require the whole question to be reconsidered, and they enforce their decision with the threat that if it is not acquiesced in and acted upon by the parties concerned, the United States will use the powers it possesses as owners of the breeding islands, to exterminate the whole herd of fur seals frequenting the Pribilof Islands.

We are quite at a loss to understand how the Committee of the House of Representatives can reconcile this mode of procedure with fair dealing. It is not contended that the British and other sealers have disregarded the regulations of the Paris Arbitration. It is not said that Great Britain has not kept faith with the United States in this matter. There is no complaint in the report except that the results of the arbitration have not been what were calculated upon.

The fact that the sealers have sought new hunting grounds and that a very considerable portion of the large catch which the report deplores, was taken in waters altogether outside the area over which the jurisdiction of the Paris arbitration extended, is not, as far as we are concerned, mentioned in the report. When all the circumstances are considered, it will be surprising if Mr. Wilson's bill is carried in Congress, and still more surprising if, in the event of its being carried, it will receive the consent of the President.

A TOTTERING GOVERNMENT.

It is easily seen that Lord Rosebery's Government is in a most critical condition. There were on Monday two very important divisions in the House of Commons. In one the Government was sustained by a majority of fourteen, and in the other by a majority of only eight. A government which totters in this miserable way cannot be expected to stand for any length of time. How a ministry so weak in the House of Commons and so plainly discredited in the country can have the assurance to attempt to carry measures of the greatest importance is more than we can comprehend. As long as it has a majority of any kind it has, technically, the constitutional right to direct the affairs of the nation, but there are few who will say that depending on an accidental majority, such as the British ministry has at present, is a moral right to hold office. It might be thought that Lord Rosebery and his colleagues would decline to remain in office for a single day after there was a reasonable doubt of their being sustained by a majority of the people, particularly when they have it in their power to resolve that doubt by an immediate appeal to the nation.

TRY FOR TAT.

The Germans are believed to be a pretty sensible people, and the Belgians have a very clear idea of what are their trade interests. When the Americans legislated to injure the trade of these people, they did not turn the other cheek to the smiter. They did what Lord Salisbury lamented that the British Government was not in a position to do under similar circumstances. They retaliated, and the Americans, instead of laughing at them as they do at England, made all the haste they could to repeal the obnoxious legislation. We are very greatly mistaken if Great Britain does not before very long follow their good example. The free trade principles which compel them to trade with insult and injury in matters of trade and commerce and to return good for

evil are already regarded by many Englishmen as nothing better than superstition. Agricultural depression, long continued and severe, is undermining the faith of thousands of the inhabitants of Great Britain in the universal application of free trade doctrine.

LAURIER'S TIMIDITY.

The Montreal Gazette commends Mr. Joly, who is a Protestant, for having had the courage to say plainly what his views are on the Manitoba school question, and it contrasts the latter, mainly course which that eminent Liberal has taken with the fencing and shuffling of the Leader of the Opposition on the same subject. Mr. Laurier two years ago expressed himself on the Manitoba school question in substantially the same way as he did the other day in Montreal. "If," said he in the House of Commons, "the statement is founded on fact, which is made by His Grace Archbishop Tache, and which is repeated in all the petitions coming from the Roman Catholics of Manitoba, that, under the guise of public schools, Protestant schools are being continued, and that Roman Catholic children are compelled, under the law, to attend what are in reality Protestant schools, I say that the strongest case has been made for the interference by this Government." This statement, like the one made the other day, is qualified by an "if." Two years have passed away and Mr. Laurier is apparently as ignorant of the true character of the Manitoba schools as he was when he made the above declaration in Parliament. Mr. Laurier has not in two years been able to find out whether the public schools established in Manitoba are or are not Protestant schools. It might be supposed that in a very important matter of this kind an intelligent man like Mr. Laurier would be able to find out the truth with regard to what he declares to be a matter of fact. The Hon. Mr. Joly does not occupy so prominent a place in the Liberal party as the Hon. Mr. Laurier, yet he considered it his duty to satisfy himself whether the Manitoba schools are secular merely, or whether they are Protestant, and having mastered the facts of the case he soon formed a decided opinion, which he has had the courage to express publicly. But Mr. Laurier is either not endowed with Mr. Joly's discernment or he does not possess Mr. Joly's moral courage. After commenting on what it regards as Mr. Laurier's "cowardice" the Gazette goes on to say:

But, some persons may rejoin, what is the policy of the Government? And we observe that Mr. Laurier made an inferential plea in Toronto that his silence on the question ought not to weigh against him, because the Ministry were equally culpable in that respect. Let the Government declare its policy, explained this chivalrous leader, and then I will inform the public of what my views are. Well, the Government's policy is not concealed in its inner conscience, but has been plainly stated, and consistently adhered to from the inception of the controversy. It is to observe the law and the constitution. When the Roman Catholic minority appealed to the federal authorities for the disallowance of the provincial legislation of 1890, on the ground that it was ultra vires, they were told to seek remedy in the courts, where their contention, if well based, would be affirmed. The courts having declared the provincial legislation ultra vires, the minority then applied to the Federal Government for relief under the educational clause of the Manitoba Constitution act, and the Government again put the machinery of the law into operation for the purpose of ascertaining whether the appeal could be entertained. A decision in the affirmative must come from the highest court in the Empire, and the Government is bound to give effect to that decision by bearing and deciding the petition of the Roman Catholic minority. Does Mr. Laurier object to this course of proceeding? If so, what other plan would he adopt now? If, as he asserted in Toronto, as he declared two years ago in Parliament, the whole matter is a question of fact, and not law or constitution, why has he neglected so long to inform himself of the facts? The answer, of course, is obvious. He has not the courage to do so, and so skulks behind a cloak of silence, not daring to come out into the open with a straight forward, honest, and manly declaration of policy.

WELL LEARNED.

The Times says its political economy lesson very nicely. It has got it all by heart and can repeat the figures as prettily as the pet of the nursery. It says that "by restricting imports to the extent of say \$40,000,000, we necessarily restrict exports \$40,000,000, thus restricting foreign trade \$80,000,000. It can, therefore, be readily seen what an enormous loss Canada is sustaining by following a policy of commercial isolation because her trade would enormously expand under a freer system." How nice! The United States then ought at this present moment to have no foreign trade at all, for it has been restricting imports for the last thirty years or so. But singular to relate under this policy of restriction it grew rich. It was as prosperous as a country could well be. Its industries, north, south, east and west flourished and its population increased at an enormous rate. But if what our doctile contemporary says is true, its trade with foreign countries must long ago have dwindled down to nothing at all, and its people would be to-day in a condition as regards national wealth not greatly superior to the Indian tribes whom the first settlers found in the country.

Then, again, every other civilized country in the world, except Great Britain, would be, commercially, in a very miserable condition, for they have all, to a greater or less extent, followed a policy of restriction for the purpose of fostering home industries. By-and-by, perhaps, our contemporary will find that half-understood and ill-digested lessons in political economy are not safe guides, for they are apt to bring it into violent contact with hard facts which, according to those lessons, have no business to exist.

SOME STUBBORN FACTS.

Nothing is more common than for free traders to say that protection increases the price of the article protected very nearly the amount of the protective duty. Your free trader will quote pages of political economy to prove that this is invariably the case. But the man who looks about him and sees what is going on under his nose every day will find that there are facts, and important facts, too, that do not accord with the free trade theory. We find the following illustration in the editorial column of the Halifax Herald:

For example, for years past we have had a duty of 75 cents a barrel on wheat flour. According to this free trade theory, and according to this duty should have made Canadian wheat flour in Canada 75 cents, or nearly 75 cents a barrel higher than the same grade of United States flour in the United States; but everybody knows that Canadian flour in Canada is not one cent a barrel higher than the same grade of flour in the United States. Nevertheless, our protective duties on wheat and flour have been worth millions of dollars to our wheat-raisers and flour manufacturers, by shutting out the foreign grain, and securing our home market for our home producers. It is the whole lesson that it fails of its purpose, and is utterly wrong. The protective tariff is to secure a home market to the home producer, not to enhance the price of the home product, and this laudable motive is most completely accomplished in the case of the flour duties. This single example is sufficient to destroy any pretended value in the free trade theory, and to teach the wholesome lesson that in such matters, if we want to be right, we must be guided by particular facts, not by general theories. The Herald instances the duty on "bottle plates" as another fiscal paradox. A duty of 100 per cent. was placed on stereotype plates such as are now extensively used by publishers. An outcry was raised against this heavy tax on a very useful article, and Mr. McLean, M.P., who it was believed was instrumental in getting the tariff changed to suit his own private interests, was plied with right and left. But Mr. McLean silenced his critics when he proved to them that Canadian publishers were, after the duty had been imposed, able to get their plates cheaper from the Canadian manufacturer than the United States publisher could buy them from the Yankee manufacturer. The free trade theory is that after the 100 per cent. duty was imposed on the Canadian publisher would have to pay for his plates at least 90 per cent. more than the American publisher, but the fact proved that the Canadian plates were the cheaper of the two.

The lowering of the duty on agricultural implements was followed by consequences by no means in accordance with free trade theories. We give the Herald's illustration in its own words:

Another instructive example is afforded in the case of agricultural implements. There was on June 30, for some years past, a duty of 35 per cent. on the Canadian machines sold in Canada at a higher price than the United States machines. Some of the United States machines, however, expressed a preference for the United States machines, and for lower duties on them. The duties were lowered from 35 per cent. to 20—a rate which was not only lower than the duty on the United States machines, but was also lower than the duty on the Canadian machines. According to free trade theory the Canadian machines should have been compelled by this reduction in duty to have come down competing with the 15 per cent. duty on the United States machines, and what was the fact? The Canadian price was not affected one cent, proving conclusively that our farmers had not been paying something equivalent, or nearly equivalent, to the duties into the pockets of the home manufacturer.

FARMERS UNDER FREE TRADE.

The British farmer under British free trade is complaining bitterly and with good reason. So general is the depression, and so discouraging was it, that a Royal Commission was in 1886 appointed "to inquire into the agricultural depression prevailing in Great Britain, and whether it can be alleviated by legislation or other measures." It is expected that this commission will report soon, but very few hope that the report will contain suggestions which will have the slightest effect in ameliorating the deplorable condition of the British farmer. Some ideas may be formed of the loss as the free trade policy continues from the extraordinary depreciation in the price of grain, which has been going on during the last fifteen years. The mean price of wheat in the years 1879 and 1880 was 44.1d or about \$11.02. The mean price in 1893 and 1894 was 24.7d or \$6.14. This is a depreciation of about 55 per cent. The mean price of barley was in the two former years, 33s. 6d, and in the two latter, 25s. 1d. Here we have a depreciation of nearly 25 per cent. Oats in 1879 and '80 sold for 22s. 6d, and in 1893 and '94 for 17s. 11d. This is a depreciation of over 20 per cent. The figures are reliable for they are taken from the agricultural column of the London Times. The price of the staple crops of the English farmer having gone down so amazingly it is no wonder that he finds himself in a lamentable condition and is complaining loudly.

We gather from a letter in the Times, written by Mr. Rider Haggard, that farming is now these days, after forty years and more of free trade, a profitable occupation in England. He writes to complain of the burden of the title and to propose some remedy for the prevailing depression. "I own," says Mr. Haggard, "a life interest in a farm of 200 acres which is worth at the present time £200 a year. The title on this farm is returned in my balance sheet for 1893 at £20 19s. 5d. It used to be more, probably this year it will be rather less. It will be seen, therefore, that as almost the entire net profit of the farm, taking one year with another, is spent in repairs, taxes and other outgoings, in fact I pay this £20, or the greater part of it, out of my own pocket over and above what I receive from the land; not although careful

inquiry has been made, have I been able to discover any certain means short of throwing the land out of cultivation whereby the burden can be lessened."

According to this it is, in these days, very easy indeed for a man in England to be a land poor. The returns which the great soilless gets from his 200 acres of land may be represented by—50 pounds sterling. It should not be forgotten for a moment that the country in which the farmer is in such a bad condition has enjoyed the benefits and the blessings of free trade for nearly fifty years. And yet there are men in this Dominion who recommend free trade to its farmers as a sure cure for all the ills they have to bear.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURE.

The organ of the Opposition seems to think that the farmers and ranchers of British Columbia ought to be delighted at the prospect of the duty being taken off American agricultural produce and American live stock and fresh meat. It seems to think that the proper way to encourage agriculture in this Province and to induce men to settle on the land is to take the duty off wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, butter, cheese, hay, live animals and meat coming from the United States. British Columbia farmers find it difficult to compete with their American neighbors with the duty in their favor, how will they be able to get along if the duties were taken off altogether, as they will be if Sir Richard Cartwright has the making of the next tariff? If the free trade Government takes from British Columbia agriculturists and stock-raisers the only market worth anything to them, how is the country to be settled, and where is the farmer to get the money to buy the cheap goods which the free traders are bragging about? Fifty cents is an impossible price to a man who has not got fifty cents, and the case of the farmer will be all the harder to bear when he knows that the Government, to support which he pays heavy taxes, allowed his market to be so glutted with foreign produce as to cause him to lose a great many fifty-cent pieces. The farmer, who has been undersold by the starvation prices prevailing in Washington State, will not feel that a lesson in the Times on political economy is any compensation for the loss he is made to suffer by the operation of a free trade tariff. Like the English farmer he will have cause to condemn the trade policy that out of his own pocket he raises leaves him and his family hardly enough to eat.

A BAD MEMORY.

The Times says, "What a terrible thing to contemplate. Every country in the world sending us cheap clothing, boots and shoes, pots, pans, kettles and hardware generally, axes, saws, and all the rest of it, furniture, fruit, bicycles, carriages, and in fact everything we need." There are people in Canada who remember when, under a revenue tariff, goods were poured into the country from all sides, and, singular to relate, the times were hard, and very hard indeed, so hard that people began to despair of Canada. They demanded a national policy which would check the flood of cheap goods that was swamping the industries of the country, a policy of protection to native industry, and, strange to say, times got better almost immediately after it was established, the business of the country revived, and Canadians began again to believe in the country.

FALSEHOOD AND FACT.

The following statement from Tuesday's Times is characteristic: "The Colonist does not believe any such thing, but in defending a tariff that taxes Bibles six cents a pound, and admits playing cards free, it has a hard road to travel." So. Here we have the usual mixture of ignorance, unscrupulousness and foolishness in a very small compass. The truth is Bibles are not taxed six cents a pound and playing cards are not free. If the idiot who penned that paragraph had taken the trouble to look at the tariff from which he professes to quote, he would have found that it is the Bibles which are free, and it is the cards that are taxed, not six cents a pound, but six cents a pack.

A LITTLE HEROINE.

GREENSBORO, N. C., Feb. 19.—Lillian McMillan, a fifteen-year-old orphan, employed as the stock farm rented by Joseph Fahy, was drowned yesterday afternoon while crossing Peconic Bay, between the North Haven and Shelter Islands. Since the room blizzard the people of North Haven who go to Shelter Island to do their trading have been obliged to walk over on the ice bridge, and the ferry boats were frozen in. During the mild weather of Saturday and Sunday the ice became thin in places where the tide runs swiftly. Yesterday Lillian lost her life while making the trip, but she died of her own free will when she set out upon her journey with her mother and her two children. The three were on their way home from the island. When half way between the island and North Haven, Lillian stepped in an air hole, which was covered with snow and was hardly able to move after she had placed the children in safety. She struggled to pull herself out, but her strength soon failed her, and she sank out of sight. The children were rescued by the strong current. The Gardiner's bay by the strong current. The children were rescued by the strong current. The Gardiner's bay by the strong current. The children were rescued by the strong current.

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AN AVALANCHE.

Description of One of These Frequent Occurrences in the Mountain Country.

How It Starts, Gathers Strength and Hurries on Its Destructive Journey.

(By C. E. Perry.)

Imagine if you can the very roughest bit of Nature you have ever seen, or take a newspaper, crumple it into a ball and place it on a table suppose all its raised parts to be peaks and the hollows, ravines; picture the sharp edges as ridges more or less timbered, the hollows bare, smooth or steep, as the roof of the steepest house you know of, and you have an idea of the mountains and gorges of the Sierras.

Let us suppose we are standing near the summit of one of these ridges, on a bright, sunny day in January. It has been snowing continuously for days and the "beautiful" lies in picturesque profusion everywhere, six to eight feet deep in the timbered ridges and any depth you like in the ravines; the sun gets warmer; up above you, near the crest of the mountain, little bits of crystals detach themselves and go rolling down the slope; a tiny crack forms at your feet and widens across the gulch; in an instant the "hole" mass is in motion, and with a hissing, rattling sound and an upheaval along its edges, goes hurtling down the gorge. Faster and faster it glides; the air is filled with snowy spray; where you stood it was a rivulet; a thousand feet below it is a mad torrent; the noise increases as it gains momentum.

Rocks are torn loose, broken to atoms or ground to powder, trees uprooted and broken to pieces, logs smashed to splinters. At half a mile on its path it presents a crest of 20 to 30 feet in height and moves faster than an express train; was beside any living thing in its way now. Nothing made by man can stand before it, the wind of its creation is a hurricane, a cloud of snow dust follows in its wake; in a seething torrent it pours over rock and precipice, and moving rapidly on leaves in its track broken and crushed fragments of rock and tree and the smooth and polished grasses in the gorge. The thunder dies; is gone; and the avalanche is passed. Down at the foot of the slope, a mile away, a mountain of snow loomed up in hopeless chaos, a wild tangle of rocks, earth, trees and logs remain to mark the slide, and often, alas! too often, the bodies of brave men caught in its mad rush lie buried deep in its icy embrace.

All around you can hear, day and night, the distant muffled roar of passing avalanches; they come and go at all times and at all hours, each year a new one is created; for the older ones are well known. They have claimed their blood tribute; each has its record of brave men down to death. These avalanches are everywhere; there is not a wagon road or mountain trail that does not cross the path of several; on the Kato-Slo-on road to New Denver there are five or six; on the winter road to Sandon and Cody Creek, four; all trails to the mines cross and re-cross these moving destroyers; yet at the season of greatest danger there is more traffic on these roads and trails than on many highways in civilization. Marvelous escapes are an every day matter. No one hesitates or delays on account of the peril to be incurred. Often, very often, the snow-slides pass a few feet from the traveler's feet, and he is always without warning. In an instant men and animals are overwhelmed and tossed like straws in the bill of seething snow; it is marvellous that it is humanly possible to escape.

The force of the wind created by one of these larger slides is well nigh incredible; in the valley of the Illecilvest on the line of the Canadian Pacific, tree tops are off by the force of the wind; on the opposite side of the ravine through which the avalanche descends. The snow is pressed into the hardness of ice and literally tears at the grinders to pieces everything in its path. The many deplorable fatalities that have lately occurred in the Sierras are partly due to the destruction of the timber on the wooded slopes by the fearful fires of last summer; the trees holding up the snow and preventing sliding. We read of many brave and heroic souls—deeds of daring do; but surely the patient courage that daily takes even chance with Old Death on the slopes and in the mountains of the Sierras deserves more than a passing tribute.

A MATTER OF COURSE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—E. A. Cox, secretary of the North American Commercial Company, was asked what he believed was the object of the bill before congress to amend the tariff on the amendment to stop all killing for one or two years. His answer was: "I can only think that the original object of the bill is to draw attention to the heavy slaughter going on and to say in so many words: 'These Canadians will wipe out all the seals in three or four years; let us take our share by wiping out the entire stock at once.' This is really what will happen if the British government does not stop this pelagic sealing. I do not believe that two great nations would agree to the extermination of the seals and the consequent utter annihilation of a big industry for the sake of a handful of seal hunters. I am now writing to Washington to find out whether this proposed stoppage of seal hunting for a year or two is to apply to the pelagic sealing, as it if it does it will work out a serious injury."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The President has issued his annual proclamation regarding fur seals. The document, which is dated Feb. 15, but made public to-day, differs in no respect from the previous proclamation issued by the United States and the provisions of section 1,866, revised statutes, of section 3 of the act of March 2, 1889, are quoted. Those provisions forbid under the penalty of fine and imprisonment the unauthorized killing of any fur seal within the territory of Alaska or the waters thereof, or at any time, and prohibit all man-hunting from entering the waters of Behring sea for this purpose. No reference is made to the forbidden zone around Pribilof Islands established by the Pacific Fur Seal Convention of 1892. The President's decision prohibiting the killing of seals on either side of this zone between May and July in each year.

POLITICAL SPECULATIONS.

Toronto, Feb. 20.—(Special.)—The World says this morning that the Ontario Liberals are addressed to Sir Oliver Mowat an urgent request that he become their leader for the coming general election, in the belief that the man who has led them on so victoriously for twenty-two years in provincial politics will be equally successful in the Dominion fight. Sir Oliver, the paper adds, when seen last night positively refused to

deny or affirm the statement. Should Sir Oliver accede to the request Hon. G. W. Ross is mentioned as his successor for the Ontario premiership. The programme of the opposition, according to the World, is that Sir Oliver Mowat shall lead Ontario, Mr. Joly de Lotbiniere in Quebec, and Greenway in Manitoba.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the Colonist.)

MONTREAL, Feb. 19.—The C.P.R. traffic for the week ending February 14 amounted to \$224,000. For the same week last year it was \$288,000.

TORONTO, Feb. 19.—Rev. Featherstone Lake Oler, one of the most eminent Anglican clergymen of the past generation, died on Saturday in his ninety-sixth year. Justice Oler, B. B. Oler, Q.C. the well known criminal lawyer, P. B. Oler of this city, Dr. Wm. Oler of Johns Hopkins University, F. L. Oler of Qu'Appelle, and R. Oler of Winnipeg are sons of the deceased.

GUELPH, Feb. 19.—Peter Mahon, of Aberfoyle, a prominent farmer and Patron, was fatally injured by the upsetting of a load of hay.

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 19.—Two more cases of smallpox have broken out in Malahide township, making seven new cases in the past few days.

HAMILTON, Feb. 19.—Careswell & Cahill, acting for the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company, have taken a writ against the Spectator Printing Company for \$50,000 for alleged libel. The action is based on two articles which appeared in the Spectator on January 1st and 2nd or two after the collapse at Binkley Hollow.

HAMILTON, Feb. 19.—The Hamilton Bridge Works were sold at public auction to J. R. Tilton, for \$49,000, in the interests of William Hendrie and others. The works cost \$135,000.

KINGSTON, Feb. 20.—Advice from England indicate that the status of the late Sir John Macdonald, to be created at Kingston, will be ready for unveiling on Dominion day.

WOODBURY, Feb. 20.—W. W. Buchanan was nominated by the Prohibitionists to contest South Oxford against Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Sutcliffe. The former will run, while the latter will require time to consider the nomination.

KINGSTON, Feb. 20.—B. M. Britton, Q.C., was last night nominated as the Liberal candidate for the House of Commons for Kingston.

MONTREAL, Feb. 20.—Hon. James MacShane was last night nominated as the Liberal candidate for Montreal County, as present represented by Hon. J. J. Curran.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 20.—The statement made by Hon. Mr. Oulmet that Premier Greenway has written a letter promising to restore separate schools should Hon. Mr. Laurier be returned to power is given an emphatic denial here.

CHATHAM, Feb. 20.—The council after an all night session has passed a resolution to petition the local government to incorporate Chatham as a city.

TORONTO, Feb. 20.—The Ontario legislature opens to-morrow.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 20.—Another private meeting of members of the city council, among many which have taken place of late, was held last night in the Mayor's office. The matter under consideration was the curtailment of city expenditures.

Muldoon, the German, disappeared from his wall, has appealed to the city for help. He will be given work on the streets for three weeks. He was a prosperous business man in Honolulu. The Weekly Mailer, Vancouver, is to be taken over by Mr. Bailey, of Westminster, and run as a campaign sheet (daily) in the interests of the Liberal party of Burrard.

Trist, the British, disappeared from his wall, has appealed to the city for help. He will be given work on the streets for three weeks. He was a prosperous business man in Honolulu. The court of revision met this morning and adjourned till March 4. J. D. Scott has been sent to Washington, D.C., in the interests of the lumber men of British Columbia. He will interview the members of the government in reference to the present duty on cedar. Cedar is very plentiful here and of fine quality. It is thought a mistake has been made in classifying this commodity as a valuable when its lumber is on the free list.

Last night a city branch of the Conservative association was organized in Westminster.

MARATHON, Feb. 20.—Alex. Wilson, the jail breaker, was brought before Judge Harrison to-day on the charge of obtaining money under false pretences. He pleaded guilty and was given two years. Most of the money obtained was found on the prisoner.

J. F. Plante comes up for a speedy trial to-morrow.

HEART FAILURE.

New York, Feb. 20.—Mrs. Bowdler, 75 years old, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Harvey Hallock, in Bridgehampton, seemed to be stricken with heart failure on Sunday. The family physician did all he could but she sank rapidly. Old friends were called in and the corpse was finally waited for the end. Her breathing grew weaker and weaker until it ceased. The doctor listened vainly for the heart beats and pronounced the woman dead. The undertaker was about to measure the body for a casket when one of the family insisted that the woman might not be dead. The physician, to satisfy him, injected a heart restorative. There was a perceptible movement of the eyelids and the woman's breast moved up and down faintly. Soon she began to breathe and finally opened her eyes. Those about the bedside watched in amazement. The woman soon got up and is less than an hour was walking about the room. Mrs. Bowdler says the attack seemed like a fainting spell.

VENEZUELA'S PROSPECTS.

New York, Feb. 20.—Count Joseph Ori di Mombello, aide-de-camp of General Crespo, president of Venezuela, is in New York charged with an official mission by his government. He is here to contract for and buy large quantities of materials for public works, streets, railroads, bridges, etc., which will be started next month in Venezuela and also with reference to a large scheme of agricultural colonization. In an interview he said that the prospects of Venezuela are the brightest and most peaceful enjoyed by that country in many years. He said that Crespo's ambition had abandoned all intention to fight because it was contrary to the wishes of the people. The centenary of Marshal Sucre, the Venezuelan patriot, was celebrated with unbounded enthusiasm, but in the midst of perfect civil tranquility.

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Douglass, think

scripture, was

looked he man

lay stretched up

last. Realizing

to the front door

Stewart Harri

injecting a restor

passed away sec

Douglass has two

children of his

son, Leonard H

Spargue. Mr. D

lecture to night