The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1903.

PUBLISHED BY

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

No. 27 Broad Street, Victoria, B. C.

A. G. SARGISON, Managing Director.

THE PASSING OF ANGLING.

We drew attention yesterday to the loss British Columbia is suffering through the wanton destruction of game. British Columbia is suffering an equally severe loss through the destruction of fish. We venture to say that wherever a local market has been opened for fish, fishing as a sport has disappeared, or is disappearing, in neighboring waters. The reason is that illegal and destructive methods of catching the fish are resorted to under the inducements of an active market, and because insensate blockheads are allowed to introduce predatory species of fish into waters which will not support them, and trout as well. Shawnigan Lake is not what it was, Cowichan river is not what it was, Somenos lake, we are told, has had the deadly catfish introduced into it in large quantities, and Kootenay river, between Nelson and Robson is nothing like what it was ten years ago. Of course we know that there are wonderful fishing grounds in British Columbia, that those we have mentioned do not constitute a one-thousandth part of the trout-bearing waters of this province. But our point is this, that there is no use in having good fishing rivers and lakes, if the fish in them are to be exterminated as soon as they become accessible, and communities of human beings settle in their neighborhood. Professor Prince possibly the greatest fish expert living, says in his report to the Dominion government:

After an experience more thorough and extensive than it has probably been the privilege of any other living fishing expert to have, I have come to the conclusion that the decline in the fisheries in inland waters is more directly due to obstructions, natural and artificial, than to any other harmful cause. Over-fishing, poaching on the breeding grounds, injurious freshets, and similar natural causes, saw-dust, and other pollutions have all worked injury more or less serious, but none of these compare with the deadly effects of closing the upper waters to the ascent to the schools of spawning fish, and of blocking, by dams, etc., the movements, up and down, of the various migratory species in the young and the adult condition.

He says further:

I have already stated my opinion that no other cause compares, in its harmfulness to the fisheries, with the erection of high walls or dams across rivers up which fish have been accustomed to migrate. Whether these dams be merely to create ponds for the collection of logs in the forest, or to raise the water over extensive areas for floating timber into main streams and channels, or for saw mill and other water power purposes, no cause has been more effectively injurious, or has so directly caused deterioration in our supply of fresh-water fishes. To present the spawning fish from reaching their accustomed breeding grounds is to, at once, exterminate them by an effective and rapid means.

H. M. Inspector of Fisheries in England, in his report of 1886, remarks: "The two chief obstacles to improvement are obstructions, and excessive capture of fish, and where fishing weirs exist these two are often combined." His statement is fully endorsed by Professor Prince. Thus is one cause of the depletion of our waters of fish made tolerably plain. "If," says Professor Prince, "the spawning grounds be kept free from pollution and the deposition and fertilization of the eggs be accomplished; and if moreover free and unobstructed access to these grounds be provided for the fish, and, above all, if over-fishing, excessive netting and destruction of the ascending fish be prevented, there need be little fear that our supplies of salmon and valuable migratory species will wholly fail." These are precisely the things which are not being done in the most valuable sporting waters of this province, that is the waters which are most accessible. They are being freely poached at all seasons of the year to supply a market eager for fresh fish. There is no reason why the market should not be supplied with fresh fish in season and in reason, but if that is to lead to the rapid extermination of trout in accessible waters, some steps should be taken to prevent it, and to preserve an asset of the province, not merely valuable as a food supply, but as an attraction to tourists, and a fine and healthy sport for our own people. Professor Prince is particularly severe upon the introduction of coarse predacious fish into virgin waters. He says:

Of pike, suckers, perch, catfish and similar coarse predaceous fish little need be said. There may be occasionally muddy ponds or isolated lakes where these fish could be safely planted without risk of their overrunning the whole of the waters of the adjacent district; but it may be laid down as a general rule that these fish do not need the aid of artificial fish-culture; and they should be kept as far as possible within their present range. To introduce them into virgin waters where they will soon inevitably hold supreme sway, outnumbering and overcoming in an incredibly short space of time the indigenous kinds of fish, is criminal.

It is sincerely to be hoped that an authoritative opinion like that will be sufficient to prevent the extension of any such criminality to any more of the waters of British Columbia than are at present infested with these undesirable immigrants. Black bass, though a finer sporting fish than those, are called "pugnacious marauders," and the disappearance of trout before them is said to be inevitable. Surely something can be done to prevent the extermination of game, and game fish which is going on without let or hindrance in this province.

It is not very easy from the meagre reports available to get a clear understanding of the Land Purchase Bill for Ireland, introduced yesterday in the British House of Commons. It seems to mean a cash bonus of twelve million pounds sterling, and a stock guarantee of one hundred million. It is a rather ominous coincidence that on the same day this bill was introduced, Consols should have dropped to the lowest point known in years.

In his excellent review of current events in the Nineteenth Century for March, Mr. Wemyss Reid emphasises the disruption of British politics which we pointed out a short time ago. He points out that in the first week of the parliamentary session the government's majority had fallen to one half its normal proportions, and was evidently not expressive of the sympathies of parliament. We notice too how, all political discussion in Great Britain is beginning to resolve itself into either commendation or criticism of the utterances of Lord Rosebery. It is a portent not without meaning. The London Daily Mail puts the situation directly and incisively. It says:

The speech which Lord Spencer delivered on Saturday at Birmingham . . . is one of the most important signs of the times; a sign all the more important in that it points clearly to the reunion of all that is progressive in the Liberal party under Lord Rosebery's leadership. . . . A National Liberal party, loyal to the Empire and purged from all associations of sympathy with the enemies of Britain would remove the one and only reason for the continued existence of the present government—which is that it is impossible for the nation to trust with power a party directed by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

The method of collecting, or rather not collecting, the dog tax in Victoria is a preposterous absurdity. So far as we can gather, a crusade is started against dogs with a view of scaring owners to the City Hall to pay the tax. Why is a man not sent round the city to collect the tax in the same way as the poll tax is collected? What is the tax but a poll tax on dogs. After the round had been made, the pound keeper could be turned loose to capture untagged dogs. If people refused to pay when asked, or in reasonable time, they could be summoned in the ordinary way. Surely if gas companies and electric light companies can afford to go round collecting small sums monthly, and find it is the only way to keep their receipts in order, the city can afford to do the same thing. Complaints are pouring in upon us every day over this matter, and it is quite time a system more rational than the present one was adopted. Why we should cling to a medieval custom in connection with the dog tax is beyond our comprehension. A change would result in more revenue, rid the city of a lot of worthless dogs, and free people who value their pets from the dread of having them impounded or poisoned. Because dog poisoning always springs up when a city is infested with a lot of untaxed semi-ownerless mongrels, and it is unfortunately, but seldom that the untaxed semi-ownerless mongrels make a meal off the poison. The victims are generally dogs too gentlemanly to question the wholesomeness of anything set before them to be eaten.

GAME DESTRUCTION.

We publish a letter this morning from Mr. R. S. Gallop of Canterbury, B.C., which tells a sickening story of the wholesale destruction of game in North East Kootenay. In the valley of the Kootenay river there is a noble park, surrounded by mountains on all sides, until recently the breeding ground and winter asylum of moose and elk and deer without number, as the horns and bones strewn on the ground testify. Accustomed to range the mountains during the summer and fall, the herds come down into this valley during the winter and early spring for food and shelter during the breeding season. Against dogs and rifles they are as helpless as a flock of chickens in a barnyard, and in consequence have been almost exterminated, the small remnant left having taken refuge in a swamp, where their pursuit is not so easy. One does not have to be a sportsman to recoil against the practice of coursing gravid deer with hounds and then slaughtering them, or of rounding up mountain sheep on a rocky promontory in a flock and slaying them by wholesale. So far as the query in Mr. Gallop's letter goes, these practices are entirely against the law whether carried on by Indians or white men, and we quite agree with him that immediate steps should be taken to put a stop to them, and to preserve the remnant of the game, and we are glad to say that steps are being taken by the government to remedy the wanton slaughter going on in this natural game preserve. But it is one thing to have a law on the statute book and another thing to be able to enforce it. A law for the preservation of game cannot be enforced against a public sentiment in favor of the destruction of game. A great deal will depend upon the co-operation of the settlers in North East Kootenay themselves. They must assist the government to procure convictions, and use their own efforts to preserve the game. We do not see why a section of this Kootenay Valley should not be set aside as a game preserve in which it should be illegal to pursue or kill game at all, and any dog found in which, should be liable to be shot first and tried afterwards. As the game multiplied in this preserve, it would be forced beyond its boundaries, and could there be hunted under conditions where some elements of sport would enter. If a statute were passed giving the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council the power upon proper representations to create such reserves, and maintain them, some game might be permanently saved in British Columbia. The enforcement of the game laws would be made easier by such reserves. What is the good of game laws, no matter how stringent, if they cannot be enforced more than a mile from the office of a Justice of the Peace without a big expenditure of public money? But game preserves would soon be respected if the consequences of trespassing on them were rigidly enforced. If Mr. Gallop's letter does anything to awaken British Columbia to the robbery of one of her great assets which is going on, it will not have been written in vain.

THE FISCAL POLICY OF CANADA

The people of Canada who have any definite opinions upon the question of free trade or protection have been greatly bewildered by the strangely heterogeneous opinions of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's cabinet. We have seen a cabinet minister dismissed because of his outspoken adherence to a protective policy. We have seen another cabinet minister put in his place, declaring himself a protectionist in belief, and sympathy, but apparently ready to suppress any attempts to have his beliefs translated into action. We have seen ministers openly stating that their private convictions as men differed from the expressed policy of the government of which they are members. And we have seen elections run in one part of the country upon free trade party cries, and in other parts of the country on protection party cries, both in support of the same government. What we have not seen, however, until lately, is any declaration from the Premier as to where he stands on the question, and what sort of a web of policy he proposes to weave in the legislative loom out of the extraordinary nature of the materials he has to work with. In the debate on the Address he made the following oracular statement:

I am told that it is a strange thing that there should be free traders and protectionists in the same party. I would reply that it is the policy of statesmanship to reconcile differences and out of a diversity of opinions to elaborate a policy which may be satisfactory to the country. . . . But I may also say to my hon. friend, and in saying this I may perhaps claim to be more candid than himself or his friends, that whether we are free traders or protectionists, we are all agreed that in this country and under existing circumstances, it is as inadvisable as it is impossible to have either an absolute system of free trade or an absolute system of protection.

This is a very odd declaration of policy. If free trade is right in the interests of Canada, why is it impossible to adopt it? If protection is wrong, if protection is enriching one section of the country at the expense of other sections, why is it impossible to do away with it? A free paraphrase of this declaration of policy, or lack of it, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier would read something as follows:

The policy of statesmanship is to reconcile differences, and out of a diversity of opinion to elaborate a policy which may be sufficiently satisfactory to the country to enable the statesman to remain in office. It is impossible to have either an absolute system of free trade, or an absolute system of protection. So long as we are dependent upon the votes of both free traders and protectionists, we must have a policy as free trade as our protectionist supporters will admit without withdrawing their support, and as protectionist as our free trade supporters will admit without withdrawing theirs.

Sir Wilfrid's policy is the apotheosis of the opportunism for which he has always been distinguished. It has succeeded very well so long as there has been no need for the definite and summary removal of any duties from the free trade standpoint, and so long as there has been no demand for the definite imposition of new duties from the protectionist standpoint. It is, for instance, a very doubtful doctrine for the lead industry of British Columbia to appeal to. It affords no line of policy whatever to which new developments of Canadian trade and commerce can be applied. It is very noticeable that in the case of the lead industry it has led to its diminution by fifty per cent. Here we have two definitely separate schools of thought. The free trade school says: "Free the imports of our lead-producing territory"; the protectionist school says: "Protect its exports." We do not use these words in the sense of foreign exports and imports, but of exports and imports from and to the lead-producing districts. The one is the free trade remedy for depression, the other the protectionist remedy. Both are logical, the premises of one or the other are wrong. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier's extraordinary doctrine of relative protection and relative free trade leads inevitably to the application of neither, or to the adoption of one or other at the cost of a still further sacrifice of intelligible principle. Such an opportunist policy as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reduces Federal government to a mere bartering and exchange of sectional demands, and that is a traffic in which the interests of Canada in general are likely to be overlooked, and the interests of British Columbia in particular, are certain to be overlooked.

THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Galt, of Rossland, sends a letter defending a resolution he proposed in the convention of the Mining Association. The resolution was one recommending that the legislature should confer upon the Mining Association an advisory position in relation to itself. If Mr. Galt cannot see the whimsicality of his idea for himself, no one is likely to be able to point it out to him. The Mining Association, fortunately for its own dignity, had no difficulty in rejecting such a whimwham; and we venture to think that had the proposer been other than Mr. Galt himself, it would have been rejected with much more pungent ridicule than was actually poured out upon it. If any legislature or government accepted such a proposal (a most unlikely contingency), it would either give the Mining Association something it possessed already, or else give it something to which no voluntary association is entitled. Everyone has a right to advise the government or legislature. What we call public opinion is nothing more nor less than the pressure of advice from various quarters, expressed in various ways. But no one has any exclusive right to advise the government or legislature. Questions upon which legislature is deemed necessary are frequently submitted to experts, and their advice considered before a statute is drafted. But the right to have questions so submitted would be an unheard-of privilege to be conferred upon any private body. Private and voluntary associations are unfortunately subject to degeneration. Who can doubt that the Mining Association will be made the subject of wire-pulling for private interests? Every body of the kind is. Its usefulness will entirely depend upon the strength of resistance it shows to such influences. If its power were made to depend upon anything else, it would merely become a greater prize to be captured. The Mining Association, if it goes on as it has begun, will undoubtedly be a strong influence in relation to legislation affecting the mining industry, but it must continue to justify its own existence. Any attempt on its part to secure influence from extraneous sources would soon have the effect of destroying its influence altogether.

SPRING TIREDNESS

Is Caused by Unhealthy Action of the Liver and Kidneys Assisted by Starved Blood and a Poor Circulation.

Paine's Celery Compound

Nourishes the Life Stream and Strengthens Every Organ of the Body.

The great virtues of Paine's Celery Compound are abundantly manifested in the spring. It is a medicine compounded specially to brace the nerves, to sustain heart action, to cleanse the blood and keep the stomach, liver and kidneys in vigorous health.

In the springtime the effects of the winter's work, the worries of business, household cares, and the severe changes of temperature all conduce to weakened and inflamed nerves, insomnia, poverty of the blood, deranged digestion, liver and kidneys in bad condition; in thousands of cases rheumatism and neuralgia commence their horrible tortures. Paine's Celery Compound used three or four times a day for the next four weeks, will furnish the proper and needed elements of life for the growth and repair of the whole body. It will quickly make new nerve fibre, pure rich blood, will bestow sound health and long years of life. Mrs. S. Shedrick, Magog, Que., gratefully writes as follows:

"For a time I suffered severely from nervousness and peculiar feelings of faintness; I felt all used up and my appetite was very poor. After using Paine's Celery Compound for a time, all feelings of nervousness were completely banished, I am renewed in strength and general vigor, I eat and sleep well and am perfectly restored to sound health."

A WIDE OPEN TOWN

We have a wide-open town in our midst. Chinatown is wide open. The Chinese lotteries and gambling houses are in full swing. Of the facts there is not the smallest question. They are detailed elsewhere. In three short months the wave of reform which deposed Mayor Hayward and elevated Mayor McCandless has spent its force. We thought at the time that Mayor Hayward was most unjustly and unreasonably opposed upon this ground, and we thing so still. A generally diffused spasm of civic purification has struck the Pacific Northwest. Seattle and Tacoma have made a very definite effort to cure the sore spots in these cities, and are apparently meeting with success. It has been, and is, a most beneficial movement. A more enlightened public opinion has brought people to see that, not merely upon grounds of morality, but upon the lower grounds of expediency, what are known as "wide open towns" are detrimental in every way to those who live in them. Victoria shared in this movement, we are glad to say. But the reason why we think that the attacks made upon Mr. Hayward were cruel, unjust, and unreasonable, is that that gentleman's face was always set towards a high standard of civic purity, and he was always prepared to, and always did, go as far as the public opinion of the city would back him up, in maintaining such a standard. But this general stirring of the public conscience with which Mr. Hayward was quite in sympathy, was ingeniously turned into an engine against him for political purposes. A very general desire among the people for a better state of affairs than had prevailed was deliberately prostituted for political purposes. We do not think we in any way misrepresent what occurred at a well-remembered public meeting when we say that in answer to the question "Will you enforce the laws?" Mr. Hayward's answer was, "I will, to the best of my ability," and Mr. McCandless' answer was, "I will." During the campaign the changes were rung upon these two statements. It was pointed out that Mayor Hayward's answer left him a loophole for exculpation or excuse, while none was left to Mr. McCandless by his answer. And so an old and tried servant went down to defeat under the stigma, little as he deserved it, of being a patron of vice, and the present Mayor was elected as a champion of purity. Mr. McCandless recognized in his answer no limitations as to his power to enforce the laws, therefore he cannot refuse the responsibility of their not being enforced, if enforced they are not. If the law is being broken, we do not place the responsibility upon the Mayor. He has himself placed it upon his own shoulders. He owed his election to the fact that he invited and accepted the responsibility for its enforcement. There was no other issue in the campaign. As between Mr. Hayward and Mr. McCandless the issue, as we tried to show at the time, was entirely a false one, raised for ulterior political motives, but as between the pledges of Mr. McCandless during the campaign and his performance now, it is a true issue, and one not to be evaded. The law is being systematically violated in Chinatown, all days of the week and all hours of the night and day. It is not at all to the credit of the agitators, that having used the moral reform sentiment of the people of Victoria to obtain a victory in municipal politics, they should not have continued to use it to procure a real and not merely a surface improvement. We do not care a button whom our words strike. Anybody whose head the cap fits can put it on. We merely wish to emphasize the fact that since the declaration of the poll on election day the moral reform agitation has been as dead as a doornail, and that the city is rapidly assuming its old complexion, with added features which many will not consider an improvement.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

The independent newspapers of Eastern Canada (they are few in number) have made up their minds that the Ontario government cannot survive the charges made by Mr. Gamey. A judgment has already been passed upon Mr. Stratton, and he has been found guilty. Not only so, but his guilt has been declared to so prejudice and involve the other members of the cabinet, that they have been condemned to disappear as a government ruling the destinies of the province of Ontario. This is the verdict of the independent press. Possibly it is wrong to prejudge such matters. But whether it is wrong or not, it is certain that in the case of a political crime, everyone begins to judge of it the moment any particulars are available, and such a thing as judicial forbearance is not only unknown but impossible. The reason is that it is not the criminality of an alleged act that is uppermost in people's minds, but the political consequences of its commission and detection. The court to which all such offences are carried is the court of public opinion, and the penalty attached to them is the loss of political power and prestige. By public opinion the Gamey charges are already held to be substantiated. Public opinion may be very greatly in error, but it will require a very remarkable defence indeed to convince the great jury of the people that it is in error. On a famous occasion the Times newspaper of London made an extraordinary exposure, backed by documentary evidence, of certain notable Irish politicians. Public opinion was greatly stirred, and a famous commission sat upon the charges. The documentary evidence produced was proved to be the result of forgery and conspiracy, and public opinion reversed its verdict. But if this documentary evidence had not been proved to be the result of forgery and conspiracy, even although in fact it was, public opinion would not have reversed its verdict, although that verdict was absolutely unjust. Similarly, Mr. Stratton and the Ontario government can only be exculpated by a defence in which a conspiracy can be shown to have existed to defame their honor and blacken their reputations. No mere failure of the ordinary process of law to probe the matter to the bottom will avail them one iota before the bar of public opinion. Yet the limitation and definition of the scope of the inquiry is the fighting ground the Ontario government is taking now. Without the ability or impartiality of the Bench being questioned in the slightest degree, it is very easy to see what that might lead to. The judges might be carefully prevented by the terms of their commission from investigating in directions where they were likely to discover anything. We saw, for instance, in some Ontario newspaper, that the stenographic report of Sullivan's conversation with Gamey, which was secretly taken, might be excluded as evidence. What good would that do? If Sullivan does not tell the truth in his evidence he will certainly be confronted with what he said in conversation, and so far as the public estimation of the government is concerned, it would not matter very much whether he is so confronted in court or in the newspapers. A limitation of the scope of the investigation, even if it led to a technical whitewashing of the members of the government, would advantage them but little. Yet that is what the Ontario government is fighting for with its back against the wall. In almost every political scandal that has ever been unearthed, the same fight has been made for a carefully restricted inquiry. It is made upon fallacious grounds. Complicity in political wrong-doing goes in the last analysis to the court of public opinion, so far as its political consequences are concerned, and a correct facts. The Gamey charges have been met by the attempt to discredit Mr. Gamey and Mr. Whitney. What have the credit or discredit of either one got to do with the substance of the charges, Mr. Gamey's reputation can surely take care of itself. The way to show that he is unworthy to be believed, is to prove that what he has said is false, and that the evidence by which he supports it has been concocted. One newspaper which endeavors to discredit Mr. Gamey by saying that he can only convict the government by convicting himself as a taker of bribes, displays the limit of fatuity. Political morality is at a low ebb in Ontario when it occurs to the Liberal press to fight Mr. Gamey by any other means save by proving the government to be clear from the dishonor of the charges he has made against it.

Liberals Are At War

"Leaders" Engage in Politica Mix-Up of Unusual Ferocity.

Martin Declares Nomination of Smith Was a Clique Movement.

Would Rather Support Conservative Than Ascendency of "Boodle Element".

The Vancouver World interviewed two of the gentleman most intimately connected with the questions of the Liberal leadership—Mr. Joseph Martin, provincial leader, and Mr. J. H. Senkler, who last week moved the resolution asking for the calling of a general convention. The latter stated that in his opinion it is utterly impossible for the Liberals under Mr. Martin to carry British Columbia at the coming elections; that under a leader, no matter whomsoever he might be, able to secure the undivided allegiance of the whole party, the result could not be in question; and that if Mr. Ralph Smith, as suggested, should leave the Dominion House at the call of the British Columbia convention to bear the brunt of the approaching campaign, he would prove a leader acceptible to all factions. Indeed, under such circumstances, said Mr. Senkler, the Liberals should be able to present a strong united front and to carry twenty-five of the thirty-eight seats in the province. Asked as to whether he thought Mr. Smith would be personally willing to fall in with the plan and leave the wide circle of the Dominion field for the lesser sphere of provincial politics, Mr. Senkler expressed the opinion that he would if offered the leadership of the Liberal party.

Referring to the subject of the place where the proposed convention should be held, Mr. Senkler thought Revelstoke should prove suitable to all parties concerned. Those in the interior have to come to the Coast frequently in the past, and although the number of the latter constituencies are by far the greater, they should be willing to treat the up-country members with some consideration.

"But then it is not an assured fact that we are going to have a convention," he added. I do not believe that the provincial executive will call the gathering unless forced to by the action of nine other associations in addition to that of Vancouver. The executive is to a great extent composed of friends of Mr. Martin, and naturally will not be in a hurry to take any step which would assist in deposing him from the leadership."

"You are fairly in touch with the Liberal organizations in other constituencies. What do you think will be their view of the question?"

"I have not been in written communication with any of the other associations," said Mr. Senkler, "but in discussing the matter verbally with leading Liberals from all over the province, I have become thoroughly convinced that we will be backed up by a large number of the constituencies. Of course," he added, "we cannot be sure that we will receive the support of all the necessary nine.

"Why," he continued, after a moment's pause, "I am absolutely satisfied that under Mr. Joseph Martin we cannot carry British Columbia. Liberals from the interior have assured me that in case the elections should come off at a near date, their associations would be compelled to repudiate the present leader entirely in order to secure the slightest show for their nominee. Mr. Martin talks of the people who are going around the streets saying things behind his back. On Monday night a great semblance of the stuffing of which he seems to be so much afraid, was done by Martin supporters. They were there in a crowd—and a good number of them were not Liberals at all. Mr. Martin would be a strong man in the party if he would work with the others. He is utterly useless for him to try to domineer. He is a professional politician, and has time to give to the organization of elections. Hitherto there has been no one willing to sacrifice the necessary time to oppose him with sufficient energy to down him. The time has come though," he added significantly, and the accompanying smile seemed to say "Mr. Ralph Smith is the man to do the trick."

Mr. Martin's views on the subject of the change in leadership are well known, and they were expressed this morning with extreme brevity and conciseness:

"Do I think the telegram in question was actually from Ottawa, or that it was locally inspired? Well, I thing that in this case it really did come from the place it purports. Mr. Ralph Smith has long entertained the ambition of leading the British Columbia Liberals, and if he were offered the position he would jump at the chance. At the last convention he worked tooth and nail to secure it. But the Liberals will be mistaken if they imagine he has sufficient strength with the working men to pull them out of a hole. Unionists know that Ralph Smith is merely a subservient follower of the Laurier government, and in no way an independent labor representative. Were he elected leader of the party in a stuffed convention, he would not have the slightest chance of winning the coming campaign. Without the support of my followers, neither Ralph Smith nor any other Liberal can capture the province; and they will not get that support if any underhand methods are adopted. I feel positive that a big majority in British Columbia will endorse my political course."

"What do you think of the place suggested for the convention?"

"Oh, it's all right. Revelstoke will suit me as well as any other place."

"One word more. Would you accept Mr. Smith as leader, supposing he were elected to that position?"

"Certainly, if he were the choice of the party. But I know perfectly well that he is not that choice. The only way he can secure the leadership will be through fraud. I have been in communication with my friends concerning the question, and they all understand that I am quite willing to step aside if a person acceptible to the Liberal party is chosen in my place. If, as you say, Mr. Senkler says that Ralph Smith would unite the Liberal party, he must be quite well aware that his statement is a falsehood. The Liberals in this province who favor me as leader will not, I believe, under any circumstances, accept Mr. Smith. They certainly will not receive him, or any other person for that matter, if it attempted to secure the leadership by unfair means. It is quite clear that a clique of Liberals in this city, whom I may denominate as the grafter crowd, and who are in politics not for the success of the Liberal policy but for the purpose of lining their own pockets, have determined to substitute Mr. Smith for me in the leadership of the party. They have thrown down the gauntlet to me and to my friends, and we will not be slow to take it up. The only possible effect on this attempt on their part will be to completely demoralize the Liberal party and insure the return of the Conservatives. Speaking for myself, I would much prefer to see a decent respectable Conservative government in power in this province than to see the Liberal party in the ascendancy dominated by the boodle element which, I am ashamed to say, it contains within its borders.

"It is plain from the attitude now adopted by Mr. Senkler that the whole object of the motion passed by the Liberal association calling for another convention was for the purpose of choosing Mr. Smith as leader. If these people desire to be as fair as they claim, why did they not have the manliness to admit that such was their purpose? When pressed to give reasons for desiring the calling of a convention, they absolutely refused to do so, taking the position that they had a majority of the meeting and intended to do as they liked without giving the semblance of a reason for their action. This is not the way to harmonize a party."

CANADIAN BEEF REFUSED.

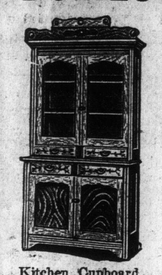
War Secretary Declares Only British or Irish Must Be Fed Army.

London, March 24.—The statement of Secretary of War, Sir John Brodrick, in the House, in reply to Alfred Davies, shows that the British War office still excludes Canadian beef from army contracts. Sir John Brodrick stated that army beef must be British or Irish grown, must not be frozen or chilled, and must be from animals killed at Deptford or elsewhere within ten days of arrival from abroad. Sir John added, in typical War office phraseology, that it would not appear that anything else was required to make the terms of the contract clearer.

MITCHELL ON STRIKES.

Huntington, W. V., March 24.—Coal operators, miners, laboring men, professional men, bankers and business men to number of more than 2,000 crowded in front of a local hotel here today to listen to an open air address by President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, on the subject of strikes. He said in part: "I am not an advocate of strikes, but there are times when they are necessary to clinch the argument of truth in the interests of the laborers of this country. Strikes are a feature of civilization, and they are merely a means to an end in the great social evolution that is now confronting the people. Barbarous countries and states have no strikes, they are unknown there. We want a better understanding between employer and employee, and we come with offerings of peace. The labor unions are trusts, just like your doctors' trust, the ministers' trust, and the money trust, only we call these associations and corporations while we style ourselves unions."

DOMESTIC FURNITURE



Kitchen Cupboard, Antique Finish, 4ft. 4in. wide, $12.00.

Cheaper than Imported

We make everything in Furniture that can be made, right in Victoria, in a modern factory and of native woods. Goods that cannot be made at home we import in car lots, at the lowest possible freight rates.

A Calendar of 1903 containing many POINTERS that every lady will appreciate, mailed free for the asking.

WEILER BROS.

Furnishers to the People

VICTORIA, B. C

Fresh Pork Sausage - - - 20c Lb.
Fresh Bologna Sausage - - 15c Lb.
Fresh Frankfurt Sausage - - 20c Lb.
Pickled Pigs' Feet - - 5c each
Pickled Lambs' Tongues - - 40c Lb.

Dixi H. Ross & Co., Cash Grocers.

THE HICKMAN TYE HARDWARE CO.

LIMITED.

HEADQUARTERS FOR THE FOLLOWING LINES

IRON AND STEEL
BUILDERS' HARDWARE
LOGGERS' AND
MINING SUPPLIES

IRON PIPE AND FITTINGS
MECHANICS' TOOLS
LAWN MOWERS, HOSE
GARDEN TOOLS.

32 and 34 Yates Street, VICTORIA, B.C.

TELEPHONE 59 P. O. DRAWER 613.

NOTICE.

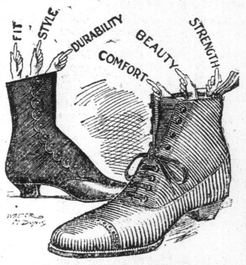
CHARLES DAY & CO., London,

ARE THE SOLE EXPORT BOTTLING AGENTS FOR

JOHN JAMESON & SON'S WHISKEY

And on each LABEL must be found the following Notice and Signature. "In order that Consumers may feel assured of genuineness, we would reqestention to this our Special Export Label, and to our Trade Mark and Name on Corks, Capsules and Cases, also to age mark.

John Jameson & Son" Ltd.



Pointers In Shoes.

What are the principal points you want covered by a shoe? Your toes, of course, but next fit, style, durability, comfort, beauty and strength. Well, we fill the bill in all these respects—another one, too, price. You'll miss a bargain if you miss our Men's Boots at $3.00. Ladies' Boots; look out for them, will be here in a few days; something new; none other like them in the city.

James Maynard, 85 Douglas St. Odd Fellows' Block.

Wear! That's "the greatest thing in the world,"—in anything that's worn. You get style, fit and finish too, in

GRANBY RUBBERS

—But the one thing we emphasize is their Wearing Qualities.

"Granby Rubbers wear like iron"

Piles To prove to you that Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and absolute cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles, we manufacturers have guaranteed it. See testimonials in the daily press and ask your neighbors what they think of it. You can use it and get your money back if not cured. 60c a box, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

Dr. Chase's Ointment