The Colonist.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 1889.

A SETTLEMENT NEEDED.

The foolish talk of resisting the American cruisers in Behring's Sea is commented upon by a San Francisco paper in the following terms .

"It is not necessary to inquire into the correctness or incorrectness of Captain Dodd's position ; but suppose that he or some other sealing captain should forcibly resist seizure and should get the better of the cutter in an actual conflict, what would be the consequences? Is it not more than likely that a wave of popular indignation would sweep over the United States which the Government might not be able to resist, and that war might ensue?

"Here is the danger of leaving this controversy at loose ends. Some one, on one side or the other, will be sure to commit some act, which, even though it be disclaimed by the authorities, will rouse the passions of the people and appeal so strongly to national pride or prejudice that the appeal will be irresistible, and then the only sequel will be war. It is the manifest duty of both governments, the British and the American, to enter upon negotiations regarding Behring Sea, in order to set all the vexed questions at rest, for until this is done the same uncertainty will prevail as at present, and a spark may be dropped which will explode the train and plunge us into a war which neither nation wants, and which all good citizens of both countries would deeply deplore."

It is not after all surprising that British sealers should talk about resisting seizure by force of arms. They believe that they have a right to hunt seals or to do any other lawful act on the high seas, which are the common property of all nations. They know, too, that although the Americans claim exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Behring's Sea, they have never even attempted to prove this right—and that no competent tribunal has ever been afforded the opportunity of investigating the American claim and deciding whether it is sound or unsound. It is not surprising that plain men, not versed in the subtleties of diplomacy, should conclude that the United States Government will not submit its claim to impartial arbitrators because its members know that it cannot be sustained by argument and evidence, and that the only way left them to enforce it is the barbarous and iniquitous one of brute force. The sealers may very naturally conclude that it is right to meet force with force. And so it would be if there was no other way left to settle the dispute, and if they were the proper persons to do the fighting. Our contemporary is right when it says that this Behring's Sea dispute should be settled. It is disgraceful that its settlement has been so long delayed.

MORE THAN A RUMOR.

The belief that the Dominion Government intends in the near future to reopen negotiations with the United States for the purpose of establishing reciprocal free trade between the two countries has become widespread. It is entertained by men of both parties. Conservatives speak of the contemplated negotiations with unqualified commendation, while the Liberals generally affect incredulity and question the sincerity of the Government, but at the same time they cannot help admitting that any movement in the direction of reciprocity is wise and will be popular. Some of the Opposition journals go so far as to say if the rumor of the intentions of the Government turn out to be true, they will give it, in any attempt it may make to obtain closer commercial relations with the United States, their cordial support. This is what the Montreal Witness says, when commenting on an article in the Montreal Gazette favoring reciprocity :

"Sir John Macdonald will certainly have the support of the great majority of the people of Canada in attempting to negotiate a really wide and inclusive commercial treaty with the United States. A treaty on the lines of the old reciprocity conventions, enlarged as the changed conditions may necessitate, as the Gazette foreshadows, must be one which will include reciprocity in manufactures as well as in natural products. If the Conservative Government has been converted on this point successful negotiation is probably within 'measurable distance.'"

The Toronto Week concludes a very judicious article on the representation made by the New England merchants and manufacturers before the Senate Committee, to which we directed the attention of our readers a few days ago, with the following significant sentence :

"It has been made tolerably clear by the investigations of this committee and otherwise, that the chief obstacles in the way of a renewal of the old friendly trade relations between our neighbors and ourselves are obstacles reared by the politicians, not by the people, and indications are not wanting that the politicians on both sides of the line are beginning to see the error of their ways, or possibly to feel the pressure of public opinion, and are looking around 'for lines of retreat and places of compromise.'"

The reports in circulation as to the Government's intentions have been made the subject of a discussion between the Halifax Herald and the Halifax Chronicle. The Chronicle, of course, favors reciprocity, but it would never do to admit that any good thing could come out of Nazareth. It therefore expresses its conviction that there is nothing in the reports, and anyway if Sir John did negotiate a reciprocity treaty, it would be such a treaty as could not possibly benefit the people of Nova Scotia. As might be expected, it condemns any treaty that could possibly be negotiated under the auspices of the present Government. Its reasoning is sufficiently simple : "It is to be a conservative treaty, and therefore it must be bad," is its very conclusive argument. The Herald, which evidently has not profited by past experience, thus protests against the premature judgement of its irreconcilable contemporary:—

"But why does the Chronicle thus early begin to start objections to a reciprocity treaty? Is its professed desire for reciprocity only a sham? And will it turn out, as has been frequently predicted, that when reciprocity between this country of the United States is negotiated, and its ratification by this country is sought, the Halifax Chronicle will be foremost and loudest in denouncing it as a 'sacrifice,' a 'surrender,' 'a complete give away,' and all the rest of it? We know that has been its tone before, whenever a reciprocity or fishery treaty was negotiated with the United States (the treaty of 1854 and the Washington treaty included), but we had hopes that our contemporary would never cry 'base surrender' again. We thought that after its advocacy of the Wiman fad it would never regard any treaty as 'a sacrifice of our interests.' But it looks very much as if we would be disappointed. It looks as if the Halifax Chronicle were already preparing to oppose the next reciprocity treaty."

There is, we admit, nothing definite in what has yet been made public about the negotiations. But the rumor has somehow got into the air, no one is surprised to hear it, and everyone believes that there is something in it. They are ready to conclude that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire.

COLONIAL DRYNURSING.

We see in the September number of the Fortnightly Review a very suggestive article on "Dry-nursing the Colonies." It is appropriately enough written by a lady—Miss Flora L. Shaw. There is another article in the same review written by a female hand. Lady Dilke writes about the coming elections in France. This is another of the many indications of the advance which the cause of Women's Rights is making in our day. Here, in a publication of the very highest class, two out of eleven articles are written by women! Miss Shaw's article is vigorous. It does not favor petting and cuddling and dry-nursing colonies. On the contray, she believes that they ought, in all matters which are not clearly of Imperial concern, govern themselves. She believes Downing street to be a very bad nurse indeed, and she does not regard colonies as nurslings. She has found out what Canadians, or, rather, British Americans, discovered many years ago, which is that a London official sitting at his desk in Downing street is not the best kind of a ruler for colonies thousands of miles distant, and that colonists become exceedingly impatient of his meddling and muddling. Her description of the Downing street official and his surroundings is very good.

"The business of the London officials," she says, "is with the English and not with the colonial public. He may sit in the Colonial Office, he may occupy himself all day with Colonial affairs, but the Government of which he forms a part is English; it is not Colonial. The electorate which directly or indirectly sent him to his place is an English electorate; the men he meets in the street when his day's work is done, the men with whom he dines, the men whose sons and daughters marry with his daughters and sons, whose grandchildren will be his grandchildren, are Englishmen, not Colonists. He may be the most conscientious man in the world, most sincerely desirous of doing his duty by the interests which he is appointed to watch over, but his very 'raison d'etre' is that he is an expression of public opinion, and he is absolutely less than human if he is not influenced by the medium in which he lives and moves and has his being. He is an English public servant, and he listens to and obeys the voice of the English public so long as the English public was profoundly influenced by the Cobden school of politicians, indifferent to Colonial expansion and disinclined to accept responsibility for Colonial enterprize. Downing Street could not do otherwise than reflect the opinion which built Downing Street. The individual Englishman might do what he liked on the far edges of the Empire. The official attitude was necessarily apathetic."

This is the dry nurse to which Miss Shaw objects. He is not fit for his business. He has not served an apprenticeship to dry nursing. He does not understand the nature of the bantling which he has undertaken to take care of and think for. The consequence is, that as often as he meddles he blunders, and whenever he makes his presence felt in the Colony a storm of indignation is raised against him. Canada a long time ago suffered from his nursing, but she rebelled and kicked up such a row generally, that the Downing street official became utterly disgusted, and received orders from his superiors to leave her severely alone for the future. Canadians have got on splendidly without this pompous dry nurse. It has been found that they can govern themselves very well without his assistance, and that when they do make blunders it is better to allow them to correct them themselves in the best way they can.

But although Canada and the greater part of Australia have outgrown the dry-nurse, he is still considered necessary in the rearing and nurturing of South Africa. That colony has for its neighbors a number of savage tribes, and some Dutchmen whose civilization is not much to boast of. It is considered not safe to permit the colonists without direction and interference to conduct their intercourse with the tribes across the border of Cape Colony. The dry-nurse has interfered to regulate the relations of the colonists with their neighbors, and, according to Miss Shaw, he has made a mess of it. Sir Hercules Robinson, late Lieutenant-Governor of Cape Colony, disapproved of his interference and the interference of the Aborigines' Protection Society, which has now become the South African Committee, a purely Old Country Association, and he has incurred the wrath of the whole body of dry nurses. What Sir Hercules said in a speech which has given great offence in some quarters, nine Canadians out of ten who have any knowledge of the history of their own country will admit to be no more than a temperate expression of an undeniable truth. Sir Hercules said in the course of his speech: "But I venture to think that British Colonialism is very heavily handicapped in the race by the well-meant but mistaken interference of irresponsible and ill-informed persons in England. The tendency of such amateur meddling, to my mind, is injurious in the long run to the natives; whilst it makes every resident of the republics, English as well as Dutch, rejoice in their independence, and converts many a colonist from an Imperialist into a Republican."

The party in South Africa for whom Miss Shaw speaks, and whose views she expresses, want to get rid of all dry nurses, official and unofficial. They do not want their destinies as a people to be determined "by the will of an irresponsible body six thousand miles away, who could never by any possibility be called on to bear the consequences of their mistaken judgment." In their desire to manage their own affairs and to be free from outside dictation, the South Africans must have the sympathy of all who know anything of the ignorance, the stupidity and the wrongheadedness of the colonial dry nurse.

THE OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.

A good deal is being said in the East about the leadership of the Liberal Party. It was hoped by many until quite lately that Mr. Blake would resume the leadership of the liberals. But he has caused it to be distinctly understood that he will not accept the position under any circumstances. Mr. Laurier is therefore accepted as the permanent leader of the Liberal Party of the Dominion. We do not think that the Liberals have lost anything by the refusal of Hon. Edward Blake to become their leader. Mr. Blake is beyond question a very able man. Regarding him from a purely intellectual point of view we question if his superior is to be foutnd in the Dominion of Canada. Morally, too, he takes a very high rank. He is a man of high principle and his reputation is literally without a stain. But notwithstanding his great intellectual endowments and unblemished character he did not make a good political leader, and every year it became more and more apparent that he is not gifted with the qualities that a party leader, to be successful, must possess. It may be that he assumed the leadership of his party at an unfortunate time, and that no man, no matter how well fitted he might be naturally and by education for the position, could have made headway against the difficulties he had to encounter and the opponents against whom he had to contend; but we incline to the opinion that Mr. Blake's want of success as a party leader can be traced to his constitutional unfitness for the leadership. He is a self-contained undemonstrative man. His nerves are very finely strung. He is impatient of dullness and stupidity, and coarseness of all kinds disgusts him. Though a man of great refinement he has little of what the French call "savoir faire." The men he had to deal with were not as a class clever, and most of them had been brought up in a rough school. They soon found that there was very little in common between them and their leader. They admired him for his ability and respected him for his invariable rectitude of conduct, but between him and them there was a great gulf fixed, which it was found impossible to bridge over. He created no enthusiasm. His followers did not become partisans who were ready, as the saying is, to go through fire and water for him, to cheer him and fight for him when he was wrong as enthusiastically and with as much ardor as when he was right. Mr. Blake could not compliment a young member who had made a foolish ill-timed speech, and he could not smile at the vagaries of a conceited follower who had brought ridicule on himself and his party by firing off his electioneering platitudes and his platform witticisms from his place in the House of Commons. He never went to the trouble to make a spouting greenhorn believe that he possessed the talent of a Gladstone or a Beaconsfield, and that all he wanted were opportunity and experience to become a brilliant orator and a great statesman. In a word, he could not learn and would not learn how to put his followers in a good humor with themselves, and by consequence, with him.

His Parliamentary methods, too, were not such as to attach the able men of his party to him. He took too much on himself. He did not place sufficient confidence in their ability to do their share of the work. He took no pains to make his lieutenants feel that they were useful. When important matters were before the House he, in a wonderfully able speech, exhausted the subject and left nothing for them to say. In this matter of speech-making, too, Mr. Blake showed that he did not understand either the House or the country. The man who makes a six hours' speech in these days proves his unfitness to take part in the work of any deliberative body. Such speeches are not listened to and they are not read. Let them be ever so able, they weary the audience, and the man who delivers them is voted by the public a bore. Mr. Blake seems never to have made this discovery, and none of his followers appears to have had the courage to tell him that his interminably long speeches were mistakes. Mr. Blake possesses very little adaptability. This, we believe, was the main cause of his failure as a leader. Mr. Laurier is a very different man, and it is by no means improbable that he will prove a better leader than Mr. Blake. He could hardly make a worse.

SUNDAY WORK.

The fact that the French general election was held on Sunday seems very strange to English-speaking people of all denominations. The Government of any country under British rule, or of any American State that would arrange for an election to take place on the Lord's Day, would not exist twenty-four hours after the people had a chance of expressing their indignation. Yet the Sunday election in France is looked upon as nothing very shocking. Even the Montreal Witness, which is a strong advocate for the proper observance of the Sabbath in its own country, in its issue of Saturday, the 21st inst., alludes to the French Sunday election as a matter of course. It has nothing to say about the desecration of the Sabbath Day. In the Province of Quebec, which is French in many of its customs, elections do not take place on Sunday, but political meetings on that day are quite common. They are held, too, at the Church door, and people noted for their piety often take part in them. Some of the French clergy have of late discouraged these meetings, because they are an occasion of scandal, and cause English-speaking people, both Protestants and Catholics, to have a poor opinion of the men who could make such a poor use of a Sunday afternoon as to assist at a political meeting. But on the continent of Europe things are done on Sunday by both Protestants and Catholics which at first greatly shock piously and even respectably brought up Englishmen and Americans. They dance, play games, attend the theatre, and engage in their ordinary occupations without apparently having a suspicion that they are doing anything wrong. It is, therefore, not so much to be wondered at that the general election in France should take place on Sunday, and that electors of all denominations should go to the polls to record their votes without an apparent

THE COWICHAN SHOW.

An Excellent Exhibit of Live Stock, Fruit and Roots.

The Exhibition a Decided Success, Despite Unfavorable Weather—A Large Attendance—Prize Winners.

In spite of the unfavorable weather the attendance at the Cowichan show last Saturday was very large. Visitors came from all parts of the adjacent districts, and both Victoria and Nanaimo lent their quota, special trains having been put on from both places. Amongst the prominent visitors noticed on the grounds the following may be mentioned: Hon. Theo. Davie, Attorney-General; Mr. Justice and the Misses Drake, the Misses Tolmie, J. Tolmie, M.P.P., S. Tolmie, Dr. Milne, Capt. A. W. Jones, Miss Arrowsmith, Miss Johnson, Staff Surgeon Duncan of "C" Battery, B. Gordon, J. C. Prevost, E. J. Thain, Dr. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Croasdaile, A. H. Turner, L. Boscowitz, R. H. John, Matthew T. Johnson, A. Lewis, and others.

The display of live stock was fully up to that shown in former years, while the number of entries showed an increase. A thoroughbred cow, the property of J. Shopland, was greatly admired. The showing of fruits and roots was unusually large. Apples weighing a pound and three-quarters each were exhibited by Mr. W. Beaumont, and took first prize. This fruit was particularly fine, being most toothsome, and sound to the core. Of citron and watermelons there was a very respectable collection. The fancy work on exhibition reflected great credit on the fair hands which produced it and added very materially to the attractiveness of the exhibition.

The hurdle riding, which was the last event on the programme, was the piece de resistance of the day. The attempts of many of the riders to make their mounts take the hurdles were ludicrous in the extreme, and, notwithstanding the downpour of rain, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Queen City Band, which accompanied the excursionists from Victoria, enlivened the time by choice pieces of music, rendered in a manner that called forth the praise of those who had the pleasure of listening.

The day's proceedings were brought to a close by a dance, which was commenced as soon as the hall could be cleared for the purpose. Dancing was kept up in a most spirited manner until the departure of the band compelled a cessation of the enjoyment. Taken all together, the show was one of which the good people of Cowichan district may well feel proud, and had it not been for the rain, the day would have been one of unmixed joy to all who were present. Following is

THE PRIME LIST.

HORSES.

Best brood mare with foal at foot: 1st, Jas. Habart; 2d, F. Leathers.

Best saddle horse: 1st, Capt. Barclay; 2d, F. Leathers.

Best saddle pony 14 hands or under: 1st, M. T. Johnson; 2d, W. P. Jaynes.

Best three-year-old colt or filly: 1st, A. Skinner; 2d J. C. Dwyer.

Best two-year-old colt or filly: 1st, G. T. Corfield; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best yearling colt or filly: 1st, W. P. Jaynes.

Best hurdle jumper: 1st, W. H. Elkington; 2d, J. C. McKenzie.

CATTLE.

Best thoroughbred short horn bull: 1st, W. H. Elkington; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best thoroughbred Jersey bull: 1st, W. H. Elkington.

Best grade bull: 1st, W. Wilson.

Best cow of any age: 1st, J. S. Shopland.

Best two year old heifer: 1st, J. C. Prevost; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best yearling heifer: 1st, Jas. Shopland; 2d, J. C. Prevost.

Best yoke of work oxen: 1st, Thos. Smith; 2d, Capt. Barclay.

SHEEP.

Best ram, long wool: 1st, Jas. Shopland.

Best ram, short wool: 1st, Jas. Shopland.

Best three ewes, short wool: 1st, W. H. Lomas.

PIGS.

Best boar of any age: 1st, J. Shopland; 2d, J. T. Porter.

Best brood sow in farrow at the meeting, or that has been so within six months: 1st, Jas. Shopland.

Best bred boar under twelve months: 1st, Jas. Shopland.

FIELD PRODUCE—GRAIN.

Best bushel of spring wheat: 1st, W. C. Duncan.

Best bushel of fall wheat: 1st, J. Menzies.

Best bushel barley: 1st, J. Shopland; 2d, W. Adst. Edgson.

Best bushel oats: 1st, S. Evans; 2d, R. M. Morrison.

Best bushel of field peas: 1st, J. Menzies; 2d, M. Edgson.

Best twelve ears of Indian corn: 1st, C. Price; 2d, A. Pimbury.

Best collection grain, not less than three varieties, one bushel each: 1st, H. O. Welburn; 2d, M. Edgson.

ROOTS.

Best six Swedish turnips: 1st, M. T. Johnson; 2d, W. H. Lomas.

Best six turnips, any other kind: 1st, W. Chipshollm.

Best six Mangold wurtzels, long red: 1st, G. T. Corfield; 2d, H. S. Cargile.

Best six Mangold, yellow globe: 1st, H. Bonsall; 2d, W. H. Lomas.

Best twelve carrots, Belgian: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best twelve carrots, long red: 1st, H. T. Castly.

Best twelve carrots, any other kind: 1st, M. T. Johnson; 2d, A. Pimbury.

Best fourteen pounds potatoes, late: 1st, R. M. Morrison; 2d, W. C. Duncan.

Best fourteen pounds potatoes, early: 1st, R. M. Morrison; 2d, E. Pimbury.

Best three varieties potatoes, fourteen pounds each: 1st, G. T. Corfield; 2d, M. Edgson.

VEGETABLES.

Best twelve onions: 1st, B. Dobson; 2d, W. C. Duncan.

Best quart shallots: 1st, J. Menzies; 2d, J. Menzies.

Best two drumhead cabbage: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, W. H. Lomas.

Best two cabbage, any other kind: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, A. Pimbury.

Best two red cabbage: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, C. Price.

Best twelve early horn carrots: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, S. Gibbs.

Best six parsnips: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best six beets: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, H. O. Welburn.

Best two cucumbers: 1st, W. H. Lomas; 2d, W. Wilson.

Best two vegetable marrows: 1st, C. Price; 2d, A. Pimbury.

Best two squashes: 1st, G. T. Corfield; 2d, F. H. Maitland.

Best six tomatoes: 1st, H. O. Welburn; 2d, W. Wilson.

Best collection of garden vegetables: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2d, W. Wilson.

FRUITS.

Best collection of apples: 1st, G. T. Corfield.

Best twelve apples—Autumn: 1st, P. Roberts; 2d, G. T. Corfield.

Best twelve apples—Winter: 1st, W. Beaumont; 2nd, E. Musgrave.

Best twelve pears—Winter: 1st, A. Pimbury; 2nd, W. C. Duncan.

Best quart plums: 1st, W. Beaumont.

Best twelve peaches: 1st, A. Blythe; 2nd, D. Alexander.

Best twelve quince: 1st, P. Roberts; 2nd, P. Roberts.

Best two watermelons: 1st, H. F. Castley; 2nd, A. Pimbury.

Best two muskmelons: 1st, W. C. Duncan; 2nd, W. H. Lomas.

Best two citron melons: 1st, S. Gillis; 2nd, C. Price.

POULTRY.

Best turkeys, hen and cock: 1st, J. C. Dwyer; 2nd, J. S. Shopland.

Best geese, two geese and one gander: 1st, Jas. Flett.

Best ducks, two ducks and one drake: 1st, F. H. Maitland; 2nd, Joe McDonald.

Best fowls, Leghorn, two hens and one cock: 1st, Jas. Flett; 2nd, Jas. Flett.

Best fowls, Spanish, two hens and one cock: 1st, W. C. Duncan.

Best fowls, Plymouth Rock, two hens and one cock: 1st, Jas. Flett; 2nd, J. C. Dwyer.

Best fowls, any other kind, two hens and one cock: 1st, H. R. Harrison; 2nd, Jas. Flett.

Heaviest dozen eggs: 1st, R. M. Morrison; 2nd, W. C. Duncan.

DAIRY.

Best four pounds fresh butter: 1st, Mrs. J. Evans; 2d, Mrs. S. Gibbs, 3rd, Mrs. A. Blythe.

Best 10 pounds salt butter, (2 pound roll): 1st, Mrs. H. Beywell; 2d, Miss Edgson.

LADIES' PRIZES.

Best quilt (patchwork): 1st, Mrs. Robotham; 2d, Mrs. Spence.

Best quilt (knitted or crocheted): 1st, A. Ordano.

Best knitted socks or stockings: 1st, W. Wilson; 2d, A. Ordano.

Best mitts or gloves: 1st, Mrs. Mitland Dougall.

Best fancy needlework: 1st, Mrs. Fisher; 2d, Mrs. Dougal. (Mrs. Spence highly commended).

Best crochet work, wool: 1st, Mrs. Fisher.

Best crochet work, cotton: 1st, Mrs. Fisher.

Best tatting: 1st, Mrs. L. Robotham.

Best loaf bread: 1st, Mrs. Gibb, 2d, Mrs. J. C. Prevost.

Best bottler home made wine: 1st, W. Wilson.

Best pot of jelly: 1st, Miss Good.

Best pot of currant jam: 1st, Mrs. Robotham.

Best pot of gooseberry jam: 1st, Mrs. Duncan.

Best pot of plum jam: 1st, Mrs. Lomas.

Best pot of any other kind of jam: 1st, Mrs. Robotham.

Best bouquet of flowers: 1st, Mrs. Roberts.

Best arranged basket or vase: 1st, Roberts.

PRIZES FOR GIRLS UNDER 14 YEARS.

Best fancy needlework: 1st, Miss Prevost.

Best plain needlework: 1st, Miss Kingston.

Best pencil drawing: 1st, Miss Mettie Marvin.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Death of Sydney Smith, Ex-Postmaster-General.

Bi-Lingual Readers to be Used in Ontario Schools.

The Equal Rights Association will Employ Counsel to Argue the Constitutionality of the Jesuit Act.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—The Ontario Government has adopted the bi-lingual series of readers as the outcome of the agitation against French being taught in certain state aided schools.

Hon. Sydney Smith, former Postmaster-General, died yesterday.

The Equal Rights Association has decided to employ counsel to argue the unconstitutionality of the Jesuits' Estates Act before the Privy Council.

Manager Graham, of the Northern Pacific Manitoba Railroad, said his company did not propose to build through the Rockies.

From our own Correspondent.

OTTAWA, Oct. 1.—In the Exchequer Court to-day the Government sued the Grand Trunk for $50,000 interest on the company's debentures held by the Government.

The Department of Agriculture has been notified that Asiatic cholera is spreading in Southeastern Europe, and quarantine officials are to be warned.

Hon. Mr. Dewdney arrived home today.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier's meeting in Toronto was a great success, although possessing peculiar features. The Globe editor was chairman, and when Laurier mentioned that paper's name it was received with hisses from all parts of the audience. Col. O'Brien was loudly cheered. Mr. Laurier mainly advocated continual free trade.

FRENCH OR ENGLISH.

Attorney-General Martin Fails to Enlist Sir John's Sympathy to Assist Him in Doing Away with the French Language.

OTTAWA, Sept. 30.—Attorney-General Martin, of the Manitoba government, has failed in his mission to enlist the sympathy of Sir John Macdonald to assist him in doing away with the French language as an official language in that province. His proposed measure can only become a law by the consent of the Dominion parliament, and Sir John refuses to help him. It must be in the form of an address to the British parliament and pass through the parliament at Ottawa, where its defeat, considering the strong French vote in that assembly, is certain. Members of the Provincial government in Quebec positively affirm that if the French-speaking minority in Manitoba are deprived of their language in the legislature of that province they will retaliate by abolishing the language of the English-speaking minority in the Province of Quebec so far as it relates to the provincial legislature.

THE VICTORIA LIAR.

The Victoria liar has been at work again, as may be seen from the following telegram which we clip from the Seattle Intelligencer of the 30th ult. It is surprising that intelligent editors should pay the least attention to such incredible nonsense :

BRITISH COLUMBIA BLUSTER.

THE RUSH WON'T DARE CALL AT VICTORIA, THEY SAY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29.—An Examiner's special from Ottawa, Ont., says: British Columbia advices to-day state that on her way south shortly, the United States cruiser Rush will call at Victoria, and it is feared trouble will arise between the crews of the seized sealing schooners and their friends, and the crew of the Rush, if the latter attempts to anchor in the harbor.

The crews of the sealers, who are now nearly all at Victoria, are in the wildest state of excitement over the loss of the summer's work and confiscation of the sealskins. They say that if they cannot get redress through the British government they will take it out of the cruiser that stole their skins if she puts in at Victoria. Militia are to be held ready to prevent or put down any attack on the Rush.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

OUR CABLE LETTER.

Brutality of Turkish Mis-Rule in Armenia.

French Republican Press Comment on the Elections.

Rumor that Russia will Take Possession of Erzeroum—The Question of Free Education in England.

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LONDON, Sept. 28.—The Armenian question appears to be entering upon a new phase. Several of the powers, among whom the lead in the matter is taken by England and Italy, have addressed remonstrances to the Porte, and the Porte, of course has "lent an attentive ear." No one believes that any result will be produced by these remonstrances by the co-operation of England and Italy; but it will be noted as an evidence of the accord between the two governments. On the other hand, Russians are collecting troops in more than normal numbers on their side of the Armenian frontier. The line of the frontier is not definitely fixed, and is in course of settlement by commissions of both powers. The elements of misunderstanding are, therefore, present in abundance. Optimists argue that there is no immediate prospect of these elements being utilized, for the sufficient reason that the first shot fired in Armenia may be expected

TO SEE EUROPE IN A BLAZE.

No power, therefore, will take the step which would lead to such momentous consequences, except under the influence of general considerations of policy with which Armenia has little connection. The danger is rather that the incapacity of the Porte to better the condition of its administration in Armenia, may lead to some expected outbreak, in which one or the other may be committed in spite of its policy.

A despatch received late this afternoon says there is great excitement at Erzeroum over rumors that the Russians are preparing to take possession of the place before winter. The situation of affairs along the frontier is very unsatisfactory, and may become very critical unless better counsels prevail at Constantinople. The Turkish commissioners recently appointed by the Porte to make the tour of inspection of Armenia have just arrived at Van where they found 2,000 Armenians in prison in Van and the districts dependent upon it. The greater number were merely under suspicion, and charged with having patriotic songs, either printed or in manuscript, in their possession. As if to mark the extreme stupidity of the Turkish authorities, the greater part of the literature, for possessing which these unfortunates experience the horrors of a Turkish prison, was printed in Constantinople years ago by permission of the authorities, and passed by the local censorship officers. Other prisoners are schoolmasters, clergymen and men among the higher ranks; the object being to get rid eventually of all means of instructing the people. A correspondent who has been following up the commission, says, to add to the brutality of

TURKISH MISGOVERNMENT,

the government, or what passes for such at Constantinople, refuses to allow the people to emigrate in order that they may escape from the misery in which they are kept. He also states that the commission obtained plenty of evidence showing that Hatil Pasha, Governor-General of Van, has been guilty of every conceivable kind of oppression, while the Kurds have robbed, violated and murdered without check. But, of course, this portion of the testimony will never be officially published, nor will Hatil Pasha be removed, so immediately after the departure of the commission the same state of things will prevail.

The comments of the German press on the elections in France to the effect that they are favorable to a strong foreign policy on the part of France, are severely criticized by the French republican papers. The Republique Francais, in an editorial to-day, says: "No better refutation of such a statement is needed than the announcement that the result is an endorsement of the present government's policy, and as such is also an endorsement of the policy of M. De Freycinet, minister of war." The paper then compares the official methods of De Freycinet with those of Boulanger, and says: "The appointment in April, 1888, of De Freycinet to the post of minister of war was a very remarkable innovation. France has never before entrusted this important office to a civilian. Since the year 1797 there are only two names on the roll of ministers of war, which are not those of general officers. The first is Carnot, who had a portfolio for six months in the year 1800, and though he had never had a higher military rank than that of

CAPTAIN OF ENGINEERS,

had commanded armies and controlled the conduct of a campaign. The second is Francis Arago, who for six weeks was minister of war to the provisional government of 1848. Thus, the appointment last year was an innovation for which there was no precedent. As such, it was regarded with great misgiving in the army, but De Freycinet has retained his position longer than any of his predecessors during the last eight years, and at length opinion even in the army has come to approve of his selection, and look with confidence on the civil minister. He has preserved the discipline of the army by the quiet firmness with which he has dealt with those officers who had compromised themselves in the Boulangist intrigues. This has gained him the respect of the army. Then, he has succeeded in passing the new law of recruitment, a measure which has been for seven years in the condition of a bill, always brought in, but never carried. He has increased the field artillery, created mountain batteries and African batteries, and organized a special corps of Alpine troops. He has given serious attention to the reorganization of the frontier fortresses, and to the arrangements for mobilizing in case of need troops of the second line. The measure of De Freycinet's success is a complete refutation of the view that no progress is possible with a professional minister. The Novae Vremya is undoubtedly correct in its comments when it says the results of the elections will soon secure to France a government capable of facing external danger.

FREE EDUCATION.

Great preparations are being made by the friends of free education to bring the question prominently before the various English constituencies. Already $25,000 have been subscribed to defray the expenses of the speakers and for the distribution of pamphlets, etc., on the subject. Many of the radicals are strongly in favor of giving the question of free education a prominent place in the programme of the opposition for next year, and it is scarcely possible to imagine a subject which lends itself better to platform discussion. Already Buxton has received a large number of pledges of Parliamentary support, and all that is needed to give his resolution on the subject the dignity of a burning question is a lively popular agitation in its favor. The Government would certainly be placed in a curious dilemma if a resolution of this kind should be brought before the House of Commons, backed by the whole strength of the opposition, and by a strong feeling of approval outside. Chamberlain couldn't oppose it, nor could many others among the Unionist members. But this is not all. There are not a few Conservatives who admit that if the question came fairly before the house, they could not, in view of the feeling of their constituencies, vote against it.

WESTMINSTER SPECIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WESTMINSTER, B. C., Sept 28.—All arrangements for the Provincial Exhibition are completed. The buildings are finished and the race track is in good condition. The exhibits have already commenced to come in. The show is sure to be a grand success. The erection of the arches will be finished on Tuesday.

Ex-Mayor Dickinson, Ald. Cunningham and E. A. Jenns are in the field for political honors, as candidates for Judge Bole's seat in the local house.

The flags sent over from Victoria for the decoration of the exhibition grounds were shipped back; the owners wanted to rent them at $150 for the three days, which was thought to high.

AN ALABAMA RACE WAR.

Trouble Between Negroes and Whites at Pratt Mines.

Three Hundred Armed Negroes Burning the Town and Attacking the Whites—Military Sent to the Scene.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 28.—There is serious trouble brewing at Pratt Mines, a mining town a few miles from here. Deputy Sheriff Maxwell killed a negress there last night, and the negroes tried to lynch him. Particulars of the killing cannot be learned. The white population wired the sheriff for assistance in protecting the prison, and a posse was sent there last night. A train has just arrived from Pratt Mines. It was crowded with women and children, who were fleeing from home for fear of assault. The wire has been cut between this city and Pratt Mines, and the conductor of the train reports that several hundred armed negroes are assembled at Slope No. 2. The people are petitioning that officers be sent to protect the prisoners. The conductor says the negroes do not hesitate to make open threats. A telephone message from Pratt mines, at 10 o'clock last night, announced that a riot was progressing, and that help was needed at once. Before particulars could be obtained the telephone wire was cut. The sheriff at once ordered out the local military company and went out with a strong posse in addition to the troops. One message states that 300 armed negroes are burning the town and attacking the whites. Sheriff Smith ordered out the militia company, which was drilling in the armory, and 15 minutes later it was on the scene of the trouble. A volunteer posse of citizens, armed with repeating rifles, went out with the military.

RACE PREJUDICE.

Difficulties Which Beset the New Minister to Hayti.

The Commanders of the War Vessels Decline to Have Him on Board as a Passenger.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 28.—Commander Kellogg, of the United States steamer "Ossippee," which was to have started from Norfolk for Hayti with Minister Fred. Douglas on board, has asked to be detailed from duty, and it has been given out that the reason is his dislike to have a colored man as a passenger on equal terms. Whether Commander Kellogg would have "kicked" on Douglas's account is not known, but the real cause of his relief was a personal unpleasantness which occurred the other day with Tracy. When Commander Kellogg visited the department and insisted on seeing the secretary in his room, the secretary was very angry, and Kellogg probably escaped court-martial only by requesting relief.

Lieut.-Commander Evans is believed here to have made the condition of the Ossipee's boilers an excuse for avoiding Douglas. He has great influence at the navy department, being a valuable officer; and any reason he gave in such a case would be likely to pass muster without further inquiry. There is now talk of having Douglas take a government vessel at New York, going hence to New York by rail. It is understood that through a friend he engaged a stateroom on the Norfolk boat the other day, but afterward gave up his passage because he feared neglect at the table. After getting out of the district jurisdiction, another objection was that in order to get from Norfolk to the Portsmouth navy yard, to embark on the gunboat, he would have to take the ferry, where the whites have one side of the boat reserved exclusively for them and the colored people are obliged to keep on the other side. Commodore Walker said to Douglas' son yesterday: "Tell your father to make his mind easy. We will find some way of getting him to Hayti in a proper way."

A DENIAL.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 28.—Secretary Tracy denies emphatically that Commander Kellogg of the Ossipee asked to be relieved from the command of that vessel because minister Douglass was to sail for Hayti on her. He makes a like denial respecting a report that Commander Evans, who succeeded Kellogg in command, reported the Ossipee's boiler's out of repair for a similar reason. "In regard to Commander Kellogg," said the secretary this morning to the United Press representative, who showed him the dispatch containing this dual report, "other and entirely different circumstances induced him to be relieved from the command of the Ossipee. Commander Evans wanted to go to Hayti, and is still anxious to go, and what is more, it was not he but the officer in charge of the Ossipee's engines who reported her boiler to be in bad condition. Commander Evans insisted that she was in sea-going condition, but as a precautionary measure, I sustained the engineer and ordered the Kearsage to be made ready for similar duty." The orders detaching Commander Kellogg from the Ossipee and directing Commander Evans to relieve him were made on Sept. 21st, the day the Ossipee was ordered to prepare for sea, and before it was known that Minister Douglas was to proceed to Hayti on her. It was not until the 24th that her destination was made known by the official order issued to Commander Evans."

It is well known in naval circles that what Secretary Tracy calls "other and entirely different considerations" did actuate Commander Kellogg in asking to be relieved, and it is also known that he made application for detachment some time prior to the day the order was issued. The Kearsage will be ready to sail for Hayti with Mr. Douglas on board next Tuesday morning. The Navy Department officials are authority for the statement that the officers of the Ossipee made some objection to going to Hayti with Minister Douglas.

Remember

That it is unnecessary to send east for copperplate visiting cards—they can be done at THE COLONIST office.

CANADIAN NEWS.

Two Men Crushed by a Land Slide

On the Gatineau Valley Railway Construction.

Meeting of the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada—The 56-pound Hammer Record Broken.

Another Bad Land Slide.

OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—John Longigg and a Finlander named Rosendahl, engaged on the Gatineau Valley Railroad construction, lost their lives last night through a land slide in a cut near Ironsides. There were ten men at work in the cut, but the other eight escaped.

Amateur Athletic Meeting.

TORONTO, Ont., Sept. 28.—J. S. Mitchell, of the New Jersey Ath