The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1890.

BLAINE'S BLUFF.

We see that our American contemporaries, when they discuss the Behring Sea question, keep on speaking of British "poachers." We are surprised that they continue to apply the offensive term to British seal hunters. It is not asserted that those hunters shoot the seals within the three-mile limit. Their hunting range is the high sea, where their rights are as many and as good as those of the hunters of any state-fostered monopoly under the sun. American journalists must see that since Mr. Blaine has given up the contention that Behring Sea is a *mare clausum* it is nonsense to speak of British sealers in that sea as "poachers." They are, Mr. Blaine himself being the judge, honest men pursuing their lawful avocation in a lawful way. The only pretext which the United States Government had for seizing and threatening to seize British sealing vessels on the high seas in that part of the Pacific Ocean was that Behring Sea was, in their opinion, a closed sea. We must now infer from Mr. Blaine's last published letter, that the American Government never held that opinion, and that issuing the proclamation, sending out cruisers, and seizing sealers, were only so many moves in the game of bluff. They had nothing in their hand, but they kept on bluffing until Salisbury gave them to know that he was bound to play the game out, and then Mr. Blaine laid his cards face up, and it is seen what a miserably poor hand he held. There was not a card in it to risk a cent on. The claim that the seals on the ocean, because they are supposed to be brought forth on American territory are the property of the American Government, is too ridiculous to be entertained by practical men for a single moment. And yet this poor plea seems all that Mr. Blaine had to fall back upon.

After admitting that the contention that Behring's Sea was a *mare clausum* was nothing more than a sham, the Secretary of State will find it somewhat difficult to prove that boarding vessels on the high seas, seizing them, and taking out of them valuable property, were not acts of piracy. If the sea is not a closed sea, the British sealers had as good a right to hunt and fish in it outside the three-mile limit as had any citizen of the United States, whether they were the servants of the Government or the employes of a chartered company. Those who molested them acted illegally and contrary to the comity of nations—were, in fact, pirates.

A CORRESPONDENT ANSWERED.

Our esteemed correspondent "Business" would like to know whether or not British Columbia has gained or lost by becoming a member of the Canadian Confederation, for that is what really his questions amount to. He must see that every member of the Federation must contribute to the fund required to support the general Government, and setting aside the Customs and Excise duties for that purpose is, we think, as fair a way as could be devised. If British Columbia had for the last twenty years been an isolated and independent province it is hard to imagine what its present condition would be. Its progress would have been very slow indeed, and its prospects would be the reverse of brilliant. Union has given British Columbia's progress an impetus, the full effect of which it is only beginning to feel. Our correspondent has only to look around him to be convinced that the "game," as he terms it, has been so far a winning one. There is not a man in the province, who has eyes to see and a head to think, who regrets that it has joined the Dominion, and who does not know that it is every hour of every day benefitting in one way or another by its union with the Eastern provinces.

The thoughtful and observant man sees that the advantages of confederation are very far indeed, from being exhausted. There are many indications which lead him to conclude that there is, not a province of the Dominion that, in the future, will gain so much by confederation as British Columbia. There has been no loss in the "game" which British Columbia has played and is playing. It has, in our opinion, been all gain. So much for the general question.

To admit that British Columbia has benefitted and is certain to continue to be benefitted by confederation, does not give those into whose hands the administration of the affairs of the Dominion is entrusted an excuse for treating her unjustly. As a member of the confederation, British Columbia is entitled to fair play. It is right that she should contribute her fair share towards the general expenses, but it is also right that she should receive her fair share of the money expended for public purposes.

It is by no means difficult to prove that each inhabitant of this Province pays much more into the Federal treasury than the average taxpayer of the Dominion. It will be seen by the Public Accounts that the revenue from customs and excise, last year, was $31,821,976. Allowing the population of the Dominion to be five millions, this gives a taxation of nearly $6.40 a head. We also see by the same accounts that the customs duties collected in this Province, last year, amounted to $1,081,244, and the excise duties to $144,564. This makes British Columbia's contribution to the Federal treasury, last year, $1,225,808. Assuming that the population of the Province has increased to 120,000, the per capita rate of taxation for British Columbia would be a little over $10.00. This is more than 56 per cent. above the average. This calculation, though it may not be mathematically exact, is accurate enough to show that British Columbia's claim to a fair share of the Dominion expenditure is well grounded. She is very far from occupying the position of a poor relation, with respect to the other and larger provinces. She pays towards the general revenue, we venture to say, as much, if not more, per capita, than the very richest of the eastern provinces. If the rest of the Dominion contributed to the federal treasury in the same proportion as British Columbia, the revenues from Customs and Excise would be over fifty millions instead of less than thirty-two millions.

It is just possible that our correspondent does not give the general government credit for all that it spends in this province, but he voices the general opinion of the citizens of Victoria when he insinuates that the capital of British Columbia does not get a corresponding return for the sums sent from it monthly to Ottawa. Victorians know that there is not a city in Eastern Canada, of anything like the commercial importance of Victoria, whose wants are not better attended to by the Federal Government. Victoria is, as regards the amount of revenue collected in it, the fifth city in the Dominion. It is of greater commercial importance than Quebec, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg and many other cities to which the Dominion Government has been very generous. It is therefore quite natural that Victorians, like our correspondent "Business," should ask us and each other, "what are we getting for the money we send to Ottawa, and how is it that it is so hard to get the improvements that the city needs"? Many of the men who feel and speak in this way, as Messrs. Prior and Earle can testify, are firm believers in confederation and staunch supporters of the present Government.

DEMAND AND SUPPLY.

The Times cannot resist the temptation of having what it considers a fling at the Government no matter whether what it opposes is in the public interest or not. Seeing how scarce and how dear mutton is in this province the British Columbia Cattle Company propose to import a flock of ten thousand sheep, in order that the permanent supply should be increased. But a heavy duty of thirty per cent stands in the way of their carrying out this good intention. Our contemporary in its flighty and frivolous way opposes the remission of duty by the Government, because the policy it pursues is protectionist, and because the consumer of mutton will, it alleges, derive no advantage from the importation. Does our contemporary assert that if British Columbia were made a sheep raising country mutton would continue to be seventeen cents a pound? If all the mutton that British Columbians can consume were raised in the province it would not be seventeen cents a pound nor the half of seventeen cents What is it that makes that and other kinds of meat so dear in Victoria just now? Simply because the demand is greater than the supply. Increase the supply, the demand being the same, and the price must go down. When the supply exceeds the demand, no possible trade combination can keep up the price. The object of the Cattle Company is to increase the supply of mutton in the Victoria market. If they succeed in doing this, the price of mutton must come down, and if, as their purpose is, they go into sheep raising with this flock of ten thousand they will do what they can to keep mutton reasonably cheap in this city. Yet the Times discourages them and others who propose going into the business of sheep raising. It would have nothing done to increase the supply of mutton, but would have it always as high as it is now. Is this patriotic, or has the Times joined a syndicate of butchers whose object it is to regulate the meat supply—to keep Victoria on short allowance so that they may realize big prices? The article in Wednesday's Times looks as if this were the case, for it is hard to understand how anyone who has not a selfish and a sinister object in view, would oppose, at this particular time, the free importation of sheep for the purpose of stocking sheep ranches.

INCONSISTENT STILL.

The Times is consistent in its inconsistency. It professes to be a free trader, yet it opposes the remission of the Customs duty on a flock of sheep and it is an advocate for cheap food for the people, and yet it would discourage an enterprise which has for its object making a very necessary article of food cheaper. If the Times had made the request of the British Columbia members the text of an article showing the impropriety of taxing the necessaries of life, it would have acted consistently with its professions of free trade, and might, perhaps, prevail upon some of its readers to modify their views with respect to protection. But as it is, thinking people will only laugh at its effort to prevent the Government acting according to its own principles and doing what it knows to be right.

The Times admits that the object of the Cattle Company is to increase the supply of mutton in Victoria, and it also admits that if the supply is sufficiently increased no trade combination can possibly keep up the price; yet it opposes the importation of ten thousand sheep for the express purpose of supplying the future demand of Victoria. This is carrying inconsistency beyond the verge of foolishness.

The Times asks us to inform it "what other company than the one in question is to be granted this concession?" If our contemporary were capable of reflection, it would not ask this question. The Cattle Company are about to try an experiment. They are going to find out whether sheep-ranching will succeed in this province. To do this they are prepared to spend a large sum of money, and to run what some think a great risk. If the experiment is successful; if they prove that sheep-ranching will pay, that money invested in sheep will bring a good return, not one capitalist, but scores, will be eager to follow their example. Every one knows that, in these days, let it be known that a venture in any line of business has paid well, there are hundreds who rush into the same business until it is overdone. This is what makes the projected experiment of the Columbia Cattle Company so valuable. If they demonstrate that sheep-raising on a large scale is suited to this province, and can be made to pay, they will benefit not only Victoria by increasing its supply of wholesome meat, but they will do much to develop one of the resources of the province.

What our contemporary says in this connection about making the rich, richer and the poor, poorer is the stupidest and most disgusting kind of cant. Who can tell whether the Cattle Company's venture will be successful or not? Who is to say that they will not lose money? We have no doubt but there are many who think that they will. And if they succeed whom will they impoverish? They will make the country so much the richer by the wealth they cause it to produce, they will give employment to many men, and they will help to give the poor cheaper food.

NORTHWEST LEGISLATION.

It seems that Mr. Dalton McCarthy is bound to continue his attempt to have the Northwest Territories Act amended. He wants to have the clauses in it which establish separate schools and make the French an official language repealed. The attempt will cause a good deal of agitation and engender bitter feeling for no adequate purpose that we can see. It cannot be long before the Territories become provinces, and then each of them will have the right to choose what language is to be official and what shall be its school system. These are matters which the people themselves have a right to decide upon without restriction of any kind. It would not be fair for the Parliament of the Dominion to legislate for them in these matters. Of course, as long as this portion of the Dominion is a Territory it is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The Parliament of the Dominion can decide what powers of self-government the people of the Territory shall exercise, and it can make such laws as it, in its wisdom, sees that it requires. But such legislation is only temporary. As soon as provinces are established, and they become members of the Confederation, the territorial laws cease to be in force, and the territorial restrictions of all kinds become inoperative. The provinces become self-governing and have the right to enact laws on all matters that are within the provincial jurisdiction. Any amendment to the Northwest Territories Act, which Mr. McCarthy can prevail upon Parliament to make will be only temporary in its operation. We have not heard that the inhabitants of the Territories are dissatisfied with the Act. What they appear to want is a greater share of self-government—more power to control their own affairs. This Mr. McCarthy's amendment does not propose to extend to them. On the contrary, he desires Parliament to think and act for the people of the Northwest when they want the power to give effect to their own ideas of what is best suited to their condition and circumstances.

We sympathize with the settlers in the Territories in this matter. We believe that they are better able to manage their own affairs than the Parliament and officials in Ottawa are to manage those affairs for them, and that the sooner they are invested with the full power of self government the better for all concerned. We do not believe that they should be hampered and restricted with regard to schools or official language, or anything else over which the Constitution gives the province jurisdiction. We do not believe that any good can come of making Northwest Territories affairs a bone of contention between parties in the East. Eastern politicians care very little indeed for the Northwest and its concerns, but they do care a very great deal for their own aggrandisement, and it is, we are satisfied, to further party purposes, and not to benefit the Northwest, that Mr. McCarthy and his friends affect to feel so deep an interest in the system of schools established, and the offiial language used in that part of the Dominion.

A STERN CHASE.

The escape of the Itata has caused a ripple of excitement in the United States. The people of California, particularly, seem to be greatly interested in the ocean chase that is now supposed to be going on. The Charleston has set out in pursuit of the steamer that gave the United States Marshal the slip. There are, it appears, doubts whether the United States man-of-war can legally capture on the high seas a vessel flying the Chilian flag for an alleged offence against the laws of the United States. The American Government, apparently, had some difficulty in deciding upon the point, for the Charleston delayed some time, even after she was ready for sea, giving chase to the delinquent vessel. This delay gave the Itata and her convoy, if she has one, a good start, and, what is better, time to shape her course without the knowledge of her pursuer. The commander of the Charleston does not know whether the Itata keeps near the coast or whether she went pretty far out to sea before she steered south. This uncertainty greatly lessens the chances of the Charleston's overhauling the flying Chilian. A few miles too far east or too far west makes a great difference to both pursuer and pursued. To this uncertainty is added another uncertainty, which makes it very difficult to predict the result of the pursuit. It is not certain that the United States Government desires very strongly the capture of the Itata. There is, indeed, room for a suspicion that it would not be very angry if the captain of the Charleston, after having duly observed all forms, would let the Itata slip. And there is also some reason to believe that the officers and crew of the American cruiser do not feel themselves bound to do more than their bare duty in chasing the rebel craft. "A fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind," and it is not hard to imagine that American citizens feel that the men who are resisting the usurpations of a president turned tyrant are deserving of very severe treatment, even if they did abuse the hospitality of a neutral nation. All things considered, we think it pretty safe to predict that the Charleston will not overtake the Itata.

The other vessel known to be acting in concert with the Itata—the Robert and Minnie—has been captured and brought into port, but not until she had discharged her cargo; nobody except those who won't tell knowing exactly where or how. But the United States marshal has now the empty ship, with the captain and crew in his custody. The captain seems to be taking things very easy. He says that he has committed no offence against the law of the United States. He took his cargo on board at the Oakland mole in open day in the sight of all men. He complied with the requirements of the law while he was in port, and he left in the day time with the full knowledge of the authorities. He did nothing from first to last secretly or underhand. It does not appear that the customs officers and other authorities are disposed to treat the captain with severity, and they have not commenced to do anything against the New York firm that shipped the arms and ammunition on board the Robert and Minnie. It seems to us that the Itata episode will be a nine days' wonder and then will be heard of no more.

NOT PREJUDICED.

We did not know until we read Friday's Post-Intelligencer, that Americans generally considered condemnation of the New Orleans outrage, and strictures on the report of the New Orleans Grand Jury, as directed against the people of the United States as a whole. We were under the impression that there are very many United States citizens who look upon the murder of the Italian prisoners, by a mob, as a disgrace to their country, and who regard the investigation of the New Orleans Grand Jury, and its very extraordinary report, as a burlesque on judicial proceedings. What we said about the Grand Jury's report is nothing like as severe as some of the criticisms on that document written by United States citizens and published in United States newspapers. If their judgment on the murder and on the presentment of the Grand Jury was the result of prejudice against their country, the minds of many Americans, generally considered patriotic, fair minded, and intelligent, must be greatly perverted.

For our own part we are quite sure that if the lynching had been done in Montreal, or Birmingham, or Melbourne, and if a British Grand Jury had presented to a British judge a finding at all similar to that arrived at by the New Orleans Grand Jury, it would have been difficult for us to find language strong enough to express our shame and our disapproval. Our censure might be the result of prejudice, but it would have been a prejudice in favor of fair play and of law, order and good government. We would be very sorry to believe, as the Post Intelligencer evidently believes, that the people of the United States generally identify themselves with the New Orleans mob, and that they endorse the proceedings and the finding of the New Orleans Grand Jury. This, too, may be the effect of prejudice, but it is not a prejudice against the people of the United States.

Our contemporary when criticising our article on the "report" condemns us as ignorant because we did not make a distinction between the "court" and the "jury." Writing as we did in general terms we used the word court to signify "The persons officially assembled under the authority of law at the appropriate time and place for the administration of justice." "A tribunal established for the administration of justice." These are Webster's definitions. And, considering Webster a good American authority, we confess to cherishing a prejudice in that lexicographer's favor.

The following sentence in our critic's article convinces us that he never read the report which he commends so highly, and with which he wishes his readers to believe he is quite familiar. He says,—

"The report unequivocally shows that the "court," to the fullest extent possible for any court in this country, England or the Dominion, did "find them guilty;" that is the charge, and all the rulings pointed unmistakably in that direction as did the evidence."

Singularly enough, in the long report, not one word is said about the nature of the charges and the rulings of the court, and this is the more remarkable, as the Grand Jury goes out of its way to "refer to the strong presentation of the case as made by the State through counsel associated in the prosecution." The report does not show in "unequivocal," or any other, terms that the Court found the Italians guilty, but it is characteristic of the men who drew it up that they took every word that the counsel for the prosecution said against the prisoners for gospel truth. So much for the Intelligencer's accuracy.

The Intelligencer says that the report "directly charges and clearly shows that jurors were bribed." The report, certainly, makes charges enough against every one but the men whose acts it undertook to investigate and pronounce upon; but the reader must be a very poor judge of evidence who believes that it "shows" that its charges are true. With regard to the very important charge of bribery, it admits, in plain terms, that it cannot be shown to be true. We wonder if the writer of the Intelligencer article ever read the following passage, which we take from the full text of the report as it is published in the New York Herald:

"Secrecy is an essential in the successful execution of the designs of a conspiracy. Seldom does it happen that any of the participants will reveal their villainy either before or after its execution.

"In the attempts to influence the talesmen of the Hennessy case, no visible act was committed, and we fully realize the difference between a crime committed by words only, and what are known as visible acts, which might be witnessed by other persons and tell the tale of crime. In the attempts to influence talesmen, and the successful part of it, whispered words conveyed the insinuation or directly offered the money influence."

This is how the Grand Jury clearly shows that jurors were bribed. The only conclusion that an impartial and intelligent man can draw from this extraordinary admission is that, although the Italian prisoners were killed, because the mob who murdered them believed that men on the jury which tried them had been bribed it is impossible to obtain evidence to prove the bribery.

PAY THE PIPER.

We are not surprised that there are many citizens who do not approve of the action of the City Council in voting five hundred dollars to the band for playing in the Park. The Corporation has expended a large sum of money, quite as much as the city can afford just now, in laying out and beautifying the Park. When it makes the Park a pleasant place to walk and drive in it has, we submit, done all that the citizens can reasonably require. Of course, it is very pleasant to hear music there; so it would be to have many other enjoyable things which people if they want them must get at their own expense. The band is a luxury which those who frequent the Park can very well afford to pay for. We are quite sure if the needful exertion were made, sufficient money could be very easily raised to pay the musicians handsomely without asking the Corporation for a single cent. This habit of depending on Governments for everything is a pernicious one. People should learn to depend upon themselves. Those who hear and appreciate the music should cheerfully pay the piper out of their own pockets.

The City Council, too, should respect the religious convictions of the very considerable proportion of the citizens who do not approve of Sunday band playing. They may see no harm in listening to good music on Sunday afternoons, but there are many taxpayers who do, and is it fair, we ask, to compel them to contribute to the band fund? We think that when the Aldermen come to look at the matter in this light, the lovers of music among them would rather help to pay the band themselves than to vote for that purpose the money of people who regard playing secular music on Sunday a desecration of the Lord's Day.

WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

Some boycotters in New York were not allowed to have all the fun to themselves. The lumber handlers had a disagreement with the firm of Charles L. Bucki & Co. The concern would not come to their terms, and so the lumber handlers proclaimed a boycott against it. L. Bucki & Co. belong to the New York Lumber Trade Association. When the boycott was declared against the firm, its members represented their case to the Association and it resolved to stand by them. The boycotters were informed that the Association had decided not to deliver lumber to any building in the city until the boycott was raised. If this decision is carried out, as many as twenty thousand men will be thrown out of employment before two weeks have expired.

This shows what the boycott and similar measures are sure to lead to. They compel capitalists to combine in their own defense. The inconvenience which the disturbance in their business will cause the members of the Association will be trifling compared with the suffering and loss which a temporary cessation of employment will inflict on the twenty thousand work people, a very large proportion of whom depend upon their daily wages for their daily bread. It is not likely that the lumber handlers will hold out until the Association proceeds to extremities. Pressure will be brought to bear upon them which will cause them to see the folly of using so unfair a means as the boycott to effect their purpose.

THE WORLD'S SUGAR.

Men, women and children have been always fond of sweets, and as the human race increases, the taste appears to grow stronger. More sugar is manufactured now than in any previous period of the world's history. Nations are getting to know each other so well that men who make a business of collecting trade statistics can tell how much of any given article of food is consumed in the whole world, and how much produced. We see by an article in Bradstreet's that the sugar made last year for the consumption of mankind was 5,769,142 tons, and the quantity manufactured this year is estimated at 6,000,000 tons. Of this latter quantity, 2,340,000 tons is cane sugar, and 3,660,000 tons beet root sugar. The beet root sugar industry has grown wonderfully of late years. Not so many years ago very few knew that sugar was made from beets. Now, as the reader sees, nearly two-thirds of the sugar consumed is extracted from the beet. Of the six millions of tons of sugar made to supply the whole world, Great Britain and America need 2,766,000 tons, or not very far from half. This leaves only 3,234,000 for all other nations. The consumption of sugar would not be a bad way to measure the comparative wealth and civilization of nations. We have seen soap suggested as the measure of civilization, but sugar we think would be more accurate. The savage and semi-savage does not make or consume much sugar, and the richer a country is the more of this luxury it consumes.

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY.

The man who appears to be at the bottom of the Itata business is a Mr. Trumbull, a member of the Chilian Congress and one of the rebel leaders. It is more than suspected that it was he who bought the arms and ammunition that were put on board the Robert and Minnie, or at any rate, caused them to be bought. When the Itata escaped Mr. Trumbull was arrested by the United States authorities for violating the neutrality laws. Bail was taken for his appearance at trial, his securities being John D. and Adolph Spreckels, and the amount $15,000. Mr. Trumbull was not very communicative to the reporters who interviewed him. He was born in Chili but educated in the United States. As we have said, he is a member of the Chilian Congress, and joined those who revolted against the usurped authority of Balmaceda. This is his estimate of the President of the Republic of Chili, and how he accounted for his appearance in the United States at this particular time:

Mr. Trumbull denounced Balmaceda as a tyrant and said: "He sought to make his power absolute and we simply revolted. Just imagine for a moment, if you can, a condition of affairs something like this in the United States. Suppose that President Harrison were to arrogate to himself the right to name every employe of the Federal Government, great and small, without the advice and consent of the Senate, and when the latter were to refuse to vote supplies for the ordinary expenses of Government, were to be told that they would be arrested and sent out of the country. Suppose, in addition to that, he were to attempt to overawe the people with the army and boasted that he would expend such sums as he saw fit What do you think would be the result? Simply that the people would revolt and drive him from his seat. That is just what we are doing in Chili to-day. When we refused, almost unanimously, to vote money for Mr. Balmaceda's government he ordered us all under arrest, and had a vessel prepared to take us all out of the country to a penal settlement, where we were to be confined at hard labor. I have seen the vessel and inspected the compartments which were prepared for our reception. When the time came, however, the officers and crew came over to our side, and those who had been arrested escaped. A reward of $5,000 was offered for my body, dead or alive, and I was compelled to assume a disguise in order to escape from Iquique. I managed to get aboard a passenger steamer, and from there was transferred to one of the cruisers. From there I made my way to the United States."

WASTE OF THE CIVIC MONEY—THE COURTS SHOULD BE APPEALED TO.

To the Editor—I have just read Rev. Mr. Rugg's letter in your issue of to-day, and think that he takes the proper stand, from a religious and economic view. With regard to voting away the civic moneys for horn tooting on Sunday, I can find nothing in the municipal act to authorize the expenditure. The vote of $250 for the Trades and Labor Club is also illegal. Everyone who knows anything about municipal business knows that if the Courts are appealed to the mayor and alderman will have to refund the money. Again the purchase of a punch-bowl for presentation to the Empress of India is another illegality. I read in the Times the other day that the mayor and aldermen have extended invitations to the mayors and aldermen of five or six towns on the American side to be the guests of the city, on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday celebration, at a cost of some $2,000 or $3,000. Where is the money to come from? From the civic chest at a time when most necessary repairs to streets and sidewalks cannot be undertaken for want of funds!

Mr. Rugg's letter is timely. In calling attention to the band matter he has done well. It remains for public-spirited citizens who are opposed to the extravagance of the city fathers to do better by taking the mayor and aldermen into court before taxes are doubled and the city credit is destroyed.

Who will start a fund to check illegal expenditure at once and forever?

PRUDENCE.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

To the Editor—I certainly commend your enterprise in keeping a standing table of the customs receipts of the different ports of the province at the top of the local page of your paper. There could scarcely be a better means of showing the outside world Victoria's great preponderance of trade over would-be rivals, and the effect of this will be good. But, apart from this, Mr. Editor, do you find any reason for congratulation in the fact that these immense sums of money are every month taken out of circulation here and transferred to the treasury at Ottawa? Do you think we are playing a winning or losing game with the Dominion government? Which? What corresponding return does this city get for the $100,000 paid monthly into the custom house?

BUSINESS.

RECREATION vs. SELFISHNESS.

To the Editor—In your issue of May 15, I see a communication over the signature of a well known minister of this city, condemning the action of the city fathers in appropriating $500 for Sunday concerts in our beautiful park, which he is pleased to designate as "Sunday desecration."

The writer of the communication in question inclines to the belief that the Christian people are being discriminated against by the City Council, and denounces the same, with one exception, and declares the measure "manifestly unjust."

In the opinion of the writer, and a goodly number of the people of Victoria, the Rev. Mr. Minister is somewhat selfish in his views. While Victoria is recognized as the city of churches, having the largest in number and the most beautiful in architecture on the Pacific coast, for the size of the city, he would also compel our entire population to attend Divine worship in a public park, which should, on behalf of overworked nature, be devoted exclusively to recreation and pleasure.

Ministers of the Gospel should remember that the entire population of a city is not made up of church-going people, and should not try to compel them, in order to enjoy a few hours in the open air in a public park, to listen to the dry remarks of a poor speaker upon subjects, which, if they wished to hear, they would attend the places of worship erected for that purpose.

The reverend gentleman lays great stress upon the fact that the people of his belief are "compelled to pay for their shame, and that by men elected to represent, not a class of Sunday pleasure-seekers, but the whole people."

Were it not for the narrow ideas of the aforementioned minister, he could readily see, from the class and crowds of people who enjoy the pleasure of an afternoon in the park, that there is something more than preaching which our people need. Workingmen who are housed up all week, laboring hard to earn a living for themselves and families, on these occasions congregate in the park to listen to the music of the excellent band, and return to their homes greatly refreshed and benefitted. On the other hand, if "temperance and religious" meetings were held there, other resorts would be sought, and it is altogether probable that the breweries would figure conspicuously in the latter.

To conclude with, allow me to compliment the honorable councilmen who, with an idea of justice, granted the sum of money named for the pleasure of those who have but few others, and in this I am sure every toiler in the city will join me.

RECREATION.

CIVIC FINANCES.

To the Editor:—The flippant way in which the Board of Aldermen is dealing with the ratepayers' funds would be amusing were it not for the serious results which must inevitably follow if illegal appropriations are continued any longer. Surely the legislation, recently passed, in connection with the illegal acts of the Corporation of New Westminster, ought yet to be fresh in the minds of the public, although apparently not so with the Corporation of Victoria. When the day of reckoning comes, as it assuredly will, the members of our council will not find it an easy task to push an "Enabling" Bill through, to condone their past illegal acts. A sum of $250 has been given to the Trades and Labor Club, doubtless a worthy institution, but not more so than other clubs and societies, who have not accepted, nor asked for, an illegal appropriation of the city funds. Then, according to your report of the council's proceedings on Wednesday last an appropriation of $500 for music in the Park on Sundays, has been made. Where is the authority for such a vote? and at a time, too, when we hear there are no monies available for public improvements, or even ordinary street repairs. It has been suggested that the owners of real estate, who, in the near future, are likely to be mulcted in an important advance in taxes, should form themselves into an association to protect their interests, and the credit of the city, by taking prompt legal steps to annul illegal acts of the Corporation so soon as they have been perpetrated. No individual ratepayer cares to "bell the cat;" but an association such as I have named would, I think, prove an effectual remedy to what has now become a wilful and daring custom in making illegal appropriations, and yearly exceeding the authorized expenditure, handing on from Council to Council the same unauthorized liabilities, in larger or smaller proportions (chiefly larger, as time goes on), and generally setting at defiance the Municipal Acts framed for their guidance.

Yours faithfully,

AN OLD RATEPAYER.

Victoria, May 15, 1891.

WELLINGTON MINER ASSAULTED.

To the Editor:—On Sunday afternoon, while a Wellington miner named Drew was walking along the Comox road, near to the Half-way House (which is not far from the village of Northfield), he was accosted by a band of union miners who asked him if he worked at Wellington. On the man answering in the affirmative, the assailants knocked him down and kicked him about the head and body. Information was at once lodged with the police, who arrested four of the assailants, namely, J. Seals, J. Martin, J. Dilton and J. Johnston, and had them brought before Stipendiary Magistrate Planta. But, sir, you may judge of the surprise of many when it became known that these men, who were guilty of an assault of this kind, are allowed to go scot free, or at most bound over to keep the peace towards Drew and all Her Majesty's subjects. This result, I understand, was arrived at through the advice given Drew by Mr. Planta. Now, Mr. Editor, the wisdom of Mr. Planta, in this case, is open to question, seeing the assault committed is not only an assault against an individual but against the majesty of the law. The folly of such conduct on the part of a magistrate is fully illustrated by what occurred in the village of Northfield yesterday afternoon (Wednesday). A Wellington miner, returning home from Nanaimo, was chased along the road by a considerable number of men who kept pelting him with rock. Being a believer in the supremacy of the law, I wonder if it is admissible for men to get kicked in Northfield for no other fault than working where they have a mind to. Does Mr. Planta's method of dealing with such cases meets with the approval of his superiors?

LOCUS STANDI.

Wellington, May 14.

IMPORTATION OF SHEEP.

To the Editor—I see by your issue of the 13th inst. that "Messrs Earle and Prior on behalf of the B. C. Cattle Co., waited on the Hon. Mr. Bowell and urged that a flock of ten thousand (10,000) sheep be admitted into the province free of duty."

I have also petitioned the Hon. Mr. Bowell for a like privilege, but my application is to import forty thousand (40,000) sheep for breeding purposes, instead of (10,000), free from duty. I would be glad if you will give this publicity, as it is of importance that these applications should not be made without due notice to the public.

GEO. HAYES.

Victoria, B. C., May 14, 1891.

Queen Natalie in More Trouble.

VIENNA, May 19.—The prefect of Belgrade, charged with the duty of expelling Queen Natalie from the country, went to her residence, on Monday, compelled her to enter a carriage and drove with her to the quay, where the royal yacht was awaiting her. On the way a number of students detached the horses and dragged the carriage with the Queen back in triumph to her residence. After Natalie had taken refuge in her residence, the principal citizens and merchants, siding with the Queen and showing their sympathy openly, a large number of students gathered to defend her in her dwelling. The troops, after in vain endeavoring to disperse the supporters of the Queen, fired on them, killing two and wounding many. The most intense excitement reigns in Belgrade. At nine o'clock Monday night, the cabinet is still in session and the President of the Skuptschina received a deputation asking him to intervene in the Queen's behalf.

LOW GRADE ORES AND THE TRANSMISSION OF POWER.

By James Brady, C.E., M.E., V.

Following is a paper read before the annual meeting of the Provincial Association of Land Surveyors at Ottawa, of the present year:

GOLD QUARTZ.

Two dollar auriferous quartz, in large veins or lodes, can now be mined and milled in California at a profit; this branch of mining was first [illegible] in that State, fifty dollars per ton quartz was about as low grade [illegible] mined and milled profitably, [illegible] dollar rock was thrown aside, owing to the cost of labor and the factors of production, imperfect methods, and profound ignorance of business. Managers and superintendents were without knowledge, practical engineers brought from abroad, in learning to adapt themselves methods to the widely different [illegible] that prevailed here. Failure was the rule, and for many years idle [illegible] and abandoned mines were to be found over California. This was not [illegible] poverty of the mines, but to the causes above enumerated, and [illegible] quartz mines, abandoned in early [illegible] been re-opened within the last [illegible] so and, with improved machinery [illegible] competent management, are paying dividends; and gold mining [illegible] safe and profitable a business [illegible] fruit growing, commerce or any [illegible] suit in California.

SILVER ORES.

The same remarks apply to silver-bearing metal mines. Owing to improvements in mining, milling and smelting machinery, the application of electricity as a transmission of power, and the increased knowledge possessed by our mining superintendents, foremen and others of proper methods of mining and [illegible] the ores, it is a fact that concentration of the above character, yielding a profit of only $5 per ton in value of silver [illegible] metal combined, can be mined [illegible] on a large scale, at a fair profit, [illegible] where water power can be had, [illegible] water or railroad transportation [illegible] reached within a few miles, and [illegible] bearing concentrating rock will [illegible] anywhere that machinery can be [illegible] to work it, provided the vein [illegible] over 10 feet wide) and can furnish [illegible] tons upwards per day of such ore.

GOLD QUARTZ MILL AND M[illegible]

The modern gold mill is usually such a situation that the ore can be [illegible] ed by car or wagon at the upper [illegible] it is dumped against an inclined [illegible] and the finer ore, passing through [illegible] stices of the grizzly falls directly [illegible] main ore bin. The coarser ore [illegible] pass through the grizzly) is screened [illegible] gravitation into the coarse ore [illegible] which it is drawn, by gravity, [illegible] the rock breakers, or it falls up[illegible] front of the rock breakers; by [illegible] crushed and falls into the main [illegible]

From the main ore bins the [illegible] through gates into the "self-feeders" [illegible] supply it automatically to the [illegible] Quicksilver is fed at intervals to the [illegible] of the battery, and coming in [illegible] the native or "free" gold of the [illegible] crushed ore, forms with it a [illegible] This amalgam is caught partly [illegible] per plates in the battery, and [illegible] the amalgamated, or silver plates [illegible] plates on the apron and in the [illegible] outside, after it has issued [illegible] screens of the mortar. The [illegible] "cleaned up" periodically [illegible] Retorting consists in the sublimation [illegible] quicksilver; the vapours of which [illegible] densed in water and the quicksilver [illegible] ed; the residual gold is in a pot [illegible] is melted with fluxes in crucibles [illegible] in ingots. The pulp from which [illegible] gold has been extracted by amalgamation [illegible] passes over concentrators of various [illegible] ical devices; these concentrate [illegible] separation of the auriferous sulphurets [illegible] the worthless gangue. In Cal[illegible] concentrated sulphurets are treated [illegible] chlorination process. In some of [illegible] of the country the sulphurets are [illegible] smelting works.

AURIFEROUS SULPHURETS.

The gold ores of California [illegible] average, 2% of sulphurets. The [illegible] sulphurets assay on an average [illegible] $90 per ton in gold, with from [illegible] several dollars in silver. [illegible] chlorination works in California [illegible] per ton of sulphurets (about 40 [illegible] of quartz before concentration [illegible] ment, and return 90% of the [illegible] Under conditions ordinarily [illegible] plant treating 6 to 9 tons per 24 [illegible] reduce the sulphurets at a cost [illegible] per ton, extracting 90 to 94 per [illegible] assay value of the gold.

SILVER MILLING ORES, FREE AND [illegible]

Silver milling ores are either [illegible] "base," and the latter require [illegible] ary or chloridizing roasting. The [illegible] ing ore passes through the same [illegible] gold ores until the battery is reached [illegible] ores are crushed wet in the [illegible] battery amalgamation is not [illegible] From the battery the pulp passes [illegible] sluices into settling tanks where [illegible] fluous water is drained off. The [illegible] shoveled into the pans, where [illegible] stone or other "chemicals" [illegible] Here the ore is first ground and [illegible] gamated. After several hours [illegible] run into settlers where it is [illegible] water, and the heavy amalgam [illegible] silver settles to the bottom; the [illegible] lected and strained and the [illegible] retorted.

Base or rebellious silver milling [illegible] tain too much sulphur, arsenic [illegible] etc., to be treated by free milling [illegible] After crushing in a rock breaker [illegible] quire a previous chloridizing [illegible] adapt them to the pan-amalgamation [illegible] are dried before the stamps [illegible] stamped dry. The mortars [illegible] discharge. The pulverized ore [illegible] through the screens of the mortar [illegible] ried safe by conveyers to elevators [illegible] it to the furnace floor. There are [illegible] types of furnaces in use, notably [illegible] ner, the White & Howell, the [illegible] the O'Hara, and the ordinary [illegible] furnace. The time of adding [illegible] on the mineralogical character [illegible] When there is much arsenic [illegible] present, salt is economized by [illegible] oxidizing roasting of the ore. [illegible] crushed either separately or with [illegible] It should be thoroughly incorporated [illegible] the pulp. To obtain a high [illegible] chloridation, sufficient sulphur [illegible] present to effectually liberate [illegible] of the salt. Calcspar, brauns[illegible] spar, etc., retard the chloride [illegible] sorbing a large part of the salt produced. Minerals containing [illegible] antimony, tellurium, selenium [illegible] crease the loss of silver arising [illegible] ization. Zincblende requires [illegible] to convert it into sulphate. The [illegible] process of amalgamation is slow