

Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1888.

THE CHINESE CLAUSE.

The debate in the house yesterday was characterized by much of that objectionable language which the member for Comox can always be expected to import into any discussion in which he takes an active part. The representatives of the people on both sides of the house only feel dignified over such terms, in which Mr. Humphrey invariably comes out second best. While he now poses as the friend and advocate of the miners it was shown that it is not so very long since he advised Mr. Dunsen to fill his mines with Chinese to the exclusion of whites. Indeed, he accompanied Mr. Dunsen to Chinatown and was regaled with champagne of libem. He was anxious to make a little money in the way of a commission, and was willing to sacrifice anybody and anything in order to secure it. The sensible opinion of Mr. Manning in his position must be simple evidence that he is only actuated now by a desire to "get even" with the President of the Council for fancied grievances, all of which he has brought upon himself. Let the miners listen to reason, not to dogmatism. By a vote of 18 to 7 the Legislative Assembly of the Province has declared against the Chinese clause on the ground that it is unconstitutional. All the clap-trap which the leader of the Opposition talked and which his blind followers echoed was completely offset by the more level-headed and really honest member of the Opposition, Mr. Bole, whose legal knowledge would not allow of his supporting the clause. He believed it to be unconstitutional, and so believing he refused to place himself in a false position before the country by voting for it. Surely, notwithstanding Mr. Bole's statement, such eminent members of the Bar of this Province as Hon. Mr. Davis and Mr. Bole ought to be better authorities on constitutional questions than any members of the House. The Legislature would make a laughing stock of itself in the eyes of the Dominion by passing a clause in a bill, in an endeavor to make political capital, which it was well aware was illegal. We believe that the miners as a whole, upon giving the matter earnest and serious consideration, will agree that in protecting its own honor the Assembly has only done its duty in rejecting an unconstitutional measure. There is every disposition to place all possible safeguards around the miners and the House has throughout the discussion shown its anxiety to meet the expressed wishes of that important section of our population. Ignoring out what is right and rejecting what is wrong the bill will pass the House in such a form as should meet the most sanguine wishes of all intelligent miners.

M. PASTEUR AND THE HABBIT PLAGE.

We alluded a short time since to some experiments which were successfully carried out at the instance of M. Pasteur with the view of exterminating a colony of rabbits which it was found impossible to achieve by the usual methods. Some hay which had been watered with a cultivation of the microbes of the cholera disease was left in a field, with the result that a satisfactory result, not a rabbit being left after a day or two. It is now proposed to put this plan into operation in Australia, where the farmers have long been at their wit's end to cope with the daily increasing devastation of their pastures and indomitable rodents. So successful and so wide-spread has been the damage inflicted on Australian agriculturists that the Government have offered a reward of £25,000 to anyone who shall discover a practical means of holding the invading pest in check. M. Pasteur has decided to apply for the reward, and he has devoted the money to the institute which bears his name, and he has despatched two young men for the purpose of demonstrating the efficacy of his proposal. When the project was first mooted it elicited a perfect storm of abuse, derision, and disapprobation. The scheme was declared to be cruel and full of unknown but terrible dangers. It must be admitted that, at first sight, it does strike one as improper to willfully import a murderous epidemic germ for no laudable a purpose as that of enabling distressed agriculturists to make out a miserable existence free from the depredations which are raiming them. Hitherto, poisoning on a large scale has been attempted with phosphorus, strychnine, and arsenic, all of which infallibly result in a horrible and painful death to the animal which has partaken of them. Yet no one in his senses would enter a protest against resort to such means, and the only reproach made is that they have proved altogether inadequate to reduce the numbers of rabbits. The effect of the importation of the cholera pest is that within twenty-four hours the animal "rolls himself up into a ball and dies, to all appearance in a painless sleep." The charge of cruelty cannot therefore be maintained. A far more serious aspect of the question is that which bears upon the possible results of importing a new disease, filled with dread potentialities. In spite of M. Pasteur's assurances that the disease only attacks rabbits and fowls, it needs a robust faith in the efficacy of these disease germs to accept their importation without qualms or misgivings. This question was dealt with at some length in M. Pasteur's communications on the subject addressed to the Agents-General of the Colonies. He there states positively that it has no injurious effects on human beings, and none on sheep, and dogs. He points out that fowls cholera used to be common enough in France before he indicated the means of prevention, yet the disease was never known to spread to man nor to the flocks and herds. Presently he states that he has eaten the flesh of fowls which had been infected with the disease without ill effects. Bringing his contention to a practical test, M. Pasteur has fed sheep for a fortnight on vegetables sprinkled over with fowl cholera microbes without giving

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

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Funeral.

The funeral of the late Mr. J. W. G. was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of the deceased, No. 1234 Main Street. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends, and the services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. G. The deceased was a well-known and respected member of the community.

Conventions.

The members of the B. C. Women's Society will meet at the Victoria hall, Government street, this afternoon for the purpose of electing officers for the year. The meeting will be held at 7 o'clock, and all members are invited to attend.

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