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flippant member of the Press Gallery expressed it. In fact, the Press Gallery owed most of their "stories" during the week to the small but energetic band on the Opposition side, who are captained by James Hurst Hawthornthwaite, of Nanaimo. The amendment proposed by the Attorney-General to the Provincial Elections Act was

The week in the Legislature was by no

THE WEEK the galleries. The week

IN THE HOUSE was spent for the most

more or less routine character, "taking out commas and putting in semi-colons," as a

view of the spectator in

part in advancing bills of

means an interesting one from the point of

one matter that aroused the ire of the Socialist memebrs. The provision in the amendment for striking from the electoral lists the names of men who have left their electoral district was the bone of contention. This, Mr. Hawthornthwaite declared, was a blow aimed directly at the workingmen of the Province, who must of necessity travel about from job to job, and therefore from electoral district to elec-

The occasion was taken for attacking the election laws in a general way, however. The Socialists delivered an ominous warning that was almost more of a threat than a warning on this head. They called the attention of the Government to the fact there were forming among the workingmen of the Province large organizations of Anarchist and semi-Anarchist tendencies.

However, the Socialist members had some constructive criticism to offer as well. Their plan is to cancel the existing electoral lists and have new lists prepared before each election in the Province. They claim that this will at least have the element of fairness.

### THE HALL OF FAME

[The members of the Legislature all deserve places in the Hall of Fame. Therefore, The Colonist proposes to establish a Hall of Fame just for them, and for no others. This week three members are dealt with. Others will appear in ensuing numbers of the Sunday Supplement.-Ed.]

ROM the cities to the southward, from the WITH what an air "distingue" and mien northern districts far, The Legislators hasten at the trumpet-call to Beau Brummel of that august House, he rises

The sage K. C. forsakes his brief; the doctor In matters educational he guides the Ship of

The miner throws away his pick, and takes to His presence adds decorum to the counsels of And, like that noble Roman, Cincinnatus, long A suave and courteous gentleman, in him you

The cultivator leaves his plough to save the A Louis Quinze example of the age of You'll see some others longer if you go to the And adamant is pretty hard, geologists will

gentle breeze

trees:

at play-

For legislators legislate in that peculiar way. Hark! from the patient galleries comes up a steady snore

thing more!"

the members' ear; some have companies;

Views and Reviews Based on a Week's Doings

brought down: members come to town!

And now across the Bay there drifts upon the THE lobbies now are teeming full of men A BOVE the Speakers' balcony they of the gentle breeze

Fourth Estate A sort of soporific sound, like wind among the All working up some specious scheme to catch Have made their graphite weapons keen to record the debate.

A sound as of a multitude of babbling brooks And some have railways in their heads, and O'er the embattled House of Strife they lean with bated breath,

(apologies to the member for the Islands)the jargon that centuries have rendered a The legislative grindstone is at work upon And when a gladiator falls, thumbs down they thunder "Death!" sacred tradition. They would have us trans-The air is full of rumors of the bills to be Nor matters it how goes the fight, their late "certiorari."

chronicles will tell, As honorable gentlemen announce "Just one There's surely something doing when the According to their politics, what warriors

fought well.

THE MEMBER FOR SIMILKAMEEN

A ND now the picture charges, and we cast upon the screen

Similkameen.

While he is long on politics, we yet may freely

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

WHERE battle rages hottest in the front rank you'll descry The member who upholds the rights of fair. Vancouver's doughty champion smiting them

hip and thigh; That honorable gentleman is introduced, you The winged shafts from Delta fall about his head in vain:

As he is bringing in a bill from that locality. To him—the mighty man of law—they seem

like summer rain. "Inflexible as adamant" his motto in the fray:

The new Minister of Works took his seat at the beginning of the week, the official returns for the Revelstoke bye-election having been THE NEW received. Although he MINISTER

took up his duties a little late in the session to hear all the congratulations levelled his way by the speakers in the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne, nevertheless the Honorable Minister probably heard enough of them to convince

him that his success was hailed alike by Gov-

ernment and Opposition members.

What is to be done to our beloved legal

This particular word has been taken as a

random example. Mr. Parker Williams, of

Newcastle, the Socialist member who had

most to say on the subject, declined to give

any examples of the hateful "foreign" words

that appear in our statutes. He said he was

neither a jews-harp nor a banjo, and therefore

could not pronounce these hoary words. He

said that the Legislature must either provide

a system of education whereby every man,

woman and child can learn to understand the

Latin terms in the laws of the land, or else

translate these same into English pure and un-

It is a hard matter, this. While many of

us do not like to pay our lawyers' bills when

they come in, there are, after all, few who

would characterize the legal profession, as did

Mr. Williams, as a "social parasite." Mr. Wil-

liams declared that the mystifying phrases in

the laws made it necessary for people in gen-

eral to go to the lawyer to get the laws ex-

all these "jaw-breakers" that offend the ear of

the member for Newcastle, and have the

statutes all written in simple Anglo-Saxon

style, there are few of us who will care to go

to court on our own reading of the law. Owing to the vast variety of human foibles, and

social institutions, the laws of the country are

intricate, comprehensive, and dry-oh, so dry!

It would take a long time for the layman to

master them all so that he could be his own

man of law. Even if the statute books were

printed in English, and illustrated with dia-

grams and dotted lines instructing the layman

how to proceed in his own defence, he would

probably shake the nuisance of "understand-

ing" the laws, and go to a lawyer.

It is a hard matter. Suppose we translate

ture demand that the

statutes of the Province

be put in plain man's talk

instead of the jargon

terminology? The Socialists in the Legisla-

SOCIALISTS

AND LAWS

defiled.

plained to them.

# Australia in Three Aspects

Fitchett in his magazine, "Life": "The character of a nation may always be judged by the sports which delight it most, and on which it is willing to spend the largest sums of money. Horse-racing—as an accompaniment, not to say a pretext, for gambling on a tremendous scale—is perhaps the chief delight of an Australian crowd; but just now prize-fighting is at an extraordinary height of popularity. Nothing attracts such crowds, at such high prices, as a prize-fight. No singer, though she had the voice of Jenny Lind or of Melba; no lecturer, though he had the science of Huxley and the eloquence of Gladstone; no actor, though he possessed the mimetic art of Garrick, could crowd a building with such throngs, or stir such a passion of excitement, as at the present moment can even a couple of

#### second-rate boxers. Mad on Boxing

"In Melbourne, on a recent evening, the great Cyclorama was crammed to suffocation, and more than a thousand people waited outside, unable to secure entrance at any price, all to see a few pairs of quite unimportant pugilists beat each other to the point of exnaustion. For the fight betwixt "Tommy" Burns and "Bill" Squires a great building was specially erected, and the sums paid to watch the fight would almost change the complexion of a State budget. Burns has fought with yet another rival, a negro named Johnson, and it is said that a yet vaster buillding had to be erected to hold the spectators, and yet higher prices were demanded for entrance. cynic might well smile at the spectacle; a philosopher might perplex himself with trying to analyze the passions to which such scenes

Australian Self-Denial "But there is another group of facts pointing in an exactly opposite direction which eserve recording. In 1888 the Salvation Army throughout Australasia established a week of self-denial, and raised by it the modest sum of £1,026 for the support of its work. The self-denial week has been observed every year since, and this year the sum raised is £33,700; last year it was £32,935. Self-denial week has come to yield the Salvation Army over £30,000 every year. In twenty ears it has yielded a total sum of not less han £400,000. The Salvation Army is look-

ERE are glimpses of Australia in ed upon with a certain amount of distrust by as depicted by Dr. some, and with a certain touch of contempt by others, if only because it moves in the realm of sentiment, and works by forces which the world, in the intensely secular mood which for the moment possesses it, is inclined to dismiss as unpractical. But a sentiment which crystallizes into £30,000 in a single week of each year is "practical" enough to justify its own existence. There is plainly a rare energy of spiritual force in the Army to collect this

THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

"en grand seigneur."

from his chair!

the great.

plainly see

Springtime in Australia

"It is springtime for Australia and New Zealand, and everywhere the land is lush with grass, fragrant with blossoming orchards, and rich with the promise of a great harvest. During the month a most timely rain swept across the whole floor of the continent from west to east, and if the money value of this rain could be expressed in cold arithmetic, it would run up to many millions. A shower of glittering gold dust falling from the sky over hill and plain would hardly have made a more direct contribution to the national wealth than the gains of a season so genial."

## LONDON'S GREAT POVERTY

"The problem of poverty in London has seldom been more urgent than it is at this moment. At this Christmas season 130,543 persons-or more than 27 out of every 1,000are in receipt of poor-law relief. In ten years London has added 26,000 units to its pauper army. The total number has not been higher. for thirty-eight years; and we must go back to 1874 to find a higher ratio of paupers to

population. "We take these figures from the review of 'The Legal Poor of London' in the Times, an annual statement which always conveys the impression of being written with full, inside knowledge, and which often anticipates by many months the report of the Local Government Board," says the Chronicle. "The figures are painfully arresting. They seem to warrant a very gloomy view of the state of things in London. Close consideration makes the facts look not less serious, but serious in other ways than might at first sight be sup-

"When it is said that pauperism in London is more extensive, both absolutely and relatively to population, than it has been for a generation, the natural conclusion might an unchanged appearance, taste and aroma.

seem to be that poverty and distress must be

similarly greater. "Poverty, however, is one thing; and legal pauperism is another. Largely, of course, they coincide, and the increase of pauperism this year reflects a condition of distress. Largely, but not entirely; for the first fact which the analysis in the Times brings out is that the increase of pauperism is confined to a few unions, whilst in more than half there has been a decrease. The Poplar Union alone is responsible for a great increase in the East-end pauperism, and Islington for almost

all the increase in the North. "The second fact to be noted is that where the increase is large a particular kind of lax administration exists. The social conditions of Poplar are similar to those in neighboring unions. What is different is the Poor-law administration. The conclusion is irresistible, and it is supported by facts otherwise notorious, that the administration is at fault. The first problem of Poor-law reform is to abolish the diversity of treatment which is favored by the existence of thirty-one different boards of guardians. The 'pauper-factories' must in

some way be closed. "Lax administration (especially in the matter of out-relief) is not, however, the only form in which the manufacture of paupers is carried on in London. Misguided philanthropy is. another. The pauper army in London is recruited from all over the country; it is the Mecca of the 'work-shy,' because nowhere else is the provision of shelters and the like so abundant, and in no other hunting-ground are the profits of begging so ample.

The person who is most busily engaged in the pauper-making trade of London is the indiscriminate alms-giver. He it is who attracts the 'sturdy beggars,' and in bad times he attracts them more than in good."

A number of experiments have been carried out with the object of preparing a caffein free product from the coffee seeds. A satisfactory result was obtained by certain methods which aim at subjecting the entire raw seeds to a procedure by means of which the caffein salts are decomposed and the seeds are rendered amenable to subsequent extraction with a volatile solvent of caffein. This procedure is at present employed in Bremen and in Mannheim, Germany. Nature has produced a plant free from caffein, native of Madasgascar and Reunion, but unfit for use on account of its bitter principle. Grafting experiments have not yet proved successful. The requirements in case of the artificial non-poisonous product are its almost entire harmlessness, together with

## Can Venezuela Govern?



ability to govern itself well and pending international complications of which the country knows

through the recent Government announcement. This demands imperiously from Venezuelans the obligation to unite in the common cause. Let us show that we are worthy and strong in the defence and honor of the flag."

These are patriotic words which the Minister of the Interior, Senor Alcantara, sent to the State Governors of Venezuela after a coup d'etat which has ended President Castro's malevolent antics. "While President Castro has been rousing

the curiosity of the European Press, and especially that of Berlin, and exciting the cupidity of concession-hunters, shipbuilders, and the manufacturers of warlike stores, the Opposition in Venezuela has not been idle," says the Spectator, narrating the incident. Wednesday news reached this country through Reuter's Agency that General Gomez, Vice-President of the Republic, had substituted for the old Castro Cabinet a new coalition Ministry. The supporters of Senor Castro have, however, not only been turned out of office; they have also been arrested on the ground that they were engaged in a criminal conpsiracy, in which President Castro himself is charged with complicity.

"The fact is that an anti-Castro coup d'etat has been carried out in the usual Spanish-American fashion. General Gomez is said to have shown great personal bravery. On Saturday last he went on foot to the barracks, where a mutinous regiment was quartered under the command of President Castro's brother. General Gomez entered the building and himself placed Colonel Castro under arrest. He then went to the Yellow House and arrested Senor Torres Cardenas, President Castro's representative. General Gomez seized him by the shoulders, and, shaking him roughly, said: I have discovered your plot to assassinate me. You are my prisoner.' Senor Cardenas tried to use his revolver, but General Gomez was too

quick, and pinioned his arms. These two arrests appear to have broken the back of the plot. General Gomez next issued a proclamation justifying his action, and declaring his intention of finding a decorous and pacific solution of the country's international disputes. No doubt anything may hap- nearly like Europeans.-Montreal Standard,

ow or never Venezuela can and pen in a South American Republic, and unless there is some very sudden reaction we may, we think, consider Presiden indefinitely improve. We have at an end. We can hardly doubt that he was in a sense prepared for such an event. South American Presidents when they are absent are sure to be in the wrong. The telegrams add that President Castro's 'unlimited letter of credit' has been cancelled; but it is not likely that the ex-President, as we suppose we must now call him, has failed to make prudent provision against such an event."

"It is Holland that deserves the thanks of the civilized world for having given the push that toppled over the fabric of Castro's power," says the Times. "But, while her seizure of one or two Venezuelan vessels was the occasion of the catastrophe, it can hardly have been the cause. There were other factors, external and internal to Venezuela, at work, and perhaps an appreciation of their number and force may not have been entirely unconnected with the ex-President's voyage to Europe. He must have known of the deep hatred that his rule inspired among large classes of the nation, and he must have been well aware that, in times of real stress and danger, the motives which impelled place-hunters and ruffians to attach themselves to him would impel them with equal force to desert his cause.'

In a report to the British Colonial Office Sir William McGregor, governor of Newfoundland, gives an account of a visit he paid to a settlement of Micmacs, who are held by ethnologists to be a branch of the Algonquin Indians, at Bay d'Espoir, on the south of the island. here are only twenty-three families living on the reservation, consisting of 131 persons. The Micmacs are hunters and trappers, they are ignorant alike of agriculture, seamanship and fishing. On the visit of the governor there were only two miserable cows in the settlement, and a few extremely wretched sheep, and he saw only one fowl and a "tame wild goose." The food consisted chiefly of flour, a few potatoes and cabbage and cari-bou meat, while the majority of the people were in rags. Notwithstanding these obvious hardships the inhabitants are generally healthy, the oldest woman was ninety years of age and the oldest man about eighty. The men are described as of good size and strongly built, clearly of mixed descent and many being

