The Colonist.

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 1892.

ESCAPE FROM FIRE.

It is singular that some effective means of escape from a burning building has not been discovered. A good deal is heard about fire escapes of one kind and another, but in case of actual danger they appear to be of little use. The guests at the Hotel Royal of New York, when the stairs were on fire, and the elevator shaft filled with smoke and flames, seemed to have no means of getting out of the building. Several men in their despair jumped from the burning building to be mangled out of all recognition on the stone pavement. We are told that "the windows were filled with people in their night-clothing, making piteous and heartrending appeals to the people below for help, while behind them was a great sea of flames." Heroic efforts were made by the firemen to save the men and women who were in such fearful peril, but no preparations seem to have been made, either by those who built the hotel or those who occupied it, for such a terrible exigency. For the want of proper precautionary measures many were obliged to endure dreadful suffering and many lost their lives.

We hear every day about the triumphs of science; but, much as science has done, it has not devised means to escape from a burning building, and it has not found a way to construct a house, under whose roof hundreds sleep in fancied security, in which the fire kindled in one story cannot speedily spread to all the others. In fact, large dwellings are built in such a way as if the easy and speedy communication of fire from one part to the other was one of the objects which the architect designed to effect. And he does effect it with deadly certainty by means of the elevator shaft. It appears to be specially adapted for being a conductor and a feeder of the fire after it has fairly started.

Is it beyond the ingenuity of man to invent some means of effecting the exit of those who, having escaped suffocation in their beds, have only the windows to fly to to get communication with those outside? The problem does not seem so very difficult, but it appears to be as far from solution as ever. For the want of a fire escape that can be used when it is wanted, lives are every year sacrificed and serious injuries sustained.

It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when it will be an easy matter for a person who has the use of his limbs and his senses, not only to escape from a burning building himself, but to aid in the escape of others who either through fright or illness, are unable to exert themselves. Surely science and mechanical ingenuity, if it sets about the work in earnest, will be able to do this at the very least.

Is it not the duty of legislators to prevent dwelling houses and factories being built in such a way that if they catch fire loss of life may be said to be an absolute certainty? It is said that the Hotel Royal burned like a tinder box. Is it right to allow a building that is liable to burn like a tinder box to be used as a hotel? In a quarter of an hour after the fire was discovered the whole building from foundation to roof was in a blaze. No one is ever safe in such a structure.

THE RIGHT TRIUMPHANT.

THE Louisiana Lottery campaign collapsed more than a week ago. On the first of the present month the death warrant of that gigantic gambling concern was read in the Supreme Court of the United States. Chief Justice Fuller then declared the anti-lottery law, passed by the last Congress, constitutional. This is the law which forbids the passage through the post-office of lottery tickets, lottery circulars, newspapers containing lottery advertisements, and in fact, lottery literature of all kinds whether written or printed. The Lottery company questioned the constitutionality of this law. The Supreme Court was appealed to and happily the Lottery company was worsted.

As soon as the decision of the court was known, Mr. John A. Morris, president of the company, published a letter declaring his intention to withdraw from the contest and to submit to the law of the land. After reciting the history of the movement to obtain an amendment of the constitution of the State of Louisiana favorable to the lottery, he said:

"I hereby declare, on my part and on the part of my associates, that we shall not accept or qualify under the amendment if it be adopted by the people at the general election of April 1892. As the Supreme Court of the United States has decided the anti-lottery postal law to be constitutional it is my purpose and that of my associates to respect that law and abstain from violating it in any manner."

"Our offer was actuated as much by a desire to benefit the people of the State of Louisiana, as by the prospect of profit to ourselves, which would arise from the grant as a business proposition. My associates and I are closely identified with the interests of the people of Louisiana, as we own much property within its borders, and are convinced that the granting of another lottery charter in the State, would be the cause of continued agitation and discontent upon the part of a number of the citizens of Louisiana, for the entire period for which such a charter might be conferred, we would be unwilling to accept such a charter or privilege, even though it were given to us without the payment of one dollar of license tax."

Here we see Mr. John A. Morris, the President of the great Louisiana Lottery, making a virtue of necessity. If the decision of the Supreme Court had been favorable to him, and his associates, they would have cared very little indeed for the "agitation" and "discontent" of their fellow-citizens. They would have gone on energetically with the agitation for a new charter, and would have cheerfully paid the license tax of $1,250,000 a year to the State Treasury for the privilege of demoralizing, not only the citizens of Louisiana, but hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of the other States of the Union, and of Canada and Mexico. This Lottery was an immense octopus which spread its tentacles over every part of this continent, and some of them even reached across the ocean to Europe.

The Lottery paid those who owned and directed it well. Morris is said to be worth between $25,000,000 and $30,000,000, and he lives more luxuriously than most princes. Others of the gang have also made their piles. But it is to be hoped that the business of fleecing foolish people, who want to get a big lump of money without working for it, has been effectually killed. But John A. Morris and his associates deserve no credit for having given up the Lottery. It is said by some that his letter is only a trick to put his opponents off their guard, but it is hard to see what they can hope to gain after retiring from the contest as they have done, and with the law of the land in direct opposition to them. Without the aid of the Post Office it is evident that the business could not be carried on successfully. They could get no aid from the newspapers, for in many countries and States, lottery advertisements are illegal, and being unable to send papers through the Post Office, containing such advertisements would make the insertion of them unprofitable. It may therefore be safely concluded that the Louisiana Lottery has received its quietus, and that it will no longer be a bone of contention in that State or anywhere else.

WRECKING ARRANGEMENTS.

Americans cannot reasonably find fault with the Dominion of Canada, or its laws, when the authorities here insist upon the law being carried out in the case of the San Pedro. Their laws are more stringent than ours, and they are carried out to the letter. In United States territory, even when it is plain that valuable property will be utterly destroyed if Canadian vessels, with Canadian appliances, are not allowed to save it, the authorities permit it to perish, rather than relax any provision of their law in the least.

Now, Canadians would willingly enter into a reciprocal arrangement with respect to this salvage business. They would cheerfully allow Americans to save vessels and their cargoes, in Canadian waters, if the same privilege were allowed them in American waters. But since the American Government will not listen to any compromise, let the case be ever so urgent or the circumstances ever so unusual, they cannot expect Canadians to set aside the law to favor them when property can be saved as speedily and as effectually by British ships, British machinery and British labor as they can by American. If British authorities mete out the same measure to Americans as American authorities mete out to Canadians our neighbors should submit to reciprocity of that kind uncomplainingly—the more so as the present condition of things is of their own choosing.

We are quite free to admit that the present condition of the law with respect to wrecking is neither reasonable nor neighborly, nor is it favorable to the shipping interest of either country. But as it is upheld very tenaciously by our American neighbors it will do them good to to let them feel how unfavorably it works when it is one of themselves who is made to feel the effects of their own system. It was, we think, General Grant who said that the best way to procure the repeal of a bad law is strictly to enforce it. If the owners of the San Pedro are made to feel that the system which the Americans adhere to so closely is a bad one, they may use their influence to have it changed for one more in accordance with the friendly feeling and the spirit of mutual helpfulness that should exist between such near neighbors as the Americans and the Canadians.

THE PLAIN TRUTH.

It was said in the debate in the House of Assembly that reciprocity would not have a tendency to bring on annexation. Perhaps not. But it is very evident that many Americans have made up their minds not to give Canadians the chance to try the experiment. They have determined that annexation shall come *before* reciprocity—the only kind of reciprocity they appear to favor on any terms, namely, unrestricted reciprocity. We see in almost every American newspaper in which the trade question is discussed, that the only reciprocity which they will consent to is unrestricted reciprocity, and that the only condition on which that will be granted is, that Canada enter into political union with the States. One or two of them make the severance of British connection a condition, and this only because they are convinced that independence will be but a short preliminary to annexation.

The advocates of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, if they have not already made up their minds to join the Union, should resolve either to give up that dream or prepare themselves to become American citizens.

It is amusing to see men who profess to be free traders advocating unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. One of the necessary conditions of commercial union between the two countries would be the adoption of the United States tariff by Canada. The Americans, to use the language of a prominent Liberal, "would not be such fools" as to enter into an arrangement for unrestricted reciprocity with Canada and leave Canada at liberty to impose what duties she pleased on foreign goods. This is now admitted by all thinking men. But the American tariff is the most purely protectionist of any existing. The true blue Republican scoffs at the idea of free trade. The free trader is the American protectionist's Satan who is to be kept under and jumped upon until he is completely subdued. The saint that they swear by is called McKinley, and they look upon free trade as the most dangerous of heresies. An honest and intelligent free trader would feel as much at home among the American protectionists as a fish would on dry land. When a man who calls himself a free trader declares his willingness to enter into unrestricted trade relations with the United States, and to accept all the consequences of such an arrangement he either does not know what he is talking about, or he is as much a free trader as Saint McKinley himself.

ELECTION METHODS.

The people of Louisiana although they have, by the help of the Federal Government, got rid of the lottery incubus are not out of their troubles. Elections in that state have been, for some time, a sham. The man for whom the majority of votes was polled did not get elected if he did not happen to please the active minority. A fair count has been for a long time unknown in Louisiana. The shot-gun had a greater influence during the election than either the stump speaker or the ballot. It is evident that one of the parties in the state is determined to continue election by shot-gun or rather Winchester rifle. We read that thirty thousand or so of these weapons have been imported by the Democrats into the state for election purposes. This has exasperated the Republicans, who declare that they will have a fair count at this election or they will know the reason why. They do not seem at all afraid of the imported Winchesters. From this we infer that they consider that intimidation is a game that two can play at and that Republicans can shoot as rapidly and as accurately as Democrats any day. The prospect is that between now and the first of May there will be a pretty hot time in the state of Louisiana.

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER."

Since Mr. Israel Tarte who posed last spring in Ottawa as the champion of political purity, has become one of the lieutenants of the archboodler Mercier, very little attention will be paid to his manifestations of zeal in the exposure of alleged political corruption among Conservatives. Tarte evidently considers straight robbery on the part of his associates of the Mercier persuasion either no offence at all, or one that it is a virtue to overlook, while he regards with horror the handling of subscriptions for political purposes by Sir Adolphe Caron, or any other supporter of the present Government. As long as Mr. Tarte kept good company and exerted himself to advance the cause of honest administration, he was entitled to respect, but as soon as he became the tool and the mouthpiece of Quebec boodlers, he forfeited all claim to respect or consideration. "That a man is known by the company he keeps," holds good in political as it does in social life. The man who is known to be the bosom friend of Pacaud and the submissive follower of Mercier, only makes himself ridiculous when he affects to be zealous to advance the cause of honest government.

AN AUTHORITATIVE UTTERANCE.

We find that there are still some advocates of unrestricted reciprocity who maintain that it does not necessarily imply discrimination against Great Britain. When these persons enquire a little more and read what has been said and written on the subject by those who have thought most about it, they will find that their denial of this necessary consequence of absolute free trade with the United States is out of date. They will, in fact, realize that they are a very long way behind the times.

It will be admitted that there is no man on the Liberal side who knows more about unrestricted reciprocity than Sir Richard Cartwright, and no man who is more deeply interested in making it appear in a favorable light to the people of this Dominion. Well, Sir Richard, speaking in the House of Commons on this question, as far back as three years ago, said:—

"It has been made a grave ground, it has been attempted to be set up as an insuperable ground of objection that when you propose to enter into a treaty for unrestricted trade with the United States you must thereby, of necessity, discriminate against English manufactures and the manufacturers of all other countries except the United States. . . . *Now, that is true. I admit that.* I admit frankly that when a semi-independent state proposes in one breath to tax the goods of the parent state, and admit the goods of a foreign state free, while at the same time the parent state admits our goods and goods of other countries free, and the foreign state taxes the goods of the parent state very heavily, it is a very unusual thing indeed. I grant that it is clean against all formulas.

. . . . . .

"Let me say what is obvious to everyone who has given the subject a second thought, that in our peculiar geographical position towards the United States, *it is perfectly apparent that we cannot hope to gain free intercourse and unrestricted reciprocity with them without discriminating against the goods of other countries,* unless and until the United States are prepared to go in for free trade with all the world, in which case our proposition would not be necessary. The thing, I grant, is of the essence of the bargain. I am not, in the least, desirous of concealing that fact."

Yet ignorant of these utterances of their leader, some advocates of unrestricted reciprocity, have been so very foolish as to try to convince people in Canada, who believe that they are under some obligation to the Mother County, and who consider that it would be ungrateful as well as impolitic to discriminate against her in matters of trade, that unrestricted reciprocity between the United States and Canada, can be established without imposing a heavy rate of duty on British goods, while goods of the same kind produced in the United States, would be admitted free of duty. Is it not time that people wishing to be considered either intelligent or honest, give up this attempt to deceive those whom they address on this subject? In the same way, those who wish to be considered well-posted and candid, will cease to try to persuade their fellow-Canadians that they can, under present circumstances, advocate unrestricted reciprocity, and still remain loyal to British connection.

CIVIC TAXATION.

The suggestions made by Mr. W. H. Oliver with respect to municipal taxation are peculiarly valuable. He is, in the first place, one of the largest property owners in the city, and it is not likely that he would advocate any system that would be really injurious to himself and to the class to which he belongs; and, in the next place, he has observed the system which he favors, and has had practical experience of the way in which it works.

From the point of view of an owner of real estate and an intelligent resident of a city in which the betterment system has been in operation, he is of opinion that its introduction here would be a benefit to the city, and he gives the practical reasons of a practical man for the opinion he holds. He tells us that under the betterment system the general rate of assessment is low. This is easy to understand. When all the city has to do is to maintain what has been made in good order, it is not compelled to raise so much money by taxation as when it has to pay both the expenses of construction and maintenance. Mr. Oliver sees that it is not unfair to require men to pay for improvements which benefit their property only, and which increase its value very materially. "What man," he asks, "would grumble for a moment about paying this small charge (for the construction of a sewer or the paving of a street), when it is apparent that he is contributing towards enhancing the value of his property very greatly." And when it is considered that the payment of this local assessment, levied for the purpose of improving his own and his neighbors' property, keeps down the general rate of taxation and keeps up both the value of property and the credit of the city, it is evident that he has reason on his side. When the assessed value of property is only one-fourth of its selling price, it is very clear that property so lightly burdened is far more valuable and much more easily disposed of than when it is taxed for every dollar it is worth.

The other suggestions made by Mr. Oliver are well worth the consideration of the property-owners and the taxpayers of the city. The fact that the system which he recommends is the one in operation in the flourishing and fast-growing cities of the United States should cause it to be closely examined and seriously discussed by the citizens of Victoria. It is not likely that people so shrewd as the Americans and having such an aptitude for business, would choose a system that would be burdensome to the owners of property and calculated to retard the growth and discourage the improvement of their cities. Those Victorians, particularly, who complain of the high rate of taxation should consider whether this system is not calculated to keep down taxes, and whether or not it is just to the owner of property. It is evident that some improvement in the system of taxation is needed in this city, and would it not be well to enquire if the betterment system is not the reform that is required?

THE LAND BILL DEBATE.

The debate on the second reading of the Land Amendment Bill was a very remarkable instance of leqislative unanimity. Although the debate was kept up for some time with considerable vigor, there was substantially no difference of opinion. There was a little mild criticism by some of the Opposition and Independent members, but it, coming from them, sounded a good deal more like commendation than criticism.

The question is a most important one, and the Government may be congratulated on having so nearly met the views of all parties. Every member in the House appears to be most desirous to reserve the wilderness land for the settler. The object of the bill is happily expressed in the following comprehensive sentence of the Premier's lucid and logical speech: "The supreme principles of the new Government measure were to do away entirely with the sale of unsurveyed lands, and practically to cease selling surveyed lands." It was abundantly evident that this exposition of the bill met with the approbation of the whole House, as we are quite sure it will please and satisfy the great majority of the people.

Some members seemed to think that section five of the bill allowed the Land Commissioner too wide a discretion. But it is evident that it is not in the interests of the people to place too many and too stringent restrictions on that official. There is land which it would be unjust to the people—whose trustees the members of the Government are—to give away, valuable land available for town sites, and in the vicinity of cities. This land, from its situation and from the circumstance that its value has been enhanced by the labor and the enterprise of the community, should be made to contribute as much as possible to the public treasury. But if the Government were wholly deprived of the power to sell land that had been surveyed, the people would derive no benefit from areas that are made valuable by their favorable situation. To enact a law which would prevent these areas being divided and sold to the highest bidder, would be making the dislike and the fear of speculation a superstition, and would, besides, be doing a great injustice to the whole community. It may, too, as the capabilities of the country become better known, be found advisable to lay out parts of it in small farms, in order to encourage a promising industry, and to accommodate an excellent class of settlers. Would it be wise to put it out of the power of the Government to do this, without first appealing to the Legislature? We think it would not. The Land Commissioner who could not be trusted with this power, is not fit to be trusted with any power. It is not a proof of either wisdom or prudence to be extremely suspicious. Every intelligent employer knows that it is wise to trust a servant whom he considers fit to appoint to a position of responsibility. To put faith in his honesty and his discretion is the most effective way to stimulate him to do his very best. And it is the same with the servants of the people. The man who feels that he is suspected and watched, loses heart, or becomes demoralized, and, at last, turns out what he was at first unjustly suspected to be. It is most unlikely that the trust reposed in the Land Commissioner, under the new law, will be abused. That law will, no doubt, be administered with the view of conferring the greatest benefit on the greatest number.

MORE VICTORIES.

Yesterday was another of the Government's lucky days. Out of the seven elections held, there were two seats gained for the Government. This makes a difference, on, a division of four votes. The change in North Victoria was most remarkable—a minority of 202 being transformed to a majority of 133. This is almost as strong evidence of Grit demoralization as was shown in Halton a few days ago. East Bruce has also been captured by the Conservatives. Our prediction that the Government will meet Parliament with a considerably increased majority will, no doubt, be verified. The seats won from the Liberals already are, Soulanges, Lennox, East Bruce and North Victoria. There will be, to a dead certainty, more to follow.

THE POLICY OF SUSPICION.

The policy of suspicion is as foolish as it is unfair. There are men in the Legislature and out of the Legislature who are ready to suspect everyone in office of being hypocritical and dishonest. This perhaps would do but little harm to anyone but themselves if they refrained from giving utterance to their suspicions, and speaking of them as if they were facts that could be proved by irrefragible evidence. But the suspicious people can very seldom hold their tongues. They must talk. They whisper their unfounded surmises first to one and then to another, and these surmises are repeated, not as the vain imaginations of evil-minded persons, but as facts which are susceptible of proof. And it is surprising to see how readily these unfounded stories are believed by even sensible people. They hastily conclude that what is told them for truth is true, and they repeat in good faith what they have heard. The consequence is that, in course of a very little time, what was at its creation but a vague suspicion, is circulated as an undeniable fact. When, perhaps by accident, the slander reaches the ears of the person whom it was invented to injure, and is enquired into, many who have helped to circulate it are ashamed and vexed to find that it is without even the shadow of a foundation.

This habit of repeating mere suspicions as if they were truths, is bad enough in social life, and is productive of much mischief and many heart-burnings, but when it is practised by public men to effect a political purpose it is utterly contemptible. The politician who hints and insinuates what he is either afraid or ashamed to speak of openly does what is both mean and cowardly. If he has anything to say against a public man which affects the public interest it is his duty to prefer his accusation openly and boldly and at the same time be ready to produce the proof of his accusation. But it often happens that the men who are most ready to repeat in private a story calculated to injure a public man's reputation, are the men who are the first to draw back and to profess their ignorance of the matter when the truth of the accusation is called in question. Even when there are good grounds for what has been reported, they do not possess the moral courage to repeat in public what they have whispered in the ear in private, or to give their authority for what they have stated. The man who depends upon the retailers of slanders or of aspersions on the character of public men to come forward and prove what they have said by reliable evidence—even when they possess that evidence—is often grievously disappointed. They do not possess courage enough to stand by what they have been only too ready to say when proof was not required.

When members of the Legislature have no evidence to support an accusation they should refrain from even making the most remote allusion to it. When they have evidence and the matter is of sufficient importance to be investigated, it is their duty to speak out boldly and manfully, and to give without hesitation the grounds of their belief or their authority for the statements they make. If only as a matter of policy, it is far better to say nothing at all about a subject, than, after having given expression to suspicions, to be forced, when challenged to prove what has been said, either to make a humiliating retraction or to remain ignominiously silent.

LOST, A GRIEVANCE.

Our evening contemporary is altogether wrong when it says that the COLONIST is in the position of the Eastern politician who had to take a sharp curve to keep himself in line with the leader of the Conservative Party. We have not the slightest intention to turn any curve, sharp or gentle. We are of the same opinion with regard to the system of nominating city school trustees by the Government and the Corporation as ever we were. We have seen the system in operation, and we know it works well; and are satisfied, too, that if some of the small politicians of this city had sense enough to give it a fair trial they would, before long, be of the same opinion. They were, however, determined from the very first to place every obstruction in its way; but, in spite of the stupidly factious course they pursued, they could, under it, do no injury to the schools. The Government may have thought that, for the sake of peace, it was as well to let the obstructionists have their own way. But if it expects to keep them from howling it will be very greatly mistaken. It will not be long before they will manufacture another grievance and make as much noise about it, and with as little reason, as they did about the nomination of trustees. Though not given to prophesy, we venture to predict that, with all its faults, the present nominated Board of Trustees is in every respect as well fitted to do its work as the one that will be elected in January next.

THE ELECTIONS.

We are not at all surprised to find that the results of the bye-elections have greatly discouraged the Liberal party. It has convinced them that the country is not with them, and that the majority which the Government gained at the general election in March last was not an accidental majority, gained by the loyalty cry and the personal influence of Sir John Macdonald. They must be most obtuse if they do not now see that the platform of unrestricted reciprocity on which they based so many and such high hopes, is not acceptable to the country. The bye-elections are a second test of the popularity of that platform and the returns show that the people now regard it with even less favor than they did twelve months ago. The Liberals have lost five seats so far, and the Government only one.

The position of the Government at the close of last session was peculiar. As many as 108 petitions had been entered in the courts, 44 against Conservatives and 64 against Liberals. The Government majority was under 30, so that if the Government had, as the Liberals contended, gained their victory by a fluke, there was considerable danger if many of the bye-elections should go against them, of reducing their majority or of losing it altogether. Some of the Liberal politicians said, and perhaps believed, that this would be the case.

The greater number of the cases have been disposed of in the following manner:

Conservative.		*Liberal.*	
Dismissed	26		30
Unseated	14		25
Vacant by death	1		1
Awaiting trial	3		8
Totals	44		64

Elections have been held in the following places, classed according to the party of the winning candidate.

Conservative.	*Liberal.*
North Lanark	Richelieu.
Glengarry.	Lincoln.
Richmond, N. S.	Queen's, N. S.
Victoria, N. S.	Peel.
Cumberland, N. S.	Digby, N. S.
Laval.	Kings, N. S.
Kingston.	
Halton.	
Prince Edward.	
Lennox.	
Soulanges.	
Queen's, N. B.	
North Victoria.	
South Victoria.	
East Bruce.	
East Middlesex.	
Halifax. (2)	
East Elgin.	

As our readers know, the following seats have been won from the Liberals:

Soulanges.
Lennox.
East Bruce.
North Victoria.

The only seat which the Liberals have captured, has been that of Richelieu. In Queens, N. B., the Liberal candidate has been unseated by the Court, and the Conservative declared elected. This gives a clear gain to the Conservative party of ten votes on a division.

The seats still open are:

Conservative.	*Liberal.*
Brome.	Montmorency.
Bagot.	Rouville.
Montcalm.	Vaudreuil.
—Total 3.	Maskinonge.
	Montmagny.
	Pontiac.
	L' Assomption.
	East Simcoe.
	Welland.
	West Huron.
	Prescott.
	South Ontario.
	Monck.
	London.
	East Hastings.
	—Total 15.

It will be very singular if the Government does not gain five or six more seats. The tide of public opinion has undoubtedly set in against the Liberals and the chances of their losing a considerable proportion of the seats yet to be contested are even greater than they have been. The Government, contrary to the expectation both of friends and opponents, will be stronger when Parliament meets than when it was prorogued, and we have no doubt that its administration of public affairs and its policy will be such as will raise it in the esteem and confidence of the people.

A LITTLE TOO FAST.

The Oregonian is of opinion that it would be better "to let the seals go" than either to fight about them or to include in the settlement of the Behring Sea dispute some arrangement for closer and freer commercial intercourse between Canada and the United States.

Our contemporary is no doubt right as far as fighting about the seals goes. We do not believe that either nation ever had the least intention of going to war over the fur seal difficulty. The claim of the United States to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of that sea was so manifestly unsound that Americans who were hones as well as intelligent, never seriously thought of pressing it far[illegible] was convenient in the game o[illegible]tic bluff. Mr. Blaine only expre[illegible]s of those of his countrymen [illegible]pable of forming an opinion on t[illegible] when he abandoned that claim and interpreted it into a right to preserve seal life in those northern waters.

We have no doubt that an arrangement which will be on the whole equitable will be arrived at by the combined efforts of the Commissioners and the Court of Arbitration. We do not think it would be wise to "let the seals go." British Columbians do not want to see the seals exterminated and they, therefore, hope that the diplomatists and arbitrators will be able to effect a neighborly and a common-sense settlement of this long disputed fur seal question.

We cannot see that the seal dispute has necessarily any connection at all with the trade question. They are both separate and distinct subjects, and each will, we venture to predict, be settled on its own merits.

Our Portland contemporary appears to be violently opposed to reciprocity between the United States and Canada, we cannot, for the life of us, see why. If the trade, for instance, between the State of Washington and the Province of British Columbia were ten times what it is now, would not the inhabitants of both state and province be benefitted? The advantages of such a change to all concerned are so apparent that we cannot understand why intelligent men, on either side of the line, will waste their time trying to calculate whether British Columbia will sell a few thousands more to Washington than Washington will to British Columbia, or whether Americans or Canadians will be the greater gainers by the change. But, as our neighbor does not see this subjent in the same light that we do, we are quite content that it shall enjoy its own opinion and take its own course.

If our American neighbors are of opinion that we, in Canada, are so desirous of closer trade relations with them, that, to establish them, we are ready to legislate against our Mother Country in their favor, they will find out, by and by, that they are laboring under a very great delusion. That the Oregonian has this impression, the following sentences from its article show:

"Meanwhile the Dominion Commissioners who want to negotiate one-sided reciprocity, should be treated as they have been treated two or three times before. They should be politely advised that it is impossible to discuss the form of reciprocity they propose; that the only trade arrangement possible between the countries is a customs union, with free trade on the frontier and common duties against the rest of the world."

The British Commissioners and the British negotiators (for there are both fishery commissioners and reciprocity negotiators in Washington just now) want nothing but what is fair and reasonable. They will not, we are very well satisfied, agree to anything, either as regards the Behring Sea dispute, or the question of reciprocity, which is contrary to the true interests of Canadians, or unworthy of loyal subjects of Queen Victoria.

ECZEMA ON A LADY.

Stubborn Case of Skin Disease covered her face and body. Many Doctors Baffled.

Marvellous and Complete Cure by Cuticura. 6 years have Elapsed and no Return.

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