SYMPATHY AND HELP.

We join the people of British Columbia in extending the heartiest sympathy to the sorely-tried city of New Westminster. It is hard to know what to say in face of a calamity so distressing; it is far easier to know what to do. The appeal which has been made already has been, we are very happy to announce, responded to by the kind-hearted people of Victoria in a manner that proves how quick is their sympathy and how ample is their generosity when there is need. The loss is a severe one to the province, for New Westminster was one of our handsomest cities. Columbia street we have several times referred to in these columns as one of the finest streets in the province, with its superb range of business blocks, its fine shops, and its romantic background towards the east, the Pitt Range sierra, and at the west, the swelling green hills and vales along the lower Fraser. But to the unfortunate people of the Royal City the blow is a dreadful one. More than once in recent years they have been called upon to suffer heavily from the same cause, and the spirit they have shown after these successive afflictions, has won the candid admiration of their fellow-citizens in the province. This, however, far exceeds any disaster that has befallen the city, and in its completeness is only equalled in the annals of the province by the Barkerville and Vancouver fires. A most deplorable circumstance is that the fire should have come just when the plans for the exhibition of 1898 were almost completed. Undoubtedly the show would have been the greatest and most successful in the history of the province, but it is now questionable if the plans can be carried out as intended, though we hope they may. We feel confident that after the first effects of the shock have subsided the indomitable spirit of the people of New Westminster will assert itself in a manner that has won the admiration of everyone on former occasions. It may be that from this terrible disaster the Royal City will date the beginning of a new era of prosperity. Such has been the case in three conspicuous instances—Chicago, Seattle and Vancouver. While we extend now our deepest sympathy and all the aid in our power, we look to see Westminster rise anew from its ashes and become again the city of beautiful homes and prosperous people we knew before this cruel disaster.

EMPRESS ELISABETH.

Throughout the civilized world to-day there will be sorrow for the awful fate which has overtaken the good and beautiful Empress of Austria. Of all the bearers of the royal dignity she might have been considered one of the few against whom the plotting Nihilists and Anarchists would bear no deadly grudge. Wife of one of the most popular monarchs that ever reigned in Europe, leading the quiet, retired life of a country gentlewoman, devoted to works of charity, adored by the peasantry of the empire, loving the tranquil pleasures of study noted as much for the excellence of her equestrian accomplishments as for her amiability of disposition and pleasant manners, she was one of the last royal personages to attract the hostility of the Anarchists. No doubt her majesty fell a victim to the unreasoning fury of a madman, whose brains had been addled by Anarchist doctrines and who saw in Empress Elisabeth the embodiment of all he had learned to hate. The empress was sixty-one years of age, and was married to Emperor Franz-Josef in April, 1854, amid great rejoicing throughout the Austrian and Hungarian provinces. She was the daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria, and was one of the most beautiful women in Europe. The hateful character of the Anarchist movement is well-displayed in their latest crime, for the noble lady who has fallen a victim to their hideous zeal was certainly one of the most harmless of the class they have sworn to destroy. With Queen Margherita of Italy, the royal Hypatia; Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, "Carmen Sylva;" Queen Victoria the Good, and the aged Queen of Denmark, the Empress Elisabeth was looked upon as one of the most admirable types of royal women. The governments of Europe should now unite to stamp out the blood-thirsty organization responsible for this and recent outrages of a similar character; men capable of deeds so foul should receive no more consideration than a mad dog.

TRENT BRIDGE DISASTER.

Most unsatisfactory is the verdict of the coroner's jury enquiring into the causes which led to the breaking of the Trent river bridge, at the end of August, whereby six persons met their death and others were seriously injured. The jury deliberated twelve hours and five minutes and complain of insufficient evidence, and say that they are unable to determine what led to the breaking of the bridge. If the synopsis of the evidence telegraphed from Nanaimo be approximately correct, it is no wonder the jury's labors were abortive and the inquest to all intents and purposes a farce. We shall point out a few of its more glaring absurdities. The evidence was very contradictory. As the report says:

"While evidence was given proving the stability of the structure on the one hand, yet on the other hand evidence was given that the portion of the bridge known as the chords was found to be in a rotten conditon in several parts, which may have been the cause of the accident."

Now, it is surely absurd to say that evidence was given "proving" the stability of the structure when other evidence was given that an important portion of the bridge was rotten. How can the first evidence have proved stability when the second evidence proved the contrary? The jury thought so much of the second evidence that they have actually remarked that the rottenness of the chords "may have been the cause of the accident." The one piece of evidence was surely as credible as the other; therefore it was nonsense to say the bridge was proved to be stable when the disaster itself supported the evidence given as to the rottenness of the chords. Passing on we find still worse contradictions. One witness testified that the rotten chords were not sufficient to carry the weight put on the bridge; in his opinion the bridge was not safe. Mr. H. P. Bell, civil engineer, "proved," says the report, "by drawings and figures, that if many portions of the chords were rotten yet the bridge was strong enough to carry six times more weight than was on the bridge when it fell." Mr. Bell supplements this most extraordinary statement by saying that "in his estimation the cause of the accident was that the truss failed under the action of forces apparently at the north end of the bridge, in the direction of its length." The language is extremely ambiguous, but we are asked to believe: First, that the bridge was six times stronger than was required for the weight it was carrying; and second, that the truss (six times strong enough) failed under "the action of forces." What forces? What action? The train and its freight of human beings, of course; six times less in weight, as Mr. Bell has "proved by drawings and figures," than was required to break down the bridge in spite of its rottenness, the rottenness not being disputed. The report goes on to say that two witnesses said they heard or felt no noise or jar, but that the bridge suddenly collapsed; another witness said there was a noise like thunder, and the jury talk about this as "conflicting evidence." The jury further say: "There is no evidence to prove that the bridge was known to be unsafe by the Union Colliery Company." Did the jury exercise due diligence in searching into that? Did they use every effort to secure such evidence? If they did not they seriously neglected their public duty. We find the jury saying this in their report:

"We have the statement of Mr. Hattie, bridge carpenter, against the evidence of Mr. H. P. Bell, civil engineer, and Mr. G. McLaughlin, practical bridge builder, the said McLaughlin having by orders of the Union Colliery Company, in the person of Mr. Little, the superintendent of the same, made a thorough examination of the bridge and reported it to be safe until the summer of 1899."

Mr. Bell's evidence was in favor of the stability of the bridge; how, therefore, can the evidence of two practical men (employed by the Union Colliery Company, (stating that the bridge was secure, be said to be against the evidence of a civil engineer who emphatically states the bridge was safe? We suppose the year mentioned in the report is an error and means 1899, but in view of the disaster, and in view of the uncontradicted evidence of the rottenness of the chords we cannot understand how the jury could attach much weight to the evidence of a "practical man" whose views the disaster proved were all wrong or how the jury could thing of concluding their astonishing report with a statement like this:

"Taking the evidence as a whole, while we deplore the sudden taking off of so many persons from their sphere of usefulness, yet we are unable to arrive at any other verdict than that the aforementioned deceased met their deaths from an accident caused by the falling of the Trent river bridge from some unknown cause or causes."

The jury add to their report a recommendation that all bridges in the province be henceforth inspected by a government official. A more amazing farrago of absurdities and contradictions we never read than that report, and we strongly urge upon the government not only the necessity of enquiring most minutely into the whole affair of the disaster, but of the conduct of the jury and the motives which led them to issue such a report upon such a subject. It is high time a stop were put to this kind of nonsense in British Columbia.

THAT CASSIAR GRANT.

Public curiosity has been strongly stirred upon the point mentioned in His Honor's letter exposing the true character of the Turner government as advisers of the crown, the grant of $15,000 for Cassiar district which His Honor refused to sanction. It is one of the blackest of the charges laid, and when we tell the public why the government exhausted all their powers of eloquence, persuasion, deceit and bullying to gain their point, the public will begin to see in its true light the service which has been rendered them by Lieutenant-Governor McInnes. What will the public then think of Mr. Turner and his colleagues when we state as a positive fact that the sum of $15,000 and more had been incurred before they asked His Honor to sanction that grant? Such is the fact; the government simply "cut loose" in Cassiar and actually squandered the public funds like a drunken man emptying his pockets for the amusement of a crowd of idlers. It was to force His Honor's hand that he was told that he might as well sanction the grant—the damage was done and would have to be paid for anyhow. We place the amount at the low figure of $15,000 thus spent without authority, but several of our contemporaries have mentioned figures far beyond that sum; one going as high as $60,000. At any rate, the fact is for the British Columbia public to face that a very large sum has been expended to little or no purpose except an attempt to save a condemned government. What are the public going to do with men who would so shockingly abuse their trust? For far less ministers, legislators and other public men have been driven out of public life. But we are the most easy-going people in the world, we British Columbians, and it is quite possible to imagine the members of the late government seeking office again at the hands of the very people they so shamefully betrayed and wronged.

THE CONFERENCE WILL DECIDE

Most of the Victoria sealing men are looking to the Quebec conference to give them some definite understanding on the two most important points of all to them, namely, the attitude the United States means to adopt in future towards the Canadian sealers, and what amount of compensation the Canadian sealers are to get if that attitude is to be one of complete exclusion, or the abolition of pelagic sealing. At the present time it is useless to discuss these matters, as the results of the conference may prove very different from what anybody expects. The award made by the United States government in compensation for loss to the Canadian sealers, and paid by that government to the Dominion government a few months ago will be distributed as soon as the adjustment already made is revised by the Minister of Marine. The conference, in its wisdom, may deem it the proper thing to offer the Canadian sealers, supposing the United States representatives insist upon the abolition of pelagic sealing, such a sum in compensation as will greatly lighten the blow to them. Of one thing all may rest assured—the sealing question will not be the one over which the smallest amount of discussion will take place, nor is it the one upon which the British commissioners will be the most likely to yield any further points to the Americans. We look forward with much hope and confidence to the conclusions of the conference on this matter, so highly important to Victoria, and it is quite a safe thing to say that the very best terms that can be obtained for our sealers will be secured by the commissioners of Great Britain and Canada now advocating their claims at Quebec.

THE BLANK WARRANT SCANDAL.

It is with inexpressible sorrow and regret that we find our highly esteemed local contemporary once more under the influence of strong passion and giving space in its respectable columns to expressions that show how true is the old proverb: "When anger's in wit's out." The intoxication of violent wrath has caused our contemporary to send to the breakfast tables of this orderly community such as expressions as "grovelling alone in its slimy filth," "Along in its shamelessness," "the Times simply states what is not true," "we defy the Times," "we pronounce as wholly false," etc. For one thing we are truly thankful—The Colonist has an undisputed monopoly of that kind of diction, and will continue to enjoy that monopoly so far as we are concerned. It is most unfortunate for our contemporary that wild, unreasoning rage should blind it to the fact that it should never have tackled the blank warrants atrocity at all. The Colonist frankly admits this morning it was mistaken in supposing the matter could be disposed of in the haberdasher's-clerk fashion proposed by the Colonist in its first article on the subject. Nor was that the first time the Colonist was badly astray in its reckoning. We repeat with emphasis that the Colonist has utterly failed, notwithstanding its oceans of print and language, to show to the satisfaction of the public what the real motive was for the surreptitious insertion of those blank warrants among orders-in-council for signature. We accuse the Colonist of deliberately attempting to mislead the public by failing to show the blank space followed by the words "Lieutenant-Governor" in its alleged form of blank warrants. It was the Colonist's business to see that the warrant in its possession was a proper blank and not merely a portion of a blank. The Colonist was making positive statements and should have taken care to see an important matter like this was "all right." There is "only one construction" to be put on that matter. The Colonist defies us (an amusing and almost chronic habit of the Colonist) to contradict this statement:

"We pronounce as wholly false the assertion that the blank warrants were sent up to the Lieutenant-Governor with the expectation that he would sign them inadvertently."

We shall not contradict it; we shall ask the Colonist to prove its statement; that will do quite well. We might defy the Colonist to contradict the statement that the inference is quite clear those blank warrants were sent up through no mistake or oversight, but to catch His Honor napping. The Colonist has totally failed to show they were not sent up for an improper purpose.

Yesterday the Colonist said: "Mr. Turner says that so far as he knows no blank warrants were ever sent to the Lieut.-Governor." This morning the Colonist says positively: "Several blank forms were included among others sent to the Lieut.-Governor for signature, and the Governor cut them out." Here we have a contradiction of the flattest. The Colonist lets the cat out of the bag properly this time. Blank forms, then, were sent to His Honor, the Colonist admits, "but His Honor did not know what they were for." The plot thickens, indeed; we shall get at the bottom of this unsavory scandal if the Colonist keeps on. Remember, the Colonist is still Mr. Turner's mouthpiece, and what he says through it the Colonist backs up, why then this unfortunate and fatal contradiction? The fact is, as few people can fail to see, both are at their wits' end for a plausible explanation; the Colonist tries to cheat the public by publishing a fragment of blank warrant, leaving out the principal part of the whole affair, and clumsily attempts to excuse itself by saying the blank form in its possession did not contain the omitted portion. The value of that excuse the public can judge for themselves when we tell them that the form can be obtained in Vol. II., Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1897, as it appeared in the Times last evening. The Colonist has access, we presume, to that interesting volume. Our contemporary's string of gratuitous insults to His Honor this morning will be appreciated at its true value by the citizens. His Honor knew well what the insertion of the blanks meant. Had he not done so we should never have heard anything about them. We warned Mr. Turner in a friendly way to prohibit the Colonist from laying its ten thumbs on this subject. Had he taken our advice he would be a happier man to-day.

THE TREBLE REASON.

If the Montreal Star would only take the trouble to read the correspondence between His Honor and Mr. Turner, and between the Messrs. McInnes and Mr. Turner it would not have to print things like this:

"A lieutenant-governor should not permit a government to stay in power which has lost his confidence, nor should he permit one to stay there which he believes to have lost the confidence of the people. But he ought to have exceedingly good reasons for either the withdrawal of his own confidence or his belief in the withdrawal of public support."

Lieut.-Governor McInnes did not permit the Turner ministry to stay in power for the treble reason that it had lost his confidence, lost the confidence of the public and was beyond question corrupt and dishonest. If any reasonable man will read that letter of His Honor to Mr. Turner in which he closes the correspondence, he will find therein "exceedingly good reasons" both for the withdrawal of his own confidence and his belief that the public had withdrawn their support. But if the aforementioned reasonable man happen to know something about the public record of the Turner ministry, say the company-mongering scandal, he will feel inclined to smile at the extremely cautious poising of the Montreal Star. Our eastern contemporary says the whole matter should be cleared up. No further clearing up is necessary, but if further investigation is desired, by all means let us have it, for it can result only one way—the convincing of people who still affect to believe that the Turner ministry have been harshly dealt with, that the right course was taken. Further scrutiny of this affair will completely bury the Turner administration; for it is well understood the whole story of their practices has not yet been told. The Star says: "It is a grave matter for a lieutenant-governor to dismiss a government because he does not like its advice." What language is this? Had His Honor retained that government, knowing them then to be what everybody now knows them to have been, he would have done an infinitely graver thing, not only for British Columbia, but for Canada. His Honor would have made himself an accessory, a companion in guilt, an accomplice with those men; together they might have "run" the province for their own benefit for years longer; leagued with Mr. Turner and his band His Honor and they could have accomplished any crime against the people. That he had the moral courage to take the course he has taken is matter for pride and congratulation throughout Canada. Abuse and misrepresentation have been poured out against His Honor by newspapers which shut their eyes to facts and stop their ears to evidence and howl: "Give us Barabbas! Give us Barabbas!" Eastern Canadian papers may rest assured of one thing—the opinion of the vast majority of the people of British Columbia is that Lieut.-Governor McInnes did the right thing, but not a day too soon.

ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Trying to defend its weather-vane attitude on federal party lines in provincial politics the Colonist says: "Only a fool never changes his mind." That won't do as a working and enduring axiom, even although it was uttered by Bismarck. We have known some fools who changed their minds almost as often as some other fools changed their allegiance to their country and back again. A better saying for the Colonist under the circumstances would have been: "Happy the fool who has no mind to change." Our chameleon contemporary holds to what it said previous to the defeat of the Turner ministry, and also holds to what it said after British Columbia's deliverance from that choking incubus, but we fear the Colonist, in attempting to ride those two wild and antagonistic steeds, will meet the fate of Humpty Dumpty. By what system of reasoning does the Colonist arrive at the conclusion that "the party which the Times supports is chiefly to blame for there being no help for it but to adopt those party lines, on account of the way things are shaping themselves"? A nice statement to come from a paper that says in one breath: "Down with party lines," and in the next: "Hooray for party lines." Let the Colonist try to be consistent and state where it does stand on the party lines question. If it comes out now in a manly way for party lines we shall have no quarrel with it for an honest change of opinion; but if it continues to attempt the feat of blow-hot-blow-cold all in one we shall have no recourse but to join in the general laugh at our contemporary's grotesque style of foolishness.

ABOUT TO BOIL OVER.

In a very short time a case will come on for hearing in the courts that will provide a subject for more than the proverbial nine days' wonderment, and will demonstrate to the people of British Columbia that the Colonist was, to say the kindest thing, misinformed when it declared repeatedly that the integrity of the departments under the Turner regime was unassailable. The case will be concerned with the manner in which the public lands of this province have been administered under the Subsidy Act, and we promise the public there will be plenty of interesting disclosures. It has been alleged over and over again that favoritism has been shown to large corporations and that the stipulations laid down by the legislature have been totally ignored by the government and the departments. This case we speak of is to be an endeavor to prove those charges. Something very like chaos is also alleged to have reigned under the Turner administration in the most important departments of the service, and the case soon to be heard in the courts will show whether there was anything in that allegation. Revelations, we are informed, will be made that will make the disclosures of improper conduct on the part of the Turner ministry in their capacity as advisers to the crown, look commonplace by comparison. It is freely alleged that under the Turner administration many of the officials were their own law-makers, and that the most objectionable kind of collusion existed between government and officials. It will be a blessing to British Columbia to have daylight let into the subterraneous operations of the Turner government. If they were honest men we all want to see them honorably acquitted. The coming case in court will settle a great deal that is now doubtful.

AGAIN THE BLANK WARRANTS

Let the public beware of our artful contemporary when it sharpens its pencil for another whack at the blank warrants scandal. It is about as trustworthy there as a certain personage was when he swore against Queen Victoria and wanted the American eagle to cuddle him under its wings, and he wouldn't have anything to do with the blankety-blank Britishers, not he—until the aforesaid spiteful fowl put a claw through his self-esteem and he howled again for "the meteor flag of England" to shelter him. We never read anything more impudently specious and illogical than the several middle feet in the yard-and-a-half leading article of insults to His Honor and Hon. F. Carter-Cotton in the Colonist this morning. Is this not gorgeous and in the turn-coat's very latest style?

"It did not imagine that anyone was capable of suspecting that Mr. Turner, a gentleman who, for twelve years had filled the office of finance minister, handling millions of money without giving rise even to the faintest breath of scandal, and who for nearly two score years had been prominent in the business world, and enjoyed a reputation for most sterling honesty, would be guilty of any design to pervert a dollar of the public money from the use for which it was intended, or handle a dollar of it in any other than the regular constitutional way."

What would Victoria be without the Colonist as it is now run? We shiver to contemplate the sober and laughterless void its disappearance would leave. The person who is writing those blank warrant articles in the Colonist's editorial page is either unaware of the main point connected with them, or, what is perhaps nearer the mark, is trying to the utmost of his admirable, if somewhat low, cunning, to conceal it from the public. It will be noted in the blank form that the wording runs thus: "—— for issuance of a warrant granting authority to —— to expend the following sums," etc. Now the point is, and we shall ask the Colonist to explain it, that the warrant is clearly for money to be spent, not for money that has been spent or expenditures already incurred. That is the great thing to remember. Now, we have already drawn attention to the fact that before the government attempted to secure His Honor's signature for the $15,000 in Cassiar, that sum and more had already been incurred without authority, a direct and most serious breach of the constitution. Can the Colonist help us to clear our mind of the suspicion that the purpose for which those blank warrants were sneaked in among others for signature was that the amounts so incurred might be squared off in something like official form, and nobody (including His Honor, who it was hoped would inadvertently sign them), would be any the wiser? So far the Colonist has made a ludicrous mess of this affair, and has earned not only the ridicule of the public, but the unqualified curses of the Turner government for its splay-footed handling of a subject too much for its whirligig ideas of consistency. No wonder Mr. Turner has decided to take a change of air.

THE EVER PRESENT EVIL.

On Thursday evening the Times published a letter from a correspondent who dealt forcibly with the labor question in its aspect towards the unfair competition with the Chinese workers. The subject is one that is perennially fresh, and that calls for most earnest consideration. So long as our white workmen and white workwomen have to suffer from that unjust competition so long should the voice of the reformer be heard calling the people and government to a sense of duty towards the white toilers, who need the law's kindliest protection and care. The white workmen here has quite enough to bear without the added handicap of competition with what is practically slave labor. A few instances that have come under our own observation may prove interesting. Some days ago a laboring man who had tried for some time to carry on a small business on his own account in this city, applied for a piece of land upon which he desired to settle with his family. He frankly told the officials that he was forced to do this by Chinese competition. He found himself quite unable to compete with the Chinese in his particular business unless he could bring himself to live like the Chinese, and this he could not do. "I don't want to leave the country," he said, "and if I can only get this bit of land and raise enough to keep us from starving I'll be thankful." When he went out one of the officials remarked: "That's the way with those fellows; they are always grumbling about the Chinese. Why, what would British Columbia be to-day had it not been for the Chinese?" Now, this official draws a handsome salary, paid for out of the taxes collected from white laboring people in British Columbia, and if any proposal were made to him to suffer a smart cut in his pay the whole country from Belle Isle Strait to Nootka Sound would quiver with the racket. Here is another case: A certain official in another department of the public service wished to have repairs done to his house, and he consulted a working carpenter and joiner to see what it could be done for. The workman said the job would take a couple of weeks and would cost at the rate of $2.50 a day. The official, whose salary is not a lean one (also paid out of taxes paid by the people) was indignant. This is how he discoursed to a friend: "Did you ever hear the like? I don't know what those fellows (a workingman who asks a white man's wage for doing private work for a fat-salaried official is always a 'fellow') are coming to. I only wish the Chinese could do carpentering work, I'd precious soon put a gang of them on my place and defy those fellows." Still another case: A large manufactory in the city employs Chinamen to make the goods it sells; the Chinamen are rapidly becoming expert, and owing to the low wages they are willing to accept, are supplanting the men and girls formerly employed. Soon the entire force, with the possible exception of the foremen, will be Chinese. But mark the folly of this policy; the same fate will fall upon that firm that fell upon the Dundee jute manufacturers as a result of their folly in instructing the Hindoos how to prepare the raw material. No sooner did the black fellows master the trick than they started factories of their own, produced an article every way equal to the Dundee article, but selling at a price simply unapproachable by the Dundee firms. Result—Dundee knocked out of what had been practically a monopoly for years. What is to prevent the Chinese starting manufactories here and turning out the same goods as the white manufacturers, but at a cost the white seller cannot touch? Indeed, there is good cause for alarm at the insidious undermining of white labor by the Chinese. Look at the Hawaiian Islands where the Chinese have actually secured a monopoly of the fishing round the coasts, and no white fishermen dare cast a net unless employed by one of the Chinese companies. Where are all the pretty Hawaiian damsels who used to sell nosegays and button-hole bouquets of sweet flowers about the sunny streets of Honolulu, or vend fruits and confections along the beaches? All gone; starved out of it by the Chinese. How is it there are so many white people in actual want in Honolulu and elsewhere in the Hawaiian Islands, where peace and plenty used to reign? The Chinaman, who can work all day on water, air and rice, has done it. British Columbia will have to put vigorous hands on this question some day. If the Chinese were not here the country would not only get along just as well but infinitely better.

Some imaginative correspondent has been misinforming the Canadian Gazette, London, England, and making that paper say that the report of the royal commission appointed to enquire into the working of the lands and works department exonerates the officials and declares that the charges made by the Victoria Times are not supported by evidence. The report did nothing of the sort and declared nothing of the sort. It could not on the evidence; and the best evidence that the report was by no means favorable to the department is the fact that the Turner organs dropped the subject like a hot brick immediately after the report was made public. Had the report been as the Canadian Gazette has been misinformed they would be howling themselves hoarse over it yet.

When doctors disagree who is to decide? The great constitutional authority of the Colonist is flatly contradicted by the still greater authority of the Wellington Enterprise, who says: "We would like the Colonist to cite the constitutional authority for its statement 'that as Mr. Semlin did not make the granting of a dissolution precedent to his acceptance of office it is now too late for him to ask for one.' For our part, we are in a positon to cite authorities exactly to the contrary. If defeated in the house, His Honor is bound to lay his action to the approval, or otherwise, of the electorate. Friend Colonist, you are wrong this time."

Ex-Attorney-General Eberts has served the Times with a writ claiming damages for alleged libel. The public may now learn the reason for Mr. Eberts's "strange delay" in replying to His Honor's charges. The writ does not specify any reason or give a bill of particulars which may come later. "It is understood," says the Colonist, "that the proceeding is based upon the allegations in the Times as to advice given by Mr. Eberts, when attorney-general, to the Lieutenant-Governor."

A total absence of the sense of humor from the composition of the Colonist is the cause of its serious attitude towards that ridiculous yarn about Esquimalt from the Vancouver correspondent of the London Daily Mail. The Colonist never sees a joke unless there is a ticket on it reading: "Please laugh here."

THE LE ROI OUTPUT.

Three Hundred and Fifty Tons a Day to Be Produced in Future.

The force of miners has been almost doubled at the Le Roi during the last 24 hours, says Thursday's Rossland Miner, and commencing with this morning's shift about 225 men will be working in the mine. To-day there are 21 machine drills at work.

The mine, both on the surface and in the subterranean workings, is a scene of great activity, for the Le Roi has commenced to ship 350 tons of ore a day. Of this amount 200 tons will be raised from the mine, and the balance, 150 tons, will be taken from the dump, where an enormous tonnage has accumulated since shipments were last suspended.

The Le Roi has not shipped any ore worth mentioning since the British America corporation became interested in the property, but under the management of W. A. Carlyle, it was extensively developed and much dead work was done. This policy has been followed until to-day and there is an immense amount of ore lying on the dump and blocked out in the mine at various levels. The present rate of shipments will be continued indefinitely.

Catarrh of Ten Years' Standing Cured by Dr. Chase.

I suffered from catarrh for ten years and was treated by some of the best physicians in Canada. I was recommended by Mr. C. Thompson, druggist, Tilsonburg, to try Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure, and caa state positively it cured my catarrh and Catarrhal Sore Throat.

Yours respectfully,
ANNA A. HOWEY.

J. D. Phillips, J.P. Eden, Ont.
Witness.