THE SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Discuss Necessities of City Education Department for the Current Year.

A New High School Needed but Matter Postponed for the Present.

At the meeting of the school board last evening the estimates for the year were agreed to. These make the demand for education for 1899 slightly greater than during last year. Another subject of interest was the discussion of the proposal to secure for Victoria a high school building that would be a credit to the city. This latter, however, did not come to a vote.

There were present Chairman McMicking, Mrs. H. Grant, Mrs. M. Grant, Messrs. Marchant, McCandless, Belyea, and Lewis Hall.

Before proceeding to business, the chairman announced that he had drafted the committees for the year as follows:

Finance—Trustees Marchant, Hall and Mrs. H. Grant.

Buildings and Grounds—Trustees Belyea, McCandless and Mrs. M. Grant.

Supplies and Maintenance—Trustees McCandless, Mrs. H. Grant and Mrs. M. Grant.

Management—Trustees Hall, Belyea and Marchant.

The proposed arrangements meeting with the approval of the board, they were accordingly adopted.

Dr. Hall thought that the board as a whole should form a committee on legislation, as it had been asked to meet the city council on Monday next to arrange for laying their differences before the council of public instruction at an early date. It was decided that those who could should attend the meeting on Monday.

A communication was read from Beaumont Boggs drawing attention to the necessity of extending the grounds at the Victoria West school, and offering to sell two acres in rear of the school for $2,000. This went to the committee on grounds.

J. St. Clair wrote with reference to the recommendation of teaching boys manual training, and saying that he had been teaching rope splicing and use of tools. Mr. St. Clair offered, if the board would increase his salary, to carry out this work on a larger scale. Referred to management committee.

Superintendent Eaton addressed the board as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Permit met to make the following recommendations for the consideration of the board:

1. That definite limits be assigned to the Spring Ridge district, and that, beginning with the next school year, children within that district be required to attend the Spring Ridge school—provided they do not belong to grades higher than those taught there.

2. That the Kingston street school premises be immediately put in thorough repair, and that a twelve months' first-class certificate be advertised for; duties to begin the first of March next.

3. That, with a view to the introduction of singing as a regular subject of instruction in all classes of the graded schools, the teachers be requested to qualify themselves as soon as possible in the Tonicsolfa system of notation.

4 That a small sum of money be appropriated this year for the purchase of books especially adapted to aid the teachers in their work; the books so purchased to form the nucleus of a pedagogical library which may be enlarged from year to year by similar appropriations by the board.

5. That permission be sought from the council of public instruction to conduct the lowest division in each of the two central schools, for the remainder of this term, on the "half-time" plan. That is, to have one part of the division attend school in the forenoon only, and the remainder in the afternoon only. The trial is worth making as an experiment in educational economics. It is quite certain that under such an arrangement the pupils of these classes would make better progress than is possible under the present conditions; and perhaps better than under any plan of full day attendance. Besides, no other satisfactory way of relieving these two over-crowded class rooms seems available.

This was passed on to the committee of management for their investigation, pending the preparation of the annual estimates.

The superintendent was of opinion that the matter of the condition of the two lower schools should be attended to promptly. If the primary divisions could be treated as proposed it would mean a very great saving. He saw no way out of the difficulty except by the method pointed out.

For the information of the board Mr. Eaton stated that he had appointed Miss Marchant as substitute teacher during the absence of Miss Christie.

In committee of the whole the matter of the estimates were taken up for discussion.

Trustee Belyea moved that for the approaching year the amount for teachers' salaries be set down as $38,000, which would be an increase of about $2,000, made necessary by the need of additional teachers. This was passed, as also $1,800 for salary of the superintendent. Three thousand dollars will be asked for janitors, the slight increase being caused by additional help, as well as augmentation of some of the present salaries. For fuel the estimate was $1,000, being an increase of about $500; $1,200 was set aside for board expenses, which was less by $200 than the previous year; printing and advertising, $200; furniture, $900; school supplies, $400; repairs and alterations, which last year were $1,685, this year are set down at $1,600; fire insurance, $300; miscellaneous, including telephones and scavenger work, was set down at $500. Trustee Belyea here raised the question as to whether the telephones in schools were a necessity. It was pointed out that in case of fire or accident they were of great benefit. It was the consensus of opinion that in view of the short school hours, and that for two months every year the schools are closed, the board should get a lower rate for the instruments in use. Three hundred and fifty dollars for outstanding accounts was also put on the list. This makes the total estimate for the present year $49,250.

Trustee Belyea moved that $25,000 for estimated extraordinary expenditure, to erect a building for high school purposes, be asked for. He pointed out that the present building was simply an apology for a building, and it was impossible to have a school of the status that a high school should occupy in the old building. The board had the ground and they ought to own a building with equipment of the standard required. The amount spent by this city for school buildings was very small—there was hardly a city of half the size of Victoria in the Dominion but what had not spent nearly twice as much as this city. Vancouver, for instance, had spent nearly five times as much for buildings. With the relief afforded by a new building it would be possible to make the public schools of Victoria what they ought to be.

Trustee Hall was in favor of adding $2,500 in order to acquire ground at Victoria West, where a new school was required.

Trustee Belyea would not favor the purchase of ground anywhere near the present school in that section, as it was absolutely unsuitable for school purposes. The board might lease some additional ground; it would be wiser to do so, and acquire a first class site when needed. The $25,000 to be asked for, for the high school would include everything necessary to have the school ready for occupancy. It would be a six-roomed school, and would be a credit to Victoria.

Trustee Marchant, while feeling in accord with the idea of providing a proper high school building, was averse to asking for a loan for the purpose. If the board would modify their demand it was possible that a smaller sum might be secured as a starter, with next year an additional amount to complete the building. With a $35,000 surplus as the city council had had last year it was not asking too much for them to grant a portion for such a purpose. If the board had authority to levy, say an additional two mills, this would be a starter and the board would be "able to pay as we go." But until the law was changed it was not advisable to borrow for this purpose.

After considerable discussion it was thought to be inadvisable to make this demand on the city council, particularly until the relative standing of the two bodies as to responsibility had been arranged, and the motion was accordingly withdrawn. During the arguments pro and con Trustee Belyea stated that so far as a site for a school at Victoria West was concerned he could state that there were very desirable sites on the Indian reserve and he was in a position to say that no trouble would be encountered in securing one there.

The committee reported and the estimates as given above were adopted.

The applications for increase in salary were referred to the management committee, while the matter of the balance of supplies not already furnished was passed to the proper committee.

The insurance on buildings was referred to the finance committee.

It was resolved that in future the meetings of the board be held on the second Wednesday in each month and that the board meet the city council on Friday at 11 a.m. as proposed by the mayor.

The board adjourned until Monday at 4:30 to consider the finance committee's report on salaries, etc.

THE SENATE'S VETO.

Sir Charles Says It Has Always Been Endorsed by the Electors.

arrival in Canada from England, was interviewed respecting Sir Wilfrid Laurier's latest political scheme:

"As regards the attack made upon the senate of Canada, and the proposals made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his recent speech at Montreal, I cannot but express my great surprise, notwithstanding the success that he has met with in misleading public sentiment, that any such proposal as that he is committed to would not be regarded as childish in the extreme. The proposal made by Sir Wilfrid strikes at once at one of the great fundamental principles of the constitution of Canada, which was adopted in Confederation, and adopted, not by the public men of one party only, but by the united wisdom of the leading men of the different parties of the Dominion, all of whom were agreed not only as to the mode in which the senate should be appointed, but agreed that the nomination of the crown should be exercised by the government of the day. Any attempt to change this feature of the constitution is an attack upon the constitution itself, without the slightest shadow of ground having been given by the action of the senate for such a proceeding. The guarantee that proportionately the larger number of senators should be sent by the smaller provinces having the smaller population would be entirely swept away, and it is therefore impossible to suppose that any good result should follow from such a puerile proposal as Sir Wilfrid Laurier has committed himself to. The constitution of Canada rests upon an act of the Imperial parliament, passed for the express purpose of carrying out the fully considered views of all the sections of the country, and, as I have said before, of men representing both the political parties in Canada, and under the circumstances, affording as it does a guarantee for the influence of the smaller provinces, it would be impossible that the Imperial parliament should for a single moment consider any proposal emanating from Canada unless it had the support of a majority of the House of Commons, a majority of the senate, and a majority of all the legislatures of which the Dominion of Canada is composed. Unless that was all previously obtained, it would be practically idle. It was futile to propose a change in one of the great fundamental principles upon which confederation is based.

"Although in the nature of things a party in power for so long a period as the Conservative party would have a considerable preponderance, it is an interesting fact that Mr. Mackenzie, when prime minister of Canada and the head of the Liberal party, was able to carry on a government for five years without meeting with any obstruction on the part of the senate, except on two occasions, on both of which he lived to declare that the senate was right and he was wrong. The true solution of the questions at issue between the Senate and the House of Commons is the well-understood constitutional principle that if a measure desired by the people is rejected by the senate, and on appeal to the people is re-endorsed, the senate must naturally give way and respect that action on the part of the people. But no single case can be shown down to the present moment of the senate having taken a stand in opposition to the government of the day in which their action did reflect the opinions to a large majority of the people of Canada, and until some such question can be raised, it would be idle on merely party grounds to raise the question of striking a blow at one of the fundamental principles upon which confederation has been established."

VANCOUVER AND VICINITY.

Brass Lumps for Gold Nuggets—Steamboats Not Cutting Rates.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Jan. 24.—Steamboat companies operating from Vancouver have not cut rates as reported in Seattle.

A smooth Yankee has been selling small lumps of brass as genuine gold nuggets in Vancouver. The jewellery stores pronounced on several of these nuggets to-day. Davidson Bros. reported that two were brought to them.

Purser Richards, of the steamer Manauense, reports that Captain Edwards has been obliged to leave for the States owing to complications arising out of evidence given by him in a recent trial.

KLONDIKE THIS WINTER

Recent Estimate Is That Thirty Millions in Gold Will Be Taken Out.

Scandalous Neglect by the Postal Authorities Works Great Hardship on Miners.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

T. H. Hebb, partner of Alex. McDonald, and one of the most successful men in the entire Alaska country, returned last week. He was one of the last to leave Dawson, bringing advices up to December 22. He lives in Tacoma, and after spending a few hours in this city, went to his home, where he gave the Tacoma correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer much valuable information.

The immense production of Dominion creek, he says, is proving the sensation of the winter at Dawson. Dominion has jumped into prominence as a gold producer of the first rank, excelling Bonanza and equalling Eldorado. Its claims are not as rich as a limited number on Eldorado, but this is more than made up by its greater length. Dominion and Eldorado creeks together will produce over $10,000,000 at the spring clean-up.

A conservative estimate places the winter output of the Klondike at $30,00,000 or more, doubling the output of last winter.

The productiveness and extent of the bench claims are still the wonder of the camp. The benches on all the leading creeks are proving rich this winter, some marvellously so. Probaly not to exceed half of the rich benches in the district have yet been staked and recorded. Here lies the opportunity of the claimless Klondikers now inside, as well as those who go in this spring. Only the benches of the most prominent creeks have been staked, and here, as a rule, not over two or three tiers of claims beyond the creek claims have been staked. The ground above the last claims staked is rich for an indefinite distance.

DAWSON'S CONDITION.

The report published in a Seattle evening paper that the Klondike was full of sick and disheartened men on December 21, and the situation worse than at any times last year, is greatly exaggerated. At that time the typhoid fever had nearly disappeared, though there were a few cases of malarial fever in the Dawson hospitals, and not six, as the paper mentioned. During the week of December 21 Dawson doctors said that there was less sickness there and fewer deaths than at any previous time last year. There were about forty cases of scurvy in the hospitals, a much fewer number than last year, and a condition not surprising in a camp of 20,000 men, where green vegetables are practically unknown.

The disheartened men in the camp consisted of several dozen scores of men unfitted for prospecting, who had not picked up fortunes as easily as they expected, and were anxious to get out. Their number was surprisingly small compared to the total number of miners and prospectors. Two or three dozen of these men had called on American Consul McCook and asked for aid to get outside. The consul had no funds at his disposal. An outgoing Klondiker had volunteered to carry letters from Consul McCook to Washington. It was understood that he was sending to Washington a detailed statement of the situation with a request that relief funds be placed at his disposal for use when absolutely necessary.

MAIL SERVICE SCANDALOUS.

The Yukon mail service is in a scandalous condition, so far as Dawson mails are concerned. Dawson has not received mail through regular channels of later date than September. The last mail arrived there in October. There ought not to have been a delay of over two weeks on account of the Yukon freezing. Nevertheless Dawson mails are tied up at Lake Tagish and this side. When Mr. Hebb passed Tagish two weeks ago there were ten tons of mail tied up there. The mounted police told him that the mail was piling up rapidly, and neither the Canadian mail contractor nor his carriers had yet appeared to carry mails above Tagish. The police said they had nothing to do with the mail, and were not carrying it from station to station, as had been supposed outside. Mr. Hebb thinks that if the mail service were turned over to the mounted police, and extra pay given them, they would inaugurate a satisfactory service. Each detachment of police would then forward it thirty miles to the next station. A carrier with official mail and one or two sacks of civilian mail was passed by Mr. Hebb at Little Salmon about January 1. Mail Carrier Humes, of Seattle, was passed at Bennett carrying American mail for Circle. To Dawsonites the worst part of the distressing mail situation is the utter indifference of both the American and Canadian governments to the wants of their subjects in the interior. The dissatisfaction is general among the 20,000 men in the Klondike. So entirely disgusted have they become that they refused to even longer petition for a respectable mail service. The conditions were similar last winter. Excuse was then made that there had not been time to arrange for a good service. They promised then that during the summer these details would be fully attended to and that this winter mail would be carried both ways every two weeks.

NEW RULES EXPECTED.

It is expected among Dawson officials that the Dominion parliament at its next session will make rules and regulations for the government of the Yukon district, conferring partial rights of self-government. Dawson will then be incorporated as a city and a step taken to give the town a sewerage system. Fort Selkirk will be the capital of the Yukon district, and there will be located a government similar to that of the Northwest territory at Regina.

Prices of clothing and provisions at Dawson are very reasonable. There are enough provisions in camp to last eighteen months to two years. During the fall speculators secured corners on the sugar, milk, butter and wood markets. Four sets of speculators were concerned, each taking one of these products. Sugar was forced up to a dollar a pound; condensed cream to $36 a case; butter to $2.25 a pound, and wood to $40 a cord. Before Mr. Hebb left all these corners were broken, as the result of the miners bartering among themselves. Those who were overstocked sold to others at fair prices. In consequence sugar had dropped to 40 cents a pound, butter to $1 per pound, and milk to 50 cents a can, or $24 a case. This article is somewhat scarce. Wood had declined to $15 a cord, which is less than the cost of cutting. Prevailing prices are as folows: Flour, $8 per sack; cereals, beans, 15c.; fresh beef 30 cents.; canned meats and canned vegetables, 50 cents per can. The evening before he left, Mr. Heb spent with Ezra Meeker. The latter had sold his vegetables, etc., and was coming out in February.

BIG OUTPUT EXPECTED.

Counting the production of Eldorado and Dominion at $10,000,000 or over, Mr. Hebb estimates that at least $20,000,000 more will be produced by Bonanza, Hunker, Bear, Sulphur and Quartz creeks, together with their numerous tributaries and benches. Dominion's rich ground comprises eighty-five claims, about eight and one-half miles, extending from 15 above upper discovery to 20 below lower discovery. The rich dirt is quite evenly distributed for the entire distance. The pay streak is from 60 to 200 feet wide and bedrock is 18 feet below the surface. The gold is found on bedrock and in the gravel from 2 to 4½ feet above. The creek is very easy to work because the gravel contains less rock than Bonanza or Eldorado. Bedrock produces as high as $100 to the pan. It is believed that the ground will average 15 to 20 cents per pan for the entire eight and one-half miles. These rich claims will produce $25,000 to $500,000 each before they are fully worked out. The best claims are No. 1 above upper discovery, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 20, 24, 27, 33, 34, 35 and 36 below upper discovery, and Nos. 4, 7, 8, 12, 13 above lower discovery, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 below lower discovery. No. 33 below upper discovery is one of the very richest. Prices of Dominion claims have doubled and trebled since this winter [illegible] ments have shown their richness. No. 4 below upper discovery was sold by Harry Ash in December for $100,000. Joseph Beck, formerly a young blacksmith at Old Tacoma, was negotiating to sell No. 1 above upper discovery for $75,000. Last June $80,000 cash was paid for claims No. 3 and 4 above upper discovery, and $75,000 was refused for No. 31 below upper discovery. These were exceptional prices at that time. This winter's output will come from the creeks named in the foregoing and their tributaries.

OTHER PROMISING CREEKS.

The folowing are small tributaries of Bonanza, which, with their branches, have proven exceedingly rich by this winter's development: Victoria, Adams, Boulder, Fox, Magnet, Monte Cristo, Seventeen, Forty-nine. Though these gulches were staked a year ago, their value remained unknown until this winter.

Mr. Hebb does not advise men to go to the Klondike to seek work, because there are practically enough laborers there now. He believes that ample opportunities for prospecting remain, particularly on the more distant benches. He was one of the creek claim owners who eighteen months ago laughed at the men who began digging holes in the side hills, resulting in the discovery of the benches. Now the bench claim owners are doing the laughing, because their claims, in many instances, are richer than the creek claims.

Mr. Hebb is a Nova Scotian, about 38 years old. In the spring of 1897 he and J. Johnson were grubstaked by George Osgood, jr., the latter to receive one-third of the claims they secured during the first year. It was a lucky stroke for Mr. Osgood. Hebb and Johnson reached Dawson in June, 1897. They now have interests in forty to fifty claims, including partnerships with Alexander McDonald in five or six. Between 160 and 170 men are now working on the claims in which they are interested. Mr. Hebb has the prevailing modesty of the successful Klondiker and prefers to say nothing about himself other than he is "satisfied." He is the picture of health and had not a sick hour during his two years on the Yukon. He has never, while there or previously, drank a glass of liquor or smoked a cigar. He will go east for a short trip and start north over the ice in February. Next fall he will be out again.

THE FARALLON'S REPORT.

Seattle, Jan. 24.—The steamship Farallon arrived early this morning from Lynn canal ports, bringing a few passengers from Dawson. Among these is the Hower-Rudis party, which left Dawson December 18, and brings out about $50,000 in gold dust. Members of this party confirm reports of sickness, but say many cases of scurvy and pneumonia are in existence, but few deaths have occurred. Howey states that just before leaving Dawson he visited various hospitals, and those in charge he learned that there was not within 10 per cent. as much sickness as during the summer.

A beef war is on in Dawson, to the great delight of the residents of the mining metropolis. Early in the season the butchers formed a combine and raised the price of beef from 50 to 60 cents per pound. Since that time a large number of cattle have arrived and the butchers find that the amount of frozen beef on hand exceeds the demand at 60 cents per pound. They realized they would have a surplus on hand which would spoil when spring opened in May or two on the quiet were selling beef below the combine price, and Pat Galvin immediately broke from the combine and is selling beef at 30 cents, and says he will continue to sell at 35 cents less than any firm in Dawson. The price among all butchers was 30 cents when this party left, and they say there are good chances that it will be lowered.

Idle men still swarm in and around Dawson and many are in destitute circumstances, being without money and provisions. Many of this class are men who were well supplied with provisions on their arrival and have been working claims on lays and lost both time, money and provisions and are now unable to secure work. The other class of destitutes are those who arrived at Dawson bringing neither money nor provisions. The question of taking care of the destitute was being discussed. Commissioner Ogilvie stated that he had funds for another purpose, but in case of urgent necessity it could be used to keep them from starving.

O'Donnell creek is the scene of a new strike and has caused a stampede from Hills creek. The new strike is above Allen, and when the news reached that place in the evening, by midnight a rush was on. Parties returning from the scene of the new strike say there are no supplies there.

The Farallon brings fifty tons of halibut from Ketchican, which will be shipped to Boston and New York.

THE RICHEST MAN IN AUSTRALIA.

Many newspapers have already quoted from the London Times its narrative of the life of James Tyson, the richest man in Australia, who lately died and left a fortune of £5,000,000. That is not very much for an American, but in Australia it is considered to be positive affluence. Tyson was an Australian by birth, who began life in poverty, and made all his money in buying cattle and sheep. He that he began and in that he ended, devoting himself to it to the obsolute exclusion of all other concerns and interests. He knew nothing about spending money, and was as indifferent to luxuries as our own Russel Sage. He wore cheap ready-made clothes, lived frugally, avoided society, and remained unmarried. But according to his lights he had fun. His fun was the cattle business, and what he called "fighting the desert." His money did not seem to interest him. Once he said, "The money is nothing; it is the little game that was the fun." And being asked what the little game was, he answered:

"Fighting the desert. That has been my work. I have been fighting the desert all my life, and I have won! I have put water where there was no water, and beef where there was no beef. I have put fences where there were no roads. Nothing can undo what I have done, and millions will be happier for it after I am long dead and forgotten."

Tyson seems to have been the modern millionaire reduced to his simplest terms. The chief end of millionaires, after they get the few millions which they require to make them comfortable, is to bestow their surplus in such a manner that it will grow. It seems hard to do that successfully without incidentally promoting the comfort and well-being of one's fellows. The "little game" is a good game; so good, indeed, that the players are always in some danger of getting over-interested in it and forming too many of the combinations called "trusts." It may be necessary presently to put a limit to it. How would it do to proclaim that when a man has played it until he has won five hundred millions he shall keep five per cent. of his winnings, and the rest shall be put back into the general pool and the cards reshuffled?—E. S. Martin, in Harper's Weekly.

HUMORS OF SPEECH AND PEN.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It is always interesting, and sometimes instructive, to listen to the blunders in speech made by others. In the club or drawing room, on the streets, even in churches, we often find the meanings of words hopelessly confused, or the words themselves clipped and altered almost out of all recognition. The English language seems to afford boundless opportunities, to those who possess that dangerous gift of a little knowledge, for ludicrous interchange and misapplication. Here are a few specimens of such blunders that have come within the experience of the writer.

Two old students of politics—their name is legion—came together one morning upon the street. Naturally, they were suspicious of the government and exceedingly anxious for their country, like so many of their so little-known class. "It's a bad state of affairs," said whitebeard number one, gloomily. "As bad as it can be," agreed number two, with alacrity. The two white heads nodded together ominously. "There must be war," quoted one. "Ah! you're right. We can never escape this time," croaked the other. "Let me see," said number one, working a tremulous hand toward his coat-tail pocket; "let me see what the daily paper procrastinates!"

Lawyers, as well as doctors and the clergy, frequently have amusing tales to tell. A Canadian barrister is responsible for the following: One day a farmer came into his office and requested that a holograph will should be prepared for his signature. The lawyer began at once to explain terms, but the tiller of the prairie, who prided himself not a little upon his legal knowledge, only grew angry. "I want a holograph will," he declared; "and I'm going to have it," he added in parenthesis. When the impossibility of his request was pointed out, he angrily stumped from the office, shouting out, "D—— it! If I can't have a holograph will, I'll blamed well die intestine!"

As a good example of a thorough and hopeless perversion of words, the following would be difficult to beat. An illiterate tradesman had recently taken his seat upon the town council. He was an ambitious man in his way, and doubtless looked forward to the time when he would rise from alderman to mayor, and thence to the dizzy heights of parliamentary fame. However, he bided his time and restrained the natural flow of eloquence that he felt so certain that he possessed. One day debate ruled high at a meeting of the council, until it finally reached the point—which we believe did not create a precedent—one a somewhat free exchange of uncomplimentary personal remarks. During a momentary lull our friend felt that the time had come for him to arise and shine. He did arise, and he did shine, though perhaps not in the manner he intended. "Gentlemen and ladies," he commenced, and then checked himself. "I mean, gentlemen. Sometimes I'm on the negatur side. Sometimes I'm on the firmatur side. But to-night I'm wice-wercy."

A gentleman was burdened with a very profligate son. Speaking to his vicar concerning him on one occasion, he used some such words as these: "I wish you would speak to my son, and see if you can influence him in any way. He's turning out a regular scrapegoat." The clergyman, who was a keen etymologist, was far more pleased with the expression than with the idea of reclaiming the prodigal. The word intended was scapegoat, the meaning of which the speaker confused with scapegrace—the word he would have used. He was acquainted with both words. For proof, notice how the r of scapegrace crept into the meaningless expression scrapegoat, while no such letter occurs in scapegoat—a very curious instance of mental inversion.

Quite as strange an instance of word confusion owing to derivation was given by an Italian gentleman who was not very conversant with the English language. A friend called upon his host, and when he had left the foreigner sat for some time in silence, evidently deep in thought. At length he remarked that the gentleman who had just departed was a "doggy" man. He was asked for an explanation, as no association of genus homo with genus canis is accepted in this country as a compliment. Thereupon it transpired that the meaning intended by the Italian was "cynical." He had heard the word used in its proper sense, but when he tried to recall it, nothing but the derivation occurred to his memory.

The two following confusions of meaning are of the bank holiday order. Errors belonging to this class are sufficiently numerous, for most people must have noticed that the average costermonger or laborer never seems to care what words he may use in expressing himself, so long as his meaning is grasped. In the gardens of the Zoological Society a couple were standing before a cage of hyenas, while the man was commenting upon the habits of the beast for the benefit of the woman who hung to his arm. Inspired by the knowledge and eloquence of her swain, the young woman began to crack her lip for original ideas with which to confront him. Presently one—the natural feminine idea—came. "Bill!" she exclaimed, "what 'av these 'ere to do with marriage?" "Why, naught, you silly," retorted Bill unpolitely. "They 'ave," she returned, triumphantly. "When a couple are be-in' spliced, we—'ears 'em talk of the hyenal altar."

The sands of Margate are indirectly responsible for this: Father, mother and family were about to be photographed by one of the itinerant beach fiends, when one of the olive branches, in fear perhaps of the machine, fled away and hid herself in a hot nettle. The chase waxed long, for the urchin was blessed with sturdy legs, and the mother's skirts impeded her. At length even father, who was indulgent to a fault at holiday times, lost patience, or perhaps he was reminded by the photographer that his delay would entail an expenditure of extra coppers. "Urry up with the nipper, Maria! 'Ere's the bloke a-waiting with the chimaera!"

Want of sufficient courage to rise to an important occasion is frequently a cause of word blunders, happy or otherwise, while absent-minded fits are responsible for many more. In a certain ancient borough the aldermen met one day at the mayor's house with the object of presenting a silver cradle to the mayoress, who had been blessed with a son during her husband's year of office. The alderman who was to make the presentation was rather a nervous man—just the one, in fact, who might be relied upon to say something out of the way. He succeeded in doing so in his opening words. "We have met together here," he began, "on this suspicious occasion—"One of his confreres pulled him by the coat tails. He looked round and went on more flurried than ever: "I repeat, on this very suspicious occasion—" Here the laughter that could be no longer restrained drowned his utterance. It was rather hard upon the mayoress, for he emphasized the "very" in so pronounced a fashion; but the affair ended, of course, quite pleasantly.

A gentleman in a rural district drew down upon his head a storm of adverse criticism by marrying a second wife shortly after the demise of his first. Two of those good ladies who look generally upon the surface of things, and who are over ready with condemnation, were discussing the disgraceful affair. "Why" my dear, "there's his poor wife hardly cold in her grave, and he goes and marries another." "Dreadful!" declared the other; "I never heard of such a thing." "I should think not, indeed," went on number one, angrily. "Marrying wife after wife like that—why the man's a regular polyglot!"

Marion Crawford is credited with saying that deaths from suicide and deaths from starvation among literary men are more numerous, in proportion to the number of men engaged in such work, than deaths caused by alcohol among those who drink, by nicotine among smokers, and by morphine and similar drugs among those who use them.

Secretary Hay, who was formerly accessible to newspaper men at all hours of the day and night, has changed his habits of late, having found that, like other good-natured people, he was imposed upon by over-zealous news-gatherers. He has now given instructions to his butler to admit no reporters to his home after his return from the state department.

DAWSON'S BEEF SUPPLY

Market Believed to Be Greatly Overstocked and Prices Sadly Coming Down.

Butchers Combine Giving Place to Emulation in Philanthropy Towards the Hungry.

Beef will be cheap in Dawson for many months to come so greatly has the market been overstocked. It is predicted that there are now in the Yukon city at least 700 carcases more than will be consumed for many months. This number will be left over at the time the hot weather of July and August will have arrived, during which beef cannot be preserved.

Already the beef trust which has held sway over the Yukon during the past year is smashed. The combination known as the Associated Butchers has fallen to pieces. There is a war on, a war that has already cut the price of meat in two, and, which, it is believed, will lead to greater reductions. Elkar & Co. have threatened to sell at any price to dispose of their stock, and Pat Galvin, who has 750 carcases, has issued a statement that he will sell at 5 cents per pound less than any other butcher. Even now the wholesale price of sides has gone from 60 cents per pound to 30 cents, and the retail price of loin steak from $1 per pound to 50 cents, with every other kind of cut in proportion.

But these butchers are diplomatic, possessing more suavity than butchers are usually credited with. They are trying to make the public believe that they have named the price to meet the wants of many poor persons unable to purchase meat may now find it within their means. For instance, Pat Galvin has published this statement in the Klondike Miner of Friday, December 16:

"The attention of the managers of the Pat Galvin meat market having been called to the destitution of many people here by the committee soliciting aid, they at once contributed $400 in meats for the relief of the poor. They have also been induced by reason thereof to make very important reductions in the price of their meats as an additional method of helping out those people of little resources and to bring the use of fresh meat within the reach of everybody. As the company has over 750 head of beef here and large stores of fresh meat at Stewart river and Fort Selkirk, the importance of their reductions in prices may be properly estimated. About the first of January Mr. Thebo will go out over the ice and return at the earliest posible date with a sufficient suply of meats for all next year. It is probable that the action of these gentlemen will prevent meat or again being sold in Dawson at the high prices now prevailing."

Considering that Pat Galvin has been at the head of the Associated Butchers, and that he could have broken the high prices at any time he chose to do so, this announcement is considered very droll.

Here is another announcement from Hales & Vroom, who now deny that they ever were joined to the beef combine:

"Having secured over 150 head of superior cattle that were formerly in the beef combine, we are now prepared to sell meats as low as the lowest. A visit to our markets will convince you of the truth of this statement. We wish to note that we never belonged to the beef combine, for the very good reason that we do not believe in the cinch methods of doing business or in monopolies. Give us a trial order and you will become a regular customer. We sell all meats at sixteen ounces to the pound. Yours for square dealing, Klondike Market, near the bridge, Klondike and Klondike Market' Moore's hotel building, Grand Forks."

Such is the condition in which the all-powerful meat trust now finds itself. The firms comprising the Associated Butchers were Pat Galvin, the Elkar meat market, the North American Trading and Transportation Company and Pardue & Burns.

"These firms have made thousands and thousands of dollars," said W. M. Rudio, of Long Creek, Or., who came down on the Farallon. "Their prices for beef have been away up beyond the cost of raising meat in, but the trouble has now come, and the trust is broken."

Rudio is a cattleman himself, having taken in 100 head alive over the Dalton trail last summer to Dawson, where he sold at 25 cents per pound wholesale, thereby clearing 15 cents per pound.

"They will throw six or seven hundred carcases in the Yukon river before next fall," continued Mr. Rudio. "The Klondike district consumes about 100 carcases per month, which would make 600 carcases eaten by next August. The remainder cannot be kept, nor can they preserve beef in that country during the hot weather. This will mean an immense loss, especially to Galvin and the North American Transportation Co. At the present prices a carcase of 400 pounds is worth, wholesale, $140, so it may be seen that the loss of 700 head will mean $98,000. But they can stand it, for they have made more money than that.

"Beef has been so high in Dawson, prices being kept up by the combine, that many persons could not purchase it. There is not a great deal of money on the Yukon now. Millions of dollars have been taken out during the summer and fall. Hundreds of persons have been unable to get beef, and have found it necessary to live on canned goods. The reduction has been made because the market is overstocked. All the talk about lowering prices to let the destitute people get something to eat is nonsense. Prices have been reduced because they had to cut. Oh, there's going to be a merry time among those butchers. I wouldn't be at all surprised to learn that meat was being sold for 5 cents per pound in a few months. Already they are selling at wholesale poor beef, black beef, for 10 cents per pound."

The latest price list of the combine was issued October 26, a copy of which Mr. Rudio brought with him. The present prices are just about one-half. The list, which may be of interest to lovers of beef, is as follows:

WHOLESALE.

	Per lb.
Beef, by side	$30 60
Beef, by hind quarters	75
Beef, by fore quarters	55
Heart, liver and tongue	60

RETAIL.

	Per lb.
Beef, loin	$1 00
Beef, trimmed	1 25
Brisket	85
Round, without rump	90
Rump roast	75
Porterhouse steak	1.25
Loin steak	1 00
Round steak	1 00
Chuck steak	75
Hamburg steak	1 00
Prime rib roast	1 00
Chuck roast	75
Shoulder roast	75
Boiling meat	50
Soup Bones	25
Trimmed fore quarters	75

A HIGHER NOTE.

Toronto Mail and Empire.

The expressions which have fallen from Sir Charles Tupper, both in London and in Canada, on political matters sound a higher and better note. Not so long since opposition, as we saw it, partook of the nature of violent attacks upon the country. The opposition leaders felt it to be their duty to oppose every project having Canadian progress in view, to preach blue ruin and depression, to shake public faith in the Dominion, and even to propose measures of an anti-Canadian character in order if possible to attain their ends. Sir Charles is no blue ruin knight. On the contrary, he declares that whether in opposition or in office he is bound loyally to serve his native land, for which he has already done great and useful work.

Sir Charles Tupper's attitude is more like that of the Imperial statesman than that of a Canadian opposition leader of three or four years since. It rises above the personal and selfish in politics, and deals only with the country and the country's best interests. The most thoroughly abused man in Canada, Sir Charles treats his opponents to some coals of fire. He does not abuse them because he is out of office; but treats of his position on the left of the speaker philosophically, recognizing the right of the electorate to do as it pleases, and extends support to the ministers of the day where he thinks they have done well. The observer of political events cannot fail to contrast the treatment Sir Charles accords to his opponents with that which the same men accorded to him. We believe that for downright libel and absolute brutality the assaults upon Sir Charles are without parallel. The present ministers met him on his return to Canada in 1896 to participate in political affairs with a mass of violence, ending in a dastardly accusation that brought their agent, who was personally responsible for the slander, to the door of the gaol. It was the destruction of the character of Sir Charles that these men were after. They wanted to make him appear as bad as the rascals who for years looted the treasury of Quebec and turned the stolen money over to the Laurier campaign fund. Foiled here, the now handsomely subsidized organ in Toronto was set to work to conduct another way a campaign of slander. Thus the country was treated to hideous pictorial representations of the Conservative leader. Sometimes he figured as a burglar, again as a debauchee, frequently as a serpent, and occasionally as an antediluvian monster. It was a wretched business, disgraceful to Canadian politics and journalism, and an insult to the intelligence and good sense of the community. A remarkable commentary upon the assumed virtue which so abusively protested against Sir Charles Tupper is the fact that its exponents should have been caught red-handed at the head of the biggest scandal that ever disgraced the country, and with public property they never earned in their possession. That the attacks which the exploiting elements made upon Sir Charles injured him in the eyes of thoughtful men we do not believe. But they recoil to-day upon their authors, for they serve to force the coal miner grab into relief, and to add hypocrisy to the various evil qualities that distinguish that scandal. While Sir Charles treats his more active enemies with forbearance, and the ministers, particularly those engaged at Washington, with helpful and almost parental consideration, he stands as firmly as ever by the great people of progress. Closely associated for so many years with every step in our advancement as a people, he could not forget the basic doctrine of his party without forgetting himself. His has been a sturdy fight for Canada against great odds. We owe much to him for his struggle for the unification of the old provinces. No other maritime leader could have met the opposing forces with success. There was not one statesman in Nova Scotia with the power of eloquence necessary to the overcoming of the strong objections with which the project was assailed in that province. We owe him a great deal also for his work, in co-operation with Sir John Macdonald, for the acquisition of the North West and British Columbia, and for the establishment of railway communication across the continent. He fought these projects through ably, and his vindication is before him. There is not an opponent of his who is not today a living witness to the wisdom of the course which he and his great colleagues took in these national issues. Nor can the fiscal question does he fail of justification. The most interesting spectacle of the hour is the position of his antagonists, who, afraid to place their own views in operation, have swallowed his in large measure, and are now proving that, so far as they have been retained, they are good.

Sound opinions are advanced by Sir Charles on the leading public questions. He is sound with respect to the second chamber, and sound with respect to trade. From him come no mean racial appeals. He stands for equality of treatment to all classes. But, above all, he is true to his country. "Nothing," he says, "can keep the Dominion back. Her politicians should not consider the manoeuvres of party or the bid for office at any price, but should strive for what is good for Canada."

THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

The Semlin-Martin government has opened the legislature without a financial policy and start in this way shows a lack of statesmanship on the part of its leaders. Money will be needed to carry on the system of public improvements, some of which are in process of construction, and which it will be necessary for the government to complete. In the Lieutenant-Governor's speech from the throne, which contains the policy of the government, there is no well defined scheme for the development of the province in lines suitable to the conditions that exist. The people are left completely in the dark as to what steps will be taken to open new and remote sections, or to further improve those which have already been opened, to the end that those resources that are now undeveloped may be made available. The government seems to have completely ignored, or overlooked, this important subject, when it should have been the main burden of the speech from the throne. In a speech that covers so many subjects, some of which are of little or no importance, it is most astonishing that a matter of such great moment should have been so completely ignored.

Not only has the government been guilty of this important lapse, but its organs, which are its mouthpieces, have observed a sphinx-like silence on the same subject. In a province like British Columbia, where the undeveloped resources form perhaps what would be the principal asset, if the country were to be appraised, it seems incredible that a government which relies on the people for its very being should have been so shortsighted as to