

Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1888.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The debate on the Civil Mission Act yesterday demonstrated the fact that the Opposition, in a vain endeavor to make a political point, are willing to sacrifice anything.

Although delayed for some days in consequence of the blockading of the C.P.R., our Capital letter will prove interesting reading. Others will follow in regular succession during the session of the House.

Mr. Anderson has the only three-syllabled name in the house. There are nineteen two-syllabled names and seven one-syllabled members. Mr. Humphrey's name, like his tongue, is the longest in the house. It contains nine letters. His predecessor, Mr. Morrison Stenhouse's name was also nine letters. The two shortest names are Mr. Orr's and Mr. Fry's.

The gay senator from Soak Creek amused the house yesterday during a fifteen minute lecture on "What I don't know about mining." Repeating phrases and talking about matters he knows nothing of are poor subjects with which to occupy the time of the house, and not calculated to aid his cause. He did really accomplish some good, for he caused the president of the council to make an explanation, and a couple of valuable facts were elicited. But when the senator begins to explain the theory of gases in coal mines, he is slightly off his eggs, and only makes himself ridiculous.

There'll be wig on the ground if Allied, Lillooet, and Grant of Gassy-sh, should collide over Monday's sharp and dry altercation in the house. The verbal combat recalls a correspondence which took place in the California legislature about thirty years ago. Burbank, an honorable member, had made a severe speech reflecting on another honorable member named White. When he sat down a page laid on his desk a note that read as follows:

Burbank—Sir, if you use my name again in debate I'll give you my own desk with my bow-knife.

To which Burbank replied: White—Sir, if you should decide to call upon me with your bow-knife, I would advise you to bring a pocket watch with you to carry away your entrails.

O. BURBANK. White never called.

"GRAVE IRREGULARITIES."

Mr. Beaven "gives an opinion as to an opinion." As one of the members on the public accounts, he thought he had discovered a point, and with his customary industry, who is actuated by some noble motives, endeavored to magnify a molehill into a mountain, and to create an illusion to the person, apart from himself, which he thought a public trust. In his remarks in the house, he only reports on the public accounts, his broad assertion that "irregularities of a very grave nature existed in the treasury department" cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. Any person not acquainted with the circumstances might be misled by the circumstances which appear in this account. It is not surprising that the Minister supervising that department should be brought to light, and that the Minister of Finance would be arraigned. Mr. Beaven's announcement was not only unjust, but it really looked as if it was a mere attempt to divert attention until Mr. Dusk presented to the House the regular report of the committee. Truly Mr. Beaven was for a time quite elated, and assumed a self-satisfied look when he had discovered a slight defect from his fellow members in doing things, which any person but one possessed of a small mind would have passed over, but as all things are admirably suited to his selfish proclivities and congenial to his nature, he grasped at this as a bait upon which to catch the gratification. Apart from the showing of a narrow mind, which allows manliness to play second fiddle to political knavery, no man with an ordinary regard for his position, claiming to be honorable, and unwilling to do an injustice to his fellow man, would attempt to make such an unjustified statement. No member in the house knows the details of the treasury department better than Mr. Beaven, and so far he is well qualified as one of the committee on public accounts to ascertain whether grave irregularities exist or not; but when such accusations, prompted by political proclivities, dominate and act as a spur to his judgment, it is quite probable that it may be warped, and that where party is affected his opinion is worth far less than he would like it to be brought in contact with truth and malice of purpose. Upon inquiry into the cause which led to the sweeping charge made, we find that "grave irregularities" consist in advancing a certain sum to the lands and works department for the purpose of sending an engineer to report on the proposed scheme of the Shuswap and Okanagan railway. Such a proceeding is a common occurrence for the treasury department, and it is quite probable that in this instance it was of paramount importance to have the fullest information in regard to matters affecting the proposed railway, as an act had been passed granting a subsidy of \$200,000, and it was imperatively necessary to obtain a report, and that the government should be acquainted with all matters pertaining thereto. To this end a competent engineer was engaged, and a sum required for immediate expenses was advanced. It is not to be denied that the money was expended, and for what, the vouchers amounting to \$737.95 were handed to the auditor for verification before being

CABLE NEWS.

Chamberlain Refuses a Baronetcy Offered by Salisbury, for Services Rendered in the Sudan.

Sir Charles Ritchie's Local Government Bill for England and Wales.

The Queen Will Visit Florence—Preparations for the Reception of Her Majesty.

A Local Government Bill. London, March 19.—The launching of Mr. Ritchie's local government bill in the house of commons to-night is to be a most striking venture.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. London, March 19.—The House of Commons met at 10 o'clock to-day for the first time since the adjournment of the session.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

TO THE EDITOR.—If I do not misread indications, a "hemp in a tempo" is being woven in the subject of long term school houses.

CHAMBERLAIN REFUSES A BARONETCY.

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WILL NOT COMPROMISE.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

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THE SHORTEST ROUTE.

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WARREN TO READERS.

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