

The Colonist.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1898.

VANCOUVER ACTS PROMPTLY.

Vancouver was prompt in taking steps to relieve the necessities of the sufferers. A relief committee was formed immediately and during the day great quantities of food, blankets and other useful articles were sent over to New Westminster.

Hundreds of Vancouver people visited the scene and the greatest and most practical sympathy was exhibited.

NEW WESTMINSTER'S CALAMITY

The terrible disaster which has befallen New Westminster will wake an expression of profound sympathy from the whole province, and the sympathy will take a practical form as soon as the public know what is needed. The unfortunate people who have seen their homes, their business and their property swept away will, we hope, show themselves superior even to such a calamity. It is too much to hope for the restoration in many years of so beautiful a city as that which has been almost swept out of existence. Among the business blocks destroyed were some that would have been an ornament to any city on the Northwest Coast. Many of the homes were surrounded with those attractions which can only be accumulated in years. Doubtless in many of the dwellings there was much of great value, which money cannot replace. The destruction of so many places of business will interrupt trade seriously. No matter how much of the loss may be covered by insurance, the blow is an extremely heavy one. But we have faith that the people, upon whom it has fallen will prove equal to the occasion, and that from the ashes of their city a new one will arise, which from the outset will compare favorably with the other in energy and enterprise, and in time equal it in substantial and homelike appearance.

It is specially unfortunate that the conflagration should have come almost on the eve of what promised to be a memorable event in the history of the city. The Exposition of 1898 promised to be the most successful ever held and to richly reward the energy displayed by its promoters. We hope they will see their way to still carry out their plans, although they will have much else to think about during the next month. The Colonist speaks for Vancouver Island in extending an expression of heartfelt sympathy to the sufferers and an assurance of liberal help.

THE SAME OLD STORY.

Yesterday the Colonist referred to the admirable manner in which the postal arrangements up North were managed. The Roseland Miner of the 7th inst. shows that the complaints against Mr. Mulock's department are not confined to one locality. Our contemporary says that the business community there is suffering serious inconvenience by reason of the failure of the post office department to make a contract with the Red Mountain railway for the carriage of the mails under the new schedule by which trains run into the city daily including Sunday. The people of Roseland strange to say derive very little comfort from the thought that Mr. Mulock may soon join the noble army of knights. They decline to be comforted by the contemplation of Mr. Mulock's savings. They are foolish enough to think that one object of the post office department is to facilitate the transaction of business, and that its primary object is not to make money out of the necessities of the people. We think we voice public opinion when we say that the people have no desire to see the post office department show a surplus, but on the contrary are prepared to pay for proper accommodation. When the Postmaster-General has grown content with contemplating his own magnificence, he will confer a favor upon the business people of British Columbia if he will turn his attention for a little while in this direction.

THE RECOVERY OF THE SOUDAN

In 1880 the authority of the Egyptian government was at least nominally recognized over the whole vast region between the Mediterranean and the Albert Nyanza, that is through the full length of the Nile valley, and from the borders of Abyssinia at least two-thirds of the way to Lake Tchad. It was an extensive domain, and the government of it called for more than ordinary skill. Looking back over the events which preceded the Mahdist uprising in 1881, it looks as if the progress of events was too strong to be resisted by any one, however masterful. There was discontent in Egypt proper over the weak administration of the Khedive and the grinding taxation made necessary by his useless extravagance. The Sudan chafed under the same burden and discontent there was magnified by the effort put forward by Gordon to suppress the slave traffic. This alienated the Arabs. Nevertheless, as a leader was lacking, there was no threat of open rebellion until in 1881 Mohammed Ahmed proclaimed himself El Mahdi, that is the Messiah, for whose coming all good Mussulmans eagerly looked. At first, there is very little doubt, Ahmed was really inspired by genuine religious enthusiasm. Rauf Pasha, who succeeded Gordon as governor-general of Sudan was not a good living man, and he was surrounded by a very unavailing court. The laws of the Koran were persistently violated and true believers were greatly scandalized. In an ill-adviced moment Rauf Pasha ordered Ahmed to come to Khartoum to give an account of himself, and his command was indignantly dis-

obeyed. Thereupon he sent a small force of soldiers to bring him in, but the Mahdi's friends gathered around him and rebuffed the Egyptian force and killed every man of them. This was the spark which set the Sudan in a blaze. Ahmed at once began to preach a holy war, its object being to drive out of the country the Egyptian rulers, who were living in disregard of the Koran. Thousands of men flocked to his standard, and in December, 1881, he administered a severe defeat to the Egyptian forces. Another expedition, 6,000 strong, was sent against him, and was completely wiped out of existence, all its arms and ammunition being captured and used to strengthen the force of the rebels. For some time Slatin Pasha by his energy held the Mahdi in check, and in September, 1882, Said Pasha administered a severe defeat to the insurgents, but two years after Said was compelled to surrender to the greatly augmented forces of the enemy. Slatin Pasha held out, but in 1883 he, too, had to yield to the now ever-victorious Mahdi. In the latter year Hicks Pasha sallied out from Khartoum with a force of 7,000 men, but they were an undisciplined lot and they were provided with food and transportation. They fell easy prey to the Mahdi, who caught them in the desert, when suffering for water, and wiped them out to the last man. This completed the supremacy of the Mahdi on the west shore of the Nile, and shortly after the Arab chiefs on the shore declared in his favor, so that though the Egyptians continued to control the river itself by means of gunboats, the whole country was in the hands of the rebels. The British government then resolved upon the policy of permitting the Arabs to try the problem of self-government, and a decision was reached to abandon the Sudan, making the second cataract on the Nile and Suakin on the Red sea the southern limit of Egyptian rule. In carrying out this programme the battle of El Teb was fought, where the Arabs suffered their first defeat at the hands of the British. To this followed a long fight at Tannieb, where after a magnificent struggle victory again rested with the British. These two fights settled the question of the lower boundary, and if the garrisons on the upper Nile could have been withdrawn the history of the last few years would have been very different. But the Mahdists have no guarantee that the Egyptian forces would be allowed to return un molested, and General Gordon was allowed to go to Khartoum again in the hope that he could negotiate terms for withdrawal. Gordon seemed to have no other object in view but to get the British to treat with the Mahdi for his submission. Falling in this, he proclaimed the abandonment of the Sudan, and led the few Arab tribes, that had been faithful to the Khedive, to throw off their allegiance, and thus cut off Gordon's retreat. Then followed the attempted relief of Gordon under Wolseley. As will be remembered the advance party of this expedition reached Khartoum just two days after the murder of Gordon, and the object of the expedition having been defeated, Wolseley was recalled. This left the Mahdi supreme, but he did not long enjoy his power, for he died of typhoid fever in the following year, that is in 1886. The reign of his successor the Khalifa has been characterized by almost unexampled cruelty, and not relieved by conspicuous successes. The whole country groaned under his rule and his overthrow will be welcomed by the tribesmen everywhere.

MOMENTOUS DAYS.

The echoes of the war between the United States and Spain had hardly died away, and the curiosity of the nations had not been fully satisfied as to the meaning of the understanding between Great Britain and the first named power, when the world was surprised by the Czar's request for universal disarmament. On the heels of this came the sensational developments in France in connection with the Dreyfus case, and while these were yet fresh word was received of the crushing of the Khalifa's power at Omdurman. We had scarcely congratulatory news was made public of the Anglo-Germanic agreement. Following hard on this was the deposition of Li Hung Chang from his high position in China, and now comes the assassination of the Empress of Austria as a tragic climax to a fortnight of sensations. History has been made rapidly during the last thirty days. The maelstrom of national events seems to be approaching its vortex, so accelerated has the movement become. The wisest statesmen must stand appalled at the outlook. They cannot hope to forecast what even tomorrow may bring forth. There have been no such days within the memory of living men.

A CHANCE TO DO JUSTICE.

Referring to some newspaper, which it alleges said that anarchy exists in British Columbia, and that the people could scarcely be induced if they rose in rebellion against the present government, the News-Advertiser says: "Those who assert that a state of anarchy exists here, that a rebellion would almost be justified, should either prove their assertions or withdraw them. It certainly is not in the interests of the province that such extravagant reports should be made. That they are absolutely without foundation and only the result of bitter disappointment at an unexpected defeat of the clique which for so long did what it pleased with provincial resources, is sufficient to con-

demn those who venture to libel the province and its people in a manner.

It always did make a great difference whose ox was gored. The Colonist is in the heartiest sympathy with this condemnation of those who misrepresent the province in the eyes of the world. It has always taken this position, but it regrets that it has not hitherto had the support of the News-Advertiser. No paper in British Columbia was more persistent in decrying the provincial ministers and the reputation of provincial ministers than our Vancouver contemporary in the days when it was in opposition. It was of little value to point out that the libels to which it gave currency were calculated to hurt the province abroad. For month after month it continued to assault Mr. Turner, his colleagues, and their policy in a manner which, if the News-Advertiser had possessed sufficient standing abroad to make its opinions count for anything, would have completely destroyed the credit of the province. An English divine once said that the surest way to check the growth of skepticism in a clergyman was to make a bishop of him, and it is the working of the same principle which has led our contemporary to see the enormity of its past practices.

But our contemporary ought not to stop at mere conversation. The test of a change of heart, to adopt the phraseology of the prayer meeting, is a change of life. "By their fruits ye shall know them" is a rule full of sound philosophy. There is an excellent means right at hand by which the News-Advertiser can show how sincere it is in its new profession.

No more hurtful statement, so far as the province goes, and certainly none so far as the character of its public men is concerned, has ever been made public than that involved in the allegation of the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to those so-called blank warrants. The Colonist admits that at the outset it regarded the allegation as a minor matter, which would be readily disposed of by the few words of explanation that it then presented. 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 has 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 for the use for which it was intended, or handle a dollar of it in any other than the regular constitutional way. It believed that the reference of the Lieutenant-Governor to the so-called blank warrants was made under excitement and under a full knowledge of the facts, and that as to the inferences which unscrupulous politicians would draw from his language, any other explanation is irreconcilable with his own language, for he speaks of his high esteem for Mr. Turner personally, a feeling which he would hardly entertain for a man who would be a party to a fraud upon the treasury. But it is easy to see the whole matter at once, and the News-Advertiser can do it.

THE NILE CAMPAIGN.

As the correspondents' letter from the Nile are being made public the admirable nature of the Sirdar's plans is being made clear. Every thing was done at the right time and at the right place. If a battalion was instructed to be at a certain point at a certain hour, when the hour came, so did the battalion. The orders were not only to see to getting their men to the designated point. Some one else was looking after other matters, such as the selection and preparation of the camping ground, the taking of the necessary sanitary precautions, the forwarding of supplies. Everything went like clockwork. Hence the men were always in good health and good health. Some sardonic individual, speaking of the advance of the Rifle Brigade up the river, said that the only mistake was that the men were not put on ice in London to be unpacked at Khartoum to their share of the fighting, and then be repacked to be sent back to England. The Board of Trade ought to be studying the efficiency of the Sirdar's arrangements. A general who knows how to look after his soldiers properly, deserves victory and takes one of the surest means of securing it.

A SUBURB OF ESQUIMALT.

The first inclination of most people will be to laugh at the following from the Liverpool Post: "The Daily Mail Vancouver correspondent writes: Big extensions are about to be made at the Imperial dockyard and the fortifications of Esquimalt, the British Columbia headquarters and coaling station of the North Pacific, if now being proposed to absorb for Imperial purposes the whole of Victoria, a suburban village of Esquimalt, the home of some 500 people."

It is not, however, a joke. The stupidity of the man who handled the despatch was a fitting compliment to the maliciousness of the correspondent who sent it. We say stupidity of the man who handled the despatch in the Mail office, for though the Colonist makes no such journalistic claims as the Mail, it would not keep in charge of its despatches a man who had so little knowledge of the geography of the Empire as the passing of such a despatch indicates. The Board of Trade ought to communicate with the Mail immediately upon this subject. The despatch has had not only such great publicity as could be given it in the columns of the paper where it first appeared but it has evidently been copied all over Great Britain. An exposure of the trick played upon the Mail should be at once made.

THE "NATION OF SHEPHERDS."

With a commission in Canada, another in Cuba, a third in Porto Rico, and a fourth about to meet at Paris, it would appear that your Uncle Sam is going pretty heavily into the commission business.—Seattle P. I.

THE NATURAL COURSE.

It is generally understood that no opposition will be offered to the re-election of Hon. Messrs. Semlin, Martin and Cotton, upon their accepting office in the new government as chief commissioner of crown lands, attorney general and minister of agriculture and finance.—Vancouver World.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER.

A newspaper that will take its editorial views of a minister's conduct direct from the minister's office is a parasite of the worst kind. The employment of public funds for such a purpose is unjustifiable, and the report that some one on the regular staff of the interior department is employed to do such work ought to be investigated in parliament.

The official announcement is made that the Crow's Nest Pass railway will be in operation to Kootenay Lake about October 1st. The speed at which this line has been built is not the least in-

commodation. They know how difficult it is for officials to keep up with western progress. But the neglect exhibited at Dawson is without excuse. All accounts agree as to the delay incidental to the getting of letters out of the postoffice there. This could easily have been prevented, if a few of the dollars, which Mr. Mulock boasts of having saved, had been expended in employing more clerks. But though delay in getting letters is aggravating enough, and often expensive, yet pioneers would not complain bitterly at that score, if favoritism did not get in its work, and that favoritism of the kind which money can secure. If everyone had to take his turn at a delivery window, the proverbial good humor of a Western crowd would make even a wait of half a day tolerable. First come first served is a principle we all use in this longitude, and that favoritism of the kind which money can secure. If everyone had to take his turn at a delivery window, the proverbial good humor of a Western crowd would make even a wait of half a day tolerable. First come first served is a principle we all use in this longitude, and that favoritism of the kind which money can secure. If everyone had to take his turn at a delivery window, the proverbial good humor of a Western crowd would make even a wait of half a day tolerable. First come first served is a principle we all use in this longitude, and that favoritism of the kind which money can secure.

interesting matter connected with it, and bears testimony to the wonderful progress that has been made in the art of railway construction during the last twenty years. But the great interest attaching to the construction of the line to this point comes from the fact that it will open a splendid section of mineral-rich country and furnish West Kootenay with cheaper fuel. We may look for even greater development in the mining of the province in the next few years than has ever been experienced in all its past history.

The question as to the necessity of closing bars and saloons on the day when the plebiscite will be taken on prohibition is hardly open to more than one answer. Section 6 of the Prohibition act provides that the same proceedings as apply to a general Dominion election shall apply to the plebiscite "with respect to offenses and the penalty incurred." The Dominion election law declares the selling of liquor during an election day an offense and proscribes a penalty. Under these circumstances, we think the keepers of saloons and bars would be wise to make up their minds to close on September 29th. They will undoubtedly render themselves liable to prosecution if they do not.

A Quebec despatch to the Montreal Gazette says that the sealers are willing to take \$50,000 in settlement of their rights and give up pelagic sealing. We are in doubt whether or not this amount is a typographical error, for the despatch goes on to speak of the sum as trivial. In cases any one really thinks that our sealers value their right so cheaply, it may be well to say that \$750,000 would fairly represent the actual capital invested in the industry, and that this does not include a dollar to compensate the community for the loss of a business which sustains about 10,000 people, allowing five persons to each family dependent upon sealing for a livelihood.

And now it is alleged that typhoid fever lurks in the seductive ice-cream freezer. If cholera, infectious, yellow fever and small-pox were within the same receptacle, the young miss in her pretty white dress would walk up to the counter and face death in all these varieties of form with a superb indifference. The doctors may just as well give up now as later in their attempt to deter the young and rising generation of females from eating the frozen delicacy.

The Montreal Witness thinks that Canada will not benefit to any considerable extent by reason of a cable between British Columbia and Australasia. Why this distinction between British Columbia and Canada? We fear that the Witness does not appreciate the importance of the future trade of Canada with the countries on the other side of the Pacific, and has not yet grown accustomed to the fact that British Columbia is a part of the Dominion.

The New Brunswick lumbermen are sending two ship loads of lumber to New South Wales expressly for the purpose of seeing if they cannot compete with British Columbia in that market.

Advertisement for B. Williams & Co. Clothiers. Features include: 20 Cases, NEW FALL SUITS, Just to Hand, Wrt for Samples and self-measurement forms, B. WILLIAMS & CO. CLOTHIERS, Hatters and Outfitters, 97, 99 Johnson St. Victoria, B.C. Includes illustrations of two men in suits.

Advertisement for E. G. Prior & Co. Limited Liability. Features include: PORTABLE FARM ENGINES, Just received a carload of, With iron wheels, not wooden ones, as shown in cut. Manufactured by the Jas. Lefel & Co., Springfield, Ohio. Includes illustration of a steam engine.

Advertisement for Dixie H. Ross & Co. Features include: -SURPRISED-, And so are our customers when they find how much money we are saving them every month. Includes illustration of a surprised man.

Advertisement for Lea and Perrin's Sauce. Features include: LEA AND PERRIN'S SAUCE, OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE, DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER, Highest Honors, World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair. Includes illustration of a bottle of sauce and a signature.

Advertisement for INSURANCE. Features include: FOR FIRE INSURANCE, (From Our Own Office) New Westminster, has been one of activity a village has arisen. These, however, are structures and tents, not allowed on the main substantial buildings were erected.

Advertisement for WESTMINSTER Official Notification. Features include: WESTMINSTER Official Notification That Held As At First. Westminster is thorough in deciding in spite of a carry out the provincial month. Yesterday a telegram received from the Hon. C. A. Semlin, yesterday received a telegram from Hon. C. A. Semlin, of Ontario, that \$2,500 had been voted vicarial government of Ontario.

Advertisement for PREMIER HARRY TELEGRAPH. Features include: PREMIER HARRY TELEGRAPH, Hundred Dollars For Hon. C. A. Semlin, yesterday received a telegram from Hon. C. A. Semlin, of Ontario, that \$2,500 had been voted vicarial government of Ontario.

Advertisement for GENUINE OR. Features include: GENUINE OR, C. P. N. Co. Will Call to Westminster Free. Besides telegraphing a \$200 to Mayor Owens, of Astoria, for the relief of the big fire and placing the lander at the disposal of forty-two excursions to Vancouver and Sunday in aid fund, the Canadian Pacific Company, themselves heavily involved in the fire, have announced that they will be carried by their steamer or New Westminster charge. This will enable handling the relief fund whole amount on provision no provision having to freight charges.

Advertisement for A POPULAR PREFERENCE. Features include: A POPULAR PREFERENCE, Guatemala's Chief Officer Almost Unanimous. Washington, Sept. 13.—The telegraph states that Guatemala under date of follows: The election of Guatemala held during the days of September resulted in the republic. Two votes were given for Cebera and Liberals. There were 315,999 votes for Cebera and 315,999 for the Liberals. The election marked the entire election to settle the respect bloodshed in Guatemala, as Minister Hunt of events up to yesterday.

Advertisement for THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Features include: THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST, \$1.00 Per Annum. Toronto, Sept. 14.—Methodist general conference, voted sweeping discussion a resolution to remove the restriction placed on theatre-going dancing, etc. When the temperance objection was taken up, which stated it was a Methodist church that could not be kept delegates considered the placing of the licensing system, licensing was directly had the effect of curbing the clause was referred.