Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1885

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Mr. Edward A. Freeman, perhaps the foremost of living English historians, discourses at length in Macmillan's Magazine for April, upon this topic:

"We have heard," he says, "a great deal about 'Imperial Federation.' Some of the more enthusiastic talkers have told us of the coming union upon equal terms of all the English people—it has sometimes even been put, of all the English-speaking people—all over the world. We are not distinctly told whether those who are not English-speaking are to be shut out of the benefits of the scheme. But the scheme is spoken of as being something specially and intensely English, unless, indeed, the term 'British' is liked better. It is not wonderful that such promises have won over many minds. 'Imperial Federation has a grand sound; it has an air as if it meant something. And if it did mean what it is said to mean—the union, on closer and more brotherly terms, of all men of English descent, or of all speakers of the English tongue, it would mean something to the carrying out of which all of us would be willing to lend a helping hand. There are, however, some little points to be thought of on the other side. First, there is the *name;* then there is the *thing.*"

As to this, Mr. Freeman says: "It tells a little against the name of the scheme, that what is 'Imperial' cannot be 'Federal,' and what is 'Federal' cannot be 'Imperial.' It tells a little against its substance that none can expect the scheme to carry out its professed purposes except those who have forgotten the existence of India and the existence of the United States." Mr. Freeman goes on to consider from a historical point of view the subject of colonization, ancient and modern, and the relations which have existed between the "Mother States" and the "Colonies." Having stated numerous grave difficulties to any scheme of Federation, even without the qualifying adjective "Imperial," he continues: "But these are not the only difficulties about Imperial Federation. To whom is the federation to extend? To all the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland? Or only to such of them as are European by dwelling-place or descent? Or, to come nearer to the point, we might put the question thus: Is it to take in only the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, or the subjects of the Empress of India as well?" The status of the people of India in the Empire is thus stated:

"Whenever the thing is to talk big about 'Empire,' its greatness, its 'prestige;' all about the dominion on which the sun never sets, all about the drum-roll of the British army going the round of the world, then India is the dearest, the most cherished, the sublimest part of the talk. 'Imperial' interests, 'Imperial' greatness, 'Imperial' everything, seems specially at home in that land. It is the specially 'Imperial' soil. Our 'Eastern empire,' our 'Indian empire,' is the grandest subject of all for magnificent eloquence. And why? To speak the plain truth, because the Empire of India is an empire of which every man in Great Britain feels himself to be part—Emperor. *'We'* govern India; *'we'* hold the dominion of Aurungzebe. Is not every British elector proud of a great corporate Aurungzebe? But receive India in a federation of the Empire *'we'* must sink into the position of citizens of one or more of its States; the elector for London will be in no way privileged above the elector for Masulipatam. It may even be that the *'we'* shall be turned about; and that the people of Masulipatam will begin to say how *'we'* govern England. Instead of every British elector being part of a corporate Aurungzebe, it may be that every Indian elector shall be part of a corporate William. Imperial Federation may take a shape in which England, Scotland, Canada, Australia shall be dependencies of the Empire of India. For truly I confessed some very artificial arrangement—it will tax the full powers of Mr. Hare and Mr. Courtney to secure even proportional representation for any of those small and distant cantons, lying so far away from the main centre of power and population. We must expect that in the federal assembly *'we,* even strengthened by *'our'* re-enforcements from other English speaking lands, will be defeated, on every division, by that vast majority of the people of the empire who are not English-speaking. The *'Our'* imperial position will be, in truth, handed over to quite another *'we'*—a *'we'* of whom the old British and Jingo *'we'* will form a very small part indeed."

Mr. Freeman indeed avers that none of the advocates of an Imperial Federation mean anything of this kind; they do not mean, for example, that in the parliament of the federal empire the 35,000,000 inhabitants of the British islands should have only a proportional voice with the 200,000,000 natives of what is now considered as British India—to say nothing of above 50,000,000 more inhabiting the so-called "Native States," which are to a certain degree under the control of the empire. But he says pertinently:

"The words 'Imperial Federation,' 'Federation of the Empire,' either mean nothing, or they mean that on all 'Imperial' questions the people of the English-speaking parts of the Empire shall be liable to be out-voted by the Hindus and Mussulmans of India. A federation which does not give them equal federal rights with their European fellow subjects is not a 'Federation of the Empire,' but only of a small portion of the 'Empire.' Such a federation would be, as regards India, simply an enlargement of the dominant *'We,'* an admission of more members to *'we*-ship,' and its privileges. The people of India have now for their masters the people of the United Kingdom only. They would then have for their masters the people of the United Kingdom and those of the British Colonies also. Such an outcome might be highly 'Imperial,' but it would not be at all 'Federal'—at least not Federal for a vast majority of the inhabitants of the 'Federal' Empire, *'Imperium'* and *'Libertas,'* after all, do not get on well as yoke-fellow. Here there would be a grand stroke indeed on behalf of *Imperium,* but very little indeed would be done on behalf of *Libertas.*"

Mr. Freeman—if we may read between the lines—has no very exalted opinion of that colossal image styled the "British Empire," which could hardly be described more fittingly than in the words used by Daniel in the description of another image which he saw in vision erected on the plains of Shinar; only that most of this British image seems to be composed of that exceedingly "miry clay" of India.

RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

Speculation is rife as to the place that will be found for Lord Randolph Churchill, the Hotspur of the conservative party. One sapient correspondent suggests for him the lord lieutenancy of Ireland, which would mean shelving him. Lord Randolph would scarcely be so foolish on the very threshold of a brilliant and honorable career as a statesman to accept that position. His proper sphere is in the cabinet. He has shown a wisdom, tact, pluck and prescience far in advance of his years, and Great Britain cannot afford to lose such a man from the councils of the nation at such a time as this.

THE TIMBER TAX.

The dominion government have done just what its friends here predicted they would do. The moment the injustice of the new timber charges had been brought to their notice by protests from New Westminster and elsewhere, they revised the scale on a basis of common sense and equity. Had the charges as at first framed been allowed to stand individual enterprise would have been sadly crippled if not entirely destroyed. A large sum of money is invested in New Westminster district in mill property, and to have imposed dues that in effect are prohibitive would have brought ruin upon many industrious and enterprising men. Mr. Homer's exertions towards amelioration have been uncessing, and much of the credit for the change is due to him.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

This unfortunate and ill-starred measure continues to block legislation in the house of commons. The session is already prolonged far beyond the usual date of prorogation, and the measure has scarcely been advanced a stage. Every effort of the government to push the bill on provokes the opposition to bring forward an amendment upon which they speak against time until the hour of adjournment arrives, when the amendment is defeated, and the house adjourns to meet again the next day and repeat the same wearying round. The country is suffering terribly because of this legislative deadlock,—and if the 30th June should pass without the supplies being granted there will be almost a stoppage of the wheels of the government. The franchise bill is a mistake, because it proposes to take from the people of some of the provinces (British Columbia, notably) the present suffrage and make property the basis of a vote; and because it proposes to admit Indians to all the rights of citizenship. Since the bill passed into committee the Indians of British Columbia, Manitoba and the Northwest have been excluded from the franchise; but there is still much left that is objectionable. If it is desirable that the franchise should be reformed care must be taken that the rights now enjoyed by the people of the provinces are not invaded. For our part we have never been able to discover any good reason for the proposed change and should be glad to hear that the bill had been withdrawn.

Lillooet Not Counted In.

TO THE EDITOR:—I see by the *Weekly Colonist,* of 29th May, that the people of New Westminster have sent a telegram to Mr. Homer, at Ottawa stating that "mass meetings held over the province, Vancouver, New Westminster, Yale, Lillooet and Cariboo, protest against the Dominion timber and land act." I do not think any such meetings have been held outside New Westminster district. I can say positively that there have been none here; the subject has not been spoken of in this vicinity, and I, for one, protest against the people of New Westminster using the name of our district in the way they have used it. Lillooet people do not intend to aid any rebellion and we do not wish our name connected with any such false statements.

The Dominion government should not be misled by the great amount of talk that is now going on at Victoria about the Chinese. Victoria interests seldom represent the interest of the whole province. The mainland certainly derives great benefit from the Chinese, especially Lillooet and Cariboo districts. Take Chinese out of them and the farmers will be ruined, as there will be no one to consume their produce; they cannot ship it away and white men will never work the mines where the Chinese are now working them. Most of the traders, farmers, hotel-keepers and teamsters are depending on Chinese directly and indirectly for at least three-fourths of their present business. The largest portion of the upper country is only fit for Chinese miners and a few white farmers and traders, and if not occupied by them it will be without a population of any kind.

A. W. SMITH.

LILLOOET, 6th June, 1885.

RECLAIMING THE WASTE LANDS.

An Important Enterprise at Fraser Delta.

Among the various enterprises undertaken in this province during the last twelve months the reclamation of the Lorne Estate is deserving of notice. Last summer a number of gentlemen, residents of the province, formed themselves into a syndicate for the purpose of purchasing and reclaiming a large tract of land on the delta of the Fraser river. The scheme adopted by the syndicate provided for the construction of dykes, drains, floodgates and roads, and the clearing and subdivision of the land into farms of a convenient size. An agreement with the government having been entered into,

THE WORKS WERE ENTRUSTED TO MR. J. MOHUN,

as engineer to the syndicate, and operations were at once commenced. Since the end of August last, a force varying from 100 to 200 men, supervised by the company's foremen, have been almost continuously employed on contract work. The floodgates have been built by day labor, under the personal supervision of Mr. Mohun. The block of land within the main dykes may be roughly described as a rectangle, about four miles in length by three in width, having a slight rise in the centre. The drainage water from this tract finds its way

TO THE SEA THROUGH FOUR OUTLETS,

each about twelve feet wide and six feet deep, two emptying into the Fraser river, one into Crescent slough and one into Mud Bay. The outlets are protected from invasion by the sea or river by large sluice boxes about twenty-five feet long, twelve feet wide, and from six to ten feet deep, in each of which are placed a pair of floodgates so constructed as to work automatically, discharging the drainage water and keeping back the flood and having a calculated capacity for discharging 10,000,000 cubic feet a day. Connected with the floodgates a substantial earth dyke, now nearly completed, will enclose the whole tract. The block will be so

SUBDIVIDED BY TRACKS AND DITCHES

so that each lot will have a frontage upon at least one road and two drainage ditches. In order to give our readers some idea of the immense quantity of water which has to be discharged through the outlets, we may state, on the authority of Mr. Mohun, that in 24 hours last August 2.52 inches of rain fell; assuming that two-thirds of the rainfall finds its way into the ditches, and that each outlet carries the drainage of 1500 acres then the total rainfall on that acre in one day has been 13,421,400 cubic feet or nearly 84,000,000 gallons, of which in round numbers nearly 9,000,000 cubic feet have to be discharged, or an amount of water

EQUAL IN EXTENT

WHICH WOULD FORM A LAKE OVER TWENTY

ACRES IN EXTENT

and ten feet deep. During the thaw of last January the two pairs of floodgates then completed were estimated to be discharging nearly up to their capacity. This scheme claims the hearty good wishes of all true British Columbians, as if successful, of which now, happily, there is but little doubt, a desolate wilderness will have been converted into a thriving settlement providing homes for some fifty families; the Delta municipality, recognizing this, have given the company every encouragement in their power.

The Coal Trade.

J. W. Harrison's Circular of May 30th says: Stagnation still pervades this branch of trade, and complaints are very general from all engaged in it both as to quantity sold and prices realized. It has now become an established fact that our coast collieries have made California self-sustaining, and that the output can be increased materially beyond our present consumption. This now being assured, it is generally supposed foreign coals would be shut out of the market entirely. This will never be, as vessels seeking this port for grain freights will carry coals at a nominal sum in preference to carrying sand or stone ballast. There have been seasons where the freights from Australia have been less than from British Columbia, and the cost of the coal there is less than the asking price in British Columbia. Receipts at San Francisco from all sources for May were 75,437 tons.

That Rarest of Combinations,

True delicacy of flavor with true efficacy of action has been attained in the famous California liquid fruit remedy Syrup of figs. Its pleasant taste and beneficial effects have rendered it immensely popular. Sample bottle free and large bottle for sale by Langley & Co., Victoria. 1

LAWN TENNIS RACKETS, BALLS AND NETS AT T. N. HIBBEN & CO'S.

VICTORIA AS SEEN BY A VISITOR

Graphic Description of the Town.

The Habits and Ways of the People.

(Correspondence of the Manchester Examiner.)

VICTORIA, April 10.

We arrived in Victoria in the spring of the year, and after three months of hotel and boarding-house life we rented a cottage, and began housekeeping. The "cottage" was a modern suburban villa, somewhat too conventionally genteel for our tastes, but situated in a newly opened and healthy neighborhood. From the windows in front of the house, which faced the north, we could see long stretches of the low fir hills of the island, with here and there bare rocky peaks; while from the upper windows, looking south, we had a glimpse of the Olympian range. We found house rents higher than in the suburbs of large English towns, and double what they would be in English country districts. Cottages with from four to six rooms could be had for $18 to $20 a month. The larger cottages and villas ranged from $25 to $50 a month. Houses are still very scarce, and though a great many new ones are being put up, they are generally engaged as soon as the foundations are laid. There is not much variety in their style. There are the one-storeyed cottages, with verandahs round three sides, and these are sufficiently old to be covered with ivy or with the trailing hop plant, which grows luxuriantly, or with sweet-smelling honeysuckle and roses. The gardens are full of old-fashioned flowers, but they have not the trim air of well-kept English gardens, and the grass is often ankle deep on the lawns. Labor of all kinds is very dear. A white man gets $2½ and a Chinaman $1½ a day for garden work. The soil and climate, however, are so favorable that, with very little care, flowers, vegetables and fruit grow abundantly.

Besides these picturesque cottages there are the two-storied villas, also built of wood, but with brick foundations. The houses are painted white, gray, or buff according to the taste of the owner. Lately an æsthetic green has come into favor, and looks very well where there are not many trees in the neighborhood. The suburbs of Victoria are long and straggling, and extend in all directions; up the Arm, as the inlet of the sea is called, which first broadens out and forms the harbor, and then winds inland between wooded slopes for two or three miles further; up Fort street; in an easterly direction, towards Government house, where the lieutenant governor resides; and, across James' bay, along the peninsula lying between the harbor and the outer wharf.

Having rented a house, our next business was to furnish it; and this we were able to do in a few hours from one of the two large furniture warehouses in the town. We had brought our linen, silver, and cutlery with us from England, as well as a small library of books and (for favorite engravings and ornaments, so we only had chairs, tables, bedsteads, and carpets, the heavy *pieces de resistance,* to choose. Only furniture of the plainest description is made in the province, and on what is imported either high duties or heavy freight charges have to be paid. Nevertheless, we found we could furnish a house comfortably and prettily for a smaller sum than we should have considered necessary for a house of a similar size in England, for the furniture that is in general use is of a much simpler kind, and in such matters one usually accepts the standard of one's neighbors. There are all sorts of queer anomalies in this daily life of Victoria. For instance, until within a few months, there was only a mail from the east, by Portland and Puget Sound, three times a week; and also from the British Columbia mainland there was a mail only three times a week; but the warehouses, shops, and most of the private houses, all of which are within walking distance of one another, are connected by telephone. Ladies "ring up" their friends on the slightest pretext, and exchange civilities and arrange their plans for the day; and purchases can be made and carriages ordered without crossing the doorstep. As yet the houses are neither numbered nor named, and therefore the post office excuses itself for not arranging for a delivery of letters; but on the front doors, instead of the old fashioned knockers, electric bells are fastened. These bells are often unanswered from within, and when that is the case the visitor understands either that the house is locked up or that the Chinaman is out of hearing, and slips his or her card under the door. Many ladies, however, have days at which they are "at home;" for making calls is the usual afternoon occupation.

After a short experience of housekeeping I found that fish, butcher's meat, and vegetables were much cheaper than in England. Fish is "plentiful and good. Cod is particularly excellent, and besides the black cod, such as we know in England, there is a shorter, thicker fish known as the red rock cod. For a few weeks in April or May a delicious little fish called the oolachan is in season. The run of oolachans lasts, however, only a very short time. It is a smaller fish than the smelt, and should be eaten very fresh. The name reminded me of the wildest figure in the Highland reel, but oolachan is pronounced more softly. Only an Indian can give it the right intonation.

The British Columbia salmon has hardly so delicate a flavor as that found in Scotch rivers. Those of the Skeena river, in the north of the province, immediately south of Alaska, are said to be the finest and the most suitable for canning. In early spring salmon is sold for 10 cents (fivepence) a pound in Victoria, and during the summer we often bought a large fish from Indians at the door for 25 cents (one shilling), or "two bits," as the people here would say. The smallest coin in Victoria is 10 cents, or a "short bit." A "bit" proper is 12½ cents. The price of everything under a dollar is stated in "bits," and this at first is very puzzling both to Canadians and English people. It was here that we first understood the meaning of Bret Harte's stories, when, after promising a boy a "bit" for holding his horse, gave him only 10 cents.

The octopus is frequently found among the rocks round Victoria, and is to be seen at most fishmongers. Often it is hung up as a curiosity, with all its suckers or feelers extended at full length. Although it is not a general article of food, parts of it are eaten, and are said to be delicious by those who are able to overcome their repugnance to its appearance. No soles worthy of the name are to be found on the American coasts, and a young Englishman here declares that when his fortune is made, and he returns to England, he will settle down for a month wherever soles can be had in greatest perfection. The oysters of British Columbia are very small. Their shells are not bigger than cockle shells. Lobsters and shrimps are unknown on these coasts, but prawns are found, though not in sufficient quantities to make them cheap.

Beef and mutton are pretty much the same all over the world, and the price alone, 15c. per lb, was a novelty to us from England.

Vegetables can be bought fresh and good for much less money than they can be grown in private gardens. In March the early spring vegetables begin to arrive from California, and later on the market is supplied from their large gardens in the neighborhood, which the Chinamen cultivate. Asparagus, when it first arrives from California, is about 1s. per lb. Last year cherries, plums and pears were so plentiful on the island that they were almost given away to those who would take the trouble to gather them; while apples could be bought at 5c. per lb.

Poultry and farm produce are rather dearer than in England; but to the Canadians the prices asked seem exorbitant. Vancouver Island is a mass of rocks and forests, and only along the east coast have districts been cleared for farming purposes. Butter and eggs, as well as grain and flour and feed for cattle and poultry, are largely imported from the States. By and by, when the Canadian Pacific railway is opened, it is to the fruitful Northwest territory we shall look for our supplies of farm produce.

In the autumn great quantities of game are brought into Victoria by the Indians, principally grouse and snipe and wild ducks and geese. Later on it is almost a sickening sight to see the number of deer, and even of young fawns, that are hung in rows outside the butchers' shops. Venison was never more than 10c. per lb. last year. Bear steak is a greater delicacy; but in taste it is not much different from a good beefsteak. It is one of the illusions which Englishmen cherish when going out to colonies where they are told the rivers swarm with fish and the land with game, that they will be able to supply their households with food at no cost whatever. They forget that where fish and birds are so plentiful they will be proportionately cheap, and that a man's time must be worth little if he cannot find a more profitable occupation than killing them. Business habits and business knowledge are a better equipment even for life in a remote and newly developed country than the most intimate acquaintance with gun and fishing tackle. Last autumn the contractors for one of the sections of the new railway, which is to connect Victoria with the coal mines of Nanaimo and Wellington, received a letter from a young Englishman who wanted employment. He was willing to do anything; to cut down trees, or to use axe and shovel, although he admitted in such work he would probably require lessons; but he suggested in all seriousness that it might be worth while for the contractors to engage him to supply the camp with game, and he was evident, from the style of his note, that the latter would be far away the more congenial occupation. It was impossible to doubt that the writer was a young and ingenuous countryman of ours.

Point Ellice Bridge.

TO THE EDITOR:—The nag-nagging of the Times and Standard at the government about the Point Ellice bridge contract in good evidence to the minds of ordinary people that the government must be good indeed, when the opposition organs are reduced to such a miserable strait that they have to content themselves with making charges and insinuations of wrong doing without being able to give a title of evidence to support it. What are the facts about this bridge matter? A bridge is projected of so substantial and enduring a character and of such design and proportions that, when completed, it will be a permanent work of utility and ornamentation to that part of the city. Even the daily morning and evening growlers can not surely deny that the government are entitled to some credit for securing to the city a bridge such as the chosen parting policy of the late regime could never have provided. That fact, however, is conveniently overlooked, and for want of something better, a cry is raised against giving the contract to the lowest tenderer. Do the correspondents and editors of the papers referred to mean to say that the government should only give a contract to the lowest bidder when he happens to be a person who has proved in this country as long as "An Old Timer '58"? Do they mean to say that the government are to blame because a newcomer or an American citizen offers to do a piece of work by contract at a price 50 or 100 per cent. cheaper than "Old Timer?" If so, carry the principle out, and where would the editor of the Times be? Where, in fact, would be many good and true men who have recently come or are just coming, and who are being encouraged to come, in order that the country may be benefited by the influx of new blood, new ideas and new energy and enterprise.

The Times, evidently realizing the absurdity of the position it had been led to assume by its over-anxiety to attribute blame to its *bete noir,* the government, made a feeble attempt on Tuesday to excuse itself by suggesting that an alleged custom of the Works department should be adopted in opening tenders; that is, that the tenderers should all be present when the tenders are opened. Now, in the first place, no such custom was ever in vogue during the reign of the Walkem government, but during a former term of the present party in office Mr. Vernon did make an effort to carry that plan into execution, only to find that it did not work well. It is easy to understand why such a plan could not be carried out, particularly in large contracts where the difference between the lowest and next tenderer may be several thousand dollars. Suppose a batch of tenders were opened in the way indicated by the Times, and it is found that the lowest tender is $110,000 and the next lowest tender is $115,000, what is likely to be the result? The lowest man will probably feel like biting his fingers off because he had not put in $14,000 as a bid. He cannot alter it, however, and he begins to think he is too low, and if he undertakes the work he will lose money. The second man and he then walk over the bridge together perhaps, and the second man says you cannot do that work for the price you have bid, you had better drop out and let me have it. After a while it is agreed that tenderer No. 2 shall give tenderer No. 1 $1,000, and No. 1 throws up the contract and No. 2 gets it at $15,000, netting $14,000 for the job. If there be no collusion, no corrupt bargain, it might still be that No. one's bondsmen, learning how the bids stood when opened will be honestly afraid to take the risk, and being unable to get sureties he may be compelled to drop out in favor of No. 2. In any event the result would be injury to the public interest. It may be said that the figures I have given are out of proportion to real experience. I can only say that I have known greater difference between first and second bids than I have suggested for sake of argument. All tenders for public works are published in the report of the chief commissioner of lands and works annually. Nothing can be hid about the Point Ellice bridge contract. Would it not be better, therefore, to wait until the facts are known before passing judgment, and not upon a lot of, what look to me like baseless and malicious, surmises, proceed to build up a tottering pile of unjust charges which the first breath of facts will tumble around the heads of the builders. I notice, not without astonishment but with some pleasure, that the better sense of the editor sometimes comes to the front, and that in the article in Tuesday's issue already referred to the chief of the Times disclaims any belief in the existence of collusion in the matter of tenders and contracts on the part of any one connected with the land office. That being the case, and I am quite sure nine-tenths of the community will agree with him, surely it would be better to defer further comment until the work shall have been done, when, if he will then ask for the publication of the tenders I will second him with the greatest of pleasure, and if I know the chief commissioner as I think I do, the request will not be made in vain. It is easy to understand the feelings and motives of some disappointed contractors. There are, however, those who can bear a defeat with better grace, as witness

A CONTRACTOR OF '62.

J. B. Ferguson & Co.

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Manufactured only by the California Fig Syrup Co., San Francisco, Cal., is Nature's own true Laxative. This pleasant liquid fruit remedy may be had of Langley & Co. Sample bottles free and large bottles at 75 cents and $1 25. It is the most pleasant, prompt and effective remedy known to cleanse the system; to act on the Liver, Kidneys, and Bowels gently yet thoroughly; to dispel headaches, Colds and Fevers, to cure Constipation, Indigestion and kindred ills. 13

THE NORTHWEST.

Frauds in the Transport Service.

Col. Irvine's Cowardice.

Frauds in connection with the transport service are beginning to come to light daily, and it is evident that the government has been swindled to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Many of the officers appointed to prominent positions were worn out politicians, who have always existed at the expense of the government, and who eagerly seized the opportunity to plunder the public purse. Interesting developments are looked for as soon as the trouble is ended. The Sun's correspondent with Middleton, in a letter to-day, makes some grave charges against the mounted police, which he avers he can prove. It appears that Col. Irvine knew he was wanted at Batouche, but paid no attention to the request to come. The correspondent says:

It was true that whilst our boys were fighting their way down into Batouche on the memorable 12th of May, while the gallant Capt. French, poor James Fraser and brave Lieut. Fitch were breathing their last, and a score of others were lying in agony from their wounds, these police, who were supposed to be on the brink of starvation, were having a rousing time at their garrison sports, competing for money prizes of $300 offered by the Hudson Bay Company and mounted police. Contrasts are odious, but in this case they are doubly odious for the police, and a deep and lasting stain has been stamped upon the force which time will never efface, and the memory of which will rankle in the hearts and minds of Canadians for all time to come. Hitherto this force has only been noted for its inefficiency to deal with the Indians and other important matters, its chief duty being to seize upon smuggled whisky; but now it has afforded an exhibition of such cold-blooded indifference and callous heartlessness that eclipses even Nero fiddling while Rome burned. The conduct of Col. Irvine is utterly incomprehensible, and from what I can learn, will shortly be a subject of Parliamentary inquiry. The usefulness of the mounted police force as at present constituted, is gone, and I venture to predict its abolition or reconstruction on an entirely different basis in the near future. The red coat, in place of being an object of respect and fear among the half-breeds and Indians, has now become an object of derision and scorn among them.

The correspondent points out that Hon. Lawrence Clarke, Hudson Bay factor at Prince Albert, is solely responsible for the Duck Lake fight.

Crozier knew the rebels were in arms and counseled waiting till the arrival of Irvine before attacking them. Clarke accused him of cowardice and goaded him on to fight. On the way down Crozier, who with bravery unites great prudence, wished to return; but, being urged by Clarke, went on. Details of their disastrous fight and flight are too well known to need repetition, but the fact that all dead and wounded police were carried off in their wagons while many of the dead and wounded civilians were left to the mercy of the rebels, speaks for itself.

Bank Swindlers at Work.

A gang of bank swindlers have been operating in Canada and Chicago recently with forged traveling circular letters. Two men were arrested at Montreal for attempting to cash a forged £50 circular note on the Union Bank of Scotland at the Bank of British North America. An Englishman calling himself R. F. Strong, dabbled on the 20th of May at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Chicago, forged letters of credit of the National Bank of Scotland, Glasgow, calling for $7,000.

A Hamilton, Canada, paper, thus describes a failure on the part of the gang in that city: "The combination of crooks that made a simultaneous effort Tuesday to swindle the banks in leading cities of Canada, by means of forged traveling circular letters, purporting to be issued by the Edinburgh branch of the National Bank, Scotland, tried their little game on here, but the star performer who endeavored to operate in this locality got decidedly left in his undertaking. A dark complexioned man, of medium height, with a ring of black hair circling his bald head, straggly moustache and whiskers on his face, wearing a neat, black suit and nobby silk hat, went into the branch of the bank of Montreal here Tuesday, and presented one of the circular letters for £50. The cashier told him the manager, Mr. Travers, was not in, and that he could do nothing until his return. The man remarked that he had ten other letters for £50 each, and that he wanted £500 altogether, and saying that he would call again when the manager was in, went out. From there he went to the Bank of British North America. Mr. Macgregor, the manager of the local branch, was in his office. The stranger introduced himself, and producing one of the circular letters, said he had ten of them and wanted £500. He volubly explained that he intended purchasing land in Manitoba, and wanted his letters cashed here. Mr. Macgregor thought he didn't look like a farmer, and he didn't like his appearance. Besides, the man was too greedy. So he politely declined cashing any of the letters and the stranger went out. About an hour afterward Mr. Macgregor, suspecting something wrong, communicated with the chief of police, who searched for the man during the afternoon but without success. It is surmised that he left the city immediately after leaving the Bank of British North America."

Eccentric Addresses to Students at Edinburgh.

The St. James' Gazette has the following:—A correspondent says, apropos of our recent article on Professor Blackie's class—Eccentric addresses to individual students are traditional in the University of Edinburgh, and it may be worth while to save from oblivion an extempore oration which I heard from my father as having been delivered by the Professor of Latin in his day, whose son was the famous Professor Christison, so long an ornament of the Edinburgh school of medicine. Having detected a student winking in the class, he ordered him to stand up, and spoke as follows:—"No smirking, no smiling and, above all, no tipping of the wink, for such things are hurtful to yourselves, baneful to the public, and will bring down the grey hairs of your parents with sorrow to the grave. Hum! by the way, that's a very pretty sentence; turn it into Latin, sir." Judging from my father, who had just left "old Pillans," and the High School Professor Christison turned out excellent scholars. I doubt if many students of the present day could give an impromtu rendering of such a sentence, or if many professors could afford to mix their classes with such sturdy vernacular.—Scotsman.

BLUE RIBBON ELECTION.—At the meeting last evening Saml. Gray was elected president; Henry Rudge, 1st vice-president; W. B. Nichols, 2nd vice-president; Mr. J. P. Burgess, secretary; Mr. Roper, corresponding secretary; E. P. Hamilton, treasurer.

FAT CATTLE.—The Yosemite on Tuesday brought down 47 head of very fat cattle consigned to J. B. Greaves. They came from the Syndicate ranch in the Okanagan country, and are very choice stock.

DIED AT CARIBOO.—James Hutchinson, an old Cariboolte, died at the hospital on the 8th. Same day Harry Lucas was killed by a cave in a claim near Stanley.

JOHNSTON OF BALLYKILBEG

The Chief Secretary for Ireland Demands his Resignation.

Great Excitement in Ulster.

The Ulster papers of the last mail contain long accounts of the case of Mr. William Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, one of the fishery inspectors for Ireland, who has been called upon to resign by the Gladstone Ministry. Mr. Johnson, was formerly M. P. for one of the Ulster constituencies, visited Canada some years ago, being at that time chief of the Orange order in the Old Country. Some years ago he was appointed to a fishery inspectorship by the Disraeli Government. Shortly after this compliant was made in the Parliament of his conduct in addressing public gatherings on Orange questions; and at length an order of the Treasury Board was passed expressly prohibiting him from doing so. On May 4 Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, the Chief-Secretary for Ireland, addressed a letter to Mr. Johnson, from which the following is an extract:

"The attention of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has been drawn to a paragraph in the Daily Express of the 22nd April last, purporting to contain a report of a speech made by you on the previous day at a meeting of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. Appended is a copy of the paragraph in question. It appears to his Excellency that the genaral tone of that speech, emphasised as it is by a pointed reference to a party anniversary on the 12th of July, can hardly be reconciled with the written undertaking given by you last year to refrain, while holding office under the Government, from discussing in public any party questions. The same observations apply to a letter in the Belfast Evening Telegraph, the authorship of which you have admitted. The government cannot refrain from taking a most serious view of this matter; but before finally deciding what course it may be their duty to adopt, they wish to know whether you admit the accuracy of the appended newspaper report of your speech, and whether you have any explanation to offer on the subject."

Mr. Johnson replied as follows:—"With regard to the letter in the Belfast Evening Telegraph, it distinctly referred to action proposed to be taken in the event of certain possibilities which cannot now occur. Of course, I do not now intend to take the course there indicated, as that would be a violation of the undertaking given by me to his Excellency. I admit the substantial accuracy of the Daily Express report of my speech on the 21st of April at the General Synod. I have the honor to submit to the government that I have not violated in any way my undertaking given last year as regards that speech. Invited by the mover of a resolution in the Synod to second that resolution, I did so without hesitation. I had hoped that the day had gone by when it would be considered an offence against the government to advocate the principles of the Articles of the Church of England in the Church body in which I was a representative. It is my privilege on Sundays occasionally to take part in religious services, and give utterance to sentiments held in common by all protestants. I cannot consent to abandon this, which will probably be pressed for; if a report of these observations should be published by those who are hostile to the religion of the Queen."

The Chief-Secretary's answer was as follows: "I desire to point out to you that you are under a misapprehension if you consider that these communications have been made to you because your views give offence to the government. The government take no exception to the opinions you may hold on religious or political questions. They are, however, bound to see that a public servant, especially when his functions are occasionally of a judicial character, does not take such a public part either in political controversy or in religious polemics as may give just and unnecessary offence to those whose affairs he is appointed to administer. This condition, which affects all members of the public service alike, was brought prominently to your notice last year, in consequence of the action you had taken in certain cases, and it was expressly accepted by you in your undertaking dated 18th February, 1884.

"His Excellency regrets that he is unable to take any other view of your recent statements than that they are in direct breach of that condition. No fault can be found with your attending the Synod of the Church to which you belong and taking part in its proceedings. But it appears to his Excellency that it was highly improper for you in your position to make an aggressive speech in denunciation of the beliefs of a large proportion of Irishmen—a speech so violent, indeed, as to call for expostulation and repudiation on the part of several of the clergy of your church who were present. The allusion in your speech to the well-known party anniversary of the 12th July, coupled with the expression in your letter to the Belfast Evening Telegraph of your intention—(a conditional intention it may be)—to take a personal part in the party demonstration on that day, add to the significance of such a speech. These circumstances, in the light of the previous occurrences which led to your being required to give the undertaking of February, 1884, show the Irish Government that you are unable to maintain, and to realize the necessity of maintaining, the reserved and neutral attitude which is alone compatible with the efficient discharge of public duties, such as those of your appointment. His Excellency, therefore, directs me to inform you that he considers your continuance in office to be inconsistent with the interests of the public service; and I am to invite you to tender your resignation at your earliest convenience.—I am sir, your obedient servant."

Mr. Johnson closed the correspondence in this way:—"I regret that his Excellency considers that my freedom of speech in the General Synod is incompatible with my being in the public service. I must, however, take exception to the statement that my "speech was so violent as to call for expostulation and repudiation, on the part of several of the clergy present." What was repudiated was the existence of the Church of Ireland being contingent on the Church of Rome, as it was held that our church, being in Ireland before popery was introduced, would continue to exist after its downfall. My reference to the 12th of July falling on Sunday, and the appropriateness of the day for Protestant sermons, was received with loud applause unbroken by dissent. As I do not share his Excellency's view that I have violated the undertaking given in February, 1884, I cannot plead guilty by resigning my inspectorship of fisheries. My dismissal from the service of the Queen is, of course, at the discretion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman subsequently announced in the House that Mr. Johnson would be dismissed. This deprives him of a certain allowance made to the officials on leaving the service. Some of the Ulster papers urge that Mr. Johnson be nominated for Parliamet.

MISREPRESENTATION REBUKED.

Mr. Gordon, M. P., Makes an Explanation.

In the commons, June 4th, Mr. Gordon said his attention had been drawn to a statement in an Ottawa Grit paper, to the effect that Mr. Reid, M. P., for Cariboo, had returned home on pretence that he could not support the Franchise Bill, but really because he had received a telegram from his constituents not to support the government any longer unless it modified the timber regulations. He had telegraphed Mr. Reid on the subject, and Mr. Reid had replied that the statement was utterly untrue. The same paper also stated that an inquisitive liberal member had spoken to him (Mr. Gordon) regarding the timber regulations in British Columbia, that he (Mr. Gordon) had stated that the British Columbia members were not consulted regarding the regulations, and that when he was asked what sort of a government supporter he was to allow himself to be passed over, he turned his back and made no reply. The statement that he had said the British Columbia members were not consulted was entirely untrue. (Hear, hear.) He had not asserted whether those members were consulted or not. He did say, however, to the inquisitive liberal that British Columbia should not resort to extreme measures, as he was sure that whatever grievances there were would be remedied. He could not just remember the gentleman with whom he had conversed. He thought, however, that he had from time to time talked with members on both sides, but this was the first time that any private conversation he had had ever been put into print. Conversing with a gentleman and then taking the conversation, when over correctly reported, to a newspaper office was an unwonted business. The gentleman who had done this would relieve his fellow-members of the opposition from suspicion of being guilty parties if he would rise and explain his action. (Hear, hear, and cries of "rise and explain.")

Mr. Jackson (Welland) said he was present at a conversation and was surprised to see an alleged report of it in print. It would be a pity if the private conversation of the smoking room and corridors were to be taken advantage of and reported in the papers. No honorable man would do such work. (Hear, hear.) The circumstance would be a warning to members on the government side to be on their guard in the statements they may make in private.

Marine.

The Sydney, Morning Herald contains a long account of the disaster which befell the barque Pacific Slope during a hurricane, while on the voyage from Victoria, B. C., to Sydney with a cargo of lumber. During the passage had the foremast from the cross-trees upwards, jibboom, main topmast, yards, &c., all carried away, besides receiving other damage, including the rigging of the two mats, which is completely destroyed. The captain, Barnes, states that during the whole of his 20 years' experience of "salt-watering" he never witnessed anything to equal the hurricane referred to. For days was full of water, and everyone had to stay on deck, the captain's wife and two children living under some canvas on the poop. Provisions and water were then got on deck to save them from getting spoiled by salt water. There was a heavy swell all day, in which the ship labored heavily, and staysails were bent and set on all the stays to steady her. On Saturday the wreck from the mainmast was cut adrift, but the topsailyards were saved. A square sail was then bent and set on the foremast, the deck load was secured, and the mainsail bent and set, but the ship lay like a log in the water, and did