GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION.

We suppose it is now in order to look forward. Next in importance to healthy business conditions in a country is stable, honest, progressive, strong and capable government. Can the present administration be classified as above, and, if not, what are the prospects for the establishment of a successor which will meet the requirements of the case? On making an examination of the list of the members of the Legislature we find the following to be absolutely fixed in their political leanings:

Government.	Opposition.
Prior.	McBride.
Eberts.	Tatlow.
Wells.	Garden.
McInnes.	Martin.
Prentice.	McPhillips.
Pooley.	Gilmour.
Dunsmuir.	Smith, E. C.,
Hall.	Fulton.
Helmcken.	Oliver.
Hayward.	Kidd.
Hunter.	Munro
Dickie.	Curtis.
Mounce.	Hawthornthwaite
Smith, W. A.	Taylor.
Clifford.	Green.
Rogers.	Paterson.
Ellison.—17.	Gifford.—17.

Doubtful.
Neill.
Stables.
Houston.—3.

Why Messrs. Neill and Stables should be classified as doubtful we do not not know. The member for Alberni was sufficiently pronounced in his opposition last session to warrant the assumption that he will still oppose the government with all the incisiveness which has gained him the reputation of being one of the most effective debaters in the house. The representative from Cassiar was a devoted disciple of Mr. Joseph Martin. Mr. Stables may not be possessed of an intellect of sufficient subtility to make such fine distinctions as his leader. Therefore he may join his friend the Provincial Secretary in strengthening the government. Such a classification would still leave the parties equally divided—18 to 18. Mr. Houston was independent in his speech and attitude during the last session of the House. But he was, generally speaking, loyal enough in his support when he was not "holding up" the government, it is presumed, for some important concession to his constituency. He is writing just as independently in his paper at the present time. That cannot be taken as a fair indication of the course he will pursue in the House. It is probably merely a concession to the political opinion of his constituency. Mr. Houston may safely be put down as a supporter of the Ministry, which therefore has a majority of one on paper. Placing the Speaker in the chair and the majority disappears entirely. If any business is transacted, presuming that the present apparent status shall be maintained until the House meets, it must be accomplished through the casting vote of the Speaker. Government under such circumstances cannot be satisfactory to the people.

Then there is West Yale still vacant. When the election takes place it will surely go against the government. Under the present circumstances there is not a man in the province sufficiently strong personally or politically to hoist the banner of the government and defeat Mr. C. A. Semlin. As the administration certainly desires to retain office, it is not surprising that it hesitates about bringing on the election in West Yale. Nevertheless the seat must be filled. Strict compliance with the requirements of the constitution and justice to the constituency are of more importance than the life of any government. There are indications of a disposition to mete out the same treatment to West Yale as was accorded North Victoria. Mr. Booth died while the House was in session, and the plea of little force was put forward that it would be disrespectful to his memory to fill his seat before it was cold. There will be no excuse of any kind for the perpetration of such another wrong. It would be useless to appeal to the government if it really has decided to refrain from action. There is an agitation on the Mainland in favor of appealing directly to the Lieut.-Governor and calling his attention to the facts. We can hardly believe the Ministers seriously contemplate denying the electors of West Yale their rights. Some of the members of the government are men of discernment and discrimination. They must realise that they cannot possibly strengthen their cause by such tactics. We believe some of their supporters would find it impossible to countenance such a course.

The situation is quite interesting even to a British Columbian, who is used to political uncertainty. The coming session of the Legislature promises to be a memorable one.

PROGRESS IN CANADA.

The progress of Canada during the past few years has excited the wonder of all save the advocates of what is termed "adequate protection." There are countries enjoying the blessings of "adequate protection," such as Russia, Germany, France, and the United States, but in none of them is there such relative activity, combined with so high an average of comfort, as in this Dominion. Tariffs are human institutions, and therefore imperfect, but if we are to judge of systems by results, Mr. Fielding has hit upon a very happy fiscal mean. With a few amendments where operations have developed weaknesses or anomalies, the tariff of the Laurier government should be very nearly all right. In the last six years our foreign trade has grown from $239,025,000 to $423,910,000—imports from $118,000,000 to $212,270,000, exports from $121,000,000 to $211,640,000. Going a little more into detail we find that the exports of Canadian farm products have increased from $50,591,000 to $96,313,897; of Canadian manufactures, from $9,365,384 to $18,462,970; of products of the mine from $8,056,000 to $34,947,574.

Agriculture still stands at the head of Canadian exports. Exports of agricultural products have nearly doubled, comparing 1896 with 1902; and if we compare periods of six years we obtain results quite as remarkable. The aggregate for the period from 1891 to 1896 was $294,386,253; the aggregate for the period from 1897 to 1902 was $464,544,808. Agriculture keeps its position at the front easily, and the rapid settlement and development of the West will hold it there. But, relatively, some other industries show a larger increase. Mineral products, which in 1896 were at the foot of the list, are now in second place; manufactures have passed exports of the fisheries. There is no evidence in these figures that the country is being stripped of its natural resources to enrich other countries. The doubling of the export of manufactures tells the opposite story. So does the increase in the export of the more profitable products of the farm. Another evidence of growth is to be found in homestead entries and arrivals of immigrants. In 1892 the homestead entries were 2,770, but by 1896 they had fallen to 1,384. Then began a steady and rapid increase, and in 1902 they were 14,633, or more than ten times the entries for 1896. The immigrant arrivals were 67,379 for 1902, as compared with 16,833 for 1896.

THE MAYOR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The Colonist does not approve of the manner in which the campaign against Mayor Hayward is being conducted. The tactics of the opponents of the Mayor are described as "petty." We suspected that there might be disapproval in that quarter. Probably His Worship also thinks higher ground might be taken. The Mayor is always found, like his organ, in high, altruistic altitudes. He is indeed an honorable man, ever jealous of the reputation of the city, ever vigilant in guarding her interests, the very personification of dignity and decorum at public functions, as meek in appearance as Moses, with the consummate generalship of a Joshua, and never a thought for the advancement of his own personal interests in any of the schemes he fathers. If any man be sceptical about these things, are they not on record and capable of verification?

Our contemporary is mistaken in one matter, however. The strongest point that can be brought forward against the Mayor's application for a fourth term is not the length of time of his service. The manner in which he attempted to manipulate the city's affairs during the past year in order to overcome the prejudices of the ratepayers against the perpetuation of the position of chief magistrate in one man is one of the principal objections to the re-election of Mayor Hayward. His Worship is too astute a man not to be fully aware of the depth of the feeling of repugnance in all cities to individuals attempting to what is vulgarly termed "hogging it." Our charge against him is that in his anxiety to overcome that perfectly natural feeling he became a veritable plunger, and has landed one of the institutions we all believed to be firmly established in a hole from which it is extremely doubtful if it can be extricated.

We say it is doubtful whether the affairs of the exhibition can be put in such shape as will permit of the holding of a show during the present year. We charge the Mayor with being largely responsible for this state of affairs. We have besought him to call a public meeting so that matters might be straightened out and preparations entered upon without loss of time for the holding of the annual fair. The officers of all the other exhibitions of importance in the country have been arranging details for months. That is the manner in which they insure success. Here we are in a state of suspense, not knowing whether to go forward or let the exhibition lapse as it did before. Let it be understood that if the concern falls to the ground again it will be more difficult to revive than ever.

Some of the Mayor's friends claim that he is not responsible for this state of affairs. Others admit the responsibility, but say his intentions were good; that he meant well. But why does he not call a public meeting at which all sides can be heard, all the facts brought out and the responsibility properly placed? That would seem to be the reasonable and proper course. If the Mayor's explanation should prove satisfactory, he would be an infinitely stronger candidate than he is to-day. The very fact that he refuses to call a meeting not only implies that he feels his responsibility, but demonstrates that he is more concerned about his own petty personal ambitions than the material welfare of the city over which he would rule.

The Times is under no obligation to support Ald. McCandless for the Mayoralty. The events of the past year would have justified us in advocating the cause of any responsible man who had come out in opposition to the present occupant of the Mayor's chair. No matter who the opponent of the Mayor might have been, we should have considered it our duty to point out the abuses, and the possible losses to the city, which have occurred because of the ambition of one man to exceed the limits which by common consent have been placed upon the Mayoralty term.

A MODEL FUNCTION.

Richard Hall, M. P. P., has a fine conception as to the fitting thing in banquets. He was probably struck with the absurdity and wastefulness of our conventional habit in preparing a fine spread for a company of fat, sleek, comfortable and prosperous gentlemen to peck at and return to the waiter practically untasted. So he prepared a feast and called in a company capable of doing justice to the good things and testifying in the most eloquent manner possible their appreciation of the thoughtfulness of their host. Probably there was never a happier, a jollier, a better behaved, or a finer-looking company of little chaps assembled together than that which gathered at the Poodle Dog Friday. It was a treat to see the natural process of evolution by which the rich stores upon the table as they disappeared began to reflect themselves in the appearance of the company. The tables soon "looked sick," as one little chap expressed it, but the boys rapidly waxed strong in appearance and spirits. There might have been an excuse for an exhibition of unhappiness and alarm on the part of the proprietress of the establishment on account of the rapidity with which her viands were disposed of, but she appeared to be also filled with the general spirit of hilarity and good-fellowship. Mr. Hall no doubt gathered from his own experience in the past that there is no use in attempting to preach to boys until their minds have been brought to a condition of receptivity by reducing to the smallest limits the perpetual vacuum that exists in their stomachs. Scientific men tell us there is no "such thing" as a perfect vacuum. So no perfectly healthy boy has ever been known to be fully satisfied from a gastronomic standpoint. But the theory of the scientists was probably nearer to being exploded last night than ever before. The proof of this is to be found in the patience with which the boys listened to the good advice that was tendered them after they had been reduced to subjection. Probably we should not have used the word preach in connection with the festivities. There were neither sermons nor speeches delivered. Just a few earnest words of advice and encouragement. In fact the banquet was a model one in every respect. It did not occupy quite two hours. All retired from it feeling better in every way from having been there. All feel under obligations to Mr. Hall for the happy thought which inspired him in inaugurating an annual dinner for the younger gentlemen of the press. The older generation were quite as much gratified as the younger at the announcement that the affair is to be made an annual one.

SIGNS OF GOING.

Our good, unimaginative friend the Vancouver News-Advertiser has detected sounds of going in the tops of the mulberry trees. Probably the editor when he wrote the article which shows that he has not entirely abandoned hope had just returned from his regular annual Christmas pilgrimage to church, and had there been struck with the beauty of Scriptural phraseology. The writer was in a mind-soaring mood, and with the eye of faith he beheld the pertinacious Liberals moving in the tops of the mulberry trees. The common opinion of unimaginative persons is that it is the Conservatives who are "up a tree." And the trouble with them is that they are not even moving. They had their chance in Vancouver. There is a vacancy in the constituency, and if matters are in such sad shape in the ranks of the Liberals, that would surely be the opportunity for the Conservatives to step in and convince all Canada of the healthy conditions which prevail in Conservative circles.

But it is in remote places that our contemporary has discerned signs of moving. Mr. Tarte has moved out, Mr. Willison has resigned his position as editor of the Toronto Globe, and Mr. S. H. Blake has opened his prophetic mouth and denounced the Liberal party because of the corruption in which it is alleged to be steeped. Well, our Tory friends in the East undertook to prove that the alleged defection of Mr. Tarte was the precursor of disaster to the Liberal party. They held that he was the strong man of Quebec and that without him the government would be in their hands as Samson was in the hands of his enemies after he had been shorn of his locks. They put up candidates in all Eastern constituencies to demonstrate their strength and the enemy's weakness. The candidates of the government were elected by larger majorities than ever before. There appears to be no sound of going in Quebec or the other Eastern provinces.

As for the retirement of Mr. Willison, men have been known to move from one institution to another without their act being accepted as a presage of disaster to the greater part of the community. The Globe is a powerful institution, and has been a source of strength and inspiration to the Liberal party in the past. No doubt it will continue to exert just as much influence as ever under its new editor. But it is the height of absurdity to suggest that the retirement of the editor of any paper is a sign of decadence in the party with which that paper is politically connected. Mr. Willison has entered what he believes will be a more congenial field under persuasion from his friend Mr. Flavelle. That is no unusual circumstance in the newspaper world.

As for Mr. S. H. Blake, his denunciations have been reserved entirely for the Ontario government. And in this connection it is marvellous that with such an able man acting as counsel for the Conservatives of Ontario, and with fifty private detectives imported from the United States to supply him with evidence, only one Liberal has been unseated by the election courts. More marvellous still, the pure party with which Mr. Blake has allied himself has suffered the loss of two seats, while upon two others the judges disagreed, one holding that the charges had been proved and the other being contrary minded. We are really afraid something has occurred that has not been made public to influence the rather eccentric Blake mind, or it would not be espousing a discredited cause with such bitterness. Possibly Samuel would like to get back upon the Bench.

The News-Advertiser has been looking upon the wine when it is rosy, and the effect has been too, too stimulating upon the imagination. When the British papers says the things about political corruption under Liberal rule that they did when the Conservatives were in power in this country, we too will open our ears in the expectation of hearing the sounds of going in the mulberry trees. One London paper said: "No country can prosper where public departments are in league with fraudulent contractors, and where Ministers are open to offers." The country has been exceptionally prosperous under Liberalism because all the rules which make for prosperity have been observed.

Another Canadian elected to the Imperial House of Commons. Mr. Rose will have as his colleagues Messrs. Gilbert Parker and Edward Blake and General Laurie. The leaven of Imperialism is working. There will soon be a Canadian party as well as an Irish party in the House. But we have not yet developed a grievance, unless it be one that Mr. Rose as a Canadian was not permitted to challenge for the America Cup when he wanted to. There is a well-founded conviction that only Canadians can lift that cup. We will soon be rich enough to build America Cup challengers. We have taken all the other cups from the Americans for which our boats are eligible. We shall win the biggest cup of all yet.

TEARS, IDLE TEARS.

Alfred Tennyson.

The following beautiful song is from the long poem of "The Princess":

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine despair
Rise from the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy autumn fields,
And thinking of the days that are no more.

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,
That brings our friends up from the underworld,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.

Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awakened birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Dear as remembered kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feigned
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret:
O, Death in Life, the days that are no more.

PRIOR'S INCAPACITY.

Nelson News.

The defeat of the government candidate in North Victoria places the Prior government in a very tight corner. Premier Prior did not exhibit much capacity for leadership when he permitted the fight in that constituency to take the course it did. Patterson was not in sympathy with the opposition, and had Prior not forced him into taking a pronounced stand against the government the probabilities are that he would have voted with them in the House, rather than force on a general election. The same thing applies to the Premier's handling of the West Yale bye-election. His policy was to have allowed Mr. Semlin to have been elected by acclamation. Semlin has no use for the McBride faction, and he would in all likelihood have given the government independent support. In any event Prior would have escaped the odium of having attempted to disfranchise the electors of West Yale. Prior should consult with W. W. B. McInnes in all future moves. That young man can teach him many points in the game. Prior should dismiss Eberts, break loose from Victoria influences, and pay some heed to the requirements of the Kootenay mining districts. He might then have a chance to last out the remaining period of the life of the present legislature. It is well known that the great majority of the members don't want a general election yet awhile, and given half an excuse they would prevent a dissolution at least until after the next session.

Sceptics Turn Believers And Are Cured.

DR. AGNEW'S CATARRHAL POWDER A GREAT BLESSING.

"When I read that Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder could relieve Catarrh in 10 minutes I was far from being convinced. I tried it—a single puff through the blower afforded instant relief, stopped pain over the eyes and cleansed the nasal passages. To-day I am free from Catarrh." B. L. Egan's (Easton, Pa.) experience has been that of thousands of others and may be yours.

Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure saves life. Relieves in 30 minutes.

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

EXHIBITION ACCOUNTS.

To the Editor:—In a letter in yesterday's Colonist "Fair Play" calls upon the Finance Committee, naming me first, for an explanation of our passing the Colonist account ($500) and other matters in connection with the agricultural exhibition. From the tone of Fair Play's letter I infer that he is in close touch with the mayor, and I am sorry if any facts which I am forced to state may fail to give him that satisfaction which Fair Play would fain see him receive.

In the first place, with regard to the Colonist account. For some reason Mr. Goodacre and myself were not consulted in the matter, and did not even know of its being paid until long afterwards, when the secretary, Mr. Boggs, explained to me of his refusing to O.K. the account when first presented, as not being regularly passed by the finance committee, and because he felt the workmen should be paid first, but finally yielded when the president (the mayor) and Mr. Helmcken urged it so strongly.

"Fair Play" asks were we not pleased by the hard work the mayor did for us in connection with the exhibition? I am pleased to say yes, on several occasions, but in connection with the sports committee we would much prefer the engaging of the entertainers ourselves. The publishing of the mayor's name on Campbell's blackboard as having engaged the Shamrock Lacrosse Club to entertain Victoria citizens, together with his card in the next morning's Colonist, stating the same fact, no doubt would have put a feather in his cap but for the fact that the club's engagement proved a financial failure.

Fair Play asks did we not elect Mr. Hayward president of the association unanimously? I answer, on account of the close touch of the council with the association in financial matters it was generally felt that it would be wise to have the mayor of the city the president of the Agricultural association. Consequently we elected the mayor president, as we had previously done, I myself being one of the proposers. But if it so happens that Alderman McCandless is elected mayor for 1903 he immediately becomes ex-officio president of the association. Trusting that this explanation will be satisfactory,

W. J. HANNA.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.

To the Editor:—In these days of trades unionism and great combinations of capital, of strikes and lockouts involving hundreds of thousands of people, through which more than half a continent has recently been in danger of starving to death for want of coal, it is surely time that the public generally should begin to consider what the essential relations between labor and capital really are. We hear a great deal about the conflicting interests of labor and capital nowadays, but a brief consideration would show that the interests of labor and capital are identical. For the sole functions of capital are:

1. To render labor more efficient by providing tools, machinery, etc., namely, enable labor to produce more wealth with a given amount of exertion. When workmen strike against capital, they are only striking against themselves. They are like the little boy who, having run up against a post and hurt himself, started to thrash the post. For it is clear that if the rise and fall of wages were due to the earnings of capital, a fall of wages would be accompanied by a rise in interest, and a rise in wages would be accompanied by a fall in interest. We find, however, that in all cases a rise in wages is accompanied by a rise in interest, and a fall in wages by a fall in the interest of capital. Capital is but a sub-division of labor, and the same natural economic law which gives the product to the producer governs both the interest or wages of capital and the wages of labor. Much of the confusion of thought prevalent among workingmen on this subject is due to the popular confusion between the meanings of the words wealth and capital. All wealth is not capital. Capital is only a portion of wealth, namely, that portion of wealth which is devoted to the production of more wealth by assisting labor. There are three methods in which wealth may be used. They are:

1. Assisting labor to produce more wealth; wealth so used is called capital.

2. Satisfying the desires of its owners, as by providing the necessaries of life, luxuries, change of scene, etc.

3. Exploiting labor, by monopolizing the natural resources of land. In this case wealth does not produce in any sense of the word. Wealth so used merely alters the distribution of wealth, as the pistol of the highwayman does. It is by confusing these three uses to which wealth may be put that the idea of a conflict between labor and capital has arisen. There is no conflict of interests, but the combatants are labor and capital versus monopoly of the natural resources or land. All that is required to solve the social problem is to render it either illegal or unprofitable for wealth to be applied to the use of robbing labor and capital of their just return, by taking possession of nature's storehouses, or land.

VERITAS.

MASQUERADED AS A MAN.

Fell and Broke Ankle and Her Sex Was Revealed—Twice Married.

After 10 years' masquerading as a man, the unmasking came suddenly for "Harry" Norman and disclosed her sex as a woman. The disclosure was caused by an icy sidewalk at Buffalo.

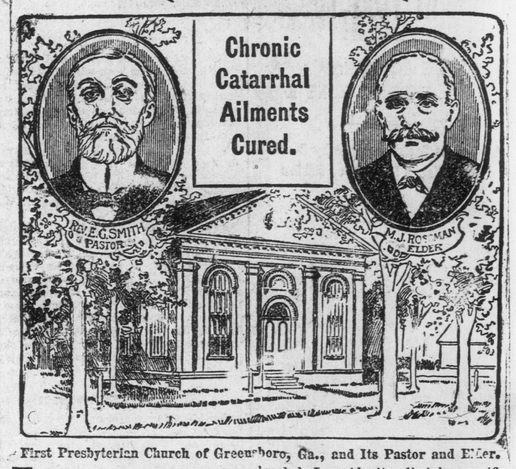
At 11 o'clock at night an Emergency hospital ambulance was called out and Ambulance Surgeon Cutting found a person lying on the sidewalk, disabled by a fractured ankle. The injured individual was short and thickly set, being about 5 feet 3 inches in height, and was clad in checked trousers of cheap material, brown coat, blue shirt, and blue cap, with leather peak. The patient was lifted into the ambulance and taken to the Emergency hospital. When laid upon the operating table and under the light, the surgeon noticed that although about 34 years old, the sufferer's face was remarkably beardless, and next discovered that the hands and feet were small for a man. With their suspicion aroused by these facts, the surgeon learned before the operation of setting the broken ankle was over that the patient was a woman.

The woman went to the States from England ten years ago, and found no welcome from employers who had work to give out. The work was not suitable for a woman, they said. Determined to make her way, she donned men's clothes and since that time has drifted from one position to another, finding no difficulty in obtaining work. Up to the time of the unfortunate accident that revealed her secret she was employed as cook in Jacob Quick Lunch House, in Seneca street, Buffalo.

On September 26th, 1899, "Harry" was married by Ald. Joseph Butler to Agnes Gordon. At the time of the marriage the bridegroom gave the age as 32 years, occupation cook, and birthplace, Yorkshire, Eng. This was "his" second marriage.

SOUTH AMERICAN NERVINE makes the whole system radiant in perfect health, it accelerates circulation, enriches the blood, penetrates to the very centres of nerve force, builds tissue, makes and keeps people well. This wonderful remedy has had a charmed experience and has done its greatest work in cases that the medical fraternity had pronounced hopeless Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.

PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR PRAISES PE-RU-NA.



First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, Ga., and Its Pastor and Elder.

THE day was when men of prominence hesitated to give their testimonials to proprietary medicines, for publication. This remains true today of most proprietary medicines. But Peruna has become so justly famous, its merits are known to so many people of high and low stations, that no one hesitates to see his name in print recommending Peruna.

The highest men in our nation have given Peruna a strong endorsement. Men representing all classes and stations are equally represented.

A dignified representative of the Presbyterian church in the person of Rev. E. G. Smith does not hesitate to state publicly that he has used Peruna in his family and found it cured when other remedies failed. In this statement the Rev. Smith is supported by an elder in his church.

Rev. E. G. Smith, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Greensboro, Ga., writes:

"Having used Peruna in my family for some time it gives me pleasure to testify to its true worth.

"My little boy seven years of age had been suffering for some time with catarrh of the lower bowels. Other remedies had failed, but after taking two bottles of Peruna the trouble almost entirely disappeared. For this special malady I consider it well nigh a specific.

"As a tonic for weak and worn out people it has few or no equals."—Rev. E. G. Smith.

Mr. M. J. Rossman, a prominent merchant of Greensboro, Ga., and an elder in the Presbyterian church of that place, has used Peruna, and in a recent letter to The Peruna Medicine Co., of Columbus, Ohio, writes as follows:

"For a long time I was troubled with catarrh of the kidneys and tried many remedies, all of which gave me no relief. Peruna was recommended to me by several friends, and after using a few bottles I am pleased to say that the long looked for relief was found and *I am now enjoying better health than I have for years, and can heartily recommend Peruna to all similarly afflicted. It is certainly a grand medicine."—M. J. Rossman.*

Catarrh is essentially the same wherever located. Peruna cures catarrh wherever located.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE VOTERS' LEAGUE.

To the Editor:—Those who have watched the work of the league are well aware of the reforming influence it has thus far exerted. Before opening another campaign it will be of value to consider that although results have exceeded expectations we have not yet succeeded in bringing together at our Tuesday evening meetings at the city hall many for whom they were intended, and who are known to be in sympathy with the movement for reform. While we all doubtless have the general welfare of our province at heart, we defeat our intentions by the multiplicity of our societies and factional parties. We must rise above the so-called political influences which have well nigh wrecked our fair province by combining all our efforts in common sense and judgment for a systematic development of the resources of as rich and fair a country as was ever entrusted to the care of mankind.

The Voters' league is strictly neutral ground and its meetings afford opportunity for all citizens to come together to discuss matters of general interest, independent of political or party bias, and it is hoped that all good citizens will take this opportunity of considering the many important matters now at issue on free and common ground.

In closing I wish in the name of the league to thank both papers for their generous assistance toward the success of the movement, and especially the editor of each paper for their many and timely articles on matters under discussion; also the reporters who have so fully reported our meetings.

A. J. MORLEY,
Hon. Secretary.

ADVICE TO THE MAYOR.

To the Editor:—Being one of Mayor Hayward's former supporters, I was very much surprised indeed to learn that a man of his experience and good judgment should be foolish enough to offer himself as a candidate for mayor for the fourth term. If he wishes to retire into private life he can probably afford to risk a contest with Ald. McCandless, but if it is his intention to enter provincial politics, as is generally supposed, he is making an inexcusable blunder in risking his reputation in a contest where he is badly handicapped by his own utterances when running against Mayor Redfern three years ago. If the mayor is defeated he will certainly lose the prestige he holds to-day. If he is fortunate enough to win, it will be at a great sacrifice of both money and friends. There are many others like myself who have nothing particularly against him, who we consider he has had his share of civic honors, and certainly Ald. McCandless is entitled to some recognition for his public services. It may not be generally known, but it is a fact nevertheless, that Ald McCandless was urged to oppose Mayor Hayward last year, but declined.

Would it not be a graceful act for the mayor to return the compliment? It would be a stroke of diplomacy that would gain for him hosts of friends and would relieve many of us from the unpleasant duty of voting against one that we formerly supported.

MERCHANT.

WEST COAST TRADE.

To the Editor:—I should like to call the attention of Victorians, through your paper, to a matter which, as far as I know, has not yet become a live question with them, and that is the wisdom to taking early steps to secure the trade of the West Coast of this island, and especially that of Quatsino Sound, for Victoria. It seems to me that we have not yet grasped the importance such a trade is bound to assume in the course of a very short time.

It may not be generally known that the Yreka people have chartered the steamer Venture to carry their ore to Crofton; as she will carry about a thousand tons and will make four or five trips per month, this output alone means a large expenditure of money, but the present intention is to run the boat up the east coast around the north end of the island and into Quatsino Sound. You will notice that Victoria is not a point of call, and if the intention is carried out then Victoria has lost the supplying of their camps, as I think it is fair to assume that Nanaimo will get the trade, and thus Vancouver in the end. They have something less than one hundred men at work now, but before long they will have a great many more.

Now I am not over sanguine when I say that before three years there will be five shipping mines in Quatsino Sound, all large producers, and it is our duty to offer sufficient inducements to have the boats from there come down the West Coast and call at Victoria. Besides these mines the Quatsino Power & Pulp company have now a party of men on the ground actively engaged on the preliminaries of their plant. They are getting to work as fast as possible, and as soon as the weather permits many more men will be engaged. This company is going to erect a plant with an output capacity of 125 tons per day, which will mean at least an expenditure of $40,000 per month, and if Victoria is made the supply point for the men and horses that must be engaged to carry on these different works it will mean a great deal to our city. The promoters of the pulp company are all Victorians, and I am sure are loyal enough to do for the city what they can. Let us get together, let the board of trade or some one else start the ball rolling. One thing I am sure of is that if we had half the push Seattle has we would have had our plans laid long ago. It just amounts to this, the trade is to be had and if we don't get it some one else will. The once-a-month service of the C. P. N. company is not enough.

VICTORIAN.

FROM WEST AFRICA.

Country Rich With Minerals but Death Lurks There.

T. S. Beal, a Canadian, who has been in the van of civilization in several parts of the globe, has just returned from the Gold Coast of Africa to herald the wonders of that land. Mr. Beal is the possessor of a gold concession, granted by a native king; and he intends to organize a company for the exploration and development of his claim. He was in Toronto the other day on his way home to wife and family in Windsor, after an absence of five months.

The gold on the west coast of Africa, Mr. Beal says, is the richest in the world. It is worth $18.25 an ounce, while Klondike gold is sold at $17.50. It is softer than the Canadian ore, and of a rich, reddish color. The ore is found in decayed quartz, which yields 4½ ounces to the ton. Much Australian, English and American capital has already been invested in the Wassau, Ashanti, and Kumassi groups of mines; and two "fifty" stampers are now on their way to Secondi, from which point a railway is now building to tap the quartz district, a hundred and fifty miles in the interior. The English companies are endeavoring to get Newcastle coal miners to go out to work the fields, offering them $25 a month. But death hangs over the land in the shape of malaria. A white man cannot live there, says Mr. Beal. Professor Ross, the great London specialist, who made experiments for some of the large companies, has ordered vast quantities of vitriol to be sent out and scattered through the swamps for the purpose of destroying the mosquitoes, which carry the plague. Should this plan prove effective, Mr. Beal prophesies a rush for the coast which will rival that for California in '49.

On his way to the coast from the interior Mr. Beal traversed a country where the foot of a white man had never trod, describing a semi-circle and coming out at Acra, instead of following the trail back to the town of Cape Coast. The trip occupied nine days, during which the explorer lived on wild fruit.

It appears that while Great Britain maintains whatever there is of law and order in the country, the gold fields are in the hands of native kings, whose name is legion, chief among them being King Primprah, now in jail for complicity in the massacre of whites in Ashanti. Mr. Beal's location is in the Bibiouni gold fields, in the State of Sifu, a hundred and eighty miles from the coast. Copper and platinum are found in abundance besides the gold, and coal has been discovered still further in the interior. Mr. Beal says that traces exist of ancient mine workings, and declares that the natives worked gold into ornaments and iron into weapons, hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of years ago.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

A Cleveland young man, who swore he was over twenty-one in order to get a marriage license, now explains that he was standing at the time on a piece of paper on which that magic number was written. With the explanation he makes a request for a divorce.

CONDITIONS IN THE JAPANESE EMP

INTERESTING LAND TO THE SIGHTS

Deputy Attorney-General McLean Bride Spend Pleasant Honeymoo in the Orient.

H. A. McLean, Deputy Atto General, returned with Mrs. Mc from Japan a few days ago after s ing a honeymoon of several weeks in interesting country. Mr. McLean ed many parts of the Japanese isl and was a careful observer of condi of the people. The visit was a very joyable one, and the Deputy Atto General has returned apparently pleased with the Japanese as they found in their homes.

The Japs are remarkably cleanl their habits. In the houses everyt literally shines, and every precauti taken to keep their dwellings spot A part of every day's routine amon classes in the country is a hot bath. the cities and towns the same cleanli is practised with respect to the str Every piece of paper and all rubbis every kind is carefully gathered ou the way. The hotels of the country fitted up according to modern ideas, are very comfortable.

Among the most interesting pl which were visited by Mr. and McLean was the old capital of the pire, Kioto. The seat of government many centuries, there is preserved in city much which is most fascinatin character. The city is situated in under the shelter of mountain range either side of it. These mountain slo commencing from the very site of city, are studded with ancient tem The view presented by these from city is very picturesque. An ascen the slopes affords an interesting st of the ancient art of the Japanese.

In connection with the artistic qu in the Japanese the Deputy Atto General says that they are not to judged in this respect by the exam of art which they send to this coun The articles received here are speci prepared by the Japanese to catch eye of the people, for which they intended. They are altogether exag ations of the true art of that peo The Japanese recognize this in con tion with these productions, and ad laughingly the reasons why these e gerated example of art are prepar merely to meet the apparent demand such among those who would not ap ciate the true art of their country.

A pretty sight is that afforded by large groups of children in holiday att Gaily decorated in various colors th children are ever to be seen on streets. They seem to live perpetu in the open air. The kindness and c sideration towards these by all classe a commendable characteristic. Even jinrickshg men, who throng the stre turn aside to avoid doing any injury the children at play.

Japan is not a rich country. This at once evident to the visitor. staple production of the land is rice produce the best variety of this laborious task according to the meth pursued by the Japanese. There strange absence of the use of any manual labor throughout the w country. This extends to the carri systems. Horses or oxen seem to used but very little as beasts of burd on the contrary men bear the princ loads of the country. On the rice p tations men do almost everything. fields are dug over by spade, and rice plants after being propagated where are transplanted to these fie By means of water conducted from mountain streams the land utilized the rice crop is kept almost under wa thus producing the best quality or gr The production of it is made a laborio task, and the returns to those enga in it are not great.

There is need of all the money av able for government purposes in the velopment of the country, and the in duction of more modern methods am the farming community. It is, theref Mr. McLean thinks, a great pity militarism has been forced upon Japanese Empire. The large expendit upon the navy and the army shoul available for developing the resource the islands. This is not possible, ever, in view of the rapid incre which are necessitated in the army navy.

This question of providing for th additions to the navy is one which giving the government a great deal concern. The proposal of the gov ment to increase the land taxes is ceived with disfavor. These are alre looked upon as oppressive upon the l owners, and will be opposed on th grounds. Mr. McLean believes, the fore, that the government will be feated on this policy.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean had an enj able trip, and the opportunity of stu ing the conditions in Japan were speci interesting to the Deputy Attorney-G eral.

COAL SHIPMENTS.

Following are the foreign coal shipme from Nanaimo for the month ending 3 December, 1902:

Date.	Name.	Destination.	To
1—S. S.	Amasis,	Seattle, Wash.	1,
2—S. S.	Kingfisher,	Alaska	
8—S. S.	Wyefield,	San Francisco	5,
10—S. S.	New England,	Alaska	
11—S. S.	Dirigo,	Alaska	
13—S. S.	Kingfisher,	Alaska	
13—S. S.	Klek,	Portland, Oregon	
19—S. S.	Titania,	San Francisco	
24—S. S.	New England,	Alaska	
24—S. S.	Wyefield,	San Francisco	
26—S. S.	Kingfisher,	Alaska	
28—S. S.	Dirigo,	Alaska	
29—Ship	G. Curtis,	Honolulu, H.	

Total .....