

The Colonist

FRIDAY, AUG. 5, 1892.

THE WESTMINSTER QUARANTINE.

Some of the citizens of Vancouver are finding fault with their neighbors in Westminster for raising the quarantine. The Westminister authorities had at least two excellent reasons for re-opening communication with Victoria. In the first place they had found out that the quarantine was illegal. This itself would have been sufficient to induce sensible and law-abiding men to do away with it. The men who make the laws for a city should not set the example of disobedience to law. Besides, well-disposed citizens have an almost instinctive repugnance to pursuing a course which they have reason to know is contrary to law even when it is represented to them that they can do so with impunity. They cannot act in opposition to the law without losing their self-respect, and such men are most unwilling to do anything that lowers them in their own esteem.

In the next place there was nothing to be gained by continuing the quarantine. It was not necessary to keep out the smallpox, for Vancouver has been in constant communication with Victoria without a quarantine, yet there has not been a single case of the disease within its borders. From a business point of view the quarantine was worse than useless. While the disease remains in the province business is slack enough. To make it slacker by unnecessarily cutting off communication with the principal seaport of the province was a very foolish proceeding. So the Westminister people wisely concluded that they had quite enough of isolation.

A DISH OF CROW.

The City Council of Vancouver found itself, yesterday morning, in a very awkward predicament. Judge Walker had decided that they had no right to keep Mr. Bowsack, and consequently other citizens of Victoria, in quarantine; and the Mayor and other city officials were on board the Comox and could not, according to their own by-law, be allowed to land. Must they, after all they had said and done, be compelled to release the Victorians whom they had, without warrant of law, imprisoned; and would they, for consistency's sake, arrest the Mayor, Health Officer, and City Attorney as soon as they set foot on the dock, and keep them in the quarantine prison for fourteen days? This latter proceeding, as they were well aware, would be very absurd, for they knew that the city officials on board the Comox were as free from smallpox as any of themselves. But they were from Victoria, and was it not ordained that every one from that 'infected city' must be quarantined? What were they to do? Were ever respectable Town Councilors in such a quandary? It they could not see how to get out of it without going back on themselves in the most humiliating way. It would be a most risky piece of business to keep the Victorians in prison any longer, and to quarantine the Mayor and other officials was not to be thought of, so they must make up their minds to swallow the dish of crow that they had prepared for themselves with what grace they could.

After some painful deliberation, the bewildered and collapsed City Council made the discovery that the spread of the smallpox in Victoria had been checked; and they also remembered that New Westminster had raised the quarantine against Victoria, and although they had threatened to punish the sister city for its disobedience by quarantining it too, they suddenly found that it would be wise under the circumstances to follow Westminster's example and declare the quarantine against Victoria ended. A resolution to this effect was forthwith drawn up and the Vancouver Town Council swallowed its crow stew with a good many dry faces.

The port of Vancouver is now open to the Victoria steamers. But the ill grace which which the decree of non-intercourse was recorded has made what might have been a graceful and neighborly act one which is, in every respect, its exact opposite.

ABANDONED FARMS.

The last United States census shows that there are 6,000 abandoned farms in New England. The taxes have not been paid on many of these farms, and the arrears have accumulated until they amount to considerable sums. The nominal owners are willing to sell the farms at very low prices indeed. It is said that many of them can be had for less than the cost of the buildings that are upon them. An account is given in the New York Herald of a farm being offered for \$6,500, the buildings on which cost \$10,000. This farm was well situated. Here is what is said of it in the Herald: A recent newspaper writer described a farm of 108 acres, two miles from the railway station of Williamstown, Mass., one of the loveliest villages in New England, which was offered for \$6,500, and upon which the buildings alone could not be duplicated for \$10,000. In the last forty years this farm twice took the premium offered for the best managed farm in the town. The land, buildings and fences are in excellent condition and the place is within half an hour's drive of markets and schools. Yet it can be bought for about half what the buildings cost.

If any part of Canada were in such a condition as this—if the people were abandoning their farms and selling them for less than the buildings cost, thus literally giving the land away, the prophets of evil would never cease bawling the pass to which the country had come. Most of them would declare that nothing but immediate annexation could save the country from utter ruin. But we see that being an integral part of the United States and within easy reach of

the market of sixty-four millions has not saved New England from a worse misfortune than has befallen any part of the Dominion of Canada.

Some Jews who have been driven out of Russia have been examining this depopulated country, and they have come to the conclusion that they can make a good living off the land which the Americans have abandoned in despair. A small colony of them have already settled in a place called Chesterfield, and are doing well. Baron Hirsch's agents have been in the country making enquiries as to the kind of land, and it is expected that there will be, before long, a goodly number of Russian exiles cultivating the farms which native Americans have abandoned. They are industrious and frugal, and will, most likely, prosper in their new homes.

JUDGE LYNCH.

The lynching of two brothers named Ruggles at Redding, California, is another example of the contempt for law and the want of confidence in its administration that are so widely prevalent in the United States. These men, on the 14th of May last, held up the stage coach in which there was a messenger of Wells, Fargo & Co. in charge of treasure to the amount of \$4,000. The driver made no resistance, but "Burr" Montgomery, the messenger, fired at one of the robbers, wounding him slightly. He had barely pulled the trigger of his Winchester when he was shot from behind and fell mortally wounded. The highwaymen got away with their plunder but were afterwards apprehended, one on the day after the robbery, and the other on the 19th of June. They were on the 24th inst. in the Redding jail awaiting trial. There do not appear to have been any manifestations of indignation on the part of the people, but they must have felt strongly, for on the morning of the day last named forty men, masked and armed, appeared at the door of the prison and demanded admittance. The jailer told them that the keys were in a safe in the sheriff's office. They went there, forced open the doors of the safe, and bore the jailer to open the prison door with the keys they had taken from the safe. They seized the prisoners, hurried them out and hanged them from a beam that rested on two pine trees. The whole business was done coolly and systematically. Very little noise was made and no violence used towards any one except the men who were lynched. There appears to have been quite a number of spectators besides the forty active lynchers. No reason is given for the lynching. It is not said that there was any danger of the prisoners being allowed to escape either by those who had them in charge or by the courts of law. The men seem to have been lynched on general principles. The mob were evidently determined to make sure that the murderers would be punished as they deserved. They would take no chances. Judges and juries they regarded as superfluous, and the law was, in their opinion, only made to delay and obstruct justice. The country in which such outrages as those at Homestead, Cour d'Alene and Redding are committed is certainly not a pleasant place of residence for law-abiding men who love peace and security.

THE RUSSIAN PACIFIC.

The Russian Pacific Railroad is a live undertaking. It has been commenced and is progressing at this moment. Two hundred miles of it are already built, and surveys are going on vigorously in many places. The road is to be eight thousand miles long. It is to extend from Vladivostok, on the Pacific Coast, to Moscow. The Engineer-in-chief of this great road is Captain Nicholas Rosanoff, who expects to have the road finished and equipped in five years. He says that there is money enough in the Russian Treasury to construct the road from end to end. This is most probably a bit of bounce on the part of Captain Rosanoff. Russia is rich in territory, but it is by no means well-off as far as money is concerned. It is often short of cash, and it was only the other day that it negotiated a large loan in France. Russia is, in fact, a borrowing country, and such countries have very seldom cash enough in hand to build and equip eight thousand miles of railroad. The road will most likely be built with money the greater part of which is yet to be borrowed. That it will be built there can now be no doubt. Russia wants the road as well for military as for commercial purposes. She has made many conquests in Asia, and evidently designs to make more, and the transcontinental railroad will help her both to make and to keep conquests.

The Chinese Government evidently believe that the new Russian road is not intended to benefit their country. They have commenced making railroad surveys leading to the northern frontier, so that when the Russian railroad brings troops to the neighborhood of China, China will be able to send troops to meet them, and, being nearer home, they can make up in numbers what they want in knowledge of the science of war.

The construction of the Russian Pacific will make some great changes, not only in the policy of the Russian Government, but in that of other nations. We see that China already considers that she will be affected by it, and it will most probably cause Great Britain to take active measures to secure her possessions in India. Russia has for a long time been casting a wistful eye to that country, and her rulers have been credited with alienly taking measures to make an invasion of it from the north successful. How far the road across the continent of Asia will facilitate that project alone can tell.

SPOILING FOR A FIGHT.

The Times cannot refrain from dragging politics into its criticisms on the administration of the health affairs of the city. This is in such bad taste as to be almost indecent. The important thing just now with reference to the health of the city is not the political opinions of the editor of the smallpox. This is no important work to trifling with or to quarrel about. There will be time enough to create political grievances and to discuss political questions after the disease has disappeared. Until then let us have political peace.

The doctors connected with the Health Department have disagreed. There is nothing wonderful in this. Medical men, like men of other vocations, have their disputes and their disagreements, with which politics have nothing to do in the world to do. If any of the official doctors cannot conscientiously carry out the regulations drawn up by the Government, and if they do not agree with the measures taken by the Provincial Health Officer, the best course, and indeed the only course, for them to pursue is to resign. They lose neither dignity nor reputation by pursuing such a course.

The Times complains of the "dictatorship" of those who are in authority. Well, dictatorship, absolutism if you like, is what the crisis requires. The physician who is entrusted with the work of stamping out the smallpox has taken upon himself very serious responsibilities. The man must be blind who does not see that he should have a free hand, that no one should be in a position to thwart him or to make his measures less effective than he intends them to be. All who are under him should make up their minds to submit to his dictation—to obey his orders. A ship in a storm must not have two captains, an army in action cannot have two generals, in the same way, a city which is engaged in driving the pestilence from its midst cannot have two heads upon its health department. The man placed at its head must be sole dictator, and all others must be his subordinates.

We are sure that the citizens of Victoria are satisfied with the selection made to fill the position of Provincial Health Officer. They believe him to be the right man in the right place. And his administration has vindicated the wisdom of the Government's choice. He has acted with intelligence, determination and vigor. He has brought order out of chaos, and he has replaced distrust and apprehension by confidence and the certainty that the disappearance of the smallpox is only a question of time, and a very short time.

Let any citizen of Victoria compare the state of public opinion and public feeling in the city now with what was when the Government took in hand the work of preserving the health of the city, and as a first step in the accomplishment of that end, appointed Dr. Davis Provincial Health Officer, and he will be able to appreciate to some extent the greatness and the beneficence of the change that has been effected. On the morning on which the Premier met the medical men of the city alarm filled every breast, and all will have now to admit that there was good cause for fear. How is it today? The wonderful change is due under Providence to the very "dictatorship" of which our contemporary complains. The citizens of Victoria have good reason to be thankful that they had among them men with brains enough to see that dictatorship was necessary and with nerve enough and courage enough to use the power which the law placed in their hands for the public good.

Milk-and-water men and popularity-hunting men would never have driven the smallpox out of the city. The men who were needed were men who knew what ought to be done and who did it without waiting to be told that they should do so. The arrangements of the suspect station are such that the danger of catching the smallpox while there, is very slight indeed. There is a capable medical man among the suspects all the time. Vaccination is carefully attended to, and the health of every person closely watched. The moment a suspect shows signs of having caught the smallpox he or she is carefully isolated and sent to the Jubilee station. The danger from exposure is therefore reduced to a minimum. And it must not be forgotten too, that the suspect must be there fourteen days, or he must have caught it before he entered the station.

The Times is making itself busy in creating a prejudice against the Ross Bay suspect house. By doing this it is unsettling the minds of those who have come in direct contact with smallpox patients, and the preservation of the public health requires to be isolated until it is certain that they have not contracted the disease. The law requires this, and not either the Premier or Dr. Davis. The regulation is a most salutary one, and was devised by men who know better how to stop the spread of disease than any newspaper editor or any newspaper correspondent in the Dominion of Canada. The Provincial Health Officer must carry out this provision of the law. He has no discretion in the matter. He dare not take upon himself the responsibility of disregarding it. But Dr. Davis, we understand, cordially approves of that regulation, and we think that he is better authority on anything connected with his profession than any one, physician or layman, who has access to the columns of the Times.

The Provincial Health Officer is exerting himself to the utmost to stamp out the smallpox in this city. In doing this he is working for the good of every citizen in it, young and old, rich and poor. He has a right, then, to expect the active co-operation of all good citizens. When presumably intelligent men, to serve their own purposes or to gratify their own spite, try to raise a prejudice against him and thus impair his usefulness they are doing what is opposed to the public welfare. We are more than surprised to see our contemporary taking this course. We thought that it knew better and had a stronger sense of duty. It

something taken from them that they ought to have kept to themselves. The Telegraph knows better than this. It knows that there can be a trade between the United States and Canada which will benefit, and benefit very materially, both Americans and Canadians. It is therefore consulting the interest of the United States when it advocates closer trade relations between the two countries.

AMATEUR SANITARIANS. A good many amateur sanitarians are, we see, cropping up in the newspapers and elsewhere. Would it not be prudent in them to efface themselves for a little while. The health authorities of the city and province have serious business in hand just now. Would it not be just as well to allow them to give their undivided attention to their work? It is important too, that the people should have faith in the men who are endeavoring to preserve the public health. Will our friends who take a deep interest in sanitary matters allow us to suggest that the gentlemen who make the treatment of disease the study of their lives are almost as likely to know what is best to stop the progress of the smallpox or any other malady as men who are not their superiors intellectually and who have not had the opportunity of giving a great deal of their attention to sanitary science or preventive medicine. It seems to us that in the present crisis if we cannot rely upon professional men to help us, there is not much chance of our success. The distinctions of amateurs may amuse us when there is nothing of much importance to consider. But when there is serious work to be done—work requiring for its proper performance professional knowledge and professional skill—we must confide to a preference for the advice and the services of the professional man.

The work to be done just now is very serious—few persons, it seems to us, realize how serious. It will be found out in time how much the smallpox scare has already cost the citizens of Victoria. It will be admitted, then, that it is of the very first importance that Victoria should regain its high reputation for healthiness, without any unnecessary loss of time. Will we not stand a better chance of having that done with the least possible delay, under the guidance of men of high repute in the medical profession, than if we gave heed to the counsels of amateur doctors and newspaper-clipping sanitarians.

WICKED OBSTRUCTION. A local item in Friday's Times, on the number of cases in the Jubilee Hospital Quarantine Station, concludes with the following sentence: "It was also reported that a fresh patient was expected up from Ross Bay suspect house, being another of those who have been compulsorily subjected to exposure and got it bad."

We are greatly surprised that the editor of the Times should allow such mischievous talk as this to appear in his paper. Is there no one in the Times office who can count fourteen, and does not every intelligent person now know that it takes the smallpox fourteen days to incubate? The writer of the paragraph, and the editor who allowed it to be published, ought to have known that it is absolutely impossible for a suspect to have caught the disease in less than fourteen days after his being admitted. If he has been there six, eight, ten or even twelve days, the certainty is that the disease was in his system when he entered the house, and that he caught it somewhere outside. The arrangements of the suspect station are such that the danger of catching the smallpox while there, is very slight indeed. There is a capable medical man among the suspects all the time. Vaccination is carefully attended to, and the health of every person closely watched. The moment a suspect shows signs of having caught the smallpox he or she is carefully isolated and sent to the Jubilee station. The danger from exposure is therefore reduced to a minimum. And it must not be forgotten too, that the suspect must be there fourteen days, or he must have caught it before he entered the station.

The Dominion Government has lately made the proposal to go back to the state of things which existed before the rebate was refused to vessels transshipping their cargoes as American ports. But this proposition, it appears, did not satisfy the American Government, and Congress has passed an act giving the President power after August 1: "Whenever he shall be satisfied that the passage through any lock or canal connected with the navigation of the St. Lawrence, the great lakes, or the water-ways connecting them, of any vessels of the United States, or of cargoes or passengers in transit to any part of the United States, is prohibited or made difficult or burdensome by the imposition of tolls, which he shall deem reciprocally unjust or unreasonable, it shall be his duty to suspend by proclamation, for such time and to such extent, including absolute prohibition, as he shall deem just, the right of free passage through the St. Lawrence Canal, so far as it relates to vessels owned by the subjects of the Government so discriminating against the citizens, ports or vessels of the United States, or to any cargoes, or portions of cargoes, or passengers in transit to the ports of the Government making such discrimination, whether carried in vessels of the United States or of other countries."

should not matter to any one who Dr. Davis is or to whom he is related. He is engaged in a work of the utmost importance to this city. He is known to be a competent man. He is succeeding beyond the expectations of the most hopeful, and consequently, those who undertake to impede him in the performance of his duty must be regarded as public enemies.

UNDER COMPULSION. A telegram from Toronto informed us, yesterday, that "in view of the retaliatory measures adopted by the United States, the Canadian Government will take steps to abolish the rebate system and to make a uniform toll or to do away with the tolls altogether." It seems to us a pity that this should be done, as it were, under compulsion. If the Americans are right in their contention, the Canadian Government should have done away with the discrimination as soon as the United States complained of it, and not have waited until Congress had passed a retaliatory act.

The question was not a very intricate one. A board of arbitration, composed of upright and intelligent business men, would have settled it satisfactorily to both countries in a very short time.

By the terms of the Washington Treaty, "The Government of Her Britannic Majesty engages to urge upon the Government of the Dominion of Canada to secure to the citizens of the United States the use of the Welland, St. Lawrence and other Canals in the Dominion, on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the Dominion."

This seems quite clear. Canadians and Americans were, after the treaty came into operation, to have the use of the Canadian canals on the same terms. Before July, 1885, the tolls on all vessels going through the canals were 20 cents a ton, but a rebate of 10 cents a ton was allowed to all vessels that carried their cargoes to Montreal, or that had them transhipped at some intervening port to be taken by land to Montreal or other Canadian port. On the 1st of July, 1885, the rebate was changed from 10 cents a ton to 18 cents a ton. So, in reality, a vessel, whether American or Canadian, bound for a Canadian port, or whose cargo was to be sent to a Canadian seaport by land, paid only two cents a ton as tolls. This arrangement was not complained of at first, for Canadians shipped their grain to Montreal by rail via Kingston, and Americans sent it by barge to the same port, water carriage being much cheaper than carriage by land. Owing to the shallowness of the canals below Kingston, the grain could not be sent to Montreal in the same vessels as carried it through the Welland Canal. Canadian shippers soon found that the Ordnance shippers had a great advantage over them, so they prevailed upon the Government to allow the rebate to those vessels only that transhipped their cargoes at a Canadian port.

It was then that the Americans began to complain. They asserted that they were not equal to the navigation of the Canadian canals with Canadians. The discrimination in the matter of the rebate, they contended, was a violation of the terms of the treaty of Washington. They paid twenty cents a ton tolls, while Canadian vessels paid in effect only two cents a ton. The reply of the Canadians was, We place all ships bound to a Canadian port on an equality. The American vessel that takes its cargo to Montreal or to a Canadian port to be transhipped to Montreal, pays exactly the same tolls as a Canadian vessel; and the Canadian vessel that does not take her cargo to Montreal or to a Canadian port, is treated exactly in the same way as an American vessel. There is no discrimination.

This, the Americans said, is not how we interpret the treaty of Washington. We consider that we are to receive the same treatment as Canadians, no matter where we discharge our cargoes. The matter was discussed and re-discussed, each party maintaining the same attitude and each accusing the other of not having carried out the terms of the treaty in good faith, for the United States entered into obligations with respect to the canal of New York state that were never carried out.

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There was a somewhat protracted session of the Board of Aldermen yesterday, at which a good deal of important business was transacted. No notification of the meeting had been given the press, and the Colonist was unrepresented, but considering that the full Board, with the exception of Ald. Hunter, was in attendance, and that it sat from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 5 p.m., there must have been a great deal of talk, and no doubt quite a lot of business transacted. The main topic under discussion was the supplementary estimates, and it was no little surprise to some of the aldermen to be told how utterly insufficient was the estimate upon which they based their calculations. To make the sewerage works available the ratepayers will be asked to vote a sum of \$300,000, and the amount set apart for street purposes being practically exhausted a further sum of \$100,000 will be required to keep the public thoroughfares in even their present unsatisfactory state of repair. There then is a large sum required to secure a better water service, and an extra appropriation to render more effective the fire department. After discussing finances by the hour the aldermanic board broke up, having briefly outlined a course of action on which the ratepayers will be asked to express an opinion.

COUNTELLERS' CONCLUSIONS. There was a somewhat protracted session of the Board of Aldermen yesterday, at which a good deal of important business was transacted. No notification of the meeting had been given the press, and the Colonist was unrepresented, but considering that the full Board, with the exception of Ald. Hunter, was in attendance, and that it sat from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 5 p.m., there must have been a great deal of talk, and no doubt quite a lot of business transacted. The main topic under discussion was the supplementary estimates, and it was no little surprise to some of the aldermen to be told how utterly insufficient was the estimate upon which they based their calculations. To make the sewerage works available the ratepayers will be asked to vote a sum of \$300,000, and the amount set apart for street purposes being practically exhausted a further sum of \$100,000 will be required to keep the public thoroughfares in even their present unsatisfactory state of repair. There then is a large sum required to secure a better water service, and an extra appropriation to render more effective the fire department. After discussing finances by the hour the aldermanic board broke up, having briefly outlined a course of action on which the ratepayers will be asked to express an opinion.

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THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

Although the Times and those who inspire its utterances have of late shown a determination to persistently mis-state all matters relating to the action of the Provincial authorities in stamping out the smallpox, a sense of shame should have prevented its circulating such a flagrant falsehood as the following: "We believe it is not generally known that the establishment of the hospital on the Jubilee Grounds was the result of the Mayor's suggestions, and such is the fact. He urged this step because of the city's inability to procure a site elsewhere, and, happily, the President and Directors finally agreed to it."

The "Times'" own columns can be appealed to, in proof of the fact that the first suggestion of using the Jubilee grounds, was made on the 9th July, at a meeting of medical men called by the Government at the Premier's office, when a resolution was carried, on the motion of the Attorney-General, that the fever ward of the Jubilee Hospital be used for smallpox patients. On the afternoon of the same day a meeting, at which were present Mayor Bevan, Dr. Milne, Mr. Taylor (the City Barrister), Dr. Davis (the President of the Hospital), Mr. Davies, and Superintendent Hussey, was held, and the suggestion was made by Dr. Davis to the President of the Hospital, that in lieu of the fever ward, temporary buildings should be erected upon the Jubilee grounds. At this meeting, Mayor Bevan combated the proposition of erecting buildings on those grounds, for fully an hour, urging that the building then in course of construction at Ross Bay was amply sufficient, and it was with the greatest difficulty that, at length, a most unwilling assent was wrung from him, that Mr. Davis should give orders to Mr. Hayward to proceed with the building, and, even after Mayor Bevan's assent had been given, the scheme of the Jubilee buildings well nigh fell through, owing to Mr. Bevan's contention with Mr. Hayward, that a smaller quantity of lumber should be ordered for the work, than the contractor reported to be absolutely necessary.

A FREE MAN AGAIN. Hon. Forbes G. Vernon Leaves the Quarantine Station—He Has Thoroughly Recovered. Words of Praise for the Nurses and Others Who Are Caring For the Sufferers. After a short siege of illness, topped off with three weeks' stay in the Jubilee Quarantine Hospital, Hon. Forbes G. Vernon, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, is around town again. His time was up yesterday afternoon, and, after going through the usual "performance," he walked out of the grounds and came down town. Before leaving the eastern building, which is known as the "disinfecting quarter," the regulations of the quarantine were taken, and with a complete outfit of new clothes, the erstwhile patient was set at liberty.

Talking to a Colonist reporter while walking down Fort street, Mr. Vernon spoke in the most commendatory language of the admirable way in which the patients in the hospital are being treated by the nurses, who render far more than ordinary assistance to the physicians in caring for the sufferers.

"Apart from the confinement within the grounds which was somewhat irksome, we have had no reason whatever to complain and, in fact, have had some very happy times, that is, of course, so far as one could be happy with sickness all around. You see I was one of the first patients moved out here. As soon as I heard of what had been done to make a suitable hospital for the treatment of everyone, I made up my mind to go out to it, although at that time I was rapidly recovering. There were a number of others brought out soon afterwards, and the patients who have little or no idea of the immensity of work that was to be done in getting everything in shape. There were buildings to be put up, tents and kitchens, etc. to be arranged, and a thousand and one things to be looked after. Considering that everything had to be done so quickly, we could not have been treated better, and it was only a short time before the whole business of the hospital had been reduced to a first-class system.

"Those young ladies who came down from the Jubilee to act as nurses, have done wonders. They care for all, and are here, there and everywhere, all the time looking after some one, and finding something to do to make someone more comfortable. No matter who the patient is, the treatment has been the same. The poor Indian woman was just as well looked after as the richest patient in the hospital, and received just the same amount of care and attention.

"Yes, I am glad to be out again and am now trying to make up my mind where to go for a holiday for a couple of weeks. I am feeling first rate, but out of deference to the fears of some people who may fancy that I will still carry infection, I think I will hide myself for a week or so."

COUNTELLERS' CONCLUSIONS. There was a somewhat protracted session of the Board of Aldermen yesterday, at which a good deal of important business was transacted. No notification of the meeting had been given the press, and the Colonist was unrepresented, but considering that the full Board, with the exception of Ald. Hunter, was in attendance, and that it sat from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 5 p.m., there must have been a great deal of talk, and no doubt quite a lot of business transacted. The main topic under discussion was the supplementary estimates, and it was no little surprise to some of the aldermen to be told how utterly insufficient was the estimate upon which they based their calculations. To make the sewerage works available the ratepayers will be asked to vote a sum of \$300,000, and the amount set apart for street purposes being practically exhausted a further sum of \$100,000 will be required to keep the public thoroughfares in even their present unsatisfactory state of repair. There then is a large sum required to secure a better water service, and an extra appropriation to render more effective the fire department. After discussing finances by the hour the aldermanic board broke up, having briefly outlined a course of action on which the ratepayers will be asked to express an opinion.

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FACTS AND FIGURES.

Statistics for the Month of July and What They Tell—Customs Receipts Very Satisfactory. Despite the Smallpox Scare There Were Few Deaths, and Business Did Not Suffer Materially.

TIME in his regular round calls to-day for the July files, which will be placed out of sight on the top shelf, back to-morrow morning, the busy book-keeper will commence a nice new week, and a nice new month, and a nice new page on the calendar.

The statistics for July are remarkable in many ways. The marriage, only seven, make a poor showing, but, as statistics are well to the front, the total of 35 being the highest for a good many months. The total number of deaths for the month is 24, a decrease from the figures for June.

July weather was not so "very hot," as being the very highest mark recorded on the 28th instant, by the resident observer at the official meteorological station, Mr. E. Baynes Reed. The highest mean temperature was also on July 28, 81°, while the lowest mark for the month was 46°—on July 23, 22 and 17.