Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1887.

ENGLAND NOT IN PERIL.

Professor Arminius Vambery contributes to the *Pester Lloyd*, a review on a book about England which was lately published by a Prussian officer, Major Otto Wachs. The author sought to prove that England was beset by countless dangers, which she could only hope to surmount successfully by reorganizing her army and increasing it enormously, on the model of Continental armies. Professor Vambery refutes these propositions, arguing that England's difficulties are greatly exaggerated, and that she has very little to fear from any country, not even from Russia in Central Asia.

TAXATION.

Hamilton *Spectator*: The Mackenzie government was in power five years—1874 to 1878 inclusive. During those five years the people of Canada paid in taxes to the Dominion government $94,943,940. The government spent the whole of that sum for ordinary current needs and a further sum of $1,997,618, which was borrowed. This is wholly independent of money spent in the construction of public works. Thus the sums for ordinary governmental use averaged $19,389,191 yearly, and taking the average population at that of 1876, which was 3,949,183, we find that the average Dominion taxation, for each head of the population, during the five years of reform rule, was $4.91 yearly.

The conservatives returned to power in 1878. During the seven years—1879 to 1885 inclusive, the people paid in taxes to the Dominion government $168,584,799; but only $145,844,245 was spent for ordinary governmental use. The remainder of the sum was expended on public works. The taxation needed for carrying on the government of the Dominion, including subsidies to provinces, averaged $20,834,892, or $4.78 per head of the population yearly, taking the population of 1881 as the basis for calculation.

To summarize: The Mackenzie government taxed the people for ordinary governmental purposes, $4.91 per head per year.

The Macdonald government has taxed the people for ordinary governmental purposes $4.78 cents per head per year.

The burden of taxation has been reduced by thirteen cents per head yearly so far as the ordinary expenses of the government are concerned.

BLAKE AS A TALKER.

An Ontario exchange thus draws comparisons between the "serene-souled" chancery lawyer and two eminent Nova Scotians:

"The wiseacre of the London *Advertiser*, David Mills, says that the conservative party have no man who can talk like Mr. Blake. We admit the truth of the remark. The same statement might be made with equal truth in reference to Ananias Cameron. Taking as specimen Mr. Blake's speeches at the opening of the campaign which he began last fall, we venture to say there is no man living who could give utterance to so many falsehoods, based on figures of public documents, as those speeches contain, and more than tacitly admitted by Mr. Blake himself, when he abandoned all his positions in reference to the justification of the Northwest rebellion, the grievances of the half-breeds, and the cruelty to the Indians, as untenable. We admit also that there is not another politician on either side who can talk so well and say so much, having reference only to artistic style, and tell so few facts, or adduce so few solid arguments as the same Mr. Blake. As a forcible speaker, a cogent reasoner, an unanswerable opponent, Mr. Blake is not to be compared with his quondam puppet. It is well known fact that Mr. Blake has felt the truth of this remark many a time in the commons. Indeed, the grievator has admitted this fully, when on several occasions he fled from public meetings at which Sir Charles appeared, because he was afraid to meet him. Mr. Blake is an arrant coward whenever he finds himself in the presence of his superiors. Though possessing more of the oratorical flow of words perhaps than the lion. J. S. D. Thompson, yet he has not half the intellectual breadth and depth of that gentleman. What, ever power of language Mr. Blake may have, he has little judgment and is very deficient in almost all the qualities that go to make up the sterling, steadfast and commanding statesman. As a reasoner, Mr. Blake frequently employs the most roundabout and circumlocutory method of arriving at a conclusion, and frequently argues in a circle, proving nothing."

GLADSTONE AND SECESSION.

The Quebec grits go the country on the Riel question while their followers in Nova Scotia hope to pull Blake through by means of the secession cry. The one is as unpatriotic as the other, but if Mr. Laurier can succeed in raising his leader to power over the Regina scaffold, and Mr. A. G. Jones effect the same object by "smashing" confederation their ambition will be satisfied and the goal of their desires reached. Some time ago Mr. Fielding, the leader of the Nova Scotia government and the head and front of the secession movement, sent a lengthy communication to the London *Standard* in which he set forth his reasons for advocating the secession of the province, of which he is premier, from the confederation. Mr. C. H. Tupper, M. P. for Pictou, took up the gauntlet and replied briefly but so effectively as to completely squelch his antagonist. He took up Mr. Fielding's statements *seriatim* and disposed of them in a manner which is really admirable. He showed conclusively from a pamphlet issued by Mr. Fielding's government and circulated in Great Britain for the guidance of intending settlers that Nova Scotia was in a most prosperous condition, and after dwelling fully upon the great field which it opened to the ever-crowded populations of Great Britain and the continent advised these to come to the province, which was one of the best countries in the world for men of small capital to emigrate to. No argument could have been more decisive and Mr. Tupper vanquished the wordy premier in one round. As a result, however, of Mr. Fielding's letter, previous to Mr. Tupper's reply, the *Standard* in a leading article, urged the secession dodge as an argument against home rule for Ireland. As soon as Mr. Tupper's letter in reply was published Mr. Gladstone, who, it must be admitted, is a good judge, having read both sides of the controversy, decided that Mr. Tupper had by far the best of the argument. Indeed so pleased was he at the evidence of the prosperity of Nova Scotia as adduced by Mr. Tupper, that he sent him the following letter expressing the pleasure with which he had read that gentleman's reply to Mr. Fielding's elaborate apology for secession:

HAWARDEN, December 31.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have read your letter, which arrived today, with great interest and satisfaction. The main point on which I had to touch was the question between Great Britain and the North American colonies, and this question was settled by the concession of responsible government. But I actively joined in the endeavors made since to maintain the measure of concession, that one regard to the several stages of ripening colonial opinions, and I have read with great pleasure the very conclusive evidence you have given, both as to the condition and progress of Nova Scotia, and as to the solidity of the large and important measure which has done so much for British North America, and for the solidity and harmony of the empire. I remain, my dear sir, yours faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

MR. C. H. Tupper.

Such an opinion from the great English liberal, upon whom Mr. Blake has so repeatedly fawned, will give cold comfort to the men who are condemned out of their own mouths in raising the cry of repeal in, according to their own story, one of the most prosperous provinces in the Dominion. Archbishop O'Brien, the talented head of the Catholic church in the maritime provinces, had already come out squarely against the attempt to wreck the confederation. Justin McCarthy, while in Halifax, was no less determined in his regret that the scheme should ever have been mooted, and now the great liberal tribune condemns the movement, and naturally in doing so must have an anything but unfavorable opinion of the men who have broached it. The fact is the grit advocates of secession never had any hope, any desire, that it would succeed. All they desired was to raise a feeling of dissatisfaction through the province which would culminate as well in their own return to power as in clearing the way for Blake. If the latter should reach "the flesh pots and political spoils" we will have heard the last of "secession." Thereafter your Fieldings and your Longleys will have forgotten that such a matter ever existed and will be loyal and cringing disciples of the "serene Edward." But what a wave of indignation will sweep over the province against the politicians who have betrayed the people by false promises to secure their own selfish ends!

POLITICAL NOTES.

Mr. Anglin will contest North Simcoe with Mr. Dalton McCarthy.

There is no such thing as a conservative secessionist in Nova Scotia. The disintegrators are all liberals, friends and followers of Mr. Blake.

It is said John Grant intends running as a "straddle-bug." He will run out of the legislature—and into private life. The *Times* will kill *him*.

Lieut. Bole was understood to say yesterday that he was never seen to blush. What, lieutenant? Did you never do good by stealth and blush to have it known?

H. R. Emerson, of Dorchester, a prominent lawyer, has been nominated as the liberal candidate for Westmoreland against Josiah Wood, the present member.

The amendment to the address, moved by Mr. Beaven yesterday, was a subtle effort to upset the government. If the amendment were to pass the government must retire. It was intended to catch the new members asleep, but the effort will prove a dead failure.

A good deal of time was consumed yesterday discussing the address. The time is not wasted. The discussion is very interesting and is calculated to develop the oratorical powers of the new members, besides it affords the government a breathing spell while awaiting the recovery of the premier, which is confidently anticipated shortly.

The conservatives were twitted with holding a hole-in-the-corner meeting to nominate. Then they referred the matter to a public meeting which declined to make nominations. The conservative candidates must now form the usual committees and proceed with their canvass on the old lines.

After considerable discussion Mr. A. W. Ross was declared by the unanimous consent of the Conservative association at Stonewall, Man., the nominee of the Conservative party for Lisgar, as a supporter of the present administration.

Mr. K. F. Burns, M. P. for Gloucester, N. B., who formed a subject for discussion by Mr. Charlton in his speech at The Victoria, feels so sure of his re-election that he has gone to England. His will be elected by acclamation, as will Mr. R. Moffat, M. P. for Restigouche, both loyal supporters of Sir John A. Our correspondent will be found not to be much out in his calculations.

It is announced that Mr. J. B. Snowball, the liberal candidate in Northumberland, N. B., has retired in favor of Peter Mitchell. So Peter will have a tussle with his old friend and life-long supporter, Mike Adams. The result is beyond doubt. Peter, the renegade, will be so badly beaten that he will hie him from the ice-clad Miramichi to the banks of the St. Lawrence in double-quick time. The late Hon. Surveyor General of the province has topped the poll for years, and will do so again.

If you desire to sustain the national policy, make no mistake about it. We have nailed the colors to the mast-head, and read to you by the hour, the statements which the press of our opponents are making in other parts of this country. There should be no mistake about this: That if the reform party are placed in power protective duties will go out, our industries will be no longer protected, and they even go so far as to declare in the lower provinces that there will be every effort made for fair trade with the United States, even so far as free trade in every kind of manufactures.—*Hon. Mr. Thompson.*

In the Catholic pamphlet issued by the liberals, Mr. Blake appears as the champion of Irishmen. Was he the champion of Irishmen when Mr. W. O'Donoghue, through Mr. Costigan, asked the house of commons not to outlaw him without a trial? Was he the champion of Irishmen when by the reform election bill of 1874 it was attempted to disfranchise one-half of the Irish electors of Prince Edward Island? Was he the champion of Irishmen when he refused to speak in East Toronto for Mr. John O'Donohoe, who was then the reform candidate, the plea of Mr. Blake being that he (Mr. Blake) was not a property owner in the division?

"As a rule candidates of the 'independent' stripe are not manly or honest enough to pronounce for or against either party while soliciting the suffrages of the electors, but no sooner are they elected than a 'fop' is made to the strongest side, that upon which the flesh pots and political spoils are to be encountered. Such at all events is the experience in all other sections of the country in which the independents are to be met with, and being for sale to the highest bidder they are not a very desirable class to be entrusted with power, and electors will be careful to not place them in a position to take advantage of, and betray the trust reposed in them.—*Times* (*June 7, 1886.*)

Mr. Bole, who imagines he has said all that can be said when he has finished, arose to a question of privilege yesterday and complained that THE COLONIST had reported the debate so as give Mr. Theo. Davie his thunder. After speaking for fifteen minutes he sat down without stating where the error was, and on a request from the attorney-general to name his grievance did so, and the trouble really lay in the fact that he had written his speech and committed it to memory. Fearful of forgetting it, he failed to listen to the strong terms used by the mover and seconder of the address in reply when speaking of the railway rates and, like the unsuccessful dramatic writer, when similar theatrical thunder to his own was introduced into a successful writer's play, Mr. Bole jumps to his feet and shouts "That's my thunder."

A Montreal politician says: "I reckon that Prince Edward Island will only elect one opponent of Sir John Macdonald. New Brunswick will return a majority of six in his favor. In Nova Scotia he will be in a minority of about seven, while in Quebec, in spite of all this Riel agitation, Sir John will have a majority of six or seven. Ontario will, I am convinced, give him a lead of sixteen or eighteen. Manitoba and British Columbia will each of them send six members to support him, and the entire representation of the northwest will be elected in his favor. He will have, I think, a majority of about thirty-five to thirty-eight." The Hamilton *Spectator* speculates thus: "Should the conservative have no more than the *bleus* have in the legislature they will hold 31 or 32 of the 65 seats. If the reformers should have one or three majority in Quebec, where are they to gain the 35 other seats needed by them? They will probably gain three or four in Nova Scotia, but they will lose two or three in New Brunswick. We fully expect from 10 to 15 majority in Quebec and the maritime provinces. West of Ontario the conservatives will have 13 and probably 14 of the 15 members-elect. In Ontario the present majority of 16 will probably be cut down to about 12." There are two estimates here. One gives a majority of 35, the other a majority of 42, for the conservatives.

RAILROAD EXPERIENCES.

"I'm sure it will be all right, aren't you?" a tall, pale faced woman, clad in widow's weeds, inquired of a gentleman sitting by her side in the west-bound Toronto train the other night.

"Oh, yes," he replied.

Then there was silence for the space of perhaps one second.

PROLIFIC COW.

TO THE EDITOR:—Under the above head you inform your readers that a cow has given birth to twin calves, male and female. It is a very common occurrence for cows to have twins, but breeders of stock look upon it as a misfortune rather than otherwise, merely from the fact that if they come male and female, as in this case, the female is known as a "free martin" and will not breed. During my experience of fifteen years stock rearing and farming I have had dozens of cows produce twins, several times three at a birth, all living and well. On one occasion a cow gave birth to four, but none were living and the mother died a few months afterwards. I always made it a rule to weigh all calves immediately they were born and the heaviest weighed 112 lbs; one batch of three weighed 142 lbs. Ordinary calves weigh from 40 to 60 lbs. Perhaps these facts may interest your readers. A. FERGUSON.

THE LATE MEETING—WHO SHOULD GO.

TO THE EDITOR:—I did not attend last night's meeting, having a fear that it would end in a fiasco, because the movement was begun at the wrong end. It is impossible from the discordant elements of a politically untrained community to evolve a party in a single night, or to subordinate a number of men, who have been accustomed to go-as-they-please in political matters, to party rule without some sort of preparation.

In my opinion the first step that should have been taken was the formation of a liberal-conservative association. This association should have been united all men who believe (as I believe,) that the Macdonald administration is entitled to the gratitude and support of those who have cast their lot in this province. After the association had been organized a public meeting of liberal-conservatives to nominate delegates to a convention should have been called. To that convention could then have submitted the claims of the rival candidates and a selection made of two candidates from the list.

It is too late now to retrace the false step taken on Thursday evening, and the election will have to be run on the old disjointed lines of committee work and personal canvassing.

The friends of Baker and Shakespeare must now go to work earnestly. Their record as supporters of Sir John is clear and unmistakeable.

Our worthy old mayor, who is good enough as a mayor, would be laughed at at Ottawa.

Mr. Humphreys is regarded with grave suspicion by every one with whom I have spoken. His record is stated to be bad—very bad. He must not be allowed to go to Ottawa as a representative of this fine constituency. Better have Mayor Fell, with all his foibles and *oddities*, a hundred times than T. B. Humphreys once.

Mr. Robertson's chances are not bright. Like Mayor Fell, he will catch a few votes from all sides; but his place on the ticket will be as low as the mayor's.

The real struggle—supposing no other candidates to present themselves—will be between Baker and Shakespeare and Humphreys. A vote for either Fell or Robertson, by separating from the conservative strength, means one for Humphreys.

As I am not a voter in this riding, I trust the few remarks I have offered will not be regarded as officious; but merely as a review of the political situation as it presents itself to me.

AN EASTERN CONSERVATIVE.

January 23, 1887.

BURNS' ANNIVERSARY.

The Caledonian Ball at New Westminster a Brilliant Affair.

Correspondence of the Colonist.

The St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of this city celebrated the anniversary of Scotia's favorite bard by a ball, given in the drill-shed, which proved a brilliant success. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags of all nations, Gaelic mottoes, and evergreens, running entirely round the building and looped up in the centre. The music consisted of seven pieces, and was everything that could be desired. Dancing commenced at 8:30, and was kept up with great spirit until 3:30 a.m. At midnight the company sat down to a supper supplied by Mrs. Carmichael, of Front street, which was excellent.

Scotch reels were danced with a great deal of vigor to the music of the pipes, which were ably handled by Piper Carmichael. Amongst the Vancouver visitors were noticed Mayor McLean, Dr. McGuigan, J. Clute, J. C. Douglas, F. D. McLellan, Golding, Ed. Rand, McPherson, Ademenus, Quackenbush and several others. Ladner Landing was well represented both by ladies and gentlemen as follows: Misses Gilmour, Alma Green, Miss Green, Miss Ladner, Miss Ladner, Mrs. Ladner, Messrs. Rich, Bain, P. H. Ladner. Port Moody people who are always in for amusement was well represented by Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Scott and Misses Clarke, Messrs. J. T. Scott and Greer. New Westminster—Chief Bonson in full Highland costume, Chos. Mowat, (costume kilts), Peter Grant, (kilts), Piper Carmichael, (kilts), Sergeant McMurphy, Dr. Trew, Capt. Peele, J. S. Clute, C. R. T. Garrock, A. Todd, A. Peebles, T. J. Trapp, C. Holt, L. Eckstein, M. M. Mowat, T. Armstrong, J. Buie, Rankin, Drummond, Shadwell, Currie, McCorvie, Cox, J. A. Greer, Herring and a great many others whose names could not be obtained. Ladies of New Westminster present were Mesdames T. J. Armstrong, Trapp, Todd, Kelly, Scott, Peebles, Trew, Peele, Drummond, Herring, and Misses Davidson, Armstrong, Steele, Clarke, McMurphy, Rand, Hill, Rankin, Ladner, Green, and others.

The hall was lighted by the new gas jets from above. As this has always been the ball of the season the committee have no reason to feel ashamed of this year's event. The roads, or rather the weather, which has been so very unpleasant may account for the absence of so many of the Caledonian and St. Andrew's society.

THE LEARNED SISTER.

"Lady lawyer (to witness)—You have been an intimate friend of the family, haven't you?

"Yes."

"You have seen the defendant here illuse his—"

He lawyer—I object. The question is improper.

The court—Objection sustained.

Lady lawyer—Haven't you seen the defendant—

He lawyer—Ibject; same ground.

The court—Same ruling.

Lady Lawyer—Well, then, what I want to know is, hasn't his wife, my client, been shamefully ill—

He lawyer—Ibject.

Court—Jection stained.

Lady lawyer—Please state, then, what you know about the cruelty of the man to—

He lawyer—Ibjec.

Court—Same ruling. Ask the witness, madame, to tell what he knows.

Lady lawyer—Well, that's what I am doing. Now, sir, tell us what you know.

Witness—About what?

Lady lawyer—Why, about the cruelty—

He lawyer—Ibjec.

The court—Jection stained. No more of this, madam.

Lady lawyer—Very well. Now, then, witness, tell us what you know.

Witness—Ask me questions and I'll answer 'em.

Lady lawyer—Why, just tell us how you have seen him abuse—oh, dear me, I forgot. Well, tell us—oh judge (breaking down tears) he knows perfectly well what I want him to say!

The court—Recess for half an hour. Our learned sister can employ the time in composing herself.—*San Francisco Post.*

THE NEW shaft for the steamer Yosemite was placed in position yesterday, by aid of the shears on the C. P. N. Co.'s dock. She will be ready for service in two weeks.

MAINLAND NEWS.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

NEW WESTMINSTER.—Large quantities of freight continue to come in by C. P. R. The Royal City Planing Mills and another cut 110,000 feet of lumber daily, and are working at full capacity, sending much lumber along the line. The company have the order for a full cargo of lumber to be shipped to Montreal; they have a mill at Vancouver.

The Bank of British Columbia contemplate building a brick branch. A Chinese block of three brick stores has been built in Front street on leased ground for twenty years. Gas is now quite a feature, and as cheap as in Victoria.

VANCOUVER.—The stage road from New Westminster to Vancouver is in a bad condition—a disgrace to the corporation of Vancouver, as the worst part is within the city limits. In the latter portion, holes large enough *to bury a horse* have to be traversed by *two stages twice a day.* How drivers and horses do not commit suicide every time they attempt to travel, is one of those mysteries time may unravel; and the material for repair lies at the side of the road! Of the whole thirteen miles, certainly not four can be traveled at a pace exceeding a walk. Three hours are consumed in covering it.

Vancouver has one or two streets paved with planking, which gives it a cleanly and pleasing aspect. Several buildings of commanding appearance have been erected, among others the Leland block; the new Hudson Bay store has a very ornamental exterior. The new C. P. R. Hotel, to cost $200,000, is showing its vast proportions above ground, being built nearly to the first floor. Stacks of brick surround it, almost enough apparently, to build a whole street of houses. It will be four stories in all. A fine view will be obtained from the front, and it is to be finished with ornamental grounds around it.

ECHOES FROM YALE.

The weather the past week has been moderate, with occasional slight falls of snow or rain. To-day we are having very heavy downfalls of snow, and the probability is that by to-morrow the "beautiful" will be three or four feet deep.

Last evening a special train passed through with eighty men from Winnipeg to be employed on the Vancouver line of the C. P. R., and it is stated more men from the same city are preparing to follow. Some of the employes had their wives and children with them.

The general belief prevails that Chinamen do not roam at night. This theory is being rudely dispelled here, in the fact that hen roots now have very few occupants, and seeing that John considers chickens are raised for his especial behoof the chances are, in a very short time, they (the chickens, not the Chinamen) will become things of the past. The heathen Chinee's method is very peculiar, and his investment to procure a living involves but little outlay. He simply provides himself with a bag and a piece of rod iron about two feet in length, one end of which is wrapped with a piece of rag to give it a firm hold, and prepared with these two inexpensive articles he nonelessly gains access to the hen-roost, taps the unsuspecting roosters on the head with the iron, slips them into his bag and quietly retreats with his dead friends. Whether he is either caught *in flagrante delicto*, or a search in his hovel proves successful. On the return of our J. P. from Victoria some of these chicken thieves will be introduced to him.

January 23, 1887.

"LA MINERVE" ON BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We cull the following from an article in *La Minerva* of the 12th, published at Montreal: British Columbia is not appreciated by the other provinces as it deserves; it is so far away, we ignore her existence; until lately, we had no ties binding us to her. This is very wrong, and we must be careful not to persist in this erroneous policy. Although her population is small, not more than 50,000, the people are very rich, intelligent and audacious; large-minded in their views of their grand province, they are applying themselves to the development of its resources, with all the vigor their circumstances will allow.

After giving statistics of our trade, *La Minerve* says: The imports per capita of the population of British Columbia amount to $63 for the six years ending in 1885, while the imports of the population of all the other provinces amount in the same period only to $28 per capita. Estimating the population according to the census of 1881, we find, then, that British Columbia imports three times the amount of goods per head that the other provinces do. It is thus evident that British Columbia is entitled to receive from the government as representing the other provinces a certain contribution to equalize the taxation per capita. Instead of the connection with British Columbia being ruinous to the Dominion, the Dominion is in debt to that province for carrying more than its fair share of the general taxation.

La Minerve proceeds in its kindly written article to give the figures of our productions and exports, and points out that the provincial cut of square pine is more than one-half of that of the entire Dominion, and goes on to say "that we do not sufficiently value this great province and do it a great injustice when we assert that it is a sea of mountains covered with glaciers and perpetual snows, ignoring among the other facts that the climate of the island of Vancouver is one of the finest in the world, where, in January even, flowers and fruits grow in the open air!"

La Minerve concludes by saying: "We predict a great future for the commerce of this favored province, although we cannot expect much development of its trade with us for a year at least after the completion of the Pacific railway, but it will come. In the meantime we will see more and more how mistaken the blind liberal party was which regarded with such disdain the annexation of British Columbia, which could in the union only be a source of expense to the other provinces!"

EASTERN POLITICS.

It is generally admitted among conservatives that Sir John is to retire from politics after the general elections and that Sir Charles Tupper will assume the leadership.

Rumor has already assigned the following officers in the Quebec cabinet: Hon. Mr. Langevin, premier and attorney general; Mr. Joe Shehyn, treasurer; Mr. James McShane, commissioner of crown lands; Mr. Duhamel, solicitor-general; Hon. P. Garneau, commissioner of agriculture and public works, with a seat in the legislative council; Dr. Cameron, provincial secretary. There remains Mr. Gagnon, who may be given a portfolio, in which case Mr. Garneau may be a minister without a portfolio, or the cabinet may possibly be formed without a Protestant representative at all.

Mercier, by accepting office, vacates his seat in the house. There will doubtless be a proposition to adjourn the house from day to day until the next government is completed when there will be a more lengthy adjournment to permit of time for re-election of the new ministers.

After routine in the house Hon. Mr. Taillon said that although he no longer was premier he would move the adjournment of the house until Wednesday next. This was carried and the house accordingly adjourned.

The governor was down to the house at 3 o'clock and stated that he would read the speech from the throne on Wednesday, Feb. 2nd. The members have returned to the assembly.

Sir Donald Smith has signified his willingness to stand as an independent candidate in Montreal West, supporting the national and general policy of the government.

Jas. H. Ross, member of the Northwest council for West Assiniboia, has decided to oppose Nicholas Flood Davin at the approaching elections. Both are conservatives.

THE RETALIATION BILL.

Absurd Comments of the Committee.

Has Canada Any Rights that the United States is Bound to Respect.

The report of the committee accompanying the senate retaliation bill says:

The pretension is ill-founded that, as has been sometimes asserted by the government of Great Britain, American fishing vessels or others have no right except at the pleasure of the British government to be in or to prosecute lawful pursuits in the great arms of the sea extending between ports of the British mainland, and which are more than six marine miles broad. It would seem that it is the deliberate purpose of the British government to leave it to the individual discretion of each one of the numerous magistrates, fishery officers and customs officers of Canada to seize and bring into port any American vessels, whether fishing or other, that he finds within any harbor in Canada or hovering within Canadian waters. The statute does not even except those Canadian waters in which, along a large part of the southern coast and the whole of the western coast of Newfoundland, they are entitled to fish, to say nothing of the vast extent of the continental coast of Canada. The committee is of the firm opinion that this legislation is in violation of the treaty of 1818, and of the principle of comity and good neighborhood. Some of the seizures were in clear violation of the treaty of 1818, and others were made on such slender and technical grounds as to make it impossible to believe they were made with the object of protecting substantial rights against real and substantial invasion, but must have been made rather under the stimulus of the cupidity of the seizing officer, or else they must have arisen from a systematic disposition on the part of the Dominion authorities to vex and harass American vessels so as to produce a state of embarrassment and inconvenience with respect to intercourse with the provinces as to coerce the United States into an arrangement of general reciprocity with the Dominion. The committee shows that whenever reciprocity has been tried, the result has been injurious to the United States.

BEHRING SEAL FISHERIES.

Government to Vigorously Carry on the War Against Seal Pirates.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Orders were sent by the secretary of the treasury some days ago to San Francisco directing the immediate refitting of the Bear for cruising in the waters of the Behring sea. The rumors or insinuations made from time to time that the government would not continue vigorously to enforce the law prohibiting the killing of fur seals in Alaskan waters are wholly unfounded. The most energetic action directly in the line of last year's work will be repeated during the forthcoming season. The revenue cutter Bear will be followed by the Corwin, and the joint cruising of these vessels is expected to sweep every seal pirate from Behring Sea. The treasury department in this matter simply carries out the law. The state department is now considering the claims of Great Britain as to whether or not international law in this matter has been violated. All the precedents and the history of Russian control and ownership are now under review. The right and title of Russia to exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Behring Sea from 1745 to 1867, when she sold part of her claim to the United States, is a very strong one, well guarded and fortified by the terms of all her treaty stipulations with this government in 1824, with Great Britain in 1825, later in 1841, and finally with this government again in 1867. Any statement that the state department will carelessly surrender the rights and title acquired by the purchase of Alaska by the United States is simply irresponsible and groundless.

HON. MR. FOSTER'S OPINION OF THE BELMONT BILL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 23.—Hon. G. E. Foster, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in an interview concerning the Belmont bill, said that while the bill appeared to assume that American fishing vessels were trading on their rights in Canadian waters, the treaty of 1818 gives them no such rights. The Canadian government has not in a single instance refused any fair rights or hospitalities to American fishermen. He said if congress deprives Canadian vessels of the privileges denied American vessels in Canadian ports, it will only prevent the Canadian fishermen from trading in American ports.

RAILROADING UNDER THE SEA.

The First Train Goes Through the Severn Tunnel, 2 1-4 Miles Under the Ocean.

The first passenger trains passed through the gigantic tube linking the shores of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire on Wednesday morning. Before those on board quite knew where they were a shrill whistle, a sudden darkening—for it was now nearly broad daylight—and "We are in!" told them they were "in" and rushing down a clearly perceptible decline toward a point a hundred feet below the bed of the broad estuary. In a trice watches were out and windows down, the first to keep time, and the other to test the ventilation. The inrush of the icy cold air, as clear and pure as if the trip across was being made in the old way—over instead of under the channel—showed the latter was all right. The submarine journey—if such it may be called—proved to be more like a run through a pretty deep cutting than through a tunnel four and a quarter miles long. For about three minutes and a half after entering there was no mistaking the fact that a sharp gradient was being descended, then a momentary rumble as the train passed over the curve of the arc—for the tube dips in the centre—and the locomotive, at an ever-decreasing speed, climbed the opposite gradient, to emerge once more into daylight in 8 minutes, 46 seconds.

As before remarked, the ventilation of the tunnel is little short of perfect. During the construction of the work a fan 18 feet in diameter, discharging 60,000 cubic feet of air per minute, was used. This has now been replaced by a fan 40 feet in diameter and 12 wide, made on the same principle as those used at the Mersey and a portion of the Metropolitan tunnels. The tunnel is 26 feet wide and 20 feet high from the double line of rails to the crown of the arch inside the brickwork. The rails are laid on longitudinal sleepers. The tunnel has been lined throughout with vitrified bricks set in cement, and no less than 75,000,000 bricks have been used in this work. This vitrified brick wall has a thickness of 3 feet in the crown of the arch beneath the shoots, but as the tunnel rises from this lowest point on a gradient one in 90 one way and one in 100 toward the Gloucestershire side, this thickness is gradually reduced to 2 feet 3 inches.

The total length of the Severn tunnel is 4 miles 624 yards. The St. Gothard tunnel is 9½ miles, Mont Cenis tunnel 7½ miles, Arlberg tunnel (Austria) 6½ miles; there is a tunnel in Massachusetts 3½ miles; the Standege tunnel, on the London and Northwestern, is 3 miles long, and the Box tunnel rather less. But the special feature of the Severn tunnel lies in the fact that 2½ miles of it have been constructed from 45 to 100 feet below the bed of a rapidly flowing tidal estuary, offering engineering difficulties which make it the most remarkable tunnel in the world.—*Cardiff Weekly Mail.*

PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE.

The Queen's coachmakers have renovated one of her majesty's six state coaches in preparation for the court functions of the Jubilee year. The door handles and armorial bearings are of gold, as also are the crest and the order of St. George upon the roof. The body of the carriage is of vermillion, picked out with gold, and the springs and all the iron work are gilt. Representations of the crown and the garter are among the adornments of the equipage. It is lined with blue silk.

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

QUEBEC.

In the Amyot-Tarte libel case the jury returned a verdict for Amyot with damages. Only three quarters of the whole costs were given against Tarte, one-fourth being against Demers, proprietor of *Le Canadien.*

At the Basilica, Ottawa, Vicar-General Routhier again denounced skating and tobogganning, and expressed surprise that in obedience to the wishes of the church, the parents had not forbidden their children indulging in them.

Sir John Kaye has sailed for home. He has arranged to import from England all thoroughbred stock amounting to over six hundred head for the experimenting farms in the Northwest.

A brakeman named Alex. Riopella, has been accidentally killed at Point Claire.

Harold C. Keefer, assistant engineer on the construction of the Ontario & Quebec railway bridge at Vaudrieil, fell from the bridge and was killed.

A full bench of court of appeals, Montreal, refused an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* in the case of J. S. Hoke, of Peoria, a defaulter. Hoke will petition the minister of justice against the decision.

It is understood that Judge Torrance has bequeathed his estate, valued at $71,000, to McGill university. Mrs. Torrance will enjoy the usufruct of the estate, which will be administered by the university.

Charles E. George, city editor of the Ottawa *Free Press* has begun suit against the Ottawa *Citizen*, claiming $5,000 damages for libel. A criminal suit has been begun against the editor.

Percy E. Doolittle, the well-know Toronto bicyclist, has had all his valuable gold and silver medals, won at tournaments in Canada and the States, stolen from his residence by an audacious thief, who effected an entrance by prying open a basement window. The medals were valued at between four and five hundred dollars.

Alexander Armitage, of Cavanagh & Armitage, grain and commission merchants Toronto, after partaking of a hearty tea suddenly expired. He attended to his business as usual during the day, and had not complained of being ill.

The river Thames has overflowed. Dundas street in London west was flooded for a considerable distance, the water being up to the floors of the houses and the tenants moved out. In London south the springs ground had two feet of water on them. The Thames river on Pipeline road also overflowed.

The ministerial association was presented with a petition from 250 shop girls, praying for the assistance of the association to aid them in procuring shorter hours. The association resolved to support them.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

According to the St. John, N. B., *Telegraph*, a family residing on Dorchester street in that city is afflicted with a nightly visitant, they say, which displays a peculiar *penchant* for a certain rocking-chair. The chair sits in a front room, off the bedroom, where its movements can be distinctly heard, and it is stated that every night, after the family has retired, it begins to rock, and keeps on rocking until patience ceases to be a virtue. The chair has been turned bottom upward, but when this has been done it has rocked just the same, and when it has been examined has been found to be right side up. The father of the family has slept in the same room, and the chair has continued to rock with no one near it. The family think that there must be an uneasy ghost in the house, and these events have made them so nervous that they have decided to remove.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The cable announces that the Nova Scotia barque George R. Crowe, was burned in Australian waters. She was one of the finest of the Nova Scotia fleet, and insured for $26,000 in Halifax offices.

A REMARKABLE CRIMINAL.

About two years ago a young lawyer, practising under the name of Voorhees, was arrested at Port Townsend, W. T., on suspicion of being Thomas J. Navin, the defaulting mayor of Adrian, Michigan. He was taken to that town, and was identified, tried and sentenced to ten years in the Detroit prison. When he was being taken to his place of confinement he remarked haughtily that he would be free again in two years. Navin is a remarkable criminal. He was a very precocious youth, and the people of Adrian pointed to him with pride. In 1880 he was elected mayor of the city over an old and respected citizen. At that time he was but 21 years of age. In his official capacity he began taking improper liberties with the city's moneys, and he succeeded in appropriating $250,000. One day in November, 1881, he hurriedly left Adrian, and was not seen again until he was arrested in Port Townsend three years later. Recently strong efforts were made to secure Nevin's pardon, but Gov. Alger, on investigation, learned that the ex-mayor had made many attempts to escape from prison, and that his conduct was bad, and he therefore refused to interfere with the law's decree.

PATTI AND NICOLINI IN MEXICO.

After the noise incident upon Guille's performance had quieted down, Mme. Patti appeared, and this was the signal for a perfect tumult, the audience acting as if endeavoring to make up for their half-hearted reception of Friday. The clapping of hands, "vivas" and "bravos" seemed never to want to subside, and flowers fairly rained down on the stage. Patti was evidently delighted with her reception. She smiled and bowed in a way which showed how much she appreciated her welcome, and her eyes fairly sparkled. When the demonstration finally subsided somewhat, "Ah! Forse e Lui," one of the most beautiful selections from Traviata, was given by the singer in a strong, yet inexpressibly sweet and pleasing voice. She seemed to be returning thanks to the vast assemblage before the footlights for their welcome—yet in such a light, airy and withal pleasing way that it was delightful to receive the gratitude so irresistibly tendered. Suddenly there broke from the wings a rich, clear tenor voice, which sang in duet with Patti until the finish, when the house fairly trembled with the plaudits of the audience, and the duet had to be given over again for an encore. Everybody, of course, supposed that the voice behind the scenes was that of Guille, and had they been told that it was Nicolini, Mme. Patti's husband, they would have been considerably surprised, for the impression had gone out that Nicolini's voice is gone, whereas the voice which accompanied Patti was strong and clear. The fair diva was as much surprised when she recognized the voice as the audience could possibly have been had they known whose it was, as she knew nothing of Nicolini's having arranged with Guille, for whom it was cast, to take the part. Especially was it unexpected to her, as she knew that Nicolini had not tried his voice for two months. Those who watched Patti's face closely might have seen how thoroughly pleased she was at this point. She turned to the scenes, smiled roguishly, and at the end of the song ran with extended arms behind the flies to give the to-be-envied Nicolini a good old-fashioned hug.—*City of Mexico Two Republics.*

That Prof. Baird says that as a fish has no maturity there is nothing to prevent it from living indefinitely and growing continually. He cites in proof a pike living in Russia whose age dated back to the fifteenth century. In the royal aquarium at St. Petersburg there are fish that have been there 140 years.

That a sharp divergence exists between Harcourt and Morley with reference to the negotiations with Chamberlain. Harcourt wants Gladstone to concede a form of compromise on the home rule question that could be accepted by Chamberlain. Morley opposed making such a compromise. Harcourt threatens, in the event of a collapse of the negotiations, to secede from the Gladstone ranks.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL ADDRESS.

BY A LAYMAN.

My dear children, as no religious instruction of any kind is given in the public schools, the Sunday school becomes a most important institution, inasmuch as it is through its teachings you, the rising generation, are mainly indebted for instruction in that good Book called the Bible. Now I can easily imagine that many of you look upon this Bible as a task book, and that you go Sunday after Sunday, to Sunday school because it is your duty so to do, and because so ordered by your parents. Well, now, I am anxious to show you, that this Bible besides being the book from which you learn lessons at the Sunday school, is also a Book full of most interesting and instructive reading when Sunday school teaching is over. Of course you are aware that it is to that people called the Jews, that we are indebted for this Book, for to them were first committed the oracles of God. It is perfectly marvellous that they should have been able to preserve them through so many tr