The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 19TH, 1889.

A COOL PROPOSITION.

It is certainly cool of the contractor for the Johnson street sewer to ask the Board of Aldermen to allow him to put in an 18-inch pipe in place of the 20-inch one that he had contracted for. He says that it is impossible to procure a 20-inch pipe. That is simply absurd. He should have found out before he signed the contract whether or not he was binding himself to do what was "impossible." A prudent man who intended honestly to carry out the terms of his contract would have found out before he took the work whether or not the kind of pipe required could be obtained. Does the contractor expect that the residents of Johnson street in despair of having the street made passable within a reasonable time will use their influence with the Board of Aldermen to have the diameter of the pipe changed to suit his convenience? We are pleased to see that the majority of the Aldermen were firm and refused to grant the contractor's request. It is to be hoped that they will remain of the mind they are now in and resist all pressure that may be brought to bear upon them to induce them to change their decision. The contractor should be kept up strictly to the conditions of his agreement. The work should be done in every respect according to specification. City contractors should be made to feel that their contracts are binding and that they cannot depart from them as often as it suits their interest or their convenience to do so.

THE LOAN BY-LAWS.

The Board of Aldermen decided at their last meeting to submit no fewer than four loan by-laws to the ratepayers which foot up the very considerable sum of $170,000. These with the $45,000 loan voted two or three weeks ago make up $215,000, which for one year for a city of the size of Victoria is a pretty big debt to contract. It may be said that the sum required for the water works, if the law were observed, could not properly be considered a burden on the ratepayers as those works are a paying investment. They yield a handsome return on the money expended upon them every year, and something over and above to pay off the debt incurred for their construction, if the fund were, as originally intended, kept separate and appropriated as the law directs. But this has never yet been done. The surplus has been too tempting a plum for the City Councils. They could not keep their hands off of it when they wanted money for general purposes, and now when money is needed to extend the works the present council must come to the ratepayers for a loan. There is, we suppose, no use crying over spilt milk. The citizens cannot have their cake and eat it too. But the wisdom of keeping the water-works fund separate is now seen. If that had been done all along there would have been money enough in the Treasury to give the city as good a water supply as circumstances permit. It is to be hoped that future Boards of Aldermen will be more provident than their predecessors, and so administer water-works receipts that every dollar over and above what is required for maintenance will go towards the payment of interest on the money borrowed and the liquidation of the debt soon to be incurred.

This water-works business has not been wisely managed. Through some one's fault a very considerable sum has been wasted, for which the city gets nothing at all. Money, too, has been lost in having the work lately performed by day's labor and not by contract and besides this, the ditch has cost a good deal more than was necessary. But the debt has been contracted and it must be paid. The city's rulers should surely learn enough from the blunders that have been committed not to make similar ones in the future.

The Board of Aldermen should, before they ask the ratepayers to vote them the money they need, make a clear statement of what has been done with the money already voted for the water works. How much debt they have contracted, and what it was contracted for. What work is still to do and what is its estimated cost. Full explanations are due to the ratepayers. They should not be asked to vote blindfold for any sum that the Board of Aldermen may choose to ask. A clear understanding of what has been done and what is still required to be done will make it all the easier for the Board to get the money they need. Without a full and clear explanation of the whole of this water works business it is hardly to be expected that the majority of the ratepayers will give their sanction to the bylaws. They must have some guarantee that no more money will be frittered away in unnecessary works or in wasteful methods.

A BROAD DISTINCTION.

People on this side of the Atlantic have come to attach an unpleasant significance to the word "politics" and to look upon the politician as a person not by any means to be admired. This is to be regretted, for a man cannot direct his attention to a nobler or more useful subject than politics, properly so called and the politician to be deserving of the name should be the most high-minded and the most disinterested of men, instead of being, as he is now generally considered, exactly the reverse. The distinction between "politician" and "partisan" was justly and happily defined by a clergyman who not long ago preached in the hearing of President Harrison. He said:

"The word politics was one of the noblest words in the language, but it had become debauched until now men wink when they speak of a man as a politician, although it should be as high praise to call a man a 'politician' as to call him a 'statesman.' Politics must be elevated to mean something better than a selfish and too often corrupt strife for place and power. Let this be called what it is—partisanship. Let the man who pursues this as his vocation be known as a partisan. Let the politician be the man reared in broad and liberal policies of government, and skilled to carry them into execution, by planting himself upon eternal principles of right, and appealing to the patriotism of his fellow-citizens."

President Harrison has had a splendid opportunity of observing how many men of the party to which he belongs are politicians in the sense indicated by the preacher.

UNITED STATES FINANCE.

Although the revenue of the United States is much greater than is required for the purposes of government taxation is not diminished. Every year there is an immense surplus, a large proportion of it coming out of the pockets of men and women who have much ado to make an honest livelihood, yet the State does not abate one iota of its demands. The legislature of the Republic strains its ingenuity to find ways of spending the taxes collected from the people, yet after all the appropriations that can with any show of decency be made are voted, there still remains unexpended a sum equal to much more than twice the whole revenue of this Dominion. We see from this that republican governments are not always easy on the mass of the people. Rings and combines and private interests of one kind and another whose profits depend upon keeping up taxation to its present high rate prevent Congress from making the reduction of taxation which the well-being of the great body of the people demands. Indeed so powerful are the organizations and interests whose prosperity depends upon keeping the heavy burden of taxation on the shoulders of the people that they have found means to prevail upon the electors themselves to vote against lightening that burden in the least. Reduction of taxation was the main, almost the only issue at the last presidential election, and although Mr. Cleveland, who advocated reduction, polled a few more votes on the whole than his opponent, he could not carry a majority of the States, and so he lost the election. This is, we think, the first instance in the history of the world where a free people deliberately chose a high rate of taxation in preference to a lower rate.

The revenue of the United States for the fiscal year ending 30th June last was $388,591,675. The expenditure was $300,064,794, leaving a surplus of $88,526,880. What to do with this surplus is a problem which United States statesmen find it extremely difficult to solve. They have paid up all the debt as it became due, and they have expended many millions in purchasing bonds, which still have some time to run. They have, of course, been obliged to pay a premium on such bonds and these operations have disturbed ordinary business in such a way that the government has to be very careful indeed how it engages in this business of purchasing its own securities.

We see by a statement in a California newspaper that the interest bearing debt of the United States is now $894,477,472, and that the debt bearing no interest, greenbacks, gold and silver certificates, etc., is listed at $744,284,353. The cash in the Treasury for all purposes is the enormous sum of $643,115,172. "The greater part of this hoard is set off against definite accounts as security for the certificates and like liabilities of the government, and the net cash at the disposal of the government is given at $71,484,042." The same authority tells us that the income of the government exceeded its expenditure during June by $16,225,930. It seems that President Harrison is at a loss what to do with all this money. He is literally embarrassed by the nation's riches, so he intends calling Congress together in November to advise him what disposal to make of the surplus. The Republicans when in opposition had a number of places for getting away with the surplus, and now that the responsibility of spending it rests with them people are curious to see which of them they will adopt.

THE NEW RAILWAY.

The railway project placed before the ratepayers of Victoria on Thursday evening by Mr. DeCosmos is one of considerable importance. Direct railway connection with the mainland—or as direct as our isolated position will permit—will no doubt be a benefit to Victoria. It seems to us, however, that the provisional president of the new road asks the city to pay rather too much for any advantage that may accrue to it from the construction of the road. A guarantee of five hundred thousand dollars for twenty-five years at four per cent, and a subscription to the stock list of $375,000 form a very considerable addition to the liabilities of the city, and we are by no means sure that as many and as great advantages as he promised cannot be had at a very much cheaper rate.

The citizens should remember that they will be asked in a few days to contract a debt of over two hundred thousand dollars, the greater part of which is for waterworks, which are a necessity, and which the comfort and safety of the city require to be placed in the best possible condition. Then a debt of another half million must be contracted for the construction of a proper system of sewers. The city must be drained. The health of its inhabitants and its reputation as a place of residence imperatively demand that the construction of the sewers be no longer delayed.

Had the projectors come before the citizens with a reasonable proposition, say a bonus of a quarter of a million or so, it would in all probability be readily entertained. But when they are asked to tie their hands in such a way that they will be unable to help any other road, they must be expected to hesitate.

The construction of the Canadian Western Railway will be of immense advantage to Victoria as well as to the rest of the province. There is a good prospect of its being built in the near future. It will be to the interest of Victoria to bonus that road handsomely, but if it fritters away its means and weakens its credit by giving the better part of a million dollars to this Victoria, Nanaich & New Westminster railway, which will, after all, be nothing more than an appendage to the Canadian Pacific, it will not be in a position to give substantial aid to the Canadian Western, of which it is to be the ocean terminus. When everything is considered it will, we think, be deemed better for Victoria to keep itself unembarrassed, so that it may be in a position to help effectually the transcontinental road with which it is to be immediately connected.

Besides, as we have already stated, all the advantages which are promised Victoria by the Saanich road can be obtained more readily and more cheaply by other means. The Island Railway Company have for some time entertained the project of making the route to the mainland shorter by establishing a ferry between a point near Chemainus, and Vancouver. The distance to Osborne Bay by the Island railway is about thirty-three miles, and the distance from that harbor to Vancouver is thirty-three miles. The sixty-six miles, half by rail and half by water, can easily be covered in three hours and a quarter. The gain in time by this route will, we have no doubt, be very nearly if not quite as great as that by the Saanich route, for no one supposes that Mr. DeCosmos' statements were mathematically correct. He naturally painted everything "coleur de rose," and giving him credit for endeavoring to be exact, everyone knows that in matters of this kind difficulties and delays which have not been foreseen, are certain to arise. It must be evident that it is much more likely that a distance of 66 miles can be made in three hours and fifteen minutes than that 73½ miles can be covered in two hours and forty minutes. The citizens of Victoria have here an alternative scheme which does not require the construction of a new road, and by which they will not be asked to hamper themselves by a heavy liability. The whole subject is worthy their most serious consideration.

ROYAL ALLOWANCES.

It is undeniable that Great Britain is becoming more and more democratic. There are others besides a few political cranks who take exception to the expenses of royalty and who grumble loudly whenever a fresh allowance is required for any member of the royal family. The present Conservative Government has been induced to permit the appointment of a committee to enquire into the amount of public money received by persons in one way or other connected with the Sovereign. It may safely be taken for granted that severe pressure must have been brought to bear on the ministry before Lord Salisbury could be brought to consent to the appointment of such a committee. In the debate which is certain to result from the enquiries of this committee much will be said which the staunch upholders of royalty will not like to hear, and it will give occasion for articles in the radical newspapers which will not be at all respectful to the Queen and to the members of her family. The freeness with which people in England talk about such matters would shock a colonist, whose ideas of loyalty have become what are considered in the mother country old-fashioned. It was a gentleman who had been long a resident of this province who said to an old friend after his return from a visit to England: "I could never live at home now. It has become altogether too democratic for me." He had revisited the land of his birth with the ideas respecting royalty, etc., of thirty or forty years ago, and was shocked to find that they were altogether out of date in the England of to-day.

The people of England—that is, the masses—have got a notion that the Queen has become very rich. She has, for a Queen, lived very quietly, and has not spent all her income, and she has, they say, invested her savings judiciously. They believe that she ought to spend some of her money on her children and her grandchildren, and not leave them to be provided for by the nation. Many coarse-minded people say this and much more in a very coarse way which is most offensive to those who have from their earliest days been taught to honor the Queen and all who are in authority under her. But the bump of veneration is not cultivated in these days, and is becoming, as some good and sensible people think, alarmingly small.

It is quite true that Queen Victoria receives what many people in moderate circumstances look upon as a great deal of money, but then it must be considered she has a great deal to do with it. Her allowances have not been increased since she came to the throne in 1837, fifty-two years ago. The arrangement made by Parliament then has never been departed from.

What the Queen does with her money no one knows. She is not the sort of person to tell all the world what her expenses are. It is quite possible that the reproaches that are showered upon her by persons who know no more about her manner of life than they do about that of the Grand Lama may be wholly undeserved. She may have been, and the probability is that she has been, judiciously generous to her children and her children's children. But some loud-talking people have got it into their heads that she is parsimonious, and they are not at all backward in speaking as if their suspicions were certainties.

The sum paid annually to all the members of the Royal Family is roughly $2,715,000. Of this the Queen receives $1,925,000, but by far the greater part of this is spent to keep up her state as Queen of England. There are salaries to be paid to a regiment of officials of one kind and another, that no private person no matter how rich he might be, would dream of employing. Then there are retiring allowances and bounties and alms and special services and what not, that run away with much of the Queen's income over which Her Majesty has really very little more control than have those who traduce her. The sum over which she can exercise control is really, considering her position, quite moderate, not more perhaps than three or four hundred thousand dollars a year. Some kings of England have not found the royal allowances sufficient, but they have run in debt. But Queen Victoria has been provident and has been able, it is believed, to lay by a pretty penny which her family will have the benefit of after her death.

The allowance of the Prince of Wales from the nation is about $200,000 a year, and he gets perhaps $100,000 more from the Duchy of Cornwall. There are many noblemen and private gentlemen in Great Britain and America who have a larger income than this, The Prince is pretty free-handed and his position compels him to spend a very large sum annually, so that when all things are considered, the Prince of Wales cannot be considered a rich man. It is said (but we do not know with how much truth) that his mother has assisted him to make both ends meet more than once. After all that is said about the expenses of royalty it will be seen that it does not cost so rich a nation as England very much to support a Monarch and a Royal Family. The whole is very little over half a million of pounds sterling. When the committee that has just been appointed concludes its enquiries, the nation will, we think, wonder that so much noise has been made about so small a matter. We are greatly mistaken in the people of Great Britain if they will ever permit parliament to treat the reigning family shabbily.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE customs receipts at the port of Montreal for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, total $9,265,406.11, an increase over the previous year of $716,668.96. The receipts from inland revenue at the same port for the fiscal year just closed amounted to $1,888,314.40, an increase of $238,505.01. The receipts from weights and measures show a decrease of $569.56, as compared with those of the previous year.

THE law of libel is in this province most unjust. It is, besides, antiquated. It has been amended and made more in accordance with the spirit of the times not only in other provinces of the Dominion but in that most conservative of countries, Great Britain. But the legislators of this province refuse to take from it a single objectionable feature. But we find that there are other countries in as bad a condition apparently with regard to the law of libel as British Columbia. Mr. E. H. Butler, of the Buffalo News, in a lecture before the New York Press Association thus describes the law of libel in that State, which would apply without the alteration of hardly a word to the law on the same subject in this province. He said:

"The law of libel of the State of New York is English in its origin; it is Russian in its operation. It hampers honest journalism by a censorship fit for the Czar's Government, and comparable to nothing in law short of the 'administrative' jurisprudence of St. Petersburg and Siberia. It assumes guilt on the part of every man accused under it, just as the Russian 'police' system does. It invites blackmail by making needy lawyers partners in the proceeds of suits brought for the purpose of 'settlement.' The present law in this State is a series of ill-connected links of legislation, a veritable crazy-quilt, in which no two patches harmonize."

THE Shah is gorgeously arrayed. He evidently does not see what good there is in being an Emperor if he cannot make the people he meets feel that they are hopelessly below him. The only way he has of showing his superiority to those about him, is by wearing better clothes than the common herd. He must despise the noblemen and gentlemen he meets in England for dressing in such a way as to require an expert to distinguish between them and the men who wait on them at dinner. Catch him appearing in public in a suit of clothes not differing in any way from the dress worn by hundreds of others in the company. The democracy of the dress suit does not commend itself to his serene highness. When he appears in public he is literally loaded with barbaric pearl and gold. He is bejewelled from head to foot. In his head gear there is a aigrette of costly brilliants. In his breast-plate there are enormous diamonds. The belt round his waist is of gold and in the clasp is the biggest ruby in the world. From his sash of the Order of the Garter hangs an enormous diamond called the Sea of Light, and there are scattered all over his coat strings of precious stones. The Shah is worth more than a million as he stands. His single dress suit would make a princely fortune for any man whose views are at all moderate. Who would stop to notice the little social solecisms of a man clothed in such splendour as this? But it is said that the Shah has greatly improved, according to Western ideas, since his last visit to England. He does not throw the contents of his soup plate on the carpet if it does not suit his royal palate. He waits until until the watchful flunkey removes it. In other respects he is careful to conform to Western ideas.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

TO THE EDITOR:—I am startled at the proposition of the contractors of the Johnson street sewer to reduce the size of the pipe from 20 to 18 inches on the plea that there is no 20-inch pipe on the coast. What have the public to do with that? All they require is for the contractor to do his work in accordance with his agreement. It was his duty to see whether pipe of the requisite size was obtainable or not before he ripped up our street and spoiled our business for an indefinite period. In fact, he should not have taken a contract which he must have known he could not complete. The council acted wisely and well in refusing to relax the terms. A relaxation in one particular would mean a release of the bondsmen, and would place the public entirely at the mercy of the contractor.

To-day I see the work of excavating is continued. If the contractor cannot fill up the hole he is digging for want of 20-inch pipe, why is he allowed to continue until trade will be entirely driven away from

JOHNSON STREET!

The Lake Shore & Eastern.

A telegram was received from New York by Mr. Angus Mackintosh, president of the Merchants National Bank of Seattle, on Thursday, that all financial arrangements had been completed in connection with the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern, and that the work of construction would be pushed rapidly to a completion. Mr. Mackintosh said that contracts would be let immediately. It is understood in Seattle that the satisfactory position in which the finances of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern have been placed is due to the influence of Mr. Van Horne. The line will, it is said, be completed to the boundary and connected with the C.P.R. Mission branch by the 1st of December.

A Family Affair.

WE have used Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry in our family of six persons during twelve years, and in all cases of diarrhœa, summer complaint, etc., it never fails to cure. This valuable medicine should be on hand in every family.

MRS. ANNA ALLEN,
Harley, Ont.

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THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Sir Somers Vine Arrives in Victoria, and Tells Something About It.

Among the passengers to Victoria by the Sound steamer last evening were Sir Somers Vine, assistant secretary of the provisional directors of the Imperial Institute (of which the Prince of Wales is president), and his friend, Col. C. J. Ponford, of New Zealand, who made many friends during a visit to Victoria several years ago.

This is Sir Somers Vine's first visit to British Columbia, and he comes to consult with His Honor Lieut.-Governor Nelson, upon matters relating to the great work with which he is connected.

The Imperial Institute is intended to be a great national memorial of the Queen's reign, founded by public subscriptions from every part of the Empire. The Dominion of Canada has contributed £20,000, and upwards of £400,000 has already been promised or paid. This amount will completely cover the cost of the institute building, and the minimum amount of endowment provided under Royal charter. The Prince of Wales is the acting president, and indeed the founder, of the Imperial Institute; and he is ably assisted by a temporary governing body, composed of the most eminent men of England, who are also aided by agents in several of the colonies, including the High Commr. for Canada. The new governing body, which will come into existence in about two years, will embrace representatives directly nominated by the Colonial Legislatures, and other public bodies.

Attached to the Institute building will be separate courts for each of the colonies, the amount of space devoted to each being in proportion to its relative commercial value and population. In these courts will be placed samples of the products of the different colonies. Side by side will be established a system of commercial intelligence, so that people from all parts of the world can go into the court of any particular colony, see and handle the specimens there exhibited, and then learn all the latest commercial and technical intelligence respecting each and every specimen shown.

There will also be scientific laboratories in the building, where all products so far as possible will be subjected to treatment and analysis, with the object of developing their capabilities and increasing their value and usefulness.

Sir Somers Vine, the assistant secretary, was deputed to visit the principal British colonies for the purpose of explaining the proposed organization of sample collections and intelligence departments to the various colonial governments, and to seek their aid and co-operation in making each collection a valuable museum of the particular colony, and establishing a bureau which will convey to every individual, whatever his station in life he may be, every scrap of information obtainable in reference to the various specimens in the collection.

In pursuance of his instructions Sir Somers has visited Ceylon, the Straits settlements, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand. The governments of the colonies named and their commercial communities, comprising chambers of commerce, boards of trade, etc., etc., have cordially co-operated with him, and heartily agreed to lend their aid to the various proposals submitted to them.

Respecting Canada, Sir Somers is under orders not only to wait upon the Governor-General and the Dominion ministry, but also the Lieutenant-Governors of the different provinces. After completing his work in Canada, he will proceed, via the United States, to the West Indies, which for the present will complete his tour.

Lord Herschel (ex-Lord Chancellor), who is chairman of the temporary governing body, recently visited India. The government of that country, as a result of his visit, have warmly taken up the whole question and appropriated an annual grant for the purpose not only of preparing a collection worthy of the great Indian Empire, but also of founding a reliable system of intelligence which will make their collection of immense value to all classes, commercial and industrial, in the land, and in all parts of the British Empire.

Sir Somers Vine will remain for several days in Victoria, and prior to his departure further particulars of the Institute plan, having more direct reference to British Columbia, will be given.

A VISIT TO A CLAIRVOYANT.

A representative of THE COLONIST called on Mrs. Fulton, the spiritualist, at the Clarence Hotel on Friday, for the purpose of testing her peculiar powers. He thus describes what took place:

After a pleasant chat with the lady, who gladly gave me a history of her life and work, she took me into an inner room which to my surprise was bright and pleasant and into which the sunshine was pouring through an open window with all its force. We seated ourselves one at each side of the table, and after a moment or two, she asked me if there was anybody in spirit life that I would like to hear from. I said that there were several, and she then allowed me to wash and wipe dry two out of a bundle of small slates. When I had done this I placed them tightly together on a small table and clinched my hand above them. In a minute I distinctly felt Mrs. Fulton's hand that held one end of the slates tremble and shake violently, and the motion was communicated to my whole body almost making my teeth chatter. This went on for about three minutes and then I was asked to pull the slates apart. I did so and was astounded to find written on the lower one the following message signed "Henry Ward Beecher," the man with whom I had wished to speak. This was it: "My young friend, I say unto you there is no death. The stars go down to rise upon some fairer shore, and bright in heaven's jewelled crown, they shine for evermore. And we who have passed through the narrow door of the grave are standing with renewed strength and renewed power on the border land of immortal life. If it were not so I would not be here to to tell you of it."

After a rather long pause the medium told me that a sister of mine wished to speak to me. She then gave me the message and after concluding it said, "The name is ." To my great surprise the first and last names were correct, but the middle one was slightly wrong. She made several attempts at this error and at last corrected it, spelling the whole name off correctly, without any previous knowledge whatever, or sign or signal of any kind from me. She then described my father's personal appearance almost exactly, and told me that a spirit that she could barely recognize was anxious to speak to me. After a while she said: "I make out an old, pleasant-looking colored woman with a turban on her head. She has a deep scar on her forehead. She has been in spirit life for six years." I at once recognized the picture as that of my old Afghan nurse, who died in June, 1883, in Australia.

When Mrs. Fulton had given me several other tests, all most interesting and correct, I withdrew and made way for others waiting to communicate with spiritual friends.

Get The Best.

DR. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is the best, most prompt and safest cure for cholera morbus, dysentery, sick stomach, cramps, colic, diarrhœa and cholera infantum, that has yet been discovered. Its popularity increases each year. All medicine dealers sell it.

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A Plain Statement.

ALL poisonous waste and worn out matter ought to escape from the system through the secretions of the bowels, kidneys and skin. B. B. B. cleanses, opens and regulates these natural outlets for the removal of disease.

s-w-f

THE QUESTION DRAWER.

List of Questions Asked at the Teachers' Examination Yesterday—Hon. Mr. Robson's Remarks.

Friday last the candidates for teachers' certificates were examined in the subjects of mental arithmetic, composition and spelling. After the papers had been disposed of, Mr. S. D. Pope, superintendent of education, announced that he would answer any questions pertaining to school work, that the candidates might choose to ask through the question drawer.

The following were the questions submitted, and answered in a manner thoroughly satisfactory to all, by Mr. Pope:

"I would like to know the best way of retaining the interest of a very large reading class long enough to hear them all read?"

"How much time should be given to drawing? Is it advisable to advance pupils to such subjects as algebra, mensuration, bookkeeping, etc., belonging to country schools before they have passed high school entrance?"

"In case the trustees offer objections to a teacher taking his annual visiting days, should such prevent his taking them?"

"The rules and regulations require exactness in calling in school; but say several of the pupils come late, is there any objection to detaining the class, classes, or even the whole school, for a short time after 3 or 3:30 o'clock? Or, again, say the day's work is not quite finished, can we be allowed to take a little time?"

"How often would you advice the changing of school time tables?"

"Is it not the duty of each and every teacher to do all in his or her power towards having a neat garden attached to the school, and need we hope, in the near future, to have one day in each year for planting, etc.?"

"Please state how you would cure pupils of the habit of reading in undertones?"

"Please explain what is meant by the terms 'Daily Attendance' and 'Actual Attendance?'"

"Please tell us if you issue temporary certificates to candidates who fail, and have brought no certificate from the east? If not, under what conditions do you give temporary certificates?"

The questions having been answered, Messrs. Smith and Netherby, on being called upon, explained their views on the best method of teaching the first steps in reading.

Mr. Pope requested the Hon. Mr. Robson to address the teachers. On rising, Mr. Robson was greeted with applause. After a few amusing preliminary remarks, he proceeded to express regret and annoyance on account of the Teachers' Convention being omitted this year—regret because he considered such gatherings of great utility to the teachers, more particularly those in remote country districts; annoyance because he had just completed arrangements for securing half-fare rates for teachers coming to the convention. He referred to the interesting fact just mentioned by the Superintendent of Education, that about two-thirds of those meeting at the present examination were the product of our own schools, as constituting the best possible answer to the attacks made in certain quarters against the Educational Department. Applying the Scriptural rule of judging a tree by its fruits, our educational tree could not be bad. He had been accused of speaking disparagingly of the teachers of the province as a body. That was the exact converse of what he had said. As a body, he held that the teachers were such as the department and the country might well be proud of. It would, indeed, be strange if, in a body of one hundred and forty teachers, drawn from almost all parts, they would all be found as good as could be wished; but, taken as a whole, the average was very high; and now that the supply had overtaken the demand, there would be an opportunity of weeding out the—he would not say scaley ones—but the few who were less desirable than the others. Indeed the weeding process had already begun, and he felt certain it would be carried on, as public opinion was awaking to the vital importance of having none but competent and exemplary teachers, whom they could wish their children to copy after. He dwelt at some length, and with great pathos, upon the importance and responsibilities of the teaching profession, pointing out that the school teacher was laying the foundations of character, not only for this life, but for the life beyond; that he (the teacher) was, in fact, building for eternity; and it was, therefore, of the greatest importance that those entrusted with this tremendous responsibility should not only be fitted by scholastic attainments, but that they should, by precept and example, inculcate the highest morality, and thus exert an influence for good over those committed to their charge. He alluded at some length to the cry now being raised in some quarters, to the effect that the youth of the province were being over-educated—that such a liberal education as we were giving was spoiling farmers and mechanics. He contended that a liberal education under proper conditions would tend to elevate and enoble labor, both skilled and unskilled, and that it was our duty to seek to elevate these, and not to lower the masses. Even confining the view to this life, he contended that was our true policy. How much more was it our true wisdom, and duty, looking at the matter in this light of our immortality. He made an earnest appeal to every teacher to aid in meeting this cry against giving young Columbia a liberal education. In conclusion he paid a high and well deserved meed of praise to the superintendent of education. He said he knew him to be the true friend of the teacher. Some might occasionally differ with him (Mr. Pope) in matters of detail; but he was sure if he made any mistakes in his exactions, they were of the head, not of the heart. He (Mr. Robson) could bear testimony to the anxious zeal with which the superintendent was devoting himself to the interests of education—going often beyond his strength—and he (Mr. Robson) could testify that through it all ran a tender and fraternal chord of sympathy and desire for the welfare of the teacher. Whatever enemies or cranks might say, Mr. Pope was the teacher's true friend, and the right man in the right place. Reverting to the teachers as a whole, he had every confidence that, as a body, they would so deport themselves as to secure the esteem and gratitude of the country.

The Hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid prolonged applause.

The meeting was then brought to a close, and to-day the regular examination will be resumed.

A PRIME NECESSITY.

American Tourists by the Ancon Will Publish a Daily Newspaper During the Trip.

Among the passengers for Alaska by the steamer Ancon, which is expected to call at the outer wharf on her way north this morning, is a large party of wealthy and influential Americans, of which the Hon. Alexander Badlam, the President of the Bankers and Merchants' Life Company, of San Francisco, is the leader. Among his party are his wife and daughter, Mrs. Perkins, the wife of Ex-Governor Perkins, and her daughter, Mrs. General W. H. Brown; W. M. Greenwood and family. J. Ponning and family; J. F. Crank (the railroad magnate) and family and several others. The party are supplied with a photographic outfit and a printing office, from which a daily paper will be issued. Many of the young ladies are talented musicians and vocalists, and are well supplied with all kinds of instruments.

Mr. Badlam has been engaged for the past year in writing a complete compendium of Alaska's wonderful resources, and he takes a stenographer and typewriter with him to complete his work. He was treasurer of the American Russian Fur Company, who, through Louis Goldstone, originally suggested the purchase of that strange land from the Russians. His work will be beautifully illustrated from photographs taken on the trip.

The Teachers' Examinations.

From 4 o'clock to 4:30 this afternoon Mr. Superintendent Pope will take charge of a "Question Drawer Meeting," at which he will answer any questions pertaining to educational matters that are asked him. Visitors will be accommodated with seats in the visitors' gallery at the Legislative Hall. The affair will give an opportunity for teachers to query the superintendent on various matters connected with school regime, and as there is to be no convention this year, the "Question Drawer" will partly take its place.

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