The Colonist.

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

The Liberal newspapers still keep on singing the praises of free trade. It is evidently their desire to delude the people of the Dominion by leading them to believe that if the Grits are entrusted with power they will inaugurate a policy of free trade; but, like Mr. Laurier, they take very good care not to tell their readers just where free trade is to come in. When they are asked the questions, if tea and sugar are to be on the free list, and if an income tax is to be a part of their free trade policy, they are as dumb as oysters. Still, they keep on declaring that free trade is a very fine thing for the country, ever so much better than protection. It is not a little surprising that the Grits, from their leader downwards, are so reluctant to give the people something like a definite outline of this superfine policy of theirs. They tell the people of Canada in effect to open their mouths and shut their eyes and they will give them something to make them rich and prosperous, but that something they all the time keep carefully out of sight. The Canadian people are far less intelligent and prudent than we take them to be if they will accept a trade policy or anything else from the Grits in a childishly confiding manner. They naturally want to know what the very good thing they are asked to take on faith is like. They want to see it in order that they may judge themselves of its palatableness and its nutritive qualities.

The refusal of the Grits to speak out is exceedingly suspicious. It warrants the belief that they know very well that their policy has really no existence, and that the people have only to be convinced of this in order to reject them without hesitation.

The Toronto Globe in a recent issue says: "If the Liberals of Canada could be assured that, at the next election, their opponents would meet them squarely on the paramount issue before the electors, namely, the trade policy, they would await and could await with perfect equanimity any choice as to the day of battle." This is a very singular remark for the Globe to make, for the Liberals as yet have no trade policy at all. Their policy is still nothing more than a name. It is as unsubstantial as a shadow. It is impossible to meet such a thing as the Liberals call their "trade policy" "squarely" or in any other way. It is really nothing, not even an illusion. Striking at it is simply beating the air. When this airy nothing which the Liberals call their "trade policy" materializes, when it has substance as well as a name, the "opponents" of the Liberals will not be backward in meeting it squarely.

ENGLISH TRADE UNIONISM.

It was seen at the Trade Union Congress recently held at Norwich that trade unionism in England is advancing with rapid strides towards state socialism. The Times in an article on the Congress says:

"When Mr. J. J. Rudge with the assistance of Mr. Kier Hardie, Mr. Tom Mann and Mr. John Burnes induced the Congress to declare by an enormous majority in favor of nationalizing, not land only—previous congresses had gone as far as this—but the whole means of production, distribution and exchange, we must think of the effect which the sweeping proposal must have had on the rustics of East Anglia. What more could they have wished than to be put at once in possession of the whole property of the country and to have it administered for their benefit? No more working for wages; no longer the old relation of master and man, or, more properly, of tyrant and slave. The delegates had come to Norwich to show them a more excellent way and to hold out before them the advantages which organization might be trusted to confer.

There is no mistaking what the Times understood the resolutions and speeches of the Labor Union Congress to mean. It is evident from its article that the Unionists have wandered very far from their original principles. If any one, twenty years ago, had said that the Unionists were on the road to Socialism, and that the time was not distant when they would not only denounce private property in land, but would advocate that the State should become the only common carrier, the only miner, and the only manufacturer in the country, he would be condemned as an enemy and a libeller of Unions and Unionism. But this has come to pass. The majority of the Unionists contended that a factory should become as much a state establishment as a ship of war, and that the men who run the railways should bear the same relation to the state as the soldiers who form its army. When this wonderful change is made, the day when no man shall be allowed to own property of any kind is at hand. The step between the state ownership of the means of production and the abolition of private property of all kinds is clearly a short one and, between the latter and anarchy, shorter still. We cannot think that there are many men in this country who are prepared to set out on this dismal journey. But the apostles of socialism are many, they are eloquent, they are persistent and they are exceedingly plausible. They try to persuade the workingman—particularly the workingman who is not very fond of work—that the time when the state is the only employer of labor will be a glorious one for him and his class. Workingmen get plenty of this kind of teaching. What efforts are being made to counteract it by giving them wholesome instruction in an attractive form?

CLOSER UNION.

Nearly every British public man of any eminence is a strong advocate for the closest connection possible between Great Britain and her colonies. They believe that the greatness of the Empire and the welfare of its several parts depend on their being closely and firmly united. The nature of the policy which is to bind them together has not as yet been fixed upon, but there are many indications both in the Mother Land and her dependencies that the time cannot be far off when the new Union will assume a material shape. The latest utterance on the subject is that of Lord Brassey. In a speech which he delivered before the Winnipeg Board of Trade, a few days ago, he alluded, incidentally as it were, to the relations between Great Britain and her colonies. He said:

As an integral part of the vast confederacy which owes allegiance to the Queen, old England stands second to none among the nations of the world. If England were severed from her colonies one of the mighty would indeed be fallen. The continued unity of the Empire is a mutual advantage. It gives to the colonies that real yet undefinable thing called prestige; it gives them the more tangible advantage of having behind them in the international relations diplomatic services established in every country in the globe. It gives the protection of the Imperial fleet and army. It gives them the advantage of high financial credit, and enables them to raise their loans on Lombard street, on terms almost as advantageous as those which the Imperial treasury can command. To the mother country, the allegiance of her colonies exalts her among the nations. It is grateful to her feelings; it is a just source of pride; it is an advantage to her trade, and tends to promote those close financial relations and engagements in which openings are found for the profitable use of savings for which it is often difficult to obtain other employment at home. I am not one of those who support the cause of Imperial Federation, with the ulterior motive of diminishing the burdens we are now bearing for the maintenance of the navy, by sharing the burdens with our colonial fellow subjects. I am quite content to leave the consideration of that subject to the future. The ultimate solution must be traced upon lines which are already clearly defined. If there be any contribution, there must be adequate representation, especially with regard to foreign affairs. There will probably be constituted for the British Empire a committee or council of advice, resembling the committee of foreign affairs of the senate of the United States. In the meantime we are well able to bear the charge which is now laid upon us. In any case, whether the colonies do or do not contribute, an Imperial fleet for purely British purposes must be maintained at its present strength. For their local defence, all the self-governing colonies are providing, and that not inadequately, having regard to the circumstances in which they are placed. No danger threatens them in the present, nor, as far as we can see, in the future.

Lord Brassey does well not to be urgent. The cause of the closer union of the British Empire is growing. It is continually making converts. Public opinion in its favor is being unceasingly made. Its advocates need not be impatient; success is to all appearance certain, and we believe it is not far off.

THE DIPHTHERIA CURE.

There is, perhaps, no disease more dreaded by parents than diphtheria. They know that it very seldom makes its appearance in a household without taking off one or more of its members. Sometimes it is so deadly and so merciless as to take all their little ones and to leave their house desolate. Even when the patient recovers it is often seen that his constitution has received a shock from which it is feared he will never completely recover. The debilitating effects of the disease after it has disappeared are in many cases almost as great a cause of anxiety as was the disease itself.

Diphtheria often defies medical treatment. The young person smitten with it is frequently carried off with a rapidity which is truly terrible. The news, then, that a remedy has been found for diphtheria has been welcomed by millions. Its efficacy is, of course, doubted. Many think that what they read about a cure for diphtheria is too good to be true. But the remedy is being tried in hospitals in Europe and America, and the results are most encouraging. It has been found that if the "anti-toxine" is introduced into the system during the first stages of the disease cure is almost certain; at later stages, except the very last, recovery is probable, and even when the patient is pronounced beyond cure the medicine alleviates his sufferings.

The anti-toxine is administered by subcutaneous injection. It contains a substance which deprives the poison of the disease of its virulence. Being injected directly into the blood, its action is immediate. Dr. Briggs, of the New York Board of Health, kept a record of 250 cases. When the anti-toxine was administered in the first stage, that is, the first day of its appearance, the recoveries were 100 per cent.—every one of the children treated got well. When it was injected on the second day 97 per cent., or all but three in the hundred, recovered.

The new remedy was used in the Emperor and Empress Frederick's Children's Hospital in Berlin with encouraging results. For three years previous to March last, 1,081 cases of diphtheria were treated in that hospital, and for every 100 treated 40 died and 60 recovered. The new remedy was used in March last in 128 cases. The percentage of deaths fell 13 per cent., that is in every 100 cases 73 recovered and 27 died. It is to be remembered that many of these cases were far advanced before the children were taken to the hospital, and cure was therefore impossible.

In the four years ending with 1893, the number of cases in the Children's Hospital Paris, was 3,971, and there were 2,029 deaths, being nearly 52 per cent. Between February 1 and July 24 of this year anti-toxine was used. In this period the number of cases was 448 and the number of deaths 109, showing a mortality of 24½ per cent., or a reduction of more than one half. The general condition of the patients was very much improved by the inoculations, except when the disease had become very far advanced before the anti-toxine was applied. The effects upon the local lesions of the disease were very marked. There is evidence that the inoculations diminished the action of the diptheritic poison on the kidneys and prevented in many cases the appearance of albuminaria.

Anti-toxine was administered to seven patients in Folkestone by a physician and they all recovered. Anti-toxine was used in Moabit Hospital, Berlin, in 44 cases in the three months ending on March 22 last. Eleven of the patients died, but it is said four of them were in a moribund condition when they entered the Hospital, and of the rest only five seemed to stand any chance of recovery.

From these statistics it may be fairly inferred that anti-toxine is a cure for diphtheria when administered in time. If on further experiment as good results as those recorded above are obtained, anti-toxine may be looked upon as a remedy of incalculable value, and its discovery will form an era in the history of medical science.

NOT A COMPLIMENT.

"As a vigorous advocate of continental unity," says the Toronto Empire, "an uncompromising foe of the Canadian tariff, and an outspoken opponent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Senator Higgins, of Delaware, should find a warm place in the hearts of Canadian Liberals, and Sir Richard Cartwright especially should prize him as a new and promising recruit." This is hard on the Liberals and Sir Richard, for a more shallow, narrow-minded and ignorant man than Mr. Higgins, of Delaware, occupying an important position in the councils of a great nation, it would be impossible to find. It is humiliating to think that it was such men as he who bluffed leading Canadian Liberals into accepting a scheme of commercial union with the United States under which Canada would have lost every vestige of commercial independence and Great Britain would have been treated by her as a stranger and a commercial rival. Was not Mr. Laurier one of the converts to commercial union with the United States and was he not smitten with the unrestricted reciprocity fever? Was he not willing that Canada should deny to Great Britain, her Mother Country, trade favors which she extended to her jealous and unaccommodating neighbor, the United States?

A DIVIDED PARTY.

The Democratic party of the United States seems to be badly prepared for this year's campaign, which has already commenced. It is weakened by divisions which appear to be irreconcilable. It was seen while Congress was in session that the only enemies which the Democratic party had to fear were Democrats. It is the old story of a house divided against itself. The protectionist Democrats did their best to foil and disappoint the free-trade Democrats, and the free silver Democrats hated the sound-money Democrats with a heartier hatred than they did the common enemy, the Republican party. Then in New York state there is a hopeless division between the Tammany Democrats and the anti-Tammany Democrats. The nomination of Senator Hill for Governor widened the breach between the two factions. There are Democrats of high standing and wielding great influence in the Democratic party who openly declare that not only will they not work to secure the return of Hill, but that they will do their very best to defeat him, let the consequences be what they may. The defeat of Hill for Governor means the loss in New York state in the November elections of a large number of Democratic candidates, and this again kills the chances of the Democratic party in the Presidential election of 1896. New York being the pivot state, very much indeed depends upon the Democrats maintaining in it their ascendancy. The temper and the intentions of the anti-Tammany party may be inferred from the following comments of the New York Times on Hill's nomination at the Saratoga Convention:

This, it must be confessed, was a sorry outcome of all the efforts that have been made to put aside the causes of dissension and unite the party. The Times has attempted to be of some service to the democracy in appeasing its quarrels and harmonizing its factions, but as we should have deemed it the height of unwisdom to urge the candidacy of an active and conspicuous anti-organization democrat, so with double force it can be objected that the nomination of Mr. Hill wrecks all the plans of party harmony since he is the leader of a faction that is responsible for the inharmony. After loudly proclaiming that victory was hopeless without union, Mr. Hill's friends have taken a step that makes disunion chronic, and puts new life into the expiring dissent.

* * * *

Should the resentment of Mr. Hill's part in the stealing of the senate prove lasting enough and stern enough to defeat him this year, his leadership would be chargeable with practical destruction of the democratic party in this state. The party goes into an up-hill fight, weakened by the old division, irritated by suspicion of bad faith and in unmistakable alarm as to the result—a feeling that is by no means confined to the ranks of the anti-snappers. Moreover, the behaviour of the convention toward the contesting delegations from this city and from Brooklyn was narrow, brutal and brainless.

The World, another great New York Democratic paper, is equally bitter in its denunciations of Hill and his supporters, and equally despondent as to the prospects of the Democratic party. At this present moment the outlook for the Democrats is very blue indeed, and the cause is not so much the strength of their opponents as their own want of agreement and party loyalty.

THE VICTORIA ELECTION.

Some of the Liberal papers of the Dominion are claiming that the recent election held in Victoria (Australia) was a victory for free trade. We see that it is by the Toronto World declared to be a victory for protection. This is what it says:

"From Melbourne we learn that the feature of the Victoria elections held last week was the annihilation of the free trade party, which rallied for the first time in ten years. An analysis of the returns shows that 65 Protectionists and 14 Free Traders were elected, the remaining 29 members favoring an ad valorem duty on imports of 25 per cent."

This certainly does not look like a victory for free trade; but our Liberal neighbors in these days find it exceedingly difficult to define what free trade really is. Most of them if they were candid would define free trade as "any sort of trade policy that will help us to win place and power."

A SWEEPING RESOLUTION.

The resolution which was carried at the Norwich Trade Union Congress without a dissenting voice, was proposed by Mr. J. J. Rudge and amended by Mr. J. H. Walker. The resolution as proposed by Mr. Rudge was:

"That in the opinion of this congress it is essential to the maintenance of British industries to nationalize the land, mines, minerals and royalty rents, and that the Parliamentary committee be instructed to promote and support legislation with the above objects."

The amendment was to delete the words "mines, minerals and royalty rents" and insert "and the whole of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

This amendment was perhaps the most comprehensive and sweeping ever made to any resolution, for it simply meant to take out of the hands of private persons all the business of the country and entrust its transaction to the Government. The reader will see that if the land, the means of producing the different kinds of commodities for which the country is fitted, distributing them to the consumers and exchanging them for other commodities not produced in the country, were nationalized there would be nothing left for private persons to do except such work as would be provided by the universal employer and business manager, THE STATE. This resolution takes away everyone's business with one fell swoop, and makes the state sovereign to an extent only dreamed of heretofore. It also reduces men of all ranks, conditions and endowments to the condition of employes of the state. Whether these revolutionists propose to compensate those whose business becomes "nationalized" does not appear.

ON TO PEKIN.

The latest news from Korea, as far as it goes, confirms the reports of Japanese successes. It appears to be generally allowed that the Chinese have been badly beaten by sea and land, and that the Japanese have suffered comparatively little.

The Chinese navy being destroyed and the Chinese army being disorganized there appears to be very little to hinder the Japanese carrying the war into China. The way to Pekin, it is said, is almost entirely open. The forts of the Pei-ho are very far from being impregnable, and when these are reduced the army of Japan can march on to Pekin without a misgiving. The English and French marched over the same ground with a force of not more than five thousand, and when in Pekin dictated terms to the Emperor of China with hundreds of millions of loyal subjects at his back. Japan has an available force of ten times that number. The example of England and France in 1860 has not been lost upon her. The Japanese are shrewd and almost proverbially imitative. What five thousand Englishmen and Frenchmen could do in 1860, fifty thousand Japanese can surely do in 1894. The great difficulty will be to obtain sustenance for a large army passing through so poor a country. The march is not a long one, only a hundred miles or so. Provisions and munitions of war can be conveyed up the river in boats for four-fifths of the distance. It is almost certain that if the Japanese find themselves in a position to undertake the invasion of China, they will, with no greater force than they have at present, be able to reach the capital of China in a very short time. The telegrams lead us to believe that such an enterprise is projected, but then no information has reached us that it has as yet been undertaken.

A Boon to Horsemen.—One bottle of English Spavin Liniment completely removed a curb from my horse. I take pleasure in recommending the remedy, as it acts with mysterious promptness in the removal from horses of hard, soft or calloused lumps, blood spavin, splints, curbs, sweeny, stifles and sprains.

GEORGE ROBB, Farmer,
Markham, Ont.

Sold in Victoria by D. E. Campbell.

PRE-HISTORIC "BLAZES."

Remarkable Discoveries by Hardy Explorers in the Dim Immensities of Some Island.

Trails, Trees, Herons and Geese—Blisters and Patches—Rivers, Mountains and Lakes.

Fragment of an open letter picked up on Government street. No address on letter, but the heading ran as follows: "An Exploration Undertaken by the Braggadocio Society, in the Summer of 189—."

. . . After a long and earnest consultation which lasted for nearly twenty-four hours, we decided to brave all the horrors of a walking tour in the country in the summer in order to add the most valuable and important of geographical discoveries to the already rich record of the nineteenth century. Not to weary you, my dear friend, with a long account of all our preliminary arrangements, suffice it to say that on a Wednesday we took a tearful and agitated farewell of our friends and patrons in V., and started off for the wilds lying far away in the dim immensities of the island. I, as commander, taking the lead and carrying the flag of our company, on which was inscribed the mystic legend:

"The King of Spain, and forty thousand men,
Walked up a hill—and then—walked down again."

We got to the farthest point of the unexplored tracts of country, most easily, cheerfully, and comfortably, in the good steamer "Volga"; but, then came the "tug-of-war," although all we had to do was to walk home again. Our ardor was not in the least abated by finding at the very outset an excellent "trail," cut all along the first day's march. Ignorant and vulgar people might have jeeringly said, "Where does the 'exploring' come in?" Not so with us, gallant spirits! We knew the "trail" could only be a "pre-historic remains." What a field of thought it opened up to our modest and reverential minds, as we, on this and the following days, followed the footsteps of whom? Of what? Ah! those are questions. Questions that needed luncheon to help us to the answer; so, we opened our stores, and found that the decidedly moist rain had taken the flavor out of almost everything except the matches. Our Wit—who was soaked to the skin and very cross—propounded a conundrum, and answered it himself, amidst the silent but threatening looks of the entire party:

"What is the difference between the matches and this exploration party?

"One has got lots of tin about them, and the other lots of brass."

Then one of us remarked it was rather a "mixed" answer, and yet another said, "*Que voulez-vous?*"

He was our Linguist.

Then our Artist, who had not seen anything worth depicting since we started, excepting the "pre-historic" surveyors' pegs and "blazes," turned his versatile fingers to excellent account, and calmly and courageously sewed on buttons firmly, strings strongly, and patches with beautiful precision, on all our ragged clothes. Tears, even now, rise unbidden when I recall all the hardships and sufferings we endured in the cause of science and knowledge, and how nobly beautiful our artist looked when he was sewing on the *last* button to one of his garments. The "trail" was not so good the fourth, fifth and following days, and we "barked our shins" unpleasantly over fallen trees, and then our language—mine especially—was far from choice. We now and then shot some geese and herons, but we prudently allowed the bears to escape with their life. Then, glorious discovery, we found a river! also several mountains!! and lakes!!!

Although the river had been surveyed up to within a very short distance, on all sides, still it was not marked on a map given to me before leaving V., so, I repeat, we found a river.

But we did not bring any of our discoveries back with us as "samples," so you must not be a "doubting Thomas," but just believe my simple word that there they are. By this time we were all tired of walking, and thought it would be more comfortable to construct a raft, and go a bit of our homeward way by water. We did so and instead of the four or five miles a day we had been doing, actually accomplished thirteen miles. After various thrilling adventures (a full account of which you will see in the book I mean to publish), we arrived, guided all the way by the "prehistoric" pegs and "blazes," at a settlement and a store.

Most aggravating it was to gaze at the streaky bacon and luscious rice, through the barred windows, and to find the door locked, and "Not at Home" written very legibly all over the building.

As our stores were reduced to a gun, some soup and a little cocoa, some of the wilder spirits of the party looked as if they were going to smash in the door and help themselves. Sadly against my will, I confess, I had to make them see that on this occasion "honesty would be the best policy" if they wished to get back to V. with their redundant locks still firmly adhering to their heads.

I must tell you the rest of our adventures and successes in my next letter, but what I have told you will, I am sure, convince you that never since the world began has there been such an exploration party as ours, nor one laden so richly as we are with such spoils from the hitherto unknown and untrodden depths of these wild lands! We came back most of the way by steamer and boat, but there is no need to mention this to the unlearned. It might give rise to irritating and unseemly laughter and the outer world will never know the true reasons for our so doing. Accept the assurance of my undiminished regard for you, and believe me to be, your old friend,

A. S. S. DOGBERRY.

Dear Sirs.—I have used Yellow Oil for two or three years, and think it has no equal for croup. Mrs. J. S. O'Brien, Huntsville, Ont.

COAL EXPORTS.

	Tons.
1—Str. Crown of England, Port Los Angeles	3,584
1—Str. Pioneer, Port Townsend	42
4—Bark Wilna, San Francisco	2,477
4—Str. Tyee, Port Townsend	79
6—Bark Rufus E. Wood, San Francisco	2,375
7—Str. Holyoke, Port Townsend	42
8—Ship Elwell, San Francisco	2,396
8—Str. Tacoma, Port Townsend	66
8—Str. Sea Lion, "	51
8—Str. Pioneer, "	42
18—Str. Holyoke, "	21
19—Str. Tyee, "	71
19—Str. Crown of England, Port Los Angeles	3,602
21—Ship J. B. Brown, San Francisco	2,474
22—Str. Pioneer, Port Townsend	71
25—Str. Holyoke, "	70
25—Bark Oregon, San Francisco	2,318
27—Str. Rapid Transit, Seattle	260
27—Str. Pioneer, Port Townsend	37
28—Str. Tacoma, "	51
29—Str. Tyee, "	97
29—Str. Holyoke, "	40
29—Str. Pioneer, "	19
Total	20,275

POLITICS IN KOOTENAY.

TO THE EDITOR:—The growing opinion on the part of the majority of the Oppositionists who voted in the late election in the South Riding of West Kootenay, that they were misled and did not appreciate the situation, will probably have an effect when the house meets. A large number of the electors had little knowledge of provincial affairs or of the leaders in provincial politics. They blame their guides now for leading them off the highway into a morass. Mr. Davie's visits have had an excellent effect. People fail to recognize the "wire-puller" or the "czar" that was pictured to them, in his unassuming demeanor and in the democratic frankness of his conversation and acts. An attempt, which failed signally, was made to run the late election on American lines—the leader being an American citizen. Similar anti-Canadian methods prevailed in a portion of the press, also under American management. Since the election one opposition newspaper has died, another now supports the government. Six months ago the government was not supported by a single newspaper in this district. It now has the powerful, unbought allegiance, of the Miner at Nelson, the Prospector at New Denver, and the Ledge at Nakusp. The Tribune at Nelson and a sheet lately started at New Denver are all that is left to the opposition. Their local programme, or "platform," sank out of notice long ago under a load of derision.

The construction of the Nakusp and Slocan railway, it is now universally acknowledged, was a necessity, and is a monument of the energy and foresight of the government. The two opposition newspapers above mentioned, finding events and a growing opinion against them in the district, have abandoned the proper discussion of public affairs, and make unfair attacks on individuals with no other motive than sensationalism. It is to be noted that Mr. Hume, the member-elect for the riding, does not hesitate to show that he gives no countenance to this wicked and malignant course. These newspapers, the Tribune and the Slocan Times, having failed utterly in scandalous attacks upon the premier and his colleagues, lately started a crusade against Captain Fitzstubbs, the respected government agent for the district, with the object, of course, of discrediting the government which appointed him. This is another illustration of the methods common in low class journalism in America, where officials are traduced to prevent, if possible, re-election, or to damage their party.

In this country a civil servant is not supposed to belong to any party, and does not go out of office with the government that appointed him. He is prohibited from making any defence against attacks, except to his superiors, whose orders he may be executing. This position, as a mere agent and as a mute official, is very different from that of a responsible political man who acts on his own discretion with ample opportunities of defence and reply. Hence it never has been the practice, in this province, to attempt, with criminal deliberation, to break down and ruin subordinate public officers by spreading wicked and malignant charges by means of articles or items in newspapers. It is expected that the government will place its foot, once and for ever, upon any attempt in Kootenay, to introduce amongst us this cowardly and mischievous practice. The government is responsible to the House, and the member for a district, whether in opposition or not, is the proper person to bring any facts he deems fit concerning a district official to the notice of the government or the house. In the case of Captain Fitzstubbs, certain men in this riding, having failed, as above said, in their attacks on Mr. Davie and his colleagues, got hold of a discharged road foreman with a grievance against Captain Fitzstubbs, after a prolonged "still hunt" of a year and a half. They wrote scandalous newspaper articles and items about this foreman's yarn, and telegraphed about it to Victoria and Spokane, not in the least restrained by the fact that Captain Fitzstubbs was invalided, and, even if well, was prevented from defending himself by the rules of the service.

Hon. Mr. Davie, on the recovery of Captain Fitzstubbs, met them in his usual fashion, "in the open." A commission of inquiry was appointed composed of His Honor Justice Crease of the Supreme court, whose name is a synonym for fairness and conscientiousness. All the expenses, including an allowance for the time of the grieving foreman, were paid by the government. The result was that the commission entirely exonerated Captain Fitzstubbs from the charges brought against him. The moral from all this is that if the government desire to have good men in the civil service, they should disregard wholly newspaper attacks upon local officials, unless the attacks are backed by the member for the district with specific allegations. Fair newspaper criticism of political affairs and responsible political men is all very well, but newspaper government of a district is another thing altogether, and a mischievous anomaly in the midst of our institutions.

The opposition editors in this district, having in accordance with their notions of "strong" journalism, paraded Mr. Davie's name in an insulting way in connection with the Nakusp railway, proceeded to abuse the late Sir Matthew Begbie and the Hon. Justice Burbidge, when these experienced judges presumed to differ from them. Driven from that pursuit by the change in public opinion here, they now raise a hue and cry against Captain Fitzstubbs and very likely His Honor Justice Crease will not have their approval. These men, it may be remarked, were so ignorant of our institutions that they believed that local officials change here with the government as in America. It was well known and a subject of amusement locally, during the late election, that they had in this expectation apportioned various district offices among themselves and almost quarrelled over the appointments. Pushed further now from power than ever by the result of the general election, they concentrate their attacks on Captain Fitzstubbs as a government officer and seek to get him from office and get, if possible, in his place some man of their own stripe who will covertly at least recognise them. It is reported that some of them started in to administer the worthy captain's private estate, so sure were they that they had exiled or buried him. The above is their last hope in the district, seeing that Mr. Hume, M.P.P., is too respectable a man to countenance their discreditable tactics. The proper course for the government is to keep all such gentry smilingly at the end of an iron arm. They would soon find their level in the district—or leave it, without being in any way missed.

B.

CHICAGO, Oct. 2.—Professor David Swing, the eminent divine, is lying critically ill at his home on the Lake Shore drive. The disease from which he is suffering is acute jaundice and the first symptons made their appearance a week ago. Last night a sudden change for the worse was noticed and a consultation of physicians was held, who held out but little hope.

The project of a Central American union has been dropped for the present.