The Colonist.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1894.

THE LONDON ELECTION.

The result of the bye-election in London, Ontario, is of very little general significance. The election was for the seat in the Provincial Legislature made vacant by the elevation of Mr. Meredith to the office of Chief Justice. The contest seems to have been local in the narrowest sense. Sir Oliver Mowat has gained an additional supporter whom he very badly needed, and that is pretty much all that the election means. Dominion politics had nothing to do with the election and were not, as far as we can learn, dragged into it.

Provincial politics in Ontario are in a rather complicated condition. There are the two old parties, Conservative and Liberal, and two new ones, the Patrons and the A. P. A. The McCarthy faction, it would appear, cuts no figure in local politics. It is a factor, but not as yet a very important factor, in Dominion politics in the Province. When the electorate is so cut up it is difficult to tell from former elections how a contest will result in many of the constituencies. Sir Oliver Mowat is greatly respected in the Province and holds his party pretty well together. But there are indications that even he is losing his grip of it, and it is almost certain that in provincial politics there will be utter confusion among the Liberals when that veteran politician retires. After Sir Oliver the flood is the apprehension of a large number of Ontario Liberals.

FIAT MONEY.

There are indications that the Patrons of Ontario favor some one of the theories for creating cheap money that are believed in by the Populists of the United States. It is greatly to be hoped that no considerable number of the people of this Dominion will entertain any of these mischievous and impracticable schemes, and that no political party will be formed to embody any of them in Canadian legislation.

The idea that Government can create money of any sort—can give value to that which is intrinsically valueless—is childish in the extreme. It is as reasonable to suppose that government can by its mere word create wheat or oats or barley or cattle or cotton or wool, or anything else that is valuable, as that it can create money out of material of little or no value. The man who would try to convince the public that he had invented a machine which could out of chaff manufacture good merchantable wheat would be quite as unworthy of credit as the man who tells the people that government can make money by setting a number of printing presses to work.

The idea is so utterly preposterous that it might be supposed that no one but a lunatic would try to disseminate it, and that none but idiots or savages would pay the least attention to his ravings. But, unhappily, men who are considered sane and who are in downright earnest propound theories which, when stripped of all disguises, are equally absurd, and they find men in thousands, outside the lunatic asylums, who accept these theories as economic truths which if put in practice would regenerate society.

It has always been found that, no matter how unreasonable the doctrine is either in religion or politics that is acceptable to any considerable proportion of the people, men, and men of education and talent, are ready industriously and even enthusiastically to propagate it. Fiat money consequently has had its advocates and apostles in many lands and, notwithstanding that the experiment has been tried and has signally failed over and over again, ambitious and it may be sincere men do their best to convince the people among whom they live that the creation of money is a power inherent in governments which they ought to use for the benefit of the people. These teachers of a mischievous and an impracticable economic doctrine are looked upon by their disciples as patriots and reformers, and when they are spoken against and rejected by sane and practical people, they are regarded as martyrs.

If this belief that government can make as much or as little money as it likes, and can force the people to take it at its face value were a harmless delusion, those who have the welfare of the country at heart might contemplate its spread with indifference if not with amusement. But it is very far indeed from being a harmless delusion. The converts to it have votes and their leaders and teachers are ambitious. Their object avowedly is to elect men to the Legislature favorable to their views who will put this fancied power of government into action. The Legislature which they would elect would enact laws enabling the Government to manufacture as much money as, in their opinion, the country needs, and would make it obligatory on the people to take that money at its face value in payment of debts new and old. They would besides, very likely, authorize the Government to lend this money to farmers and others at a merely nominal rate of interest on security known by business men to be insufficient.

The consequences of such a system of money-making and money-lending may be imagined. The debasement of the currency would alter values to such an extent that almost everyone who had anything to lose would be ruined and the credit of the country, both at home and abroad, would be utterly destroyed. If, for instance, the apprehension that the Government of the United States proposed to pay its debts in depreciated silver instead of gold created such a panic in the country as disarranged business in every part of it and brought about the ruin of thousands who were considered and who actually were perfectly solvent, what consequences would the reality, or rather a great deal worse than the reality, produce? Silver is an article of intrinsic value, but the paper which the fiat money advocates propose to substitute for gold as a medium of exchange and a standard of value is intrinsically worthless.

It should be remembered that the money which the Government would create under the fiat money system would be irredeemable. It would be, at its best, of less value than greenbacks in the darkest period of the civil war, and would soon become as worthless as was the paper money of the Southern Confederacy after that war was over.

We are more than surprised to learn that the organ of the Patrons of Ontario, the Farmer's Sun, devotes a large proportion of its space to the advocacy of an irredeemable paper currency. We thought that the farmers of Ontario were too intelligent and too shrewd to give their countenance and support to a newspaper that ventured to advocate the fantastic and pernicious money theories of the American Populists.

AN IMPERIAL FEDERATIONIST.

The late Professor Froude believed in colonies. He was convinced that they add to the strength as well as to the greatness of the nation. He was one of the few who advocated a closer union between Great Britain and her colonies than existed in his day. He was confident that such a union would be brought about in time; that the colonies and the Mother Country would naturally and spontaneously, as it were, grow closer to each other. He saw that the process of growth could not be hurried, and was therefore willing to wait until the forces which were quietly and continuously at work should accomplish their purpose.

We find in the Canadian Gazette the following paragraph, which will show how this eminent man looked upon the work of Imperial Federation:

We spoke last week of the colonial sympathies of the late Mr. Froude. It is also worthy of note that the exact means by which the Empire should be federated did not greatly concern him. "The links are growing, and, if let alone, will continue to grow, and the free fibres will by themselves become a rope of steel." Indeed, no writer was more emphatic than Mr. Froude in insisting upon the necessity of a colonial initiative. "A federation contrived by politicians would snap at the first strain. We must wait while the colonies are contented to wait. They are supposed to be the sufferers by the present loose relations. They are exposed to attack should war break out, while they have no voice in the policy which may have led to that war. So long as they do not complain we may spare our anxieties on their account, and need not anticipate an alienation of which no signs have appeared. If they feel aggrieved they will suggest a remedy." Nevertheless Mr. Froude had his own suggestions for British statesmen, and it is suggestive of the remarkable development which the Imperial idea has undergone since he wrote "Oceana" in 1885 that so many of his proposals have become accomplished facts. He suggested, for instance, that our public honors (not restricting ourselves to the Colonial St. Michael and St. George) should be bestowed upon all who deserved them without respect of birthplace. That principle is now an accepted one with British Ministers, though one would be glad to see its more general adoption. Colonial statesmen, Mr. Froude further suggested, should be admitted to the Privy Council, and they now are.

A HEAVY PRICE.

The great national railroad strike of last summer lasted only a few weeks, yet the calculable loss it caused was simply enormous, and it also occasioned losses the extent and amount of which it is impossible to compute. The report of the Strike Commission informs the world that the loss to the 3,100 employes of the Pullman firm in wages alone amounted to about $350,000. The number of railway employes who took part in the strike is reckoned to be 100,000. These men lost in wages alone $1,389,143. This makes the direct loss to the strikers $1,739,143! This was a very heavy price to pay for the chance of obtaining advantages which, if obtained, would have been of more than questionable benefit to the men themselves and to the country in which they worked.

But the loss in wages represents the smallest part of the loss to the men engaged in that strike. The agitation had no doubt a hurtful effect upon thousands of the men. It unsettled them and made them less disposed than they had previously been to work steadily and continuously, and we have no doubt but that it effected the utter ruin of not a few. Then the men and those dependent on them needed this million and three quarters of dollars for their present support and their future comfort. Very few people have any idea of what an immense sum this is and how greatly the men and their families suffered and are still suffering on account of the loss of it. Railway men are not too well paid. Comparatively few of the strikers had saved enough money to keep themselves and their families in comfort for any considerable time while they were idle. Very many depended upon the week's wages for the week's support, and when no wages were earned any substitute that could be contributed was insufficient to prevent privation and even distress. Then who is to calculate in dollars and cents the anxiety and worry which the strike caused both to the men themselves and to their families. When everything is considered it will have to be admitted that the railway strikers paid a very heavy price indeed for any advantage they could have gained, and we do not hear that they have gained any advantage at all. They drove the railway companies into closer union, and they caused such wide alarm that the people generally warmly approved of the interference of the Federal Government. It is consequently questionable whether the cause of the railway employes has been in the least advanced by the losses sustained by them, the sacrifices they made and the hardships and the privations they endured.

The loss to the railway companies by the strike was very great, but it did not cause those who sustained it such personal suffering as that which the employes brought on themselves. The loss from property destroyed, the hire of deputy marshals and other incidental expenses is estimated at $685,308. The loss of earnings of the roads is calculated to be $4,672,916, making a total of $5,358,224. The loss to the Governments, Federal, State and Municipal, as well as to the community at large, is not given, but it must have been great. Leaving this loss out of the estimate it is calculated that last summer's strike cost the employes and the railways the immense sum of $7,077,367.

There were, while the strike was in progress, 12 persons fatally wounded and 646 arrested, against all but 119 of whom indictments were found. This great strike, without allowing for losses growing out of interruption to business operations, employment in other industries and travel, cost those directly and immediately concerned the immense sum of seven millions of dollars. It is no wonder that railway companies and labor leaders say they have had enough of strikes. It is quite clear that the game is not worth the candle to any of those directly concerned, and the loss and annoyance to the public have been such that they will not hereafter be disposed to look upon strikes, under any circumstances, at all favorably.

THE U. S. POST OFFICE.

Those in the United States who expected to see the Post Office self-sustaining in a year or two must, when they read the report of the First Assistant Postmaster-General, have been grievously disappointed. The showing last year was cheerful. There was a deficit but it was a comparatively small one, amounting to only $506,763. Predictions then were made that in a very short time the revenue from the Post Office Department would equal or, perhaps, exceed the expenditure. But the report for 1894 proves that the calculations of those prophets—if prophets ever calculate—were widely astray. The deficiency of this fiscal year amounts to the immense sum of $9,243,935. The total expenditure for 1894 was $84,234,414, and the total receipts were $75,080,479. The falling off in revenue was something extraordinary, and is one of the many indications of the severity of the hard times in the United States.

The franking privilege is very greatly abused in the United States. The Department is required to carry hundreds of tons of franked matter from which it does not receive one cent of revenue. The members of Congress work their franking privilege for all it is worth and something more. The Department complains about this somewhat bitterly.

"UNREASONABLE CASTIGATIONS."

To the Editor:—In last Saturday's Colonist under the above heading, one "Scholasticus" airs his opinion or some other teacher's opinion on the remarks made by a certain school trustee at the last meeting of the school board of this city, and the article displays nothing so much for the writer or writers as

"Where ignorance is bliss
'Tis folly to be wise."

The trustee in question and the entire board have the hearty sympathy and support of all right and fair minded citizens in their very mild attempt to put down the existing evil. No argument need be adduced here to prove that it is an evil and an extreme one and does exist in Victoria.

"Scholasticus" says "that it is absurd for any one who may gather his grievances from some dissatisfied and grumbling parent to lay the above charge against *any* of our city teachers."

Is it? I said that the Trustee board put it very mildly, and I have no wish to speak against reasonable castigation or the remonstrating with pupils that "Scholasticus" speaks of; but I do claim that the line ought to be drawn somewhere by teacher, trustee and all other educational authorities, and I believe such line is overstepped when resort is had to—not the rod but rawhides. Does "Scholasticus" know that the rawhide has been freely and brutally used of late in our city schools; that the results as exhibited on pupils ("not veritable angels at home") have in some cases drawn tears from the eyes of spectators of their injuries and just expressions of indignation, such as "brute," and "how can the citizens of Victoria suffer this to go on?" Some one perpetrated these cruelties, and that some one was a teacher. Therefore the absurdity falls to the ground.

"Scholasticus" says further "that the pupil knows—according to home instructions—that the teacher is a mere servant, with no more power in school than any total stranger round town." "Scholasticus" is either extremely hard up to make a point or he is woefully ignorant of the school law of this province.

The very opposite of the impression he wishes to convey is the truth, for the teacher's position is one of authority; in fact the teacher is an autocrat in the school room and out of it. The laws of our province protect him in the discharge of his or her duty to the fullest extent, and yet "Scholasticus" would have us believe that such barbarous punishment as that of the rawhide is necessary. Why resort to it with all this powerful influence behind the teacher I fail to understand.

Lastly, "Scholasticus" says: "Our grieved trustee could not explain nor would he undertake the offer of conducting a class a week without exemplifying the use of the birch," and again that an occasional punishment meted out opportunely is justifiable and not barbarous.

No one finds any fault with the closing words of the last sentence, but "Scholasticus" surely knows that there are rooms in the public school where the "use of the birch is not exemplified" from one end of the week, nay month, to the other, and that the discipline maintained in such will compare very favorably with those where the use of the rod is in full swing.

"Scholasticus" talks of the twaddle that is uttered by pupils; he or she had better think twice before again criticizing the just utterances of any public servant or body of servants.

I have no desire to injure a teacher or anybody else, but I do hope in the interests of progress, of humanity and of our public school education that those in authority will say it plainly, "if you must use such punishments and pupils must suffer such indignities at your hands, we will find and authorize others to fill your places who are able to rule in a way that is more suitable to the present time."

One who once suffered such indignities.

THE OLD MEN'S HOME.

To the Editor:—In your article a few days ago referring to this institution, I think you were a little too severe on the inmates. You will, I feel sure, agree that if there are abuses they should be rectified and the offender punished. You will also, no doubt agree that few public institutions are perfect or above suspicion; that even with street supervision abuses will creep in. What, therefore, may we expect when the supervision is lax and imperfect? There can be no question as to the duty of the inmates to obey strictly the regulations of the home and to pay proper respect to the manager for the time being. Whilst the manager on his part must not take the law into his own hands, strike or threaten to strike an inmate, his duty is to be civil, impartial and courteous, and to report to his masters cases of insubordination. Drunkards should be expelled, and all such refused admittance at all times.

There is, however, no rule to prevent inmates reporting abuses; in fact they should be asked to do so. After all, the old men are human beings with some perceptions still left of right and wrong, and if they see clothing sent for their use which they did not receive are they to remain silent and let the dishonesty or abuse go on? It is of course well known to the city council that many citizens generously sent a lot of clothing to the Home last winter—the kind and quantity can easily be ascertained from the contributors. If, then, the committee of inquiry had gone on with the investigation, or will still go on to complete the matter and satisfy the public with lists of those donations in their hands, and ask the manager to account for them and name the men to whom they were given, and then call the men so named to verify or contradict his statements, the truth might be reached and the inquiry be of some value instead of appearing as if held and intended to smother investigation, by holding threats of expulsion over the heads of those willing to testify. There are details attached to the working of the Home which cannot be looked after properly by such a body as the mayor and council. These should be placed in the hands of a voluntary committee of ladies who, as a rule, have the faculty of managing the internal economy of charitable institutions—to wit, the Maternity Home, the Chinese Refuge and the Protestant Orphans' Home.

A Contributing Citizen.

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY.

To the Editor:—I would like to know on what grounds the city council, at Monday night's meeting, refused to refer to the water committee and the water commissioners Mr. Gray's proposal concerning the improvement of the water supply, which would obviate the necessity of purchasing the watershed. As far as I can gather from the Colonist report the proposed improvement would consist almost entirely of labor that could be readily and thankfully supplied at this time, when so many of our working people are in need of employment. Now just contrast this proposal with the present scheme of the council to purchase the watershed of Elk and Beaver lakes, which will not in any way assist the laboring classes to earn their daily bread the coming winter. Nor will the purchase of the watershed bring into the city one dollar of the $120,000 and upwards proposed to be expended for land. It will, therefore, be readily seen that Mr. Gray's recommendations are worthy of the serious consideration of the council. It is due to Mr. Gray and to the ratepayers that this proposal shall be made public in its entirety. It appears that the lesser sum expended in dyking Elk lake, and other improvements, would give better results than by purchasing a quantity of land at an unknown cost. By all means let us have the matter fully ventilated, and give the ratepayers some local benefit for the expenditure of the money recently voted for improving the water service.

Fair Play.

OUT OF PROPORTION.

To the Editor:—I notice an item in today's Times under the head of "Local Briefs" in which it is stated that the chimney of the electric light works is not to be made any higher. I understand that the diameter of the chimney was to be 48 inches and the height 80 feet. If any engineer will calculate the proper diameter of the stack he will find that it ought to be quite 52 inches, the height or the diameter ought to be increased. If the former remains as at present contemplated, viz: 80 feet, the surrounding buildings, including the Telegraph hotel, will be deluged with smoke and smuts, as their upper stories will be on a level with the top of the stack, and most probably after it is erected the city will be served with an injunction restraining them from using the stack until it is made the proper height. Whilst our city fathers are finding out mistakes in the designs of the electric light plant, would it not be well for them to rectify this error before it is too late?

C. E.

MUNICIPAL MISTAKES.

To the Editor:—The proceedings of the city council at its last meeting betray a lamentable state of incapacity and lack of ordinary common sense. Here we find a contract given for electric light buildings, and before they are finished they are found to be insufficient in capacity for the purpose intended. For this the electric light committee must be held primarily liable, after which the council as a whole is liable, as contracts are awarded by the council as a whole. And yet what do we find when the discussion on "too small a chimney" comes up? No alderman seems to know anything about it, or who is responsible for so grave and costly a mistake. Surely an architect must have been employed in drafting plans and superintending the building. If so he is responsible and should be so held. It is not too soon for an association to be formed with the object of reforming municipal abuses and mistakes, and it is to be hoped every ratepayer will join it for self-protection and self-preservation.

Ratepayer.

WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT.

To the Editor:—Referring to the proposition for the betterment of our water supply, submitted by me on the 14th inst. to the city authorities for their consideration, I wish to say that the estimated cost as quoted in your report of the council meeting embraces, besides the works described therein and proposed in lieu of the watershed purchase, the new filter-beds and raising of dam as estimated by the City Engineer $38,000, as also fencing and the removal of the wagon road to higher ground.

J. H. Gray, C.E.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder
World's Fair Highest Medal and Diploma.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

IMPROVED WATER SERVICE.

The following is the complete text of the proposition of Mr. J. H. Gray, submitted to the city council as stated in the report of last meeting:

Victoria, B.C., 10th Nov. 1894.

The following figures and remarks have been formulated by the writer as illustrating the cost of an alternative plan to the acquisition of the watershed of Elk lake, whereby for a smaller outlay not only may the main object of such a purchase be obtained in another way but advantages entirely foreign to it be forthcoming.

The proposal is to "dyke" the shores of the lakes at or about low water mark, and with a system of catch water ditches and sub-reservoirs collect the drainage of the watershed, passing this in a cleansed state through openings at convenient points in the embankment to the lake or main reservoir.

Respecting the difference in cost, it has been shown as the result of survey, that the purchase of 1,600 of the 2,200 acres forming the watershed would be requisite. This area has been valued by the City Engineer in his report at $75 per acre; a rate more likely to be exceeded than diminished. The land sought to be acquired embraces the best adjacent to the lakes and all the cultivated; in the latter case the tenure is generally of long standing and there will have to be considered beside the vested interests of a material nature, the home attachment as well.

Upon the eastern slope rests the great area of cultivated land, of which not more than one-third are on the watershed, the remaining and poorer acreage lying east of the summit on the sea slope; this will create severance or extended areas.

The removal of the wagon roads from off this eastern and northern slope is out of the question, and to the benefits contended as being derived by the isolation of the watershed the presence of these public highways throughout a great length of it must always, at the least, be derogatory.

Respecting arbitration the most valueless unimproved land on the lake shore in which severance could not be, and was not claimed, was awarded at $50 per acre, and in another case of which one half the area was improved and severance claimed, the award was at the rate of $380 per acre. The attendant costs of this mode of settlement need no comment.

For the purpose of comparison, however, I use Mr. Wilmot's figures:

Watershed purchase, 1,600 acres, at $75	$120,000 00
Clearing timber from lake shore, 95 acres at $80	7,600 00
Filter beds	19,000 00
Raising dam 4½ feet	9,000 00
Total	$155,000 00

Respecting the extent and character of the works proposed in lieu of purchase, it may be safely stated that two estimates of cost have been entertained, in each case the lake surface being treated as 4½ feet above present dam; the first and greater provides for a dyke extending from the present dam along the west side of Beaver lake to a point above the sub-dam, and thence an embankment across the deep indentation or bay in section 49 to a point close upon the line of the Victoria & Sidney Railway; from this point north to about the centre of section 69 it is considered that the railway fence and embankment fulfil all requirements, beyond the cleansing of the lake margin lying to the east of it.

From the south boundary of the old Simpson place (section 69) the dyke would be continued, after crossing the bay at the mouth of Walton creek (N. W. corner of Elk lake) around the north and east shores to the starting point at main dam.

In the second estimate any improvement to the shores of Beaver lake is entirely abandoned, and while from the dyke just described is cut off those portions on the shores of that lake and the embankment across the bay in section 49, there would be added and built connecting with it an embankment across the narrows at some point to the north of the vegetable growth on the south side of Elk lake proper.

The estimate of cost provides for the following construction:

1. The dyke measuring 8 feed wide on the top, which would be 6 feet above the present dam, having slopes of 1½ to 1, the outside being protected from the top to low water mark with rip-rap. This embankment would be made impervious to water and generally follow the line of low water mark in such a manner as to do away with any margin on shore other than the rip-rapped slope, except in such cases where it would be deemed expedient to cut off or dam up the shallows and dirty bays. The base of this dyke would be thoroughly grubbed. The larger embankments are figured at 10 feet wide on top, with similar slopes protected in the same manner, except in the case of that across the narows, which is put at 12 feet wide, with 2 to 1 slopes and protected on both sides.

2. Catch water ditches of requisite dimensions would be constructed inside and at varying distances from the dyke, each ditch thoroughly draining the adjacent watershed. They would vary in size, have an inside slope of 3 to 1, a fall too slight to create any tendency to scour, and the bottoms be covered with clean gravel. They would converge towards the dyke in pairs and the water from them be passed through it at a common point in either pipes or permanent culverts or a combination of both. At these points of discharge at the junction of two ditches or elsewhere if more expedient it is proposed to excavate sub-reservoirs having a storage capacity equal to say 24 hours drainage under extreme conditions of rainfall. Broken stone would fill the ditches where they join these reservoirs and also the discharge into the culverts and screened pipes. On the line of these ditches at points where depression in the ground surface occurs, the ditch slope would be cut down and filled in with broken rock through which the surface water collected in these natural drains would flow into the ditch.

3. The cleaning of the margin between the railway line and west shore of Elk lake.

4. A fence cedar post and barbed wire seven feet in height.

5 Pipes, screens, concrete, &c.

6. New wagon road on higher ground.

There has been estimated as expedient and requisite for these works the purchase of a strip around the lake averaging 300 feet in width giving in the case of first estimate an area of about 160 acres, and in No. 2, of 110 acres. It is considered that survey would reduce these areas materially.

We would then have:

1—Cost of proposed works as per estimate No. 1	$ 97,000 00
Land purchase, 160 acres @ $75.00	12,000 00
New filter beds and raising dam	38,000 00
Estimate No. 1	$147,000 00
2—Cost of proposed works as per estimate 2	$ 85,000 00
Land purchase, 110 acres at $75	8,250 00
Extra ditching and water-way	6,600 00
New filter beds	30,000 00
Estimate No. 2	$129,850 00
By purchase of watershed	$165,000 00
New wagon road, not included	1,700 00
Fencing watershed, say	3,000 00
Total	$169,750 00

Although the foregoing estimates have not been based upon actual survey, an intimate knowledge of the locality justifies the belief that the figures quoted would satisfactorily meet an instrumental test—in fact the whole estimate has been prepared upon a liberal basis and for works of a permanent character, and it is considered that by location and modification of details either of these estimates could be materially reduced.

Respecting estimate 2, it is proposed, at the present time at least, to abandon Beaver lake as a storage ground and raise Elk lake only. The cost of extending the mains from the present dam to the Narrows is not included in the cost. A system of drainage of the watershed adjacent to the east shore of Beaver lake is provided for, as also a feeder between the lakes.

In connection with the foregoing there is much detail into which it has not been considered necessary to enter here—the object has been to show approximately what could be done for the expenditure of a certain sum, which it is surmised will not be augmented in the near future, and to obtain an expression of opinion thereon.

Without commenting further upon the difficulties and uncertainty that this plan would evade, the proposition has commendable features—the permanency of such works is beyond question, the obtaining immediately of a clean reservoir free from all vegetable growth and dirty shallows, the concentration of the area to be guarded and the definiteness of cost are advantages that would result from its adoption.

The principle of isolating the watershed is most excellent, if that were all required, but since so much else remains undone it would seem worthy of consideration if the plan proposed, combined with a system of surface filtration, could not be successfully carried out. In conversation with Mr. Carmichael, the public analyst, he expressed the opinion that the winter water was not deleterious, that the danger lay in the summer supply only during the months of high temperature. This would obviate the principal difficulty of thoroughly filtering the large drainage during the rainy season. The summer supply where considered requisite could, without question, at a small outlay be filtered before entering the lake.

DELAYED BY THE CORONER.

To the Editor:—The funeral of Mr. Ridehalgh's child took place on Thursday afternoon from my parlors. By reason of Coroner Hasell's absence from the city the child's remains had to be kept in the city morgue for four days, something, in my opinion, inhuman. The city fathers can well imagine a mother's feelings under such circumstances. Though I feel proud of British laws and justice, I am sorry that such a blight should be cast on civilization in this fair city of ours.

W. J. Hanna.

THANKS FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER.

To the Editor:—The married men on the staff of letter carriers of Victoria office are in receipt of a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, and as at present the donor is unknown to them, the receivers are very grateful to their benefactor. Will you, Mr. Editor, kindly give proper expression to this gratitude in your next issue?

The Staff.

INTERNATIONAL GAS MAIN

Detroit, Nov. 21.—The last section of the big international gas main was hauled across the river to-day and the nose of the pipe line is now on the Canadian shore thirty feet beyond the water's edge. It is expected that gas will be flowing through by Saturday night. The laying of the pipe from shore to shore occupied less than a week, the first length being started into the water on Wednesday afternoon.

Corbetton, Nov. 20.—Three horses, eight cows, three calves, several hogs, grain crop and farm tools, belonging to Richard Barmoy were destroyed by fire near here.

Levi Strauss & Co's
Copper Riveted Overalls and Spring Bottom Pants
Every Pair Guaranteed.
Address San Francisco Cal.

From The Daily Colonist, Nove

BOARD OF ALDERM

Tenders for Printing and Light Wire Contracts Ope and Dealt With.

James McPhadden Leaves t Men's Home of His Ow Accord.

There was a meeting of the city yesterday afternoon in the committ one of the principal reasons being sider tenders for printing the vot and for electric light supplies.

C. E. Redfern accepted the city's tion as a director of the agricultu ciation. Communication received a

James McPhadden wrote that o the ill-treatment of the caretaker Old Men's Home he had decided the home for good. He asked for a d

Caretaker Sutherland wrote th Phadden had against the rules left t without permission. Received and f caretaker to be instructed not to McPhadden back without orders f council.

J. L. Raymur, water commissione in regard to Anderson's farm at El part of which was required for the p watershed improvement, that the proposed that the city take over th from the tenant (it had yet 7½ years and at the end of that time buy th The tenant, Mr. Revans, asked $3, compensation. Received and filed.

A County court summons was rece Raffuse v. the Corporation, plaintiff ing $60 for being discharged from h tion as lamp trimmer without proper Referred to the City Barristers to

Ald. Baker, before the tenders f electric mast arms were opened, han a plan which he considered superior on which tenders were called.

Ald. Ledingham, in regard to the which the tenders were calculated, tained that the arms made accordi would not be strong enough.

It was decided not to open the t till next Monday evening, so tha Stickels might be present to give hi ion on the question.

The electric light committee re that they had awarded contracts for Nicholles & Renouf as follows: thousand feet 5 16 galvanized iron a at $32 20 per 1,000 lineal feet; 2,50 No. 6 rubber covered wire at $5 13 p lineal feet; 300 pounds No. 6 tel wire at $6 per 100 pounds. Total a $411 85.

Tenders for the printing of the lists were referred to the printing com to award.

The water committee recommende the City Engineer be instructed to p with the work of clearing out and c ing the bottom of the filter beds at lake.

The same committee in their report that several weeks ago the engin the V. & S. Railway wrote the regarding the plan filed by the corpo in the Land Registry office showin land appropriated by the corporat waterworks purposes on the west s Elk and Beaver lakes. This plan being compared with the survey m the railway company shows that no the traverse of the shore line of th filed had been run from the north and end of the above lakes and did not hence on application of the railway com to register conveyances of lands requir their purposes registration is refuse your committee are of opinion the should be referred to the City Bar with power to get the necessary or court to rectify the error in question.

Some discussion followed, and finally reports were laid over.

The voters' list by-law was put th the committee stage.

Ald. Ledingham thought that amicable understanding might be made Mr. Peddle, who had fenced his lot, o up part of the old Esquimalt road, so the fence should be taken down till spring, when the city might be able to money to grade another road to acco date traffic.

The matter was dropped withou action being taken and the counc journed.

The printing committee awarde printing of the voters' lists to T Roarke at $1.10 per page.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The twenty-first annual report the subject of the births, death marriages in the province of British C bia, made by S. Y. Wootton, d registrar general, presents in tabular taking up eight well filled pages, a m information highly interesting to whose curiosity tends in that directio specting the following totals:

	1893.
Births	1241
Marriages	640
Deaths	827

For registration purposes the provin divided into thirteen districts, whose tributions to the above totals have bee follows:

	1893.			18	
	B.	D.	M.	B.	D
Victoria	389	283	230	350	2
Nanaimo	242	121	83	271	1
New Westminster	198	184	106	165	1
Yale	7	3	6	9	
Clinton	5	..	1	19	
Lillooet	..	..	..	..	
Cariboo	2	8	3	7	
Omineca	..	..	..	..	
Kootenay	53	24	7	36	
Cassiar	..	1	..	..	
Kamloops	50	32	46	32	
Vancouver	250	151	148	251	1
Comox	46	20	10	25	1

In the matter of births the distrib according to sex was, males 677, fe 564. It will be noticed that there large increases in the numbers register Victoria, New Westminster, Koote Kamloops and Comox.

Of the 640 marriages, which in the turns are grouped according to the ligious denominations of the principal the case of 236 the bride and the gr were of different beliefs. Victoria m tained her reputation as the pleasure re of the province, claiming as will be a total of these happy events almost e to the totals of any other two cities c bined, and showing a large increase for year, whilst for the whole province total is somewhat smaller than in 1892.

The death statistics show that the in mortality—deaths of children under t years of age—accounted for 230 of the t of 827 deaths, of which 556 were of m and 271 of females. The abstract of ca shows that 136 deaths resulted from zym diseases; 83 from constitutional, 350 f local and 60 from developmental nat causes; 101 were from violence, and in cases the cause was not specified.