

The Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1895. THE HEATH CASE.

There has been a good deal of talk in the city about the Heath case, and some of it not at all to the point. The gravamen of Mr. Heath's offence is that he spoke contemptuously of a religious doctrine which is devoutly believed in by many of the taxpayers of the community. It does not make any difference what that doctrine is or what denomination of religionists had cause to feel shocked and offended at the teacher's so-called exposition. In the estimation of the teacher and of the authorities whose servants he is, all denominations of Christians should be on the same level, and their doctrines and the religious convictions of those who belong to them are entitled to the same respect.

Whatever a teacher's private opinions may be with regard to the doctrines and the practices of any Church, he commits a serious offence when he utters them—no matter what language or what illustrations he uses—on his pupils during school hours. That offence is very greatly aggravated when he undertakes to speak on controversial subjects in language that may be justly regarded as offensive. The reason of this is simple and very easily understood. The Government schools of this province are undenominational or non-sectarian. Before the people consented to permit the establishment of this undenominational school system, they were assured that the religion of the children who should attend them, would not be tampered with.

The Government by the laws that it has made has guaranteed that the religious faith of all the children shall be respected—that there shall be no proselytism in the schools, and that nothing shall be said by the teachers to lessen the reverence of the children for the religion in which they are being brought up. This bargain between the Government and the people is clearly understood, and it is on the conviction that the Government will keep faith with them in this respect that the great majority of the people send their children to the public schools. When then a teacher takes upon himself to speak disrespectfully of any doctrine or any sacrament of any church, he violates the compact which the Government has made with the people; and the Government which is honest cannot regard the breach of faith with indifference.

It is in duty bound to take cognizance of the offence and to convince the people that it is determined to keep faith with them. We, for our part, are glad to see that the Government is determined to live up to its obligation to maintain inviolate the undenominational character of the schools. In no other way can our public school system maintain the hold it has on the esteem of the people.

We have refrained from saying anything about the particular offence on which Mr. Heath has been condemned partly because we cannot trust ourselves to notice it without using language which many of our readers would regard as too strong, and partly because we consider the manner of Mr. Heath's offence as of comparatively little importance in the consideration of the case. The point which all who have the maintenance of our system of undenominational schools at heart have to consider is the fact of a teacher having, in the performance of his duties, spoken of the doctrines of any body of Christians derisively, or in a way calculated to give any body of Christians offence. Everyone can see if such offences were permitted or overlooked, or their importance underestimated, the whole system would, in a very short time, fall into disrepute—and deservably so.

We may say here that, in our opinion, the majority of the Board of Trustees in refusing to deal with the question exhibited a lamentable want of firmness and intelligence. They should have done their duty in the premises, no matter what the Council of Instruction might do or leave undone, and they ought to have known that the offence is one which no one entrusted with authority under our undenominational school system could pass over or treat lightly without committing a very grave dereliction of duty.

least \$100,000 a day while the strike lasted. Then, of course, there are losses for which there can be no money equivalent. Valuable lives are worth something, anxiety and sorrow and moral deterioration are very severely felt, but who is to measure the loss they occasion in dollars and cents? The gain was experience; but that was very dearly bought and even when it is acquired at such a dreadful expense it does not seem to be highly prized or to do much good.

A RESULT OF FREE TRADE. Mr. Laurier in his Montreal speech gave as one of the results of protection the increase of the population of cities at the expense of the country. We remarked at the time that people in free trade England were making precisely the same complaint. We see in an American exchange an article on the same subject, apropos, too, of Mr. Laurier's speech, in which the London Times is cited as having recently said "the decrease of population in the rural districts, which marks the census of 1891, has been more or less continuous during the present century."

Some of the Liberal papers of the Dominion have had the hardihood to deny that agriculture is depressed where British free trade has been in operation for nearly fifty years. Their folly and their ignorance is exposed in almost every British newspaper we open. Mr. Chaplin, who is as well informed as to the condition of those engaged in agriculture as any man in the Three Kingdoms, attributes the depopulation of the rural districts and the congestion of the cities to the prevailing agricultural depression, which has been brought about by the unrestricted competition in the British markets between the British farmer and the foreign and colonial agriculturist. This competition is the direct and the calculated result of free trade.

A STRIKING STATEMENT. Some of the organs of the Opposition have been trying to detract from the force of some of the statistical statements which prove beyond controversy that the country has been progressing since the Conservatives assumed the reins of Government, by saying that the statistics have been compiled by a partisan having a party end in view. The Government statisticians, Mr. George Johnson, has replied to this accusation in a way which we think will silence the carpers. But figures can be produced that have been compiled by business men for business purposes, which prove not only that the country has progressed under the rule of the Conservatives, but that it did not progress during the five years that the Liberals were in power. The following article from the Toronto Empire proves this as clearly as words and figures can prove anything.

But there are some statistics which the Globe cannot so brush aside as the wholly unfounded cry of partisan manipulation. Let us take these and see if they do not bear out the claims of the Conservative party. We do not suppose that the Globe will deny the accuracy of the banking returns, or will insinuate that the banking officials, who are sworn to report truthfully, and the public officers who record them are in collusion to falsify the facts and deceive the country. What do these statistics show? A comparison indicates that under the old Conservative regime the country's financial condition deteriorated during the past five years in a far greater degree, exhibited itself in a more steady and consistent manner, and in a more pronounced manner, than it has in the last five years.

THE CANTONMENT PERIOD. 1874. 1875. Note circulation..... \$72,394,000 \$29,476,000 Total deposits..... 124,850,000 174,778,000 Discounts to people..... 121,880,000 112,485,000 Assets..... 57,450,000 175,400,000

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A BLOW FOR FREEDOM. The people of California—particularly those of San Francisco—have for a long time been complaining of the tyranny of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Southern Pacific, they said, owned the country and levied tribute ruthlessly upon all classes and all industries. It held the Legislature of the State in the hollow of its hand, and the Municipal Councils were its very humble servants. Kicking against its exactions was unavailing. San Francisco would never be free until a competing road was constructed, and the times being hard there seemed to be no chance of any new railroad project being carried to a successful issue.

But, in spite of the commercial depression and the dreary prospect generally, a project to build a Californian railway for California was started. This is the San Joaquin Valley railway. A subscription list was opened with Class Speckle's name at the head of it for half a million of dollars. Then followed the names of his two sons, John D. and A. B., for one hundred thousand each. The list was swelled by the subscriptions of rich men and strong banking and commercial companies until it amounted to well on two millions. "This," the Argonaut says, "means that the new railroad will be built." The name of Class Speckle, to any project of the kind is a tower of strength. He is, in the first place, very rich indeed, and in the next he is an uncommonly shrewd man of business and is not at all likely to risk his money in a foolish undertaking.

The prestige of his name will give standing to the scheme which it would not have had otherwise, and will attract men who have money to invest in all parts of the United States and other countries. This is what the Argonaut—a paper by no means given to complimenting—says of Class Speckle: "It is not fatuous to say that he (Speckle) is the only man in San Francisco who could have put this plan upon its feet. Both his friends and his enemies agree to that. He has a large fortune, is a man of remarkable business judgment and has behind him a long life unmarred by failure. His business prestige alone would have been sufficient to start a larger enterprise than this one."

The San Francisco Call is delighted with the prospect which the construction of the Valley Road opens up to the people of California. This is part of what it says: "The freight schedules of the Southern Pacific have been a two-edged knife to the people of the valley. They have imposed such burdens on the valley producers that the net proceeds of grain and fruit grown in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Tulare and Kern have heretofore been divided into two portions—one for the grower and one for the carrier who took the crop to market—and quite often the latter was the larger share. Simultaneously the valley farmer has had to pay two prices for everything he wanted—his tools, his furniture, his clothes, his groceries, his supplies at all kinds, one price representing the normal value of the goods and another representing the cost of hauling the goods from the place of production to Sacramento, Stockton or Los Angeles and thence to the place of consumption. These two burdens have heightened the cost of production throughout the valley, while simultaneously reducing its profits."

A new road, built at a cost of \$8,000,000 and run with no purpose of making money by stock deals or pooling arrangements, should be able to carry the products of the valley to this city at a rate far less than the Southern Pacific has charged, and, on the other hand, should be able to distribute through the valley goods imported to San Francisco by sea at figures which the present line has never attempted.

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There is a characteristic article in last night's Times on the "Free List." Instead of going to authentic documents for the information which it professes to give its readers, it retails the impudently dishonest statements made by the Nova Scotia stump orator, Mr. D. C. Fraser. We cannot think that the Times is so ignorant and so unutterably stupid as to be deceived by the partisan rubbish contained in Mr. Fraser's speech. We are consequently forced to the conclusion that the Times repeats Mr. Fraser's dishonest statements knowing them to be dishonest.

Fraser's plan was to avoid figures and to pick out a few articles of little importance which he admitted to be on the free list, and to contrast them with important articles on which duty is paid. Of course, Mr. Fraser said nothing about the total value of the free goods, and the Times takes good care to say nothing about the principal articles which enter the Dominion duty free. Such a way of treating public questions is an insult to an ignorant or a thoughtless audience, but it could not fall to disgust intelligent, honest and thinking men.

The dishonesty of the Times article can be best exposed by giving a plain statement of facts taken from the official returns. The statement of imports for the year 1893 is before us. The total value of the dutiable goods is \$69,873,571. The value of the free goods is \$51,831,439. Some of the items on the free list are:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Value. Sugar, 2,628,419; Tea, 2,848,841; Iron and steel, 1,717,493; Cotton, 3,928,849; Hides and skins (undressed), 1,947,885; Cotton, wool and... 6,335,285; Drugs, dyes and medicines, 1,773,411; Coffee, 284,328; Cattle and bullion, 6,381,400; Animals for improvement of stock, 306,378.

Not counting coin and bullion, which the reader sees was a very considerable item, 42 per cent of the goods imported into Canada last year were duty free. Neither Mr. Fraser nor the Times informs the people of this very significant fact. Neither did the Nova Scotia stump orator nor his disciple tell those whom they pretend to inform that sugar, tea and coffee—necessaries used in every household in the country—are admitted into Canada duty free, and that these are articles from which under a tariff for revenue alone a very large proportion of the revenue must be raised.

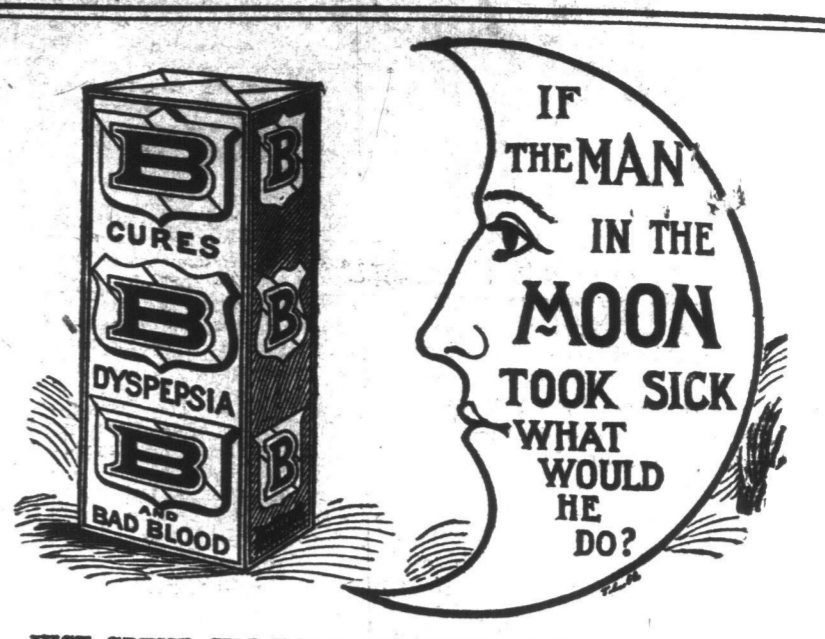
This free list article is a fair sample of the political discourses of the organ of the Opposition. They are written for the express purpose of creating a false impression. They contain just enough truth to mislead the plain; but that modicum of truth is so arranged as to produce an effect more deceptive than lies manufactured out of whole cloth.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENT.

The effects of sanitary improvement are not readily discerned. Those improvements do their work slowly, and it is only after a time and when large masses of the population are involved that they become clearly perceptible. For instance, it would be hard to tell in any small place in England that the general health had greatly improved during the last twelve years. We can readily understand that some intelligent persons, relying on their own observations within the circles of their own acquaintance, might come to exactly the opposite conclusion. It is only when the bills of mortality are examined and compared that a reliable conclusion can be arrived at. This examination has shown that the death rate in England, twelve years ago, was 22.8 in every 1,000 of the population. It is now lessened to 17.8 in the 1,000. This means that from some cause or other there are very nearly five deaths a year less in every thousand persons than there were twelve years ago. It may be naturally asked what it is that has saved these five lives every year in the thousand, or a hundred lives a year in a town of twenty thousand inhabitants? The answer is sanitary improvement. Greater care is taken to preserve the public health now than in any previous period in the country's history, and the consequence is that life is longer and less afflicted by sickness.

There are some facts which prove this very clearly. There is a class of diseases, commonly but plainly named "dirt diseases." The death rate in England from these diseases during the last twelve years has fallen from 5.4 in the 1,000 to 2.4. That is in England there are now not half as many deaths from dirt diseases (syphilis) as there were twelve years ago. The deaths from typhoid fever, which is one of these diseases, has decreased in a still greater ratio. Twelve years ago it was .37, it is now .17.

While this is true of syphilis and typhoid fever, it is not true of diphtheria. While other diseases have been decreasing it has gone on increasing. In the twelve years ending with 1892 it rose in England and Wales, from 144 per million to 192, and in London from 213 to 377. A similar increase of diphtheria was observed in other countries, and this caused men of science to inquire into the nature of diphtheria and to endeavor to find a remedy for the disease. The discovery of the invention of anti-toxin was the result of these enquiries and experiments. The conviction that diphtheria was becoming both more common and more deadly caused the announcement that a remedy had been found for the disease to be hailed with delight in every civilized country, and it is in this conviction that induces people generally to watch with great interest the progress and the results of the serum treatment. The results have so far been most favorable.



JUST SPEND HIS FOUR QUARTERS FOR A BOTTLE OF BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS AS ALL SENSIBLE PEOPLE DO; BECAUSE IT CURES DYSPESPIA, CONSTIPATION, BILIOUSNESS, BAD BLOOD, AND ALL DISEASES OF THE STOMACH, LIVER, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS.

and there is now reason to believe that there will be in the near future a very great reduction in the mortality from diphtheria.

LOOKING FORWARD.

TO THE EDITOR:—The estimate is that Western Siberia, that is the part of that great domain already tapped by the trans-Siberian railway, will send to the European markets next year 15,000,000 bushels of wheat. Live stock is being sent into this section and it is claimed that there are now about 8,000,000 head of cattle there. The average railway haul from points within this section to St. Petersburg is the neighborhood of 2,000 miles. Land is very cheap. It is not sold outright, but it is leased by the government at the rate of \$2.25 for 40 acres. About 900 miles of additional road will be completed on the western section during the present year, with the exception of the iron bridges over the great rivers, but as temporary wooden structures will be used pending the final completion of the line, the beginning of the year 1896 will witness an available line of railway from St. Petersburg to the upper waters of the Yenesei, a distance of 3,528 miles. In this part of Siberia there are fully 5,000 miles of available waterways, which have been greatly improved by the government, and works in further aid of navigation are being pushed forward all the time. In Western Siberia will soon be, if it is not even now, one of the most desirable new countries in point of facilities of transportation and the part which it will play in the future of the world is not to be despised.

Great opportunities are being opened up for the exercise of the exercise of great courage. When I reflect upon the natural advantages which this province possesses and the part which it can be made to play in the development of the world, I have been speaking, it seems to me that British Columbia ought to know only one party, or rather that while in the federal affairs of the world she should shoulder in advocating a policy of development. The province needs immigration and capital. Let there be an union upon some policy which will let us show to the world that we have confidence in our own future and are ready to assume the responsibility which the possibilities of that future impose. Having done this we will be in a position to go before the parliament of Canada and ask for the co-operation of that body. Millions of money lie idle in Europe. It ought to be possible to attract some of them to this province. Conveying with a prominent Alaska business man the other day, I was told that everything points to an Alaskan boom this year. Certainly as I read the signs of the times there will be such a boom within a very few years. "Alaska," he said, "is naturally the richest part of the United States." Perhaps he is right, but if my information is correct, British Columbia is richer than Alaska. Are the people of this province equal to their splendid opportunities?

OUTLOOK. The Alaska Packers' Association, a San Francisco dispatch says, is building a steamer on a vacant lot at the corner of Spear and Filson streets. The vessel is to be taken to pieces, carted away in sections and placed on board of one of the company's sailing vessels that will start North during the coming season. The steamer is a good sized river boat, almost as large as the steamers that ply between Victoria and Sacramento. She is about 90 feet long by 24 feet beam, and will be used on one of the Northern rivers.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING. The C. P. R. steamship agents look for the Empress of China to arrive from the Orient on Tuesday. The big white liner has a heavy cargo, comprising 900 tons of overland freight (inclusive of 340 tons of silk), 150 tons of cargo for Victoria, 300 tons for Portland and several hundred tons for San Francisco. Besides, the ship has 30 saloon and 50 steerage passengers.

The steamer Equinox, one of the vessels engaged in the halibut fishing industry, arrived at Vancouver yesterday afternoon with a heavy cargo of fish.

Advertisement for Kendall's Spavin Cure, featuring an image of a horse and the text 'THE MOST SUCCESSFUL REMEDY FOR MAN OR BEAST. CERTAIN IN THE MOST OBSTINATE CASES. KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE. Dr. J. J. Kendall, Proprietor, 101 N. 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn.'"/>

WEL-HAI-WU. Japanese Attack. Engage. No Trouble Between. Naval U. Ex.

LONDON, Feb. 8. This afternoon several of the positions captured or sunk in the night of Monday. Wel-Hai-Wu harbor submarine mines torpedo and steamships, with which for and out the Japanese captured dangerous Japanese torpedoes, and the Chinese fleet was captured by the Chinese fleet. The Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet. The Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet.

During the night from a prisoner of war, the Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet. The Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet. The Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet. The Chinese fleet was captured by the Japanese fleet.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8. The force of troops sent by the intention of the landing was an attack on the city of Chefoo, and an attempt to send the Japanese defending the east coast. A severe engagement.

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