Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1887.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

This is the feast day of Erin's patron saint. It is "a great day for Ireland," and in song and speech and merry jest her sons will recount the many virtues of St. Patrick and wear the dear little shamrock proudly on their besoms. St. Patrick was essentially a great man, and might very properly have had a place among Carlyle's heroes. Long ere many of the oldest and most renowned dynasties were known to fame; ere crumbling ruins marked the downfall of the ancient Roman empire; ere the Saracens had overrun Asia and Europe, nay, even before they had taken their existence as a people; ere Constantine the Great had given peace to the church; ere Charlemagne had united under his sway the petty states of fallen Rome, the Ireland of St. Patrick was a nation, "great, glorious and free." England had not yet cast off the dark mantle of heathenism; Germany was not the great and respected of to-day; the Olive of Spain had not yet sprung up from mother earth to the light of day; the lily of France had not yet been watered by the blood of heroes that have since existed; the fierce Russian eagle in its eyrie of the north had not yet unfolded its gigantic wings over Europe; and Ireland was at the same time free and prosperous, enjoying the many prerogatives of a powerful nation, rejoicing in the heyday of national prosperity, glowing in the mellow sunshine of Christianity, and brightening up its hills and dells with the brilliant torch of religion. In this state Erin remained during the three centuries of the Golden Age, the greatest country in the world. When the powers of Ignorance and Impiety threatened to annihilate those of Learning and Faith; when the gloom of illiteracy, wrapt in its sombre mantle the monuments of learning and enlightenment, science and literature, yea, faith itself fled terror-stricken over the seas to the land preserved and sanctified by saintly men; when the light of science had nearly flickered away, and the form of Christendom was about to be enveloped in the twilight of Paganism, still the far-off gleam of the well-trimmed lamp of learning was visible burning on the remote shores of Erin. Darker and darker grew the night, deeper and deeper grew the shadow of the genius of Knowledge as the sun of religion and learning sank slowly behind the mountains of Europe. Amid the gloom, then, Ireland's missionaries, animated with the love of God and of man, crossed the seas, bearing in their hands dazzling torches that were to light up the nations of the earth. France, Sweden, Scotland, Lombardy, Spain and Germany were in turn visited and brought into the shining light of Christian truth. The universities of Paris, Pavia and similar institutions sprang into existence and diffused throughout the world the light of science and religion. The smouldering fires of learning were tended on the peaks of the Alps and Appenines. Again in the quiet cloister the midnight chant arose. With renewed fervor missionaries traveled from place to place, spreading piety as they went—again the bell was heard pealing in the old cathedrals, calling, with its mellow notes, souls to the worship of God. Thus Europe was saved from the worst of degradations—that of ignorance and irreligion—and all through the untiring zeal of Ireland's saint and his coadjutors. It is well then that the natal day of one of the world's great men should be observed, but not in silly parades where taunting banners and party tunes are calculated to offend—rather let it be at the banquet board or in the quiet social circle where his brave deeds are narrated and his children urged to follow in the light of his example. Happily each year St. Patrick's Day ceases to take on the form of a holiday of dissipation, but rather tends to the religious, literary and social—a feast of reason and flow of soul—worthy of the patron saint of old Erin, whose mind was more bent on spreading the light of the Gospel and in inculcating literary and scientific truth than in drunken carousals and beastly orgies. This is, indeed, "a great day for Ireland," and Irishmen and Irishmen's sons the world over will sport their sprig of green to-day with pride and pleasure and bless the good saint whose name is synonymous with all that is noblest and purest and best in our common manhood. Shall the poet's words be prophetic? In view of Ireland's present forlorn condition, sitting to-day as she does, like Niobe, weeping among the nations, did he, with that keener vision peculiar to his kind, descry afar off the sun burst which was to give joy to the souls of all lovers of human liberty? Was his lyre attuned correctly when he sang,

"The nations are fallen, and thou still art young
Thy sun is but rising when others have set;
And though slavery's cloud o'er thy morning hath hung,
The full noon of freedom shall beam round thee yet.
Erin, Erin, though long in the shade,
Thy star shall shine out when the proudest shall fade."

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

Monday's terrible accident on the Dedham branch of the Boston and Providence railway by which three persons were killed outright and 114 injured, following so closely upon the disaster on the Central Vermont compels us to ask how are such calamities caused and how can they be avoided? The wreck at Bussy Park bridge is said to be even a more appalling sight than that at White River junction. What was the cause of the accident? The wires tell us "a break in the bridge." It is also stated that the bridge where the accident occurred is a comparatively new one. Prof. Swaine, of the institute of technology, who made an examination of the wrecked bridge, discovered what he considered to be the cause of the accident. He thinks there were serious defects in some portions of the bridge, not only in the material used but in the manner of construction. We cannot but believe that the grossest negligence will have been found at the root of the matter and it is to be hoped that the enquiry will be thorough and not as is usually the case burked either through sympathy or by influence. A terrible responsibility is placed upon the shoulders of railway owners, managers and employees. In nine cases out of ten it would be found that the blame rests with them. It does seem a little strange that a break should have occurred in a new bridge and not have been detected previous to the train's crossing it. But as a matter of fact in the construction of railroads and especially in the building of bridges, does not economy give way to duty, and are not strength and durability subsidiary to the saving of money and flimsy construction? It seems to us that there can be no difficulty in placing the responsibility where it rightfully belongs—on the owners of the railroads. Thousands of men, women and children every day trust their lives and limbs to their care, and are constantly in danger of death from a badly built bridge, a defective truck, a broken rail—from, in short, the countless and one causes of accident inseparable from a railroad. We are inclined to believe that that reasonable degree of care to which travelers are justly entitled does not mark as a general rule railway magnates in the management of their lines. It is usually found that when a railway accident, so terrible in its effects as those which have taken place this year, occurs there is a great outcry, investigations take place which usually end in smoke, a little mere circumspection is evidenced for a few months, and then there is a return to the old grooves again. A strong verdict in one of these cases saddling the blame where it rightfully belongs is greatly to be desired and would probably have more effect than all other forces combined to compel railway managers to assure passengers a moderate degree of safety. If railway owners would only learn by experience that false economy costs them dearly in the end and that destroyed and damaged carriages would pay twice over for the help necessary to properly superintend the track and bridges, we would hear less of such vast and deplorable calamities as those we have lately been called upon to chronicle. In many cases, and the statement holds good of Canadian as well as American railroads, the rolling stock is allowed to run down, and is only replaced when it has become absolutely useless. This erroneous idea of economy was especially manifest on the Intercolonial railway during Mr. Mackenzie's term of office, when the engines were only laid on the shelf when it had become utterly impracticable to work them. That gentleman, of course, was desirous to keep the expenditure on the road within the receipts and gradually to claim a surplus under his judicious (?) management, but the effects were ultimately seen. During the storms of winter, traffic was impeded and any gains made in cutting down expense were more than counterbalanced by the losses accruing from accidents or inefficiency. It is very desirable that the lesson of these American railway disasters should be taken home by the officials of the C. P. R. and our home railways. We have no doubt that the highest degree of care prevails at present. Any accidents that may have occurred were due to causes entirely unavoidable, but it is well that a warning should be taken, and that in the event of a casualty no *laches* can be attributed to either the owners of the road or the men in their employ. A very solemn duty rests upon these, and they should never be allowed to forget the terrible responsibility which they have voluntarily placed upon themselves. A great danger in case of railway accidents arises from coal and wood fires. Once the carriages overturn they become a blazing and fiery mass and escape is impossible. In some of the recent cases heart-rending details have reached us of the sufferings of the imprisoned victims who slowly burned to death in the presence of their fellows who could render them no assistance. It would seem that some better arrangement could be made in this age of successful invention, and we understand that the matter is now occupying the attention of many scientific men; meantime steam could, we think, be successfully used. He would, indeed, be a benefactor to his race who would render the destruction of life and property by fire less possible than is the case under existing circumstances. As we read the sickening details of the accident between Forest Hill and Rosedale, and are told that "the cause of the accident is said to have been a break in the bridge," we cannot but think that there is fault somewhere. The enquiry for once ought to be honest and thorough, and a verdict rendered that will prevent the recurrence of such sweeping disasters as have already marked the present year.

THE VANCOUVER DISTRICT ELECTION.

On Wednesday next the electors of Vancouver district will have an opportunity to choose between the two nominated candidates—Mr. Gordon, the old member, and Mr. Planta, one of Nanaimo's best citizens. Both are liberal-conservatives, strong supporters of Sir John A. Macdonald, and the election of either will only go to swell the premier's present majority. Mr. Gordon, however, as was conclusively proved by the successful candidates in this district during the recent campaign, showed himself to be inimical to the best interests of the island, and invariably, on the floors of the house, sided with the Mainland on all questions affecting British Columbia. This was a disadvantage under which our representatives labored, and by the peculiar action of Mr. Gordon, they found their hands tied on many questions affecting the best interests of Vancouver Island. Such a course as he pursued was not calculated to gain him many friends—rather his old admirers were reluctantly obliged to acknowledge that they had been disappointed in him and could not consistently support him at the present election. His action on the Settlement Bill completely weaned away from him his old supporters who were, to put it mildly, disgusted at such a lack of foresight on the part of their chosen representative. His views certainly were not statesmanlike, and his course was calculated in a large degree to hinder the progress of this island. However, his sins are upon his own head, and we have no doubt the electors are thoroughly cognizant of his shortcomings. Mr. Planta, his opponent, is a gentleman thoroughly in accord with the present administration, and has for many years been identified with the best interests of the district. In his judicial capacity he dealt out even-handed justice, and his abilities are of no mean order. He has not had the parliamentary training which Mr. Gordon has enjoyed, but there is every reason to believe, judging by his eloquent efforts during the present campaign, that he will occupy no mean place on the floors of parliament. At a time like this when Vancouver Island has her all at stake, it is desirable that Mr. Planta should be elected, since he would act in unison with the other island representatives. The grit organ in this city has insinuated that Mr. Dunsmuir is deeply interested in Mr. Planta's election. Nothing could be more untrue. That gentleman has been devoted to the interests of his constituents in the house and we have reason to believe has not canvassed the district. The fact is that Mr. Dunsmuir refused some time ago to subscribe for so very doubtful and hardly respectable a sheet, and in consequence is being daily treated to abuse, which he probably never sees, or if he does only laughs at. His twenty-five cents a week is a big loss just now in the *Times* office. Mr. Planta goes before the electorate on his own merits and has been long enough in the country himself to require no title of respectability and trustworthiness from any man. However the election turns out, we can be assured of a liberal-conservative being sent to Ottawa, but it is for the electors to say whether they are willing to vote for a man who has always 'stood in' with the enemies of this island, or for one who promises, and we believe faithfully, to advocate by every means in his power its true interests. As far as Mr. Planta's election is concerned his friends seem to have no fear, but they should not on that account relax their efforts, but ought to lend him the whole weight of their influence to the end that a solid delegation of three true and trusty men, thoroughly united and imbued with the same feelings, should represent this promising island of Vancouver on the floors of the federal parliament.

THE MEMBER FROM SODA CREEK.

Mr. McLeese, member for Cariboo, yesterday treated the house to one of the most rambling, silly and tiresome harangues that a body of sensible men ever had the misfortune to be compelled to listen to. There was no attempt on his part, by sensible argument, to forward the interests of the district that unwisely voted him to a seat in the legislature—there was no proof quoted for the many slanderous statements made against members of the government and assembly—there was neither wit nor wisdom, in fact, the only thing apparent was that the ponderous "senator" from Soda Creek was making a strong endeavor to render himself ridiculous and to tire the patience of both sides of the house—in which he was very successful. He made serious charges against the government and the two members for Lillooet, for which he submitted, as evidence, infated gossip and nameless letters. After inflicting the house for nearly three hours he sat down amid the loudly expressed satisfaction of the depleted ranks of both parties. Hon. Mr. Davie, in a few words, characterized Mr. McLeese's charges as base and unfounded slander, and gave that honorable gentleman a scoring that certainly should prove beneficial to him, and deter him from repeating his unparliamentary course of yesterday. It would be hard, indeed, to imagine what object the opposition members have in view in impeding the progress of the business of the country at every possible opportunity. They have nothing to gain by doing so—in fact they are fast losing what little respect their opponents held, and the meagre amount that their friends entertain, for them. If the ability exhibited in their expressed opinions on the floor of the house is to be taken as an evidence of what would characterize their efforts should they ever come into the reins of government, then the country may well be thankful that they are in the cold shades of opposition. It would be a public calamity if they ever succeeded in changing places in the house. As an opposition they can do little harm, but if they secured control of the affairs of the province they would undoubtedly guide them into that chaos and stagnation in which the present able administration found them.

NAMELESS LETTERS—THE CHURCHMAN.

To the Editor:—The increase in the number of anonymous letters in the papers is to be regretted. The *Times* and Colonist each have a libel suit now pending for publishing such letters. Editors, no doubt, often unwillingly admit communications of this kind because offered by persons they do not like to refuse, and their indulgence is often repaid by being accused of writing to themselves.

Nameless letters cannot be justified upon any sound reason, except it be the single instance of purely literary writings, where the author takes a pseudonym from modesty, and the line should be boldly drawn there.

There is a letter in last Saturday's *Times* signed "Consistency," that is nameless in more senses than one. It is an insult to a Christian community. Be sure to read it for it is well to know that there is such a man in the city. I am not in favor of passing such men and such letters in silent contempt. They need a little showing up. I defy him to point out a single instance, in the last 1887 years, of a person becoming a drunkard from taking the sacrament of the Lord's supper. It is not the churchman, but men like "Consistency," who have the benefit of the knowledge achieved by Christian civilization, and who, viper-like, turn and bite the hand that feeds them, who are the cause of drunkenness. He says that "*Turkey is the only country of Europe which rejected them*" (the Christians) "*and the only one that is sober.*" Indeed! Such very consistent men should go to Turkey to live, but that would be bad for Turkey, for men possessed of evil spirits would soon teach the savage how to make *evil* spirits. The writer of "Consistency" is not, I am sure, a teetotaller, either in practice or principle, but seems to be one who has been stuffing himself on the writings of atheists, socialists, and dynamiters, and being full, his letter is the overflow. The *Times* repudiates the sentiments of the letter, and, in justice to its patrons should publish the name of the author, and (using his words) "*drive him out into the public gaze.*" The *Times* must know that it can get no strength, either socially, politically, or commercially, by publishing the vile thoughts of such a man, while he remains in the shadow of a *nom de plume*.

Yours truly,
Gannaway.

Victoria, March 15, 1887.

THE MAN WANTED.

To the Editor:—Mr. Gordon's supporters admit that there is some truth in what "A Saanich Voter" says, but thinks we ought to give him another chance. Well, we will have that with the voters. We want a man to advocate the strengthening of the revenue force on this coast, as there is no doubt that a good deal of smuggling is going on among the islands. I have reason to believe that there is more stock sold from some of them in one year than ever was on them altogether. We want a man to advocate the old tariff on barley again; we want a man to confirm whether there is not a measure in force to prevent the importation of oleomargarine and the detection of it; we want a man to remember that we are not migratory, that we are here at other times as well as on election day; we want a man to remember that two-thirds of the electors live outside of Nanaimo, and we want a man who, if he does not make his appearance once in a while, will send us his photograph anyhow.

A. Farmer.

GORDON MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN.

To the Editor:—Most of the voters in Saanich thought we would have to go the coming election blind, but after an absence of eighteen months Mr. Gordon has thought fit to make himself known by coming amongst us and announcing a series of what we call hole-in-the-corner or one-horse meetings. By the suddenness with which the latter are sprung upon us we cannot help thinking that it is some trick to polish off a trick. A trick as good as a nod so we understand. But why should he be so inconsistent to the electors of this district? Why, unless it is characteristic of the man and merely a freak of his inherent wilfulness. Formerly the candidates held their meetings jointly in order to accomodate the farmers, knowing the difficulties of attending gatherings of the kind in country places; now he means have to travel long distances there and back after dark. We hardly expect one candidate to put himself out of the way to oblige another, but we have a claim to some consideration on that score if anyone wants our votes. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Gordon acts as though Planta had no business in the field. We used to look forward to such meetings with pleasant anticipations for we generally had a jolly, good time. But we are disappointed and consider ourselves humbugged. Our late member is rushing through as though old Nick was after him. It makes us stare and wonder what makes him hurry so, unless he is afraid his opponent will overtake him. Now, anyone can see for himself that there is something behind the scenes that we do not understand. Else why those abrupt notices and scurry? The first intimation we got were printed posters stuck along the road with this announcement, "A meeting will be held tonight at the institute, North Saanich, by D. Gordon." Next day other posters for another to be held at the Agricultural hall South Saanich, that night, were seen. At the bottom of each poster is a line written with pencil as follows: "Mr. Planta respectfully invited to attend." What a blind! This latter is an *after-thought*. At the same time Planta is away at Cowichan or Jericho, for what we know. Now, in consequence, some will go to this and some will go to that meeting. There are others who won't go to any, because they say it's only a catch-vote arrangement. With regard to the late member's politics, we won't be hard with him, for he told us we had pledged him to oppose the island railway. *That* we don't fully comprehend—it may have been so; but not in the sense and spirit in which he has carried that out, for the settlement bill was in its infancy and had hardly assumed a tangible shape at that time. If he was an astute politician and had not allowed himself to be controlled by his obstinate disposition he could have read the signs of the times, for every island district, excepting Comox, sent representatives to support the Smithe government and the settlement bill, and we think he should have been a little pliable and conformed himself by endeavoring to voice the wishes of the majority of this large constituency and those who placed him in power. Even Nanaimo sent members to support the island railway and settlement bill, although at the time they made a pet of Gordon and a foot-ball of Mr. Dunsmuir. What are they doing now? Why, dancing to the tune of "See the conquering hero comes;" and where is Gordon? Stuck like Aunt Jemima's plaster, a victim to his stubbornness. Verily we are a queer people. We send two men to the local house to support a most important measure and then we wheel about and send one man to Ottawa to oppose the same.

Several Voters.

To Build a Boat.

Mr. J. F. T. Mitchell, says the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*, leaves next Monday for Vancouver, B.C., where he goes to build a tow-boat for the mill company, Messrs. Leamy & Kyle. The boat will be 80 feet in length and of the same model as the tug Queen City.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament.

Thursday, March 17.

MORNING SESSION.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 11 a. m.

SUPPLY.

Mr. Bole resuming the debate on the motion that the house go into committee of supply, said he would take this, the second opportunity afforded to members of the opposition of criticising the conduct of the government. In doing so he could not adopt terms of laudation and commendation. In administering the revenues of the country care should be taken that they were not distributed according to the support given to the government. The policy of the present government was, however, regulated by political expediency, a policy opposed to the principles of constitutional government. Government funds should be expended according to the needs of the districts and independent of the support given to the government. It was also a violation of constitutional government for an executive to take members into their confidence in preparing the estimates. The system by which such distributions were made in this province was nothing less than a refined system of bribery. (Oh, oh!) Cowichan and Nanaimo received large shares of the public fund.

Mr. Dunsmuir—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bole—The honorable gentleman may well say "hear, hear," for his district is well attended to.

Mr. T. Davie—Hear, hear.

Mr. Bole—The honorable junior member for Victoria also says "hear, hear," and I judge from his lively chirp that he, too, is satisfied with the draws his constituency is making from the treasury bags. He was very sorry in looking over the appropriations for New Westminster district, the most important in the province, that its appropriations had fallen off $5,000. At this time that district was in more need of expenditures than at any previous period. The Port Moody and Vancouver roads were in a disgraceful condition. When travelling over the Vancouver road last Sunday his wagon sunk down to the axle in the sea of mud. A stage, which was driving ahead of him, had to discharge its passengers before it could get through. He did not know which was regarded with the greater disfavor at Vancouver, the road or the presence of the Victoria specials. It was not his intention to go over the discussion which had taken place in the house on the last election in New Westminster district. The election of the honorable provincial secretary had been largely due to his blandishments, and to the fact that the people of the city of Vancouver thought they had in him a firm friend. The gentleman still affected to have the confidence of his district. If he were sincere in his belief he (Mr. Bole) would challenge him to resign his seat and run his election over again, and he (Mr. Bole) would resign and run against him.

Hon. Mr. Robson—Shoo fly. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bole—The honorable gentleman is, of course, too old a bird to be caught by such chaff. (Hear.) He was referring to the attempt of the C. P. R. to force the right of way from Port Moody to Vancouver.

Mr. Dunsmuir—Was not some person authorized on behalf of the Canadian Pacific railway to offer some fifty or sixty thousand dollars as the price of the right of way?

Mr. Bole said there had been no such offer. It was reported to be the case on the outside but no such thing had occurred. A smaller sum would have purchased the right of way. The line had been finally forced through the settlers lands in consequence of the unfortunate circumstance that the supreme court of Canada was under the control of the Canadian Pacific railway. This, he claimed, was an uneventful session. The only incident to relieve its monotony being the passage of the Vancouver peace preservation act. Had he been in the house when the bill passed he would have raised his voice against such an iniquitous measure. The lode-stone binding the support of at least five members to the government was the vacant portfolio. After criticising the government on their financial policy and in connection with certain correspondence the honorable gentleman concluded.

Mr. Higgins said that the discursive character of the debate which had arisen over the resolution to go into committee of supply confirmed his previously expressed opinion of the defectiveness of the rules of order and the necessity of an amendment which would confine honorable members to the discussion of the matter before them. The honorable member for New Westminster city had traveled from Dan to Beersheba in his assault on the government. He had, however, to compliment him on the good-natured vein which ran all through his remarks, although, he must confess, that his somewhat boisterous style of declamation reminded him of an anecdote of Henry Ward Beecher, who, on being complimented upon a certain sermon, replied, "I never made a worse one." "But," replied his parishioner, "you spoke very loud." "Ah," returned Beecher, "I always make the most noise when I have nothing to say." The honorable leader of the opposition had said that during the last election contest he had warned the electors that if they returned the present government to power there would be a fresh loan and additional taxation. The people had heard his warning note and still they confirmed the government in their seats. This action showed that the people were willing to be taxed if the money drawn from them was to be expended on productive works in furtherance of a progressive policy. The leader of the opposition had claimed that in 1875 the government of which he was a member had left a surplus in the treasury. This statement was wide of the truth. The Elliott government had to provide for a deficit of $310,000 created by their predecessors, and to meet that deficit a system of taxation had to be framed which continued till this day. He (Mr. Higgins) contended that if roads and bridges were to be built, mineral resources developed, and the free educational system extended, money was necessary. As one of the public and a taxpayer he did not object to paying out one dollar to the government if ten dollars were to be returned in public improvements and development. The honorable member for New Westminster city had assigned him a decoration for his vote on the Vancouver Peace Preservation bill. He reminded the honorable gentleman that that bill was *unanimously* passed by the house. The opposition members voted for it. Why? Not because they loved the Chinese, but because they were in favor of the maintenance of law and order. (Hear, hear.) There were laws on the statute book for the prevention of cruelty to animals. How much more should the laws for the protection of human life and limb be enforced? But the highest decoration he coveted was a medal from the society for the protection of dumb animals. (Hear, hear.) He next referred to the honorable member for Cassiar who, he said, in his speech had traveled from Behring sea to the Atlantic coast, writing "Ichabod" on every tree and stone as he passed along. That honorable gentleman had introduced a resolution which breathed war against the neighboring Republic, basing his hostility on "newspaper reports." Well, he (Mr. H.) would be the last man to speak lightly of the Fourth Estate, for all he was and all he expected to be he owed to that honorable profession. But newspapers were not infallible and often made errors. They were frequently imposed upon by newspurveyers. He asked now what reliance could be placed upon the telegraphic dispatches concerning the recent election in the east? and read from The Colonist and *Times* of the 23rd February to show that one claimed the victory for the conservatives and the other for the liberals in staring headlines. (Laughter.) If war was to be declared it should have a more tangible basis than "newspaper reports." The opposition were constantly complaining that the government had "sold the drydock." Sold the drydock? He invited honorable members to visit Esquimalt with him and he would show them that the drydock, like the national flag, was still there, and had not been carted out of the country, as some seemed to think. Its transfer to the Dominion was one of the wisest acts of this government. The dock was now nearly completed, and the opposition had involved the erection of an extensive system of fortification at Esquimalt and Victoria—the gateway of the province—and the constant presence of at least three men-of-war on this station. Before he sat down he wished to say that he believed the collection of taxes in the outlying districts was not pushed with vigor.

Mr. Allen—The collectors are too lazy.

Mr. Higgins continued, that the centres of population were scraped by the tax-gatherer while the outlying districts were comparatively neglected. He had it from a person who had looked into the matter that since 1878 at least $150,000 more should have been collected than was the case. Might he not now press upon the government the importance of seeing that all persons who were liable under the act to pay taxes faithfully discharged their obligations? In conclusion, he contrasted the present financial condition of the province with its condition under the leader of the opposition when the Dominion subsidy was mortgaged and a local capitalist advanced $30,000 at 1½ per cent. per month, the province paying the broker's commission in addition. He hoped never to find the country again reduced to that strait, and as a precaution he should vote to go into committee of supply. (Applause.)

Mr. Thompson moved the adjournment of the debate.

House adjourned at 12:30 o'clock till 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:15 p.m.

Prayers were read by the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven.

Mr. Thomson, who had moved the adjournment of the debate, did not wish to speak.

Mr. Dunsmuir was sorry, in rising to speak to the resolution, to find that the honorable leader of the opposition was not in his seat. He could not help noticing that the first sentence in that honorable gentleman's speech was in regard to the late finance minister. He said the government had to go to his (Mr. Beaven's) side of the house to get a minister of finance. He (Mr. Dunsmuir) did not consider the late finance minister had been any less a supporter of the government than himself. He did not blame that gentleman for not remaining among the opposition. Whenever anything for the good of the country was brought forward their hands never went up for it. They were without a policy, and if the government of the country had been left in their hands it would assuredly have gone to ruin. He was glad to see the government asking for this loan, because he did not like to see the expenditure of a new country like this kept within the revenue. He had charge of the affairs of the province it would be a great deal more in debt than it is, but he would, nevertheless, be careful that a dollar did not go out where a dollar and a half did not come in. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He had seen enough of this government to know that this was the policy they adopted. He could say without fear of contradiction that this country never been gvn an era of sound prosperity till the present government came into power. (Hear, hear.) Our schools had doubled in number, which showed that the population must also have doubled, and, consequently, the expenses in this connection had increased proportionately. This was why we required a loan, for we could not expect an increase of revenue from settlers the minute they came into the province. When the late government went out of power they went without paying their debts. They did not pay their plenipotentiary to Great Britain (laughter), they left large sums unpaid in connection with the dry dock, and they even repudiated a little bill of the junior member for New Westminster district [Mr. Orr.] (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. Allen—Yes, a bill for $50.

Mr. Dunsmuir, continuing—The present government had at least paid their debts, had redeemed and maintained the credit of the province. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the Chinese question he said, if he could get white men to do his work he did not believe he would employ Chinamen. He could speak with authority on this matter, for he had tested it. Although not favoring Chinese labor he had voted against the clause by putting those anti-Chinese clauses in private bills we were keeping capital out of the country. It was nonsense to say there was already a surplus of white labor in the province. Only the other day Mr. Moberly had been looking for twenty miners to send up to Banff, and he positively could not get them. Much had been said by the honorable member for Yale about government expenditures in Nanaimo district. He believed Nanaimo had got nothing but its just share. It had been the backbone of this province, and British Columbia would be not now what she is if to-day but for that district. (Hear.) Nanaimo bought the honorable gentleman's beef and paid a good price for it, and enabled him to grow wealthy and pay his taxes. (Hear, and applause.) The same honorable gentleman accused the members of the government with increasing their salaries. He did not blame them for doing that; they were worth it. But if he had been a member of the previous government and had been guilty of placing the affairs of the province in such a muddle as they had done he would have been ashamed to take a cent for his services. (Laughter.) The honorable member for Cassiar spread himself very much on the Island railway lands question and had attempted to mislead the house. He (Mr. D.) pointed out that precisely the same clause relating to the taxation of these lands which had been passed by the previous government had been inserted in the settlement bill. His reasons for giving notice that he would introduce a bill providing for biennial sessions was because he considered the present government were quite capable of carrying on the government for two years without reference to the assembly. He did not do so because he had not faith in the government as the leader of the opposition had endeavored to show. He believed that the fourteen and fifteen thousand dollars spent on every session would be better devoted towards the construction of roads and bridges through the country and to the development of the quartz mines of the mainland. The member for Cassiar had called him (Mr. D.) "dictator and receiver." Well, all he could say was that if the country had been guided into prosperity under his dictatorship he had much upon which to congratulate himself. He could not say he was a receiver for he was paying out much more than he was taking in, of which the country was getting the benefit. He repeated that it was not to the interests of the province to insert anti-Chinese clauses in private bills. In concluding he said in reference to the construction of railways in the province and the subsidizing of them that he would prefer to let the Dominion government take the initiative in the matter. (Applause.)

Colonel Baker said that it was not his intention to detain the house for any length of time on this motion, as there were other members who wished to speak, but there were a few points to which he should like to allude. It must be in the recollection of the house that the provincial secretary in his speech on the introduction of the estimates had stated that the revenue of the province was increasing. The leader of the opposition, in his reply, challenged this statement, and in doing so read out to the house what he stated were the hard facts of figures, and observed that the revenue of 1884-85 was $600,398, while that for 1885-86 was only $514,719. He then shook the estimates in the face of the provincial secretary and exclaimed triumphantly that the revenue, as shown by the estimates laid before the house, was actually decreasing. The member for Nanaimo shouted "land sales," but no notice has been taken of that interpolation. I will now call the attention of the house to the fact that in 1884-85 the land sales amounted to $174,579, and in 1885-86 to only $77,502, and if these sums are deducted from the total revenues it will be seen that a balance remains of $11,398 in favor of the revenue of 1885-86, thus showing that the statement of the provincial secretary was perfectly accurate and that the revenue is steadily increasing. It is evident that land sales are assets of the province and cannot be taken as a part of the ordinary revenue. The argument may be raised that in parting with the assets of the province we are in reality decreasing our wealth, but such an argument is entirely fallacious, for in point of fact while those lands or assets are unsold and lying dormant they produce no revenue, but the moment they are parted with it is equivalent to putting the asset out at interest, and increased revenue is derived by the country. After a humorous allusion to the statement of the leader of the opposition that the government had on a former occasion to go to the opposition side of the house in order to find a financial secretary, the honorable member went on to say that the opposition had taunted the government with running the province into debt by applying for a new loan. But it was only necessary to examine the estimates which were before the house to realize that the object of the loan was to develop the resources of the country. How could those resources be developed unless money was expended upon roads and bridges in order to lead the way to the dormant wealth of the country? Nature was smiling upon us inviting courtship but she required to be tickled with the almighty dollar before she would give forth her bounty. The leader of the opposition had declared that this province had been brought to a state of bankruptcy, but in the same breath he had acknowledged that the government was able to go into the money market and raise a loan of one million at 4%. This very fact ought to convince the opposition that the capitalists of the world had every confidence in the resources of British Columbia, and in the ability and stability of the government which ruled over that important province. The honorable gentleman concluded his speech by saying that the arguments he had adduced showed conclusively that the wild assertions and statements of the opposition had only to be submitted to the hard hammer of fact in order to pulverize them into such an impalpable powder that the breath of truth scattered to the winds.

Mr. Turner, who had risen at a previous sitting to make an explanation respecting certain remarks made by a member of the opposition, desired to address the house.

Mr. Speaker understood the honorable gentleman to have spoken.

The opposition were willing to hear him provided an equal privilege was extended to their side of the house.

Mr. Speaker accordingly decided to adhere strictly to the rules of the house.

Mr. McLeese thought if the policy at present being pursued by the government was followed out the country would soon be in a deplorable condition. He contended that the revenue should be more fairly distributed among the districts. He had no faith in the estimates as prepared by the finance minister and his theories about the loan and its payments of interest and sinking fund. He had figured out how the province would have to pay for it. Taking the estimates as they were the province would at the end of the this fiscal year be $500,000 in debt and there was nothing in the treasury to meet it. They would therefore have to borrow the million at once. Mr. McLeese went largely into figuring on principal and interest and said that there was a discrepancy between his figures and the provincial statements. He thought the government should endeavor to economize instead of borrowing money to pay their increased salaries and those of their officials. When the late government came into office their first step was to cut down salaries. Of course there were no great public works going on then. (Hear, hear and laughter.) The honorable gentleman from Lillooet laughs.

Mr. Allen—It is enough to make a horse laugh. (Renew laughter.)

Mr McLeese, continuing, said he was not unfavorable to borrowing money, but he did not think the present government fit to handle it, for by their own calculation they would have to pay $1,500,000 interest, etc., for the million. If it was borrowed for opening up the mines of the province he would not oppose it. He was not sectional, but he thought that the developments of Cariboo district were at that stage which made it deserving of assistance. They required large machinery and chlorination works. By expending monies and encouraging the quartz mines they were investing in a way that would be reproductive. He thought the law courts building might have been deferred for some time. The Lillooet bridge was a useless expense. It should have been placed between Chimney creek and Soda creek.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Did you ever propose a bridge at that point?

Mr. McLeese—No. But I will. (Laughter.) There was another item—the $3000 for minister of finance. He supposed that they intended to appoint a member to that portfolio before many moons. He thought they should carry the business on without a new appointment, and save $3000. The vote for Nanaimo court house, the one for Kamloops jail, the one for the Thompson river bridge, would be better placed if they were expended on reproductive works, such as the development of the quartz mines. Mr. McLeese referred to a letter which he stated Mr. Allen had showed to several people, and stated that he had purchased a horse and cart.

Mr. Allen denied the fact in toto.

Mr. McLeese said he was informed the government boycotted one of the merchants in Clinton.

Mr. Allen said it was another incorrect statement.

Mr. McLeese said he was informed that it was so.

Mr. Allen asked for the name of his informant.

Mr. McLeese said he would have to give the names of half the people in Clinton. (Laughter.) He characterized the distribution of patronage in Lillooet district as bribery of the vilest and worst kind. At any rate, there were rumors that came to them up north, and if they saw smoke they could be pretty sure that a gun had gone off. (Oh, oh!) Mr. McLeese referred to the dismissal of Mr. Boyd as road superintendent five years ago, which he said he had heard from a man who was an unsuccessful candidate who had seen a letter from a storekeeper, a particular friend of the attorney-general, that the dismissal was caused by political influence. He also referred to a man who rode a red-colored horse who had been discharged by Ned. Allen. Another man had come to him with tears in his eyes, who was a very dear, dear friend of the attorney-general, who said he had been discharged by Mr. Allen because he was not a voter.

This and other assertions made by Mr. McLeese caused Mr. Allen to frequently rise to his feet and characterize as false, untrue, and entirely news to him.

Mr. McLeese said he would have to go back again, and he hoped Mr. Speaker would not be wearied in his patience and excuse anything he might say about dead issues. He referred to the Poole murder case, and stated something which he had heard from some one and made statements which the attorney-general characterized as false in every particular. Mr. McLeese admitted he didn't know what he was talking about, but he had heard somebody state things which showed laxity in enforcing the law. When the robbery occurred on the stage road the government issued a proclamation offering a reward of $1,000; but in the case of Emia, a murderer at large, they only offered $600. "Comparisons, sir, is odious." (Laughter.) Mr. McLeese said he would read a letter. This he did with much difficulty. However, it contained statements of which the attorney-general asked information.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Who is the writer's informant?

Mr. McLeese—I will give you the letter. Who gave the information contained in it to the writer?

Mr. McLeese—Yes. (Laughter.)

Mr. Allen—The information is without a shadow of truth.

Mr. McLeese—It is. The man who gave it can go behind a log and get the skeleton of the second child. After going over numerous petty grievances, all of which Mr. Allen characterized as incorrect, Mr. McLeese referred to the appointment of a mounted constable at the 150 which he said was political jobbery.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Why didn't you object to the appointment when the estimates were under consideration last year?

Mr. McLeese—Object! What is the use of objecting? (Laughter.) I am not going to object to anything, but want to set myself right before the country. He claimed that he represented the majority of the voters of Cariboo, the official vote proved it. After referring to a numerous array of matters, some of them of the long ago, others that were wearily backed up by nameless letters and readings from government returns, Mr. McLeese said there were many other matters that he might refer to in regard to Cariboo district, but wouldn't, and sat down, amid loud rappings on the members' desks.

The honorable attorney-general said the last speaker had charged the government with having caused the dismissal of road employés, a Clinton store to be boycotted, and that the reason the arrest of Emia, the Indian, was not consummated, was because he (the attorney-general) was influenced by political motives. This he could only characterize as pure and simple slander. This and other misstatements rested on the unsupported assertions of Mr. McLeese. (Applause.)

Mr. McLeese said he saw it was about time he got affidavits.

Mr. Mason said it was not his intention to allow his honorable colleague to carry off all the laurels. The latter had gone out of his course in order to make a stump speech about grievances which he claimed existed in Lillooet district. He thought it would be better for him to display a little more energy in the interest of his own constituents. So far as the appointment of the constable at the 150 was concerned he believed it gave general satisfaction, and the cause for Mr. McLeese's fault-finding was that the man he desired was not given the appointment. (Hear, hear.)

It being six o'clock Mr. Speaker left the chair.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Mr. Allen will ask the hon. Minister of Finance: Is it the intention of the government to take such steps as will secure a most thorough system of collecting taxes in the outlying districts of the province?

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Turner on Monday will move: Whereas through the development of the coal, lumber and other industries, the number of ships and steamers seeking our ports is greatly increased; and, whereas the trans-Pacific commerce consequent upon the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway will bring about a still further increase; and, whereas all shipping approaching the province is exposed to severe storms on our western coast; and; whereas numerous wrecks have already occur