The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH, 1890.

THE ARBITRATION CLAUSE.

The Times declares that a law which is found to be good enough for the great province of Ontario in particular, and for all the provinces of the Dominion in general, is not good enough for British Columbia. It would have us believe that the men whom the people of Ontario elect to represent them in their Legislature are a pack of tyrants and oppressors, and that they are all besotted with the idea of class legislation. It also argues on the assumption that the owners of land in that province are a stupid lot, who do not know what their rights are, or that they are a set of cowards who have not pluck enough to assert those rights when they are attacked by the aforesaid tyrants and oppressors.

We do not think that our contemporary does the farmers and other landholders of Ontario justice. They are greatly misrepresented if they are not as sharp to see what their rights are and where their interests lie and as keen and persistent in asserting and furthering them as any of their fellow subjects in any part of the British Empire. They are not the men to allow their own legislature to trample on them or to take from them a dollar's worth of their property without giving its full value in return in one shape or another. It is far easier for us to believe that the Times is ignorant of the principles of law and has no idea how the arbitration clause of the railway bill will work than to conclude that the people of Ontario submit quietly to a law which is unjust to them, which deprives them of their property without giving them an equivalent. It requires no argument to convince those who know the farmers of Ontario that they would to a man be up in arms against such a law, and that if they did not prevent its enactment they would give the Government and the Legislature no rest until it was repealed. But Ontario land-owners consent to the arbitration clause of the Railway Act of their province as a matter of course. There is not a murmur against it. Its enactment is not one of the sins which the opponents of the Liberal Government declare that Mr. Mowat and his supporters will have to answer for soon at the polls.

Then it is to be presumed that there are in the Dominion Parliament some men who want to do what is fair by the people, and some who understand the principles on which a law to value property taken for railway purposes should be based. It will be admitted, too, that there are a few men in that body who are endowed with good strong common sense.

The Dominion Railway Act of 1888 is an important law, and it was, no doubt, searchingly examined and thoughtfully deliberated upon in its passage through Parliament. There was not a line or a word of that act which was not carefully weighed and considered by members who opposed the Government as well as members who supported it. It must be said for the members of the railway and other committees that in going through a law the object of all is to make it effective.

So important a section would challenge the attention of the whole committee. But we do not hear that any objection was raised to it. The Liberals did not protest against it, for we have seen that in Ontario they passed a law in every respect similar. To make allowance for the increased value of the land by reason of the construction of the railway is an acknowledged principle in every province and by men of all parties. The Liberal newspapers did not denounce Sir John Thompson for putting such a clause in the bill. There was in fact not a word said against it anywhere. Are men in all parts of the Dominion blind to their rights? Is it not far more likely that the Times, thinking that it had a good subject to raise a cry about resolved to get up an agitation on this arbitration clause, than that the whole Dominion Parliament would sanction a law which legalizes "barefaced robbery."

Those who raise objections to the law seem to have done so hastily and without giving it proper consideration. The arbitration is appointed for the very purpose of meeting the difficulties they raise. The Government has the power to fix an arbitrary price for all lands along the route, and to pay the owners for the quantity of land taken without taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances of each case. This would be unjust. But the arbitrators are appointed for the express purpose of ascertaining the amount of damage done to each owner through whose land the road passes. It sometimes happens that the road cuts up a man's land so as to destroy quite a large part of it for farming purposes, besides putting him to great inconvenience in other respects. It is the duty of the arbitrators to make allowance for all this and to assess the damage accordingly. The writer has, under precisely such a law as that in force in Ontario, seen almost as much paid for a few acres taken out of a farm for a railroad track as the whole farm was worth. The track greatly injured the farm, and as the man was near a market the advantages of the road were to him not worth considering. Under similar circumstances an award of the same kind would be given under the arbitration clause of Mr. Davie's bill. Arbitrators seldom err in the direction of undervaluing the property through which the railway runs. But when men are appointed to assess damages they must find that there are damages. They, too, must give for the land what it is worth at the time the arbitration is made, not what it may be worth years hence, after the railroad is constructed. If, for instance, the land is so situated that it will be so greatly increased in value by the road running through it, that after the road is built he can sell part of it for a townsite and get perhaps ten times as much for it as it would sell for without the railroad, are arbitrators to be expected to give that land-owner as much for the right of way as they would give the man who had his farm badly cut up by the track? It is absurd to suppose that men possessed of common sense would think of doing anything of the kind, and the law that would require them to do so would be a ridiculously unjust law. Every fair-minded man must see that the laws of the Dominion and of Ontario are based upon justice and common sense. Owners of land should be paid according to the quantity of land taken from them and the damage done to their property. If it can be shown that they are benefitted and not damaged by the construction of the road, what is there to give compensation for?

A VALID MARRIAGE.

It is sometimes difficult to decide whether a marriage or an alleged marriage celebrated in the United Kingdom is legal or not, but it appears that the British courts are exceedingly liberal in their interpretation of marriage contracts made in foreign lands. The Probate and Divorce Court of England was called upon a little while ago to decide upon the validity of a marriage of a British subject contracted under the Japanese laws and according to Japanese formalities in Japan. Captain Francis Brinkley married a Japanese lady, Yasu Tanka, in 1886. The lady, it appears, had not embraced the Christian faith when he married her. The marriage was a purely Japanese marriage. There was a certificate of marriage signed by the Governor and the Secretary of the province. Nothing was stated in this certificate about a religious ceremony, but it appeared from the evidence that the marriage was contracted in due form in the registry office. The evidence outside the certificate and the affidavit of Captain Brinkley was very meagre indeed. But the judge (Mr. Justice Butt) was satisfied that there had been a marriage contract according to the custom of the country, and he unhesitatingly pronounced it valid in England as well as in Japan. The London Times says: "It is a well established principle of our law that a marriage contracted abroad according to the rites and formalities prescribed by the laws of the country where it is contracted is a marriage binding and good for all purposes in England." Polygamous marriages are an exception to this rule. Lord Penzance is quoted as giving the following definition of Christian marriage: "The voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others." This is common sense, and it is gratifying to know that it is good law. Captain Brinkley's case came up on petition from himself. He wanted to make sure that there would be no uncertainty as to the legitimacy of his children after his death.

UNITED STATES CENSUS.

Preparations are being made to take the United States census. The work is to commence on June 2nd of this year. It is an immense undertaking and must be done systematically. The work is to be under the superintendence of Mr. Robert C. Porter. The country is to be divided into 175 districts over each of which a supervisor is to be appointed. Each district is divided into precincts. A precinct is an area which contained as nearly as possible 4,000 persons according to the enumeration of the last census. There is to be an enumerator to each precinct. This enumerator is to collect information on a variety of subjects. Not only is he to find out the number of persons living in his precinct, the sex, age, condition, occupation and nativity of each, but he must set down the number of acres cultivated on each farm, the number and the kind of stock on it, the crop raised, its value and the product per acre. He must find out the number of manufacturing establishments there are in his precinct, the capital invested in each, its output, the amount paid for raw material, the number of hands employed, the rate of wages paid, and all other facts connected with the industries that can be expressed in figures and that are of public interest. The enumerator must get full and accurate information with respect to the schools and colleges, the prisons, the charitable institutions, the lunatic asylums that are situated in his precinct. He will have a great deal of hard work to do, requiring for its successful performance intelligence, tact and persistence. There are to be 40,000 of these enumerators, and there will be 2000 persons besides employed in the work of tabulation. The amount appropriated to the preparation of the census, exclusive of printing, is $6,400,000.

The census taken this year will be the eleventh. The first was taken in 1790, just one hundred years ago. The population of the United States was then shown to be 3,929,214. The expense of taking that census was $25,000. It was found that when the next census was taken in the first year of the present century the population had increased 35.1 per cent. The greatest increase made in the United States in any decade was 36.38 per cent. It was in 1850 that the first elaborate census was taken. The population was, according to it, 23,101,876. The increase in population in sixty years was nearly five hundred per cent. In 1860 the population was 31,442,321. In 1880 it was 50,152,856. The Americans claim that the population of their country is now nearly, if not quite, 65,000,000. The growth of the great republic has been indeed wonderful. We have no doubt that the census of 1890 will show a wonderful increase in population and in wealth of all kinds.

DEATH BY DROWNING.

A Young Seaman of the Amphion Loses His Life.

A young man named James Davis, an able seaman of H.M.S. Amphion, was drowned in Esquimalt harbor at about 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

Davis, with a companion, had started from the dry dock in a skiff to go over to the torpedo boats, when a squall struck the little boat, capsizing it. Davis then started to swim ashore, and was seen to have reached to within ten yards of the rocks, when he went down. His companion was picked up by a boat from the Acorn, in a very exhausted condition. The body of the young man, who was a native of the north of England, was picked up yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock and taken to the naval hospital, from which the funeral will take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

TRIAL BY NEWSPAPER.

The organ of the Opposition has at last commenced to prove that the Government is converting the Education Department into a political machine, by citing a case in which there is not a trace of politics to be perceived. We may remark here upon the impropriety of bringing up a case which is in a sense "sub judice." The case of Mr. Muir, as well as all other acts of the Education Department that are called in question, are now the subjects of an inquiry by a Committee of the Legislative Assembly. One would think that our contemporary would wait until it saw the report of that committee before it discussed matters that are to be brought before it. But it evidently believes that trial by newspaper is preferable to trial before a committee of the Legislature. It wants to be judge, jury and witnesses. It desires to be the whole court and the constable outside the door. It is wise in its generation, for the stand that it takes on most subjects cannot bear discussion before an audience which hears both sides.

For our part we prefer not to allow ourselves to be prejudiced by our contemporary's statement of Mr. Muir's case. We prefer to wait to hear what he has to say for himself before the committee of enquiry. We must say that the Times has done it best to prejudice the public against Mr. Muir. It publishes a letter purporting to be written by him to the Superintendent of Education which is not calculated to give the reader a very favorable opinion of him as a teacher of youth. But we will suspend our judgment until we see the whole correspondence and hear what is to be said in explanation by the parties concerned.

As the Times puts the case there is nothing in it to prove that the Government has transformed the Department of Education into a political machine. It is simply a one-sided account of the way in which the Department treated a recalcitrant teacher. It is not alleged that the teacher was a politician, or that the views he enunciated on political subjects, were disapproved by the Department. The Times does not say that the Superintendent took Mr. Muir to task about the way he voted or the principles he held. Our contemporary is silent on these subjects. We cannot see from it that Mr. Muir has any political opinions at all, that he ever canvassed for a candidate or polled a vote. He and the Superintendent did not agree about matters relating to the management of the school. As far as we can make out, Mr. Muir either could not or would not conform to the regulations of the Education Department, and he expressed his disagreement in language that was not exactly official. Neither the creaking of the political machine nor the whirr of its wheels is anywhere to be heard. The question at issue is purely departmental. Is a teacher bound to conduct a school according to the rules laid down by the Department, and is it obligatory on him in his intercourse with the officials of the Department to use language that is decent and decorous? are questions that suggest themselves to us as we read the article in the Times. These are matters that are strictly within the purview of the Department—matters with which it is the business of the Superintendent and his subordinates to deal. They would not be doing their duty if they did not deal with them. Attending to cases of this kind is a very different thing indeed from using their influence for political purposes. The case, too, is one with which the committee of inquiry could with the utmost propriety be left to deal. There is not even the suspicion of politics in the case. Whatever Mr. Muir may be, he is certainly not a political martyr. The public will no doubt hear more about this case. The committee, we understand, is to meet on Tuesday next, when Mr. Muir's case will perhaps receive a little more attention than our contemporary desires.

CONTEMPORARIES NOT ANCESTORS.

The Times is never very brilliant but when it tries to be funny it becomes atrociously stupid. In order to convict the COLONIST of mosbackism it is obliged to assume that the people of Ontario living in the year of grace 1887 are our ancestors. It reads us a lecture on the proneness of mossbacks to attach undue importance to "ancestral example in justification of mossbackism" because we cited the practice of the Ontario and the whole Dominion of to-day in justification of the arbitration clause of the Attorney-General's Railway bill. It does not need much argument to show that the example of the people of Ontario in 1887, and the example of the whole Dominion in 1888, are not "ancestral examples." As the people who are alive to-day are not our ancestors, but our contemporaries, the elaborate satire of our contemporary is altogether misapplied; is, in fact, a piece of very ludicrous balderdash.

It is, we assure our very smart contemporary, one thing to have a blind reverence for ancestors and quite another thing to have a respect for the opinions and practices of persons living in our own day, who have as good an opportunity, and perhaps better opportunities, of obtaining the knowledge and the experience necessary to arrive at correct conclusions, than we enjoy.

Reasoning is perhaps thrown away on those who are not able to distinguish between contemporary practice and "ancestral example." But we will charitably conclude that our contemporary blundered, through haste and undue excitement rather than ignorance and sheer stupidity. It believed at the moment that it caught us tripping, and it was in such glee at the thought of convicting us of mossbackism that it did not think of the meaning of a term that any intelligent school boy thoroughly understands. We trust that our contemporary now sees that Mark Twain's satire and Herbert Spencer's "ponderous and incisive logic" were thrown away upon us. They did not apply to our case at all.

The argument we used, we contend, is a perfectly legitimate one. Men every day and in every walk of life enquire into the practice of their contemporaries, and if they are not self-sufficient fools they are, to a greater or less extent, guided by it. Every man of sense and prudence profits by the experience of those who are placed in circumstances similar to his own. The position of land-owners in Ontario and the other provinces is almost identical with that of the same class of men in British Columbia. All the provinces of the Dominion are in fact settled in pretty much the same way. Farmers are the owners of the land they cultivate. An arbitration law that has been found to work well in Ontario, in Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces would almost to a certainty be found to work well here. A system of valuing land taken for railway purposes which the farmers of the other provinces acquiesce in will not be likely to provoke a rebellion in British Columbia. Besides, the Dominion law already applies to this province, and not even our contemporary has said a word against it.

The truth seems to us to be that if any one else besides the Hon. Theodore Davie introduced the Railway Bill our contemporary would not have seen a single flaw in it and it would naturally have concluded that a law which suits every other part of the Dominion would suit this province. We trust that our contemporary sees now that we never thought of citing ancestral example in justification of Mr. Davie's bill or of mossbackism or of anything else, and that when it said we did, it made a very ridiculous blunder.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

The complaint everywhere is that education is not practical. The aim of the educationist is not to fit the pupil for the work of life, but to give him a smattering of many branches of knowledge that will be of little or no use to him when he has to earn his own living. Not only is the kind of education that children receive of little use to them in after life, but it is, to a very considerable extent, positively hurtful. It creates a false standard of excellence. What the school boy is proud of, and what is the object of his aspirations, is not what the man desires to excel in or what will help him to accomplish the purposes of his life. Thoughtful men see that much which the boy spends valuable time in learning is considered by the man as almost, if not altogether, useless.

It may be said that if the knowledge gained is not of much importance, the discipline to which the pupil has been subjected and the habits he has formed are of the greatest use to him in after life. This too is now considered a mistake. The discipline of the school is not like the discipline of the world, and the habits of the student are very different indeed from those of the man in business. The consequence is that the boy who leaves school at the age of sixteen or seventeen to enter any kind of business, mechanical, commercial or professional, has almost as much to unlearn as he has to learn. He, in the great majority of cases, finds out that the discipline of the school has been a very poor preparation for the life on which he has entered and that he has very little use indeed for a large proportion of the knowledge so-called, which he acquired in his school days.

Most men see and deplore this, but they have been taught to believe that school studies and lesson-learning must have been in some mysterious way, which he tries in vain to understand, necessary to prepare his mind for manhood's work. This is the tradition (we had almost written the superstition) of his time and his race, and he considers it presumptuous to question its truth and its reasonableness. But there are men in these days who do not allow themselves to be awed by tradition, and who are not to be deterred by reverence for the wisdom of their ancesters from enquiring into the tendencies of systems, even the most venerable, and from trying them by the test of reason and common sense. They have tried the system of ordinary education by this test, and they have concluded that it is far from being sound.

Here is what the New York Herald says of the public schools of the United States, which have long been considered the model of what schools in which the children of the people are educated ought to be:

"The public schools of the country, under their present management, educate boys and girls to be clerks, and in a way generally which unfits them for the commoner and far more important, useful and self-helpful employments in life. Aside from reading and writing and arithmetic, they fall utterly to teach or train the pupils in anything which will be helpful to them in the struggle with life which is before them and which constantly grows more arduous.

"It is the evil and purely evil result of the public school system in the hands of those who control it, and who meet, as here, to magnify themselves and their misdoings, that the greater part of our young people are, by the so-called education they receive, forced into a few, and those the least paid and least useful employments, and come out of the public schools averse to manual labor and unfitted for it in mind and body.

"It is because a constantly increasing number of people see that the public school system, as now mismanaged, not only does not fit the pupils for earning their bread, but to the contrary carefully unfits them for that, that 'hostile criticisms are openly made. It is not possible in the average public school now-a-days for a boy or girl to get nearly as useful an education and training as is given to the young Indians at Hampton, where they are taught useful trades and thus prepared to support themselves as men and women."

The exclusively literary education of which the New York Herald complains and which it condemns in such unqualified terms is the only education which nine-tenths of the children of the people of Great Britain and her colonies receive. The loss which the Empire sustains from this impractical system of education is simply incalculable. Some of those who leave the schools wholly unfitted in mind and body for the occupations which they must follow in order to earn their bread, are trained in the workshops, on the farms and in the shops and offices for their work, get to like it and acquire considerable skill. But a very great proportion remain unskilled and never get to like the work which they must do or starve. The name of the unskilful, the inept and those who hate manual labor and look upon it as degrading is legion. They are of little use to themselves and they become a burden on the producers of the country.

If the bodies of the children were trained as well as their minds, if they were taught to use their hands as well as their heads. If they were encouraged to take the same pride in progress in mechanical arts as they are in intellectual and half-intellectual studies, the schools would every year turn out boys and girls who know what their tastes and aptitudes are and who would be fit at once to become useful in the different callings they are required to follow.

There are indications everywhere that this is to be the education of the future. Technical and industrial schools are being established in every civilized country of the world, and the time is not far off when the workshop will be as necessary an adjunct to the public school as the class room, and the saw and chisel will be as often in the hands of the pupils as the pen and the pencil. A good beginning has already been made.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

A REPORT was brought down to Parliament a few days ago which throws light on a subject about which very little is generally known. It showed the amount of money that has been expended by the Government of the Dominion on railways since confederation, the Canadian Pacific excepted. The expenditure has been of two kinds. The Government has subsidized private roads and it has built roads on its own account. Here are some of the figures contained in the report: Subsidies—Ontario, $3,061,905; Quebec, $2,428,344; New Brunswick, $388,371; Nova Scotia, $28,138; British Columbia, $750,000. The expenditures direct have been as follows: Quebec, $5,520,323; New Brunswick, $3,371,854; Nova Scotia, $7,821,070. The following figures show the share each province has had of the railway grants: Quebec, $7,948,667; Nova Scotia, $7,847,208; New Brunswick, $4,260,585; Ontario, $3,061,905; British Columbia, $750,000.

SENATOR BLAIR is a consequential legislator from New Hampshire. He has a very high idea of his own importance and he considers himself one of the ablest men in the United States. He makes very long speeches. One that he made a short time ago on his Education Bill it took him a week to deliver, and it occupies seventy-nine pages of the Congressional Record, which is the United States' Hansard. Although Senator Blair is such a tremendous talker the newspapers take no notice of him. This annoys him greatly, and his latest deliverance is a diatribe against the Press. He denounces the newspapers of the United States in very strong terms indeed. He believes that it has entered into a conspiracy to put him down and to keep him down, that it has been bought up by his enemies to keep him in obscurity. This tirade has been noticed by the Press. The newspaper men think it very amusing, and they give it the publicity which they have denied to the Senator's more pretentious utterances. He is dull and dreary ordinarily, but when he denounces the Press he becomes funny. Senator Blair will hardly feel complimented at the notoriety he has gained for himself by his denunciation of the newspapers.

MR. MERCIER, premier of Quebec, has incurred the displeasure of some persons who were but the other day his ardent admirers. He proposes to grant the sum of $10,000 towards rebuilding the University of Toronto. This proposition has excited the indignation of some of the red-hot Nationalists. They denounce him for contributing any of the public money of the Province of Quebec towards building an educational institution whose chief business it will be, they assert, "to manufacture fanatics who have no other desire than to crush—no, to destroy our language." Others condemn him for helping to raise from its ashes a college in which heresy is taught. But Mr. Mercier does not seem to be disturbed by these furious critics. He has not withdrawn his proposal at their bidding. He sees that to hold out this peace-offering to Ontario is the right thing to do, and he is one of those men who are not easily deterred from taking the course upon which he has determined. He is prudent, but he has plenty of pluck, and the fanatics of his own race and religion will find that they cannot bully him.

THE United States Government is bound to have coast defences. It does not intend to leave its seaboard cities and its commerce defenceless much longer. The Senate Committee has reported a bill providing for fortifications and other sea coast defences. The immense sum of $123,000,000 is to be appropriated to the purposes named. During the year ending the 30th June, 1891, $21,500,000 of this sum is to be expended. For eleven years after that $9,000,000 a year, and in the year 1902-3 $2,500,000. This is looking a long way ahead and proceeding rather slowly for so progressive a nation as the United States. The coast of the country will not be adequately defended until thirteen years have expired. It may be that discoveries made in the meantime may make the expenditure of much of this money unnecessary. Fortifications built this year or next may be perfectly useless ten years hence. It is this consideration very likely that caused the Senate to be so cautious with the expenditure of the sum to be voted. Ships of war in these days soon get out of date and so do fortifications. Our neighbors, however, see how awkward it is to be perfectly defenceless, and they seem determined to prepare for all contingencies.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. my31-eod-w

Childrens Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

PUPIL MEETING AT KOOTENAY

HOT SPRINGS CAMP, B. C.,
March 1st, 1890.

At a public meeting held here to-day at which the majority of residents and interested parties attended, the question of re-distributing the immense Kootenay section for purposes of representation in the provincial parliament was discussed by Messrs. Buchanan, Anderson, Wright and others. The meeting was spirited and in addition to the above question, the railroad and duty questions were dealt with, and the following resolutions were adopted without a dissenting voice:

Whereas it is understood that a measure will be introduced in the present legislature providing for increased representation of certain portions of the province—and

Whereas the district of Kootenay is one of the largest in the province and very poorly supplied with means of communication, and whereas the recently discovered of mineral wealth in many portions of the district, and especially in the south-western part, plainly indicate that we are on the threshold of a stage of great development and progress in population and wealth; and

Whereas, There are at the present moment many projects on foot for the development of the district, such as railway schemes, navigation improvements and land reclamation schemes, many of them calling for aid from the public funds and appropriations of public lands, and all of them vitally affecting our welfare as a community and demanding the watchful supervision of a representative elected by ourselves and responsible to us; and,

Whereas, From our isolated position, and the want of knowledge which has hitherto existed concerning our resources, we have have had very inadequate appropriations for roads, public buildings and other public expenditures and a continuous dearth of magistrates and provincial officers; and,

Whereas, We have never seen in our midst a member of the government, or even of the Provincial Assembly, have had no sufficient mail service, no provincial courts, and in all respects have been completely cut off from the rest of the province,

Therefore, be it resolved, That we are in favor of a general redistribution of representation throughout the province.

Resolved, That in our opinion the Kootenay district should be divided into two distinct districts upon the basis of the present lines of East and West Kootenay, and such should be entitled to one member of assembly.

Resolved, That every proper encouragement should be given to the promoters of railway and steamboat lines, who promise to connect us with the settled regions to the north, the coal regions on the east or the states adjoining us on the south.

Resolved, That we wish to encourage our provincial government and our Dominion members of parliament in their endeavors to procure the exemption of mining machinery from the Dominion duties, and hope such efforts until that object is attained.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to Lieut.-Col. James Baker, M. P. P., and a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each of the Victoria daily papers.

(Signed) G. O. BUCHANAN,
Chairman.

ALFRED D. WHEELER,
Secretary.

A VOICE FROM THE GALLERY.

TO THE EDITOR:—No place can one so inclined spend a more profitable hour or two than the comfortable gallery of the House of Parliament, and after sizing up as well as he knows how the different members who compose it, if he is not much interested in the regular business going on let him take a retrospective view of what has been done during the present session and I think that he will perceive that the work done by the House for the welfare of the country is in an advanced state. The school question I, hope is settled. The manly stand taken by the premier proves beyond a doubt that he is truly capable of filling—with credit to himself and honor to the country—the proud position which he occupies. The Legal Profession Bill, too, is of great importance. By all means keep out unprincipled tramp lawyers. Sustain the dignity of the profession and the courts of law. No fear that there will soon, if there is not at present, be plenty of good sound legal ability for all our wants. The Medical Bill is also of great importance. Our climate is so genial, and pleasant to live in that unless very stringent laws are made and enforced, we would soon be over-run with quacks. Ceasar said—"Let me have men about me who are fat." I wish that some of the members would gain in flesh, it might make them better-natured, and instead of trying to retard the business of the House—which seems to be their policy—they would assist the Government to "perfect" and pass the important bills now before it.

By all means, gentlemen, give us all the railroads you can. Our neighbors across the water are alive to the importance of building railways and opening up their country. I met here a few days ago an intelligent American miner who informed me that three years ago he had prospected considerable through the Kootenay country, and he is loud in his praise of that district. He says its hills and mountains are pregnant with the different metalliferous ores. Its high bars and benches are nearly all covered with auriferous bearing gravel. Its valleys, too, are fertile. Its cattle and horse ranges are good. In short, said he, I think Kootenay is the richest mineral country on God's green earth, but it costs a little fortune to get in supplies and material for prospecting with. But now, said he, I see your Government is doing nobly towards opening up that rich country, and when transportation becomes cheaper I will be one to try my fortune as a miner, in Kootenay, you bet.

Now, honorable members of the Provincial Parliament, as I suppose you are aware that the mining interest will soon become the leading industry of the Province, I hope yoh will, one and all, lend all the assistance you can to the building of railways. And I feel satisfied that the present government will add more to the laurels they have gained by their progressive policy and wise administration by improssing on the Dominion government the great importance of admitting mining machinery into the province duty free. JULIUS.

INTERIOR NEWS.

(Inland Sentinel.)

A decided change has taken place in the temperature during the past week, and the snow and ice is rapidly disappearing in consequence.

Deer are reported in great abundance in the Grand Prairie section, the recent severe weather having forced them down off the mountains to seek feed.

Mr. W. Palmer, of Nicola, states the reports from that district about stock are grossly exaggerated.

Mr. Alex. Gordon and wife, of the North Thompson, met with a slight mishap Saturday morning. The horses broke through the ice in two places, and were, with much difficulty, taken out. Mrs. Gordon was pitched out of the cutter into the water between the horses, but was rescued by Mr. Gordon with no more serious result than a wetting.

Wolves are very plentiful in the Grand Prairie section, and are becoming very bold in their operations against stock. On Thursday afternoon of last week a horse belonging to Mr. Clemitson was pursued by a pack, and being overtaken, was pulled down and torn to pieces. It is very seldom wolves are bold enough to hunt their quarry on the open prairie in daytime, more especially so close to the haunts of man as in this instance. For the sportsman, who wishes excitement, Grand Prairie should be a good field.

Advices from the mountain sections of the C. P. R. would indicate that every preparation is made for the purpose of keeping traffic open when the season for snowslides comes. Snow plows are located at different points, while relays of men are held in readiness for concentration at any given point in a short time. The plans thus made are under the personal superintendence of Mr. Marpole, the indefatigable superintendent of this division, who is a born hustler, and has his work down to a science. The snowfall in the mountains has been very heavy this winter, and when the soft weather gets in its work the slides are likely to follow quickly, but so perfect are the preparations for such events that no fear is apprehended of being unable to keep the road open.

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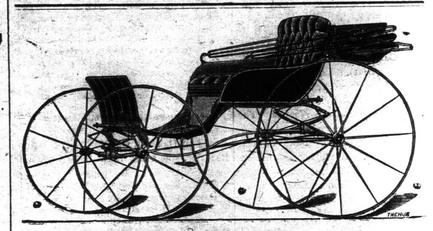

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