

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18.

## THE PREMIER AT ROSSLAND.

The stupid News-Advertiser (we use the adjective because it is that which our contemporary has selected out of all the dictionary to apply to newspapers which do not agree with it), in condemning what it is pleased to call ministerial jaunts over the province, seems likely to stand alone. The Rossland Board of Trade, a purely non-political institution and located in what we have been told is the very hot-bed of opposition, though we venture to predict events will prove the contrary, regards the Premier's trip as gratifying and laudable. To any one except a very stupid person this proposition of the board would seem to be highly reasonable.

The Premier's meeting with the Rossland Board of Trade is of such general interest that we offer no apology for reproducing the full report as printed in the Rossland Miner. We think all who read it will concede that the board expressed itself with moderation and good taste, and that Hon. Mr. Turner's reply was dignified and statesmanlike. There was nothing like a temporizing or vote-catching nature about his statements, which were made in a straightforward, business-like way, as a business man ought to talk to business men. We can very readily believe the statement which reaches us that Mr. Turner made a most excellent impression.

The characteristic feature of all Mr. Turner's intercourse in public matters is his frankness. Sometimes it may put him temporarily at a disadvantage when dealing with those who are actuated by a double purpose; but in the long run it pays. The people can be relied upon to appreciate plain every day honesty in their public men, and we feel confident that Kootenay will hesitate a long time before casting its vote to displace Mr. Turner from office and substitute any of the political adventurers who have lately been wooing its support.

Mr. Turner's remarks show what a variety of subjects are pressing for consideration at the hands of the government and legislature, and demonstrate the trumphy character of the demagogic nonsense which the Party of Incontinence would introduce into provincial politics. It is impossible to read the memorandum, without feeling a degree of satisfaction at the practical common sense attitude which the business men of that city take in public affairs. There may be some things in the memorial upon which we will not all see alike; but everyone will admit that the document is a commendable attempt to deal in a practical way with practical subjects. Such expressions of public opinion are highly salutary, and ought to be encouraged in every practicable way.

Perhaps none of the Premier's statements will be read with greater interest than his remark in regard to the representation of Kootenay, which seems to have satisfied his auditors. We disclose no state secret when we say that the desirability of giving Kootenay additional representation is a matter which has occupied Mr. Turner's attention for some time, and upon which he has always expressed himself very freely. He has never at any time expressed the opinion that the present distribution of representation was to be regarded as final, and although he has said in the most public way that while conditions are changing as rapidly as they now are in British Columbia it is premature to talk of a general redistribution bill, he has at no time indicated any averseness to remedying any palpable defect in the present system.

Mr. Turner's statement that he finds the general sentiment of the people throughout the province favorable to the government is wholly in accord with what has come under the notice of the Colonist, and to which reference was made in these columns a few days ago. The hollowness and insincerity of the opposition have been so fully demonstrated that it is useless for a few journalistic scolds to expect any longer to be able to stampede a majority of the voters into the opposition camp.

## CANADA A NATION.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said at Toronto the other day that he favored closer commercial relations with the United States, but believed that nothing should be done to advance them that is inconsistent with the honor of the Canadian nation. We refer to this for the purpose of calling attention to the expression "Canadian nation." The position of Canada is very remarkable and wholly without historical precedent. To all intents and purposes Canada is a nation; in the complete sense, though "a daughter in her mother's house," she is "mistress of her own." Foreigners can hardly understand this, and our southern neighbors understand it least of all; but there is perhaps not much cause for wonder in this, for we hardly understand it ourselves. Canadian nationality has, as Tennyson said of British freedom, slowly broadened down from precedent to precedent.

Even those who have lived during the whole period of development, from the beginning of responsible government until now, can hardly appreciate fully how it has come about that Canada is at one

and the same time a dependency and a nation. It is time that someone endeavored to treat in analytical form the political history of Canada during the last sixty years. It is replete with interest to the student, who seeks to understand how free men can work out the problem of self-government.

One of the most gratifying signs of the times is the greater frequency with which Canadians use the word Canadian. There was marked antipathy to the term in the early days of the Union. The Maritime Provinces' people were very slow in calling themselves Canadians; the Ontario people were careful to have it understood that they were English-Canadians, and even here in British Columbia it has not always been fashionable for people to speak of themselves as Canadians. Only a few days ago a respected visitor to the Colonist office declined to say Canadian, and spoke of the people of this community as colonists, and he himself was born in America. Now at last we are all beginning to call ourselves Canadians and are quite ready to have other people so describe us. We no longer think it necessary to distinguish between English and French-Canadians. We are all alike citizens of Canada, the youngest and most virile of the nations.

As Canadians we have the grandest heritage and the greatest opportunities of any people. The strong arm of the Mother of Nations is ready to guard us. We have as a people that spirit of self-reliance which makes the Anglo-Saxon the world-conquering race. We have the commercial instinct strongly developed. We have that sense of fair-play which is distinctive of the British. Although for the most part our population is of British lineage and Protestant religion we entrust the leadership of our affairs to a Roman Catholic of French descent, and there has yet to be spoken in Canada the first word to suggest that his religion or race is an objection to him as Premier. This is because Canadian nationality is a real thing. To-day, in all that makes a country a nation, Canada stands upon as high a plane as the United States, and in respect to the solidarity of the various elements of its population is in an infinitely superior position.

## THE MIRAMICHI FIRE.

The *Newcastle, N. B.*, Advocate of October 6, mentions the fact that the next day would be the anniversary of the great Miramichi fire. Possibly very few Colonist readers have ever heard of this, which is the most terrible forest fire on record. Only a very few forests are now living who were witnesses of it, and still fewer were old enough at the time to be able to remember it very clearly, but twenty-five or thirty years ago there were living many who experienced this awful catastrophe, and their descriptions show that it was an event of almost unparalleled terror. The Advocate sums up the story in this paragraph:

Six thousand square miles of country were then swept by the flames, four towns were in ruins; settlements were completely blotted out, no trace remaining of them or their inhabitants save the charred bones of those to whom death had come so suddenly. Five hundred men, women and children had been burned to death. It was years before the country recovered from the terrible calamity.

The event occurred on October 7th, 1825, and the scene of it was the portion of the province of New Brunswick which is drained by the Miramichi river. The summer and autumn of 1825 was extremely dry and the conditions were favorable for a conflagration. How the fire started no one knows. Some suppose that a number of small fires united and swept everything before them. Some have attributed it to lightning, others to spontaneous combustion and even the impact of a blazing meteor accompanied with inflammable gases has been alleged as the cause, but whatever set it going, it only stopped when it reached the sea coast, and there was nothing more to burn. Vessels in the harbor of Miramichi were burned as they rode at anchor. Among the incidents of the fire may be mentioned the drowning of twenty-five persons who took refuge in a boat, the complete extinction of thirteen families, being a whole settlement; the burning to death of forty people in another settlement, the complete annihilation of lumbering parties, and so on. The wild animals of the forest, the fish in the rivers, and even the birds in the air perished in countless thousands. Such of the wild animals as reached places of safety among human beings or farm stock seemed for the time to lose all their ferocity.

One eye-witness, describing the scene, said that a huge black cloud appeared in the Northwest out of which tongues of flame extended. It advanced with the speed of a race horse and a noise louder than thunder, while above the roar of the flames there were reverberations which more terrible in their intensity. Nearly every one believed that the end of all things had come.

This awful calamity left the survivors in a perfectly dazed condition. They thought of abandoning the country, which over a district 100 miles long and 60 broad was burned as black as coal; but first the surrounding cities, and then the legislature and afterwards the people of Great Britain came forward generously with contributions and the suffering was alleviated. An enormous amount of the finest pine timber was destroyed,

and although that portion of the fire-swept region not under tillage is now clothed with forest, there are yet traces on every hand of the terrible work done on that October night seventy-two years ago.

## SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Victoria is glad to welcome Sir Mackenzie Bowell. It has been the good fortune of Canada to have always had for first ministers gentlemen of whose personal integrity and devoted loyalty to the interests of the Dominion, as they understood them, there has been no question. Sir Mackenzie is a high type of public man. During his term as a minister of the crown he was ever mindful of the necessity for developing Canadian trade, and British Columbia ought to feel especially kindly towards him because of the appreciation he evinced of the commercial possibilities of the Pacific Coast. That he may long live to adorn the legislative body of which he is an honored member, is the sentiment of his countless warm political friends, in which his political opponents heartily share.

## THE PROPER TIME.

Some time ago the Victoria Board of Trade passed a resolution urging on the Dominion government the need of cabinet representation for British Columbia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, stated that it would be given at "the proper time." From the treatment so far accorded this province by the Liberal government, it can fairly be inferred that "the proper time," in their estimation, will be when, and only when, political exigencies compel a recognition of our rights. The Liberal element in Ontario and Quebec is practically, at present, too confident in the brute force of its majority to yield us one portfolio from their prize list. When our representation in parliament is doubled, as it must be at no distant day, when we are able to back up our right with might, then, doubtless, Sir Wilfrid will think "the proper time" has arrived. But when that time does arrive the electors of this Province will not forget how every pretext has been used to deny us representation at a most critical period in our history. They will not forget how Sir Wilfrid has violated his promise, made when on a campaigning tour here, that in the event of the Liberal party being returned to power cabinet representation would be given us. It does not excuse him that there was rivalry among the several representatives. Strange if there were not. The onus was on Sir Wilfrid to select a man for the position.

The Conservative party itself withheld cabinet representation from us until the eleventh hour, until it seemed to many it was exacted as a matter of expediency rather than granted as a matter of right. As a result a majority of the electors of this Conservative province determined to give the Liberal party a trial. The result so far has been disappointing, and without doubt the bulk of those Conservatives who at the last election voted for the Liberal party regret having done so. We do not claim that the Conservative party has always given us that representation and that fair share of public appropriations to which we have been entitled, but we do say that if a comparison be made of the treatment accorded this province by the two parties, from the regime of Alexander Mackenzie to the present time, it will be found that the Conservative party has paid far more attention to our interests, and done far more for the development of this province, than has the Liberal party. Sir Wilfrid may find out when it is too late, so far at least as retaining a hold on this province is concerned, that "the proper time" has gone by.

## AN ATTACK OF LANGUAGE.

Our esteemed contemporary the Times has treated its readers to a lot of language in regard to the provincial government. If words could kill, the government would be dead already, but the innate wickedness of Hon. Mr. Turner and his colleagues is such that the language of the Times has no more effect upon them than the old proverb says water has upon a duck's back. Doubtless this is very sad, and those gentlemen ought to feel real badly over such language; but we venture to say that not one of them is in the least disturbed either in mind, body or estate thereby. Indeed we do not mind telling our esteemed friend that they derive considerable amusement from its language. We suggest to the Times that its best plan would be to serve its language up systematically, instead of promiscuously. Let it begin at the beginning of the dictionary and go straight through. It would then be sure of covering the whole ground, and it would really be no more difficult to puzzle out what it means. Its attacks upon the government would be even more intelligent than now. Then the intelligent reader would have all the words there are, out of which he could pick those that seemed to reflect upon the government most severely, while at present he is restricted to such as occur to our contemporary when the pugnacious spirit is on it. We would remind our good neighbor that no man's vocabulary is equal to the dictionary. If we are to have a flood of language let it be arranged alphabetically, since it cannot be given forcibly.

## MORE TILLAGE LAND NEEDED.

Almost daily some new reason presents itself for urging upon the farmers of British Columbia that they should enlarge the scope of their operations. We hope not to be misunderstood when we say that our agricultural population seems blind to the opportunities. By this it is not meant that none of the farmers realize the chances that are ready to their hands, but that comparatively few of them fully do so. The Colonist is much in sympathy with the demand for legislative assistance, but it believes that there is such a thing as expecting too much from the government that the value of individual effort is lost sight of. What the province needs is more land in tillage. We anticipate what some persons will say to this. They will say that there is not much incentive to clear up land for the plough, when a mortgage may step in any time and take possession. Doubtless, if all the farms were free of debt, an amount of permanent improvement would be made that would increase enormously. It will also be objected that, while it is very easy to talk of clearing up new land, it is quite another thing to do it. To this we agree. We appreciate quite fully the amount of labor involved in converting a British Columbia forest into an arable field; yet the thing has been done and will be done again. In fact a good deal of it is being done now in the vicinity of Victoria. What we would like to see is every one doing what he is doing.

Another thing may be mentioned. It is impossible to go even a short distance into the country without seeing not only a few, but many acres of land that have been all but cleared and have been left to grow up again with bushes. There may not be a very large area on any one farm, but if aggregated on all the farms it is very considerable. This represents so much lost labor, which is the same thing as lost capital. The man who gets a piece of land half ready for a crop is not very much further ahead, if he stops at that, than the man who does nothing at all; yet he has invested nearly half as much of the farmer's chief capital, i.e. labor, in this useless land as he has in that which he tills. This is very noticeable upon what are called the Burnaby small holdings, between Vancouver and New Westminster. If those farmers who have small areas partially ready for a crop would make them wholly ready, the addition to the tillage acreage in British Columbia would be large, and the idle capital invested in the half-cleared tracts would become productive. There is a good market now for every good thing that can be produced, and it will get better all the time.

## A QUESTION RAISED AT ROSSLAND.

To the desirability of shortening the period during which a person has to reside in British Columbia before being entitled to vote, from one year to six months. Six months seems hardly a long enough time to enable a newcomer to familiarize himself with political conditions that is in the great majority of cases. We venture to say that hundreds of the people in Kootenay, who a year ago were down on the provincial government and everything connected with it, take a very different view of the matter now. They have been long enough in the province to learn that on the whole government is well administered by the party in power. A knowledge of the personality of public men is of very great importance. One can hardly vote intelligently without knowing something of the character and record of those for whom he is asked to vote. This knowledge can hardly be acquired in six months, except by those who are very closely in touch with public affairs.

## REGARDING THE SHOOTING OF THE MINERS AT HAZELTON, P.A.

John L. Sullivan says that no one will believe that the deputy-sheriff would have shot down a lot of mine owners because they happened to be walking along the road. The cases are not quite parallel, but it unquestionably makes a good deal of difference in the world what kind of clothes people wear. The man who wears clean linen can go a great deal further in agitation than the fellow who thinks himself lucky if he owns one flannel shirt. The woes of the well-dressed are specially touching.

We are glad to note a growing disposition on the part of the public to insist upon the local control of local public works. It is time that the provincial government was relieved of many details of administration, at least in all those portions of the province that are sufficiently populated to make municipal government practicable. There are some advantages in the present system, but we think that, on the whole, local self-government in respect to purely local matters is best.

As we understand it Minook Creek, the Yukon tributary of the Yukon where a rich gold find has been made, is in Alaska. Now we shall see how beautifully Just Sam will do unto others as he would that others should do unto him. We shall see to what extent he will feel obliged to let Canadian miners take Canadian outfits into the Minook district. What we will see is that not a single individual, who is not an American citizen, can drive a stake in the district, and not an ounce of dutiable goods

can be imported for use there without every dollar of duty being collected.

The Rosslander has misunderstood the Colonist. We did not say that the maintenance of schools should be put upon the organized municipalities in the sense that they should bear the whole cost, but only that the control of the whole school arrangements should be vested in the municipalities, aid from the provincial treasury being, of course, given towards the payment of salaries of teachers.

The Orens and Murray Advertiser, published at Beechworth, Victoria, has a paragraph thanking Miss McCandlish of this city for maps of Klondyke and Victoria papers. The Advertiser impresses upon its readers, who desire to learn the facts about the Yukon mines, the desirability of looking to the Victoria papers. Here is a hint for the Citizens Advertising Committee.

We feel quite unconcerned as to the Colonist's opinion of the action of the Colonist in reproducing the World's summary of the Westminster platform. The Colonist has not yet printed anything about the platform. It is waiting for the committee to say what the platform is. Ye gods and little fishes, and this is Liberalism from the standpoint of the Westminster convention!

The Colonist agrees with the Spokesman-Review that it is time to come to some fixed way of spelling the names of places in the Golden North; but would like its esteemed contemporary to explain upon what principle it speaks of Linderman, Lewis, Teelin and Hootalinqua as Alaskan names. Keep to your own side of the fence, neighbor.

The Rossland Miner makes a strong point when it says that the mines of the Boundary Creek district need railway connection with the smelters of Kootenay as much as they do with the cities of the Coast. The truth is that the whole province is knit together by a community of interests. Therefore we should all pull together.

MENTION was made in the Colonist a few days ago of the young girl who was refused a place in the Kansas City carnival parade, because she worked for a living. There has been a great row over the affair, and a number of the leading young ladies of Kansas City have withdrawn from the festivities to show their disapproval of the act.

The new 2 1/2 per cent. loan has been placed at an average slightly above 91 1/2. This is a very small advance on the present price, but the London bankers think the loan a success. A 2 1/2 per cent. loan at 91 is equivalent to a loan at par at a little less than 2 3/4 per cent., which, we suppose, may be very properly regarded as satisfactory.

There is some little talk about Lord Strathcona (Sir Donald Smith) as governor-general. We do not see any good reason against appointing Canadians to the governor-generalship, but until there is something like a popular expression of opinion in favor of such a step, the existing plan will probably be continued.

When early last August the Colonist cautioned gold-seekers against the journey via St. Michael's on the ground that it was then too late to go by that route, there were many demonstrations of dissent. Events have shown that the Colonist was right.

It was really hardly necessary for the Colonist to tell any one that opposition to Mr. Turner is platform enough for it. The Columbian was weaned of its "pap" in the wrong time of the moon.

The despatches speak of the Durrant case. When Durrant thinks of what a lot of bother he is having, he must almost feel sorry that he killed the girls.

The Nelson Tribune says the New Westminster convention was "pulled off as advertised." Pulled off is good.

## BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Bates—By the way, who is that shop-keeper's model that I saw you talking with? I mean the fellow who seemed to have lost whatever energy he ever possessed.

King—Oh, that was Wormleigh; he is a commercial traveller.

Bates—And that other man, that wide-awake looking chap?

King—He is a drummer for somebody or other.—Boston Transcript.

Blasted Hopes—Old gentleman—Why are you crying, my little man? I dreamt last night that de school house burned down, and—

Old gentleman (sympathetically)—Oh, but I don't believe that it has!

Small boy—Neither do I—I kin see de top of it right over de hill dere.—Fuck.

Slowboy is at death's door.—Nonsense; he never goes anywhere. You mean that death is at his door.—Chicago Record.

Wife—John, there's a burglar in the house! John (fervently)—Thank goodness he is not out in the woodshed—my wheel is out there.—Fuck.

At one of our police courts last week a woman was charged with driving without a lamp. She stated that she had a lamp, but had forgotten to put a candle in it.

"Ah!" said the magistrate, "you're like the foolish virgin who forgot the oil." To which the defendant replied, "I'm not a foolish virgin; I'm married, with four children."—Id. Bites.

A man dropped his wig on the street and a boy, who was following close behind the lamp, picked it up and handed it to him.

"Thanks, my boy," said the owner of the wig. "You are the first genuine hair-restorer I have ever seen."—Roxbury Gazette.

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Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of

**INFANTS - CHILDREN**

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

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A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.

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At 6 months old **35 Doses - 35 CENTS**

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Dogs and Dog Shows, Beauties! Little Beauties and Big Beauties. All Darlings. We can't make as much noise, but we want to be heard. We can bark but don't bite. We have in fresh this season's

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**TRADE IN CANADA.**

No Special Variation Reported from Eastern Centres—Movements of the Week.

TORONTO, Oct. 14.—R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly statement of trade in Canada says: "There is no special variation in the trade situation at Montreal since a week ago. Sugar refiners yielding to the desire of the wholesale trade have decided to grant discounts of 2 1/2 to 3 per cent. as to quantity, but prices are slightly advanced, so that actual net prices remain about the same. Metals, hardware, oils, paints, etc., show a fair, moderate movement. A very strong advance has developed in turpentine, prices having gone up three cents again, due to reported shortage of stocks by the Standard Oil people. Some further large transactions are reported in sole leather and dogskins are in steady demand, but black leathers are somewhat dull; prices for all lines of leather continue very firm. Wool continues almost singularly quiet, with spot stocks of foreign wools smaller than they have been known to be for years. Cable reports of the London sales indicate a very strong market with prices advanced ten to twelve and a half per cent. since last series. In the money market the general quotation for call money is four per cent., though a couple of the banks are still lending at 3 1/2 per cent.

The business situation at Toronto is not particularly changed. In groceries there is a slightly higher market for sugars and canned goods, tomatoes leading the advance in the latter class. Lower prices for both live and dressed hogs are a factor of the week. Bank clearings reflect a larger volume of trade at this season than for many years. The failures reported are generally for small amounts. Money is abundant, although bankers are a little stiffer, and rates are likely to be somewhat firmer. Call loans on securities are quoted at 4 to 4 1/2, while good commercial paper is discounted at 6 per cent. Sterling exchange is lower in sympathy with lower quotations at New York.

**LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONING.**

Vancouver and San Francisco Soon to Be Connected.

PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 13.—The Sunset Telephone Company to-day started four gangs of men to work on the telephone line between this city and San Francisco. The line now extends from Portland south to Eugene, and north from San Francisco to Redding, leaving a gap of 380 miles. It is expected this gap will be closed and telephone connection between Portland and San Francisco established by January 1. This line will complete telephone connection from Vancouver, B.C., on the north, through Whatcom, Everett, Seattle and Tacoma to Portland and thence to San Francisco and will then be one of the longest lines in the United States.

**MRS. LANGTRY**

Her Horse Wins Stakes and Two B and D

A Splendid Race Fashionable Thro Birthday

LONDON, Oct. 13. (Mrs. Langtry) Merm with stakes at Newm Carewrick stakes, has sovereigns with 50 or 3-year-olds and up additional interest in owing to the fact the horses, August Belmont, J. P. Keene's St. Cloud horse, Count De Bertin an Australian horse, South Australian, were starting. There was a nation of fashionable race including the Prince of Cambridge and Duke Devonshire.

It is believed that something like \$200,000 the race was one of known for years.

Mr. Label's "The E Carleton Grange was ninth and St. Cloud Jacobs led until within home, when he, Keemart were beaten and to the front, yielding Merman who started lunge by The Rush and Four lengths separated Merman from the rest. There were twenty stakes just before the start with Merman, 70 to 1 against Carleton Keenan, and Count.

The fine weather after the race brought large crowd. The stakes were crammed with aristocracy and other. The Prince of Wales of the Jockey Club to the ste. the Duke and Count Lord and Lady Lugard Rothschild, Sir Arthur the regular racing pedigree. By a curious coincidence Langtry's birthday an occasion of her re- jockey club enclosed influence of the Prince the race a bevy of her Mrs. Langtry on a club stand, from which course with anxious victory was announced with the greatest almost ran to 7 where she waited to back. She was over most smothered with while the stable boys, exceedingly popular, ring. The final created intense excitement praise is awarded for his judgment and Merman against the Wood, on The Rush.

"Tod" Sloan, the who rode St. Cloud, on the English turf in terday, and his riding criticised. The Fall M Sloan, not of his his mount took him al

**MR. TARTE'S**

Another Liberal Newspaper Day of Re

MONTREAL, Oct. 13. Tarte is again severely Witness for his cond Montreal harbor in Witness says: "The works in the face of business interests f execution of the w himself upon the del The plans for the m made in 1886, and completed in 1894, and later, is in a muddle calling upon the peo rejoice over such del sible for and promi the same blessing." ing its lesson from de coming acquainted w methods in which d dividends and the carry on the work tration of public aff quite clearly and app and reasons of the creating the public o will be judged. He oppose public intere impunity for the time greater hold on the can do it no longer." be master, not serv

**SINGULAR F**

Excitement Over a Sud Other People

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 of fatalities in Broo max to-day. Michael keeper, died sudd night of heart dise time friend, Wm. s, so shocked at he purchased Paris store of Andrew D. himself. To-day Ro Shields' drug sto Shields for having so brother. Shields w heart disease; he be charge and droppe

**NEW YORK**

Capital Supply in L Supply and Co.

LONDON, Oct. 13. zette says that a N which already cont milk supply of New tempting to raise fun tain control of ano by plan in order to establish the price of and the surrounding