The Colonist.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1899.

A KENTUCKY FEUD.

There is now in progress in Clay County, Kentucky, a feud which has already cost many lives, and promises to cost many more. The parties to it are the Bakers and the Philpots on the one side, and the Whites and the Howards on the other. These families are not lawless mountaineers of a low type. They stand high socially, have held many public offices, and have all considerable wealth. The head of the Baker family was for many years county attorney. The leader of the Philpots was a member of the legislature. One of the Whites was a member of congress, and one of the Howards was sheriff of the county. Other members of all four families have held office. Others have been prominent in business circles. The Chadwells and Griffins, who are not so well known, are also in the feud on the side of the Whites. To give some idea of the number of men engaged in the troubles it may be mentioned that the Philpots have sixty men armed and mounted, ready to carry on hostilities at any moment.

The Governor of the state seems inclined to interfere to stop the trouble, but he is meeting with very little support. Those who would naturally be supposed to rally round him in the cause of law and order are taking quite the contrary course, and are recommending him to let the combatants fight it out. While the governor admits that there is some wisdom in the suggestion, he does not conscientiously feel that he can act upon it. If the feud goes on there will be wholesale murder, and he thinks that he cannot justify himself in permitting this. Yet how to prevent it is so difficult a matter that he may well despair of the task. A few days ago four men were killed and four others badly wounded in one of the fights, but though the guilty parties are known and the evidence is beyond all question, no one has been put on trial, for the reason that no jury would dare to find the murderers guilty, no judge would dare sentence them, and no sheriff would dare execute them. Under such circumstances it is easy to understand how helpless the governor is. The whole business is a terrible commentary on civilization.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

As Mr. Semlin has found an attorney-general, he will be able to hold the reins of office for the time being. No announcement has been made of the date when Mr. Henderson will offer for re-election. Within reasonable limits, he has the right to consult his own convenience in that particular. We are not advised whether or not he is likely to be opposed. This is a question that must be decided in the end by the friends of good government in New Westminster. The outside opinion, as far as we have been able to gather, is that he ought to be opposed. A strong man elected from New Westminster in opposition to the present government would have a political opportunity such as rarely offers itself to any one. He would be certain of a portfolio in a new administration, and might expect even more.

There is no mistaking the attitude of the province in regard to the Semlin administration. It is distinctly hostile. Mr. Henderson's entry into the cabinet does not strengthen it in the least. Its effect will be quite the reverse. In his brief political career Mr. Henderson has managed to display a degree of indifference to principle and to party fidelity, which is quite remarkable even in these days, when lust for office is so degrading politics. He was elected by the friends of the late government, to which he promised an independent support. He remained an uncertain quantity until after Mr. Higgins secured the seat for Esquimalt, when he went over to the party that had opposed him. There is not the least room for doubt that if Mr. Bullen had been successful in the election case Mr. Henderson would have been found voting with Mr. Turner. So indifferent was his constituency to him that the government organ there only a week ago insisted that he was not a proper person for the attorney-generalship, and Mr. Cotton has been at small pains to conceal his unwillingness to take him into the cabinet. He will take his seat at the council board knowing that he is not wanted there, and that his appointment is only due to the fact that no one else would take the office; that it was made simply to enable the Premier to hold on for a little while, in the hope that something would turn up to save the situation. It is idle, therefore, to claim that the government is any stronger than it was before Mr. Henderson was sworn in. On the contrary, we think it is decidedly weaker.

Until Thursday, the government were intriguing for opposition support, in the hope that they had got rid of one peculiarly objectionable member, the opposition would overlook their miserable record of the past year and the scandalous treatment they had received when in power from the men who are now in office. That this effort failed is one of the best signs in our public life as it is to-day. For two years Mr. Semlin's party, then in opposition, exhausted its ingenuity in gross charges against the then government and its friends. There was no language too offensive to be employed. The personal honor of respectable men was attacked. The most iniquitous falsehoods against their public conduct were spread broadcast. They were ejected from power by unconstitutional means. When their opponents got into office, they buttressed their position by legislating supporters into seats in the house. They violated every constitutional principle by refusing for months to accept the responsibility of the act which gave them the reins of government. They inflicted the province with mischievous legislation and unwise administration. They committed the province to the policy of repudiation. They quarrelled among themselves, affording an exhibition of political indecency such as no province in Canada ever before witnessed. With such a record, they hoped that the opposition would rush to their assistance. Fortunately for the cause of good government, they were disappointed. The attempt to put up a job at the expense of the public was frustrated, and the province will honor the men who frustrated it when the whole story is made known. If the scheme had succeeded, a cry of indignation would have gone up from one end of British Columbia to the other, and a new political party would have been born within twenty-four hours. Fortunately, there never was any chance of its being carried through. The opposition spurned the overtures made to them, and the result was that Mr. Henderson was chosen attorney-general.

If the government lives to meet the house its defeat is beyond a doubt. It is well understood that Mr. Semlin had barely a majority of the recent caucus with him. He must be perfectly well aware that he cannot truly claim to have a majority of the house. Under these circumstances, we can hardly imagine that the people of New Westminster will endorse the action of Mr. Henderson in taking office. If he were entering a strong, clean government as its first choice, the case would be different, perhaps, but he is the "pis aller" of a discredited administration, a Jack-at-a-Pinch.

THE SEA SERPENT.

On the principle that variety is the spice of life, a few words in regard to that elusive creature, the sea serpent, may serve to stimulate appetites that have had sufficient politics for the time being. There are two classes of people whose good judgment is always called in question by the great majority of mankind—those who admit that they believe in ghosts and those who say they have seen the sea serpent. The former are usually considered to be fools; the latter are supposed to have been drunk. Yet the weight of evidence is in favor of the existence of the terrible marine creature. The case against him is much like the defence offered by the Irishman when charged with assault. Said the judge: "What have you to say for yourself? Here are three men who swear they saw you strike the complainant." "Is that all?" said the accused; "be jabers, I can get a hundred that can swear they didn't see me." Undoubtedly most of us have never seen the sea serpent, and we can outvote by a large majority the few timid souls who claim that they have. But as we accept the statement of a half dozen astronomers, who say they have seen the canals on Mars, why ought we to reject the evidence of the noble army of parsons, professors, sailors and so on who claim to have seen the sea serpent? When you come to look at the matter in this light, you will see for yourself that possibly in this case, as in many others, truth is with the minority.

There has been one attempt to demonstrate the truth on this interesting subject in scientific fashion. A few years ago the German government commissioned a naval officer to examine all the evidence, and he reported in favor of the beast. He went further and said that its favorite hunting ground was in Behring Sea. The records of the British admiralty and the United States naval department contain a good deal on the same subject. Professor Proctor and Professor J. G. Wood, both of them British scientists of repute, declined to dismiss all the sea serpent stories as unworthy of credit, and Professor Agassiz said that he thought the animal might exist. Professor George Washington Ready, of Provincetown, Mass., is the latest person to connect his name with this creature. If Professor Ready lives up to his Christian names, his evidence alone proves the case. He says he saw a serpent fully three hundred feet long come out of the sea and crawl to a pool of fresh water. He ran to tell his neighbors, but when they came the creature had departed. George Washington swears to the truth of this, and also to the fact that he was not unduly excited at the time by liquor or otherwise. Several appearances have also been reported from the New Jersey coast, but somehow the summer season has a tendency to develop tales of this kind in that part of the world.

There is no intrinsic improbability in the sea serpent stories. That huge marine reptiles lived at one time is demonstrated by the remains found in the rocks. That some of them may survive in the depths of the ocean is quite within the range of possibility. We are told that

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear,"

and there is really no good reason for supposing that the caves aforesaid do not bear other things not quite so prepossessing in appearance. This article is suggested by the statement that a New York club has been organized to discover the beast or perish in the attempt.

The American newspapers seem to fear that Hawaii is about to be swallowed up by an earthquake, accompanying the rather violent volcanic eruption now in progress there. The stories which are being printed are appalling, and they are told with such circumstantiality that few people suspect them to be nine-tenths fiction.

EXCURSION TO ATLIN.

An excursion is being arranged to Atlin, and particulars are announced in another column. The price of a round-trip ticket, good for 30 days, either from Victoria or Vancouver, is placed at the moderate sum of $40.

We hope to see a great many of our business men avail themselves of this opportunity to visit this Northern goldfield. There is no longer any doubt about Atlin becoming a great gold-producer, and therefore its trade is worth looking after. A trip during the latter part of August and the early part of September will be a delightful experience, and cannot fail to be instructive. The return of the Lieutenant-Governor, and his report upon the district, have stimulated fresh interest in it. We feel confident that it will pay our business men well to examine the country themselves.

MR. SPEAKER FORSTER.

Mr. Speaker Forster attended the government caucus held in this city last week. While we are not disposed to criticize Mr. Forster too closely, we suggest that he would have created a much more favorable impression if he had remained away. The office of Speaker is supposed to place its incumbent above party for the time being. He is supposed to stand impartially between the contending elements in the house. Mr. Forster did not do so last session, as we took occasion to point out at the time, so there is nothing specially surprising in his presence at the caucus. This reference to the matter is intended only for the purpose of preventing it from hereafter said that such a departure from usage on the part of the Speaker was allowed to pass without protest from any quarter.

THE OFFER TO MR. HELMCKEN.

The News-Advertiser makes a great pretence of denying something which the Colonist did not say. It declares that it is able to state without fear of effective contradiction that Mr. Semlin did not offer to Mr. Helmcken "either to greatly modify or even repeal certain acts of last session" as the price of his acceptance of the attorney-generalship. The Colonist did not allege that Mr. Semlin did anything of the kind. Hence this denial was quite unnecessary. Having made this assertion, the News-Advertiser argues that the Colonist "wrongly averred" that the government made such an offer to Mr. Helmcken. The News-Advertiser is careful not to deny the statement made by the Colonist that Mr. Cotton intimated that certain changes would be made if Mr. Helmcken would accept office in this government. The omission is very notable. As Mr. Cotton's organ went out of its way to deny a statement that had not been made in regard to Mr. Semlin, and argued thence that a statement made by the Colonist in regard to the government could not be correct, the inference is that the allegation in regard to Mr. Cotton, being uncontradicted, was correct.

The News-Advertiser's position seems to be this: Mr. Semlin having made no offer to Mr. Helmcken, it cannot be said that the government made any offer. What Mr. Cotton may have said is quite another matter. All of this we admit. The ordinary parlance of the political arena is capable of great possibilities. If Mr. Semlin has come home from New Westminster without the acceptance by Mr. Henderson of the attorney-generalship, it can possibly be said with strict truth that it was not offered to him by the government. A government does not make offers until it is sure that they will be accepted. Members of a government do so, however.

The News-Advertiser says that Mr. Helmcken was evidently largely in sympathy with the government's policy last session. This will be news to Mr. Helmcken's constituents, and certainly Mr. Helmcken's course during the bye-election when the house was in session shows that he was as completely opposed to the policy of the government as any member of the opposition ticket for whose success he labored. Perhaps the News-Advertiser will explain how it came about that Mr. Helmcken refused the attorney-generalship, if he was largely in sympathy with the policy of the government.

Our Vancouver contemporary says the ranks of the government supporters are "closed up." The expression is significant. People talk of closing up the ranks only when a breach has been made in them. The Colonist pointed out yesterday some of the breaches that had been made, which converted the government's majority into a minority. Doubtless the ranks have closed up. Misfortune is driving the party more closely together. There will be more defections, and the ranks will doubtless be still closed up. Apparently, Messrs. Semlin and Cotton mean to keep on closing up their ranks until they die together in the last ditch. It may be a heroic spectacle, from the News-Advertiser's standpoint, but to the general public it looks like a death-clutch on office.

While speaking of the suggested changes of policy, we note that the Columbian declares that some changes may be found necessary, and that the Alien Exclusion bill and the Eight-hour law may have to be repealed or modified. It declares that these were tentative measures merely. When the Globe some weeks ago said that there would likely be a coalition on a modified policy the Columbian scouted the idea, and so did the News-Advertiser. The latter categorically denied that any change of policy in regard to these measures was in contemplation. It is fair to say that the Columbian then took occasion to express its doubts as to the desirability of keeping the first-named act on the statute book, and its uncertainty as to the other. It declared, however, that there would be no change in the general policy of the government. We may be allowed to doubt if the Columbian speaks for its party in regard to these two laws.

MR. HENDERSON ACCEPTS.

Mr. Alexander Henderson has accepted the office of attorney-general as far as Mr. Semlin can give it to him. Whether the Lieutenant-Governor will make the appointment on Mr. Semlin's recommendation remains to be seen. If he applies to Mr. Semlin the same rule as he applied to Mr. Turner, he will refuse the recommendation. Mr. Turner's recommendations were refused because according to the way the Lieutenant-Governor counted votes he had not a majority in the legislature. If His Honor is still in an arithmetical mood, he can easily discover that Mr. Semlin has not a majority. He will discover that one of the gentlemen who supported Mr. Semlin last session—that is Mr. Prentice—stands in the same position today as he did when that session opened. The ground of objection to Mr. Prentice's occupation of the seat to which he was returned was not of a nature requiring the intervention of an election court to settle it. In this respect he was differently situated to Mr. Deane. The latter's right to the seat could only be tested in an election trial, but Mr. Prentice's right can be questioned in an action for a penalty under the law imposing penalties upon any person who sits or votes in the house having no right to do so. He was relieved from this penalty so far as last session went by a special law, but that law does not apply to next session. Mr. Prentice must either resign or subject himself to an action for a penalty by sitting next session, and he is hardly likely to do the latter. The exception taken to his sitting was deemed of sufficient importance to call for a special act. It is therefore no injustice to him to say that he is not a member of the legislature. Therefore the house only consists of thirty-seven members at present. Of these sixteen were and are in the old opposition party, and to them must be added Messrs. Martin and Higgins, who have publicly declared themselves against the government, also Mr. Macpherson, who is well understood to be no longer a supporter. Here are nineteen votes against the government, or one half the full house, or a majority of two against the government on a division if the house were now in session with the seat for East Lillooet vacant. If that seat is filled by a government supporter that body is still in a minority of one; if it is filled by an opposition member, the government is in a minority of three. If, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor shall ask Mr. Semlin, as he asked Mr. Turner, if he thinks he can carry on the government, Mr. Semlin will be obliged to reply in the negative. We do not say that His Honor is compelled to ask Mr. Semlin this question, but we cannot see by what reason he can justify having done so in Mr. Turner's case which does not apply with equal force to Mr. Semlin.

Concerning Mr. Henderson's acceptance of the position, one of the first thoughts that suggest themselves is that those who may support him in the bye-election will probably be asked to forget the cheers for Turner which went up from his committee room, when he and Mr. McBride sat side by side on the same platform the night of the last general election. The next thought is that even the attorney-generalship is a cheap price for political prostitution. He has the satisfaction of knowing that the government organ in his own constituency told the public a week ago that he was not fit for the place. He also knows that the Premier had not the slightest intention of offering him the office until he found that no one else would take it. The reason of the offer to him was that if the week passed without the suggestion of some name to the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Semlin would have to make way for another premier. Mr. Henderson is taking a gambler's chance. If he declined the office for fear that he could not be re-elected, a general election would likely be brought on as a result of a change of government, and his defeat would be certain. If he accepts he stands a chance of holding office until the house meets, for he may possibly be successful when he offers for re-election. His success of course contemplates that the voters who supported him when he ran as a friend of Mr. Turner last year will condone his treachery, and that those who then and until within a week opposed him as incapable, will eat their words. This all may be possible, but we shall decline to believe it until it has been demonstrated. If Mr. Henderson is returned again, we shall admit that he knows better than we do the value which his constituency puts upon political honor.

TALES FROM THE TOTEMS.

Reference has already been made in the Colonist to Mr. James Deans' book entitled "Tales From the Totems of the Haidery." The only fault that we have to find with this book is that there is not more of it, and we hope that Mr. Deans will take some occasion to present more of the wealth of legend and myth which he has gathered during his long experience among the Coast Indians. As he says in his introduction, unless these tales of olden times are preserved now they will assuredly be lost, because the customs of the Indians are changing, and soon there will be no one to tell the traditions of the totems around the old camp fires. Mr. Deans is only a collector of tales. He makes little or no attempt to theorize upon them, for he says it is unsafe to do so, on account of the great variety in the versions of the same legend. But the temptation to theorize is strong. Thus we have the story of Ne-kilst-lass, the Raven. Ne-kilst-lass, the author tells us, is the originator and perfector of all good, having neither beginning nor end of existence. He formed the earth out of darkness, beating it down by the ceaseless flapping of his wings during countless ages. The newly formed earth was only dimly lighted, and Ne-kilst-lass searched far and wide for something better. At last he found a chief who had three boxes in which were the stars, the moon and the sun. He persuaded the chief to give him one after the other, and thereupon he placed these luminaries in the heavens. Here we have a legend resembling in essential features that of the Snoqualmies, which tells how Spbiow stole the boxes containing the sun, moon, stars and forests from the awful monsters Snoqualm. But what will strike the average reader more is the resemblance of the Haidery myth to the first chapter of Genesis. We have in the latter the formless earth, the spirit of God moving upon it, the cosmical light and then the creation of the sun, moon and stars. The resemblance may be purely accidental, but it is impossible to resist the conclusion that they are both versions of the same original tradition of the early days of the world, handed down from an unfathomable antiquity. Mr. Deans gives several versions of the same story. That of the tribes on the Naas and Skeena differ from that of the Haidery in the order in which the boxes were obtained by the Raven.

Among other things which are to be learned from this collection of tales is that the Haidery have preserved a tradition of a time when their ancestors walked on all fours, and were covered with long hair. The climate was then much warmer than now. The story of the great flood, when nearly all the race was drowned, and the survivors repeopled the earth by casting stones behind them which became men and women, has already been referred to in these columns. Its resemblance to the Greek legend is striking. A remarkable story is that of the Raven's great feast, to which were bidden four races of men from different quarters of the earth. These races were different in color and language. This tale shows that the ancestors of the Haidery knew something of the people who inhabit other lands.

The explanation that has been given to these and similar tales is that they are really comparatively modern creations and are simply perversions of stories told by missionaries, but this is wholly untenable. They have come down from an exceedingly remote antiquity. It is within a comparatively few years that missionaries have been in contact with the Indians of this Coast, and the myths and legends have been preserved by men and women who never even heard there was such a thing as the Christian religion. We must seek for their origin far back in the childhood of the race. They are doubtless real history in all essential particulars. Many of the grotesque details are palpably fiction. They suggest that the race at one time was far more advanced in knowledge than now, and that the absurdities interwoven in the stories are the result of efforts to keep alive through centuries the memory of by-gone events which in their nature were incomprehensible to a degenerate people. They seem to be stories of the days before a great deluge, when an ancient civilization was swept away with most of the knowledge that had been acquired in unnumbered generations.

An excursion is being arranged from Seattle to Bennett, the tickets being $52 for the round trip. The number of tickets was limited to 170, but it has been found necessary to increase it to 200, owing to excess of applications. An excursion is arranged from Victoria to Atlin, the tickets being $40 for the round trip. Up to 6 o'clock yesterday no applications had been received.

The Post-Intelligencer reprints a Victoria despatch to the Chicago Record which tells how preparations are being made at Esquimalt to assert Canada's claims in the North by force of arms. Among other rubbish, it is alleged that the guns at Macauley Point command the entrance to the Strait. The youth who transmits this sort of rubbish has vast faith in the gullability of the Record's editor.

Theodore Ludgate was in Seattle last week. He told the Post-Intelligencer that he proposes to drop Vancouver and erect a mill near Seattle that will employ between 700 and 1,000 men, including those in the woods. He is quoted as follows:

"It is not the people of Vancouver that are fighting us, but a clique whose object the Lord only knows. We have many friends among the citizens, who are our friends because, for one reason, we did not intend to employ any but white labor at the best wages it was possible to pay. Then, again, we would not establish any company stores. Our men, 1,000 in all, would have been paid each week, and Vancouver would have reaped the benefit of our pay-days. A large majority of the people could see this, but, unfortunately for them, the clique was against us."

No Smoking Allowed.—The practice of stealing a whiff at cigar or cigarette is becoming quite common in the upper gallery of the Victoria theatre, and is a practice that must be stopped—for safety's sake, as well as for the prevention of annoyance to non-smokers. One young man was repeatedly warned that he must not smoke, by Officer Johnston, on Thursday evening. He persisted, and the result will be an invitation to attend the police court.

Sympathy With Uitlanders

Premier Laurier's Change of Front on Col. Hughes' Resolution.

Intimation of Small Interest in Imperial Affairs Taken by Quebec Politicians.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Aug. 5.—The House of Commons yesterday and the Senate to-day went on record on the South African question. The evolution of this resolution of sympathy with the Uitlanders of the Transvaal makes an interesting story. To begin with, Col. Sam Hughes a fortnight ago suggested an expression of opinion, and the offer of tangible assistance to the Uitlanders in their struggles against the oppression of old man Kruger. At that time Sir Wilfrid Laurier, ardent Imperialist as he professes to be, distinctly threw cold water upon the proposal. Then Mr. J. Davis-Allen, a gentleman who had resided for many years in South Africa, arrived in Ottawa as the delegate of the South African Association, which is endeavoring to arouse the sympathy of the colonies in favor of equal rights and justice for the Uitlanders. He had a very good meeting on the Senate side, under the presidency of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, there being present representatives of both houses, and the suggestion was then thrown out by Sir Mackenzie, Mr. Davin, M.P., Mr. Flint, M.P., Senator Allen and others that the Canadian parliament should fall into line with the other colonies and intimate her desire to see fair play accorded to the Britishers in the Transvaal. By this time Sir Wilfrid Laurier was beginning to change his mind. He realized that it would not do for Canada to be the only colony out in the cold, so to speak, but having once expressed his doubt regarding the expediency of parliament passing a resolution on the subject, he found that he had to deal with colleagues disunited on the subject. Especially was this the case with Sir Richard Cartwright, whose American sympathies are such that his thoughts are centred almost exclusively upon Washington, rather than upon London. The matter dragged along for some days, and in the meantime there came the evidence of Mr Chamberlain's appreciation of the action of the other colonies in speaking out upon the question. Still the government made no move, and it looked as if the South African delegate, Mr. Allen, would have to appeal to the opposition, when the Premier at last won over his colleagues to the resolution adopted yesterday. Sir Charles Tupper was away, attending a great political demonstration in the city of Toronto, but before his departure from Ottawa the Premier had transmitted to him the text of the resolution which parliament was asked to adopt. He received from the opposition leader a letter expressing his hearty approval of the proposed action: The scene in the House of Commons when the resolution was adopted was a most inspiring one. The members rose, and with them the spectators in the galleries, and lustily sang "God Save the Queen." Over on the Senate side when Mr. Mills intimated his intention yesterday that he would move this resolution to-day, a rather curious condition of affairs developed. It indicates what little interest French-Canadian public men take in Imperial affairs. Senator De Boucherville arose and asked the minister of justice, when he presented his resolution, to furnish to the Upper House reasons why parliament was to be asked to go on record in favor of the Uitlanders, and Senator Laundy saw a good opportunity to poke a little fun at the minister of justice, whom he asked if it was the intention also to present a resolution expressive of sympathy with the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba, on account of the manner in which they had been treated on the school question. Mr. Mills did not see the point of the joke, and replied with great earnestness that the resolution dealt simply with affairs in the Transvaal; that it had nothing to do with the Manitoba school question. It is satisfactory, after all, to find Canada at one with the other colonies in this matter. As Mr. Foster eloquently pointed out, Canada's expression of opinion is another proof of the solidarity of the Empire and of Canada's love for the Motherland. In the face of these expressions of opinion from all parts of the British Empire, it is believed that President Kruger must give way, and that a resort to arms will be avoided. Should the Boers decline to render justice to the oppressed Britishers in the South African Republic, it is satisfactory to know that there is a strong government at home which will never tolerate such another disgrace as that to which Mr. Gladstone tamely submitted, after the fight at Majuba Hill.

Nearly the whole of Friday was lost in a fruitless discussion on the prohibition question. It is little less than scandalous that at a period of the session when public business demands first consideration a whole day should be wasted as was the case on Friday. In the early part of the session the prohibitionists met and appointed a sub-committee for the purpose of deciding upon a policy to be adopted in the house. When the sub-committee met it was seen by the Conservative members that the Liberals were animated with a sole desire to let the government down easy for not having introduced a prohibitory law as a result of the plebiscite. The Conservatives thereupon withdrew from the sub-committee and left the Liberals to wrestle with the problem. The result was the adoption of a resolution endorsing the principle of provincial prohibition. This resolution has been on the order paper for two months. But not until Friday last did Mr. Flint, the leader of the Liberal prohibitionists, bring the matter forward, and then he did it on a government day and by unanimous consent. Knowing that every hour was precious, and that a second day's discussion would not be permitted, the talk was continued until a late hour and the subject finally shelved, at Sir Wilfrid Laurier's suggestion, by the adjournment of the debate.

The net result of the prohibition campaign, therefore, for the session is nil. The prohibitionists have made an egregious farce of the whole matter, and they are no nearer the consummation of their cherished hopes than they were a year ago. If Mr. Flint and his associates on the government side had been more of prohibitionists than they are of party men, something more definite would have been accomplished.

The West Huron election inquiry cannot now be concluded this session, and the Brockville investigation will not be touched. The Conservatives have unearthed sufficient so far to show that there was a systematic plan in existence for the purpose of stealing these constituencies. The evidence adduced is conclusive upon the point that the Liberal "machine" got in its dirty work to the fullest extent in West Huron, and that Mr. Holmes, instead of being the bona fide member for the riding, is its mis-representative. The wonder to honest men is that in the face of the damnable revelations of corruption Mr. Holmes, who seems to be a pretty decent sort of fellow, can continue to hold his seat. If he could have his way it is the conviction on the Conservative side that he would resign, but the matter has gone so far that the government will not permit him. In one poll 41 stalwart Conservatives have testified that they voted for McLean, the party candidate, but when the ballot box was opened only 30 ballots were found in it marked for McLean. What had become of the other ballots? The inference is plain that somebody manipulated the box. In another poll an alert Conservative picked up two McLean ballots from the floor, while at still other polls the evidence accumulates of the crooked work which was accomplished by Mr. Holmes' friends. The Conservative members of the committee on privileges and elections have some important testimony still to bring out, but its nature is pretty generally known. For instance at one poll 14 ballots which it is maintained were stuffed into the box after a similar number for McLean had been abstracted, are found to be of a size and quality of paper entirely different from the stubs in the original pad of ballots from which they were supposed to have been torn by the deputy returning officer. A more convincing proof of Liberal crookedness could not be forthcoming. It is satisfactory to know that there are men in parliament like Mr. Borden and Mr. Powell, who will devote days to the elucidation of an important matter of this kind with a view to securing purity of elections.

In the house a day or two ago Sir Richard Cartwright, for a wonder, bore testimony to the excellent work which Mr. Larke, commercial agent for Canada in Australia is accomplishing. Mr. Larke in the old days was a thorn in the flesh to the Liberals. He was one of the best Conservative speakers in Ontario, and Sir Richard evidently realizes that it is better to keep him at the Antipodes than to have to face his arguments on the stump. The minister of trade and commerce testified to the good work accomplished by Canada's representative in Australia. He said the reports sent out by him were very carefully prepared and contained some valuable information. Our trade with Australia has increased at a reasonably rapid rate, particularly in such articles as agricultural implements. Sir Richard also foresaw a great future for Canadian flour in the Australian market, which is already selling at a very large sum in excess of the native product. The latest quotations give the price of Manitoba flour of the best grade at about £10 6s. per ton, while the price of the native article is only £6 6s.

ZIONITES HELD RESPONSIBLE.

Serious Charge Made by Captain McCoskrie Against Divine Healers.

Eugene Brooks, termed by himself and his followers Evangelist Brooks, who has been conducting the Zion Divine Healing Mission, a branch of the so-called Christian Catholic Church of Chicago, in the old Methodist church at the corner of Pandora and Broad streets in this city, may be called upon on his return from Vancouver, where he is visiting, to answer to a very serious charge. In fact, the charge has already been made, and it is now only left for the police authorities to take the steps necessary to secure the desired investigation. Since his arrival here Evangelist Brooks has secured many "converts," and among them Mrs. McCoskrie, wife of Captain McCoskrie, the master of the Princess Louise. She had been ill for some time, and was induced by friends who had been converted to try Divine healing, for both herself and her little boy, who also was ill. When Captain McCoskrie heard of this he expostulated with his wife and wrote Evangelist Brooks, forbidding him to enter his house. However, Mrs. McCoskrie was induced to attend the Zion Divine Healing Mission, and the Captain hearing of it went one Sunday and led her out. An attempt was made by some of the congregation to stop him at the door, but he forced his way through. In the meantime, Dr. Duncan had been prescribing for the child.

On July 20 the Princess Louise sailed north with Captain McCoskrie in command. Upon his return on Saturday morning, he learned that his child was dead, and he holds Evangelist Brooks and his teachings responsible for it. During his absence he says his wife was again persuaded to give up doctors and medicine for her boy and return to the faith cure. For three days she lived in the house of a convert, and praying over and bathing was all that was done for the sick child, who died on Thursday and was buried on Sunday. Captain McCoskrie sailed for the North last night, but has left the matter in the hands of the police.

Besides claiming to cure by faith, the organization of which Evangelist Brooks is an apostle are said to be bankers, having a Zion bank, which they ask converts to patronize. Converts are also advised, it is said, to invest in lots in Zion City, a tract of land near Chicago.

Dr. John Duncan said last evening that it was a month ago when he prescribed for the boy. The case was not serious then.

PECULIAR AND PERTINENT.

J. H. Kibbey, a telegraph operator on the Terre Haute Express, has worked 11 years, seven nights a week, without vacation.

A book published in Japan 1000 years ago notes that at that time good silk was already produced in twenty-four provinces of that country.

Philadelphia has had 6000 cases of typhoid fever already this year, nearly 600 of which proved fatal, all due to impure water supply.

Among birds the swan lives to be the oldest, in extreme cases reaching 300 years; the falcon has been known to live over 162 years.

In memory of the poet Cowper a new museum, library and town hall is to be erected at Olney, in Buckinghamshire, at a cost of about $15,000.

Prague seems to extend its chauvinism even in science. There are two botanical gardens—one belonging to the German, the other to the Bohemian university.

The imports of Argentina from the United States during the first three months of 1899 were worth $3,500,000, being nearly double what they were for the first three months of 1898.