

The frogs in the fable became dissatisfied with King Log, whom Jupiter had sent to rule over them on their requesting a king. He was too much of a log and disgusted them with his want of animation. So after jumping on his back and submitting him to various other indignities they sent a petition to Jupiter for a new king, whom they hoped to find possessed of a little more life. Jupiter, the fable relates, lost his temper with the stork frogs and sent King Stork to govern them. The hapless batrachians soon realized that it was possible to have too much activity in a monarch, and after a number of them had been gobbled up by King Stork the survivors concluded that they had been foolish in asking for a change. If they had been acquainted with our modern forms of expression they might have been tempted to describe themselves as "suckers." It will be seen that the cities government bill admits of a partial application of Esop's moral. The citizens have not asked anybody to provide them with a new variety of civic government, but a gentleman who is pleased to look on himself as a sort of political Jupiter has taken it upon himself to fancy that if a change is not called for it ought to be, for reasons which chiefly concern his own personal and political interests. The parallel would have been closer if Jupiter had taken the initiative and said to the frogs: "Here, you fellows do not know what you want in the way of government, but I know you want a king, and King Stork is just the one to suit you." Only our Jupiter is anxious to supply not one but four King Storks, and, having regard to the character of the proposed appointing power, we have no doubt their capacity for gobbling would be such as to keep the citizens in a state of painful wonderment. No matter what amending and tinkering may be done, if the bill goes on the statute book it will be a standing menace to the citizens' rights. It will also be an insult to their intelligence, since it will imply that they may come to look upon themselves as incapable of managing their own civic affairs and appeal for aid to a government whose incompetency for its own work has been made but too manifest.

DON'T TELL THE PEOPLE.

The Times declines to take its instructions as to what it shall publish from Col. Prior, or any other person who wants to suppress facts as to which the public have a right to be informed. A report of what transpired at the city hall yesterday when the Aberdeen reception committee interviewed the mayor and council and applied for a grant of \$600 to make good the deficit, is therefore published in this issue. Only the lateness of the hour at which the interview took place prevented its publication yesterday. The request of Col. Prior, M. P., that the people should be kept in the dark about the transaction, in order that the city should not be damaged abroad, was an extraordinary one. We do not believe in transacting public business in that manner, and were the council to become a party to the sort of dark lantern proceedings recommended by Col. Prior it would deserve the condemnation of every right thinking citizen. The excuse that "the city would be damaged" will deceive no person; the proposal to suppress the truth was born of another motive. The city cannot be "damaged" by admitting that there was a deficit, but it would certainly be most seriously compromised if the deficit were not made up. The shortage cannot be provided for by public contributions unless the truth is told, and the council dare not appropriate the citizens' money for the purpose unless it is prepared to justify the act. Without full information we can neither support nor oppose Col. Prior's request for \$600. It is the "keep it quiet" feature of the transaction to which, for the present, we enter our emphatic protest.

EXPLANATION YET NEEDED.

Premier Davie yesterday delivered a fearful and wonderful harangue, which was supposed to have some connection with the loan bill now before the house. Unfortunately, the speech had been prepared for another occasion, and did not seem to fit in well with yesterday's subject. It covered a large variety of matters, including the government of Ontario and the borrowing habits of France and Russia, but it did not make clear the advisability of this province borrowing more than it actually needs. Only a few days ago Minister Turner earnestly endeavored to convey the impression that the provincial revenue would surely increase 50 to 75 per cent. in the near future. At the same time he promised that the government would vigorously economize in the matter of expenditure. If his prediction and his promise are well founded there ought to be a large surplus by the end of the next financial year, and therefore nothing need be borrowed for the years to follow. Where,

then, is the necessity for a loan of \$2,000,000, when one of a million and a quarter should amply cover all deficiency up to the end of 1896? If Premier Davie had applied himself to an explanation on this point he would have spoken something to the purpose. It is surely incumbent on some of the ministers yet to make plain whether Mr. Turner was indulging in a little gasconade, or whether the government is asking power to borrow three quarters of a million to be squandered merely as vast sums have been squandered in the past. The loan bill comes up again on Monday, and perhaps some more light will then be vouchsafed.

THE TRUSTEES.

There are at present four candidates in the field for school trustees—Messrs. Hayward, Saunders and Lovell, the retiring trustees, and Mr. D. Cartmel, a new candidate for the position. The duties of the trustees are only a little less important than those of aldermen, while the special interest entrusted to their care is not surpassed by any of those with which the city council has to deal. We would advise the electors not to confine their whole attention to the aldermanic contest. Improvement can be effected in the management of the schools, and especially in the administration of the large sums raised for their maintenance. Even if the old trustees are to be re-elected, it is well that they should be asked to give an account of their stewardship, and that they should hear the views of the electors on the questions with which they will have to deal. The episode of the South ward school in particular should not be forgotten. New blood may not be either required or desired, but the introduction of new blood, nevertheless, might not be a bad thing at the present time. It is held that such a degree of excellence is attained in school boards or city councils that an improvement cannot be made. At least, let the trustees come to the front and explain in public meeting what they have already done and what they purpose doing during their next term of office.

"AS THEY DESIRED."

Speaking editorially yesterday the Colonist said: "The citizens of Victoria are, we are sure, glad to learn that the difficulty with the post office officials has been settled in the way that the representatives of the city in the house of commons desired." It appears now that instead of admitting the just claim of the men to the whole five months' provisional allowance, amounting to \$50, the government intends to allow only for four months, or for \$40. That is to say, the men are still to be fined \$10 for forcibly calling attention to the wrong done them in keeping back their wages. The Colonist says that is a settlement in the way in which Messrs. Earle and Prior desired, but we are quite certain that it is not the way desired by the citizens of Victoria, who expressed their opinion in unmistakable terms. If it is true, as the Colonist said, that the two members directed their herculean efforts towards securing for the men only four-fifths of the money due them, then the attempt to build up a boom on their success will fall exceedingly flat.

A VAIN ATTEMPT.

The Ottawa government has decided to pay the postoffice clerks and letter carriers the \$50 provisional allowance which they had earned and which was to be held back from them as a punishment for their so-called strike. This was a most fraudulent pretext for withholding the money, and it is so far satisfactory to see it dropped—even if the measure of justice is conceded by the government under pressure. The Colonist makes a laborious effort to give Messrs. Earle and Prior the credit of having brought about this result, whereas the people are highly amused, as they know what the facts are. We should be sorry to deny Messrs. Earle and Prior the credit they deserve, and we have not the slightest reason to doubt that they exerted themselves to secure justice for the men. But no person in his proper senses, who is at all acquainted with the facts, will believe that justice was done as a result of their efforts. The moving cause was the indignation of the public, as voiced at the city hall meeting in November last and on the occasion of Sir Charles Tupper's visit. There is also very good reason to believe that the governor-general had a good deal to do with the matter. Then the general election is close at hand, so the government "come down" at the pointing of the gun, though at any other time they might have been less easily frightened. The results of the unaided efforts of Messrs. Earle and Prior would have been nil, as they were a few months back. Here is Col. Prior's own report on that point, as given at the city hall meeting:—

"By letters, by telegrams, by interviews, by constant solicitation, they had endeavored to have these men of the postoffice kept in their positions at a proper wage. He and his colleagues, both in season and out of season, had urged the injustice which had characterized the treatment of the Victoria postoffice employees, and had protested

against the outrage of withholding their pay. They had used strong words in demanding that the promise of the provisional allowance be redeemed." All this exertion was met by the government by the suspension of the men and the determination to find each of them \$50. It was only when Minister Tupper realized the state of public feeling for himself that he thought it wise to yield—and then only because election time was approaching. If Messrs. Earle and Prior had exerted themselves at the proper time, when the subject was before the house, they could have prevented all the trouble. The amount of attention they paid to it at that time may be judged from the fact that they did not even know whether the provisional allowance had been voted when the postoffice employees first approached them on the subject. The Colonist labors in vain when it seeks to boom them on the strength of the act of justice which has been forced upon the government.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

The premier and the organ are reduced to the painful necessity of reviling and ridiculing those who took part in the Wednesday evening meeting for the purpose of bolstering up their precious commission scheme. We are not surprised at this, for the premier and the Colonist are well known as a pair of political "Arcadians." It is a cause of astonishment, though, to find Mr. Rither joining in the chorus. He spoke against his own good sense and judgment when he professed to doubt the representative character of the meeting, and he has placed himself in a painfully ridiculous position by his plea of "not invited." Mr. Rither has seriously disappointed his fellow-citizens, who would have given him credit for too much discernment and independence to be led away by any trickery on the premier's part. As it seems another meeting is to be held, in connection with which the plea of "not invited" will not hold good, nothing more need be said at present.

HANS BREUTZEN'S CLAIM.

Land upon Which He Had Lived for Eighteen Years Given Away. In the legislature a few days ago Captain Irving presented the following petition from Hans Paul Breutzen of Port Simpson:—

"I, a lawful subject of Her Most Gracious Majesty and a resident of this province, pray your attention to the consideration of my grievance, and cause investigation into the land transactions of the western department of the Hudson Bay Company, by which I have suffered great wrong and damage. The parcel of land petitioned for consists of thirty acres, three acres of which are under fence and cultivation, with dwelling house and necessary offices thereon. I arrived here (being in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company) in 1852, and took up the land in question and built a dwelling house and necessary offices thereon in 1876. In 1877 I left the employ of the Hudson Bay Company through ill health, and I have lived on the property ever since. The same year, being desirous of obtaining the title to the land I wrote to the chief commissioner of the lands and works department in Victoria, but received no reply whatever to my application. I beg also to state that when I took up the land in question it belonged to the crown, and remained such until the arrival here of Mr. O'Reilly, some years after sent up for the settling up of some land matters in this district. I gave him all the particulars regarding my claim to the property I occupy, but he took no notice whatever of the same, and the fact that I had lived so long on the land seemed to count for nothing, and he persisted in giving the ground in question to the Hudson Bay Company."

MINING AT ALBERNI.

Work Still Progressing on Several Placer Claims Despite the Snow.

There is now at China creek between three and four feet of snow. Work is still progressing on several placer claims. The Constance company are still ditching the slough. It is believed that they will be ready to start sluicing in a few days. R. Delcaux is sinking his shaft and using watertight boxes to enable him to pass the gravel with water in it. This shaft is now down 15 feet. He hopes to strike his luck between 25 and 35 feet down, and from the prospect in the gravel above has good hope of striking paying dirt in the bottom. Gleason & Campbell are sinking a shaft to bed rock on their claim on Mineral creek. They have just got their winter's supply of grub in, and intend pushing the work ahead as fast as possible. The rock taken from the new lead near the head waters of Mineral creek, belonging to Simpson, Darr & Co., is reckoned to be some of the best looking quartz found in this locality. Great things are expected of the ledge. It is understood that more work is to be done on it shortly. China creek remains low, and though a very slight rise has been noticed from that which occurred lately, the creek is not expected to rise to any extent for six or eight weeks yet.

The road party under Mr. Bainbridge when last heard from expected to have the road in condition to sleigh on in about two weeks' time.—Nanaimo Free Press.

He—I wonder when you will be able to set as good a table as my mother does?

She—By the time you are able to provide as good a table as your father does.



To Nursing Mothers!

A leading Ottawa Doctor writes: "During Lactation, when the strength of the mother is deficient, or the secretion of milk scanty, WYETH'S MALT EXTRACT gives most gratifying results." It also improves the quality of the milk.

It is largely prescribed To Assist Digestion, To Improve the Appetite, To Act as a Food for Consumptives, In Nervous Exhaustion, and as a Valuable Tonic. PRICE, 40 CENTS PER BOTTLE.

WANT AN INSPECTOR.

The School Trustees Approve of Hiring an Inspector But Economy Forbids.

Statement of Finances—Complais Against Victoria West Teachers.

The board of school trustees met last night and presented the annual report. All members present. Architect Muir opened tenders for the completion of the water closets at the North ward school. There were five tenders in all, the lowest being that of R. N. Knott and Son, who quoted \$463. The tenders were referred to the committee, with power to award to Knott & Son if proper security were furnished otherwise to the lowest responsible tender, which would be the joint tender of R. J. Knott and H. J. Knott.

Letters were received from Mrs. J. Welsh, Mrs. Sarah Harper, Mrs. T. McL. Smith and John W. Croker. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Welsh complained that their children had no respect for Principal Nicholson; he was not the right man for the position. Other complaints had been made against him, as the board well knew. Mrs. Harper said her child could not get on with the teacher of the second division at the time she was at Victoria West school, a year ago; and Mr. Croker said he did not feel satisfied with the progress his children had made during their attendance at Victoria West. All the parents asked that they be allowed to send their children to the Central school.

A committee was appointed to inquire into the complaints, with power to act. Principal Nicholson was present when the letters were read. A. G. Clark wrote asking for a position as inspector and transient officer. Received and filed.

Mr. Lovier asked that the school trustees permit the use of South park school for meetings of municipal and school trustee candidates. Chairman Hayward was empowered to make arrangements, with the understanding that the trustees would receive remuneration for his services.

Appropriations for school supplies were passed and a request from a teacher to furnish books to a poor scholar was agreed to.

The Girls' Central school attendance for the term beginning January 7th was: Enrollment, 338; attendance, 284. South park school, enrolled, 382.

Secretary Williams read the annual report which showed that the cost of high school pupils was \$32.58 1-2 per capita based on average attendance, and of the other schools \$27.07. While recognizing the importance of avoiding additional expense, it is felt that the appointment of an experienced teacher to act as city inspector of schools should be made. In regard to teachers' salaries, it had been suggested that as the salaries had in the main been determined when the cost of living was high it ought not to be regarded as a hardship if they were now adjusted to the decreased cost of living. Would a reasonable (say 10 per cent.) reduction impair the general efficiency of the schools, and would the zeal of the teachers, abate and their usefulness be seriously affected by it? The report will be continued the report, if the views of both teachers and taxpayers could be made known on this subject. The average attendance shows that there has been a steady increase from 807.10 in 1885-6 to 1727.51 in 1894, an increase of 113 per cent. during the decade, and of 41.2 per cent. for the past six months.

Trustee Marchant said he would not vote for a city inspector. The city must eventually employ an inspector, but he heard of no surplus of finances. He favored economy for the present.

Chairman Hayward said the report being the action of the old board would be a recommendation to the incoming board.

Trustee Marchant asked that the report be changed to read that the employment of a city inspector is a pressing necessity.

Trustee Lewis thought the government might loan the services of their inspector.

The board agreed to the alteration, and it was accordingly made.

The report was referred to the supply committee to print, 300 copies being the number to be called for.

The secretary was authorized to publish the auditor's statement in both daily papers.

Trustee Lovell said he had seen Physical Instructor St. Clair, and that gentleman had agreed in addition to his usual work to take charge of a swimming class of the scholars. He was already giving instruction in "dry swimming," so that pupils would have an idea of swimming before they entered water. Eighty-seven percent of children swam when first entering the water.

The proprietor of the baths had agreed to have them in good condition on Saturday evenings. The pupils would have to be formed into small classes, otherwise he would not take responsibility. Chairman Hayward said the subject had better be left over for further discussion.

cession. It was absolutely necessary that the greatest precaution should be taken that no danger should attend swimming classes. Votes of thanks were passed to Chairman Hayward for his impartial rulings and pleasant conducting of the meetings during the year, and the board closed. The next meeting will be the new trustees in office.

TRAMPS GALORE.

The City of San Francisco Overrun with Vagabonds.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 10.—The state legislature convened on Tuesday last. Senator Perkins will undoubtedly succeed himself as United States senator, both for the expired term of the late Leiland Stanford, and that of six years beginning March 4 next. A bitter fight is expected during the present session on the question of recounting the entire vote cast at the last election for all state officers, including the election of James H. Budd as governor. A committee of seven has been appointed by the republican state committee to go before the legislature and demand a recount, particularly the vote of San Francisco.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 10.—The wife of H. B. Curtis, (Samuel of from the east. She states that Curtis is in London and endeavoring to secure a play in his line. He will probably return to California during the summer and reside in Berkeley where Mrs. Curtis is now negotiating for the purchase of a residence.

Officers gathered in thirteen tramps last night and the city jail is not large enough to accommodate the number of vagabonds arrested here lately. Thirteen tramps were taken to the corporation limits this morning by the police and ordered to leave the country on pain of being arrested again and put to hard work.

Until highwater caused by heavy rains, the tramps had headquarters in Willows on Santa Rosa creek. Since the rains set in they have been flocking into the town and the people have been very much annoyed by their importunities for help. Some talk of organizing a vigilance committee. It is feared something serious may happen if it is not done. Marshal Stedman says, however, that his force is amply sufficient to restrain lawless men. Thus far only petty offences have been committed.

A letter from the Kootenay district, written on January 5th, stated that the smelter was then about ready to put in blast, and is no doubt by this time in operation. The concentrator was all ready and was to have been started up this week. The first work was to have been done on Blue Bell ore, which was being delivered continuously and in good supply at the wharf at Pilot bay. News of the first work at the concentrator and smelter will be awaited with great interest by people both in and out of mining circles, for it will mark the opening of a very important era in mining in the great Kootenay district.



Mr. J. Alois Chausse Montreal, P. Q.

A Marvelous Medicine

Whenever Given a Fair Trial Hood's Proves its Merit.

The following letter is from Mr. J. Alois Chausse, architect and surveyor, No. 123 Shaw Street, Montreal, Canada: "G. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.: 'Gentlemen:—I have been taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for about six months and am glad to say that it has done me a great deal of good. Last May my weight was 122 pounds, but since

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES

I began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla it has increased to 163. I think Hood's Sarsaparilla is a marvelous medicine and am very much pleased with it." J. ALOIS CHAUSSE.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills, constipation, biliousness, jaundice, sick headache, indigestion.

TORONTO AGAIN

Fire Visits the Who and Works How the Build

Another Half Million Flames—Firms by the F

Toronto, Jan. 10.—A fire is raging in Toronto at the present moment what may be the extent of the damage is not yet known. It started in the Globe fire building, which also on Melinda street. The building, which also McKinnon & Co. destination and which they were the origin of tonight's fire, that point it spread to the places between the streets which caught an hour. R. P. Gray & Breerton & Manning, set & Co., furs; E. clothing; Robert Darling sale woollens. The loss is very high, and the half way up. The fire Co., printers and who Hart & Riddle, wholesale Bunting, Reid & Co., furs, are burning. The wholesale dry goods house set & Darling is separated only by a narrow lane, large wholesale house & Co., just across on Bay street, also in the rain began to fall an started and afforded assistance, but this so sparks were flying half scene of the fire. The out in the Osceola by taker and his wife, trated from the effects were confined in a room. The fire escape could time and all had to slide down. The fire man slid part of the fell, turning a somers the telegraph wires a blanket held out for he ribly injured. She might dress, and no particulars can yet insurance.

At 10 o'clock the fire and almost out. Darling's big building loss will likely reach \$1,000,000. It is impossible to do the various losses of but an approximate estimate placed at three quarters the insurance reaching reaches \$1,000,000, of E. Knox & Co., ropey ohants' Manufacturing Montreal, and the Duck and Yarn valued at \$44,000; in W. S. Johnston, printer building, at \$50,000; Corticelli Silk compared with a scorched side of Wellington street, \$35,000, two-thirds ins

Last evening's fire Globe fire of Sunday being furiously for a few days of rain, previous age. The fire broke of building at 7 p.m. and a door in the building had the cellar. From Osgood flames jumped to the car. The building was attacked and the iron bridge. The fire was displaced by the poor water, but notwithstanding hard and faithful work are: Tenants of the Osgood S. Johnston & Co., of Simmons & Evans, of H. Secomb, saddlery and Gorrie, show cards. On abeth Garton, John O' are the losers. On Well side, they are S. F. McK king; T. D. Dunnet & White, manufacturers of Co., S. H. Gray & Co., ling, furs; E. Holseau & Co., Wellington those who lost are Hart sale stationers; Hunter, fahers; Bunting, Reid & Co., manufacturers, and Kilgour factors. The three were damaged mostly by will be much larger than it is estimated the loss about half a million. The firemen are still and for days will be busy and preventing the spread. The cause of the a leakage of gas in the Sunday's blaze, occasion ance of gas mains and It is thought that Osgood filled with this inflamm caught by an electric co missioner Jones this me fire brought out the fac city are nothing but fire writers to-day are discuss in creating the insurance ing of the underwriters the insurance on buildings high be increased 50 pe have been passed only city council who was insurance people that four steam engines, lad pilances. The city telephone communication

Pure blood is absolute joy perfect health. Hood's the blood and streng