

# The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1895.

## FOREST FIRES.

The bush fires are spreading between this city and Nanaimo; towards Otter Point a new district, is blazing, and the Straits are again hidden under a gray smoke cloud, the result of fresh fires having started on several of the islands of the Gulf. The present season bids fair to rival last year for the number and extent of its bush fires, and attention is thereby recalled to the note of warning in this regard that is sounded by Surveyor General Tom Kains in his last official report. The subject thus opened up is a very large one—much too large for more than casual consideration in the columns of a newspaper or the pages of a departmental report—but Mr. Kains has, in the view of the public generally and of timber men in particular, struck the keynote in advising that a new and stringent bush fire law be placed on the statute book of the province without delay. Such legislation, it is held, is necessary, not alone for the preservation of British Columbia's forest wealth, but for the protection of settlement, town and village property from destruction by fire and for the prevention of the recurrence of disastrous floods.

At the present time the Bush Fire act is the same as that passed in 1874. It provides that any person who, during the months of June, July, August or September, ignites any inflammable material in any forest or woods, from which damage results through the author of the fire having neglected to properly extinguish it, is liable to a maximum penalty of \$100 or in default three months' imprisonment for each offence. This applies to fires on Crown land as well as private property, while owners of district land are equally liable should fires starting on their premises spread, through their carelessness or neglect, to do damage to adjacent property.

The causes of the annual epidemic of bush fires are apparently as various as the localities afflicted, but in many cases the carelessness of camping parties or of settlers clearing land by fire in the dry season is unquestionably to be held responsible. In the Kootenay country, where the operations of Mr. Drewry's government survey party were last year suspended for almost two entire months by the presence of the dense smoke, it was learned that many of the more serious fires had been wantonly started by prospectors anxious to secure easier access to the country to prosecute their search for minerals. The result was, as everyone knows, heavy loss in timber of the highest grade. As long ago as in 1888 it was estimated by Mr. J. H. Morgan, Dominion forestry commissioner, that British Columbia's timber loss by bush fires in that one year exceeded \$1,000,000. Last year's fires were even more numerous and more disastrous than those of 1888, and this season's promise to be as bad as those of 1894.

Aside from their bearing upon the question of forest conservation, the bush fires are held to be largely responsible for both floods and drought. All the authorities appear to agree that the Fraser river floods of 1894 were in a large measure attributable to fires having cleared the mountains at the headwaters. In this connection Mr. W. S. Drewry, P.L.S., has the following in his report to the Lands and Works department. His remarks closely parallel those on the same subject of Mr. Morgan:

"While it is probable that the great floods of 1894 were the result of a very unusual combination of circumstances, it is also probable that the partial deforestation of our mountains was an important factor. For hundreds—probably thousands—of years nature has been at work excavating various channels for unwatering the country under certain conditions, and if man changes one of these he must affect the result. Nature made these drainage works to perform their task within a certain period; so that if, through the destruction of the forests, they are forced to do their work in a very much shorter time the result in a country such as ours must be a succession of floods and droughts, alternately devastating and parching the valleys; for the surface being denuded of trees the accumulated snows of winter will be exposed to the direct rays of the sun, and melting quickly, will rush off, surcharging the streams, causing them to overflow their banks and overwhelm the valleys; while in summer the greater part of the rainfall will pass off by evaporation from the surface on which it falls. Thus the successful use of the valley lands depends largely on the preservation of the mountain forests, which in this fair province exist principally where but little of the soil can be cultivated, and most of the inhabitants are engaged in or depend on mining, and, therefore, the conditions under which the waterways work need not be dangerously changed, and are only so altered by the water interference of the people."

While Mr. Kains has not outlined any desirable remedial legislation in his report, it is his opinion, shared by numerous others identified with provincial affairs who have recently been spoken to on the subject, that heavier penalties should be provided for the causing of bush fires, and that steps should also be taken to specially protect through the dry season the timber at the mountain sources of the more important rivers of the province.

## AMERICAN JUSTICE.

None complain more bitterly of the tardiness and inefficiency of the American courts in important criminal cases than the Americans themselves. The slowness of the proceedings provokes them and they are indignant when they see so many loop holes left for the escape of criminals about whose guilt there is not the shadow of a doubt. So little faith have the people in many parts of the Union in the administration of justice in criminal cases that in order to make sure that men accused of abominable crimes shall suffer the punishment due to their offences, they try and execute the alleged offenders themselves. There can be no doubt

that the main cause of the prevalence of lynching is want of faith in the courts of justice.

The case of the miscreant Holmes has given the American newspapers an opportunity to compare the promptness with which justice is administered in Canada with the slowness and dilatoriness of the United States courts.

As our readers know, Holmes is accused of committing a horrible crime in Canada. The bodies of the two daughters of Pizetz were found buried in the cellar of a house which he rented and occupied only a few days. Holmes is consequently wanted in Canada, and the Canadian authorities are taking steps to have the man extradited for the purpose of being tried in this country. The American newspapers, so far from being unwilling to see this American surrendered to the Canadian officers of justice, express the hope that he will be sent to Canada to be tried in preference to his being handed over to the authorities of Illinois or any other State in which he is believed to have committed the crime of murder. The reason of this openly and clearly stated, is this: That the New York Evening Post, one of the most respectable newspapers of the United States, says on the subject:

"The number of states and countries where the man Holmes is wanted, to be tried for murdering people in order to defend life insurance companies, is increasing from day to day. The question which state or country wants him most will perhaps never be decided, but the question which one ought to have him first is already decided unanimously in favor of Canada. The reason for yielding our claims is that if Holmes were tried in this country and convicted, it would take several years to execute him. With the Buchanan case freshly in mind, we should expect a series of stays, new trials and appeals to higher state courts, lasting a couple of years, and other dilatory motions in the Supreme Court of the United States, based on clauses in the federal constitution, ending perhaps with the execution of the criminal while his counsel were preparing fresh papers in the case. The use of the federal constitution as a means of delaying the execution of murderers is comparatively new, and likely to be worked for all it is worth and more, unless the Supreme Court adopts some decisive rule to free itself of the parasite. By all means let Canada try Holmes first."

## THE HENLEY REGATTA.

The Henley regatta has been pretty freely commented on by United States newspapers. The best of them expressed a sensible and sportsmanlike view of the course taken by the Cornell crew. There were others, however, that allowed their anti-British prejudices to warp their judgment, and their accounts of the race that was not a race were not to Canadians pleasant reading.

An article in the London Times on "The Americans at Henley" shows the spirit in which foreign rowers are treated when they go to England to take part in English regattas. Nothing could be more cordial or in better taste than the way in which the Times speaks of the foreign rowers of English regattas. Its criticism on the Cornell crew's course is extremely mild. It says in substance that it was fair but not sportsmanlike. Compared with the criticisms of some of the leading American journals, it may be said to be mildness itself. Here is an extract from the Times' article:

"Some of the foreigners on this occasion proved themselves not easy to defeat. Many Frenchmen row extremely well; so do the Dutchmen, as they showed yesterday against St. John's, Oxford, and against Molesey; so do many of our American cousins. The last, indeed, have everything to make them good oars—far finer rivers than we can boast, college organizations, and a summer climate which often makes rowing a delightful occupation. There is every reason, then, why they should come to Henley; and, of course, when they come, English crews and spectators are glad to bid them welcome. International amity in these matters, indeed, is no empty name. We always give to American competitors on our own soil. It has always been so till now. When Harvard sent over a crew to race Oxford, the excitement in London was great and the crews tremendous; nor, so far as we remember, was anything said or done to show the Harvard students that they were not very welcome. It is to be hoped that this feeling will always continue and that the little friction which has come from the Henley incident will promptly pass away."

The incident in question occurred on Tuesday in one of the early heats of the race for the Grand Challenge Cup. The competitors were the Leander Boat Club and the crew by Cornell University, members of the board of education in Springfield, and one of the trustees of Buchtel college.

It is scarcely possible to be too punctilious in a matter of this kind, especially where the contest is of an international character. Certain rules are laid down, and so far as the umpire is concerned, they must be obeyed. It is quite certain that an English university or school crew in such a case as this would have stopped rowing and backed to the starting point till their opponents were ready, but this would have been their own doing, the result of long traditions, and in obedience to the purely British canon of what is sportsmanlike. Now, the sportsmanlike is one thing; the strict adherence to one's rights is quite another thing. The matter was settled in a manner entirely satisfactory to all concerned, except to the hapless Leander crew and, of course, Cornell. For when it came to the next heat, when Cornell had to meet Trinity Hall, the Americans got as pretty a beating from the champion Cambridge crew as any of our patriots would have desired.

## LACROSSE.

IT IS SAID TO BE HARD AT WORK. It is said to be hard at work. The Vancouver lacrosse boys are practicing, with a view to making the chances of losing their next match as small as possible. The team will play two matches at Montreal, one at Toronto, one at Ottawa and one at old Quebec.

## BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES.

We rule paper and manufacture blank books. Import our games and get prizes. The Colonist Bindery, Broad street and 74 Government street.

## WOMEN IN POLITICS.

THEY ARE NATURALLY PROGRESSIVE AND QUICKLY CLEAVE TO REFORMS.

One Has Recently Wielded the Gavel in a Political Gathering—Another Was a Political Delegate—Colorado the Banner State in Recognizing the New Woman.

[Copyright, 1895, by American Press Association.] For the first time on record a woman has wielded the gavel over a political gathering. And the honor was most fittingly bestowed when it was given to Miss Henrietta G. Moore at the recent convention of Prohibitionists at Springfield, O. The novelty of a woman presiding caused a great deal of enthusiasm, and when Miss Moore arose to speak the audience greeted her with waving handkerchiefs and shouts of applause. Miss Moore's speech was considered the most masterly ever made at the opening of a political convention. It pleaded for the suppression of the liquor traffic, the en-



MISS HENRIETTA G. MOORE.

franchisement of woman, government control of all means of communication and transportation, silence of all monopolies and a financial system that will issue money to the people in sufficient quantity for all needs, remonetize silver and make all money legal tender for all purposes.

Miss Moore is a graceful, attractive looking woman, with a bright, intelligent face, showing great strength of character, soft brown eyes and dark hair. She was a delicate, fragile child and was therefore not sent to school in her early childhood, but was encouraged to spend her time in the open air, thereby gaining health and vitality. Becoming possessed of some books, she had a great desire to know what the strange characters in them meant. So she taught herself to read by carrying her book to her mother when she failed in a word or character. At 15 years of age she became a teacher in order to aid her parents in some financial difficulties.

She became a prohibitionist not because she had heard of the evils of intemperance, but because she knew. A beloved brother was tempted away from her side into the saloon. She went to the saloon keeper and begged him not to sell her brother liquor, but he would give her no promise. One evening she saw her brother and the mayor of the town enter the saloon together. What could she do—she, a slender, delicate young woman—against a brawny, licensed liquor dealer? She could not do much. The law would not help her, but she did what she could. She walked up the railroad track, gathered her apron full of stones, and returning sent them with a sure aim direct at the saloon windows. She was arrested, but her friends paid her fine, and she did not go to jail. This was the beginning of her temperance career.

When the crusade broke out, she was chosen to lead the band in her native village. Since that time she has developed into one of the strongest organizers of temperance unions in the United States, and there is scarcely a state or territory where her voice has not been heard in the prohibitionist ranks.

From the time she taught herself to read she has been a persevering and indefatigable worker. While teaching in the daytime she spent many hours of the night in studying and arranging plans and lectures for her temperance unions. While traveling about the country in the interests of the prohibitionist cause she devoted all her spare moments in studying for the ministry and is now an ordained minister in the Universalist church. She has not as yet accepted any territory where her voice has not been heard in the prohibitionist ranks.



MISS HELEN VARICK BOSWELL.

She was born in Newark, O. She believes in the right of every woman to help determine who shall rule over her in civil affairs. There has been a suggestion that the Prohibitionists nominate Miss Moore as their candidate for governor. Miss Helen Varick Boswell also enjoys the distinction of being a "first," being the first woman delegate New York has ever sent to a political convention and the only one that comes

from the east. She was born and reared in the south, but instead of holding to the southern ideas of slavery believes in the absolute equality of the races. She says, "The condition of the negro was, I believe, the first thing that turned me toward Republicanism."

Miss Boswell was one of the most active spirits in the recent crusade against Tammany. In this work she was obliged to go about the city constantly attended by two detectives. Although not a suffragist, yet she believes universal suffrage will in time be extended, and those women who desire to vote can do so. She thinks that marriage and motherhood is the highest state to which women can aspire. She says: "Women are always doing the little things forgotten by other people, and they will continue to do them in politics. True patriotism can best be taught at the fireside, and when the mothers are keenly alive to the most important issues of their day and generation how can they fail to impress their sons with their enthusiasm?"

Miss Boswell was educated at the Friends' school in Baltimore, and their broad and liberal views aided her in forming the views she now holds. Although of Scotch origin, she has a decidedly French cast of features. Her complexion is fair, and she has beautiful golden hair. Her interest in politics has robbed her of none of her woman's love for dainty and becoming clothing, and she frankly confesses that she likes to wear clothes of the latest style and always intends to dress as well as her purse will allow. She lives at her father's home in New York city, and outside of her political work is a journalist and magazine writer.

Of the five states which sent women delegates to the Cleveland convention Colorado enjoys the distinction of having sent the most. Of the six women representatives from this state all are noted for their ability and prominence in the political field. Mrs. Hiram B. Stevens of Denver is the editor of The Woman Voter, the only political woman's paper in the United States, and the president of the East Capitol Hill Republican League, the largest woman's Republican club in Denver, having a membership of over 900. To Mrs. Stevens' name can also be prefixed the adjective first, as she was the first woman elected to a political position in Colorado—that of vice chairman of the city central committee of Denver. Mrs. Stevens is noted for her gracious manners, her splendid hospitality, her rare old china and her interest in all the political questions of the day. In a recent interview she gave forth the following clear ideas:

"Woman suffrage in Colorado has already proved of marked political and social benefit. The political benefit is



MRS. HIRAM B. STEVENS.

shown in the more orderly way in which the primaries are now held and the better tone of the conventions. These are the more apparent and immediate benefits. Then there is a demand for a higher standard of representation, which will have good results ere long.

"There is a class of men who have long complained of the corruption in politics, giving this as their reason for holding aloof. This class has been quite demonstrative since we have had equal suffrage and keep harping about the duty of women to purify politics. Too many of these men have done nothing themselves in the past in this work, but are now ready to advise and claim the credit of the advance. I believe no good can be done in politics except by active work therein. We cannot expect others to do our crusading. I feel most earnestly that political work is educational and a noble mission. I look upon political organization as an army whose success depends upon able generalship and faithful service. I want to see politics an honored and honorable calling.

"I like political work, and I like politicians—I mean those who are active workers, who give their time and attention to it and want to succeed. I like to be in the battle with them, for or against them, and I want to gain political knowledge through experience and have the respect of my political opponents and the esteem of those under whose flag I am fighting. A woman can be as womanly in politics as a man can be manly.

"The social benefits of it show that society leadership is not so important a function after all. There are many true hearts and wise heads in humble homes, and the vote of the poor woman counts for as much as that of the rich. I think women are remarkably true and correct in their intuition and despise snobbishness and pretense.

"Do all classes of women vote? An exceedingly large percentage have done so, and their interest continues unabated. New members are added every week to our clubs. We supplement the routine work with many special entertainments. Yes, the woman vote is partisan emphatically. Colorado, irrespective of party, is a unit for bimetallicism. We want sound money, and we define sound money to be silver and gold coined at a ratio of 16 to 1, the money of our forefathers and of the constitution. We believe in American finance, not British, and we will work till we get it. We will have silver presidential electors next year without a doubt."

## WOMAN'S WORLD.

SHE FOUNDED A CHAIR OF AMERICAN HISTORY AT BARNARD.

Women Who Play Poker—Rev. Anna Shaw on Suffrage—Women in Politics—Woman's Advent in Cornell—Southern Women and Bicycles—Sorosis' Vacation.

To the originality of Mrs. Donald McLean, elected this season regent of the New York chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is due the birth and development of a brilliant idea. This is nothing less than the founding a chair of American history, particularly of the colonial and Revolutionary periods, at Barnard college, the feminine annex of Columbia college. It is the first enterprise of its kind yet entered upon by any of the patriotic orders of either men or women.

Mrs. McLean, author of this notable movement, is the wife of the Hon. Donald McLean, former general appraiser of the port of New York, and is a daughter of the late Judge John Ritchie of the



MRS. DONALD McLEAN.

Maryland court of appeals, a man famed beyond the limits of his state for his powers of oratory, his integrity, legal knowledge and keen intellect.

Born in Frederick, Md., the town of Barbara Fritchie, Mrs. McLean first saw the light of day in the state's most celebrated house, Prospect Hall, the home of her grandfather, the late Judge William Pinkney Mansley. It is a mansion built by the famous Dulany family in old colonial times. Mrs. McLean was born in the haunted room, in which tradition chronicles the walling up of a young girl because of a romantic love affair.

Mrs. McLean is characterized by broadly liberal tenets in all directions, is an earnest worker in church and public affairs. The founding of a chair of American history at Barnard college by the New York city chapter of the Revolutionary society, under Mrs. McLean's regency, has set an example in practical patriotism for all like societies to pattern after. The other chapters of the Revolutionary association, located in every state and territory in the Union, have experienced an awakening in contemplating the weighty step taken by their sister chapter; a step which illustrates its own aims and principles and those of the parent association, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Such historical advantages are needed all over the land, and that the opportunity for such knowledge should first be made possible in New York, and by the feminine descendants of Revolutionary patriots, in the sister institution of old King's college, makes the event a more happy and fitting one than it could have been without such associations. The work is being sustained at present by an amount raised annually, while the endowment fund is being accumulated for the future permanent historical professorship.

## Women Who Play Poker.

A bright little Boston woman who has settled here said to me the other day:

"I have played my last game of poker. 'To me it is more fascinating than eating, drinking, sleeping or dancing. It has developed the gambling spirit in me to such an extent that I am getting frightened."

"I think you are very wise," I said. "Oh, well, it isn't altogether that," she continued. "I'm going to be honest about it. It's too expensive an enjoyment for me."

"People say: 'Oh, it's about an even thing in the long run. Keep a little book. Put your losses on one side and your gains on the other, and at the end of the year you'll find that they pretty well balance.'"

"Well, I tried that, and it makes me sick every time I look at it."

"What amazes me is to see the hold on the community that this game of poker has secured."

"I called on some new acquaintances the other day, and they—a sweet, white haired old mother and her two gentle daughters—talked so beautifully of art and science and theosophy and theology that I felt abashed as I thought:

"Heavens, what would these simple people say if they knew I played cards for money?"

"Presently the younger daughter asked me: 'Do you play poker?'

"I thought that she had heard of my shortcomings, and began to make an awkward explanation.

"But she laughed and said: 'Oh, we play! Just a little while with a mother. Mother is quite taken with it, aren't you, mother?'

"—well, I couldn't have been more surprised if I had seen Dr. Parkhurst posing as a living picture."—Polly Wry in New York Recorder.

Rev. Anna Shaw on Suffrage. In an interview with Anna Howard Shaw, D. D., published in the Denver Republican, she expresses some very cheerful views of the growth of sentiment in favor of suffrage. On the prospect for suffrage in the east, Dr. Shaw says:

"It is strong enough in any northern state to carry the measure, were it not for the partisan attitude of the political parties. Each party is afraid to take it up, and each is afraid that if the other does take it up they will gain some advantage from it. The main reason for our defeat in Kansas last fall was, I think, the fear of the Populists, who had heard that Colorado women were all working against their party, that the same thing would happen in Kansas."

"The danger in New York is from the foreign element. If we could wipe out New York city until after the election, I think we could carry the state without doubt. It is a remarkable fact that in the districts where ignorance and vice are the strongest, the vote against suffrage is the heaviest. The public work into which the women have entered in so many directions and in such a workmanlike manner, the interest women are showing in municipal reform, and the beneficial results of their connection with it—all these things are paving the way. I think after a few more western states fall into the suffrage column there will be a perfect avalanche of sentiment in that direction. Sectional strife was formerly the north and the south. It is now largely coming to be the east and west, and if the west enfranchises its women, do you suppose the east will allow it such an advantage? No, indeed, the east will be forced to follow suit, but it will come in last, and dear old Massachusetts, my own state, which should have been first to head the column, will bring up in the rear, I am afraid. That is because so many of Massachusetts' young men have come west and left nobody but the old maids and old fogies behind."

## Women in Politics.

If the women are to assist the men in politics, they must do something besides jumping into the political arena. They must prepare themselves for the struggle there. We learn from a circular issued by Barnard college that the School of Political Science of Columbia university is now open to women, who are free to take the graduate courses in political history, economics and sociology. Here is an opportunity for the advancing woman politician. In the School of Political Science they can lay the foundations needed for the high statesmanship which ought to characterize all government. Thus far, there is not any woman among the professors in the school, but we must presume that this deficiency will yet be supplied. The quick induction, broad reasoning, clear analysis and generous sympathy of womanhood ought not to be excluded from the faculty. The ideas of men in political science are apt to be hard and narrow and selfish.

The many women's political clubs now in existence must also be of use to woman politicians by familiarizing them with the leading public questions of the times.

Both Mayor Strong of this city and Mayor Schieren of Brooklyn seem disposed to favor the appointment of some women to the public offices to which, in the opinion of the graduates of the school, they are adapted. Both of them seem to believe that women are better fitted for service on school boards than for any other branch of the municipal service, and they have begun to follow up their belief, which is of the nature of the old belief that women are concerned only with children. This may do for a beginning, but woman's progress does not end at the schoolhouse. If, for example, we have a woman in New York who would make a better mayor than William L. Strong, we doubt whether Mayor Strong can prove that she should not be elected to the office.—New York Sun.

## Woman's Advent in Cornell.

The alumni of Cornell university have nominated Miss Mary Carey Thomas for one of the trustees. This is probably the first time in the history of any of the leading universities in this country that a woman has been named for trustee. Miss Thomas was graduated from Cornell in 1877, and is now president of Bryn Mawr College for Women. She was made dean of that college when it was opened in 1885, and was elected president in 1893.

The legislature which has just adjourned passed a law allowing the Cornell alumni to elect five additional trustees this year. Every year after this they will elect two trustees instead of one as heretofore. In recent years there has been very little contest for this honor among the alumni, rarely more than two candidates being presented. As soon as the new law went into effect there was a great scramble. In all, 15 candidates for the five places were named.

The alumnae of the institution at once decided that they ought to be represented on the board of trustees. Correspondence was started, and after a conference of names proposed they settled upon Miss Thomas as the woman graduate of Cornell best fitted by her training and acquisitions to fill the place. At once a campaign was started. Women graduates in all the large cities in the country were enlisted in the work. Friends of other candidates sent out the customary indoormen's seeking votes and telling of the candidates' fitness for the honor. Miss Thomas' circular was one of the last to appear. To the surprise of the alumni it contained nearly three times the number of indoormen's that any of the circulars of the male candidates had.

## Southern Women and Bicycles.

The women of the southern states have been much slower than their northern sisters in the utilization of the bicy-

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