Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1887.

A LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

Now that party lines have been drawn in this province the first step is to form a liberal-conservative association. This should be done at once. If delayed it is just possible that in the whirl of business life the matter may be forgotten. Every city in the Dominion of the same importance as Victoria has such an association, and as a rule a club in connection with it where the members can exchange ideas, read the party and other literature, and become interested in the work. In advocating such an association we believe we will be borne out by the rank and file of the party in view of the recent election. Once such an organization is effected, in the event of a contest a convention would be called and two straight party candidates nominated, who would go out into the field unhandicapped by other presumable conservatives. It is greatly to be desired that no division should occur in the ranks of the party, which would be unavoidable if any aspirant of conservative leanings should enter the lists at his own sweet will and expect support from his moderate circle of friends. We trust that *immediate* steps will be taken to form a liberal-conservative association in this city, and would urge upon all the friends of the party the necessity of lending a cordial support to its establishment. All past differences should be forgotten and all personal considerations sunk to the end that the principles of the electors of this city and district should be placed on a solid and sure foundation. Liberalism has shown its full strength here, and it must be confessed that it is not very formidable, but still the duty devolving upon the electors of effecting a complete organization is apparent. We trust that there will be no dilly-dallying at this time, but that the prominent workers in the party ranks will at once call a meeting and perfect the necessary arrangements.

AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

It is a curious fact, and one which is in no way regrettable, that, in the many-sided profession of rascality, women generally are found to play the parts of assistants and accessories, and but rarely those of originators. The crimes and offences which they commit of their own volition are, in far the larger number of cases, only those with which society is familiar, which may, indeed, rank as the common-place of social ill-doing. To vary the routine of mere imitation, a woman has just accomplished the feat of inventing a new and very ingenious kind of swindle. The inventor of this more or less ready method of appropriating the things which belong to others is, we are not proud to say, an Englishwoman, married some twenty years ago in France. Apparently her intimate experiences of life in the country of the Gaul, have probably the sharpening of her inventive faculties by contact with the over-inventive intelligence of Paris, have conduced to the development of an ingenuity which seems quite natural to find expression there in the elaboration of "plots." In any case, it seems reasonable to conclude from the subtlety of her powers of combination, as now exposed, that she had attained to a high degree of mastery in the difficult craft when she elected to put her scheme of action to the test of practice. The little comedy of every day life devised by her was this: she advertised in some of the newspapers the offer in marriage either of a young widow possessed of a million of francs, or "a wealthy girl who had lost her reputation." Her preliminary studies of human nature, and especially of its French average of quality, were sufficiently deep and accurate, as her experience, down to a certain point fully assured her. Gudgeons snapped at her gilded bait, and found it to consist of a very handsome young woman—also English, by the way, and notwithstanding the belief, or affected belief, of all true Parisians that all Englishwomen are ugly because they are Englishwomen—who is stated to have gone away to England with several French fortune-hunters in succession, after having gone through the marriage ceremony with them. According to the plan of action laid down for her, the honeymoon of her victims was only allowed to endure just so long as to enable her to get off with her wedding presents and any jewelry that come conveniently to her hand. Some of those who enjoyed—or did not enjoy—this brief experience of her charming society are said to occupy such elevated positions as to make them ashamed to make their griefs public—which may, perhaps, have shown more wisdom and a nicer sense of propriety than they had exhibited precedently. But the discovery of the swindle, brought to a practical result by the arrest of the millionaire widow, at the moment when she was about starting for England to meet a fresh dupe, must have caused a "beat quarter of an hour" to one and all of these highly-placed gentry, who know only too well the merciless nature of Parisian ridicule, and how helplessly they have offered themselves as targets for its poison-pointed shafts; for, to make their position as unpleasant as it could be made, the "wealthy girl" with the "lost reputation," to whom they were not ashamed to give their valued names, has made a full confession of her misdeeds, at the same time throwing the entire blame on the inventor of the scheme—for which nothing can be said in commendation, not even while admitting that it is "entirely new and original."

PROGRESS AND REVENUE.

The advances the province has made since the present government inaugurated their policy of progress are most satisfactory. Under the fostering care of the administration thousands of acres of land hitherto idle have been brought into market. Public works of large importance have been pushed to successful completion. Immigrants have been assisted to the country or guided to desirable locations. Mining enterprises and prospecting parties have been encouraged. Schools have been established wherever demanded by the growing population. Prosperity is almost universal; and in a thousand and one other ways the effects of a progressive and enlightened course have been developed in a manner most satisfactory to the country. In bringing about this condition of affairs all existing sources of revenue have been severely strained, and in some instances the outgo has overlapped the income in a very marked degree. This will be seen by reference to the public accounts which show an overdraft by some $250,000, being only $50,000 less than the loan of $300,000 authorized by the late house at its expiring session, which loan will be found altogether inadequate to meet the claims that must be discharged by the government if their progressive policy is to be further developed. Of course, if the ministry were content to fold their hands and do nothing except squeeze the last dime out of taxpayers to meet salaries, while roads and streets and bridges were allowed to fall into decay, the present financial revenues would be ample. But the members of the house are fresh from their constituencies who have endorsed the policy of the government and are anxious that the work of improvement shall go on. It is "money that makes the mare go," and money only will effect improvements that are necessary, but which are beyond the ability of existing sources of revenue to secure. It follows, therefore, that if progression is to continue to be the order of the day—if roads are to be made, bridges built and schools established—if railway construction is to be stimulated and mining development encouraged—then it follows that larger means to attain those desirable ends will have to be placed within the reach of the house. Whether those means should be provided through a loan or through an increase of taxation, we do not now pretend to say; but it is not the less certain that if the country is to continue to go ahead, the time has arrived when an enhanced revenue has become necessary.

The revenue and agricultural department of the Indian government have issued the following general memorandum, dated Calcutta, January 17, 1887, on the prospects of the Indian wheat crop of the season 1886-87: "The government of India propose to issue only three memoranda in future dealing with the wheat crop from time of sowing to time of reaping. The first memorandum, which is now issued, gives only a rough account of the state of the sowings; the second, which will be published about March 15, will afford as accurate information as may then be procurable regarding the area, condition and the outcome of the crop; and the third and final memorandum, to be issued in the latter half of May, will contain revised and fuller information on these points." The detailed reports of the areas planted in the various regions, which follow, do not point to any material change from 1886. The total is eleven times the wheat acreage, and is likely to give about three times the wheat product of the United Kingdom.

The electric device for sending a telegram from a train that might be moving at a speed of forty miles an hour when first perfected was looked upon as a wonderful curiosity of inventions. Few, however, expected that it would ever become of practical value in preventing accidents or facilitating the dispatch of business. Yet it has already proved itself a real blessing in both respects. Recently, on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, two trains by some mismanagement were rushing in opposite directions upon the same track. But as the conductors were able to hold telegraphic communication, an accident was avoided which might have occasioned a terrible loss of life. It is thought the principle of this invention can be applied to all railroads, and in a manner that will make collisions and plunging off of broken-down bridges next to impossible. When we consider the great number of deaths and the vast property destruction annually resulting from these causes, we are in a mood to gladly accept any means that will provide safely against such catastrophes.

The trade dollar is proving a very troublesome coin to our American neighbors. The original purpose of this piece of money was entirely for exchange with foreign countries, especially China. A great many thousands of them went into that country, and through various channels have lately found their way back to the United States. As the trade dollar contains 420 grains of silver, troy weight, it is eight grains heavier than the standard silver dollar, commonly known as the "daddies dollar." It having been supposed that this coin would not be redeemed at its face value, it has not been received in business except at a discount of from ten to twenty per cent.; but a number of speculators formed an association to purchase all the trade dollars they could get hold of. Their agents have been busy for some time in all the large cities, and it is now believed that they have bought up almost the entire outstanding amount. It appears that these dealers knew what they were about. A clause in the coinage act of 1873, which has been generally overlooked, made the trade dollar a legal tender for any amount not exceeding five dollars in one payment. But as this would be equivalent to the purchase of so much silver bullion to be melted down and made into standard dollars, a senate bill is now before congress which proposes this redemption by limiting the period to six months. This time will be amply sufficient for the speculators to unload and realize handsome profits.

THE EMPIRE IS PEACE.

The Emperor William assured the German Reichstag that the empire is peace. The Reichstag has voted for the proposed increase of the army. Armed at all points, with an army as large as if a state of war actually existed, it is expected that peace will be preserved. Meantime bills will be presented to the Reichstag creating new sources of revenue, which is, of course, another term for new and heavier taxes. The only thing that is certain about European politics is that this sort of thing cannot long continue. There is not a country in Europe, except Great Britain, that is living on its revenues. Not only are new sources of revenue being created, but new loans are effected to meet deficiencies. The interest on public debts is not only consuming a large portion of the current revenues, but it is a charge that is steadily increasing. European statesmen blunder along, imagining themselves great because their diplomacy puts off the day of reckoning. Meanwhile the burdens are the creation of the last century, and their magnitude is such that taxes are imposed beyond the ability of the people to pay. An end to this reckless policy must soon become visible.

PEACE EXPENDITURE IN FRANCE.

We have heard a great deal lately about the enormous war expenditure of France; here is something about the equally prodigious peace expenditure, which a correspondent lately returned from France sends the *Pall Mall Gazette:* If one fact more than another was needed to bespeak the pacific intentions of France and the French people, it is the lavish expenditure of the government on works of peace and public utility. Now, is it at all likely that a state bent on what must be the costliest war the modern world has seen, would spend millions of francs upon such works as the erection of training-schools for female teachers, communal schools, new railway stations, the intersection of rural districts remote from the frontier by railways—Brittany, for instance—the embellishment and enlargement of towns and cities, and so on? I happened last autumn to revisit certain parts of west-central and southwestern France after an interval of ten years. The changes I found are marvelous. Take the city of Angers (Marne and Loire), for instance. The place was no longer recognizable, what, with its new handsome square, its airy suburb, "Le Quartier Victor Hugo," its educational buildings, and other improvements too numerous to mention. The little town of Saumur, Eugenie Grandet's home, has undergone a transformation no less startling. The entire region of La Vendee, thanks to the unsparing expenditure of the most pacific and liberal government France has ever enjoyed, is metamorphosed in the same way. Ten years ago I traversed it by diligence, and very behindhand I found it in many respects. Now, railways have been opened in all directions, schools have been built for both sexes in the most remote districts—in fact, no outlay spared for the promotion of industry and the benefit of the people generally. Fontenay-le-Comte, in the very heart of La Vendee, is another striking instance in point. Formerly this little town, with its picturesque but narrow streets, was quite lost to the world. It is now a handsome, airy, spacious town, with new, commodious railway station, schools and other public buildings. The great importance attached to the education of women is shown by the erection of those handsome "Ecoles Normales pour juanes filles," the training schools for female teachers we find in every large town or city, all of recent date. In fact, wherever you go in France—and my annual visits among French friends take me east, west, north, south—you come upon evidence of a pacific government and a pacific people. My only wonder is that the most credulous readers can for a moment believe the hocus-pocuses of the *Daily News*. What France desires is peace. M. Henri Martin's fourteenth volume of his French history was not written in vain. Even the peasant knows the cruel irony conveyed in that word "Gloire," which the Duc d'Aumale made use of the other day.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

A writer in the London *Economist* finds that since 1872 the consumption of wheat per capita in Great Britain has decreased about 9.8 per cent. In the three years from 1872 to 1874 the consumption averaged 375 pounds for each inhabitant at a cost of about $9.20. In the three years from 1884 to 1886 the consumption averaged only 337 pounds, costing about $5.60. It is evident that the decrease in consumption would have been still greater but for the drop in price, which made the cost to the consumer 39 per cent less. This is the result of hard times. A like change, in a greater or less degree, has been going on in continental Europe. The reduction in the English consumption amounts to about 20,000,000 bushels annually, and in that of the continent to about 70,000,000. The San Francisco *Bulletin* says that official reports of production in 1886 are at hand for Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Italy, India, Australia and Canada. The aggregate is about 81,000,000 bushels less than in 1885. The United States, however, produced 100,000,000 bushels more than in 1885, so that disregarding possible changes in the yield of minor countries the aggregate for 1886 was about 19,000,000 greater than in 1885. The interesting question to that country is what, if a ny, increase of foreign demand for wheat may be expected. Low prices favor large exports and the returns show that the exports from the United States for the last six months of 1886 and January 1887, including flour reduced to terms of wheat, foot up about 91,000,000 bushels of wheat, against about 46,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1885-86. Considering that the supply outside of the United States is 81,000,000 less than in 1885, it seems reasonable to infer that if prices are not materially raised a further increase of 36,000,000 bushels may occur during the remainder of the crop year, and that the total exports for the crop year may reach about 175,000,000 bushels. It is known that the surplus for export in that country is about 198,000,000 bushels, which would, on the above calculation, leave about 23,000,000 bushels in excess of home demands. War in Europe may suddenly change all conclusions.

Norwegian Finland occupies the north-western extremity of Europe, and although the country is dreary and only thinly inhabited, there is a possibility of its being the scene of a conflict between two important countries. It is said that Russian agents are now stirring up strife among these northern Mongolians, in order to find a pretext for seizing their territory. The land would not be much of an addition to the Muscovian territory. But it would cost an expenditure of blood and treasure sufficient to purchase several big states of Central Asia. When once aroused the Norwegians are desperate fighters, and upon their own ground they would be more than a match for any army which the czar at this time could spare to send against them. But Russia's ambition to extend her borders will not hesitate to dare any chances, and in this quarter may lead her into a conflict in which all victories will be worse than defeat.

War singals are flying all over Europe. And while an unfortunate word dropped from the lips of some potentate may at any moment open the flood gates of slaughter, or a fortunate silence at a critical time may occasion a still further delay of the beginning, we have space to think of some of the peculiar terrors that will form prominent parts of this contest. Since the last general war immense advances have been made in all departments of military science. The land and water methods for destroying human life have now reached a degree of deadly effectiveness unexampled in all the records of the past. So rapidly has this development gone on during the last few years that a which question hundreds of thousands of civilized soldiers take part will now be as little like the battles of fifteen or twenty years ago as were these struggles like the wars of the past centuries. The matter of killing has been reduced to a fine art, and by the applications of purely scientific principles, the removal of enemies can be accomplished with a swiftness scarcely foreseen by the wildest dreamer of other days. Magazine rifles and machine batteries have a capacity for sweeping away troops so fast that any battle in the open country must be of exceedingly short duration. If not speedily decided by a general bayonet charge, one side must speedily retreat, or nearly the entire force of both armies would be destroyed. But it is possible that the very frightful nature of these weapons may prove an agent for saving life. The most desperate warriors will scarcely dare to face many of these awful encounters, and, after a few of them, all nations engaged will gladly seek a peaceful settlement.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Mr. Orr's bitter cry against the provincial secretary was most deservedly treated by the house. It was literally kicked beyond the sacred precincts by a tremendous majority; but a whole afternoon was lost in the discussion. What a pity that the pay of a member who introduces factious resolutions could not be impounded or discounted at so much per hour of the wasted time he is responsible for.

The provincial secretary's defence was a masterly effort, and completely demolished his assailants, and the attorney-general set the opposition right as to their facts.

Mr. Bole rose to the occasion, as the angler said to the fly, but had not proceeded very far before he perpetrated a most egregious bull. He had made a wild assertion when he was interrupted by the provincial secretary and set right. Whereupon Mr. Bole retorted, "If the provincial secretary undertakes to interrupt me every time I make an inaccurate statement all I've got to say is that he'll have his hands full." There was a wild burst of laughter from the house and galleries, which so disconcerted the Royal civilian that the remainder of his remarks were very tame indeed. The opposition lost ground by their abuse yesterday.

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor:—Members of the charitable association connected with the volunteer fire department have been engaged for the past year in a lawsuit respecting the division of their funds. The parties engaged in the lawsuit are, no doubt, sincere in their convictions. In order to settle the suit a proposition was made in a letter signed "Fireman," which should be satisfactory to all concerned and would be appreciated by suffering humanity. It is the intention of the government to place a sum on the estimates to assist in the construction of a jubilee hospital. A committee has been selected to procure contributions towards that most worthy object. Surely the volunteer firemen will assist and, by donating this fund to a fireman's ward in this charitable institution, raise a lasting monument to our noble Queen. The volunteer fire department consisted principally of Englishmen. They will undoubtedly consider this proposition a solution of the question.

Charity.

A MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE.

Washington, March 8.—A package has been delivered at the dead letter office which was mailed in Boston and was addressed to "The Prince of Wales, London, England." It was held for postage. When opened it was found to contain a brass figure of Christ, evidently detached from a small crucifix, and a small glass tube containing a white liquid and having two wires running through the tube and projecting from both ends. The paper enclosed contained an incoherent sentence. The dead letter office were apprehensive that the glass tube might be an infernal machine, as it was carefully packed in cotton and they were trying to find some one to test the quality of the liquid.

A POWERFUL IRONCLAD.

The Sinope Will Have the Biggest Engines in the World.

London, March 1.—Messrs. Napier of Glasgow have just shipped for Sebastopol the largest set of triple expansion engines that have ever been constructed for a man-of-war. They are of 12,000-horse power, and are intended for the new Russian iron-clad Sinope.

TELEGRAPHIC TICKINGS.

Tom White Claims a Majority of Eight in Quebec.

Dawson Ahead so far by Fifty Votes—Serious Ice-Jam on the St. Lawrence—Hanlan Signs Articles for a Race with Beach.

Winnipeg, March 8.—The Hon. Thos. White, minister of the interior, addressed a public meeting under the auspices of the Junior Conservative association here last night when he was presented with an address. He referred at length to the questions at issue at the late election and the contemptible policy of the opposition. He claimed a majority of eight on questions of public policy for the government in Quebec. He dealt at length with the disallowance question, defending past exercise of that right, but without saying what the government might do, left the impression that the policy might now be suspended without injury to the government or the Canadian Pacific railway.

Several French Canadians, including Ambrose Lepine, left yesterday to assist the government candidates at Batoche and Battleford. McGuire, Donowell, Scarth, and others, left to work among the English-speaking constituencies.

Phillips, charged with impersonation, in the recent election here, has been committed for trial. Maloney, accused of bribery in connection with Joah Calloway, had the charge against him withdrawn, Barber's case was heard at length yesterday and the alleged contract produced. The case was postponed till Friday.

The spring assizes open here to-day. In the docket are many civil cases, but only one serious criminal one—that of murder.

A deputation from the Winnipeg board of trade waited upon the Hon. Thomas White this morning to secure his influence in the location of the Manitoba experimental farm near Winnipeg.

Major Stewart, who is now in the city, says the Banff coal mines are sure to turn out five hundred tons of coal per day shortly, and will supply San Francisco and the Pacific coast with an article equal if not superior to the best Pennsylvania anthracite, and at much less figures than consumers are now paying.

Montreal, March 7.—Chapleau, sheriff at Regina, L. A. Senecal, and others, have applied for a charter as the French-Canadian Ranching company, with a capital of $100,000 and headquarters at Montreal.

The results of the Algoma contest is in doubt. Both parties claim it. Dawson has a majority of about fifty at the present time, with several places to hear from.

A serious ice-jam exists in the St. Lawrence, and considerable loss to property is expected. A general blockade of the railroads in Quebec and New Brunswick exists.

Kingston, March 7.—Wilkinson, charged by the Reform association of Kingston with bribery, was released yesterday. Shannon, proprietor of the Kingston *News*, has been committed for trial for libelling Mr. Shipley, the defeated liberal candidate in Addington.

Toronto, March 8.—Edward Hanlan yesterday signed the articles for a race with Beach on the Nepean river, Melbourne, on November 26th.

THE GREAT PREACHER.

No Gloom in the Presence of the Angel of Death—Brooklyn in Mourning—The President's Condolences—Mrs. Beecher's Touching Letter.

New York, March 8.—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher died in the presence of most of the members of his family. Those present were Col. H. B. Beecher, his wife, his daughters Hattie and Daisy, and his son, Henry Ward Beecher, Miss Edith Beecher, W. C. Beecher and wife, Rev. Samuel Scoville and Mrs. S. Scoville, eldest daughter of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Miss Scoville, who has just come from the Pacific coast, Miss Bullard, Rev. T. B. Halliday and wife, Bella, the Scotch nurse, who has been with the family for many years and was the special favorite of the deceased preacher, the male nurse, S. V. White, revenue his opponents. He would fulfil his promises during his canvass, and was thankful for the honor done him in his election.

So many conflicting reports are in circulation with respect to the condition of the C. P. R. track and the prospects of the arrival of eastern mails that one can ascertain nothing reliable. In the Selkirks the road is in a very bad condition, and it is the opinion of many persons that there will be no through train for a week or more. Not only has the track been buried by snow slides in the Selkirks, but land slides are reported, and some of the bridges are said to have been carried away. No trains have arrived or departed from this city since Monday.

On Saturday Geo. Calbick was returning to this city from Mataqui, where he had been acting as deputy returning officer at the late election. Some distance above Langley he saw a deer spring on to road followed immediately by two large cougars. These savage brutes at once sprang upon their exhausted victim, dragged it to the ground, and tore it frightfully. Mr. Calbick fired two shots from a revolver and the two cougars disappeared in the forest, leaving the mangled body of the dead deer lying on the road.

C. M. Beecher, of the Royal City Planing Mills Co., is a nephew of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher who died yesteoday.

Twenty-two Chinamen went over to Vancouver to day from this city. They're likely getting there!

It is expected that in less than three weeks the passenger train will be running into Vancouver. We hope to see a "special" train leave in less than three days.

A telegram was received yesterday to the effect that thirty Chinamen would arrive on this morning's boat.

(Guardian.)

In the New Westminster electoral district 771 votes were polled.

Solid for Sir John	533
For Sir John and Temperance	180
The Robson crowd for Robson	7
Particular Friends of Trapp	11
Grits and Cranks	39
Senator McInnes	1 238
Majority for Chisholm	295

(News.)

The British bark Columbus, Alonzo Mickerson, master, from Antefagota, South America, arrived in port on Tuesday night. After discharging ballast she will load lumber at the Hastings mill.

Twenty-five Chinamen arrived here yesterday from New Westminster and were escorted to the Brighouse estate by the police. A large number are expected to arrive to-day.

RETALIATION.

Canadians Who Are Not Afraid of the New Law.

Montreal, March 4.—There was considerable discussion on the streets to-day over the passage of the Edmunds Retaliation bill by both houses of congress and the signing of it by the president. The heads of the various railways all state that they did not anticipate any interference with the international train service as the result of the retaliation measures. Traffic Manager Olds of the Canadian Pacific railroad said: "I regard the whole question as one of marine interest, confined to a limited area and only connected with the fishing question. My opinion is that if arrangements are made for regular ocean service to other markets for cured fish, the Canadian fishing industries would only suffer temporarily. I cannot imagine that the bill has been passed except for political purposes. Business inquiries from the United States are coming in just the same as before and I do not anticipate that any difficulty will arise respecting shipments of ordinary freight. There is a possibility that certain annoyances may grow out of customs transactions but I do not think this would last long."

OUR TIMBER LANDS.

A Select Committee of the House Make Important Recommendations.

A select committee, appointed to enquire into and report on the timber industry of the province, have reported as follows:—

Your committee, appointed by the house for the purpose of obtaining information with respect to the timber lands of the province, respectfully recommend as follows:—

(1). The price of all timber land shall be $15.00 per acre, payable within 170 days from date of application, and due precautions should be taken to frame forms of affidavits and applications, setting out that in all cases of application to purchase land at $2.50 per acre, such land is not timber land within the meaning of the act, the act itself containing a definition of what shall be deemed timber land, such affidavit and application, if untrue, to cause forfeiture of land and any money paid in respect thereof.

(2.) All timber cut for milling purposes on any pre-emption taken up after the passing of the act shall pay 20c. per thousand feet and 15c. per stump, stumpage, and no timber for sale shall be removed off such pre-emption claim, without permission from some proper officer. On presenting a permit at the saw-mills, mill company to retain charges on behalf of the government.

(3.) The rent in all cases for timber purposes to be 25c. per acre.

(4.) Restrictions to be introduced where a saw mill is not erected in connection with a leased timber claim within one year to forfeit such claim.

(5.) Wild land tax to be raised to 25c. per acre on land suitable for agricultural purposes, and if same be not paid within ten months from date when same becomes due and payable, let such land, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be sold by public auction, conveyance to purchaser to be indefeasible after the expiration of one year from date of such sale by public auction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. Norman Bole, Chairman.

NANAIMO.

(Free Press.)

It is reported that a man named William H. Becker skedaddled from this city a few days ago, leaving behind him a number of unpaid debts. It is also reported that he victimized a fraternal society in this city.

The "Third" Candidate called at this office on Monday last to lay a complaint as to the insecure condition of the foot-path known as Peck's sidewalk, claiming that the sidewalk flew up in his face, and might have resulted in serious injury. He examined the bridge and declares that the supports are very much decayed and will yet result in an accident. Our city fathers should see to this matter at once, for it would be a national calamity if the "third" should meet with an accident at the outset of his career as a phrenological lecturer.

To show the versatility of the genius of the "third," on Saturday evening he essayed the position of prologue speaker at Barnes and Frazer's acrobatic entertainment. Before the rise of the curtain the "third" ascended the stage and with the wild frenzied look of a high class tragedian, started on his prologue. The deafening applause prevented our reporter from hearing all that was said, but the expression, "the Chinese must go," predominated. Verily the "Chinese must go," even if it is into the "third" ditch. The "third" takes a philosophical view of the failure to get his nomination papers in on time, and now says that even smarter men than the "third" have had to succumb when the elements conspire against them, but he claims that his printed address and the "Chinese placard," will be matters of living history when the name of Sir John A. Macdonald will be forgotten in the evolution of time.

MAINLAND NEWS.

(Columbian.)

Sheriff Armstrong, as returning officer, declared the result of the poll as follows: "Donald Chisholm, 533; T. J. Trapp, 238; majority for Chisholm, 295." Mr. Chisholm then stepped forward and made a short speech. He felt no enmity towards his opponents. He would fulfil his promises during his canvass, and was thankful for the honor done him in his election.

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RETALIATION.

Canadians Who Are Not Afraid of the New Law.

Montreal, March 4.—There was considerable discussion on the streets to-day over the passage of the Edmunds Retaliation bill by both houses of congress and the signing of it by the president. The heads of the various railways all state that they did not anticipate any interference with the international train service as the result of the retaliation measures. Traffic Manager Olds of the Canadian Pacific railroad said: "I regard the whole question as one of marine interest, confined to a limited area and only connected with the fishing question. My opinion is that if arrangements are made for regular ocean service to other markets for cured fish, the Canadian fishing industries would only suffer temporarily. I cannot imagine that the bill has been passed except for political purposes. Business inquiries from the United States are coming in just the same as before and I do not anticipate that any difficulty will arise respecting shipments of ordinary freight. There is a possibility that certain annoyances may grow out of customs transactions but I do not think this would last long."

AWFUL CALAMITY.

Nicol the Tailor's New York Establishment Destroyed.

And a Blockade Occurs on the Third Avenue Elevated Road—Three Men Killed and Seven Injured.

New York, March 8.—The large tailor establishment of Nicol, the tailor, on Broadway, was destroyed by fire this morning. The fire caused a blockade on the Third avenue elevated road which extended far above Fourteenth street. The conductor of the train which was blocked a few hundred feet from the Fourteenth street station notified his passengers that they could leave the train and walk over a narrow plank along the side of the track and thus make their way to the station. A number availed themselves of the dangerous privilege and an awful accident was the result. In some manner a panic was started on the narrow walk far above the street and a number of passengers were flung to the pavement below. It is stated that seven were killed and many were injured.

The official report of the accident shows that three persons were killed and two others badly injured. It appears that a number of passengers left the train at Seventeenth street and started to walk along the narrow foot-plank on the side of the track to the station at Fourteenth street. While doing so the blockade was released and the trains began to start and hook the pathway to such an extent that a number of the passengers were thrown down to the street below, with the result stated.

The narrow platform from which the people fell was about two and one-half feet in width. It is used by trackmen when on duty, and above Fourteenth street is not provided with hand rails. When the passengers left the blocked cars and took to the platform the gatemen of the train offered no objection as they ought to have done. A long line of men was picking its way slowly when suddenly the train ahead started up and began to move. The next one followed suit and a successive series of jerks went along the line up to the last train. Each shook the track with a convulsive movement that frightened those in front and made them hurry along rapidly to reach the station. Those behind saw they were moved and got nervous in turn. Some were looking anxiously round for support and about a dozen walking single, just below 15th street, in sight of the platform, hurried forward to catch the gate of the nearest car when the train of which it was a part suddenly started ahead and nearly took the foremost one off his feet. Shrinking back from in front of the moving wheels he crowded against the men behind him on the very edge of the narrow plank walk. From below, where the crowd was watching the progress of the promenaders in mid air, a shout of warning arose, but too late. The man seized wildly at his neighbor in terror of his life. The latter drew back but the crowd behind was pressing on. Those further behind saw a momentary halt of the crowd in front, and then half a dozen were seen falling over the edge into the street below from which arose a frightened shriek of despair. After the men struck the pavement and lay bleeding and mangled, there followed a wild rush in the street and a wilder and more desperate one above in the air. The venturesome pedestrians caught at the gates of the train as it passed and clung with the grip of despair. It pulled up and stopped almost immediately. The frightened and breathless men were pulled in and room was made for others. In two minutes the plank walk clear. Down below in the street a scene of horror was in progress. The men had fallen in the middle of the street in a heap. They lay, some motionless, some moaning faintly, and one shrieking wildly in pain and terror. The crowd of thousands who had watched the blockade from below surged around and closed in upon the scene.

Ten had fallen from the track, all told; that is, ten were found dead or injured. If any escaped unhurt they were not counted. The three at the bottom of the heap were dead. They had fallen head first and smashed in their skulls. A wagon was called and they were taken to the morgue. Several of them were more or less terribly injured and some of them will die.

A NEW BRUNSWICK SENSATION.

Two of the Most Extensive Lumber Firms Fail.

St. John, N. B., March 8.—The suspension of the Maritime Bank of New Brunswick has been followed by the startling announcement of the failures of R. A. and J. Stewart, and of Guy Bevan and Co., of this city, two of the largest lumber firms in the province. News of these failures has caused a great sensation and a perfect panic prevails in business circles.

AQUATIC.

Hanlan Will Row Beach in August, on the Nepean River, Australia.

Edward Hanlan telegraphs as follows to the *United Press* in response to an inquiry as to his plans for the immediate future: All arrangements between myself and Gaudaur are made to row on May 30, for the championship of America. The stakes of $5000 are made, but the place has not been decided upon. Articles will be forwarded to Beach by the London *Sportsman* to-morrow to row on the Nepean river in Australia, in August, for £5000 aside and the championship of the world. I expect a hard row with Gaudaur, but I am in the best possible health.

POLICE COURT.

[Before Edwin Johnson, S.M.]

Samuel Gray, charged with an infraction of Bylaw No. 9, that of driving over a bridge faster than a walk. Ordered to pay $2 costs.

Ah Kee, charged with making an indecent exhibition of himself on the streets. Officer Hawton swore to the information being true. Remanded for three days, prisoner to be admitted to bail in the sum of $250.

Ah Fook, charged with being in unlawful possession of one chicken valued at fifty cents. Remanded until Monday and bail to be extended.

Henry Filmore, charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

Prisoner, who was out on bail, said he had always been used to carrying a pistol down in Illinois.

His honor—Do you not know that it is unlawful to carry a weapon of that kind?

Defendant—I always carry one when I am travelling. I intended to put it away when I got to my house.

His honor then examined the weapon and said it was a dangerous looking instrument. He then asked the prisoner if he had any friends who would go his bail.

Defendant—I think my appearance here this morning is sufficient; can't see that I have violated the law.

Bound over to keep the peace for six months in the sum of $250; in default of payment thirty days' imprisonment.

CRAWFORD-DILKE SCANDAL.

The Missing Fanny Found in Kent—Some Curious Communications.

London, March 4.—"Fanny" has been found. Since the Crawford-Dilke trial she has been living with her husband, under an assumed name, in a village in Kent. Her whereabouts was disclosed by an anonymous letter alleging that some curious communications had passed between her and Sir Charles Dilke. The address given proved to be correct. The Queen's proctor was informed of the discovery and asked to make a statement of this testimony for future use, if needed, but he declined. Sir Charles Dilke and his solicitors were then given an opportunity to be present when this evidence was taken down by the other side, but they also declined, and there the matter rests for the present.

"BIG SLIDE STAIRS."

The Foster Mining Co. Miners Grow Musical Over Their Work.

The following parody on "Climbing up the Golden Stairs" was composed by a miner at the Foster mine at the "Big Slide," Fraser river, and sung by the "Big Slide minstrels" at the Clinton concert held on the 16th of last month. The "Big Slide Stairs" consist of steps passing down an almost perpendicular bluff to where the creek dashes down to meet the Fraser below. It is as wild a gorge as could be imagined, and the steps reach a distance of 1,100 feet in order to facilitate the passage from the heights above to the depths beneath. It requires a cool head in order to successfully accomplish the journey, and considerable effort to the novice to make the long climb without becoming played out;

"BIG SLIDE STAIRS."

Oh, how well I do remember
The days of last September,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
When first we took our ride
A way down on the slide,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
In the mornings dark and cold,
See the boys so brave and bold,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
Like birds upon the trees,
We thought we all would freeze,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

CHORUS—

Don't you see den rocks a rolling?
It's rough I do declare.
Don't you hear den boys a growling?
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

Oh, how the snow would drift,
On the poor boys on night shift,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
And starved almost to death,
And almost out of breath,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
You bet we'n not asleep,
For we go like mountain sheep,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
And when we commence a rolling,
You ought to hear the boys a growling,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

CHORUS—

Don't you hear them rocks a rolling?
It's rough I do declare.
Oh, I never will abide
Away down on the Big Slide,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

Oh, it makes a young man old,
And, oh my, it is so cold,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
There is Henderson and May,
They ain't got much to say,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
And their gail is very slow,
And, oh my, how they blow,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

Chorus—Don't you see, etc.

There is Joe Smith and Jimmy Chenall,
I don't think would go as all,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
And there's Harvey and Mr. Foster,
I guess can't go much faster,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
For when the rocks begin to drop,
I think Foster would wish to stop,
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.
And wish he'd stayed at home,
And never more would roam
Climbing up the Big Slide Stairs.

Chorus—Don't you see, etc.

THE VICTORIA BAD BOY AND HIS CHUM

Play a Game on a Dog and "Get Badly Left."

Yesterday two youngsters were coming down Johnson street when one of them espied a sad-looking cur, which also had the appearance of having been out all night. One ear had been chewed off, and he was limping in a most alarming manner. "Say, Bill," said one of the boys, "see that dog?"

"Yes," acquiesced Bill, "ain't he a daisy?"

"You bet your life. Let's have some fun." With that the boy whose front name is Johnny, jumped into the gutter and immediately afterwards appeared with an old tin kettle.

"Got a piece of string in your pocket, Bill?" he asked of his companion. After fumbling about in his pants for a few seconds, Bill produced the coveted article, when Johnny sneaked behind the dog and grabbed him before he knew what was up.

"Now Bill," he said, "be quick and tie that there string around his tail!

Bill