

The Colonist. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. AN AGREEABLE CHANGE.

Every newspaper reader must have observed how little is said and written about Ireland in these days. Not many years ago Ireland and its affairs were the principal topic of discussion in all the British newspapers.

Laurier on Dismissals.

The ground taken by Mr. Laurier with respect to the dismissals of civil servants, it seems to us, leaves the door wide open for the introduction of the spoils system which to our certain knowledge is favored by a large number of the rank and file of the Grit party.

rights as citizens is cruel and cowardly tyranny. If a man knowing that the law takes from the civil servant his political rights and privileges, enters the civil service, he cannot complain if he, when he becomes a civil servant, is punished for violating the law in his case made and provided.

We fear that Mr. Laurier's dictum will be interpreted by a great many of his supporters to mean that the Conservative civil servants who are suspected of having voted at the late election against Liberal candidates hold their places on sufferance, and that those of them who openly took part against the Liberals in the election, if it was only to wear the Conservative button, will have "to walk the plank" and leave places open for Liberals who had made themselves useful in the late election.

POLITICAL CALCULATIONS.

The political arithmeticians are at work in the United States. Elaborate calculations are made as to the way in which the vote of the different States will be cast. The States, for the purposes of the calculator, are divided into "safe," "close" and "doubtful." Each State and the number of votes to which it is entitled are set down in parallel columns and, singular to say, the result generally turns out to be favorable to the side which the arithmetician favors.

The latest calculation that we have seen is one that originally appeared in the newspaper owned by the late Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Hoke Smith. Mr. Smith, it will be remembered, a few weeks ago resigned his seat in the cabinet because he favored the candidacy of Mr. Bryan, whose views are diametrically opposed on many subjects to those of the President and the majority of the members of his cabinet.

strengthen McKinley and to defeat Bryan. They are bound that the next President of the United States shall be a sound money man. This they regard as of the very first importance. They do not care to vote directly for a Republican and a Protectionist, but they propose to engineer the election in such a way that a Republican and a Protectionist will be elected. This move on the part of the Gold Democrats makes any Popocrat forecast very unreliable.

WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

New Zealand is trying the experiment of Women Suffrage. The women were not slow in availing themselves of their new privilege. The result so far has not been at all remarkable. Things have gone on in New Zealand since the women have been enfranchised in pretty much the same way as they did before the women were allowed to vote.

The remarkable thing about the franchise of women which has been carried out in New Zealand was that the question was never submitted to the people by a referendum. A majority of members was found to be in favor of it, and the bill was passed. The results, Mr. Reeves says, have been extremely satisfactory.

There are some who connect the appearance of women in the political arena with the recent passing of an Infant Life Protection Act, the raising of the age of consent to 15, the appointment of female inspectors to lunatic asylums, factories and other institutions, with improvements in the laws dealing with the Adoption of Children and Industrial Schools, and with a prohibition against the keepers of houses of ill-fame. Last, but by no means least, the influence of women is believed to be evident in the highly important measures dealing with the liquor laws and with a prohibition movement which is a very prominent feature of New Zealand public life.

ZANZIBAR.

The Zanzibar affair was short and sharp, and as far as is yet known, has not been followed by any unpleasant consequences. The islands are under British protection and it was the duty of the British authorities to defend the reigning Sultan if he was attacked, and to punish anyone who should do him or her harm in any way. How the Sultan came to his death is not very well known, but it is certain that Said Kalid proceeded without any delay to take advantage of it for his own aggrandizement. He took possession of the palace although he was not the heir and seemed determined to take the deceased Sultan's place. But he very soon learned that if he expected to be Sultan of Zanzibar he had reckoned without taking the British Admiral into his calculation.

Great Britain assumed the protectorate of Zanzibar in 1890, and the natives have since then prospered under what is really British rule. The English Government have been reproached for permitting slavery to be continued in the country, but it has been thought expedient to interfere as little as possible with the domestic affairs of the country. Besides, slavery in Zanzibar is said to be very different from slavery in other countries. The slaves are treated as members of the families of their owners, and live an easy life, free from care, and are not by any means overworked. The slave trade, however, has been abolished in the country, and Zanzibar is free from its horrors.

The discovery is announced of a remarkably large deposit of free milling gold quartz at Goldstream. The ledge is of great width, and is traceable for a long distance. Tests made have proved it to be capable of returning a satisfactory profit. The several claims taken up have been purchased by a Victoria business man, who intends to at once begin opening up the property. Its location is most favorable for cheap working, one end of the deposit abutting on the right of way of the E. & N. railway, and the other on the Goldstream wagon road. A gentleman who made a thorough examination of the property states that the "Treadwell mine" will not be in it as a big producer when this is thoroughly opened up.

Live Up to Your Privileges.

If we wear of some new fabric made in some foreign country which has protection from cold, providing a healthful warmth in all sorts of weather, we would consider it wonderful and envious of the people who could take advantage of it. But because Fibre Chamois is quite inexpensive and easy to take advantage of, some have not yet tested its merits and found out for themselves that it is a most comfortable layer of it will impart to all outdoor garments. Its weather-proof qualities are genuine, founded on the fact that the protection is from Spruce Fibre, and is therefore a complete non-conductor of heat. Its weight is very light, makes it an ideal addition to every one's fall and winter clothing.

FISH FURS AND FORTUNE.

Mr. McDonald, of Babine, Talks of the Trade of the Upper Skeena. A Practical Opinion as to That Mysterious Drifting Balloon.

When the steamship Danube arrived from the North on Saturday evening last, she brought as a passenger Mr. J. MacDonald, the Hudson Bay trader at Babine, who is on a pleasure trip to Scotland. Babine is a place on the Skeena, fifty miles beyond the forks of the river, and from it some of the best furs in British Columbia are secured. There the spring has been very late in this year, and the fur business-affecting mainly bear, beaver and martin skins-has been fairly good.

Mr. MacDonald was at Hazelton at the time the mysterious balloon was supposed to have passed over that village, and he corrects the general impression that the boy who reported the air ship was an Indian lad. He says he was a white boy, and although he would not doubt for a moment his veracity he thinks he must have mistaken a cloud for a balloon. The Indians' later report, he says, is simply a concoction.

There are large numbers of people flocking into the Omineca country, and on the way down the Skeena on route to the Coast Mr. MacDonald met Captain Black and his party bound up stream in canoes. Captain Black's claim is on Germania creek, and is very rich in gold. The mineral shows on the rock surface and differs in this respect from the Forty-third Mining Company's (of Ottawa) property, which Mr. MacDonald pronounces less valuable. J. Lyons and Jim May have a good thing on Tom creek in the way of placer diggings, which they are asking \$50,000 for, having refused an offer of \$30,000. At Vitul creek, Chinamen are making splendid earnings. Last year they paid a claim for \$150,000, which they paid for in exactly one week.

TAXATION OF BICYCLES.

In New York, Philadelphia, Rochester, and Chicago certain city officials have lately proposed, in apparent good faith, that bicycles should be made the subject of a special tax. The enormous number of bicycles in the country, and the millions of value which they represent, suggest with some force a subject for taxation which is not likely to be overlooked by the scrupulous assessors, and our sound principle that all property should contribute to the support of the state that depends it should, of course, apply to bicycles as to other forms of personal property, and our present tax laws provide so clearly for such taxation that the justice of a second levy which may well be inquired into. The bicycle is noisy, clean, and a non-consumer. It does not bear aid its own approach by a nerve-wearing ding-dong on the hard stone pavement, or does it wear out or soil the streets, or occupy an undue amount of space in the thoroughfare. Just why it should be made the subject of a special tax, from the operation of which other forms of vehicles are exempt, is a question which has not been stated in an answer. Such a tax would certainly be unpopular, and would probably be illegal as well. That it would be unjust goes without saying. The cycling citizens of the United States are already heavily taxed, and under our general laws are exempt from no species of tax to which other citizens are compelled to respond. It would be quite as wise, and fully as equitable, to declare a special assessment on sewing machines and typewriters as upon bicycles, or upon any other useful thing in which citizens generally have acquired an ownership. The bicycle tax as a specialty will, I think, never become a fixture in the tax law of this country. ("The Bicycle Outlook," by Isaac E. Potter in the September Century.)

OPENING UP KOOTENAY.

MONTREAL, Sept. 1.—(Special)—Vice-President Shaughnessy, of the C. P. R., speaking to-day of the need of railways to open up the new gold districts of British Columbia, said: "The company has not been indifferent to this matter, which has engaged our some time past, and we still engaging our attention. We understand the necessity for the roads, but at the same time we cannot be indifferent to the difficulty and expense attendant upon their construction. For some time past the conditions have not been favorable to the investment of large sums of money in fresh constructions. This has been the cause of the question is still engaging the attention of the management. Just whether or not any active steps can be taken in the

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4 Days Longer SALE CLOSES AUGUST 31st. 4 Days Longer. ABOUT 50 OF THOSE BOYS' HALF-PRICE SUITS STILL LEFT. B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS, 97 JOHNSON STREET.

Births. ROGERS-In this city, on the 26th inst., the wife of J. H. Rogers, of a son. MCDONALD-In this city, on the 27th inst., Joseph Charles, infant son of Daniel and Elizabeth McDonald, aged 5 months. DEAN-On the 2nd September, to the wife of W. M. Dean, of Dean & Hiscocks, a son.

Deaths. SHEPARD-At the parents' residence, 28 Farquhar street, on the 27th inst., Edward Douglas, twin son of James and Louisa Shepard, aged 7 months and 27 days. HEISTERMAN-At the family residence, Douglas street, on the 29th inst., Henry Frederick Heisterman, a native of Bremen, Germany; aged 64 years.

Marriages. MARWICK-In this city, at 18 Niagara street, on August 30th, to the wife of Robert Marwick, a son.

Deaths. SMITH-In this city, on 31st August, 1896, Owendoline Mona Lovell Smith, aged 11 months, only child of J. Lovell and Edith E. Smith.

Champion Mineral Claim. Situated in the Alberni Mining District, on Mineral Hill, and north of the Victoria Mineral Claim. Take notice, that we, George Brown, Free Miner's Certificate No. 56,211, and George Alan Kirk, Free Miner's Certificate No. 63,299, intend 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the Gold Commissioner for a Certificate of Improvement for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim, and further take notice, that adverse claims must be sent to the Gold Commissioner and action commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvement. Dated this August 25th, 1896. (Signed) GEORGE BROWN, GEORGE ALAN KIRK.

NOTICE. STOCK CERTIFICATES STOCK LEDGERS, STOCK JOURNALS, MINERS' PAY SHEETS, MINERS' CASH ABSTRACTS, MINING REPORTS, MINING MAPS AND PLANS, SEALS. THE COLONIST, VICTORIA.