

THE DISSOLUTION.

Issue of the Proclamation—Sir Donald A. Smith High Commissioner in London.

Lord Aberdeen, to Visit England—Dalton M. McCarthy Issues His Address.

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Owing to the opposition of the Grits, the bill for subdividing the polling divisions of Victoria could not pass. There is nothing new to record in the political situation. Both Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir Charles Tupper decline to say anything.

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It was thought advisable to make him a Privy Councillor in view of the fact that as High Commissioner he is brought into confidential relations with the government and will now be practically one of themselves. Sir Donald's acceptance of this position disposes of the rumor about Sir Adolphe Caron going to England.

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LATEST FROM LONDON.

West India Colonies and the Empire—German Sugar Duties—Baron Hirsch.

The Marlboroughs—Another Defeat of Leonists—Torpedo Destroyers for Great Britain.

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Sir Charles Tupper May Run for Kingston—Editor Beauregard's Inconsistency.

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WEYLER INTERVIEWED.

Confident of Success Over Cuban Insurgents—His Conditions of Peace.

Opinion in Spain Favorable to Radical Reforms on the Islands.

HAVANA, April 24.—Gen. Weyler is opposing the guerrilla warfare by an almost geometric plan. In an interview with a correspondent Gen. Weyler said: "Maceo will never cross the trocha except as a prisoner. The day he attempts the trocha he will fall or be captured. It is utterly impossible for him to come eastward. I have a strong force on the whole line, and also have a large party of troops between Maceo's position and the northern mountains and the trocha."

"But Maceo is on the east side of the barrier. Suppose the two brothers should attack the line from different sides and at different points on the same day?" "Ah," replied Weyler, "I have a strong force on this side, which keeps Jose Maceo's men divided into small bands, and they cannot unite for such a maneuver."

"Why do you not attempt to force Maceo to a decisive battle now?" "Maceo will not stand and fight," the general answered. "I have several independent columns which keep him moving about in the hills."

"But can you not surround him? He is apparently confined to a small district." "Well!" exclaimed Gen. Weyler, "that would simply mean chasing Maceo through the whole province. I do not propose to have my main force drawn from the trocha. I want the insurgents to attack the line." "When do you look for an attempt to force your line?" "Never," said he. "My opinion is Maceo knows he is in a trap at last, and he will abandon his troops and escape by Cuba by water."

"You say the war will be brought to an end soon. How do you expect it to end?" "As soon as the insurgents see that their cause is lost, the small bands will begin to come in and give up their arms."

"Do you intend to proclaim a general amnesty?" "Yes, but not now. There must be some fighting. The enemy must be severely punished in the field and their power completely broken. Then I will offer amnesty, but not before."

Gen. Weyler has just issued the following proclamation, called out by the condition of affairs in Pinar del Rio. After the usual heading and preamble the proclamation says: "It having reached my knowledge that rebel parties in the province of Pinar del Rio are in distress, through the constant pursuit by the troops and the impossibility of breaking through the lines between the trocha and Majana and through the insurmountable difficulties and the fear of death sentence, the certainty of which has been falsely disseminated among them, I proclaim and command: "The rebel leaders who surrender within twenty days from this date, with their firearms, will be at once pardoned."

"Second.—Those who are not leaders, but who surrender under the same conditions, with their firearms, will also be pardoned."

"Third.—Those surrendering without their arms will be likewise pardoned, but their military authorities will designate their place of residence."

"Fourth.—The surrender must be made to the military authorities of the columns operating in the field. Valeriano Weyler."

POLITICS IN BRITAIN.

"Weary Is the Head"—Britain's Peck of Foreign Troubles—Kruger's Attitude.

Fighting Around Bulawayo—Derives Unusually Inactive—European Complications.

LONDON, April 25.—With the South African, Egyptian, Venezuelan and far Eastern complications on his mind, say nothing of European entanglements, the Marquis of Salisbury can hardly be said to be free from care to regularly enjoy his sleep undisturbed by nightmares. The Saturday Review, to which periodical the Marquis of Salisbury at one time contributed, referring to the questions, says: "It is incumbent upon us to reach an understanding on the general question of arbitration before the American commission reports, and we can only hope that the Marquis of Salisbury will not allow the accepted sides to slip away unused."

The Speaker remarks: "It is incredible that the ministers are willing to risk further difficulties with America when the difficulties elsewhere show no signs of diminishing."

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPLICATIONS. President Kruger's declination of the invitation of the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, to visit England, on the ground that his presence in the Transvaal is required by the "Reformers" has cast a damper over the South African negotiations, although it is said this morning that the Anglo-Transvaal relations will be greatly benefited by the decision of the Johannesburg "Reformers" to plead guilty. It is declared here that this determination was arrived at by advice from high quarters and in order not to give the Transvaal any further annoyance. The announcement means that the counts against the prisoners have been abandoned in interpreted as indicating that the authorities have accepted the prisoners' plea as an apology, rather than a great deal of irritation, and it is felt that the Boer statesman is simply "following" Mr. Chamberlain by his dallying around. The latter is severely blamed for the passage in his recent speech which described the Transvaal government as being

DEFECTIVE AND CORRUPT. This is classed as being unnecessarily offensive to the Transvaal at this juncture, and the explanation of the Secretary of State of the Colonies that it was a matter of common repute, is regarded as rather tame. The English newspapers continue to publish stories of the German-Transvaal entente, the arming of the burghers and the erection of forts, making calculations of the numbers in the South Africa who could take the field, and the estimate of how many British troops would be required in case of war.

In brief, it is the general opinion that a serious conflict between the British and the Boers must come, but the Transvaal will delay the movement until fully armed, and Great Britain will delay until the memory of Dr. Jameson's raid is effaced from the minds of the Afrikaners and the younger men of the Transvaal are ready to turn against the so-called antiquated clique at the head of affairs. The news of

THE SORTIE FROM BULWAYO and the heroism of several officers and troopers in risking their lives to save their comrades has aroused much enthusiasm here and this feeling will be increased when it becomes generally known that half of the number of wounded received were British soldiers assisting the wounded companions in. One officer was killed after giving his horse to a severely wounded friend.

The news from Egypt shows that the dervishes along the Nile are unusually active. It was thought that they would have already attacked the lines of communication, but apparently they are waiting for the Khalifa's orders, as are planning a combined attack upon the Anglo-Egyptian forces. There is no let up in the work of forwarding

AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES to the front, and the most untiring activity is witnessed on all sides. A special fleet of light draught steamers will soon be placed upon the upper Nile. The Saturday Review says that Lord Salisbury, the Liberal leader, regards his life as most uncertain, and has chosen as heir to all his parliamentary dignities and authority Sir Edward Grey, who was under-secretary of state for the foreign office in the Rosebery administration, but his desire in this respect has added to the general confusion already existing in the Liberal party.

Another coup d'etat is believed to be preparing in Bulgaria, and by general consent the intention of taking the initiative is ascribed to Russia. Hence the undoubted anxiety in England to get the Venezuelan question settled before the continental complications begin. The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Curzon, is to make a further statement in the House of Commons on Monday regarding the progress of negotiations with the U. S. on the subject of Venezuela. In the meantime the "Times" editorial accurately reflects the government view. Since a plan for a general arbitration has been proposed in England it is considered in Washington that the proposals for arbitrating the Venezuelan frontier dispute were

VENEZUELAN QUESTION.

The "Times" Washington Correspondent on the Outlook—Removal of Deadlock.

U. S. Commission of Inquiry One of Mere Local Concern, Not Affecting British Policy.

LONDON, April 25.—The New York correspondent of the Times criticises the statement in parliament by the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, Mr. Curzon, that negotiations with the United States with regard to Venezuela are still proceeding.

"No doubt it is in accord with diplomatic usage," says the Times correspondent, "to speak of negotiations as proceeding when they have not actually been broken off by one party or the other. To say that negotiations about Venezuela are still proceeding is therefore to use a phrase which may be described as diplomatic, wickian. It is not now some weeks since there have been any negotiations on the subject."

"This government was reluctant to accept Lord Salisbury's rejection of its last proposal as final. It entered gladly upon the discussion of his proposal for general arbitration, impracticable though the scheme he suggested was deemed. But having received and undertaken to consider the scheme on its merits, it then put the question whether nothing more was to be said about Venezuela and its own proposal, or whether no counter proposal or suggestion was to be expected. The answer was "No," but Lord Salisbury hoped that progress might be made with the general arbitration scheme."

"It was pointed out in reply that from this general arbitration scheme no effect in promoting any further progress or discussion or proposal or suggestion or offer of negotiation of any kind whatever relating to Venezuela. There has been none since that date—rather more than a month ago. The subject has not been mentioned. Now in these circumstances Mr. Curzon prefers to say that negotiations are still proceeding between Great Britain and the United States. I do not dispute that he is justified by diplomatic precedent in using these words. But it is a clear unfamiliar with diplomacy a clearer meaning is conveyed and a more accurate account of the situation given by saying that negotiations are at a standstill."

"Of the statements made in the United States, also claiming that negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily, the Times correspondent says: "Some of these statements are credited to state departments. None of them, in fact, proceed from the state department. The views I stated on Tuesday are the views of the executive branch of this government, which include the views of the War Department. I might have used such moderation of language without exaggerating the apprehension which exists, both in England and in the United States, with reference to the interruption of negotiations about Venezuela and to the possible nature of the report by the American commission."

The Times says in an editorial: "We are confident that the foregoing explanation will result in the removal of the deadlock. The American reply to Lord Salisbury's project for a general court of arbitration only reached the foreign office yesterday. Its contents are undisclosed, but everybody is aware that it is a counter proposal. With regard to direct negotiations, Sir Julian Pauncefote (the British ambassador at Washington) has full powers to discuss with the American Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, and the American Secretary of State, Mr. Bryan, whenever the minister in Washington (the British minister in Washington) whenever the like powers are granted to the latter. When so much has been done on our part it is not easy to see why Mr. Curzon's hopeful account of the present state of things between the two countries should not be accepted. The American commission is really a matter of purely domestic concern, and cannot be sacrificed to influence our policy."

The advocates of bimetallicism of various nations in conference here have passed a resolution favoring the discussion, in the French and German parliaments, of similar resolutions to those which have been introduced in the Belgian and English parliaments. The conference closed by adopting the proposal of M. Bernaert, the Belgian secretary of state, that the congress should declare permanent until the question of bimetallicism should be solved."

SOCIALIST ACTIVITY. PARIS, April 24.—The activity of the Socialists is a noticeable feature of the situation, and makes it evident that their regard for M. Bourgeois' cabinet as more simply representing them than any other they can hope for. Their deep wrath against the senate is correspondingly deep. An immense meeting of Socialists was held to-night at the Tivoli, Vanhall, to protest against the action of the senate. Thousands of persons had to be turned away, as they were unable to enter. Many deputies were among those present.

M. Pelleas made an address to the huge assembly in which he declared that the time had arrived for action and that the people must no longer pass in faith in the hands of the bourgeoisie. When a resolution was put censuring the senate and advocating a revision of the constitution there were cries from all parts of the hall: "Down with the senate!" The meeting finally broke up in disorder and with shouts against the senate. The republican guard of police barred the way, and in order to prevent the noisy demonstrators from reaching the boulevards they turned them in the direction of the Canal St. Martin. Several persons were arrested. A few groups reached the boulevards in spite of the efforts of the police to prevent them and paraded up and down shouting "Down with the senate!"

ARBOR DAY IN WASHINGTON.

Seattle, April 24.—It is Arbor Day to-day throughout the state, and so general appears to have been the preparations made for its observance that the number of trees planted, if the custom continues to hold and expand, will in a few years be of appreciable value.

Some of the schools in this city are said to have had a committee of the faculty to arrange its programme in Denny hall, when among others, Mayor Wood delivered an address to the "Educated Citizen." The afternoon, as at the schools, was devoted to tree planting. Three of the classes, the eighth, sophomore and junior classes, were given over, perhaps, to the planting of a 90 acre. Prof. Charles Hill read a paper on "Arbor Day," and Edmond S. Meany made an address on "Trees."

HOLMES' LATEST.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24.—The North American to-day prints a story to the effect that Murderer Holmes has evolved a new scheme in a last desperate effort to escape the gallows. Upon what is said to be authoritative information it is declared he means to ask Mrs. Pitzel, the widow of the man under the death sentence, to intercede for a commutation by the board of pardons. Knowing the woman's penniless situation, Holmes, it is asserted, had her brought here from her Illinois home and will pay her \$10,000, he recently obtained for his alleged confessions. Thus, working upon her feelings, she should be won over, perhaps, induce her to plead for his life. Mrs. Pitzel admits she is ignorant of any preparations to call her to this city, but, by lawyers' advice she will say nothing further.

PLEADED GUILTY.

PRETORIA, April 24.—The court room was crowded when the case of the Reform committee prisoners was called, but the crowd was quite orderly and there was no demonstration, although the town is filled with banners and randers. Great surprise was caused by the prisoners pleading guilty. Their action is regarded as greatly simplifying matters.

THERE TO STAY.

SEATTLE, April 24.—Some days ago a rumor gained currency throughout the city that a deal had virtually been closed between the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific railroads by which the Canadian Pacific was to withdraw from the territory. This meant that the Canadian line was to withdraw from Seattle and the Great Northern from Vancouver. The rumor did not appear to have been taken up by the ground. It reached the Canadian Pacific offices in this city from many sources, and from people who had been led to believe it on apparently good authority. But it was killed yesterday by a telegram from the general traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific, who had been asked for an authentic statement concerning the matter, and who replied that there was not a word of truth in the report, and that the Canadian Pacific was here to stay.

PERFECT WISDOM.

World give us perfect health. Because men would give us not perfectly wise, they must take medicines to keep them from perfect health. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best of good health. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier. It gives good health because it builds upon the true foundation—pure blood. Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, perfectly harmless, always reliable and beneficial.

DAMAGE BY ICE JAM.

ST. JOHN, N.B., April 24.—The big ice jam on the river St. John, north of St. Leonard's, broke yesterday, carrying away one piece of the canal and causing a big washout. At Green river on the Grand Falls branch the track is submerged for a hundred yards to the depth of five feet.

OLNEY AND CLEVELAND.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Secretary Olney is displeased at the letter of the President sent in response to an invitation sent to attend the celebration of the anniversary of Shakespeare. Mr. Olney thinks the President made a mistake in expressing the sentiments he addressed, to wit, the English journals show how quickly the diplomats of the country seized upon the president's letter and turned it to their advantage in the pending Venezuelan controversy.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, April 24.—(Special.)—An Icelandic woman left her husband here yesterday and eloped with a young man to Grand Forks. She took along her two children, leaving two at home for her husband to care for. A legal firm of this city has in hand, through information placed in their possession by a special agent employed by the Canadian government, authority to proceed against a number of Winnipeg houses for infringements upon and tampering with the Dominion government's official marks upon packages of spirits sold by Walker & Sons. Owing to a washout east of Port Arthur no train from the East reached here to-day.

A Port Arthur dispatch says: The first boat of the season is in sight to-day. She is about ten miles out and does not appear to be making any headway. From appearances she is the Wilson Transit Company's steamer Spokane. Weather permitting, the first steamer of the Canadian Pacific lake steamship line will leave Owen Sound on Saturday, May 2. Freight is now being accepted for Manitoba and Northwestern points. Dr. Roche is the Conservative candidate for Marquette.

WINNIPEG, April 25.—Joseph Martin, M.P., was met at the station by his admirers this evening and welcomed back from Ottawa. To-night a public meeting is in progress at Selkirk hall.

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Confident of Success Over Cuban Insurgents—His Conditions of Peace.

Opinion in Spain Favorable to Radical Reforms on the Islands.

HAVANA, April 24.—Gen. Weyler is opposing the guerrilla warfare by an almost geometric plan. In an interview with a correspondent Gen. Weyler said: "Maceo will never cross the trocha except as a prisoner. The day he attempts the trocha he will fall or be captured. It is utterly impossible for him to come eastward. I have a strong force on the whole line, and also have a large party of troops between Maceo's position and the northern mountains and the trocha."

"But Maceo is on the east side of the barrier. Suppose the two brothers should attack the line from different sides and at different points on the same day?" "Ah," replied Weyler, "I have a strong force on this side, which keeps Jose Maceo's men divided into small bands, and they cannot unite for such a maneuver."

"Why do you not attempt to force Maceo to a decisive battle now?" "Maceo will not stand and fight," the general answered. "I have several independent columns which keep him moving about in the hills."

"But can you not surround him? He is apparently confined to a small district." "Well!" exclaimed Gen. Weyler, "that would simply mean chasing Maceo through the whole province. I do not propose to have my main force drawn from the trocha. I want the insurgents to attack the line." "When do you look for an attempt to force your line?" "Never," said he. "My opinion is Maceo knows he is in a trap at last, and he will abandon his troops and escape by Cuba by water."

"You say the war will be brought to an end soon. How do you expect it to end?" "As soon as the insurgents see that their cause is lost, the small bands will begin to come in and give up their arms."

"Do you intend to proclaim a general amnesty?" "Yes, but not now. There must be some fighting. The enemy must be severely punished in the field and their power completely broken. Then I will offer amnesty, but not before."

Gen. Weyler has just issued the following proclamation, called out by the condition of affairs in Pinar del Rio. After the usual heading and preamble the proclamation says: "It

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report
Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

THE COURTS OF LAW.

Mr. Justice Drake Refuses to Quash the Conviction in the McAnn Case.
Argument Heard by the Full Court Yesterday in Griffiths vs. Canonica and Balston.

A judgment on an interesting point of law was given yesterday by Mr. Justice Drake on the motion to quash the conviction of one McAnn by Magistrate Wright, of Kaslo. The judge refused to quash the conviction, his reasons being as follows:

The magistrate in this case having convicted the defendant on an infraction of a by-law adjudged a penalty which was in excess of the penalty allowed by law. The conviction was drawn up and transmitted to the county court in accordance with section 51 of Cap. 28, 1889, of provincial statutes. On 17th December, 1895, a rule nisi to quash the conviction was obtained. In pursuance of the rule the magistrate returned an amended conviction, omitting the hard labor which had been imposed in the first instance. The point was raised that after a conviction had been returned to the county court and there filed no amendment could be made. On this point the judge referred to the decision of Lord Coleridge in the case of R. v. Kelly, 102, was cited, and Lord Coleridge says that no authority exists which supports the doctrine that once a bad conviction has been filed in the records of the quarter sessions the magistrate in answer to a writ to set it aside may return a good one. I don't think Lord Coleridge means that after a conviction has once been returned to the quarter sessions it cannot be altered in any respect, as the contrary has been held in many cases. See Selwood v. Mount, cap. 9, p. 7, and Charter v. Graeme, 13 Ad., and Ellis, N.S., 216. But a conviction imperfect from some error or omission in drawing it up, although returned to the county court, can be cured by returning a good conviction in answer to a writ of certiorari. The statute 12 and 13 Vic., cap. 45, sec. 7, was passed in order to remedy a frequent failure of justice owing to conviction being set aside on objections to the form of the order or judgment irrespective of the truth or merits of the matters in question, and it enacts that if upon return of a writ of certiorari any objection shall be made on account of any omission or mistake the court on proof can correct the same, and until the conviction is formally returned the magistrate can return a good conviction without the errors or mistakes complained of. Chaney v. Payne, 1 Q. B., 712. The question then arises whether the adjudication which inflicted hard labor when the magistrate returned a conviction omitting the hard labor be treated as bad. The case of Regina v. Hartley, 20 Q. B., 451, seems very much in point, and the case of Regina v. Brady, 12 Q. B., where the court held that the adjudication varied by a change in the infliction of a fine or imprisonment, that such a step could only be taken in the presence of the defendant, being in fact a new judgment, was not overruled. The court can only look at the conviction returned, and that conviction is valid on its face. The original adjudication imposing hard labor was not acted upon; if it had been I think the defect could not be cured by returning a valid conviction in answer to a writ laying down any general rule as to what errors and mistakes in a conviction where the magistrate had jurisdiction over the subject matter can or cannot be cured by returning a proper conviction. I think the rule should be refused without costs, as the original conviction was undoubtedly bad.

Mr. E. Cassidy for McAnn, Mr. A. E. McPhillips contra.
The appeal in Griffiths v. Canonica and Balston was heard before the full court yesterday. Griffiths leased the ground on which the Sunnyside hotel in Vancouver is built for 25 years. At the same time Canonica entered into a written agreement with Griffiths to purchase the building for \$800, to be paid in installments. Canonica then sublet the premises to Balston for ten years, but never paid anything under the agreement. An action was brought to set aside both leases and the agreement, and the Chief Justice gave judgment for plaintiff in the court below. From this decision the present appeal is taken on the ground that the non-fulfilment of the terms of the agreement would not forfeit the leases. Decision was reserved. Mr. John Campbell for appellant (defendants); Mr. J. A. Russell for respondent (plaintiff).

RIGHTS OF AN ENGINEER.
The Canadian Engineer, the organ of the profession in Canada, thus refers to the recent trouble between Mr. G. E. Jorgensen and the Victoria city council, under the caption "The Rights of an Engineer":
"A civil engineer is engaged by a city to perform certain services requiring special education and skill, which are not possessed by his employers. In everything calling for the exercise of these qualifications he is sole judge, and his advice cannot properly be set aside without consultation with other and presumably better qualified members of the profession. Much less can those who engage him themselves decide upon a course of action contrary to that which he believes to be correct; and compel the engineer to carry it out on pain of dismissal. The physician is not told that unless the patient approves of the treatment he will be dismissed. Nor would a surgeon be ordered from a patient's bedside because he declined to amputate a limb at the request of the relatives. If the mat-

ter of the amputation had been one which by a written contract was left to the decision of the surgeon, the propriety of such a dismissal would become more evident.
That such views of the duties of professional men are not held everywhere is shown in the recent outrageous dismissal by the city council of Victoria, B. C., of G. E. Jorgensen, C.E., on the 12th February, because he refused to sign a letter which the Mayor had written to Walker, King & Casey, contractors for waterworks improvements at Beaver lake. This letter laid down conditions as to the extension of the time for the completion of the works which were contrary to an agreement already made between the contractors and the engineer, and were considered unreasonable by him. In addition to this fact the matter of extension was one placed at the discretion of the engineer by the King & Casey contract.
"Upon the very proper refusal of Mr. Jorgensen to sign this letter he was suspended by the Mayor under his power to inspect and order the conduct of the officers and employees of the corporation and to suspend them for negligence or carelessness or violation of duty. One of the councillors was of the opinion that it was a serious matter for an official to be subjected to such a suspension and to suspend them for negligence or carelessness or violation of duty. He need not have wasted time on that view of the case; the action of the Victoria city council is a testimonial of the highest character, and will undoubtedly do more to advance Mr. Jorgensen in his profession than many years' engagement with a body of men who possibly believe that an engineer is an official whose sole duty is to aid his employers in taking advantage of those who are so unfortunate as to be brought into business relations with them."

THE CITY.

A TELEGRAPH office has been opened at Milne's Landing, Sooke harbor, with a rate of 25 cents from Victoria.

A PUBLIC highway has been established by the provincial government from Queen's bridge to the North Star Hydraulic Mining Co.'s property.

MR. ARTHUR RUTHERFORD JORGENSEN, of Nanaimo, has been appointed a member of the board of licensing commissioners and a police commissioner for the city which he makes his home.

CUNNINGHAM & HINTON, electricians and dealers in electrical fixtures and supplies, have dissolved partnership. Mr. G. C. Hinton, although returned to the county court, can be cured by returning a good conviction in answer to a writ of certiorari.

YESTERDAY MR. ANSON WHEELER, of the Manitoba bar, who has been admitted to the bar of this province, was presented to the full court by Mr. F. B. Gregory and took the usual oaths. Mr. Wheeler intends practicing at Kaslo.

THE FUNERAL of the late Dr. John Hall took place yesterday, and was attended by a large number of friends. At the house and graveside Rev. W. Leslie Clay conducted the services, the pallbearers being Messrs. T. Anderson, Wilson, A. Wilson, E. Temple, W. McGregor and D. A. Irving.

MR. JAMES DENSMUIR gives emphatic denial to a report put in circulation yesterday to the effect that it was intended to close down the Wellington mines to a large extent and to almost abandon the mines. Mr. Densmuir, when asked about the matter, said the whole story was untrue, as his company had no intention of making the rumored changes.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUES and Sunday schools of the Methodist churches of British Columbia will meet in convention in Vancouver from May 21 to 24. Rev. Mr. Crews, general secretary of Epworth leagues and Sunday schools, and Rev. D. Carman are expected to be present. As the B. C. conference meeting takes place at Westminster about the same time, many ministers will no doubt be present.

A COMMUNICATION from Hon. Mr. Prior and Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P., to the board of trade states that for the purpose of giving a much desired mail service to the Canadian Yukon country, the Dominion government has decided to award a contract to Capt. William Moore, the veteran explorer, to make three trips from Juneau to Fort Cudahy and Fort Mile Creek at \$600 a trip. Owing to the extreme difficulty of the route, only letters will be carried. The first mail leaves Victoria on May 18 by the Topeka. Capt. Moore goes to Alaska at once to make his preparations. From Juneau the mail will be carried by steamer to the head of Lynn canal, and thence will be packed by men through the White pass route to Tooshie, from which point there is water communication with Fort Cudahy by the Yukon river. Hitherto there has only been one mail a year into the Yukon country.

Last evening the anniversary of St. George's Day was celebrated in the A.O.U.W. hall by a large number of the Sons and Daughters of St. George and their friends. A very enjoyable evening was spent under the chairmanship of President Penketh, of the Sons, who delivered an admirable address on "The History of Our Beloved Order." The programme: Song, Bro. Greenhalgh; address, Bro. Greenhalgh; address, Bro. Hobbs; song, Bro. Ashley; song, Bro. Gough; song, Sister Bradbury; address, Bro. Price. A vote of commendation with present members having been passed, the President of the Daughters of St. George delivered an address, after which came songs by the President and Mrs. R. Benketh. Dancing was subsequently participated in to an early hour.

CONTRABAND GOODS. RUNNING A WINDMILL.

Cargo of a Smuggling Schooner Seized at Oak Bay Yesterday.
An Exhibition by Aldermen Macmillan and Marchant at Last Evening's Council Meeting.
One of the Fleet Destined for Cook's Inlet Supposed to Be Lost.

A customs officer in making an early morning visit to Oak Bay yesterday came across something which at once aroused his suspicion and caused him to make a survey of the locality. On the beach close to the water lay two incubators, while a short way out at sea, partially in the lee of Trial island, a schooner was bending great sheets of sail and was soon speeding at a steamboat rate in the direction of Discovery island. The officer could come to no other conclusion than that it was a case of smuggling, but the supposed smuggler disappeared. While questioning the schooner, the officer was informed by him a new idea as to the mysterious proceedings going on around him. "I had been in the neighborhood of a large vessel which approached, hailed it, and questioned its occupants. These were a Chinaman and a white man. Both, of course, disclaimed all knowledge of any smuggling business at that hour of the morning, but the officer allowed them to continue on their way. The white man was a large one, belonging to a big white horse. There was the customs officer's name written on the vessel, and for it the customs officer is now hunting. The smuggling vessel was painted white, of large size, and was believed to have come from Bellingham Bay, Victoria under the name of the schooner Falcon, and is believed to have landed considerably more contraband cargo than the two incubators. Of these the collector of customs yesterday took charge; and they will, no doubt, form important evidence in a trial which, if possible, will be brought about. They are of unusual size, and were evidently intended for someone entering the ranching industry."

THE NORTH BOUND MINERS.
News comes via Port Townsend, through the arrival of the schooner Falcon, Capt. Peterson, from Kodiak, Alaska, at that port, that the loss of the trading schooner Seventy-six, which left Kodiak about four months ago manned by five men for a trading cruise. Her provisions were only sufficient for 30 days, and the vessel has never been reported it is surmised that she has been lost with all on board. The Falcon also brought the news that Cook's inlet is full of floating ice and vessels are unable to pass. It is said present there are eight vessels bound to the inlet from Puget Sound carrying 300,000 miners besides large quantities of freight and some live stock. Much concern is expressed for the safety of the vessels, many of which are not yet in a seaworthy condition when they left the Sound. Officers of the Falcon say if the vessels attempt to force an entrance into the inlet they will certainly be crushed by ice. The fishing schooner Lizzie B., which left Port Townsend a month ago bound for Kodiak, has returned to that port in distress, having run short of water and provisions after making 300 miles against head winds and terrible seas.

THE SUTTON LUMBER AND TRADING CO., Ltd., will shortly remove their head offices from Uclulet to this city.

THE STONE work in the government printing office, the west wing of the new parliament buildings, was completed yesterday. The contractors expect to finish the whole of the stone work in September next, and with this view no time will be lost in finishing the right wing of the buildings. Much stone has yet to be dressed before actual erection work goes on.

THE OPEN meeting of the Sir William Wallace Society last evening was well attended by members and friends. Mr. S. White presented a large pen sketch of Carlyle's statue to the society. It is a work of art, and will be an acquisition to the collection of pictures which now ornaments the hall. Songs and recitations with the Pib Mohr national airs by Pater McLeod, made up the evening's entertainment, after which a short business meeting was held.

MR. JUSTICE DRAKE yesterday dismissed the appeal of Wong Ah Quock from the decision of the police magistrate in one of the Chinese theatre cases. Ah Quock's charge of assault against Teng Ying was dismissed by the magistrate, and Ah Quock had to pay the costs. From this the appeal was taken, and a new trial was held before Mr. Justice Drake in the court court yesterday. As in the Ah Moon case the evidence on one side was entirely contradictory of that on the other, the court decided not to interfere with the decision of the magistrate, and accordingly dismissed the appeal. Mr. Thornton Fell appeared for Ah Quock; Mr. Frank Higgins for Teng Ying.

A VALUABLE and highly interesting contribution to the provincial museum is expected to arrive within the next few days from Ottawa, having left the Dominion Capital on the 17th inst. The nature and importance of the expected contribution is outlined in the following memorandum from Mr. John J. McGee, clerk of the privy council of Canada, which reached Curator Fannin yesterday: "I have this day forwarded to you two cases containing one complete set of the reports of the scientific results of the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873-6, presented by the Hon. Commissioners of Her Majesty's treasury to the provincial museum at Victoria. Will you be good enough to acknowledge the receipt of these volumes in due course."

THE CITY.
The Sutton Lumber and Trading Co., Ltd., will shortly remove their head offices from Uclulet to this city.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.
In addition to the great features of the Queen's Birthday celebration the regatta on the Gorge on May 25 and the sham fight and review of the naval militia forces on the morning of May 26, the sports and games committee later added a number of other events to the programme. On Saturday, May 23, there will be the league baseball match, Victoria v. Port Moody. The match will be in the afternoon of the Caledonia park, and in the afternoon of the same day bicycle races at Oak Bay. Mr. H. G. Ross, secretary of the Fifth Regiment Rifle Association, put in a word for a rifle match at Clover Point, open not only to the military and navy, but to any of the citizens who wish to take part. The committee decided to devote \$75 to this purpose, and fixed the match for 9 o'clock on the morning of Monday the 25th. At 10 o'clock the same day the Capitals, of Victoria, play the Vancouver lacrosse club at the Caledonia grounds; and in the afternoon the league baseball match, Victoria v. Seattle. Capt. Gen. Weyer has at last expressed his view of the situation in Cuba, both present and prospective, which, he claims, is very encouraging to the Spanish cause. He says the rebellion is more broken up than he expected would be the case, considering its earlier development. In view of the demoralization and lack of resources throughout the island, but especially in Pinar del Rio, he expects the pacification of the island is only a question of about eight months' time. He believes it to be impossible for Maceo to get out of Pinar del Rio even in the rainy season.

Gen. Weyer says it is surprised at the absence of Maximino Gomez from this part of the island, leaving Maceo without help. He points out that Gomez continues to remain in Sancti Spiritus, but is unable to provoke an uprising of the mass of the country folk, as they are worn out with the destruction and crime as eastern sympathizers refuse to come west.

Col. Echevarria, who was removed from his command and summoned to Havana to explain his failure to support the Alamo XI Battalion on the occasion of their reversal near Cienfuegos, shortly resume the command of his contingent is unbounded.

E. J. Palmer, of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co., Chemainus, is at the Driad.

NEW KNIGHTHOODS.

Order—Cuban Rebels Not to be Recognized as Belligerents.
Plague Raging in Canton—Why Resignation of French Ministry Was Delayed.

LONDON, April 24.—The Gazette announces that a new order of knighthood, the Royal Victorian, has been created.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily News says: "It is stated that the resignation of the cabinet was delayed to enable them to consult the Russian ambassador, who discouraged the policy of radical resistance to the senate."

The Times has a dispatch from Singapore which says that the plague is raging in Canton.

Senor Canovas del Castillo has declared that the Cuban rebels are not recognized as belligerents and are therefore greatly discouraged. He says that 1,500 of them have recently yielded, and this is continued at this rate the government will offer them inducements to surrender.

The Times says it is credibly informed that the North German Lloyd's Steamship Company is asking for tenders for the building of five steamers of five thousand tons each for the Brazil trade.

The Argentine cabinet favors the suggested basis of the settlement of the frontier difficulty with Chile.

The Daily News asserts that it is almost certain that the cattle diseases bill, looking to the restriction of the importation of Canadian cattle, will be abandoned by the government.

The religious marriage of Maj. Patrice de MacMahon, son of the late Marshal MacMahon, president of France, to Princess Marguerite of Orleans, was celebrated at Chantilly yesterday.

The funeral of M. Mason, the distinguished political economist, took place yesterday at Paris and was remarkable for its simplicity, in accordance with the wishes of the deceased.

INSURGENTS SURRENDER.
HAVANA, April 23.—It was reported today that one thousand insurgents in the province of Pinar del Rio had surrendered unconditionally to the Spanish authorities. The town and district of Baracoa, province of Santiago de Cuba, was described as being in a horrible state on account of famine. During the month of March, of last year, only nine persons in that district died, but this year during the same month, seventy-one persons died. There is said to be great discontent between the whites and the blacks who compose the insurgent armies in the field. They all want to be leaders, it appears, and it is asserted that the blacks say that when Antonio Maceo returns eastward he will have to fulfil his promise of seeing that the negroes are treated on an equality with the whites.

On the other hand, it is rumored that Maceo is worn out with fatigue and unable to cross the military line. Under these circumstances, it is added, he is going to try and save himself and others. The plan, as outlined here, is to have his forces make an attack upon the military line, and if they are repulsed with serious loss he will propose to capitulate. Other versions of the story has it that Maceo will not try to cross the line until President Cleveland decides upon the question of the belligerence of the Cuban insurgents.

American named Greenfield, described as being a correspondent of Puck, has gone into the insurgent camp. Private information has been received here of an engagement between the Spanish column commanded by General Melquizo and the insurgents under Aguirre. The latter lost 62 killed.

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
EPPS'S COCOA.
BREAKFAST—SUPPER.

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the amount of subtle malades are floating around us ready to attack whenever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal case by keeping ourselves fortified with pure Cocoa and a properly nourished frame."—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

MICHIGAN Mining School
A high grade State technical school. Practical work. Elective system. Summer courses. Degrees of B.S., B.M., and Ph. D. Laboratories, shops, mill, etc., well equipped. Forestalogue, and other. M. E. WADSWORTH, Ph. D. Director, Houghton, Mich.

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OF
BY FRAN
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CHAP
About once to go to London some pretext of the first visit I turn of Moll and him of their coming increasing woman pious aspect of that day position would be obtained concluded by asking not now be stopping to come to C as he had before.
"No, Kit, that's after fighting silence a minute getting in a solitude and was week, when I felt shipped a thinking this world for an when he's lost well content.
If you had a child blood, part of you had been to you hath been to me, better how I feel, no when you're foul in to bow, a without a single heart artist, 'd' with a spark of 'bear.'
And then he pro other reasons for ing bait, the sum conviction, that h Moll, and I feared ing by stealth that safe to go openly.
About a week af from him asking r soon as I might, he with a chisel, 'so my lath, and hav my mind do plaug durance.'
Much concerned lose no time in rep when I find him s lath, with an arm kerchief and his f this, I think, was d ale. And here he f ing of Moll, sayi of nights for thinki used to play st, o life together in S Elche, etc., and nore than ever he that, as I anticipate fling, roundabout w to own his weakne ing Moll by stealth rather see her for again peering thro she should never ca than have her treat not his child and s any love for him.
of such ways I w sent to his hanging a thief, and told h he would undo us a must come openly a Without further d he gratified by my ally asks when will to come, and we ag in a week's time thought in anybody ing conspired to th.
As the fates wou win finished his pai day following the r of his kind I ever sa he'll be, and be his work and an should see it soon h carry it to Hatfield who was proffer of than if it were of I not less eager it sho thought that she m days (for this jour accomplished in his her spirits excoing to see her efforts to herself. And she was of conceal from him whom she length confessed to would have you go stay, love," says s "This but a little parted," says he, "and wringing one h er. "It seems to me living forever."
"Will, then," re "we will not part come with me, chuc vent you?"
She starts with jo at him incredulos so, her countenance shakes her head as that if it were advi with him he would before.
"No," says she, "cy, and I'll not yiel come a barren rathe if you cannot stir me." Nay," adds s override this objec tempt me to be wea to do that which I f And she would n this resolution, but bravely, even to the and her husband c last time in a farew.
She stood where some moments after dently she ran a fo lips and onstretch would call him b her hands, then t quickly, looking a with such terror in

ONE TRIAL CERTAIN PAIN-KILLER KILLS PAIN

PAIN-KILLER
THE GREAT Family Medicine of the Age.
Taken Internally, It Cures Diarrhoea, Cramp, and Pain in the Stomach, Sore Throat, Sudden Colds, Coughs, etc., etc.
Used Externally, It Cures Cuts, Bruises, Sprains, Scalds, Burns, Toothache, Pain in the Face, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Frosted Feet.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPRESS COY., LD.
Stages for Cariboo.
The regular Weekly Stage for all points in Cariboo and Lillooet. Leaves Ashcroft every Monday morning at 4 o'clock, travelling by daylight only, and returns about 10 miles a day, each way, lying over one day at Barkerville.

MICHIGAN Mining School
A high grade State technical school. Practical work. Elective system. Summer courses. Degrees of B.S., B.M., and Ph. D. Laboratories, shops, mill, etc., well equipped. Forestalogue, and other. M. E. WADSWORTH, Ph. D. Director, Houghton, Mich.

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THE "TEES" IS CHOSEN

Purchased by the C. P. N. Co. to Replace the Lost "St. Pierre." Leaves for British Columbia...

Negotiations which have been going on for some time between the C.P.N. Company and the Tees Union Shipping Company...

KILLED AT UNION.

An Indian Woman Jumps From a Moving Train to Escape a Constable. She Falls on the Track and the Car Wheels Mangle Her Horribly.

Word was received yesterday of a distressing accident resulting in the death of an unfortunate Indian woman...

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL DEBT.

LONDON, April 25.—The debate in the House of Commons last Thursday revealed a curious state of affairs...

NEWFOUNDLAND NOTES.

St. John's, April 25.—The steamer Glenlivet arrived here to-night from Cadiz with a cargo of salt...

TRADE REVIEWED.

New York, April 24.—Trade returns to-morrow will say: "Retail trade is fair at Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston..."

PARDRIDGE THE "PLUNGER."

Chicago, April 24.—Edward Partridge, the board of trade "plunger" who died a few days ago...

thinness WHISKY.

The diseases of thinness are scrofula in children, consumption in grown people...

THE VICTORIA CHESS TOURNAMENT.

Below is noted the standing of each of the competitors in the tournament of the Victoria Chess Club...

Table with columns: Name, Wins, Losses, Draws, Total. Lists players like F. S. Maclure, W. H. Adams, etc.

LACROSSE.

Lovers of the national game will learn with extreme gratification that the mission to Westminster of the Capitals' delegates...

THE OAR.

TORONTO, April 25.—Edward Hanlan received a telegram yesterday from the Mayor of Vancouver...

THE WHEEL.

Upwards of 25 members of the V.W.C. mustered at Beacon Hill yesterday afternoon for the run to Oak Bay...

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THEY PLAY GOOD BALL

Victoria's League Ball Team Wins a Brilliant Game From Seattle.

First Professional Match in British Columbia—Lacrosse Differences Adjusted.

Maclure Captures the Dudgeon Trophy—Crews for the Coming Regatta.

The fifteen hundred people—a large percentage of them ladies—who attended the baseball game at Caledonia park yesterday...

Maclure, with the exception of his first maul, put up a great game for Seattle at short. He stopped a hard hit grounder on the run behind second...

From the time that Darby suited the first ball past the rubber twelve inch square, the game was fast, and the interest of all was stimulated by the closeness of the score...

Table with columns: Name, R, B, S, P, O, A, E. Lists players like Patton, O'Neil, Klopff, etc.

Seattle. Lutz, I. f. 4 0 0 0 1 0 0. Ireland, 3b. 4 0 1 0 2 6. Brown, 1b. 4 0 1 0 2 2. Eagan, 2b. 3 1 1 1 4 0. Robinson, c. 3 0 0 0 5 1 0. Frary, c. 3 0 0 0 4 0 1. Butler, p. 4 0 0 0 1 1.

Seattle. Earned runs, Victoria 1. Two base hits, Ireland. Sacrifice hits, O'Neil. Base on balls, by Darby 1. Struck out, by Butler 4. Darby 6. Left on base, Seattle 8; Victoria 6. Time, 1:40. Umpire, Mr. T. W. Edwards. Attendance, 1,500.

At Philadelphia—Philadelphia, 9; Brooklyn, 3. At New York—New York, 4; Boston, 7. At Baltimore—Baltimore, 10; Washington, 2. At Cincinnati—Cincinnati, 3; Chicago, 5. At Pittsburg—Pittsburg, 3; Cleveland, 6. At St. Louis—St. Louis, 3; Louisville, 3.

At Philadelphia—Philadelphia, 9; Brooklyn, 3. At New York—New York, 4; Boston, 7. At Baltimore—Baltimore, 10; Washington, 2. At Cincinnati—Cincinnati, 3; Chicago, 5. At Pittsburg—Pittsburg, 3; Cleveland, 6. At St. Louis—St. Louis, 3; Louisville, 3.

THE WHEEL.

Upwards of 25 members of the V.W.C. mustered at Beacon Hill yesterday afternoon for the run to Oak Bay...

PECTORAL. Cures Colds and Coughs. Short time. It's a relief and true, soothing effect.

old Star of the West. health-giving shining over an widening circle, an assurance of made cakes to all se.

STAR G POWDER. AND IN CANADA.

KIRK'S Map of Creek Camp. 2.00

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The Colonist.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1896.

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A SIMPLE QUESTION.

The Times is perfectly right when it says that it is absurdly false to say that the Constitution requires the Dominion Parliament to restore separate schools to Manitoba. It is also true that the law did not require the Court to hang Stroebel.

We are surprised that at this time of day the Times questions the authority of the Governor-General in Council and the Parliament of the Dominion to deal with such cases as that which the obstructive minority in Parliament would not allow the majority to consider and decide upon.

In order to make the matter so plain that any person of average intelligence will understand it, we will quote the section of the Manitoba Act which applies to the case, the one on which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council founded its decision.

This is very plain. The Manitoba school act of 1890 was an act of the Legislature of Manitoba. It took from the Roman Catholic minority privileges in relation to education which they had enjoyed for nineteen years.

If, as our Ottawa correspondent affirms, the loan to the C.P.R. to build the Crow's Nest line of railway was dropped because the Grits were prepared to talk it out, that party has done British Columbia a very serious injury.

There are many who do not like the Canadian Pacific, but such persons must see that for British Columbia to approve of refusing it a loan to build a road certain to be most advantageous to the whole province is to encourage the policy of cutting off the nose to spite the face.

The Dominion Government having satisfied themselves that they had power to entertain the appeal of the minority, heard it and forwarded their decision to the Government of Manitoba.

that order, and the Government then proceeded to do what the 3rd subsection of section 22 of the Manitoba act directs. That subsection reads as follows: "In case any such Provincial law as from time to time seems to the Governor-General in Council requisite for the due execution of the provisions of this section is not made, or in case any decision of the Governor-General in Council on any appeal under this section is not duly executed by the proper Provincial authority in that behalf, then, and in every such case, and only in so far as the circumstances of each case may require, the Parliament of Canada may make remedial laws for the due execution of the provisions of this section and of any decision of the Governor-General in Council under this section."

As the Government of Manitoba paid no attention to the decision of the Governor-General in Council, all that remained for the Dominion Government to do was to submit the case to the Parliament of Canada as the law directs. It was competent for the Governor-General in Council, that is, the Dominion Government, to tell the appellants that they were in the wrong, that they had no grievance and that their case would not be submitted for decision to Parliament; but would this be just? Would it be treating the minority of Manitoba fairly, particularly as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had considered the merits of the case of the minority and pronounced upon them? That Committee instituted a comparison between the condition of the minority, as regards education, before the act of 1890 was passed and their condition after it had been enacted, and then went on to say: "In view of this comparison it does not seem possible to say that the rights and privileges of the Roman Catholic minority in relation to education have not been affected."

The Committee even went so far as to point out how the "grievance" which had been inflicted on the minority could be remedied. "It is certainly," they said, "not essential that the statutes repealed by the act of 1890, should be re-enacted, or that the precise provisions of these statutes should be again made law. The system of education embodied in the acts of 1890, no doubt commends itself to and adequately supplies the wants of the great majority of the inhabitants of the Province. All legitimate grounds of complaint would be removed if that system were supplemented by provisions which would remove the grievance upon which the appeal is founded, and were modified so far as might be necessary to give effect to these provisions."

We trust now that our contemporary sees that the Manitoba minority had a constitutional right to appeal to the Governor-General in Council—practically the Dominion Government; that it is within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government to hear that appeal, and to take action upon it; and that the Dominion Parliament is the tribunal appointed by the Constitution to decide upon the merits of the appeal, and to provide a remedy if, in its judgment, a remedy is required. The proceedings in the Manitoba case, therefore, being from beginning to end constitutional, we trust that our contemporary sees that it is unreasonable and dishonest to apply to them the term coercion in a bad sense. It would be as reasonable and as honest to apply the term coercion in such a sense to the proceedings of a court of law and to the decision of the judge in a case in which one of the suitors is compelled to do what is contrary to his intentions and his wishes, as to apply it to the course pursued by the Government in the Manitoba case.

BRITISH COLUMBIA INJURED.

If, as our Ottawa correspondent affirms, the loan to the C.P.R. to build the Crow's Nest line of railway was dropped because the Grits were prepared to talk it out, that party has done British Columbia a very serious injury. What the Kootenay country wants more than anything just now is an abundant supply of coal, and what the Province wants is to have the products of the Kootenay mines smelted in the Province. The completion of the Crow's Nest railway at as early a date as possible would have effected both these most desirable objects. There are extensive coal fields near the Crow's Nest Pass. The coal found in them is said to be excellent. The Kootenay mine-owners not having at their command an abundant supply of cheap coal, are working at a great disadvantage. The political party which offers a purely factious opposition to granting a loan for the construction of a line of railway so greatly needed is, no matter by what name it may be called, an enemy of British Columbia and unworthy the support of the inhabitants of any section of the province.

Neither can there be any doubt about the full responsibility of the Grit party for the obstruction. Without Grit assistance the three McCarthys and

well it would be in a position to pay the principal long before the loan matured. The men who were determined to talk the Crow's Nest loan bill out of the House are the enemies of British Columbia. Their tactics, too, were contemptible. They know that time is most precious to those who have measures before the House. Every hour wasted is a serious loss. They therefore saw that it would be a comparatively easy thing to kill the bill, and thus without considering the injury that its death would do the Province of British Columbia, they deliberately plotted to strangle it.

It will be seen, by and by, that the parliamentary obstructionists are the enemies of the country, and that the sooner they are deprived of the power of doing mischief the better.

SOME FIGURES.

The revenue of Great Britain is simply enormous. It amounted in the fiscal year lately ended to £101,972,000, or not far from \$510,000,000. The expenditure was £97,764,000, leaving a surplus of £4,208,000, or over \$20,800,000. Four-fifths of the revenue of Great Britain is raised from direct taxes of one kind and another. The expenditure of so great a nation must necessarily be enormous. At a point Great Britain has so many demands on her revenue she contrives to do something every year towards reducing her public debt. In thirty-nine years as much as £190,000,000 of the National Debt has been paid off, £100,000,000 of which has been paid in the last thirteen years. The expenditure for the ensuing year is estimated at £100,047,000 and the revenue at £101,765,000, so Sir Michael Hicks-Beach counts upon a surplus of considerably over a million. If business is as good next year as it was last year the surplus will be above these figures. Last year the revenue considerably exceeded the estimate.

AN UNSCRUPULOUS FACTION.

The session of the Dominion Parliament just closed has been remarkable for the obstruction to legislation offered by a number of men, Liberals and malcontent Conservatives. This faction made obstruction, and nothing else, their policy. They were, when all told, but a small minority of the House, but the circumstances were peculiarly favorable to their trickery and their unprincipled policy. Parliament had but a short time to live and they saw that if they could endure the physical strain that would be put upon them while carrying out a policy of obstruction it was possible for them to effectually block legislation. With the aid of a number of hypocritical Grits who pretended to disapprove of obstruction they succeeded. Notwithstanding the herculean efforts of the Government, to push the remedial bill through the House before the 23rd of April they withstood the Government so obstinately that the Ministers saw that if they wished to pass any of the estimates they must drop the remedial bill.

Some of the Grit newspapers, although they know well what it was that prevented the passage of the remedial bill, try to fasten the blame of its failure on the Conservative Leader of the House and his loyal supporters. The Halifax Herald in a recent issue exposes the foolishness and falseness of such a contention. It says: "While it is true that the passing of the remedial bill was a very important part of the business of the session, it was not its only business. Other business had to be attended to, such for instance as the annual statement of the Finance Minister, known as the 'budget speech,' the passing of the estimates for the year commencing the first of next July, and other absolutely necessary work. In the next place, before any work could be done, the address had to be passed. And, contrary to the usual custom, the Opposition persisted in debating that for over a week. It did not pass until January 23. On January 27 Mr. Foster brought down the estimates for 1896-7, and on January 31 delivered his budget speech. Then commenced a long debate, Grit after Grit rising and delivering speeches of four and six hours in length, which in all consumed every Government day for three weeks. It goes without saying that no progress could be made with the remedial bill until that debate was 'disposed of. This the Grits knew, and though implored to stop talking so that the House could get down to business, did not let up until pretty much the whole month of February had been wasted. However, the government introduced the bill on February 11, thus giving the house and country ample time in which to become thoroughly familiar with all its provisions. The second reading was moved on March 3, as soon as possible after the budget debate closed, and practically the whole time of the house since then has been devoted to the Remedial Bill. Every reasonable effort that any government could make to secure the passage of any measure has been put forth to secure its adoption. That these efforts have proved unavailing is due, and due solely, to the fact of obstruction—premeditated, organized and unprincipled obstruction. To pretend anything else but to insult the intelligence of the country. One of the leaders of the movement, Mr. McCarthy, and several of his lieutenants openly avowed their intention of talking the bill out, and some of their Grit assistants were no less frank. And any Grit leader or Grit newspaper to now attempt to deny the palpable fact that the bill has been defeated for this session through these obstructive tactics solely, is about the same of mendacity."

three or four bolting and obstructing Conservatives could have been tired out in 48 hours. The men, therefore, who are really responsible for the temporary defeat of the bill are the Grits, the whole embracing pretty much the whole talking force of the party from the English-speaking provinces, who sympathized with McCarthy in his obstructive tactics and gave him in his obstructive help. The extent to which these Grit leaders assisted in obstructing the bill will be shown by the pages of the Standard.

Of course Mr. Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Peterson, and a number of other leading Grits pretended to disapprove of the tactics of the unscrupulous faction. Their disapproval bears a striking resemblance to the indignation of an apparently respectable citizen who stood by when an outrage was committed upon a stranger who had made himself obnoxious to the mob. This lover of peace, order and fair play kept on crying out, "Don't roll the poor fellow in the gutter"; "Don't duck him in the mill pond"; "For goodness sake don't tar and feather him and ride him on a rail." Of course the leading Grits had no excess to make for the obstructionists, and of course they protested against the policy the faction pursued; but at the same time they "winked the other eye." All this, if we do not greatly mistake, will be well understood by the fair-minded men among the electorate in every part of the Dominion.

Every British Columbian knows, or ought to know, how the Grits treated their province when it was in their power to do it essential service, and there is evidence that the Grits, like the Bourbons, never learn and never forget. The other day the Grit party had it in their power to do this province a good turn by favoring the loan for the construction of the Crow's Nest railway. The Government had signified their willingness to do what they could to further the construction of this greatly needed road, but the Grits, true to their traditions, did what they could to prevent British Columbia getting this advantage. They formed a conspiracy to talk the bill out of the House, and they succeeded in depriving this province of a very great advantage. And they have the impudence to expect the people of this province to reward them for doing them such an ill turn. No one need feel surprised to find that the Grit organ in this city approves of the course taken by the Grit obstructionists in Ottawa. The faction did what they could to injure British Columbia, and the Times cries well done, and at the same time abuses Col. Prior for having exerted himself to procure what a most intelligent gentleman from Kootenay declares to be an advantage of inestimable value to the mining industry of the district and all the other industries of all the other districts.

declared his love for this system in almost every considerable town in the Dominion. He vowed to be true to British free trade, if not "till all the seas gang dry," at any rate for a long time. But it seems that some protectionist Grits in Ontario convinced the Liberal leader that he had been somewhat too ardent in his declarations of love for English free trade, and of late he has said so very little about it that people are beginning to expect another and a new declaration in favor of his first love, moderate protection. It would seem, indeed, as if Mr. Laurier had on the trade question boxed the whole commercial compass. Perhaps, some of his friends will tell the expectant public at what point of the circle he is now to be found. The organs at present say as little about it as possible, and Mr. Laurier seems to be equally cautious.

AS MEAN AS EVER.

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AN INCONSTANT LOVER.

A good many would consider it satisfactory to know exactly, or nearly exactly, where Mr. Laurier stands to-day on the trade question. On this question he has been so changeable that it is exceedingly hard to tell what system he favors at any particular time. It is not so very long ago that he was a strong advocate of commercial union with the United States. He vowed over and over again eternal constancy to that system. Then he fell in love with unrestricted reciprocity, but in doing this he can hardly be said to be fickle, for the new object of his devotion was simply the old one in a new dress. And there were people—Mr. Edward Blake among them—who discerned more or less plainly the features of annexation beneath both disguises. The fervor of Mr. Laurier's affection for unrestricted reciprocity was very great and his protestations of regard and constancy exceedingly strong. Here is one of them, made in Toronto in 1889: "The policy which we advocate and will continue to advocate is the removal of all commercial barriers between this country and the United States. The Liberal party will remain true to the cause until it has triumphed. I do not expect to win in a day or a year. I am prepared for a long battle, and to stand in the cold shades of opposition until the cause has triumphed."

AT IT AGAIN.

The organ of the Opposition thinks that the time has come for it to begin the election fight, so on Thursday it fired off a volley of gross lies and stupid misrepresentation. Here is a specimen of its mud shells: "There are in the Dominion of Canada numerous newspapers whose sole mission is to act the part of touters for the present Ottawa administration, and as an excellent specimen of the brood—a brood reared on Government pap—is to be found in the Tory trumpet located in this city, it may not prove uninteresting to contemplate for a moment the part these great throatlers of public opinion are expected to play and how nobly they perform the duty."

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mentioned. In fact some of its methods have become obsolete in the East, where there has been a very considerable advance in the direction of moderation and courtesy in journalism of late years. Is our contemporary's zeal and violence in the cause of its party purchased? If it is not, would it not be sensible in it to give Conservative journals credit for equal disinterestedness in the cause of their party as it claims for itself? We do not believe that our contemporary would lose anything from a party point of view by being a little fairer and more courteous—just a little—to opponents than it has hitherto been.

A SHREWD ESTIMATE.

Mr. Tarte may not be as pure a politician as he would wish the world to believe him to be, but he is certainly not a bad judge of character, as his description of Mr. Laurier's methods and his estimate of Mr. Laurier's abilities show: "Mr. Laurier has commenced his electoral tour. To-morrow he will speak at Stanford. He will probably have an opponent, and will say all the untruthful things that he considers useful in his own defence. Mr. Laurier is a man not wanting in polish. * * * He is without large ideas. * * * The fact is that he has not yet pronounced a single discourse of a nature to manifest in him a man of serious worth. His polished manners, his astuteness, a certain ability in concealing his principles—not far removed from hypocrisy—have won for him his popularity in the country."

THE SURE RESULT.

The Monetary Times, Toronto, in an article on The Situation, says: "The near approach of the close of the session enabled the minority in the House of Commons, by having recourse to the weapon of systematic obstruction, to do what under ordinary circumstances only a majority can effect. If a disposition to resort to obstruction were to become the settled policy of the minority the result would be, as it has been in France, England and the United States, counter-action in the form of closure, which cuts short debate and brings on a vote. The moving of 'the previous question' can sometimes be used to the same effect."

was theirs equal the McCarthys six days of action was no disposal Liberals to allow estimates to pass an odd item or two of the House of but that is all. ment meets all ing fiscal year is hardly likely meet before the inconvenience in Whether the alone will tell, vices, notably fight will centre Oummet around remedial legisla-

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either estimates the house. Al reached by the of the newspaper t time events hav strated the accu The tactics purs will cost the con million dollars, parliament to v cessary. This is money, but every for each session begin with there Commons and S each of whom dr Then there is a age. Then the \$75,000 and there porary officers be paid. Had H position acted th allowed the est extra session w and half a millio people. The oppositi in come will be quantity resentat tion which Sir C against them, bu bill was withdra sively that the