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Imperial Parliament. LONDON, March 3.—In the House of Lords this evening, the Marquis of Salisbury, replying to the assertions made by Mr. Labouchere in the House of Commons, explained that he did not meet General Sir Dighton Probyn with a view to enabling Lord Somerset to escape.

The Fisheries. CHICAGO, March 4.—A special from Washington this morning says: It is not Sir Chas. Tupper, but the latter's son who is here, and he has brought the British Minister some information about the seizure of British sealers by the United States revenue marine vessels in the Aleutian sea.

Rain Again. SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—Rain is predicted for Oregon and Washington until to-morrow morning. Two Causes. LOUISVILLE, Kas., Mar. 4.—Wm. H. Pope, teller of the Louisville and National Bank, has absconded to Canada with \$90,000 of the bank's money.

The Great Bridge Opened. EDINBURGH, Mar. 4.—The great bridge over the Forth of Forth was opened by the Prince of Wales and a distinguished company to-day. A vast crowd witnessed the ceremonies.

Repulsed the Attack. PARIS, Mar. 4.—The governor of Senegal reported to the Government that the French garrison at Ateho has repulsed an attack made upon it by 800 soldiers of the King of Dahomey.

Domination Parliament. OTTAWA, March 3.—Sir John Macdonald, in reply to Mr. Innes, said that when the Government was officially notified of the selection of Chicago as the site for the World's Fair in 1892, he would bring the matter up in the House with a view of securing proper Canadian representation.

Found Murdered. PRINCETON, Ont., March 3.—The murdered man found near Princeton was positively identified by J. Burchill, of Niagara Falls, as C. Bedwell, a young Englishman, just out from the old country. He left here about three weeks ago for the purpose of looking up a suitable stock farm to purchase.

A Miserable Coward. SYRACUSE, Feb. 28.—John H. Browne, at one time clerk in the Canadian Parliament, committed suicide in his room at the Wells House to-day. His body was found lying upon the floor of the apartment by the chambermaid late in the afternoon.

Marrying Under Difficulties. On the outward trip of the Premier Wednesday last, there were ticketed a newly wedded pair, both members of the great Chinese race.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. During the six months ending December 31st, 1889, there were 24 penitentiaries and 15 wolves killed in settled districts in the province, for which the Government paid \$5 bounty per head, or \$195 in all.

Provincial Parliament. Monday's Proceedings. Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p.m. Mr. Beaven moved, supported by Mr. Orr, the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a printed return of all papers, correspondence, petitions and telegrams with reference to the discharge of Mr. W. A. Starret, late Road Superintendent in Yale District, and the employment of William Bristol in his place.

MAPLE RIDGE COUNCIL. The third regular meeting of the Council was held on March 1st. Present: Reeve and Councillors Haney, Callaghan, Stephens and Ferguson.

News by the Wanderer. The schooner Wanderer was spoken in the Straits on Thursday morning by the steamer Rainbow. The Wanderer is returning from a trading trip from the north, and reports that sealers had been purchased as far up as Knight's Inlet, the seals having been very plentiful close to the beach during the season.

Pork Packing. The pork packing industry lately established at Enderby, B. C., by Messrs. Knight & Shaw is already a competitor in the British Columbia markets with eastern and American houses for the trade in cured meats, and judging from the sample with which the Scotch firm has favored it, it will be no mean competitor either.

OTTAWA NEWS. The Kootenay Railway Bills Thrown Out as Detrimental to Canadian Interests. (From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, March 4.—In committee this morning the bills to incorporate the South Kootenay Railway Company, and an Act to incorporate the West Kootenay Railway Company, were thrown out.

LANGLEY WIDE-AWAKE. Langley Asks the Hon. John Robson to be a Candidate at the Coming Provincial Election. A public meeting was held at Prairie school house on Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Mr. James Gray was elected to the chair and after briefly explaining the object of the meeting he called on Mr. Henry Davis to address the meeting.

NORTH ARM NOTES. (From Our Own Correspondent.) Relentless winter has at last relaxed his rigid rule. The proverbial "Oregon Mist" set in on Friday night. Rain has since been falling continuously though moderately.

PERSONAL. Messrs. O. D. Sweet and J. C. Vermilyea are again with us after an absence of more than a week in Vancouver and Westminster.

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THE DAILY COLUMBIAN
TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 4, 1890.

"WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"

CONSIDERABLE perturbation has been caused on the Mainland, at least, by a little incident which varied the monotony of the House proceedings at the Provincial capital on Friday last, and more than one Mainland journal has sarcastically exclaimed, "What does it mean?" thereby sagely implying that it means a great deal. The incident in question consisted, in short, of a motion by Hon. Mr. Davie, the Attorney-General, to the effect that the return of the number of voters on the respective voters' lists of each of the electoral districts of the Province, ordered by the House on the 7th of February last, should embrace those persons on the list up to and including the 28th of February, 1890, and of an amendment to the motion, by the Hon. John Robson, Premier and Provincial Secretary, to the effect that the return should include all applications to be placed on the register up to date named; the original motion being carried.

Unless it is to be taken as one of those flukes that will occasionally happen even in the best regulated families, the incident, it must be confessed, does not show a very good entente between the two honorable members of the Government concerned. That it shows, however, as has been hinted, that the Attorney-General is so consummately idiotic as to hope to fix the basis for the approaching redistribution by any such shallow, bare-faced device as would be implied in keeping to the strictly legal voters' list and affecting to shut his eyes and those of the rest of the House to the large number of applications to be placed upon the register, that have not yet matured, is almost too absurd to be entertained for a moment. No; the Attorney-General, as the legal head-light in the Cabinet and the House, with true lawyer instinct and persistency, was probably merely sticking up for points, he wanted everything done decently and in order, and he was undoubtedly within the strict technical rights of the case when insisting that the "return of the number" of voters on the respective voters' lists should only include those who were actually on the lists—that is those whose applications, by being two full months on the form for that purpose, had matured. The Hon. the Premier, on the other hand, with a mind unhampered by legal training and restrictions, viewed the matter in a broader light, and, therefore, moved that the return should include all the applications up to date mentioned as well as the names actually on the lists.

This view, we think, is borne out by the fact that Mr. Cunningham's motion in the House, yesterday, for a return of the number of applicants to be placed on the provincial voters' lists up to February 28th, was, as will be seen by the report elsewhere, carried unanimously. The Attorney-General or no one else could have expected to prevent such a return, and the Attorney-General can hardly be so blinded and stupefied by sectionalism and narrow-mindedness as to imagine that more quibbles will have any part in settling the redistribution question. We have a better opinion of the Attorney-General's astuteness, or rather common sense, to say nothing of his honesty and fairness, to suppose anything of the sort. It is generally conceded that the formulation of a fair redistribution scheme for the whole Province will be a matter of no little difficulty at the present time, owing to there being no recent census to furnish authoritative figures on population and other particulars. In the absence of this, all possible information bearing upon the subject will be eagerly availed of by the Government and the House, if they are honest in the matter, and sufficient evidence has not yet transpired to prove the contrary.

THE MINERAL BELT SETTLEMENT.

News was received at Victoria last week that a settlement had at last been reached between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in the matter of the mineral belt in this Province, which has been pending for a considerable time. The settlement gives satisfaction on the whole. By the terms of the compact the Dominion Government agrees not to make any leases on other disposition of any minerals in the railway belt, except coal, other than by patent or fee simple, to the intent that the minerals in the belt, other than coal, may be administered under the Provincial mining law. All lands of the Dominion offered for sale from time to time within the belt containing minerals within the meaning of the British Columbia Mineral Act, not being Indian reserves or settlements, and not being under license or lease from the Dominion Government, shall be open to purchase by the Provincial Government at the price of five dollars per acre. All lands derived by the Province under the preceding clause shall be set apart from alienation by the Dominion upon the Provincial Government making a written application therefor, with description sufficient to identify it, the money consideration thereupon being immediately payable on the lands thus to be acquired. If surveyed, such money shall be accepted as conclusive; but on unsurveyed lands the Province pays the cost of survey before a sale can be effected. All the minerals, including gold and silver, which may be in the Indian reserve in British Columbia, shall be administered by the Indian Department, and not by the Provincial Government. In the draft forwarded to Victoria last week an additional clause appears indemnifying the Dominion against any

claims on account of licenses that may be issued. Hon. Mr. Robson telegraphed on Wednesday that the Provincial Government accepted the draft except the clause just quoted. The Government considered the matter, and as no licenses have been issued, decided to consent to eliminate the clause, the two Governments thereby being agreed. It is thought the settlement will now be acceptable to both parties.

THE FRENCH METHOD.

For some years past, observes an exchange, France has had to face an annual deficit in her treasury of over \$100,000,000 a year, and it is not surprising that her Minister of Finance has announced that it is absolutely necessary that the receipts of the Government should be increased. With this end in view he proposes the adoption of a protective tariff still higher than that at present in operation; in other words, the scheme is that the heavy burden of taxation already borne by the great mass of the people shall be made heavier still. This is a remedy for national financial ills, however, continues the journal referred to, which has its limit, and there is good reason to believe that the limit has even now been reached. It is not unlikely that M. Rouvier's plan, instead of averting the financial crisis which seems to be impending, will hasten it.

To many people it has often been a source of surprise that France should have been able apparently to prosper in spite of her enormous national debt and her extraordinary expenditures for military and naval purposes. Her debt is the largest in the world, and she not only supports the second largest army and navy in Europe, but is constantly increasing both. And yet she seems able to carry these tremendous burdens, and at the same time to make a satisfactory progress. The explanation most frequently given of this surprising fact is that her extended peasant proprietorship enables her triumphantly to surmount all her difficulties. This, however, has just been shown by official statistics to be a fallacy.

It is quite true that an enormous number of her people are landed proprietors, but an enquiry recently concluded has brought to light the fact that these proprietors in reality possess but a small portion of the soil. A report made last year by the Director of Agriculture shows that seventy-five per cent. of the total number of landed proprietors possess only ten per cent. of the entire area of the country; thirteen per cent. own twelve per cent. of the area; and twelve per cent. possess seventy-seven per cent. of the area. The trouble is that the holdings of the great mass of the peasant proprietors are too small. No fewer than about 10,500,000 of the total number of 14,000,000 are holders of less than two hectares each, and they are the unfortunate upon whom the burden of taxation chiefly falls. Millions of French farmers, it is declared, are crushed by mortgages, the total amount of which is over \$4,000,000,000.

The result of this state of affairs is thus described by a recent writer on the subject: "Probably not for many centuries has the surface been more poorly cultivated. Official investigations show that one-third of France is totally uncultivated; another third yields but half harvest; while the third third produces anything at all only under conditions that are positively grinding. The position of the French Government in regard to taxation is like 'Paddy's toward heads: when you see any property, tax it. The burden that falls on the agriculturist is enough to discourage cultivation. The more he works and produces, the more extensively is he the victim of the tax-collector.' And now M. Rouvier proposes to increase the revenues of the Government by taxing these poor people still further. He may learn, however, thinks the exchange quoted in the first place, that it is impossible to draw blood from stones, and that if the financial ruin which is now starting the country in the face is to be warded off, some other plan must be adopted than the imposition of additional taxation upon a people already taxed to death.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

President Hippolyte, of Hayti, having found it necessary to leave Port au Prince on business for a few days last month, adopted a unique plan to prevent revolution during his absence, says an exchange. He took with him every resident of the capital who was known to be disaffected. It is not likely that they accompanied him willingly, but the invitation to join the Presidential party was put in such a way as to render refusal to accept it dangerous.

The financial collapse in the Argentine Republic has been as great as the boom which preceded and caused it. The land fever has completely died out, and it is now impossible to make sales at any price. In October last they amounted to about \$40,000,000, and in December they were under \$2,000,000. Foreign investors have suffered enormous losses, and it is safe to say that they will fight shy of the country for some years to come. The inflation per capita is said to have exceeded anything known in England since the days of the South Sea bubble.

Lieut. Governor Royal was announced to leave Regina last Wednesday for the Mormon settlement at Lee's Creek, and it is surmised that the purpose of his visit was to ascertain whether polygamy was really being practised in the colony or not. It is scarcely necessary to say, however, that official visits of this sort are worthless so far as the acquisition of information is concerned, if it is to the interest of the parties visited to prevent the truth becoming known. If the Dominion Government desires to ascertain the precise state of affairs at Lee's Creek it must adopt a very different plan.—Ez.

Recent advices from Samoa state that a Government scandal is agitating the people of that small country. According to the balance sheet of the late Tammese Government, of which the German consul, Brandeis, was the head, there should be about \$12,000 worth of property and upwards of \$2,000 in cash to hand over to the Government of the reinstated King Malietoa. It seems, however, that not only is all the surplus cash gone, but the property is mortgaged to a German firm, and all that is left to represent \$80,000 revenue collected during the reign of Tammese is a few municipal effects. What better proof

could be desired that the Samoans are rapidly becoming civilized.—Ez.

Mr. Henry Gladstone, whose marriage to Miss Maud Rendel took place in London recently, is the fourth son of the Grand Old Man. He was educated at Eton, on leaving which he did not proceed to the university, but went at once into business. At first it was intended that he should join the old Gladstone firm. But subsequently his programme was altered, and he entered the firm of Ogilvy, Gillander & Co., East India merchants at Calcutta. Mr. Gladstone is dark and clean shaven. In features he is like his brother Herbert, but is much taller and lacks the thick curly hair of the latter. His tastes are essentially active. He is great at polo, fond of most field sports and a great shot. In politics his views are those of his father, but as yet he has given no public expression thereto.

The *Akademische Monatshefte*, a students' magazine, is responsible for the statement that Prince Bismarck, during his university life, fought at least 60 duels. When studying at Goettingen he had alone with the Brunsviga corps fifteen fights. The corps the Chancellor belonged to is the Hannovera, whose archives contain the records of the combative propensities of the student Bismarck. Being a man of powerful physique and six feet in height, he seems to have mostly escaped unhurt, the more so as he was an excellent fencer. The only mark of a cut he still carries he received from Herr Biedenweg, a member of the corps of the Bremenses, who died some time ago as judge of the Superior Court in Stade. When the latter was member of the German Parliament, one night was present at a beer reception the chancellor gave to the deputies his former adversary pretended that his cut was "Inkommmentarisch;" that is, against the rules, which Biedenweg smilingly denied.—Ez.

A shipment of 180,000 cats—in a mummified state—has been received at Liverpool from Upper Egypt. The pussies were knocked down within a few days of their arrival at \$20 a ton to a local fertilizer merchant by an auctioneer, who used one of their heads as a hammer. Once highly revered and even publicly worshipped in temples erected in their honor, they were borne to their tombs in the rock caves of Beni-Hassan, just 4,000 years ago, by processions of white-robed priests with clashing of cymbals and chants by the choirs of Isis. During the forty centuries which have elapsed since then the cult of the cat has gone out of fashion except in the cases of spinsters who continue to worship them when living, and of epicures who pay homage to them after death—when stewed "en gibelotte." Nevertheless it is a terrible reverse of fortune for these feline gods of the ancient Egyptians to be shipped across the seas and to be pounded up into a compost for the artificial manuring of British mangold wurzels.

Worth Ten Dead Men.

The report that Mr. Joseph Dare, keeper of the Esquimalt lighthouse, had been shot through the brain and instantly killed, was freely circulated on the streets yesterday afternoon, and created no little alarm among the friends of that gentleman in this city. Only the barest and most meagre details were obtainable until evening, and it was a matter of speculation whether murder had been done, or which was equally improbable, Mr. Dare had suicided. The only definite information to be obtained was that an Indian had arrived in Esquimalt about 3 o'clock bearing a note from Mrs. Dare to Officer Campbell to the effect that her husband had been shot through the head and instantly killed. Officer Campbell at once reported to Sergeant Langley, and with the naval doctor and several others started for the island on which the lighthouse is situated. On their return it was learned that the affair was not nearly so bad as at first reported. The light keeper was far from dead, and with care and attention was in no danger of death from the results of a most painful accident of which he had been the victim. He had been shot through the face and body. Finding him thus, his wife at once came to the conclusion that he was dead and immediately sent to Esquimalt for assistance. On the arrival of the doctor and his party Mr. Dare was restored to consciousness, and the facts of the case were ascertained. It is confidently anticipated that he will suffer no more serious consequences from the accident than the partial loss of his sight, a terrible affliction truly, but not so terrible as the, as first reported, loss of life. —Saturday's Colonist.

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PERFECTION BOOTS.
Men's Patent Seamless Boots, from \$2.50 to \$3 50 per pair
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MEALS AT ALL HOURS, DAY AND NIGHT,
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County Court of New Westminster.

HOLDEN AT CHILLIWACK.

A SITTING OF THIS COURT WILL BE HELD at Chilliwack, on Monday, the 27th day of March, 1890, at 11 a.m., of which all parties concerned are required to take notice.

By order, JOHN S. CLUTE, Jr., Deputy Registrar.

New Westminster, Feb. 24, 1890. dwtfc

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NOTICE.

COUNTY COURT OF NEW WESTMINSTER

HOLDEN AT NEW WESTMINSTER.

OWING TO THE ILLNESS OF THE JUDGE, the sitting of this Court, fixed for Tuesday, the 4th March, instant, will be postponed to TUESDAY, the 11th INSTANT, at 11 o'clock, a.m., of which all parties concerned are required to take notice.

JOHN S. CLUTE, Jr., Deputy Registrar.

Dated 3rd March, 1890. dwtfc

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