THE NELSON ECONOMIST.

VOL. III NELSON B. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 19[illegible] No. [illegible]

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NELSON, B. C.

NELSON ECONOMIST

VOL. III. NELSON, B. C., WEDNESDAY, EEBRUARY 21, 1900. NO. 32

THE NELSON ECONOMIST is issued every Wednesday at the City of Nelson, B. C., by D. M. Cayley. Subscription: $2.00 per annum; if paid in advance, $1.50. Correspondence on matters of general interest respectfully solicited. Only articles of merit will be advertised in these columns, and the interests of readers will be carefully guarded against irresponsible persons and worthless articles.

Pay! Pay! Pay!

NOTICE.—There are several hundred readers of THE ECONOMIST behind in their subscriptions. No doubt this is attributable to neglect and all that will be required to ensure a hasty response is this gentle reminder.

AN arrangement, which is regarded by some as a settlement, has taken place between the mine-owners and miners of the Slocan. It is agreed that $3.25 will be paid for a day's work of eight hours. Without outside influences to further disturb the relations now existing between the mine-owners and miners, it may transpire that in a few months both parties to the recent dispute will once more be upon friendly terms. Should this prove to be the case, it will be a matter of congratulation to everyone interested in the future prosperity of the Province. In the meantime, the newspapers will be conferring a great favor on the community by dropping the agitation. Further discussion will only make matters worse.

LAST week THE ECONOMIST expressed the belief that it would be to the benefit of the city if the new wharf was constructed by day's labor. It appears that Mayor Houston and Aldermen Morrison and McKillop incline to the same belief, although Aldermen Arthur, Wilson and Hall think otherwise. The former gentlemen take practically the same view as THE ECONOMIST, viz: that in performing the work by day's labor, all the money will be kept in the city, and that a better and cheaper wharf will be constructed. The latter three believe the interests of the city would be equally as well guarded by having the work done by contract. While we disagree with the latter, we are not disposed to regard their contention as other than conscientious expressions of opinion. But the more the matter is investigated, we believe the more assurance our citizens will have that in constructing the wharf by day's labor the money will all be spent in Nelson.

GRADUALLY it is dawning on the British nation that the War Office was unfortunate in not acting on the advice of Sir William Butler, late commander-in chief in South Africa. It is believed that Sir Alfred Milner was responsible for the discredit thrown upon the repeated warnings of Sir William. On one occasion Sir Alfred suggested the reinforcement of certain garrisons by 1,000 men. "A thousand men?" cried General Butler. "If you mean business it is not 1,000 men you want but 100,000." How fully his opinion was justified, subsequent events have demonstrated. It is estimated that the Boers have now at least 65,000 men under arms. They occupy fortified positions, many of which are absolutely impregnable. They have the very best modern weapons, with plenty of ammunition, and sufficient stores to last months. They prepared for this war, and they did it with Dutch thoroughness, overlooking no details, and they have secured some of the best continental strategists. The British, on the other hand, the attacking party, heeded not the warnings of Gen. Butler, underestimated the strength of the enemy, and began the war only half prepared. The difficulties of transportation and maintenance are enormous. They are not in fortified positions, nor do they know the country. The Boer has demonstrated that he has not deteriorated as a marksman. On his native veldt he has proven himself a foeman worthy the Briton's steel.

THE Liberals of British Columbia will hold a convention within the next few weeks, when an effort will be made to heal old wounds and otherwise fix up party differences. It is inferred from the unusual activity among the Liberals that an effort will be made to force party lines in the forthcoming provincial contest.

Politics seems to have played a prominent part in the departure of General Hutton from Canada. The Laurier Government was determined that General Hutton should be driven out of the country and succeeded in making it so disagreeable for him that he prevailed upon the War Office to give him an appointment in South Africa.

GENERAL HUTTON, says the Hamilton *Spectator*, has been ordered by the war office to proceed to South Africa, by way of England. It is well known that the general has been anxious to take part in the Boer war, and it is undoubtedly in answer to his request that the order has been made. General Hutton, like those of his predecessors who have done their duty as officers commanding the Canadian militia, has made a good many warm enemies, and has been at odds with the minister of militia. The cause of

this is readily understood. General Hutton knows his business and insists upon doing things and having them done as they should be, while many of the militia officers and the minister of militia are not soldiers in any sense, save that they hold Her Majesty's commission, and they very often desire to do things as they should not be done, as private wish or political exigency may require. It is unfortunate that this is the case; for it is utterly useless for the country to spend large sums of money for the support of the militia unless the commanding officer, who knows his business, and insists upon militia affairs being properly conducted, is placed at the head of the orce. The Canadian militia is now beginning to feel the good influence resulting from the fact that some recent commanding officers have insisted upon doing things properly, and it is to be hoped that General Hutton's successor will be another of the same kind. Meanwhile Canadians generally will take an interest in General Hutton's career, and will be glad to see him distinguish himself in Africa, as he will, undoubtedly, if he gets a chance.

THE Vancouver *World* says a lot of newspaper strategists who would not know how to move a cook-stove have peen busy telling Buller how to move an army. Indeed, very few of these same strategists could move a printing press.

IN another column we print an extract from a letter written by Charles Lewis Shaw, in South Africa, to the Toronto *Telegram*. Mr. Shaw is a close observer and has the faculty of writing interestingly on almost any subject.

THE Liberals are attemptiug to shut R. L. Richardson, M. P. for Lisgar, out of the party caucus. This is a sample of tyranny that the rank and file of the Liberal party may resent.

NO DOUBT the passengers on the quarantined steamer Moyie feel they have a grievance, but the people generally will uphold the health officers in the determined stand they have taken. It is much better that a few are deprived of their liberty for a couple of weeks, than that the whole commercial interests of a large business community be paralyzed. In this connection it may also be pointed out that the daily papers have acted wisely in publishing all the facts regarding the solitary case of smallpox that has appeared in Nelson. Increased danger might result in a suppression of the facts. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

A CASE that will interest publishers throughout the United States and Canada will shortly come before the U. S. Courts. The Chicago *Tribune* has filed a bill for an injunction against the Associated Press pirating and transmitting to other papers for publication, a portion of the *Tribune's* special cable service, comprising the editorial views and other news appearing in the London *Times*. Damages in the extent of $100,000 are asked. It appears that the *Tribune* with other American and Canadian journals made arrangements with the *Times* for a joint telegraph service in South Africa, the cost being considerable, and it has been the habit of the Associated Press to procure copies of the early editions issued by the *Tribune*, and make up therefrom dispatches for publication by all newspapers to whom it gives a press service.

WHILE Andrew Carnegie has been acquiring a reputation for philanthropy, his partner, Henry Frick, alleges in a complaint just filed he has been trying to do him out of half the value of his interest in the iron and steel properties the company owns and operates. The suit is regarded as the most important ever filed in connection with the steel business, and it is said more money is at stake than in any legal proceedings ever before brought in the States in which all the parties were simply citizens. Steel manufacturers view the trouble as a bitter personal struggle for supremacy. Probably Mr. Carnegie was endeavoring to make Mr. Frick an involuntary philanthropist. Mr. Carnegie was recently complaining of not having enough to do, and Mr. Frick has kindly solved that problem for him.

WE are pleased to learn from the *Island Sentinel* that "F. J. Deane makes an effective speech." The fact that Mr. Deane is editor of that paper somewhat detracts from the weight that might otherwise be attached to this modest expression as to the editor's merit as an orator.

VICTORIA has its regular monthly agitation. This time it is a railway to the Northern end of Vancouver Island that is arousing attention, which, it is contended, will afford continuous railway connection for the entire length of the Island, and is "absolutely necessary for the development of the great resources of Vancouver Island." The scheme is recommended to the favorable consideration of the federal and provincial governments. Victoria will get railway connection and all the conveniences of up-to-date cities when the Divine hand of Providence reaches out and gathers in the mossback element that has so long blighted the capital city.

THE scant courtesy received by Joe Martin in bringing his charges against Finance Minister Cotton will not encourage other politicians in an effort to turn the Parliament buildings into a laundry for the washing of soiled linen.

THE Toronto *News* has a theory with regard to the closing down of the mines that may or may not possess the merit of probability. It says: It looks as if the mine owners of Rossland are following the example set by the newspaper proprietors of Chicago last year, when they were confronted with a serious labor trouble. Instead of temporizing with the men the publishers shut down for a week, and during that

period the city was without a newspaper. In two days every man and woman in Chicago was down on the strikers, and ultimately they were compelled to give in. That seems to be the principle upon which the mine-owners of Rossland are proceeding. Rather than enter into a conflict with the men that would be costly and annoying, they simply quit until conditions are more to their liking. This is a weapon the employers are in a position to use with almost a certainty of success. Workingmen will be wise to refrain from pushing them to that point.

NELSON may not boast of the best hockey team in the world, but when it comes to playing the national game of Scotland, all other places have to take a back seat. In the recent matches at Rossland, Nelson curlers won every prize worth carrying home.

THE first thing that impresses the visitor to Nelson is the large number of strictly first-class mercantile establishments located here. In almost every line of trade we have stores that will compare favorably with those in the same line in the larger cities of the East. The buildings are all of a substantial character and the quality of the goods carried is the best the market affords. Added to this is the excellent taste of the merchants in displaying their wares.

IN the absence of other important war news, it might be mentioned that the Nelson *Miner* has its guns still turned in the direction of the *Tribune* kopje, where is secreted the masked battery of General Houston.

THE first Australian newspaper, the Sydney *Gazette*, was published March 5, 1806, fifteen years after the rise of the colony. The delay was caused through their being no printers among the convicts, who represented every profession, including the legal.

THE newspapers on the Coast are threatening to assert their independence. The two Victoria papers are rebelling against party dictation, and express an inclination to adhere to independent expression of opinion in future. Undoubtedly it would be better if all Canadian newspapers would adopt this policy. When a political party controls the opinions of a paper a free press becomes a misnomer.

EVEN the bank statements supplied by Mr. Greenway have not disproved the allegation that his government had resigned leaving a deficit of upwards of $200,000. Col. McMillan, late Provincial Treasurer, now admits that the alleged deficit of $200,000 is "about correct." Commenting on this, the Winnipeg *Telegram* says: "The amount of the deficit stated by Hon. Mr. Davidson was $227,005.15, besides which there is the obligation of some $150,000 in railway bonuses, to which the late government in its dying hours endeavored to bind the province. Col. McMillan certifies that this statement is 'about correct.' What a tremendous backdown the organs will have to make after their energetic asseverations that this statement was 'a deliberate lie,' and a 'Tory slander.' Mr. McMillan now shifts his ground, and says he really thinks that this deficit is a 'splendid showing.' The people of Manitoba are scarcely likely to agree with Mr. McMillan on this point, especially when they remember that this is not the full extent of the 'splendid showing' of the Greenway government's twelve years of financial extravagance."

BURGLARS and thieves need not expect much sympathy from Mr. Justice Martin. The recent severe sentences imposed by His Lordship should act as a deterrent against crime in Nelson.

IN granting Fireman Jeffs $150 to defray his expenses resulting from his recent accident, the city council performed a commendable act. Mr. Jeffs is a capable fireman, and it would be base ingratitude to permit him to be out of pocket all the expenses incidental to an injury received while in the performance of his duty.

THE offices of P. Burns & Co., in their new block, will be among the best equipped in British Columbia. They are handsomely finished and well adapted to the growing requirements of the firm.

ACCORDING to the *Pioneer*, in a few days the long wished for will be realized and Phoenix will be able to enjoy the luxury of electric lights.

WHILE other cities of British Columbia are complaining of dull times, Nelson merchants speak encouragingly of the large volume of trade in the Kootenay metropolis.

IN instituting a quarantine against Nelson, the Kaslo authorities seem to have acted with undue haste. Indeed, such action is open to the construction of petty jealousy on the part of a neighboring town, more particularly as the citizens of Kaslo have long been regarded as altogether too slow to catch even smallpox, or any other contagious or infectious disease, for that matter.

THE redistribution bill now before the Local Legislature is just such an outrageous measure as might be expected from the narrow-minded individuals in whose brains it was conceived. It is unjust to a large number of electors, and is designed as a blow against certain opponents of the Government. By this means the Semlin party hopes to manufacture a majority. Surely now is the time for the Lieutenant-Governor to step in and prevent the perpetration of such a flagrant act of injustice.

THE readiness with which Attorney-General Henderson resents any reflection on his "honor" is not the least amusing spectacle presented in the halls of the British Columbia Legislature.

EVENTS AND GOSSIP

AMONG the notable events of the week will be the visit of the Rossland minstrels to Nelson. This organization is composed of the leading vocalists of Rossland, and in the performances already given the members have won at least local fame. The entertainment to be given here, next Saturday night, will be in aid of the Mansion House Fund, which in itself should induce a large attendance.

Reports from Dawson City would indicate that the famous goal of the gold seekers a year or so ago is likely to become a deserted village. There will be a great stampede to Nome, as soon as navigation opens, which will result in the decimation of the population of Dawson.

Arrangements are being made for the presentation of Gilbert & Sullivan's famous comic opera, "Pinafore," by Nelson amateurs. There is good amatuer talent in Nelson and "Pinafore" is one of the very few operas that amateurs can present almost as acceptably as professionals.

A few weeks ago some Nelson ladies seriously discussed the proposal of getting up an amateur female minstrel entertainment. The idea was to give two performances in aid of the Canadian Patriotic Fund. Such an entertainment would undoubtedly attract a large audience, and as a well-wisher of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, I must confess my sorrow that the suggestion was not acted upon.

The announcement that freight rates to all points in the Boundary district are to be reduced on and after March 1st is welcome news. It is understood the new tariff will be issued in a few days.

The conventional remarks which are made at the close of a reception or party are usually about as meaningless and senselessly mendacious as those matutinal ejaculations concerning the weather. Mrs. A. goes to the hostess and says, "Good night, my dear Mrs. H., I have had such a lovely time! Everything was simply perfect." Then Mr. B. comes up, and, with a forced smile, remarks: "Ah, Mrs. H., I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed this charming evening. It has been perfectly delightful." And so it goes on, and each prevaricator goes to his or her dressing room and begins to tell the nearest neighbor how stupid the whole thing was and how much they are bored by being obliged from a sense of social duty to attend such monotonous affairs. But there was a man in Victoria a few years ago, and a well known one too, who did not believe in this conventional lying. One evening, attired in dress suit and a broad, clean shaven smile, he attended a reception given by a popular hostess, and resolved before he started that his adieux should shatter the ordinary conventionalism of departure from such a gathering. So when the time came to leave, he sauntered leisurely to the parlor where madame was saying good night to her guests, and in a tired tone remarked: "Well, Mrs. H., I've been here all evening, and want to say I've had the devil of a time." "Indeed!" replied the hostess, who had known the gentleman for years, and who immediately caught his point. "Well, then, Mr. B., I'm d—d glad of it." I am opposed to profanity, but in this case I believe the recording angel will appreciate the humor which prompted the reply and overlooked the formality of making an entrance.

The news from the seat of war is of a most encouraging character. It seems as if Kitchener would be able to engage Cronje in open battle, in which event the first decisive engagement of the war would be fought. The Boers are now abandoning all the positions held by them in British territory and the relief of Ladysmith may be expected at any moment.

Ground on the Balfour extension will be broken in a few days. Already there is a barge load of camp equipment at Thirteen-mile Point and the old sawmill. Twenty men went up yesterday and more are to follow to-morrow and the next day.

The Rossland winter carnival was a gratifying success. There were many visitors from Nelson and all speak well of the way in which the arrangements were carried out. It may be a little premature to discuss the matter, but I cannot help remarking that the citizens of Nelson should now begin to consider the suggestion made last year of getting up a summer carnival, the predominating feature of which would be aquatic events of a similar character, only on a larger scale, to those arranged for last Dominion Day celebration. Such an event would not only prove profitable from a business point of view, but would also advertise Nelson as a great tourist resort.

The Carleton Place *Central Canadian* tells the following story: "All the world—or nearly so—has heard of Harry Lindley, the famous comedian. Often, often, Harry has been on the rocks a wreck, with his satellites strewn about him, their lights out, and hotel bills dancing menacingly about, adding to their weight of woe. Somehow Harry has the faculty of arising from his ashes and getting back on the stage in good form and with a goodly company. An incident illustrative of his honesty came to us last week. Some years ago he struck a streak of hard luck, and come to a full stop at Arnprior, whence his company disbanded, drifting one by one away from his side into the outer oblivion. The hotelkeeper of the town, who knew Harry's heart of gold, advanced him $90 as fresh capital for new endeavors.

The money built Harry up at once, tall and four-squared to the world, and he remounted the stage. The years rolled by, and the loan ceased to be even a memory in the Arnprior man's mind. One day last week the hotel-keeper opened a letter from Harry containing a money order for $130."

The end of the Semlin Government is near at hand. Everything points to the redistribution bill as the rock on which the old ship will go to pieces. Stirring events may therefore be looked for within the next few days. P. G.

The Conservatives of Nelson should call a meeting at once.

Hon. I. Tarte gives emphatic denial to his reported retirement from the cabinet.

Trooper Wragge of the Strathcona Horse has telegraphed J. H. Bowes from Ottawa that the local contingent are in a happy frame of mind.

Manager Prosser of the Waverley is enlarging his popular hotel in anticipation of the spring rush in travel. The accommodations of the Waverley will be more than doubled, and all the conveniences of a first-class hotel establishment will be found there in future.

There is an opportunity at present for some one of our good, reliable, pushing citizens to secure the agency of the Imperial Life Assurance Company, by applying to the Provincial Manager, J. W. W. Stewart, at Vancouver.

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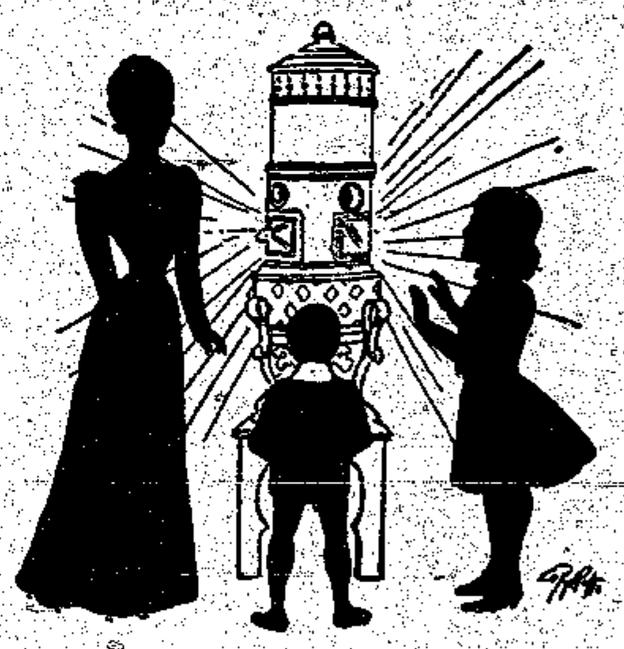

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Canada's Son.

(Tune, "Bonnie Dundee.")

They tell me you'r ready to go to the wars,
The proud ship is waiting to bear you away,
In trim suit of khaki, or gold braid and bars
My brave soldier lad standsat "tention" to-day,
And if it shall be that no sweetheart, no wife,
No sister shall wave you a tearful farewell,
Remember, my lad, through the war din and strife,
You'r Canada's Son that she loves as her life.

Chorus:
Remember, my lad, you are Canada's Son;
She bids you stand firm till the victory be won.
Then up at the foe, with a straight British blow,
And strike for your Queen, and your Mother, my son.

One day there came calling across the blue sea,
A voice from the Mother Land ringing so free:
"O fair daughter, Canada, what of thy sons,
Are they men for my flag, are they men for my guns?"
"Quick march" was the answer, it rolled like a tide
From coast of Pacific to Atlantic wide,
And lo! there came marching a thousand full strong,
The pride of the Empire, each Canada's Son.

Chorus: Rememer, etc.
The bugle is sounding in clarion-like tone,
Bend low for a moment your face to my own,
One grip of your hand, and one glance from your eye,
To cheer up my heart and to banish the sigh.
Now shout every voice, boom forth every gun,
"God speed thee and keep thee, brave Canada's Son.
Though battle be lost, or though battle be won,
We pledge firm our faith to thee, Canada's Son."
Chorus: Remember, etc. —*Minnie E. Rankin.*

The New 'Phone.

The 'phone came New Year's morning, John; they put it in the hall,
And isn't it the strangest thing to ring the bell and call
Some friend who lives a mile away, or maybe two or three,
And hear her voice so plain and clear you'd almost think that she
Were standing at your elbow? Oh, isn't it just great
To call up everyone you know and simply satiate
Yourself with all the gossip that is going in the town,
And talk to Mrs. Jones and Smith and Black and Green and Brown?

I didn't use it much—just called a friend or two—
I talked with Ida Dennis and Sadie Donahue,
And said good-morning to the Spears, and had a talk with Bess
McKelligan and Julia Crowe, Nell Jones and Mrs. Hess.
I chatted with the Stevens girls, and called up Molly Kane,
Nell Hutchinson, Mae Mullen, and Matilda Castlemaine.
The Smiths were not at home, and so I called up Mary Krause,
And chatted for awhile with her and Mrs. Westinghouse.

I couldn't raise the Robinsons—their 'phone was out of whack;
The Martin line was busy, so I rung up Stella Black,
Who said she hadn't tried to do a blessed thing all day
But call our number, and each time the hello-girl would say
Our line was busy. Goodness me, I never heard of such
Dissimilation in my life—I hadn't used it much.
So, just for spite, to-morrow I'll call everyone on earth,
And show that hello-girl I mean to get my money's worth
—*Victor Telephone Journal.*

CURRENT COMMENT

Redistribution.

(Victoria Colonist.)

Mr. Turner was wholly right in saying that it is impossible for a ministry, situated as that of Mr. Semlin's is, to bring down a fair measure of redistribution. Redistribution is a matter of supreme importance, and no Government whose control of the House is gone should attempt anything of the kind, or, if it attempts it, should be permitted to carry out its plans. The temptation to gerrymander would be too great to resist. Moreover, any single member of the House could take the Government by the throat and compel it to alter his constituency or leave it alone, just as it su ted his individual wishes, a condition of things that would be little else than a scandal. Redistribution is lasting in its effects, it should therefore only be undertaken by a Government which by some show of plausibility could be claimed to possess the confidence of the country. We feel so strongly about this that we would regard it to be the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor to refuse his assent to such a measure unless it were carried by a substantial majority.

Joe's Little Game.

(Kamloops Standard.)

In the House Mr. Joseph Martin's chief delight is to gently lead the Government, especially the Attorney-General, to commit himself to a course which, when followed out, exposes the latter's want of experience. Mr. Martin now is playing them outside of the House at the same game. In a weak moment Mr. Henderson agreed to prosecute the writer of the letter in the *Standard* referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's personal appearance, and, finding himself betwixt the devil and the deep blue sea, has ventured into unknown depths rather than face the devil. The second article, which Mr. Martin read to the House, was simply making fun of the Government for being bluffed by Mr. Martin into a prosecution which would be impossible in an older and more experienced part of the Empire. Mr. Martin, however, doesn't mind what steps are taken to hurt his enemies, and it is possible he thinks by getting at Mr. G. Sheldon-Williams he is getting at "Observer," who is undoubtedly his political foe.

Why the Difference?

(The West, Regina)

Mr. Bourassa raises constitutional objection to the Government sending troops to assist the Empire. As everybody knows his position now is the identical position the Government at first assumed. They then said "Parliament must be consulted, the constitution requires it." Mr. Bourassa now says the same thing and is moving to have his position emphasized.

If Mr. Bourassa is so jealous of the constitution why does he permit the Government to attempt to

wreck it by passing an unconstitutional act—the Redistribution Bill. If the constitution is worth following why does he not follow it? Why does he single out the defense of the Empire for causing delay by technical constitutional objection while he is assisting in breaking the constitution to gain a personal or party advantage? It is exceedingly strange to see constitution wreckers hugging the constitution. But that is what they are doing. The constitution seems to be good or useless, according to their necessities. It does not take much penetration to discover the insincerity of what is now being attempted.

A Canadian s Opinion of the War.

(Charles Lewis Shaw war correspondent of Toronto Telegram.)

CREDIT FOR COLONIALS.

There has been such arrant, gushing rot written about the English officer, and the press censorship has been so severe that it is just as well now that I have the opportunity, to tell exactly what not only is my own opinion, but the opinion of the veterans of the old native and Boer wars. But it has been the military history of our empire— colonial opinion has ever been despised from the days when Washington was a British colonial officer, and the French stronghold in America—Louisbourg—was captured by a Boston merchant commanding colonial troops. The prettiest, best executed, most effective little piece of work done in the campaign was done by the Canadians and Queenslanders in that Douglas raid the other day. They were commanded by Col. Pilcher, whom I personally know to be too thorough a soldier to bother about frills. He knew what he had to do and how to do it, and understood his men. He did his work without the loss of a man. He is a man that will be heard of before this war is over. One of his strongest points is that he understands "Tommy." Two weeks on board ship with Col. Pilcher told me that. I have slept under the same blanket and shared Tommy's rations too often not to understand him. His officer, as a rule, doesn't. I have often wondered why the soldier waiters at messes where I have dined do not burst into uncontrollable laughter at the discussions that go on regarding Tommy.

TOMMY AND HIS OFFICER.

His officer discusses him kindly and considerately, but with such a condescending non-comprehension that it would be laughable if it were not ludicrous. Now, as a matter of fact, Tommy Atkins is infinitely his officer's superior physically; he is his equal in pluck and dash, and only slightly his inferior in breeding and education, if you look at manners and education in their broadest sense. It is an undecided point in my mind, if he is inferior to him in intelligence. I have heard his officer discuss Tommy, and I have heard Tommy discuss his officer, and Tommy knows his officer thoroughly, and his officer doesn't know Tommy. I have heard the officer discuss the campaign, and I have heard Tommy, and Tommy's opinion is the more valuable, and Tommy knows his business better than the officer does his. It is 14 years since I knew the British arm in the field, and the change in the personnel of the ranks is remarkable. The schoolmaster has been abroad. And the soldier of this war is a vastly superior animal to the one I knew on the Nile.

TOMMY'S IDEA OF WAR.

Early one morning a Tommy with whom I was particularly friendly, and I went a mile or so up the Modder river for a swim. We discussed, certainly, the all-absorbing topic—the campaign. If I had space his opinions would be worth printing. The London *Times* would give money for them, for with clear insight into the weakness of our military system, and the difficulties of our position, he had opinions regarding playing the Boer at his own game that would make good reading. "Now," he said, "take Belmont and Graspan, for instance. We beat them. We killed 50 or 60 of them, took 49 or 50 of them prisoners, laid about 100 of our dead men on the veldt, with 200 knocked out of action, and we got a few bare, unoccupied kopjes that were no more earthly use to us than a few hundred carefully assorted kopjes in the neighbourhood without a Boer on them that we could have had without a shot being fired, and that were of just as much value. Why didn't we mask their position with a few thousand men that could themselves be relieved by reinforcements and march on. The Boer won't fight much in the open. We are the Kimberley relief column, we are. Why don't we let the —— Boers keep their —— old kopjes? We don't want them." The discussion was beyond me. And we prepared for the swim. He stripped beautifully, as the trainers say, for as a matter of fact he was one of the finest men I ever saw. With the exception of a strong country accent, he had the outward and visible signs and manner of a thoroughbred, and he had brains. I had to see a staff officer on business that morning, and as Tommy was off duty we walked over to headquarters together. He waited in the square outside, while the officer who was in his bath, told me to come in as he would be very busy, and he hadn't a moment to spare all morning. I listened to his ridiculous dicta regarding a profession which he knows nothing about, for soldiers cannot be newspapermen, inspected his thin shanks, and wondered how his lungs had a chance to work in that chest, and quietly smiled at the guff in the newspapers about England sending her best blood out in this war for Queen and country. England is, but the best blood she sends flows in the veins of men like that Northumberland farmer's son who was ordered peremptorlly away by the half-dressed officer "for loafing around like a lazy Kaffir." My friend quietly saluted, turned and walked away. And I wanted to turn that officer over my knee and spank him.

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GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

His Beauty Mark

"HOW did I come by this beauty mark?" said Job Patterson, as he stroked back the snowy hair from his brow and caressingly followed with a finger the livid scar which ran across his forehead. "Well, it's a queer story, and maybe you won't credit it; but, although at the time it nearly cost me my life, in the end it proved a blessing in disguise, as it brought me the most charming wife it was ever the fortune of man to mate with.

"Our acquaintance began in the Seven Dial, his visiting card being a revolver and mine a pair of darbies. But although our first meeting was a trifle rough and lacking in courtesy, I was not ungrateful to him, for his capture gained me my first promotion at Scotland yard.

Besides which, we had both set our marks upon the other, he having giving me an ounce of lead in the shoulder, whilst the aforementioned scar spoke of my dexterity with the fire shovel; so that when we afterwards met we cried quits and an intimacy gradually sprang up between us.

But this was all ancient history, as we had both long since retired from business. I, upon a small pension, had left the force and sought out a quiet cottage at Stokes Bay, in Hampshire. To my great surprise I found Patterson leading a highly respectable life and much esteemed by the small community.

He was supposed at the club to be a retired fishing master, and his greatest relaxation seemed to be in romancing.

"It is not necessary," said Job, "to seek adventure in foreign parts. Many a terrible blizzard have I witnessed from the old cottage at Totland bay during the sixty odd years of my sojourn there; but never shall I forget the time when the old Eliza Jane was blown ashore.

"It was in the autumn of 1850; the storm had been raging all day long, and towards evening it had nearly spent itself. I was standing with a group in a sheltered nook anxiously watching the maneuvers of a small brig showing signals of distress, which was rapidly being driven upon shore.

"Lifeboats were not so plentiful in those days, and we could do nothing to assist the ill-fated vessel except prepare the rocket line in anticipation of her striking, which she eventually did, ramming her nose almost ashore just inside the Needles. I was not backward in assisting those who were endeavoring to shoot a line over the wreck. Not to make my story too wearisome, this was accomplished, and a stout hawser soon stretched between the doomed vessel and the shore.

"Owing to the surf and blinding spray, we could see only at intervals what was being done on board

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the wreck, but there appeared to be three men and a female clustering around the mainmast, and we soon had the satisfaction of seeing the woman lifted into the cradle and one of the men raise his hand as a signal for us to haul her ashore.

"Ere we had seized the ropes, a cry of horror and superstitious fear rang simultaneously from each of us. Suddenly a frightful hairy creature, and nearly seven feet in height, was seen through the spray to rush from the cabin stairway brandishing a heavy bar of iron.

"So sudden was the apparition that more than one ran up the cliffs shouting, "It's the devil!" whilst those of us who remained were frozen into silent horror by seeing the creature advance, and, with an unearthly yell, strike down the nearest man, and seizing the other two, who appeared to be dazed, in its powerful arms, held them aloft for a minute and dashed them with a sickening crash upon the deck, from which they were swept inanimate by the next billow.

"I was the first to perceive that the author of the terrible tragedy was in reality an immense ape, which, as I afterward discovered, had been consigned to the zoological gardens from a merchant in Borneo.

"We were so dazed that we momentarily forgot the woman until recalled to our senses by seeing the baboon make a vigorous spring upon her. Happily the creature was too late, and before it could recover itself the basket cradle was clear of the vessel.

"Seeing his prey disappearing, and also perceiving the rope which had been attached to the basket for the purpose of hauling it on board the wreck, the wily animal made a dart for it, and, bracing himself against the mast, began to pull the ill-fated woman toward him.

"And then began such a tug-of-war, the like of which I have never seen before or since. How our muscles cracked, and the thick beads of sweat rolled down our faces as we pulled against the monster.

"Minutes seemed like hours as in silence we hauled at the line. Another eternity of silent straining, and then another gain, and still another. Clearly the animal was tiring. In our eagerness we must have jerked at the rope, for the next moment we were lying upon our backs. The line had parted upon our side.

"When I regained my feet I found that, owing to the sudden relaxation of the rope, the animal had shared the same fate as ourselves, and lay sprawling. Seizing a long boat hook and shouting to my mates to form a chain, I rushed into the surf and was just able to hitch on to the top of the basket with the hook. Those on shore, quickly realizing my inten-

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CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

May and Jennie Mineral Claim, situate in the Nelson Mining Division of West Kootenay District.

Where located: On the easterly slope of Fortymine Creek, about five miles from its mouth.

Take notice that I, John McLatchie, P.L.S. of the City of Nelson, acting as agent for William A. Arnold, Free Miner's Certificate No. B 13,371, John Paterson, Free Miner's Certificate No. B 11,620, and John Campbell, Free Miner's Certificate No. B 12,151, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a certificate of improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements.

Dated this 3d day of February, A. D., 1900.

JOHN McLATCHIE.

JOHN McLATCHIE

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tions, formed a living chain and followed me into the water, the foremost man seizing my legs.

"And then the tug-of-war began again, only in a more terrible manner, for upon me was the greatest strain. I have read stories of the inquisitorial rack, but never until that moment did I realize half the agony which could be inflicted upon the wretched sufferer.

"Entirely unable to communicate my sufferings to the man who had clasped my legs, and with a determination not to release my hold upon the boathook, I half mechanically began to work my legs out of the heavy sea boots which encumbered them. I gave a final wrench and sped onward, leaving my boots in the grasp of the man in my rear.

"After shooting rapidly forward there was another short pause, presumably owing to the animal having again lost his equilibrium; but short as it was it gave me time to clamber into the cradle, which, owing to the additional weight, was hanging much lower than it otherwise would have done.

"And then a sudden inspiration seized me. I would cut the rope. But hope was short lived. I always kept my sheathknife in the top of my sea boots, and I had discarded them.

"Scarcely had I discovered my loss, when with a last pull we were at the wreck, and I could feel the hot breath of the monster as he leaned over me, grinning and jabbering what appeared to me, in my prostrate condition, to be almost human gibes and taunts.

"When I recovered myself the gigantic ape was lying dead upon the deck shot in the nick of time by the vicar, who had gathered some idea of the truth from the craven-hearted lads who rushed to him in their first wild alarm about the Evil one, though not before the animal had given me this wound as a dying legacy.

"I took my wife to London for our honeymoon

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CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

Summit, Band M, Buckhorn and Little Fraction Mineral Claims, situate in the Nelson Mining Division of West Kootenay District.

Where located: On the north fork of Wild Horse Creek, near the headwaters thereof.

Take notice that I, John McLatchie, P.L.S., of the City of Nelson, acting as agent for the Yuba Mining Company, Limited, Free Miner's Certificate No. B 26,605, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for Certificates of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining Crown Grants of the above claims.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this eighteenth day of December, 1899.

JOHN McLATCHIE.

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trip, but we were soon glad to return to our peaceful cottage, for those Londoners do seem to be an uncommon wicked lot of chaps."—*London Answers.*

Contempt of Court.

(Victoria Times)

Punishment for contempt of court is not so frequent in British Columbia as it used to be, and if the opinion of the judical committee is to be hold good there will be very little of it in the future. In McLeod vs. St. Aubya, reported in the Canada *Law Journal* for February, a barrister-at-law had been committed for fourteen days for having sent to a third person a newspaper containing libellous matter affecting the acting chief justice. The judical committee were of opinion that the facts did not warrant the finding of the judge, rescinded the order, and ordered the judge to pay costs of the appeal. Some of the observations of the committee may be of interest to judges, lawyers and newspapermen generally and we quote them: "The power summarily to commit for contempt of court is considered necessary for the proper administration of justice. It is not to be used for the vindication of a judge as a person. He must resort to action for libel or criminal information. Committal for contempt of court is a weapon to be used sparingly and always with reference to the interests of the administration of justice. Hence when a trial has taken place and the case is over the judge or the jury are given over to criticism. Committals for contempt of court by scandalising the court itself have become obsolete in this country."

The *Times* can remember the time when it was considered almost a criminal offense to criticize the conduct of a judge, and when the contempt of court machinery was set in motion against it by a few bitter political opponents. That time, however, has happily passed away. Fortunately the bench as well as the press has improved during recent years.

Because of his pro-Boer sympathies an employee of the Massey-Harris Company, at Brantford, was compelled to kneel on a British flag and apologize to his fellow-employees.

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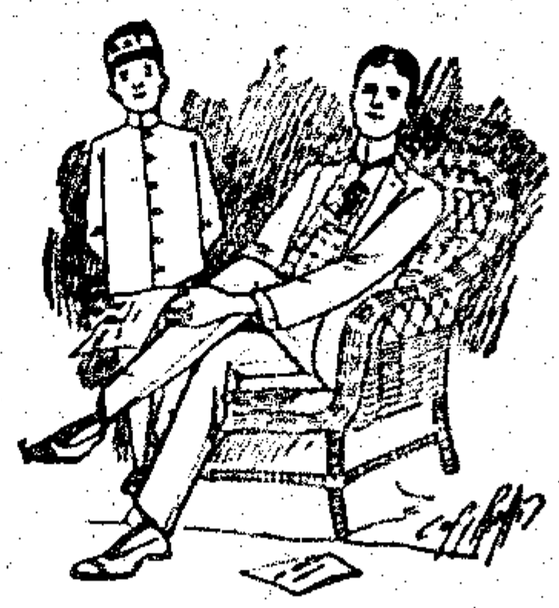

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