The Colonist.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1898.

ANGLO-AMERICAN RE-UNION.

There has been a very remarkable change in the attitude of the press of the United States in regard to the closer union between the great republic and the British Empire. Recent events have had a wonderfully sobering effect upon the minds of our neighbors. There is a remarkable absence of blatant jingoism from the columns of the leading newspapers. Congres is absolutely silent. For the first time in a quarter of a century the senate has held its peace. Face to face with a new responsibility, the people are displaying a conservatism worthy of so great a country and of the race from which it derived its language and institutions. Hitherto the people of the United States, though their country had grown to the stature of a great power, have treated international questions as though they were pawns in the political game of chess. The result has been detrimental to the dignity of the nation and has at times seriously jeopardized its relations with other countries. Fortunately for the peace of the world, other governments long ago learned not to take senatorial ebullitions very seriously. A very conspicious part in this remarkable game has consisted in what our friends called "tail-twisting," the British lion being the victim of it. This pleased the boyish fancy of the nation, and was a pretty good way of keeping public attention away from questions of importance. Meanwhile it must be admitted that the several presidents have shown that they felt the sobering responsibility of their high position, and there has in many years been only one case where this admirable rule has been broken, and that was in the case of the Venezuela message. We shall not now give what is said on very good authority to have been the true explanation of President Cleveland's utterances on that occasion.

The Venezuela incident had an unexpected effect upon the mind of American people. The president's astonishing language was read in British countries "more in sorrow than in anger," and the voice of the Empire was that there should be no war. This was at first misunderstood in many quarters in the United States as an expression of fear, but when a few months later the Kaiser sent his memorable message to President Kruger, and in response the Empire declared itself ready for war in an instant, our neighbors fell to thinking. What was the explanation, they asked, of this wonderful forbearance towards them on the part of a nation that was ready at a moment's notice to try conclusions in arms with the greatest military power in the world? The answer came quickly to them and they made no concealment of the pleasure it gave them. It was that between the great Empire and the great Republic there are subtle bonds of union, which, though unobserved under normal conditions, make themselves felt in time of tension.

Then came the Jubilee celebration, that great apotheosis of Anglo-Saxon self-government, and the naval display, when Great Britain told the world that she "was mistress still" of the ocean. Our neighbors saw in this proof that the peaceful disposition of the Mother of Nations was not due to fear, but to a consciousness of power, and their amazement deepened into respect.

A few months ago the Oriental question reached something like a crisis, and it took such a shape that it was likely to touch the American pocket. Once more Great Britain spoke, and she spoke for America as well as for herself. A struggle seemed imminent for freedom of trade in Asia, and Great Britain, without asking where she would find an ally against all Europe, declared herself ready to fight. It is safe to say that nothing that any foreign power in the world ever did, has elicited such admiration in the United States as this. The voice of criticism was hushed, and the people seemed for the first time in half a century to feel and acknowledge pride in their close relationship to the champion of commercial liberty.

Last but not least comes the Cuban question. It is undoubtedly true that the United States feels much better able to do its duty in this crisis towards humanity, because of the knowledge that all the might of the British Empire will be put forth, if necessary, to keep other nations from interfering. To thousands of Americans the Union Jack and the fleet which bears it are a guarantee that if the time has come when the United States must vindicate the right of a struggling people to self-government and must wipe off the map of America the plague spot of Cuba, no European power or combination of powers shall be permitted to stay the righteous act, if the power of Great Britain can hold them back.

These things tend to promote Anglo-Saxon re-union. God speed the day when it shall come and America and the British Empire shall stand shoulder to shoulder as the champions of freedom, Christian civilization and peace.

STANFORD'S NORTH AMERICA.

We have at hand volume 1 of the ford's North America. This volume deals with Canada and Newfoundland, and it was written by Samuel Edward Dawson, F.R.C.S. It is published by Edward Stanford, London, Eng. It is a book of seven hundred pages, is profusely illustrated and has an exceptionally good large map showing Canada, Newfoundland, the Northern States, Greenland and Iceland, and a number of smaller maps. The learned writer appears to have done his work remarkably well. Tested by the chapter on British Columbia, which occupies 78 pages, we have no hesitation in characterizing it as a book of exceptional value. Every care seems to have been taken to secure accuracy, and while full justice is done to the province, there is no exaggeration and nothing written for effect. We heartily commend this book to the people of Canada, who will find it what is so much needed, namely, an attractive, handy and carefully compiled work dealing with the country in which they may naturally be supposed to be most interested. Author and publisher are alike to be congratulated. We shall look with interest for further numbers of this series.

HIT BY HIS OWN BOOMERANG.

Mr. Cotton, M.P.P. for Vancouver, inventor and patentee of the new obstructive process, to be run partly by wind, has been just a little bit too clever. In pursuance of his precious policy the opposition renewed their obstructive tactics on Wednesday, when Mr. Helmcken moved his resolultion in regard to the railway from Northport into Boundary Creek. It is quite easy to see how there migh tbe a difference of opinion upon the proposition laid down in the resolution, but this need not have given rise to the prolonged discussion and the moving of the two amendments. No attempt was made to conceal the fact that all the opposition aimed at was to waste the time of the house so as to delay as long as possible the introduction of supply.

In pursuance of this policy Mr. Kidd moved a resolution that the Dominion government be asked not to grant Mr. Corbin's company a charter until after the local house has granted it. Mr. Cotton voted for the amendment although perfectly aware that there was not the ghost of a chance of Mr. Corbin's company getting a charter from the legislature this year. We thus find him taking practically the position that Mr. Corbin's company shall not be authorized to build the railway from the south; yet later he voted against the original resolution, which was to ask the government at Ottawa not to grant Mr. Corbin a charter. The two positions are absolutely irreconcilable. Mr. Williams saw this, and while voting with the opposition on the other divisions, supported the original resolution; but his too clever junior colleague walked deliberately into the ditch which he had digged for the government.

We further find Mr. Cotton taking the position that if an American road can get into the Boundary Creek country before a Canadian road, it shall be allowed to do so. As Mr. Hunter pointed out, the people of Vancouver well know how to settle with their mis-representative for this treason to their interests; but the surprising declaration is worthy of notice on another ground. It is the result of foolish tactics. It is folly for any man to think he can pour water continuously out of a kettle. He is sure to get down to the dregs; and so we find the junior member for Vancouver, having exhausted the evasive and inconsequential prattle of pure obstruction, admitting what under ordinary circumstances he would have guarded as a secret, namely, his willingness to see the cherished desire of his constituency defeated by the construction of a railway from a point in the United States into the Boundary Creek district before a Canadian line can get there. If Mr. Corbin is prepard to say that he will build a railway to carry the trade of the Boundary Creek country to Spokane sooner than any one else can build a railway to carry the trade of that promising district to Vancouver, Mr. Cotton, by his own statement, stands ready to let him do so.

But this is not all there is to be said on this point. Mr. Cotton wanted to engineer an extensive railway proposition of his own last winter, but was nipped in the bud. He must have gone far enough, however, to have learned how important it is that no needless obstacles shall be put in the way of railway projects. He knows that the provincial government is using every effort to get the railway built from Penticton to Boundary Creek. He knows that an effort is being made to get the Dominion government to add to the subsidy. He knows that, after all the aid has been obtained which both governments are likely to give, the promoters of the railway will have to guarantee a very large amount of capital. He knows that while it might be possible to raise the amount of money needed for the line, if it has no American competitor from the south, it will be exceedingly difficult and perhaps impossible to do so, if an American company is on the ground first and has succeeded in diverting the trade to United States cities. And yet in the exhaustion of resources caused by prolonged obstruction, he lets the truth slip out and goes on record as willing to support a line of action which if successful, might postpone indefinitely the construction of a Canadian line to this promising part of Canadian territory. We have felt confident that Mr. Cotton would find his patent obstructive process a boomerang, but did not think it would hit him between the eyes quite so soon.

SHIPPING YUKON GOLD.

An Ottawa dispatch says that the government arrangements with the Bank of Commerce are such that when any Yukon miner pays full royalty he shall be entitled to receive bank drafts for any portion of his gold payable in any city of Canada, New York and San Francisco, without any charge whatever. In addition to thus providing for the transmission of gold the agreement is said to contain other features of interest, and the dispatch says:

One of the stitpulations the bank sought to make was that the government should be responsible for the safety of bullion which it held or transported out of the country, and that it should guarantee the bank against loss either at its office at Dawson or en route to the Coast arising from robbery or burglary committed under violence. To this proposal of the bank the minister of finance refused to give his assent, but promised the fullest police protection.

The qualification of the government's liability was accepted by the bank, but in such a manner as to make it clear that they would hold the country responsible under the general laws of the Dominion for any loss that may be incurred through failure to maintain law and order. The agreement as finally arrived at provides that the officials of the bank shall travel in company with and under the protection of any detachment of mounted police which may be en route and that the buildings of the bank shall be within the police enclosures. Regarding the shipment of gold it is stipulited:

"When gold is forwarded by the bank to the Pacific Coast ,the government is, on request, to provide within Canadian territory, a police escort therewith. Such escort shall be supplied at least once every four months; provided, however, that whenever the bank has on hand gold to the amount of $5,000,000, and desires to forward the same to the Coast, such an escort shall be provided."

BUSINESS LOANS.

The Colonist is always glad to hear from its corespondent, Mr. D. Rabbitt, of Vancouver, and to print his letters. Mr. Rabbitt is very much in earnest in a good cause, although he will not find his plans and arguments received with universal favor. To-day he asks for an explanation of what the Colonist meant by loans made to farmers in a business-like way. The expression was perhaps not a very happy one, but it was used for the purpose of drawing a distinction between mortgage loans and ordinary business loans. For example: If a merchant should go to a bank and ask to borrow money on a mortgage upon his stock, the bank would not regard this as a business transaction, but as an indication of a possible insolvency. Banks lend to merchants on the credit of their going business. What we would like to see effected is an arrangement whereby farmers can make short term loans on reasonable interest on the credit of their current farming operations. This does not directly touch the case of the man who wants to get rid of a mortgage upon which he is paying a higher rate of interest than he can afford to; but it would be the means of keeping many a farmer from having to mortgage his property. Indirectly also it would help some of those who are struggling under heavy mortgages; but we confess that if these are to be relieved a very much more heroic measure will have to be resorted to. It is the easiest thing in the world to get a mortgage on a farm and the hardest to get it off. Especially is the latter proposition true on the coast, where many farms were mortgaged, when land and everything else were at boom prices. Improved facilities of communication, coincident with a long period of hard times, made burdens very heavy, which when assumed seemed light enough, and we have not yet seen any plan that seems adequate to affording the necessary relief. The removal of the so-called mortgage tax is a mere bagatelle. What these sufferers need is to be relieved of the principal of their indebtedness. Even reduced interest will not help them as they need, for as long as the heavy mortgage stands they are substantially tenants of their land only.

What we think might be accomplished is the formulation of plans for putting farmers upon the same footing, when they need temporary loans, as merchants and other business men are. This cannot be done through existing banks, for it is impossible for these institutions to get closely enough in touch with the circumstances of probable borrowers. If in addition to this, which is intended for the relief of all farmers, a measure can be devised whereby those farmers, who are burdened by heavy mortgages, can be helped in some adequate way, we shall be very glad to do what we can to promote it.

Mr. Macpherson seems determined to draw a line between British Columbia and the rest of the Dominion. He will, if he succeeds in amending his "Master and Servant" bill as he desires, simply secure its prompt disapproval by the Governor-General.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

The report of the United States court of inquiry finds that the Maine was destroyed by an external explosion. The despatches add that it does not fix the responsibility of the act on any one. It could hardly do that. Presuming that the report is warranted by the evidence, the case stands thus: The Maine was destroyed by an external explosion while lying in a harbor under the control of Spain; Spain must therefore offer some proper explanation, unless she is prepared to join issue with the findings of the court, in which event war would be the only possible result. The United States cannot undertake an inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining how the external explosion was caused. We assume that Spain will not admit the correctness of the finding of the American court. The fact that the torpedo flotilla is on its way across the Atlantic indicates that the Madrid government is preparing for the last resort.

We can very well understand why much uneasiness should exist in American naval circles over the movements of this flotilla. The United States is very weak in the matter of torpedo boats while Spain is strong in this exceedingly useful branch of her navy. Torpedo boats are very formidable, so much so that we find one American naval officer recommending that every warship in the fleet should be kept as far as possible out of the way of the Spanish craft. It is probably the possession of this arm of the service in such superior numbers that makes Spain regard the possibility of war with greater calmness than the disparity between the nations in other respects would lead us to expect.

THE RETIREMENT OF LORD SALISBURY.

It seems unfortunate that Lord Salisbury should be compelled to consent to temporary retirement from the active work of the United Kingdom at this very critical period. The British people everywhere have grown to regard him as a strong and safe foreign minister. His critics are many, and some of his acts of policy have been roundly condemned, yet we think it can be fairly claimed for him that during three years of exceptional difficulty he has so discharged his great responsibility that the prestive of the empire has not been lowered, and the peace of the world has been preserved.

Lord Salisbury is not a very old man, as British statesmen go, being only sixty-eight. Beaconsfield was seventy-seven before death ended his active life; he was five years older than Salisbury is now, when they represented Great Britain at the famous Berlin Congress and brought back "peace with honor." John Bright was foremost in public life long after he reached the Prime Ministers age, and Lord John Russell was eighty-six at his death, and was premier at seventy-four. Lord Palmerston was premier when he died at eighty-one. Gladstone is now eighty-eight, and he resigned the premiership at eighty-four. Lord Salisburys age alone is therefore no obstacle to his retention of office. Overwork, which has aggravated an attack of diabetes, is the cause of his being compelled to seek rest.

If we thought the members of the legislature would pardon us we should say that they talk too much about small matters and too little about those that are important. Every one who is in touch with what is going on knows that very valuable work is done in the several committees. The members by no means shirk their responsibility as to the details of measures. What we miss is the broad treatment of questions on the floor of the house. The debates are scrappy in both senses in which the word is used. We are quite sure that many more gentlemen on both sides of the house could, if they would take the necessary care to prepare themselves, present the various propositions involved in legislation with clearness and force. This would call for longer speeches; but long speeches are by no means objectionable if they are replete with useful matter. We are sure that it would give the press great pleasure to be able to print more speeches of a substantial character and fewer reports of what are little else than windy altercations. Members of the legislature owe it to their constituents to devote more care to their speeches, to take more time in delivering them and to cut short the continual bickering over unimportant matters.

We think the sympathy of the people of Victoria is not with those who are advancing Mr. Corbin's railway projects, but in favor of the construction of a railway at the earliest possible day from Penticton to Boundary Creek. Build the Corbin line first and we may prepare to bid a long farewell to the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern project from which we all expected so much a year ago. If any one doubts public sentiment on this point let him try to get up a public meeting to advance Mr. Corbin's project. No one finds any fault with that gentleman. He knows a good thing when he sees it much more quickly than most people. He likewise knows how, apparently to make people know good things when they see them. A very short time ago he and his railway plans were in creadful disrespect with some persons, who now are very warm in their support. We do not refer, of course, to Mr. Bodwell, who is simply earning the fee which Mr. Corbin is paying him.

Switzerland is going to adopt government ownership of railways although it will involve an investment of $240,000,000, a very large liability to be assumed by a comparatively poor country with less than three millions of inhabitants. The decision was arrived by a referendum, when 384,272 persons voted for the purchase of the roads and 176,002 against it. No decision has yet been reached as to how the money will be raised. The finances of Switzerland have been very well managed, the public debt being less than $18,000,000 at 3½ per cent interest, and against it the republic holds assets very greatly in excess of this amount.

Canada for the Canadians was good doctrine when the Conservatives were in power. It is just as good doctrine now, and there is an opportunity to give effect to it on the northern and southern frontiers of British Columbia. Yet we find some people laboring to hand the traffic of the Yukon over to Seattle and that of the Boundary Creek district to Spokane. We depricate the introduction of politics into business matters of this kind. While our politicians are wrangling over how the fruit shall be gathered our wide-awake neighbors will pick it all. Canada for the Canadians and business first and politics afterwards.

The Oregonian points out that the United States interfered in the affairs of Mexico when Napoleon III. tried to set Maximilian on the throne; that Great Britain, France and Russia interfered on behalf of Greece against Turkey in 1827; that in 1829 Austria interfered in the affairs of Naples, that in 1823 France interfered in the affairs of Spain, that in 1830 Great Britain and France interfered in the affairs of Belgium; in 1848 Great Britain and France interfered to save Turkey from Mehemet Ali, and so on. There is no lack of precedents for intervention in Cuba without a formal declaration of war.

The Toronto Globe says there is practically no difference of opinion between the parties in the House of Commons as to the necessity of altering the franchise law and that there will be no serious objection to the government's plan of using the provincial voters' lists in federal elections. We have already expressed the view that this was the best system, and also that the Conservative party itself never felt very much enamored of the franchise law which it enacted. The measure was an experiment and it cannot be said to have given satisfaction.

Colonist readers will remember the case of Craemer, sentenced to death in Seattel for the murder of a woman and her infant. The matter attracted considerable attention all over the country, especially because of the persistent efforts of Craemer's friends to discover a miner named Jack Quincy, by whom an alibi could be proved. The missing witness is believed to be in this province. The day set for the execution is so close at hand that the gallows has been erected. Meanwhile the State Board of Pardons has recommended the commutation of the sentence to imprisonment for life, some of the members of the board expressing themselves very strongly in favor of the innocence of the accused. The Governor of the State had up to yesterday declined to give effect to the recommendation. If he allows the man to be hanged and Quincy shall by and bye put in an appearance, the Governor will have an uneasy conscience for the rest of his days.

The following is from the Rossland Times and reads like the contribution of a practical man to a practical question. It is easy to see how the confusion refered to by the Times may arise:

The location of mineral claims will surely come up for discussion this session, and when it does the Times would like to call the attention of the members for West Kootenay to one little item that has hitherto escaped notice, namely, make compulsory for the writing on the No. 1 and No. 2 posts to be done on the face looking towards the claim being staked, i. e., the inner face. At present locators are using each and any of the four faces on a post. When the direction of the location line is not given—and it very seldom is given on the No. 2 post—the prevailing style is most confusing. Let us have a rule that all shall follow, and the finding of the ground staked will be rendered much easier than now. If the outer face of the post be more convenient, let it be the outer face, only let us have uniformity.

A decided falling off in the Yukon rush is reported from all points along the coast; but the opinion of those persons who are in touch with transportation matters, is that the drop is due simply o the season being too late for travel over the snow and too early for packing. As a matter of fact the number of people who have already gone north is must greater than any one expected it would be during the first ten weeks of this year.

The Post-Intelligencer has the startling information that the Canadian government has granted some one a permit to drive in a stake near Crater lake so as to haul sleds up the hill. Now let the heathen rage. This is certainly an outrage of the deepest dye. Our contemporary can work itself into fever heat on less provocation than any newspaper in Christendom save and except a certain Bedlamite neighbor of ours.

The latest individual to receive the adulation of the Post-Intelligencer is Mr. Powell, M.P. for Westmoreland. Mr. Powell has chosen to decry the Stikine as a navigable river. He knows no more about it than a horse knows about algebra.

The British Columbia News says a great many people are wondering if General Hancock was not correct when he said that the tariff is a local issue. He undoubtedly was correct, although he could have covered the ground more correctly if he had said it was made up of a great number of local issues. This is not to say that there is not a principle involved in the difference between protection and free trade.

Olsen, otherwise known as the Big Swede, who made a fortune in a few months in Klondike and told people that he had come out to be Mr. Olsen for a while, has grown tired of masquerading in good clothes and has gone back to the land of the Aurora Borealis. Riches are not much good to a man who has not the least idea of how to enjoy them.

A notice sent out by the Speaker of the United States house of representatives on Tuesday warned members not to leave Washington under any circumstances as the most important votes of their lives may be expected soon. The reference is to the Cuban question.

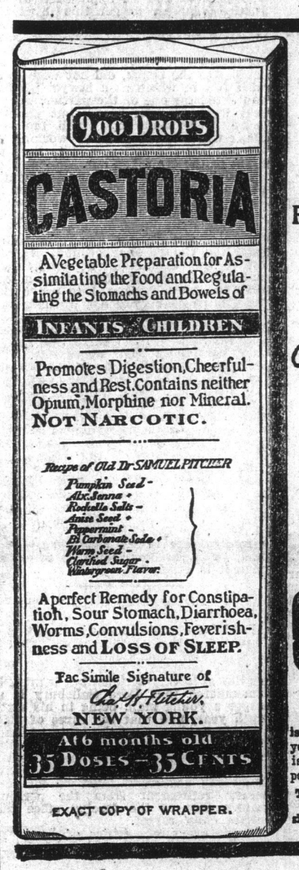
Another Alaskan coffin ship has gone down with all hands. This time it is the bark Almy, of San Francisco. There were forty people on board. She turned upside down not far from San Francisco. When will the public learn not to trust their lives to death traps

By the substitution of the word "province" for "Dominion," in the third line of the third paragraph of the Colonist editorial of yesterday's issue, this paper is made apparently to regard labor from other provinces as "alien." Of course nothing of the kind was intended.

British Columbia seems to have no reason to complain of a lack of available banking accommodation. Nothing better illustrates the growing confidence in the West than the manner in which eastern banks are reaching out for business.

The increase in the C.P.R. receipts is surprising. It is due in part to reduced rates, but chiefly no doubt to the general western movement both of freight and passengers.

An eastern paper wants to know if it would not be better if the money people are investing in outfits and the labor they are expending in going to Klondike were invested at home. We have not the least doubt that when Abraham started for the land of promise some of his neighbors said he would have shown more sense if he had settled down quietly at home.



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