

## The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1897.

## THE PROPOSED PLEBISCITE.

The government measure under which the question of prohibition will be submitted to the people will take that question out of the arena of mere sentimental consideration and make it severely practical. Several grave considerations must be taken into account. One of these is the question of revenue. The receipts from customs and excise dues on spirituous liquors amount to about \$8,000,000 a year. This would have to be raised by some new species of taxation, and as all the indirect methods have been exhausted, a direct tax on incomes would be the only one left to resort to. An income tax is a perfectly fair tax, and we make no objection to it on principle. We are simply pointing out that the tax will follow as a matter of course upon the adoption of a prohibitory law, and therefore the people of Canada, those who do not use spirituous liquors as well as those who do, will understand that by voting for prohibition they are substantially declaring that a very large sum, now contributed to the revenue by those who use spirituous liquors, will thereafter be paid by a direct tax upon all the people. Some portion of the \$8,000,000 would probably be received from duties on other articles, the consumption of which might be increased.

But it is argued that under prohibition the expense of government will be much less. This is an argument that does not apply to the expense of the Dominion government except in a very inconsiderable degree. It may be conceded that the general expense of maintaining police, taking care of paupers and some other phases of government will be greatly lessened by a well-enforced prohibitory liquor law; but these are matters which come under the control of the municipalities and the Dominion has nothing to do with them, except in so far as the expense of maintaining penitentiaries is augmented by the crime due to over-indulgence in intoxicating liquor.

Indeed, so far from the cost of governing the Dominion being reduced by reason of prohibition, it would be very considerably increased, because of the staff of officers necessary to enforce the law. We have no means of estimating what this would be, but several thousand miles of land and sea frontier would have to be watched to prevent smuggling and a federal constabulary would have to be maintained to prevent the illicit manufacture of liquors. To the amount necessary to be raised to make up the deficit caused by the cessation of regular imports and legal manufacture of spirituous liquors would have to be added a very large sum to cover the cost of policing the whole country to prevent smuggling and illicit distilling. The experience of those localities where the Canada Temperance Act, 1878, was put in operation, is that it is idle to expect a prohibitory law to enforce itself. Those who count upon the ordinary police force of communities being equal to the enforcement of a general prohibitory law are simply unable to appreciate the case. If the law is passed it ought to be enforced, and it cannot be enforced except at great expense.

It must be kept in mind also that municipal revenues would be very greatly reduced by the abolition of licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, but it is probably true that, if the Dominion would be at the expense of seeing that the law is enforced the saving to the municipalities by reason of the reduction in pauperism, crime and immorality would more than counter-balance the loss of revenue. We are now supposing that the law is, as a matter of fact, actually enforced and the illicit manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors is stopped, as far as it can be prevented by legal means. It might be that the Federal parliament, having enacted the law, would throw the responsibility of its enforcement upon the provinces. Certain acts are declared by the statutes of Canada to be crimes or misdemeanors, but parliament makes no provision for the prevention of them, and is at no expense as to the prosecution of offenders, except to pay the salaries of the judges. It is very evident that in a province like British Columbia, where population is scattered and where so many miners, prospectors, adventurers and speculators gather, the expense attending the enforcement of a prohibitory law would be enormous and the measure of success would be comparatively limited. On whom would the expense of this fall under a prohibitory law?

Such are some of the practical questions connected with the proposed plebiscite that will have to be faced. Whether they are of a sufficient weight to counterbalance the benefits to be derived from prohibition we must leave each reader to determine for himself. At a later day we will probably have something to say upon the general question of prohibition. It is probably true that a majority of the people of Canada believe that it would be a good thing for the Dominion and its inhabitants to stop the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. It is probably also quite true that the ability of the people to pay taxes would be increased if there was not so great a waste of money, time and energy through the

drinking habits of the people. But when it is proposed to ask the people to say whether or not a prohibitory law shall be enforced, the best friends of the affirmative side of the issue must direct as to the questions involved, for if a popular verdict is secured on false pretences or under a misapprehension of its effects, it will not stand more than two years on the statute book.

## THE WEALTH OF YUKON.

We reprint to-day some extracts from Mr. Ogilvie's report on the great gold fields on the Canadian tributaries of the Yukon. One can say without exaggeration that nothing like this has ever been told of any part of the world and if when the knowledge of what has been found in that remote country becomes general there is not an immediate rush of miners thither, all precedents will be at fault. There is, of course, no means of approximating the amount of wealth that will be taken out of the country during the next few years, but one thing is very evident, namely that thousands of people will go into the country and will have to be fed and clothed while there. A very large number of these people will come out every fall and bring with them quantities of gold. They are the freest people in the world with their money. When they strike civilization after being months and perhaps years isolated in a sub-Arctic wilderness they want the best that civilization can afford and they are not very particular about the price they have to pay for it. Most of them on coming out will find further than the Coast cities and see life during the winter in the larger cities of the continent, but they will sell their gold in Victoria and they will outfit here for their holidays. Literally speaking there is "millions in it" for Victoria and Vancouver if they can secure their legitimate share of the trade of the Yukon.

## COLD STORAGE.

In the estimates as submitted to parliament there is an item of \$80,000 for cold storage to be supplemented by \$20,000 hereafter. It is expected that seven vessels running from the Atlantic coast to European ports will be equipped with mechanical cold storage apparatus, and cold storage warehouses will be provided in Halifax, St. John, Charlotte, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Revelstoke. That at Revelstoke is to be provided in anticipation of the trade in dairy products from the Northwest Territories. The government will supervise the construction of the buildings and we gather from the statement of the Minister of Agriculture that the aid will take the shape of a five per cent. guarantee of interest. On the subject of cold storage in general as applied to the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, Professor Robertson, the well-known expert, said recently:

What I saw and learned on this trip confirms my previous belief that the shipment of dressed beef will ultimately add from \$10 to \$15 to the value of every steer grown on the prairies. The transportation charges for the carriage of dressed beef will average nearly \$30 per head; the shrinkage in weight is from 50 to 70 pounds per head; the animals arrive in Great Britain with the tallow run off their kidneys, and the tallow generally somewhat discolored. The beef also is quite different from the beef from the same animals when slaughtered as they come from their prairie pastures. The carcasses of the same steers could be shipped as dressed beef at a cost not exceeding \$15 per head. The shrinkage during the journey would not be more than five or seven pounds per carcass, and all the edible offal, such as tongues, hearts and tripe, could be carried in cheap boxes in cold storage. I think the cold storage service arranged for by the government on railways and steamships will be of very great benefit to the whole cattle interest of Canada, and particularly to the live stock interests of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

The greater quantity of both will doubtless go to Great Britain, as the production of these will be larger than required to meet local demands, and for the present year larger than to meet the demands of the rapidly developing mining regions in British Columbia and around the Lake of the Woods. The mining boom will benefit the farmers. The farmers in Alberta will find an excellent market for butter, eggs, poultry, oats, and for flour and oatmeal from the Edmonton district, in the Kootenay and Roseland mining regions. At present the want of an efficient cold storage warehouse as a distributing centre at such a place as Revelstoke or Nakusp is a serious handicap to Canadian farmers, who are competing with the United States farmers whose products are sent in by way of Spokane Falls. From Spokane Falls butter and eggs and that class of products can be delivered to the mining camps in twenty-four hours; from Edmonton and Calgary the delivery takes from three to five days. With a cold storage warehouse at a central point in the mining region, where four or five carloads could be held, prompt delivery could be made of the Canadian products in the best condition. That would be a sure, and, it seems to me, a necessary means of capturing and keeping that market for Canadian farm products.

A COLONIST reader thinks an editorial in yesterday's paper in regard to the Yukon gold fields may be misunderstood. The statement was made that the Yukon is in Canada. The word Yukon was used to signify the territory so named in contra-distinction to Alaska. In the American papers the Yukon gold fields are always spoken of as Alaskan. All the auriferous gravels of this great river system are not, in Canada, for some very valuable ground is west of the 141st meridian, and hence

in United States territory. But the lower part of Forty-Mile Creek, all the Clondyke, all Stewart river, and every mile of the Yukon and its tributaries above these points is in Canada. The Colonist's desire is not to detract from the reputation of the Alaskan gold deposits, but to point out that the most valuable and most numerous discoveries are in Canada.

The Canadian Trade Review draws attention to the highly interesting fact that while the value of speculative stocks in Cripple Creek is steadily going down, the mines are doing better than ever. It thinks that something of the same state of things may be looked for in Roseland and elsewhere. In the histories of all successful mining camps there is a period when the arts of the boomers fail to accomplish much, and the people who are "everything by turn and nothing long," forthwith jump at the conclusion that the bottom is about to fall out of business. What is really taking place is that business is settling to a solid basis.

There appears to be an open question as to just where the international boundary line is in the neighborhood of Boundary Creek. The piece of territory involved is very narrow, but its ownership may be a matter of very considerable importance. Fortunately it can be easily settled by astronomical observations, for the 49th parallel is the boundary. A year or so ago an ingenious man from Spokane propounded the proposition that Roseland was really in the United States, but he was simply drawing on his imagination.

A PETITION has been presented to the Department of Marine and Fisheries asking for the establishment of a weather bureau in connection with the meteorological observatory at Esquimaux. What is wanted is that the Esquimaux station shall be supplied with and publish forecasts based upon observations at Point Carmanah, Cape Flattery, and other Coast points. The idea is an excellent one.

MR. LAUREN'S telegram intimating that the parties who contemplate erecting a smelter at Northport to smelt British Columbia coal would "be wise in taking no hasty action," can only mean that an export duty on ore may be imposed if it is necessary to secure the establishment of smelters in this Province. The telegram may be a trifle irregular, but we will not be over critical if it produces the desired result.

COMMENTING on the recent vote in Toronto on the Star of that city says: The street cars will run, And what will the ministers do then, poor things? To which we would respectfully reply: They will centre their capers Against Sunday papers, And keep printers from going to church, poor things.

SPEAKING of the export of Canadian horses to England, the Ottawa Citizen says the number and value could be greatly increased "if farmers would improve the quality of their wares." If the Citizen will amend this sentence by changing the "w" in the last word to an "m," it will hit the nail on the head exactly.

THE Nelson Tribune infers from the Lieutenant-Governor's action in regard to the Oriental Labor bill that His Honor is interested in the British Pacific railway. "Who can minister to a mind diseased?"

THE Times has Ruckles on the brain. What a great thing it is to have a paper that is able to concentrate its high intelligence upon a matter of such insignificance week after week.

## THE CANADIAN PRESS.

FOR HOME SMELTERS. The product of the mines should be treated in the country which yields it in great abundance as Kootenay does. We are pleased to observe that the local journals are almost a unit in favor of the smelters being established either there or elsewhere in the province.—Vancouver World.

## THE NEW MINING LAW.

There is no doubt that very awkward questions will arise on the construction and scope of the following section, which will for some time make the limits of its remedial effect an uncertain quantity. "Upon any dispute as to the title to any claim no irregularity happening previous to the date of the record of the last certificate to work shall affect the title thereto, and it shall be assumed that up to that date the title to such claim was perfect except upon suit by the attorney-general upon fraud."—Trail Creek News.

## BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Employer—I thought you wanted to go to your grandmother's funeral this afternoon. Office Boy—Please, sir, it was postponed on account of wet grounds.—Truth.

Your daughter Imogene is a perfect Venus. Mr. Duggins—"Yes, Yessie, she is; she never does any work with her arms."—Chicago Record.

"The month of May is very appropriately named," remarked the youth to his friend. "In what regard?" "Because its weather is so uncertain." "How does the name May apply to uncertain weather?" "Well, it may be hot or it may be cold, it may be wet or it may be dry."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

A Slight Misunderstanding.—Westerner: That bank in town has built a new people are lookin' for the president. Tourist: What are the liabilities? Westerner: Well, the liabilities are that they won't keep him; but if they do, they're liable to string him up!—Puck.

## A FLEET OF NINE.

The N. P. Steamship Company Are Preparing for the Coming Tea Season.

A lion's share of the Oriental tea trade appears to be what the Northern Pacific Steamship Company is contending for at present, judging from the immense tonnage they have engaged to handle their business. From four regular liners plying in the trans-Pacific trade, including ships of the greatest carrying capacity known in these waters. Two of these specially chartered ships are now on their way, the Mount Lebanon having sailed on the 11th inst., and due to arrive a week from to-morrow, and the Pathan, which sailed on the 18th inst., should arrive about the 3rd of next month. The whole fleet is composed as follows: Victoria, 3,107 tons; Tacoma, 2,549 tons; Olympia, 2,605; Columbia, 2,608 tons (the four regular liners of the fleet); Braemar, 4,000 tons; Mogul, 2,810 tons; Mount Lebanon, 2,410 tons; Pathan, 2,700 tons; and Pelican, 2,800. In all there is a total of 25,265 tons, giving the total capacity of the fleet at approximately 45,000 tons, an amount that would, no doubt, trouble the managers of the Victoria and Sydney to handle on their liner. Of the ships the Mogul is probably the best known among the fleet apart from the Victoria and Tacoma, she having a few years ago All that can be said about the Victoria is that she is a fine ship, and the Pacific has not yet reached Hongkong from England, but she is now being looked for there at any time.

RATES ARE UPWARD. The monthly freight and shipping report issued by R. P. Rithet & Co. has the following to say about April business: During the period under review very little has transpired that is of special interest, and the list of charters is comparatively small. Only a few grain engagements have been made at about previous rates, and while in the lumber section of the market more activity has been shown, there also the influence of the season is evidenced by fewer fixtures than usual. Rates may be quoted steady with an upward tendency in some directions.

RESUMES SERVICE. Looking like a new boat the Rosalie on her return to business last evening attracted no small amount of attention. All that can be brought about with white lead and linseed oil was accomplished during the steamer's two weeks of idleness, for paint stands resplendent. New carpets have replaced the old ones, new furniture the shabby and smooth working machinery the rough. Altogether the change of steamers on the route and the redecorating to which the vessel has been subjected, and the return of the old George E. Starr is an agreeable move.

## THE SMELTER WILL BE BUILT.

Wednesday evening's action of the city council toward the smelter project may not after all mean the defeat of the scheme in so far as it affects Victoria. It was reported last evening that a petition had been circulated among the ratepayers of the city to have the necessary by-law for the assisting of the enterprise submitted at the polls. Mr. W. Salover, one of the promoters of the scheme, said last evening that his company are prepared to go ahead with the enterprise and build the smelter, and commence construction work inside of sixty days; the exact location he declined to say, but he says, however, that if the citizens of Victoria want the smelter, they will have to speak quickly. He thinks the city council acted very arbitrarily in the matter, and is of the opinion that their ruling was not that of the people.

Floor Walker—She complains that you didn't show her common civility. Salesman—I showed her everything in my department, sir.—Detroit Journal.

## A Claim AND An Offer

WE CLAIM there is only one preparation in Canada to-day that is adapted to cure BRONCHITIS, and that is CHASE'S SYRUP OF LINSEED AND TURPENTINE. It is MOTHER'S remedy for her child when it is all stuffed up with CROUP and coughing its little lungs out with WHOOPING COUGH. One small dose immediately stops that cough. By loosening the phlegm, puts the little one to sleep and rest. Dr. Chase compounded this valuable syrup so as to take away the unpleasant taste of turpentine and linseed. WE OFFER to refund the price if Dr. Chase's Syrup will not do all that it is claimed to do. Sold on a guarantee at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., 45 Lombard St. Price, 25c.

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(From Our Own OTTAWA, May 20.—Atlantic line contract completed fact. A ceived this afternoon Chamberlain, colonian that the contract Atlantic service sign Peterson, Late 4 Newcastle, had b the Imperial author only gratified confirm government and the tion. This being now will at once proceed. Mr. Mulock inform Jubilee postage stamp tions will be issued a supply will last ab Only one set will be a to the Duke of York. A special estimate tingent was passed the Sutherland suggested allowance be given o company the Premier. The government the being fairly well prov sary the government ment for a further st The contract with Company was discuss who severely score allowing them to do work outside of the Casey's bicycle bill commit this morning to 21, despite the st of the railway comp

OTTAWA, May 21.—wright made the right that the Im have assented to th tract with the Petera Canadian subsidy for vice will be \$500,000 contribution \$250,000 be in operation by h There was a post Railway committee the Yukon Charter but after the elimin jectionable features o

ported. Messrs. Olf fnes strongly oppo Haggart also thought were too extensive supported the appl essential that British encouraged to inve Blair thought it adv company's operation transportation in B the Territories, elim trative powers.

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Sir Charles Tuppe Alaska promised ne Sifton promised to papers.

Good progress was day. Sir Charles T ported the vote for Alex. Mackenzie at was but doing tardy ory of one of her mo men. "Sir the and edged in appropriate Tupper's generous o Commissioner R to-morrow as far as will inspect the cold intended for facilit poultry, eggs, etc. Kootenay mining co

## THE QUEEN A

SHEFFIELD, Eng. Victoria, Princess O weis-Holstein, and naught, arrived he afternoon. All wo Her Majesty will sp during which time s welcomed; receive dresser; open th through the city; r and witness the roll the Cyclops work ceed to Balmoral, w to-morrow.

## CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Sick Headache and rel dent to a bilious state. Dizziness, Nausea, Dr eating, Pain in the S remarkable success h

## SICK

Headache, yet Carte are equally valued an preventing this an the too correct all d stimulate the liver a Even if they only c

## HE

Ache they would be a suffer from this but fortunately this and those who the little pills valuat they will not be w But after all sick hea

## AC

is the base of so many while make our groat. Carter's Little Li and very easy to take a dose. They are s not give or take, b please all who use the the B.C. Iron Works Co. CARTER MEDIC Small P.L. Small