

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1896.

STATE RAILWAYS.

The great objection that has been made to making the state the owner and operator of railroads is that it would place too much patronage in the hands of politicians.

These objections to the state ownership of railroads appear to be only too well grounded. The tendency in democratic countries is to sacrifice everything for power and office.

But there are countries in which the state owns the railroads, and the institutions of some of these countries are democratic.

Not in the slightest degree. The whole railway business of Australia is done under a strict system of civil service that makes corruption next to impossible.

This is strong testimony in favor of Government ownership and management of railways, for what has been done in Queensland can be done in any other British colony.

Perhaps the roads in Queensland are better managed and more serviceable to the public than the one which could not compete successfully against draft horses.

Canada has Government roads, but they are greatly belied if they are models either of purity of administration or efficiency.

THE HONEST "TRUTH"

Mr. Labouchere said in Truth: "If Mr. Bryan had been wise he would have gone in for bimetallicism if it pleased him; but he should have made the ratio indefinite. His ratio meant the ratio in definite. His ratio meant the ratio in everyone to repudiate half his obligations without his bettering anyone in the future."

When the law required it to purchase a comparatively small quantity of silver every month. This attempt to make Government a monopolist so far as silver was concerned, had not the effect of raising the price of silver.

VOTING BY MACHINERY.

Voting by machinery is something new under the sun. A machine has been invented which makes polling clerks needless and which counts the votes polled for each candidate with mechanical exactitude.

This seems too wonderful to be true, but it is true nevertheless. Voting machines have been invented and some of them were in use at the late Presidential election.

The apparatus is in principle the same as a cash register. The voting is done by simply pushing in a knob for each ticket or each candidate voted for.

As there is no counting of votes the results of the day's voting are known almost as soon as the poll is closed.

The voting, too, was done quickly. Although voting by machine was entirely new, many men registered their vote for the whole ticket in ten seconds.

The advantages of this system of voting are obvious. It is in the first place very cheap and in the next it is accurate.

MCKINLEY'S MAJORITY.

It seems impossible, even at this late date, to find out what was exactly the vote cast for the candidates for the Presidency. That Mr. McKinley has been elected by a large majority is known and admitted, but exactly how large that majority is, as far as we have seen, has not been published.

The vote of the Electoral College, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, will be for McKinley 278, for Bryan 168. This estimate concedes Kentucky to Bryan.

or seven more than is necessary to elect. Having such a large popular majority it is folly for the Populists to say that if 50,000 votes were divided among a number of states in which the contest was close, Bryan would have enough electoral votes to put him in the President's chair.

MR. TARTE'S VISIT.

The Hon. J. Israel Tarte, Minister of Public Works, will doubtless receive from the citizens of Victoria and the inhabitants of Vancouver Island generally the attention and respect due to a public man in his position.

Its population is very small, it is true, but its contribution to the general revenue is disproportionately large. If justice were done to this Province it would receive from the Dominion Government as much as any Eastern province of four times its population.

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THE RETAIL MARKETS.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including Flour, Wheat, Oats, Corn, Potatoes, and other goods.

CORNWALL, Nov. 18.—The Liberals have nominated J. G. Sneltinger to contest the constituency in the coming bye-election caused by the death of Dr. Bergin.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Holds-up in Vancouver—Mining at Powell Lake and Near Nanaimo.

Mr. Tarte Leaves for Victoria This Afternoon—The Accident to a Clergyman.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 17.—J. M. Stewart was sworn in as chief of police yesterday.

The result of the inquest to inquire into the death of Francis Forlong, mining engineer, resulted in a verdict of death by accidental drowning.

Rev. H. B. Turner, who was injured last week by a fall from the train, according to a telegram from Lytton, will be brought to Vancouver to-day. It was thought at first that Mr. Turner was fatally injured, but this information proved incorrect.

The Dominion Minister of Public Works met the Board of Trade at their rooms to-day where an address was presented by the board.

About two o'clock this morning three gentlemen well known in town were held up by a swartly-looking stranger at the point of a knife in the east end of the city.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 18.—A hundred leading citizens were present at Odd Fellows hall on the occasion of the Tarte banquet last night.

The Queen and the Governor-General were the guests of honor at the banquet. The guests arrived at about nine o'clock.

Mr. Tarte on rising said that he was pleased with the kind treatment he had received at the hands of the city and province.

The toast "The House of Commons," was answered by Messrs. Bourassa, Morrison and Maxwell, M.'s P.

Mr. Tarte then favored the guests with a song in French. Mr. Suter also sang. J. C. McLellan responded to the toast of "British Columbia."

The attendance at Mr. Moresby funeral at Westminster yesterday was very large, while the floral offerings were more than usually abundant.

There is a great demand for the Two Friends stock, which is stiffening in price. Gold Cache has reached \$1.70.

RUGBY FOOTBALL JERSEYS—Just to hand. MACKINTOSHES—Warranted Waterproof. OVERCOATS—Best Make and Finish. UMBRELLAS—25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.00 and upwards. B. WILLIAMS & CO., 97 JOHNSON STREET.

E. G. PRIOR & CO., LIMITED LIABILITY. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER & KAMLOOPS. IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE. Iron, Steel, Mill and Mining Supplies, Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Wagons, Buggies and Carts. MASSEY-HARRIS BICYCLES.

Grant Govan, of London, England, in the purchase of the Channe Company claims at Philips Arm.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Nov. 17.—The members of the Powell Lake Mining Company who went up to visit their property last week have returned.

Postoffice Inspector Fletcher will on Saturday hold an investigation of certain alleged irregularities connected with the Northfield post office.

The Nanaimo Silver Cornet band have completed arrangements for the grand concert and ball to be given by them in the opera house this evening.

NANAIMO, Nov. 18.—Word has been received from Alberni that the road to the Alberni Consolidated is finished so that the shipping of ore may be commenced immediately.

An alarm of fire about 6:15 o'clock on Monday night called the department to a fire at the Vienna steam bakery on Comox road.

The local board of trade has received letters from an agent in Australia regarding the prospects of suitable farmers who are unable to find land in that colony coming to Manitoba to settle.

Hon. Mr. Greenway left Crystal City this morning, and it is stated that no announcement will be made as to the new Provincial Secretary until his return early next week.

Death of a Goderich Man. GORDERICH, Nov. 18.—Word has been received from Rossland, B.C., of the sudden death of Albert Tilt, son of Thos. Tilt, proprietor of the British Exchange hotel, Goderich.

TACOMA, Nov. 18.—According to a wholesale dealer in flour of this city the shortage in the wheat crop and the consequent high prices prevailing in the grain market will have the effect of closing down many of the smaller flouring mills of the state.

TORONTO, Nov. 18.—George A. Joyce, the first Canadian train dispatcher to get out here on the occasion of the recent strike, has been discharged from the company's employment.

STRAFFORD, Nov. 18.—The petition against the return of A. F. MacLaren as member of parliament for North Perth, was dismissed this afternoon without costs.

HAMILTON, Nov. 18.—D. J. O'Brien, one of the best known musicians here, died this morning, aged 42. He never recovered from a recent operation for appendicitis.

THEODORE DURRANT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—In the case of the convicted murderer, Theodore Durrant, the Supreme court of California has taken the matter of a further continuance under advisement.

Attorney-General Fitzgerald presented a motion and affidavit, and was willing to have the submission set aside. This being the case, the court ordered that the motion to set aside the submission be heard in San Francisco on December 7, and it is understood that at that time the Attorney-General will move that the court make the order.

DELIGHTED WITH B. C. WINNIPEG, Nov. 18.—(Special)—Clarke Wallace, M.P., passed through the city to-day en route home to Toronto from Rossland. The ex-minister is enthusiastic over mining prospects in British Columbia.

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Hon. Mr. Sifton will pass through this city en route to Brandon to-morrow. The Brandon assizes opened to-day, when the trial of Arthur Gerhold, charged with the murder of Joseph Henry, of Newdale, was commenced.

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W. J. Harris, manager of the Le Roi mine, Rossland.