

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

STILL TRAVELLING.

The correctness of the proverb that "a lie will travel a mile while truth is getting on its boots," is exemplified in regard to the manner in which the erroneous statements made by Mr. Blair in regard to the British Columbia Southern Railway, and the coal and timber lands in the vicinity of the route of the proposed line, are being copied and disseminated by the newspapers of the Interior and of some sections further East. As we have already said, we do not for one moment insinuate that the Minister of Railways and Canals intended to misrepresent the matter or had an idea that the statements he made were not only generally true, but also correct in their details. He had, of course, to get his information from others, and upon those parties must be laid the blame for gross exaggerations, distortion of facts, and, in some matters, absolute untruths. Where Mr. Blair is not free from blame is in the fact that he did not take steps to get corroboration of the statements made to him and seek for information from the official sources which were open to him. Had he done so, we feel sure that he would have hastened to withdraw the sweeping assertions he made after he left Victoria at several places on his homeward journey.

The real facts in regard to the reported extension of the Railway Company's land grant to the Coast have been so clearly set forth by Provincial newspapers, both among those which support and those which are in opposition to the Provincial Government, that it is not necessary to say more about that part of the subject than that, if there is any ambiguity about the matter, there is no doubt that the Government will pass such legislation at the ensuing session as will remove the possibility of any doubt remaining.

On the subject of the coal lands it may be well to say a few words as it is evident from the discussion which has taken place, that there is much ignorance on the part of many people in this Province, who might be supposed to be better informed on the matter. Nine years ago the charter was granted for the railway, and although the promoters presumably had faith in the enterprise they have not, from one cause or another, been able to endue capitalists until recently with a similar confidence in the prospects of the scheme. In the last session of the Provincial Parliament previous to the last, the Legislature thought it in the interests of the Province to give some aid to the scheme by a grant of land, and as there was no area available along the route for such a grant as is generally given, the company was allowed to select lands in the district in which these coal deposits are supposed to exist. Yet this "magnificent gift"—to use the term of some of its present critics—failed to make capitalists eager to secure participation in the enterprise, and although the promoters have spent much time and labor and a large sum of money in their attempts to secure the necessary capital, their efforts have been entirely fruitless until now conditions—disconnected completely with the intrinsic merits of the railway and land grant—caused capitalists and railway magnates to give the scheme a favorable consideration.

Now let us refer to some other details which have a most material bearing on this so-called "monopoly" in the coal and "legislation detrimental to the interests of the miners." In the grant of these lands made in 1890, the legislature imposed conditions in regard to them which we believe are not found in any other of the many Acts granting aid to railways. It required that the company should sell the lands on such terms as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council might approve, on pain of the lands becoming taxable. Now, as the Government price for coal lands is \$5 per acre, it may be assumed that that would be the maximum value which would be allowed. Furthermore, all the coal raised is subject to the royalty to the Province just the same as that raised on land owned by ordinary purchasers from the Government. As showing how difficult the Legislature in 1890 believed it was to get capital for the construction of railways, it gave to this and other companies the right to collect a royalty from miners on all gold and silver found on lands included in the railway grants. This right was, however, repealed at the next session.

Let us go a step further and ask these people who are now shouting "monopoly," what course they would recommend should be taken if the lands were still owned by the Government and they will be if the company should fail to construct the line within the time specified in the act. Would they propose that the Government should find some \$600,000, which would be required to equip the mines and enable them to be worked, even after the capital to build the railway—without which the coal would be valueless—had been otherwise provided? We do not think that any sane person would suggest the Government engaging in coal mining. What then must be done to get the coal developed? Simply to sell the lands at the Government price if anyone would buy

them. In that case what is to prevent one syndicate or company, which would be almost inevitably the result? But in the case of such a sale, the Government would be called upon for additional aid to build the railway as the only subsidy which the latter now has, is in these lands. It only requires a statement of the facts and of the law regarding the sale of coal lands, to show that those who are now talking about "a monopoly" are not acquainted with the subject.

The Roseland Miner is evidently in that category, and in a recent article on the subject displays its ignorance so grotesquely that it will be held to answer itself by those who understand the matter. Its attack on Colonel Baker, as having, while a member of the Government, used his position to secure advantages for himself, and his advantages must be excused as arising from the complete ignorance of the writer of what he was discussing. The railway charter and the land grant were given by the Legislature years before Colonel Baker was a member of the Government, and it would be a novel idea—and not at all in keeping with the Miner's own policy—if the fact of a person becoming a member of the Government was to require that he should surrender his personal property which had been honestly and legitimately acquired previous to his appointment. We would recommend the editor of the Miner to study the provincial law on coal lands and other cognate subjects, and he will then see that if these lands were still in the possession of the Province, there would be nothing to prevent him and his friends acquiring them at \$5 per acre without any such onerous obligation as the construction of 800 miles of railway.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY.

Briefly stated, the treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States provides for a tribunal to which, during the next five years, all differences arising between the two nations, except such as directly touch the national honor, shall be submitted for adjustment. The exception is so limited in its scope that the arrangement practically covers everything. Few questions are likely to arise between the two countries, as sincerely desirous of maintaining peace with each other as the high contracting parties in this instance are, which cannot be settled by the exercise of a little common-sense and good temper on both sides. The national honor, of course, be involved in something very trivial in itself, but when a tribunal is established to which all disputed questions can, and must, be at once referred, the chances will be that in every instance they will be disposed of long before the danger line has been reached. There will hereafter no longer be any incentive for demagogues and reckless politicians to magnify trifles, and little chance for them to throw obstacles in the way of the amicable adjustment of grave differences. It is very gratifying that this general treaty has followed upon a series of arbitrations between the two countries, and it is probably not too much to say that it places war between the two great English-speaking nations outside the bounds of possibility.

The treaty is the direct result of that magnificent expression of public opinion in England and America, following the Venezuelan war scare. Dark though the outlook was for a few weeks in January last, the threatening war-cloud was scattered by the restless force of public opinion, which declared that the people of both countries desired to be at peace with each other, at any cost short of the sacrifice of national honor. Happily for the cause of liberty and civilization, the two great nations were alike in that their rulers were true to the principles of Christian civilization, and the men at their right hands in the emergency were splendidly equipped for such a crisis. Victoria and Cleveland, Olney and Salisbury—their names will be forever coupled with this grandest achievement of diplomacy. So auspicious is the event that when the treaty has been proclaimed—for we suppose the United States Senate may be trusted to ratify it—a grand feu de joie should be fired by the army and navy of both nations and the church bells in every town and city in the English-speaking world should ring out a thanksgiving. We celebrate a battle won, a city taken, a navy destroyed. Why not rejoice in this bloodless triumph, this victory of peace and good-will, more glorious than any ever gained in war and more pregnant with results for the good of humanity?

ABOLITION OF CATTLE QUARANTINE.

The news that the Dominion Government has abolished the quarantine on cattle imported from the United States will be received with both surprise and dissatisfaction by the stockmen and ranchers of this Province. The news will occasion surprise because Hon. Mr. Blair, in response to the representations of the stockmen, made to him at Kamloops, promised that nothing should be done in regard to the matter without the fullest investigation and careful consideration of their interests. Since then, Mr. Bostock has returned from Ottawa and, as the representative of the constituency, the people of which are most deeply in-

terested in the matter, has telegraphed to Ottawa protesting against any change in the regulations. But it would seem that these representations were of no avail and that the Free Trade theories, with unrestricted competition from the other side of the boundary, which were so ardently expounded by Hon. Mr. Davies, weigh more with those in authority at Ottawa than any loss or injury which may result from their adoption to the interests of the stockmen and farmers of British Columbia. We selected our doctops and must now take the medicine they may prescribe, however unpalatable it may be.

CUBAN RESOURCES.

Why should Spain have fought so hard to retain Cuba, and how is it that after nearly two years of destructive warfare the Cubans are still unsubdued? Are questions which occur to the newspaper reader when he sees, day after day, the somewhat unsatisfactory and often contradictory dispatches concerning the insurrection in that island. The reply that suggests itself to the first question is that the national pride of Spain forbids her to yield to her rebellious and despised subjects the greatest of her remaining possessions in that New World which she once looked upon as her own by right of discovery and conquest. To the second, it might be truly said that Spain treats her colonies badly, and that the hatred which her tyrannical and extortionate methods have inspired is so deep seated that the insurgents will never give over the struggle till they have been reduced to complete submission by exhaustion or have thrown off the yoke of their masters and made Cuba an independent state.

On Tuesday morning Hewitt Bostock, M.P., met a number of the cattle men of this district, at the old court house to discuss with them the proposed regulations to govern the grazing of cattle on Dominion lands within the railway belt in this province. The regulations are practically the same as those governing provincial lands, and the cattle men generally concluded that they were satisfactory. Mr. Bostock will report accordingly to the Minister of the Interior. F. P. Carey of Roseland, an American mining man of experience, has been visiting this camp. That he was well pleased with what he saw is evidenced by his action in bonding five claims for \$25,000. The claims practically surround the Lucky Strike on Coal Hill. He and Thomas Brown, School Trustees, the Lucky Strike, from J. H. Morrison on a bond of \$6,000, work to be commenced before February 1; the Neighbourhood, from J. H. Morrison, the Lucky Strike, and the Champion, an adjoining claim, from M. J. Melver, H. Devery and B. Blair, on a bond of \$11,000, work to be commenced before February 1; the Tip from J. H. Morrison and Gilbert Smith on a \$4,000 bond and the Phoenix from J. S. Bennett and F. A. Jenns on a \$4,000 bond. These two last claims is to be commenced before the end of the month.

Strong representations have been made to the Dominion government on behalf of and by the cattlemen of this district to continue in force the existing quarantine for the purpose of retaining the rights of Dominion lands to the westward. The more development of the regulations which the stock-raisers of the Northwest Territories and British Columbia have been brought under cultivation. The Cuban forests are very valuable. It is said that there are 17,000,000 acres of virgin forests. These forests contain forty different kinds of fine cabinet woods. The mines of Cuba are exceedingly rich but have been very little developed. One reason for this was that the Spanish government demanded 50 per cent. of the products of the mine. There are great deposits of excellent iron ore, manganese, copper and salt, with some silver and gold. The climate inland is healthy and pleasant, and the prevalence of yellow fever on the coast is attributed to the filthiness of the seaport towns.

When the great resources of the Island are taken into consideration, and when it is remembered that Cuba occupies an important strategic position on the Gulf of Mexico, it will not be a surprise to find that Spain is retaining the island to retain so valuable a possession, or that the inhabitants of the Island refuse any longer to be denied a voice in its government, or to submit to taxation which deprives them of so large a proportion of the fruit of their labors.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

AS PUBLISHED BY Bradstreet's, Canada's failures for 1896 show an increase of sixteen per cent. in the number and an increase in the total amount of liabilities of five and a half per cent. The assets showing an increase of eleven per cent. The year was one of depression in the United States, where the increase in the number of failures has been greater than in Canada, and there has, besides, been a much greater proportionate increase in the total amount of liabilities. Canada's aggregate trade with the United States for 1896 was larger than that with even Great Britain, and our increasingly close commercial relations with that nation involve, of course, greater correspondence between our commercial conditions and theirs. Canada, generally, follows the ups and downs of United States trade, but at present, owing to the renewal of property in Great Britain, and a great advance in the price of wheat, Canada seems destined to recover more rapidly than her neighbor.

In an article referring to the condition and advancement of women during the

year had closed, the New York Commercial Advertiser pleasantly remarks that it could hardly be expected, with all the advantages that are here in these days, woman should stand still. But the past year has not been rich in achievements. It is observed, does not scintillate with those gems of feminine thought and feminine labor which, even though they had proved rough diamonds, year-old oratorical promises led us to expect. The attitude of perpetual astonishment towards women's work is distinctly disrespectful. It will be a great gain, if at the end of this twelvemonth, a woman may earn a good living, paint a picture, write a book or win a case without having her picture in the magazine, or her name in the "Saturday Evening Post," or her name in the "Ladies' Home Journal," or her name in the "Woman's World," or her name in the "The Reformers" which woman has accomplished during the past year have come chiefly through the home. Her influence has been felt in politics, in charity and in the great questions which have made a part of the year's history. And her influence for good has hardly been less great than usual because we have heard less about it.

MILD WEATHER IN THE INTERIOR—Cigars from B. C. Tobacco—Nominations in Nanaimo.

Death of Father Walsh—Saw Mill for the Golden Cache—Reeve of Burnaby.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 11.—N. C. Schon has been re-elected reeve of Burnaby by acclamation for the fourth time. The following have been nominated as councillors: Messrs. Cardland, Wollard, Grimshaw, Cliff, Whiting, Ledger and Spratt. The Lord Bishop of New Westminster held confirmation services at St. Michael's this evening. The funeral of A. H. Burnan took place on Sunday and was largely attended by members of the Pythian order and other citizens. J. W. Warren left to-day to go into business with his brother in Roseland.

THE INTERIOR METROPOLIS.

Meeting of Cattle Men—Loss by Fire—Many Kamloops Mines Bonded—Mining News.

Fire destroyed the contents and the interior of the house occupied by Miss Frank Harrow, adjoining the Imperial Hotel, on Monday morning last. The furniture was covered by \$900 insurance in the Phoenix of London, and the house was insured with the same company for \$600. On Tuesday morning Hewitt Bostock, M.P., met a number of the cattle men of this district, at the old court house to discuss with them the proposed regulations to govern the grazing of cattle on Dominion lands within the railway belt in this province. The regulations are practically the same as those governing provincial lands, and the cattle men generally concluded that they were satisfactory. Mr. Bostock will report accordingly to the Minister of the Interior.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Jan. 11.—The following nominations were made to-day: For Mayor—O. N. Westwood and J. H. Davidson; for Aldermen, North Ward—Daniel A. Galbraith, Murdoch Morrison, Henry McAdie, Robert Brown and George W. West; Middle Ward—William Manson, Thos. O'Connell, W. H. Morrison, James Bradley, Robert B. Lamb, Thos. Morgan, William McGregor, Edward Quennell, Ralph Smith, Neil McCosh and William T. Heidle. DUNCAN. DUNCAN, Jan. 11.—The Cowichan Institute added variety to their gathering on Thursday last, when they gave spirited renditions of the songs "A fair in love and war" and "The Maid." The artists were: Mrs. Mellis, Miss Agnes and Gertrude Hadwen and Lomas, with Messrs. R. Mungrue, G. H. Hadwen and S. Hadwen.

THE DEER PARK MINE.

ROSSLAND, Jan. 13.—(Special)—The Rosland Miner has been making careful inquiry into the condition of the Deer Park mine. It finds that the cross-cut on the 110 foot level now shows 40 feet of ore without any sign of a wall. This ore body has been carefully sampled and five assays range from \$2 to \$104. It is believed the average value of the ore is \$28 per ton. This cannot, however, be demonstrated for certainty until shipments in larger quantity to the smelter have been made, but the results are not likely to vary much from the above figures. Should the Miner's conclusion prove correct the Deer Park will undoubtedly be one of the big mines of the camp. An order was received here to-day for 10,000 shares of War Eagle at \$1.61 from a Toronto broker, who has close relations with the Gooderhams. This would indicate that the price of the mine is \$500,000, as announced at the time of the sale.

WORK SPOILED.

Did Not Get the Right Kind.

Why labor in vain? Why do you try to dye cotton or mixed goods with common dyes that the makers prepared for all wool goods? Well, you are not altogether to blame; the dealer who sold you the dye, and who told you it was good for either cotton or wool, is the one who is directly responsible for your loss and failure. He sold you worthless dyes because they give him a large return of profit. If you had bought the Diamond Dyes made specially for Cotton and Mixed goods your work would have been well and truly done. These special cotton colors of the Diamond Dyes are the latest discoveries of the best chemists of the world, and are far superior to all other dyes for the coloring of cotton goods. Fast Diamond Dyes for Cotton are quite fast to light, and if you use them your carpets and rugs will be as bright after years of wear as the most expensive carpets you can buy. For dyeing Cotton or Mixed Goods, ask for Fast Diamond Dyes for Cotton; take no others.

McKINLEY'S CABINET.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—President McKinley has tendered the State portfolio to Senator John Sherman of Ohio, and that distinguished Buckeye statesman has accepted and will be the premier of the incoming administration.

same company have what they regard as a promising ledge near the mouth of Oregon Jack's creek, and have taken a bond on the Klappan and Shalier claims in Highland Valley, about 25 miles southeast of Ashcroft. The bond calls for a payment after three months, and in six months thereafter the completion of the payments, \$15,000 in all being the price. Highland Valley properties show a rich borate copper ore. The quantity is as yet uncertain. Assays have run from \$30 to \$80.

WIDESPREAD.

Terrible Tales From range by Siamese on America

Expedition to the Storms and England

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The Bombay correspondent of all quarters the famine is ing more severe and widespread. In many districts women are reduced to skeletons and are lying at the roadside. It is believed that relief will cost \$25,000,000. The scene at the burial ground, which are crowded, and where the stricken victims recently dug up to make room for new arrivals, is a most ghastly sight. Two more cases of cholera developed in the district. The port from India on Saturday. Both are fresh cases of cholera. As the result of the election in the Cleveland division of Yorkshire, Mr. Alfred Mansfield was elected. Americans and Europeans are indignant over the Siamese soldiers upon the outbreak of the revolt. The Siamese soldiers upon the outbreak of the revolt. The Siamese soldiers upon the outbreak of the revolt.

VERNON.

Mr. and Mrs. Kempson, who have spent several months in this district on a hunting trip, left on Saturday for England, by way of San Francisco and the Southern Pacific.

Monday, January 11, is nomination day, and the civic elections will take place on the following Thursday.

William Pierce, alias "Reddy," who has been committed to trial for shooting at and clubbing George Stump and also for shooting at an Indian woman named Mary Ann with intent to murder her, the accused bears the reputation of being an exceedingly bad man drunk and this character was amply borne out by the evidence adduced at the preliminary trial.

Rev. Father Walsh, one of the most esteemed members of the Roman Catholic clergy in this part of the province, died on Saturday afternoon, at the residence of Mrs. Greenhow, near the head of the lake, aged 83 years. Father Walsh fell a victim to consumption. He was a native of Ireland and came to this province in 1837; the following year he was ordained a priest at New Westminster, and four years ago came to the Okanagan, where he labored industriously until his health failed him. He was much respected by all classes, and his kindly and gentle nature won him many friends.

Mr. D. A. McCurdy, a well known rancher of Keremeos, is in this city on a business trip. He is building great hopes on the speedy construction of the proposed railway from Rosland to the head of the lake, and the frost is nearly out of the ground. Cigars of excellent quality have been manufactured from tobacco grown on Messrs. Collins and Holman's ranch at Kelowna. It is believed that tobacco raising will prove an important industry in the valley in the near future. The finance committee of the council have recommended that the scheme for obtaining water from Deep creek be adopted, and state that the system can be installed at a complete cost of \$30,000. A serious fire took place at Armstrong on Saturday night by which John Hamill's large furniture store was reduced to ashes, and a considerable portion of his stock destroyed. Though Mr. Hamill was insured for a considerable sum it is stated that his loss will exceed \$1,500.

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