

Twice-a-Week Times

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AND RECIPROCALITY

After waiting for many days to find out what attitude his friends and allies at Ottawa were going to take on the question of reciprocity with the United States, Premier McBride yesterday defined his own attitude and the attitude of his followers in British Columbia on the issue.

Our Premier, to give him all the credit that is his due, rises higher than his friends at Ottawa in one particular. He has had the good sense and the good taste to put behind him the temptation of waving the old flag.

Still the fact remains that in his remarks on the subject the Premier was timid, as well as less frank and candid than his late allies the Socialists.

What ground the member for Nanaimo had for such an assumption we do not know and we believe is past finding out.

Still, it is well to remember at this time that the same kind of a cry went up when the government which is making the proposals under discussion initiated another movement for the reduction of taxation upon the people of Canada.

We refer, of course, to the British preference. All who remember the discussion in the Dominion parliament in the year 1897 will recollect that the opposition at that time predicted what terrible things would befall the country should that preference be permitted to go into effect.

In regard to the position of British Columbia, what is the direct cause of the prosperity of which Premier McBride speaks with pride and is so fearful lest it should be disturbed? Is our acknowledged prosperity not due to the market that has been provided for what we produce in abundance on the prairie? No one denies that reciprocity with the United States will further increase the business of the prairie farmers, will add to the rapid increase of settlement there.

levelled at the fruit-growing industry in this province is "rueful." It is one of the largest employers of Oriental labor, capital investment considered in British Columbia.

THE NEW ISLAND RAILWAY

On Saturday next His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will turn the first sod of the Island branch of the Canadian Northern Pacific railway. This will be an important occasion.

WELCOME, PRINCESS

The steamship Princess Mary, which arrived yesterday, provides another text for talking about ourselves, our marvellous growth, our commercial importance and the enormous prospects for the future.

The new boats are coming so frequently now that their arrival is little noted, yet everyone that comes means a great addition, not only to the transportation facilities of the coast, but also to the population of Victoria.

The C. P. R. and its officials, of whom Captain Troup is the head, are to be congratulated on this added pledge of their intention to keep well to the front in transportation matters whether on water or land.

We welcome the arrival of the Princess Mary on behalf of the community. We are sure we are expressing the general opinion when we say that the C. P. R. is keeping faith with this city, doubtless to its own advantage, but many corporations do not even do that.

While the Tory papers were saying that Fielding was still a sick man, that worthy gentleman was preparing a surprise for them which they will take a week or two to get over. We have not heard a word of the sickness since the reciprocity announcement.

AN OPTIMISTIC SPEECH

The budget speech read by the Finance Minister, Hon. Eric Thomson, Monday afternoon reflects the optimism of the whole province of British Columbia. It could not be other than optimistic, for without doubt this is the era of British Columbia's prosperity.

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The public accounts for the province show that the Revenue Tax last year was collected from nearly eighty-seven thousand people. As every man in the province is supposed to pay this, including Chinese and Japanese, it is scarcely reasonable to think that all pay. As a matter of fact we know that many do not pay, especially in outlying districts.

There was a large attendance of members of the regular meeting of the Frigate of the Island Lodge, Sons of England Tuesday evening, when presentation of a past president's jewel was made to District Deputy H. O. Savage by Senior Past President J. Chadwick.

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QUESTION OF HOME

RULE FOR IRELAND

London Post Seeks Light Regarding System of Local Government

London, Feb. 16.—The Morning Post divides Ireland into separate provinces like Canada. Mr. Quebec was able to live peacefully with the Dominion the reason was not because Canada as a whole has not a separate parliament from that of the United Kingdom, but because each province enjoys the right to manage its own affairs.

Princess May Leaving Within Two Weeks for Skagway To Use Oil Burners

About the beginning of March the C. P. R. steamer Princess May, Capt. McNeill, will leave for Skagway, Alaska, to deliver mail and passengers for several months.

Work on overhauling the Princess Mary is progressing favorably. The Charlotte is now installing oil burners, but she will not be ready to enter on the regular run for several weeks.

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STORMY SCENE

AT THE COUNCIL

Continued from page 1. The Mayor—You can reply in due course. You attacked me and I proposed to give you the facts. Neither the city solicitor nor myself are in the habit of lying and you will know it before we get through with you.

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RESUMES NORTHERN SERVICE IN MARCH

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TORONTO WATER

SITUATION IMPROVES

Preparations Are Being Made to Put Another Pump in Operation

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STORMY FROM NEW VESSEL SEVERE

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