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MISREPRESENTATION.

The Phoenix Pioneer is one of the few
well informed newspapers of Southern
British Columbia. When, therefore, it
heard the wild-cat story about the Mc-
Lean Bros. having commenced the con-
struction of a Coast-Kootenay railway,
it received the news "cum grano salis."
The talk of Hon. A. S. Goodeve for the
contrary notwithstanding, the Pioneer
has grave doubts as to the genuineness
of the report, and expresses itself in the
following manner:

Word comes from the coast that the
McLean Bros. announce that they will
commence work on the Coast-Kootenay
railway at once. This firm secured a
subsidy from the government, and also
tried to get one from the Dominion gov-
ernment. While there may possibly be
something in the report referred to, peo-
ple of the Boundary are much like the
man from Missouri in this matter. They
want to be shown.

Mr. Goodeve's solemn statement deliv-
ered on Saturday night from the stage
of the Miners' Union hall was to the ef-
fect that construction has been commenc-
ed on the proposed railway. In making
this assertion was he guilty of a delib-
erate attempt to deceive the electors?
As The Miner showed the following
morning, no grading is being done, nor
is there the remotest probability that
any ever will be done by the McLean
Bros. If Mr. Goodeve wins any support
by what he has said about the com-
mencement of construction, he does so
through wilful and disgraceful decep-
tion. Such conduct is becoming to no
man, but least of all a minister of the
crown.

INTERESTING B. C. STATISTICS.

The Miner is indebted to Mr. Frank
Richards for some interesting statisti-
cal information concerning British Col-
umbia and which is contained in the fol-
lowing:

In British Columbia the financial year
is from the first of July to the 30th of
June.

There are 49 sources of income and in
the years 1886-7 the net income was \$540,-
288, but it increased to \$1,807,925 in the
years 1901-2 being an increase of \$1,267,-
637, or over 250 per cent. In the years
1886-7 the Dominion government paid
over to the province the sum of \$212,151,
as against \$305,968 in the years 1901-2.
The increase was due to the amount
paid per capita, being \$141,817 in 1901-2
as against \$48,000 in 1886-7 or an in-
crease of \$93,817.

The amount realized from the sale of
land in 1886-7 was \$88,776 while in 1901-
2 it had decreased to \$86,161. The best
year was 1889-90 when the sales real-
ized \$244,529. In 1894-5 they realized only
\$25,890, which was the least amount re-
alized in any one year. Perhaps there
is nothing which shows the prosperity
of the province more than the lumber
industry. The income from the timber
royalties and licenses was \$115,210 in
1890-1, while in 1896-7 it was nil, the next
best year being in 1890-00 when it was
\$97,513. In 1892-3 there was only \$9,596
to the credit of the account. The other
sources of income from timber are the
rentals (timber leases). In 1901-2 they
were \$45,861 as against \$7,319 in 1886-7.

It will be a matter of considerable in-
terest to know that the income from
miners' certificates in 1886-7 was \$12,350
while in 1901-2 it was \$73,240. In 1896-7
the year of the Klondike excitement, it
was \$166,681, the next best year being
1889-90, \$155,194. The total amount con-
tributed by the miners of the province
from 1886 to 1902 being \$992,396, nearly
one million dollars, or an average of
\$62,024. The government also received
in 1886-7 the sum of \$6,915 as against
\$141,282 in 1901-2. The best year was
1889-90, being \$194,303.

The income tax produced in 1886-7 the
sum of \$2,191 while in 1901-2 it was
\$46,813. This item shows the solidity and
steadiness of progress perhaps more than
any other. The mineral tax produced
in 1886-7 the sum of \$306 while in 1901-2

it brought in \$34,077. This is an extra-
ordinary increase within seven years.
It may truthfully be said that our min-
eral operations are not yet in their teens
of years, and yet many millions of dol-
lars have been taken out of the ground
of the province.

The royalties and tax on coal which
was first imposed in the year 1889-90,
realized \$5,933 and \$35,251 in the next
year and \$35,702 last year. It may be
that the first figures were only for a por-
tion of the year. In the year 1886-7 the
C. P. Ry. Co. received a bonus of \$37,500
towards the building of the section to
New Westminster.

In 1886-7 the real property tax pro-
duced \$40,331 while in 1901-2 it was \$130,003.

It is evident that the revenue from the
mining industry of this province is one
of the most important and it is there-
fore the duty of any government to facili-
tate the efforts of those hardy, per-
severing prospectors by making trunk
roads or trails, so that they may get
better access to the interior and carry
on operations in districts believed to be
rich but which at present are almost in-
accessible. From these main trails, or
roads, individual effort would do what
was necessary. Any expenditure on
these lines would largely increase the
revenue from mining.

PURE FOOD.

One of the human rights that
should not be denied or abridged is
that of eating pure food. It is a fact
to be deplored that there is hardly an
article of human consumption that is
what is professed for it. Fruits and
vegetables cannot be counterfeited
in their crude form, but as put up
on the market they are as apt to be
spurious as real. The man who pays
for a genuine article and gets a bogus
article has been robbed. The act is
as deliberate, as mean, and far more
harmful, in many instances, than had
it been performed on the highway at
the point of a pistol. The array of
products that have been imitated, of-
ten by harmful and even poisonous
formulae would be as long as the
price list of a wholesale house. This
is a sin and a shame. Yet the guilty
persons would be surprised to be
classified as criminals. Not all imita-
tions are deleterious, but all imita-
tions not duly labeled are frauds.
There is butter that never came from
cream, vinegar compounded by the
chemist, pepper that is mostly ground
peas, coffee that is chicory, caneless
cane syrup. In fact, the task of enu-
meration would be impossible. Of
late there has been much complaint
as to adulteration of milk. In this re-
gard the authorities could not well
take action too radical. The offense
is one that should not be tolerated,
and that cannot be condoned. The
properties of milk are well under-
stood. It is an essential article of
diet. For babies and delicate children
milk is indispensable. To feed these
upon stuff that has been drugged may
be to kill them. The man who would
do it for gain ought to be put out of
business permanently. No excuse is
to be offered on his behalf. If milk
cannot be preserved beyond a cer-
tain time without the addition of
chemicals, there should be some
method of disposing of it more quick-
ly. The dealer who cannot make a
living without poisoning his neigh-
bors should turn to some other in-
dustrial field. The demonstration has
been made repeatedly that pure milk
can be sold. It is not in the nature
of the fluid to remain sweet for more
than a certain length of time, al-
though the process can be stayed by
regulation of temperature and other
conditions. When it is starved by
dropping drugs into it, it is no longer
fit for use, and the use should be for-
bidden.

Over in Seattle there is a child near
death, and in the opinion of physici-
ans the ailment is due solely to poi-
soned milk. There is talk of the ar-
rest of the dispenser of this milk in
case of fatal outcome, and of making
the charge that of murder. This
must be left to the authorities. It is
to be hoped that an example will be
made soon. The offense, not in this
case alone, but in every case, is one
that should lead to imprisonment.
No fine is adequate when the offense
is the slaughter of the innocents.

THE EMPIRE'S WEALTH.

At the recent meeting of the British
Association Sir Robert Giffen, the emi-
nent statistician, read a paper on the
wealth of the empire. Taking the em-
pire as a whole, it is by far the richest
group of countries in the world. Sir
Robert estimates the aggregate income
of the United Kingdom, on the basis of
recent investigations, at 1,750,000,000
pounds sterling, or about \$3,750,000,000
and its aggregate wealth at \$75,000,000,
000. The aggregate wealth of the em-
pire he estimates at \$111,250,000,000.

The wealth of France and Germany,
with their colonies, Sir Robert places
at not less than one-third and not more
than a half of the wealth of the British
empire. Britain and the United States
together, he says, outweigh in economic
force the whole of the rest of the world.

Britain's total annual expenditure is
about 1,386 million pounds, divided in
the following proportions:
Food and drink.....34 per cent
Dress.....13 per cent
House.....16 per cent
Services (excluding education)13 per cent
Miscellaneous (including educa-
tion).....9 per cent
Cost of distribution.....15 per cent

Total.....100 per cent
The most interesting feature of this
division is the startling contrast be-
tween the proportion spent for food and
drink and that which is spent on educa-
tion.

FORMALDEHYDE IN MILK.

Ignorant, in a sense, irresponsible,
persons proceed upon the principle
that if a little of such substances is
good, a good deal is better, overdo the
matter, and "preservatives" under
various names applied to meats and
milk become actively pernicious in-
stead of mildly beneficial. As a result
the disease vaguely diagnosed as
"stomach trouble" claims many sufferers
and not a few victims. Among the
latter, according to a news dispatch
from Seattle, was an infant of that
city who died from the effects of for-
maldehyde in his milk. It has long
unscrupulous or ignorant milk vendors
to the attention of this public. It is
the sequel to the old story of the lit-
tle learning that is a dangerous thing.

It may be taken for granted that Clif-
ford of Skeena, a McBride man, will
win. So will Paterson, Liberal, of the
Islands. Supposing that Fulton wins
in Kamloops, Retallack has still better
chances in Kaslo. Taylor, Conservative,
may succeed in Revelstoke, but it cer-
tainly looks like victory for Smith in
Fernie. Comox, Cowichan and Simika-
meen are more liable to go Liberal than
Conservative.

It is thus apparent that the McBride
ministry is doomed, for it must not
count upon support from the Socialists
and Labor element.

THE NEXT LEGISLATURE.

The Miner's forecast of the probable
complexion of the next legislature seems,
in the main, to be correct so far as the
returns show at the present writing. Of
the constituencies heard from to date the
result shows 15 Conservatives, 15 Lib-
erals, 2 Socialists and 1 Labor. Incom-
plete returns remain in nine districts.

To enjoy control of the house it is
necessary for the McBride government
to have not less than twenty-two of the
forty-two seats. A government has to
elect the speaker and still have a major-
ity of one or more. With twenty-two
supporters a government could elect a
speaker and still have twenty-one fol-
lowers as against an opposition of twenty.
It will, therefore, be necessary for
Mr. McBride to capture at least seven
of the nine doubtful districts. Those
districts are Comox, Revelstoke, Skeena,
Similkameen, Fernie, the Islands, Kam-
loops, Kaslo and Cowichan.

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MACDONALD THE LEADER.

The result of the elections to date
indicates the defeat of the McBride
government, which would necessitate
the Liberals forming a ministry.

The Liberals have yet to elect a
Leader. "Joe" Martin is no longer a
factor to be considered in that respect.

Both W. W. B. McInnes and John
Oliver aspire to the chieftainship of
the party. Neither will be found ac-
ceptable to each other or to the party.
Neither can count on any certain sup-
port worth considering. Stuart Hen-
derson of Yale is president of the Pro-
vincial Liberal Association and may
therefore aspire to the leadership, but
he does not begin to enjoy the popu-
larity and strength that is behind J.
A. Macdonald of Rossland, who is
president of the Kootenay Liberal As-
sociation, which is pledged to support
Kootenay interests first last and all
the time. It therefore is apparent
that Mr. Macdonald has better pros-
pects for the leadership than any
other available man.

Mr. Macdonald is THE man for the
Liberal leadership, and certain it is
that his many friends and supporters
will so place him. He has all the
qualifications for a leader. He has
just defeated a cabinet minister by a
tremendous majority. He has no equal
in the house when it comes to genuine
ability. The fact that he has had no
parliamentary experience is no deter-
ring factor in the case. He knows
what is required of him and can and
will rise to the occasion with the
greatest ease. He can and will make
his party popular and bring unprece-
dented prosperity to the whole prov-
ince. Any attempt to prevent Mr.
Macdonald's elevation to the leader-
ship would be worse than folly, no
matter from what point of view it
may be considered. If the Liberals
fail to make J. A. Macdonald their
leader, they will overlook a golden
opportunity from both a party and a
patriotic standpoint.

It is almost a foregone conclusion
that the lieutenant-governor will call
upon Mr. Macdonald within the next
few days to form a government.

THE ELECTION RESULTS.

The absence of telephone or tele-
graph communication with outlying
polls in three constituencies still leaves
the result of the provincial elections
in doubt. The doubtful ridings are
Skeena, Comox and Similkameen.
Contrary to expectations Clifford, the
McBride man in Skeena, is having a
hard time defeating Herman, Liberal.
The count so far available from that
riding shows about an even break.
The vote at Bella Coola, a settlement
of naturalized Norwegians in the
Bella Coola valley, which is situated
on the upper mainland coast, will defi-
nitely settle the question, but several
days will elapse before the tidings are
received. There is still a gambling
chance that Young, Liberal, will de-
feat Grant, Conservative, in Comox,
but it is no certainty. It is now con-
ceded by those best competent to judge
that Shattford, Conservative, will win
in Similkameen.

It will thus be seen that McBride,
now assured of nineteen Conservative
seats, may count safely on twenty
and, possibly, twenty-two. However,
the defeat of a Government man in
any one of the three doubtful consti-
tuencies would leave McBride with
only twenty-one, which, of itself, is
not sufficient to carry on government.

It is rumored that McBride, who is
desperate to hold on to the premier-
ship, will throw Conservatism to the
winds and endeavor to make trades
with the Socialist and Labor element
of the next house. There is not the
slightest doubt but that he would be
found ready and willing to coalesce
with the Independents, but it may be
accepted as a foregone conclusion that
such terms as he would be willing to
offer would not be entertained by the
other side for a moment. Of course
coalition with the Liberals is out of
the question, because the Liberals
have declared for straight party lines
and they will remain firmly wedded
to the idea. Mr. McBride, too, declar-
ed for party lines; he was, in fact, the
first to do so, but his habit of disre-
garding pledges will easily permit him
to make an arrangement regardless
of personal honor or that of his party.

It is safe to predict that John Hous-
ton of Nelson will be in the height
of his glory if the McBride adminis-
tration succeeds in clinging to office
with a majority of one. The defeat
of two McBride's cabinet ministers—
Attorney-General McPhillips and Pro-
vincial Secretary Goodeve—leaves two
portfolios vacant, if Mr. McBride
holds on. Houston, of course, is cer-
tain to want to "butt in," and he is in
a position to make terms. But it
goes without saying that Houston's
elevation to the cabinet would mean
the instant ruin of the Conservative
party. The province has just knocked
out one dominant hell-raiser, Joe
Martin; it would not tolerate another
in the person of John Houston.

In any event the McBride govern-
ment is doomed. Whether it be the
East Kootenay question; the taxation
of the railways on an equitable basis;
the abrogation of "reserves" from
Clifford's grab in Skeena to the south-
ern boundary of the province; the
railway subsidy problem; the Coast-
Kootenay railway or something else,
Premier McBride will be thrown out
of office within six months, even if he
does obtain a majority of one when
the next house meets.

The "Independent" who links his
fortunes with the destinies of the Mc-
Bride government would be guilty of
certain political suicide by the rapid
transit route.

SILVER.

The present condition of the silver
market emphasizes the distinction be-
tween silver as a commodity and silver
as a currency. No nation can by
legislation permanently advance the
price of silver as a commodity. But
any nation in proportion to its wealth
and power can try to create and main-
tain a relative value for its silver
currency, with due regard to the re-
quisite limitation of its silver coin-
age.

There is in present transit from San
Francisco to the Philippines several
hundred kegs of silver coins minted
at Philadelphia and destined for Ori-
ental circulation. Meanwhile silver
as a commodity is steadily appreciat-
ing in value; a further rise of less
than six cents per ounce above yester-
day's quotations, which is 53-5, would
occasion some complications. The cur-
rency system of the Philippines is on
a gold basis, the gold peso being the
unit of value; the silver peso is re-
deemable at a gold value of 50 cents.
In this silver peso are 416 grains of
silver, and in its present upward move
should silver as a commodity to 71
cents per ounce, it would be worth
more as bullion than as coin, and, in-
stead of passing into circulation,
would be melted down into bar silver
and be absorbed. Though it is not
probable that that figure will be reac-
ted, yet the possibility is present il-
lustration of the difficulty that besets
any attempt to set a standard of val-
ues as between that which is a cur-
rency or commodity, as circumstances
determine.

When the U. S. government began
buying silver for the Philippine coin-
age, it paid 49 cents; it suspended pur-
chase when the price touched 55 cents.
Though there is a demand from
France and India for silver, and China
gives indications of willingness and
ability to absorb a fresh supply, yet
the contingency indicated is a remote
one, because of the plenteousness of
possible supply. The subject is, how-
ever, of interest in every mining camp
in America where at present prices silver
can be produced at a profit.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS.

Many distinguished parties repre-
senting various interests have visited
Western Canada during recent years.
The two most important events of this
nature, however, have been reserved
for the present season. The party of
delegates to the convention of Cham-
bers of Commerce of the Empire have
just concluded a tour of Western Can-

ada. These gentlemen come from all
parts of the vast British Empire. They
are captains of commerce and indus-
try in their respective spheres. The
trip immediately followed the closing
of their great convention, at which
subjects of imperial interest were dis-
cussed. They will return to their re-
spective avocations with greatly broad-
ened views and much additional know-
ledge of an important portion of the
Empire.

Following closely upon the visit of
the Imperial trade congress delegates
we now have a visit from a large
party of Canadian manufacturers.
They come fresh from the conclusion
of their annual meeting at Toronto,
about 160 strong. They will spend
two or three weeks touring the west
and will learn much about the country
during that time. It would, however,
require months, rather than weeks, to
gain a very general knowledge of the
vast region included in the term
Western Canada. Many of these gen-
tlemen, however, have been here be-
fore and have already had consider-
able opportunity to learn about this
great western country. Those who
have not been here before will doubt-
less make the best of their opportu-
nities.

The statement has often been made
that Canadian manufacturers have not
paid enough attention to the west.
In fact that they have rather neglect-
ed the opportunities which the west
afforded for increasing business.
Speaking generally or as a broad
statement, we do not believe that this
is true. If in certain respects it is
true, we believe it has not been on ac-
count of any lack of enterprise on the
part of Canadian manufacturers, but
rather of lack of properly organized
and properly directed effort. Since the
organization, or rather reorganization,
of the Canadian Manufacturers' asso-
ciation, a well organized and success-
ful effort has been made to extend
Canadian trade, both at home and
abroad. The association is undoubt-
edly the most progressive, aggressive
and enterprising business organization
that Canada has ever had. It is work-
ing skilfully and energetically to ex-
tend Canadian trade, improve the
quality of Canadian wares, and culti-
vate in Canada a patriotic and inde-
pendent national spirit. Though yet
a very young organization, the asso-
ciation has already accomplished won-
derful results. It is worthy of the
support of every individual and firm
who claims to be a manufacturer, for
the work it is doing in building up
Canadian industry.

And what does the expansion of
Canadian industry mean? It means the
creation or enlargement of the home
market for the Canadian producer. It
means the providing of remunerative
work at home for the young people
of Canada. After all is said and done,
the home market is by all odds the
best market for the Canadian prod-
ucer—the Canadian farmer. It is worth
all other markets combined. It is the
only market which the Canadian pro-
ducer can call his own. Unfortunately
political motives have led to the pub-
lication at times of articles referring
rather harshly to the Canadian manu-
facturer. It is unfortunate that the
primary producing class should be led
to consider the manufacturer an en-
emy in any sense whatever. This is
not the way to build up our common
country.

Large quantities of foreign goods are
imported into Western Canada. In
proportion to population, our imports
here are probably greater than in old
Canada. We hope the visit of the
manufacturers will enable them to
greatly increase their trade here, to
the exclusion of imported goods. Every
dollar sent abroad for goods which we
could profitably produce at home,
means the curtailment of work for the
brawn and muscle of Canada. It
means the contraction of the market
for the Canadian farmer. Western
Canadians, who are mainly pro-
ducers, are enormously interest-
ed in the expansion of the home
market, and they should be the first
to welcome every legitimate effort to
increase that market.

It is hoped that not a few members
of the Canadian manufacturers who
are now touring the west will become
duly impressed with the many busi-
ness opportunities that exist here, and
so lend their energies and money to
develop the wonderful resources that
exist here in such bountiful abun-
dant.

The Miner extends a cordial greeting
to the visiting manufacturers, and
trusts that their visit may be a pleas-
ant and profitable one.

We may look for another American
presidential boom if Mayor Low suc-
ceeds in carrying Greater New York
again. There was a large amount of
that sort of talk when he was elected
two years ago.

The announcement that President
Roosevelt is much concerned because he
weighs 220 pounds and is still gaining
weight should serve as a warning to il-
legal combines in the United States. If
the president feels that he is in need of
exercise he knows where he can begin.

THE POLITICAL

The result of the
still hangs in the b
Bridettes claim two
forty-two seats inclu
Comox. It is reporte
servative, is elected
majority of five, bu
twenty-one doubtful
in favor of Smith, L
strong probability tha
yet win. Reports f
show Young, Liberal
lead, but we are dis
the constituency to
tive.

If therefore is now
tainty that Mr. Mc
only twenty-one stra
when he next meets
rumored, however, tha
the necessary majori
over W. C. Wells, the
eral from Columbia
commissioner of land
the Prior administra
gained such an unenv
in connection with the
C. P. R. crown grants
East Kootenay coal
lands. In some instan-
ces to the dignity of
tion born of what is
definite pledge from W
goes that Wells would
rather than be identifi
B. McInnes, who was
sible for the fall of W
Prior cabinet. Wells,
he made speaker and s
the necessity of being
er in the McBride rank
hand, there are respo
who are in a position to
tatively and who say
that Wells will have n
McBride. The Miner is
that such will eventua

There is another rep
William Davidson, I
elect from Siccan, w
follow the McBride ban
say is that if he does, h
pre-election pledge ad
himself with the men
him with office. Ther
little doubt about Mr.
shown elsewhere in the

But let us suppose the
meets the next house v
He would then have to
llos made vacant by
attorney-general McPh
vincial secretary Goode
generally conceded tha
generalship must go to
son of Vancouver. No
ment would be fair or
leaves Victoria and Va
without representation
unless some Island man
vincial secretaryship. B

Cotton, Price Ellison,
Taylor, Clifford and Jo
Each of the aspirants n
strong claims to the vac-
ship. Each has fought
McBride in power and
reward. Why should the
be ignored while Vanoc
joys two portfolios? W
to be forced to give w
land man? The same n
Ellison, Taylor and Clif
Houston will demand a
sight, but the premier s
appoint him. Were he
demimium would reign
and the country would
raged and scandalized.
portfolio must certainly
more respectable henchm
a compromise and a
man, such as Mr. Fra
Forks? None of the o
could then have reason
of each other. The fact
and Vancouver Island r
be ignored should not b
much importance. The
not been very kind to M
why should he go out
consider its claims?

However, as we had o
mark before, all this, i
position. It is probab
tion, for the reason tha
will not have an oppor
the vacant portfolios.

DAVIDSON'S INDEX

The McBride people la-
upon the fact that they
the support of William
Labor member-elect
There is no justification
tentation; in fact, it is m
that Mr. Davidson will
to do with McBride o
stration. The Miner ha
ment in this respect on
Widson said on the pul
during the recent camp
ing at New Denver, Mr.
reported by the New Den
have said:

"He was free to conce
servative press in this r
freedom that he deman
to express his views on
issues of the campaign, a
with the opposition tha
was a man of the people
ing man. What was true
ter in this respect was
himself, and he was read
Mr. Hunter in the high