

The Colonist.

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SALE OF THE TRAIL SMELTER.

The official announcement of the purchase of the Trail smelter by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and that it is to be operated as a small margin and more for the purpose of developing the mines around Rossland than for money-making, is very important and very interesting.

Whether this sale means the withdrawal of Mr. Heinze from the British Columbia field we do not know, but it is not inappropriate at this time to speak of the great good accomplished by him during the few years he has been engaged in business in the province.

HON. ROBERT BEAVEN'S LETTER

In the interest of free discussion we print the letter of Hon. Robert Beaven in regard to the contract with Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann for the construction of the Stikine-Teelin railway.

TIME FOR ACTION.

With such unmistakable indications as are before us of the determination of our American neighbors to deprive us, by fair means or foul—preferably the latter—of the benefits resulting from the opening of the Canadian gold fields, the following editorial note, appearing in the Vancouver World, of 16th inst., is well-timed:

the 60th parallel would be clearly beyond the jurisdiction of the local house. There is no doubt as to the authority of the local legislature to incorporate a company to build a line from the Stikine river to Teelin lake, or that the legislature can incorporate a company to build from a point on the Stikine to an open port in British Columbia; but there is likewise no doubt as to the right of the Dominion parliament to incorporate a company for that purpose.

Mr. Beaven thinks that the urgency plea will not stand investigation. This is very different to what we used to hear. It is only a few weeks since the COLONIST was daily besieged by those who urged that an emergency of the worst kind existed. For months we were importuned to give neither the federal nor the provincial government any rest until steps should be taken to secure a railway from the Stikine to Lake Teelin. Pressure came from all sides. Opponents of the provincial administration wanted us to show that body up for its neglect; opponents of the Dominion ministry accused us of endeavoring to justify it in unwarranted delay.

It may be found that the regulation issued by the Dominion government in regard to the carriage of Canadian goods in American bottoms will have to be altered so far as they relate to river navigation. In the case of the trading companies doing business on the upper Yukon and desiring to send in Canadian goods by way of St. Michael's the regulation may work serious disadvantage. In view of the great amount of merchandise that will be taken up the river and the comparative paucity of Canadian bottoms to carry Canadian goods, we are inclined to think that it would be very much in the interest of the Yukon country if the trading companies were permitted to avail themselves of every means of transport offering, without any restriction as to what flag the vessel carries. In regard to the Stikine, there will not be so much reason to extend the carriage of Canadian goods to American vessels; but there are some reasons why it might be desirable to exempt steamers on that river also from the operation of the regulation. Our object in mentioning the matter to-day is that it may be looked into thoroughly in the interval before the navigation of the river opens.

Mr. KELLER wanted to know the names of those persons who favored the appointment of John D. Sibbald as gold commissioner. The Premier replied that he would not answer on the ground that a reply was not in the interest of public policy. We recall a reply made by an Eastern premier to a similar question. He said that, speaking without discourtesy to the house, he would inform the honorable member who put the question that it was none of his business who asked for the individual in question to be appointed; that the government took the responsibility of all appointments made by it, and that it would be impossible to carry on the public business if a government was to be called upon to explain why or upon whose solicitation individuals were appointed to public offices. Communications to members of a government of such subjects are confidential, and should be respected as such.

Mr. McPherson's serious charge against him to pass unnoticed. To steal all the money in the treasury, to convert the parliament building into a private dwelling, to corral railway franchisees ad-

libitum would be mere vagaries of an idle hour compared with the crime of having by implication broken up innumerable happy homes; for certainly the man who promises to provide wives for a whole constituency, and fails to do it, is the champion wrecker of domestic bliss. We hope the gallant Colonel will take an early opportunity to show either that Mr. McPherson is mistaken or that he "done his level best" to make his rash promise good.

The blowing up of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor is an event of intense interest. Very naturally the suspicion has been aroused that the explosion is the result of foul play, but in view of the fact that similar explosions have occurred in British men-of-war under circumstances precluding any suspicion of this, we think it would be a mistake to attribute the terrible affair to anything less than accident. The Maine was a ship of 6,648 tons displacement and 9,000 horse-power. Her armament is of the most modern type and she was an all-round good vessel.

The latest fool is the fellow who has started from Denver to walk to Dawson City. He had only ten cents in his pocket. If he succeeds he is to get \$25,000, so he says. He claims that he will get there by June. He will do nothing of the kind. No man can walk to Dawson City from Denver in four and a half months. He would have to average nearly thirty miles a day, which would be impossible.

Two of the most efficient policemen in Victoria have resigned because they can get better pay at some other work. It is said that Victoria pays her police less than either Vancouver or Nanaimo. There is no reason for this. We want the best men available on the police force at the present time, and the city must expect to pay a living wage.

The Columbian has discovered that the references of the COLONIST to redistribution in its brief forecast of the speech is the argument "of admitted cowardice, dishonesty and incompetence." The folly of using language like this consists in the fact that it is so ridiculously exaggerated that no one believes it to be seriously intended.

The Inland Sentinel says the reason we do not have better roads in this province is because the building of them is entrusted to men who do not understand the work. This is the excuse that is made all the world over, almost; and there is some foundation for it, because in point of fact good road makers are exceedingly scarce anywhere.

The Roseland Miner notes with great satisfaction that the Merchant's Bank of Halifax and the Bank of Montreal have decided to build brick blocks in that city. It certainly is an excellent certificate of the substantial character of Roseland's progress that two such monetary institutions have determined to invest in permanent offices there.

It is to be hoped that the most rigid inspection of every steamer sailing North will be made. So far as British Columbia is concerned, we feel sure that every vessel sailing from this province will be seaworthy. What we protest against is the fitting up of old, worn-out craft as passenger boats.

DR. WALKER objected to reporters being seated on the floor of the house, saying that when he and Mr. Speaker were reporters they had to do their work in the galleries on their knees. If the Doctor and the Speaker would do a little more work nowadays on their knees we don't suppose it would hurt them.

Mr. COTTON is a cautious person. He reserves his libellous epithets for an occasion when they are protected by the privileges of parliament.

BY WAY OF VARIETY. An Unwarranted Arrest.—Magistrate—You say the officer arrested you while you were quietly minding your own business? Prisoner—Yes, your worship. Magistrate—You were quietly attending to your own business, making no noise or disturbance of any kind? Prisoner—None whatever, sir. Magistrate—It seems very strange. What is your business? Prisoner—I'm a burglar. Undoubtedly.—Jasper—What do you think the officer meant when he spoke about one of his characters being a "hen-minded" woman? "Exactly," answered the missionary. "I do not err, then, in presuming that you have invented all those long-range, rapid-firing guns to prevent the obnoxious stranger from approaching close enough to be deemed a neighbor."

THE COLONIST'S editorial paragraph regarding Dr. Walker and the reporters did the Doctor an injustice in representing that he was opposed to their having seats on the floor of the house. All that the genial member for South Nanaimo referred to was the great difference between the conveniences accorded reporters now and those they enjoyed in the dark ages when he and Mr. Speaker were young.

There seems to be a prospect of a lively anti-gambling fight in Seattle. The gambling element is said to be planning to capture the city government. It tried to do the same thing six years ago, and was badly snowed under. There are thousands of decent people in Seattle, and when they make up their minds to smash the vicious element they do it.

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It is his speech on the address in the House of Commons Sir Richard Cartwright expressed his belief that when the next Dominion loan falls due they can be retired with a new issue at 2 1/2 per cent, without any provision for sinking fund. If this is done the saving to the taxpayer will be very great.

The silver agitation seems to be losing none of its force in the United States. The property promised as the result of President McKinley's election has not materialized. The whole industrial and financial atmosphere seemed surcharged with the elements of a storm.

The COLONIST is glad to be able to say that an effort and a very successful one has been made to provide proper accommodation for the reporters in the legislature. They have comfortable seats and good tables on the floor of the house and a convenient room for their use.

It is to be hoped that the most rigid inspection of every steamer sailing North will be made. So far as British Columbia is concerned, we feel sure that every vessel sailing from this province will be seaworthy. What we protest against is the fitting up of old, worn-out craft as passenger boats.

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Klondyke Outfits. PRICE LISTS NOW READY. B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS and HATTERS, 97 and 99 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C.

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THE PRESENT ISSUE OF THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. SEVEN COLUMNS. EIGHT PAGES. Contains all the News. INCLUDING FULL REPORTS OF ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE YUKON GOLD FIELDS.

If you want to keep your friends informed, you cannot do better than send them THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. PRICE 5 CENTS PER COPY. PER ANNUM \$1.50.

THE RETAIL MARKETS. Trade Reported Generally Good in Groceries During the Week. The market this week has no features specially worthy of mention. Trade is reported good by grocers, but the showing is not so satisfactory among fruit dealers. The current retail prices are as follows:

JAMES BAY BRIDGE. TO THE EDITOR:—Will you allow me a small space in which to draw the attention of the corporation to the state of James Bay bridge, the surface of which is at present covered with a thick coat of "muck."

Free Trial To Any Honest Man. The Foremost Medical Company in the World in the Cure of Weak Men Makes this Offer.

HEALTH AND ENERGY ASSURED. HAPPY MARRIAGE, GOOD TEMPER, LONG LIFE. In all the world to-day—in all the history of the world—no doctor nor institution has treated and restored so many men as has the famous KELLER MEDICAL COMPANY, N. Y.

THE RETAIL MARKETS (continued). Corn, whole, per ton 25.00@28.00; cracked, per ton 26.00@30.00; Cornmeal, per 10 lbs. 40¢@45¢; Rolled oats, per 7 lbs. 30¢; Potatoes, per 100 lbs. 90¢@1.00; Cabbages, per lb. 8¢; Lettuce, per head 10¢; Tomatoes, per lb. 15¢; Rhubarb, per bunch 12¢; Hay, baled, per ton 17.00@18.00; Cheese, per lb. 15¢@20¢; Eggs, per doz. 25¢; Butter, fresh, per lb. 25¢@30¢; Creamery (Eastern) per lb. 27¢@30¢; Bannocks, per doz. 10¢; Hams, American, per lb. 18¢; Bacon, Canadian, per lb. 16¢@18¢; Rolled, per lb. 14¢@16¢; Long clear, per lb. 12¢; Canadian, per lb. 12¢; Shoulder hams, per lb. 12¢; Glasgow Beef, per lb. 12¢; Lard, per lb. 12¢@15¢; Mutton, per lb. 12¢; Sides, per lb. 12¢; Veal, per lb. 12¢; Mutton, per lb. 12¢; Pork, fresh, per lb. 12¢; Turkeys, per lb. 12¢; Geese, per lb. 12¢; Apples, Island, per box 1.50; Lemons, California, per doz. 20¢@25¢; Bananas, per doz. 10¢; Pineapples, per doz. 50¢@75¢; Cranberries, per lb. (local) 10¢; (imported) 20¢; Fish—Salmon, per lb. 10¢@12¢; Smoked, per lb. 20¢; Kipperd Salmon, per lb. 10¢@12¢; Halibut, per lb. 10¢@12¢; Smoked, per lb. 15¢; Rock Cod, per lb. 6¢@8¢; Smelts, per lb. 6¢@8¢; Flounders, per lb. 6¢@8¢; Kippers, per lb. 10¢; Lin Cod, per lb. 12¢; Finnan Haddies per lb. 15¢; GAME—Teal, per brace 35¢@40¢; Woodcock, per brace 50¢; Mallards, per brace 75¢; Brant, per brace 1.00.

ALIEN MINERS. TO THE EDITOR:—"All the Canadian government are asleep." Why are all nations allowed to take up mining claims in Canada? There are three or four nations to one of British who are taking away the wealth of Canada and getting rich, and what do we receive for this?—all kinds of insults. They take our valuable away and charge us 18 per day for an officer to look after our own goods, which is equal to a duty on them, and they want to get these from their own country and put all the obstacles they possibly can in our way. There should be a law passed at once to keep all people out who have an alien law that those that are here turned out without delay. It is about time the Canadian government woke up for our interests. When the road by Stikine is completed the others should be closed; this would prevent a lot of trouble and annoyance. Now I read a large number of Japanese are going to Dawson; this would do Canada a serious injury, as they are equal, or worse than Chinese. They live on about fifteen cents a day, and we receive duty on this amount, whilst the parties who employ them reap the benefit of their cheap labor and send it to foreign country. There are any quantity of our own countrymen to do the work and keep the money here. John Chinaman is allowed to take up claims and work them in British Columbia and in Canada at the same rate as the Japanese, and has sent large sums to China which he has got out of the mines and is still doing it. This we should keep to build up this Dominion. I do not see how the citizens of Canada can tolerate the way in which the government at Ottawa manages. F. K.

Burnt to Death. BOTHWELL, Feb. 16.—(Special)—Mrs. Bloom and one of her children were burnt to death in their dwelling early this morning.

Forty-Five News of the Week. Extension of Time For... Mr. Corbin Booming Spok... (From Our Own Correspondent) Ottawa, Feb. 18.—It is announced that the time for subscribers declining leases of Yukon has been extended to March 1st. It is intended to obtain certain franchises from the government who have been unable to secure them, to put up the new post.

Mr. Davin called attention that dredging leases were being around Ottawa. He thought the government should give every opportunity of acquiring the Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied that would procure them who could facilitate discussion. The debate on the railway continued by Col. Hughes, who strongly supported the government. Messrs. Casgrain, Inerney opposed and Mr. Russell supported the bill.

Sir Charles Tupper asked the government to place on the order paper a bill to amend the Mann-Mackenzie contract, as to the regulation on Behler's range. Mr. Morrison introduced a bill of incorporation of the Lewis River Company. The proposed incorporators are E. E. Tilton, G. C. Shaw, Ashland. They desire to build a road from Miles canyon and Horse rapids.

D. C. Corbin is endeavoring to public interest in the route from Kame to Telegraph Creek via... and Queenella. An active lobbyist has been engaged to build the River Valley railway, of which he is the moving spirit. Mr. introduced a bill of incorporation of the Commons does not propose to publish a week as stated papers. Ash Wednesday, however, is a holiday. The Senate to be held on March 8.

L. A. Phillips, of the Alaska Company, says that they must supply for the Yukon in the future they cannot take Canadian goods. American bottoms without paying Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright and Premier... support of the Grit candidates legislature. Ottawa proposes to abolish the by-law which has proved a... Archbishop Bruchet's embargo Catholics joining the Young Christian Association will be by local church dignitaries to Ottawa.

RAILWAY RATE WAR. Passenger Fares From the East to Coast Cut to One Half Regular. MONTREAL, Feb. 18.—(Special)—C.P.R. has thrown down the gauntlet to the United States transcontinental and the greatest passenger rate business to Pacific coast points known is in full swing. To people going to the Yukon will to buy tickets to Vancouver or points on the Pacific coast for class or \$30 for second class, will cost \$70 for first class and \$80 for class before rates from other Canada and points in the New States are in proportion.

ROSSLAND'S CARNIVAL. The Winter Sports Attract Many Results in Curling and Ski Run. ROSSLAND, Feb. 18.—Large from adjoining towns are in attendance at the winter carnival which opened evening. In the hockey tournament Rossland defeated Nelson. On Sandon and Nelson played in the Rossland rink won over Nelson. Smith's Rossland rink was defeated by Sandon by a score of 11 to 3. The ski races for the champion Canada, down Red mountain a mile and a half, with a 2,000 feet, was won by O. Jeldne carried away the magnificent trophy presented by C. H. Macdonald.

MINING LAW AMENDMENT. Mr. Carlyle's Suggestion Protested Against. KASLO, Feb. 14.—(Special)—Mr. Carlyle attended public meeting convened in Kaslo, was the meeting which was hastily called last evening to discuss the amendments proposed by Provincial Minister Carlyle to the mining laws. The attack was principally by Sandon by a score of 11 to 3. The ski races for the champion Canada, down Red mountain a mile and a half, with a 2,000 feet, was won by O. Jeldne carried away the magnificent trophy presented by C. H. Macdonald.

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