

The Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1895.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HISTORY.

There are very few, even in the Dominion of Canada, who realize how young British Columbia is as a civilized community. Fifty years ago, except for a few servants of the Hudson Bay Company, not one of the cities of this Province had an existence.

"The view landwards was enchanting. Before them lay a vast body of land upon which no white man then stood; not a human habitation was in sight; not a beast, scarcely a bird. Even the gentle murmur of the voleanic wood was drowned by the gentle beating of the surf upon the shore.

This is a picture of what was to be the site of the city of Victoria, drawn not quite fifty-two years ago. We learn from Mr. Begg's history that the development of the settlement which was destined in a comparatively short time to become a city, was what must have appeared to the early colonists discouragingly slow.

It is interesting to trace in the pages of Mr. Begg's History the growth and development of this far Western colony. The men who managed its affairs were for a long time the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company.

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munition was being wasted they ceased firing. When all was quiet Mr. Finlayson appeared upon the bastion, and making signs that he wanted to speak to the chief, he quickly communicated with the noble red man on the folly of what he and his tribe were doing.

Mr. Finlayson had previously sent a friendly Indian to the lodge who spread a report which so frightened the women and children who were in it that they ran off to the woods, and it was not until he saw the man's signal that he ordered the cannon to be discharged.

It was owing to this humane and clever way of dealing with the Indians, as well as their honesty and their truthfulness, that the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company were in Vancouver Island as well as in the Northern part of the Continent, so successful in dealing with the native tribes.

Mr. Begg in a plain and unpretentious, though it may be in a rather discursive way, tells the story of British Columbia's discovery, early settlement and later development.

It is, besides, a very neat book, well printed and well bound. It is illustrated by the portraits of many men who were notable at different periods of the colony's history, and there is in it, too, an excellent map of the Canadian Pacific Railway on which are marked in red lines the routes taken by the early explorers of the Hudson Bay Company.

The book is evidently the product of hard and conscientious labor, and is a valuable addition to the historical works of the Dominion of Canada.

THE GREAT GOLD SIEVE.

The United States Treasury has become a sieve through which gold slips out almost as fast as it is put in. Gold is borrowed to redeem the nation's paper. The Government pays out the gold and takes in the paper. The same paper is again issued and is again brought back to be redeemed.

It is much the same with the dairy. The man who wants to make his dairy a success must take great pains in the choice of his cows. They should be of the best breeds; they should be in good health; they must be well housed and well fed.

MISLEADING FIGURES.

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some of these suburban municipalities would have remained sleepy villages, stationary as to population, and others of them would never have had an existence at all. We may add that we are very far from accusing Mr. Laurier of having intentionally attempted to deceive his hearers and the country at large.

WHAT THE CONVENTIONS TAUGHT.

Those who listened to the very interesting discussion at the conventions of the horticulturists and the dairymen must have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to grow good fruit and to make the best butter without taking a great deal of pains.

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FARMERS AND FREE TRADE.

Canadians are told that free trade—English free trade—is a fine thing for the farmers and that protection is ruinous to them. In England the people have had the kind of trade policy which we are told is specially favorable to the agricultural class for nearly fifty years, and consequently if Canadian free traders tell the truth England, and the British Islands generally, must be the Paradise of farmers.

There can be no more terrible and at the same time convincing object lesson as to the present state of agriculture than a glance through the bankruptcy report of the year which has just come to an end.

THE PRINCIPLE AT STAKE.

It is greatly to be regretted that the Board of School Trustees had not the moral courage to come to a definite decision in this way. If only a few farmers were in difficulties it would not assume this depending tone. It is quite evident that in its opinion the whole farming class is suffering grievously, and that unless something is done to help the British farmer his condition, deplorable as it is, will become worse still.

Our readers know only too well how needless it was to set out these figures to prove the desperate straits to which the farmer has been reduced; but, unfortunately, the general public does not appreciate the fact. If the public did understand all that it means there would be immediate relief, for there would be such an expression of public opinion that no government could afford to ignore it.

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Common honesty demands that the unadmissional principle be rigidly maintained, but a school in which the teacher is permitted to outrage the feelings of persons of any religious persuasion cannot be said in any true sense to be non-sectarian. To us the duty of the Trustees seems so plain that we cannot understand how they could make any mistake about it.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

There is some talk of Newfoundland becoming a Province of this Dominion of Canada. We cannot see that there is much ground for such talk. The people of that Colony have never evinced any desire to become united with Canada, and the Canadians have not sought to deprive the Newfoundlanders of their independence.

There are good grounds for this indifference. The Newfoundlanders are deeply in debt. They owe some eighteen millions of dollars, and it is not likely that when one free trade with the Dominion was established Newfoundland would yield a large revenue in proportion to the population and its wants.

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SMALL CAUSE FOR ALARM.

The condition of the finances of the United States is causing a good deal of uneasiness not only in that country but in Canada. Intelligent Canadians know that if there is a panic in the States, followed as it would certainly be by a period of depression, the consequences would be felt in Canada.

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DEMORALISED PARTY.

It is evident that the Irish Home Rule party is greatly demoralised. It has lost much of its prestige and it cannot expect to exercise as much influence in British politics as it has done hitherto.

It is quite characteristic of the empty and fatuous creatures who have brought the Irish cause and the Irish party into hopelessness and contempt that just at this moment of times they should provide the Tory Unionist party with an unexpected amount of a new and apparently most important attack upon the Gladstonian Irish alliance.

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reverse of successful. Harold Frederic would hardly venture to speak of Mr. Blake in the contemptuous way in which he does if that gentleman stood high in the estimation of the Liberal party or of the British public.

NO CONVERSIONS MADE.

The Canadian Journal of Commerce, published in Montreal, did not form a very high opinion of Mr. Laurier's Windsor Hall oration. Its warmest plaudits and its threadbare arguments did not make a very deep impression on the Liberals and certainly did not shake the faith of Conservatives in the policy under which their city had grown and prospered.

It is not at all probable that any Conservative was led by them to change his opinions; indeed some of those who had listened to the speeches were heard to remark on the way out that they had become stronger in their belief than ever, while it is not at all likely that any Liberal was present who was strengthened in his faith by the arguments adduced.

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SPORTING.

The Hornets of Nanaimo and the Wanderers of Westminster played Rugby in the senior series to-day at Westminster. The Hornets gained the advantage in the toss, and played the game in a very clever manner.

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When the Mark Lane Express says that the English farmer is reduced to "desperate straits," it is worse than foolish for any Canadian free trader, so called, to try to make his countrymen believe that English farmers are very well off and that they live easy lives.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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