The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1898.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting is called by the mayor, to be held to-day at 4 p.m. in the city hall, to take into consideration the best steps for the relief of the sufferers from the fire in Westminster. So worthy an object will doubtless call out a strong representative gathering. The need for assistance is very great.

The people of Victoria feel deeply for their neighbors, and the handsome manner in which unsolicited subscriptions have been sent in to the Colonist office yesterday shows that the expression of sympathy is taking a practical form.

THE COLONIST'S LIST.

The list of subscriptions printed elsewhere in to-day's paper shows that the citizens of Victoria are quick to respond to a demand for help. This list was opened solely to give those persons an opportunity to subscribe who desired to do so immediately, and not to anticipate anything which might be done in other directions.

The list will remain open, and anyone who desires to send his or her subscription to this office will probably get it into the hands of those who need it as soon as by any means that can be devised. We wish to remit the first instalment to New Westminster to-day, and therefore if any readers intend to contribute through the Colonist, we hope they will send in their names and amounts early this morning, so that the telegraphed remittance may be as large as possible.

The need of the people is great.

NEW WESTMINSTER'S LOSS.

The fire which swept the principal part of the beautiful city of New Westminster out of existence is undoubtedly the most serious calamity that has ever befallen a city in Canada, in proportion to its size. Perhaps it would be impossible to find a record of one more disastrous anywhere, that is relatively speaking. The actual loss is very large, although it has been only too often exceeded, but the proportion which the value of the property destroyed, bears to what is left the number of homeless people, compared with those who have homes left them, the extinction of the business community and other elements, all combine to make an almost unprecedented misfortune.

That the spoken and practical sympathy of the people of Canada will go out to the sufferers, and that warm-hearted friends elsewhere will join in forwarding assistance, goes without saying. It is in such times as these that the noble teachings of Christianity show their splendid influence.

There were many sad scenes during the progress of the fire, and many deeds of heroism. Everyone will commend the courage with which the people have faced the appalling disaster, as has been shown in the determination of the Exhibition directors to go on with that enterprise. This should meet with a liberal reward.

While we cannot hope that the fine structures, which were the ornament of New Westminster, will be replaced at an early day, we fully believe that there will arise upon the ashes of the ruined city another even more prosperous. It is not too soon to give the people a word of caution. Let them not be in too great haste to rebuild expensively. On this rock more than one city have narrowly escaped shipwreck. New Westminster has a beautiful situation. No city on the Coast presented a more beautiful appearance from the water; none looked so home-like when one walked through its streets. Certainly none had finer business blocks in proportion to its population. Our friends must not be in too much haste to regain the lost dignity and beauty of their city. Let them go slowly, and then they will go surely. There must always be a good town on the Lower Fraser, and New Westminster will be that town, for though the blow has been a hard one, it has not been paralyzing. The people are full of courage, and their resources are far from exhausted. Victoria bids them Godspeed in rebuilding their city.

In the Vancouver Province of yesterday appeared an editorial, which is a little the most brutal thing that ever appeared in a newspaper. It gloats over the destruction of New Westminster, because it sees in the destruction of the city a prospect for Vancouver to gain in importance and population. We refuse to believe that in this the Province voices the sentiments of the people of the city, which is dishonored by being the place where it is published. That we do not mis-state the statements of the Province, will be seen from these expressions, taken from the article in question: "It can probably be said that the fire determines the fate of New Westminster. Its dreams of greatness have been scattered to the wandering winds of heaven. * * * * It is inevitable that the population should rapidly decrease, and that most of those who formerly claimed New Westminster as their home should now locate in Vancouver or some other equally advantageous point. * * * * New Westminster is a city of yesterday," and so on. Such remarks addressed to a suffering people are in the last degree shameful.

NO INVESTIGATION.

If the Manitoba Free Press speaks with authority, Commissioner Ogilvie has not been instructed to make any investigation into the charges of wrongdoing that have been made against the government officials at Dawson. This hardly seems possible. The charges have been made with the utmost definiteness, and the publicity given to them is co-extensive with the region over which the English language is spoken. The nature of the charges is sufficiently serious. If they are well founded they are a disgrace, not only to Canada, but to the whole British people, for the boast has been that in all British countries the law was administered honestly and that all men had equal rights under it. If what is said of the conduct of officials at Dawson is true the mining laws have not been honestly administered and all people have not had equal rights under them. And yet we are told by a paper, which is understood to speak for Mr. Sifton, that there is to be no investigation. The reason given that the officers deny that anything is wrong. We suppose every horse thief, who was ever sent to the penitentiary, denied his guilt when charged with it. If Mr. Sifton only proposes to investigate the conduct of those officials who plead guilty he will not have to investigate anything. What need is there to investigate whether a man has committed a wrong, when he himself says that he has? If there is to be no investigation simply because the people, who ought to have seen that there was no scandal, say there was none, a premium will be put upon official dishonesty of all descriptions. Making every due allowance for the prejudice of aliens, for disappointments and for exaggerations; admitting the correctness of the saying that "one story's always good until another's told;" there is indisputable evidence of wrong and injustice on the part of some of the Dawson officials. Where the surface indications are so plain, there can be little doubt of what would be found if an investigation were pushed to bed rock. But we are told that nothing is to be investigated. When this word reaches Dawson, the rumor, already in circulation there, that ministers dare not order a public investigation because they themselves would not come out of it with clean hands, will obtain ten-fold greater credence than it receives now. We have declined to give publicity to rumors of this nature, because such allegations are easily made, and when the minister is several thousand miles away, are difficult for him to answer; but it is right that Mr. Sifton should be told that such reports are in circulation, for perhaps their existence will spur him up to doing what the interests of the mining community have been powerless to persuade him to do, at least so far as the public knows. If he has not instructed Commissioner Ogilvie to probe the Yukon scandals to the bottom, he ought to send a messenger after him as fast as steam can carry him, with instructions to that effect. Of course the charges will be ventilated in parliament, but it will be impossible then to get evidence from Dawson. Possibly Mr. Sifton will think himself lucky if he gets off with a nonsuit.

A LESSON FOR VICTORIA.

Inadequate water supply seems to have been the cause of the destruction of New Westminster. Is there not a lesson in for Victoria? We think there is. The other day it was pointed out that on a part of Yates street the water supply was very weak, although the excellent arrangements at the pumping station have largely remedied this. There are other parts of the city where it is insufficient. There is none too much water for fire purposes anywhere. It may be quite true that in those parts of the city where the buildings are close together, there is ample water. On this we express no opinion; but no one can tell how a fire is going to act. New Westminster caught fire in several places at once. When a fire once gets headway it jumps over wide spaces. In the great fire at St. John, N.B., the flames jumped over hundreds of yards, in one case fully a mile, so that a very efficient fire department with abundance of water was powerless, and nearly $40,000,000 worth of property was destroyed in a few hours. Once let a fire get headway and there is no telling what it will do. So-called fire-proof buildings go down before it as if they were mere tinder boxes. The lesson was taught by the Seattle fire, by the Vancouver fire and by every big fire. The great object in providing fire protection is not to extinguish a conflagration, for that is next to impossible, but to check a fire at the beginning. A fire in one house is not very difficult to handle. One in two adjoining houses is more than twice as difficult, and if a third takes fire, especially if it is a little distance from the others, the difficulty enormously increases. Four buildings on fire at once anywhere between Cook street and the water front would supply the beginning of a disastrous conflagration. It is against such a beginning that we must guard, and this cannot be done unless there is plenty of water available, a department ready for immediate work, and abundance of hose conveniently located.

The immunity which Victoria has had from fire is no guarantee of safety in the future. To look at New Westminster as it was, one would suppose that it was the safest fire risk in the whole country. But the flames got a start, and after that there was not much to be done but permit them to die out for lack of something to burn.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AT QUEBEC.

Premier Hardy, of Ontario, was asked, during the late session of the legislature of that province, whether it was the intention of his government to send anyone to Quebec to represent the Ontario interests before the conference. He replied that if anything arose which specially concerned that province, the best talent would be employed on its behalf that money could secure. Premier Hardy has the advantage of being near at hand, and he can afford to wait until a question is about to come up before sending anyone to Quebec. British Columbia is a long way off, and we all know that questions have already arisen and others are certain to arise, directly touching our most important interests, yet we are not represented in Quebec. The neglect which has led to this condition of things is inexcusable. The Dominion government is very culpable in not seeing that someone was summoned to Quebec to act in the capacity of an adviser to the commission in matters specially touching the province. We are not represented on the commission, except in the most indirect way. It is true that the British members of that body do not nominally represent any one part of Canada more than the other, but it is likewise true that none of them has any special knowledge of the requirements of the Northwest Coast. The experience of the last year in connection with the Yukon does not encourage us to expect much from the members of the present cabinet. If the interests of this province are as badly served at Quebec as they were in regard to the Yukon, we will fare very badly indeed. The proper course for the government to have taken was to have placed itself in correspondence with the provincial authorities and the representative commercial bodies of the western cities, so as to have reached some conclusion which would have informed them of what is equitable and necessary, so far as this province goes, in any fair settlement of the various questions immediately touching it. Those who know him best are by no means reassured that British Columbia interests are likely largely to be left in the hands of Sir Louis Davies. There is a general fear that the province will be sacrificed.

But this responsibility of the federal authorities does not in any way lessen that of the provincial government. We do not believe that the new ministers fully appreciate the seriousness of the situation. If they did, it is inconceivable that they would display so much indifference. They are certainly very remiss in their duty. They know how the business men feel about the matter, but this does not appear to influence them in the slightest degree. They have declined to move so far, and it will soon be too late to do anything. The most the people of the province can do now is to hope that between the federal and the provincial stools, their interests will not come to the ground.

THE WESTMINSTER EXHIBITION.

A correspondent suggests that if the fire is likely to make the postponement of the Westminster exhibition necessary, steps ought to be taken to arrange for holding it here, where the necessary buildings and grounds are already provided, and that the proceeds should be turned over to New Westminster. Our correspondent will be very glad to learn that the exhibition directors have determined to hold the exhibition in their own city. Doubtless the great sympathy felt for the people, and the appreciation of their courage in rising above their misfortune, will lead to a very large attendance. We believe that satisfactory arrangements can be made for housing visitors in Vancouver and carrying them over at a low rate. Between the C. P. R. and the Tram Company there ought to be little difficulty in handling a very great number of people between the two cities. Our correspondent's suggestion was well intended, and would have been very timely, but for the resolution of the exhibition directors. Attention is directed to our Westminster despatch in this connection.

The Toronto Telegram thinks the people of British Columbia will not be very deeply interested in "fine-spun constitutional interests." We do not like to hear the principles on which our constitution rests spoken of as fine-spun. The idea that precedents can be brushed away as so many cobwebs is revolutionary. We have no written constitution in this province. What is called the Constitution Act is simply a measure defining a few details of government. The constitution rests wholly upon precedents. There is no court to which recourse can be had to settle what these precedents require. Only the people can determine that. Therefore if the people refuse to watch to see that precedents are not violated, we will have no constitution left. It would be impossible to carry on free government if all there was as a basis for it was the Constitution Act. That act makes the Lieutenant-Governor a Czar. He can call whom he wishes to his councils, and dismiss them when he chooses. He need not ask whether they are members of the legislature or not, and they need never be members. He can dissolve the house when he pleases, without asking anyone's advice, or prorogue it when he pleases. He can do pretty nearly everything he wishes, that is if the Constitution Act stands alone. But it does not stand alone. It rests upon and is surrounded with the mass of precedents which we all have in mind when we talk of the British Constitution, and which the Toronto paper contemptuously refers to as "fine-spun."

Notwithstanding the decided improvement in times, the number of business failures in the United States continues alarmingly high. The explanation of this may lie in the fact that a considerable proportion of them are of business houses which have not been able to recover from the losses suffered in the bad years just passing away. It is usually the case that in all business revivals that some of the concerns which have severely suffered from depression, are unable to regain their lost ground, for, being weighted with debt and interest, they are unable to compete with perfectly solvent houses and new concerns started with cheaper capital.

Does the Times take its readers for idiots that it thinks it can make believe that if there is anything wrong at Dawson it is because some Conservatives hold public positions there? It is not often that intelligent readers are asked to swallow worse rubbish than our contemporary's article of last evening on "Those Yukon Slanders."

The Times is wrong as usual as to the amount which was available for expenditure on the parliament grounds this year. The amount was $19,000 and not $4,000, as the Times alleges. But that is about as near as our contemporary can be expected to get to the truth.

The E. & N. railway and the Joan made a record trip to Vancouver with relief for the suffering people of New Westminster.

The Times has out-Heroded Herod in its Garonne story. Instead of there having been $1,750,000 aboard, it is doubtful if there was $100,000 all told on the ship.

A GREAT BLAST.

Six Tons of Powder Exploded on Videen's Work Below Brooklyn, Displacing Much Rock.

What is said to be the largest blast ever set off in British Columbia, was exploded Monday of last week on the construction line between Brooklyn and Robson, and consisted of 500 kegs of black powder, each of which weighed 25 pounds. Cases are on record where 100 or 200 kegs were set off, but as far as known Monday's blast broke the record.

The blast was exploded on Videen's contract, some five stations of which had been sub-let to J. Nelson & Co., men of wide experience in this work. The explosions took place at 9 a.m. and as a result over 40,000 cubic yards of rock were sent down the steep mountain side to the lake. It took 17 men three days time to bring up enough soft earth to tamp down the 500 kegs when they were finally placed in the T in the short tunnel prepared for them. This will give some idea of the rocky character of the country. The blast was set off by electricity, and the place of operations was about twelve miles from Brooklyn and six miles from Robson.

As the powder was fired, the reverberations went echoing back among the hills for some minutes, and startled even the inhabitants of the ancient burg of Robson. The steamer Trail, which was about passing, was held for a few moments as a safety precaution until all danger was over.

Railroad men generally are talking about this great blast, but they will soon have an opportunity for telling a larger story, as Mr. Nelson is preparing to put 700 kegs of powder in another single blast.—Brooklyn News.

CROW'S NEST ROAD.

Western Manager Whyte Tells of Improved C. P. R. Service to Follow Its Completion.

Wm. Whyte, manager of the western lines of the C. P. R., spent yesterday in the camp. There was also with Mr. Whyte, R. Marpole, superintendent of the Pacific division; L. A. Johnson, master mechanic, with headquarters at Vancouver; F. P. Gutelius, superintendent of the Columbia & Western railway; J. F. Geddes and E. J. Coyle.

Mr. Whyte is on his annual tour of inspection. He finds things in a very satisfactory condition, and is particularly pleased with the progress that is being made with the standardizing of the railway between Rossland and Trail. He was not quite prepared to say how soon this work would be completed, but stated that no time would be lost in the work, and that a very much improved service would be provided on this branch at an early date. Mr. Whyte when questioned about an early morning service from Rossland to Kootenay lake, the Slocan and the main line, replied that the Kootenay schedule for passenger trains would be generally revised, with many additional facilities, as soon as the improvements now under way were completed.

Mr. Whyte expects to see the Crow's Nest Pass railway turned over to the C. P. R. for operation within the next 30 days. By that time the road will be completed between Lethbridge, N.W.T., and Kuskonook, Kootenay Lake. Regular trains will be run as soon as this is done. Kuskonook for the present will remain the rail terminus of the line, but this will by no means interfere with the passenger and freight service to points further west. Passenger trains will be met at Kuskonook by the handsome and fast steel steamer that is nearly ready for service on Kootenay lake, while freight will be handled by a barge service to connect with the Columbia & Kootenay and Columbia & Western railways. Mr. Whyte was not prepared to say whether or not the Crow's Nest Pass railway will be extended westward through the Ymir district, and via Salmo, Sayward and Trail, but he admitted that the route had been surveyed and found to be practicable. Mr. Whyte said the company fully appreciated all the advantages that might accrue from the construction of a railway along this route.

No time will be lost in establishing a service for the delivery of Crow's Nest Pass coal and coke to points in West Kootenay. Mr. Whyte said there are many thousands of tons of coal at the mines ready for shipment and he hoped to see it landed in large quantities at Columbia river points by the middle of next month.

Mr. Whyte says the C.P.R. is chiefly engaged at present with preparations for handling the immense wheat yield of the Northwest. He estimates that 1,800,000 acres were planted with wheat this year in Manitoba and the Territories. Farmers at present are getting about 52 cents per bushel for their crops, which is a clear profit of at least 18 cents per bushel, but he anticipates that the price of wheat will advance considerably before the close of the year. The average yield this year will be about 18 bushels to the acre.—Rossland Miner.

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HE IS WELL SATISFIED.

Dr. John Duncan, of this city, who last fall secured an interest in one of the richest claims on Eldorado creek and also in a Bonanza creek claim, reached home on the City of Topeka yesterday afternoon, having come up the river on the Columbia. Dr. Duncan was much impressed with the country and makes the prediction that it will be a good mining camp for twenty-five years or even longer. He travelled over the whole country in a range of fifty miles from Dawson.

Last season's output Dr. Duncan places at twelve million dollars, but said it would have been a great deal more had it not been for the royalty, and lack of provisions last fall, both of which tended to retard the work of development. Many men had made preparations to work claims on Dominion and other creeks, but would not do so on account of the royalty. Not five per cent. of those who did work their claims gave correct figures as to the output. Everybody is living in hopes that the excessive royalty will not be collected next season and if the law is changed the output will be enormous. Dr. Duncan suggested that an extra duty might be collected on whiskey and the royalty done away with.

As to the supply of provisions for the winter, Dr. Duncan says he never heard any fear expressed that there would be a shortage. The health of the city, too, is good on the whole, there being no more illness than in any other city of the same size. There was a small epidemic of a form of mountain fever, but there were very few fatal cases. There are about 20,000 people in Dawson and double that number in the country; the city is rather primitive looking and the smells bad, but no worse than would be expected in a city that is partially under water in the spring and where people look out of their back door on to a big swamp. The summer was a pleasant one, there being but eight or ten days when the weather was too warm, and the mosquitos were not troublesome.

There is but one natural route to the Klondike in Dr. Duncan's opinion and that is over either the Dyea or Skagway trail and down the lakes and river by steamer or small boat. He prefers the small boat or canoe for the down trip, the voyage, he says, being a grand one, with ideal camping places. The country is dry but not parched, clean without being swept and neat without being tidied.

The output of the Eldorado claim in which Dr. Duncan is interested was $200,000 short of expectations, but the Bonanza creek claim turned out well. It was found that the pay streak on the Bonanza creek claim did not follow the stream, but ran to one side over the rim rock.

Most of the gold is out of the country now, the 100 men on the Columbia bringing amounts from $10,000 down, in drafts.

SOCKEYE SALMON PACK.

Final Authoritative Estimate of the Output of British Columbia and Puget Sound Canneries.

An estimate of the sockeye salmon pack of British Columbia and Puget Sound canneries has just been prepared, which places the pack this year at (exclusive of that put up at Alert Bay and on the West Coast), 408,085 cases as against 1,015,477 cases put up at British Columbia canneries alone last year. The packs for the Puget Sound canneries it will be noticed are enormous when compared with the packs on the Canadian side, that of the Alaska Packers' Association being particularly large. Last year the total pack on the Fraser was 860,459 cases as against 184,685 cases this year. In 1897 there were 65,905 cases packed on the Skeena as against 22,200 packed this year, and on Rivers Inlet 113,200 cases were packed this year as against 40,207 last year, exclusive of the Lowe Inlet pack, which was 10,366 cases, and which this year is included in the pack under Rivers Inlet. Alert Bay and the West Coast are not included in the totals appended:

FRASER RIVER.	
Cleave Canning Co.	7,000
Ontario Packing Co.	1,800
Routhlier & Co.	3,500
Sinclair & Co.	3,200
Western Fisheries	4,500
Westminster Packing Co.	5,000
Provincial Canning Co.	2,500
Alliance Packing Co.	2,000
Terra Nova Cannery	5,000
Fraser River Canning	3,000
McPherson & Hickey	5,000
Sea Island (Munn & Co.)	8,500
Dinsmore Island Packing Co.	3,000
Celtic (Welch & Co.)	3,500
Labrador Cannery	1,000
Westham Island Packing Co.	2,400
Anglo-American Packing Co.	2,700
Currie & Williams	7,000
Gulf of Georgia	12,000
Star (Costello)	4,000
Light House (Federation)	2,500
London (Lulu Island)	2,500
Hume & Co. (English)	4,000
Pacific Coast Packing Co.	3,000
Colonial Canning Co.	3,000
Canadian Pacific	7,000
Fraser River Industrial Society	3,200
Ewen & Co.	3,300
Deas Island Cannery	3,000
Fishermen's (Hinchliff)	2,400
Harlock (Victoria Packing Co.)	4,300
Delta (Victoria Packing Co.)	5,085
Wellington	3,700
Britannia (A. B. C. Can. Co.	6,000
Phoenix (A. B. C. Can. Co.)	6,000
Brit. Columbia (A. B. C. Can. Co.)	5,000
Canoe Pass (A. B. C. Can. Co)	2,000
Wadhams (A. B. C. Can. Co.)	3,000
British American	3,000
Brunswick Can. Co., Canoe Pass	3,000
Brunswick Can. Co., Steveston	3,000
English Bay Cannery	6,000
Imperial Cannery	2,500
Atlas Cannery	2,500
Beaver (J. H. Todd & Son)	6,200
Richmond (J. H. Todd & Son)	4,200
Total	184,685
SKEENA RIVER.	
North Pacific (A.B.C. Co.)	18,000
Canadian	12,700
Carlisle	11,000
Aberdeen	10,000
Standard	14,000
Inverness	14,500
R. Cunningham & Sons	12,000
Total	92,200
RIVERS INLET.	
Good Hope (A.B.C. Co.)	20,500
B. C. Canning Co. (2)	27,000
Brunswick	17,200
Vancouver Packing Co.	8,000
Victoria Canning Co.	13,000
E. A. Wadhams	17,500
Lowe Inlet Canning Co.	10,000
Total	113,200
NAAS RIVER.	
Mill Bay	9,000
Naas Harbor	9,000
Total	18,000
PUGET SOUND.	
Alaska Packers Association	75,000
Pacific North West	19,000
Ainsworth & Dunn	24,000
Young & Williams	2,500
Fairhaven Canning Co.	8,500
Aberdeen Packing Co.	24,000
Churchanut Canning Co.	2,200
Franco-American Packing Co.	2,500
Fidalgo Island Packing Co.	32,000
Anacortes Packing Co.	15,000
Rosario Straits Packing Co.	6,000
Carlisle Canning Co.	8,000
Island Packing Co.	13,000
Geo. T. Meyers & Co.	6,000
National Packing Co.	5,000
Total	244,700

THE NORTHERN INTERIOR.

The Golden Era says: Frank Berthune has returned from his work of constructing the trail up Canoe river to connect Donald with Tete Jaune cache. On the way up he and his party had the unpleasantness of finding the remains of H. Goodfellow, the old trapper who died in the shack at the Kinbasket mine. The body had apparently been dead for 30 days, and the remains were duly interred by the party. The trail was opened from Donald for about 130 miles to a point on Canoe river, 48 miles from the junction with the Columbia. The point to which the trail was opened is within five miles of what is known as the big jam at Canoe river, and at a point where the Indian trail breaks off to Tete Jaune cache. The trail is a good one, and horses carrying from 200 to 250 pounds of pack can easily pass over it. The only danger lies in crossing one or two of the rivers in high water, the volume and swiftness of the current sometimes carrying horses down. The government should take steps to throw trail bridges over these streams. The cost would not be great, as the channels are narrow, and there is abundance of timber at hand. One of the party, Fred. Owens, went on from the trail to Tete Jaune cache, and on his return reported that he there met a government survey party who were surveying a route in from Edmonton. He also met a party from Kamloops. From the information he was able to obtain, the routes from Edmonton and Kamloops are very unfavorable. That from Edmonton is 480 miles in length, through a quantity of muskeg country, while the route from Kamloops is 250 miles in length, and is over very rough and precipitous country. From Donald the distance is only 180 miles, and the road is so good that there is not a hill to cross, and the steepest portion of the trail is the rise from the bed of the bluewater to the summit of the ridge, within five miles of Donald. Over 80 horses have gone over the trail this season with parties bound for the Peace river country. Frank Foldham, of Canal Flat, went in with his mate and a pack train of 10 horses, their destination being Parsnip river. They took scythes in with them, intending to cut sufficient hay to provide for their horses in winter, and their intention is to stop two years.

Mr. Berthune received word from the government agent to stop further work on the trail, and he returned accordingly. One of his party, A. Morrow, F. Holliday and T. Plunkett, were so impressed with the mineral indications of the country that they decided to prospect the district, and so have remained there, intending to go on to the North Thompson. On the way out, Frank collected the furs which Goodfellow had left at Kinbasket lake, and brought them out to the government agent. He thinks there will be a large amount of traffic in there next season, as it is believed the Fraser and Parsnip rivers offer as good inducements to prospectors as any that are to be found, while the route is unquestionably the best that can be got into the interior.

THE PLEBISCITE.

Sir:—The plea of the Anglo-Saxon that the abuse of a thing is no argument against its use, is, as a general proposition, sound. Like many other general propositions, however, it needs modification when brought down to particulars. Dynamite is useful but it is liable to miss-use, that its manufacture and storage in cities, and its transportation on vessels carrying passengers are prohibited. And so with scores of other things. There comes in another consideration which modifies the general rule and that is liability to abuse. Prussic acid and strychnine are useful but they are so liable to abuse that their sale is forbidden except under a physician's order.

Is strong drink liable to abuse? I feel sure that Anglo-Saxon will answer yes. He will probably admit that it is peculiarly liable to abuse on account of our unhappy social customs. Now, what shall be done with a thing which is so dangerous to property, life, morals and human happiness? If Anglo-Saxon can devise a better way than prohibition, all good men will thank him.

Suppose all low saloons were abolished and the sale of liquor confined to elegant establishments, with no indecent pictures on the walls, the conversation carried on in refined Addisonian; the connection with the brothel eliminated and so forth; would that remove the liability to abuse? Would not the neatness and respectability tempt young men who have not yet formed the habit? Or suppose all saloons were abolished and liquor sold to be consumed at home, would not this be introducing the evil to children?

What plan can be devised? All sorts of schemes have been tried. Governments have not been blind to the evil of drink. They have tried many plans to counteract the michief and of all plans the most effective has been prohibition. It is true that prohibition will not cure old drinkers of their appetite, but it cuts off recruits from the army of tipplers and, if persisted in for a couple of decades, will produce a sober people.

Some of us think that all use of alcohol as a berevage is abuse. Anglo-Saxon will not admit that, but he must admit that it will inevitably be abused by some. If ten boys should learn to drink, we may reasonably figure that two of them will become drunkards; three more will suffer in their own persons or in their families and the remaining five while suffering no great harm will get no good. Calculating probabilities, no better showing than this for liquor is possible. Is not such a percentage of evil, or any percentage approximating this, enough to condemn the whole thing.

Anglo-Saxon's remedy, judging from his reference to the Greek philosopher, is to show our boys the disgusting spectacle of a drunken man, but the boys of Canada have seen this sad sight for many years and still the evil goes on. Besides, we don't want to manufacture drunken men for exhibition.

There is a story afloat of two temperance lecturers, one of whom spoke, while the other showed up as the "horrible example." To equalize things they took turns in being the horrible example. I do not think that this arrangement was very effective in curing the drink evil.

ALBION.

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Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.
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A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.
Fac Simile Signature of
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 DOSES—35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE —OF— Chas. H. Fletcher. IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA

Castoria is put up in one-size bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

Current Comment

UNDER WHICH FLAG IS IT?

Last year the Liberals organized a provincial association; now the Conservatives are following their example. Party is essential to our system of constitutional government, if we are to secure good administrations and a vigilant and active opposition to watch them.—News-Advertiser.

THE ENTERPRISING AMERICAN.

Dawson City is to have an electric light system. Was there no ingenious Yankee among the crowds of treasure-seekers to save this expense by getting some sort of a corner on the Aurora Borealis?—San Francisco Bulletin.

IT PROLONGS LIFE.

The reputation Abbey's Effervescent Salt has won in England and Europe as a standard preparation, is being repeated here. Physicians everywhere have endorsed it. Here is what J. A. S. Brunelle, M. M., C. D., Montreal, Professor of Surgery, Laval University Medical Faculty, Surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, says: "I have found Abbey's Effervescent Salt particularly beneficial in the treatment of derangements of the liver and of the digestive organs, and consider that the regular use of a preparation of this nature has a decided tendency to prolong life. I am using it in my hospital practice."

You can have health—natural, every-day, all-the-year-round health—through the daily use of Abbey's Effervescent Salt. Sold by all druggists at 60 cents a large bottle. Trial size, 25 cents. *

Bishop Dart, of New Westminster, is at Winnipeg on his way to Montreal to attend the provincial synod of the Eastern province.

The ore shipments from Rossland mines for the past week amounted to 3,374 tons, the largest on record, made up as follows: War Eagle, 1,565; Le Roi, 1,633; Iron Mask, 160; Giant, 16. The shipments since January 1, 1898, amount to 61,410 tons.

AN EXPLANATION.

The reason for the great popularity of Hood's Sarsaparilla lies in the fact that this medicine positively cures. It is America's Greatest Medicine, and the American people have an abiding confidence in its merits. They buy and take it for simple as well as serious ailments, confident that it will do them good.

HOOD'S PILLS cure all liver ills. Mailed for 25c. by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.