

## The Colonist.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1899.

## OUR VISITORS.

Our visitors start for home this morning. On their way they will pass through a very interesting and exceedingly valuable part of the province. It will help them somewhat the better to appreciate the possible future of Vancouver Island when we tell them that there are several places on it which present a more promising outlook from the mining point of view than Rossland did six years ago. It is a little unwise to attempt to prophesy as to the future of mining camps, but the indications are that the development of Kootenay will probably be reproduced on Vancouver Island not only at one but at several points. We have already several shipping mines. They have only recently begun to cut any figure in the general output of ore in the province, but that is because they have only very recently reached the shipping stage. It takes time to develop lode mines. The metaliferous deposits on the island consist chiefly of ore carrying copper and gold. There is some free-milling ore. There are several large and valuable iron deposits, and the prospect is that they will be utilized at an early day. On the whole, the mining outlook on Vancouver Island is excellent, and if it were not overshadowed by the greater things being done elsewhere, it would receive a great deal more attention than is now accorded to it. But very decided progress is being made, and it will not be long, according to present indications, before this part of the province is recognized as one of the great producing districts. Proximity to water carriage is likely to greatly facilitate the opening of the island mines.

The enormous and highly valuable coal deposits on the island are, as our visitors doubtless know already, utilized very largely, and the production and export of coal is one of the greatest sources of our prosperity. But this industry is capable of very great expansion, and there are other valuable deposits than those now being worked that are ready for development as soon as trade demands it.

Our visitors when they leave Victoria will go home by way of Kootenay. They will see a splendid country there, but they will also be impressed with the fact that, excellent as is the service of the Canadian Pacific railway, it is a long way round from Victoria to Rossland. It is still longer to the Boundary Creek country, although the latter is nearer this city than Rossland. They will be interested to know that there is a project for the construction of a direct railway from the Boundary Creek to the Coast, with a ferry connection to Vancouver. This enterprise is before parliament asking for a subsidy. It did not receive one last year, but we hope our visitors will see that the request, so that they will be disposed to favor it when it is again urged. They will readily admit that a short line from the Coast to Kootenay will be an excellent thing for the Coast cities, as well as for Kootenay, and the line will be valuable also by reason of the very valuable district which it will open up. Some very excellent mineralized country lies between the Boundary Creek and the farming lands of the Lower Fraser, and the proposed railway will develop it.

Our visitors must not go home with the thought that because they have seen the territory along the C. P. R. and a portion of Kootenay, they have seen anything like the whole of British Columbia. They will do well to remember that years ago, when those who knew best about this province used to tell the world what a future there was before it, they did not think of Kootenay at all. Their references were to Vancouver Island, the lower Fraser and the almost Imperial region lying away to the north of the C. P. R., Cariboo, Omineca, Cassiar, Atlin—these are names that mean much to those who know the possibilities of British Columbia. They are not only regions rich in gold, but they contain many thousands of acres fit for settlement by an agricultural population. There are magnificent fertile valleys, enjoying a climate which permits the cultivation of almost everything grown in the North Temperate zone, and not a person occupies them. They are too far away from the main arteries of travel, and people cannot be expected to be willing to undergo the privations attendant upon such isolation. When this portion of the province has been opened by rail its progress will be conspicuous as that which in Kootenay has challenged the admiration of the world. It is worth mentioning that there is very much more arable and pasture land north of the C. P. R. than to the south of it. We hope a consideration of this fact will impress our visitors with the tremendous importance to British Columbia of a complete system of transportation.

It is also important, persons who influence public opinion, that they should bear in mind that it pays the government of Canada well and directly to open British Columbia by railways. The people of this province contribute to the revenue of Canada nearly \$20 per head per annum. This is a vast sum. Let it be supposed that the construction of railways through Northern British Columbia could be secured by subsidies of \$5,000 a mile. If as the result of the building of such railways on people for each mile of road should come into the province, they would pay to the revenue sufficient to meet the cost of governing them, and the interest upon the subsidy.

From the standpoint of an investment, it will pay the government well to aid in railway construction in this province. There is not a portion of this province that is not worth opening by railways. As for Kootenay, which our visitors will see in the course of a few days, it is hardly necessary to say anything. The best description of its splendid progress and future promise would fall so far below the reality that it is best to let them see for themselves and form their opinions. This only do we feel like saying to them: That what they will see has been brought about in a very few years, and the mineralized area has only been scratched over, so to speak, in a few places. They will see the beginning of great and prosperous cities. They will see a region out of which vast fortunes will be made, but what is better for Canada, where thousands of honest wage-earners will make a livelihood for many years to come. For all practical purposes the wealth of Kootenay is inexhaustible. We welcomed them yesterday, we bid our visitors goodbye to-day. They are a fine lot of people. It is a pleasure to own one's self a Canadian when in such company. May they have a pleasant journey home, and a safe and happy return to those who wait their coming.

## THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

A few days ago the Times was at some trouble to explain for the benefit of the Colonist that the government had a majority of one, and that Sir Henri Joli de Lotbiniere had carried on the government of Quebec under similar conditions. The majority of one was arrived at by supposing that the only defections from the government party were those of Messrs. Higgins and Martin. These two gentlemen added to the old-time opposition force of sixteen made eighteen, out of a house of thirty-eight. With the Speaker in the chair, this left nineteen members who might, on the face of things, be claimed for the government. Even this claim could not be sustained, for before the house meets Mr. Prentice will undoubtedly feel the necessity of seeking re-election, and although there may be little doubt that he would be returned, we decline to admit that he would come back as a government supporter. Mr. Prentice is too closely identified with the business interests of British Columbia to give his support to men who are wrecking those interests. Thus the Times will see that regarded even from its own point of view, the alleged government majority of one was a highly unusual quantity.

But since the Times took this position Mr. Macpherson has permitted the public to know that he has withdrawn his support, and Mr. Martin, with whom that gentleman is understood to be in full sympathy, declares that his colleague from Vancouver has gone over to opposition. Following this comes Mr. Heise's action, which the Province rightly interprets as practically an unconditional avowal of opposition, although in terms it may not be so. This gives twenty members of the house in opposition, with Mr. Prentice's position doubtful. There at least two other gentlemen whose further support of Mr. Semlin is open to very grave doubt. In short, the government cannot count with certainty upon more than fifteen votes, with the Speaker in the chair. Seventeen is the utmost they can make any claim to in the house as at present constituted.

We think that even the strongest supporters of the government will admit that we have presented above a very moderate statement of the situation. It may perhaps suit their wishes that in the face of such a condition Mr. Semlin and his colleagues should continue to administer the affairs of the province, but Mr. Semlin himself ought to take another view. He knows that he has not a majority of the house with him. He knows that he has lost the confidence of the legislature quite as certainly as if he had been pronounced against by resolution. Will he cling to office? No amount of falsification, no matter how deliberate, can alter the facts of the case. He is in a hopeless minority, and he knows it. What is also evident is that the government cannot be formed out of the present house that can command a strong working majority. Therefore there is not the slightest necessity for a dissolution. The resignation of Mr. Semlin as soon as he can put his house in order ought to be certain, and he will gain much in the esteem of the public if he will cause it to be known that he contemplates such a course. We feel confident that he will not cling to office and salary, knowing as he now knows that his tenure of power is limited by the length of time he can keep from calling the house together.

## THE TRADE OF CANADA.

The trade of Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30 shows a splendid increase over last year and a really magnificent total for a country of not more than five millions of people. The estimated total of exports is \$158,875,908, and of imports \$161,122,871, giving a total of \$319,998,774. There is a slight excess of imports, but the difference is so slight that even those persons who make a fetish of the so-called balance of trade will find nothing either to comfort or dishearten them in it.

It is utterly impossible to form any conclusion from the relations of the totals of exports and imports. They do not represent even the actual value of business done. Thus we sent away \$158,875,908 worth of merchandise—that is to say, this is the amount at which the merchandise was valued for the purposes of export. What it actually cost the shippers is unknown. As a rule the cost of exports may be taken

to mean the first cost of the goods, but it does not include the cost of transportation to the shipping points and the other charges incidental to handling them. When the goods are sold abroad they realize enough to cover these charges and give the shipper a profit. Therefore we can only surmise how much the one hundred and fifty-eight odd millions' worth of goods really cost the owners when they were placed upon the foreign market. Therefore we are also wholly in the dark as to what they must have sold for—that is, how much of a balance they left at the command of the shippers after all charges had been paid. So too with the imports. The figures quoted represent the first cost only, and that without any allowance for undervaluation, also they take no account of commissions paid abroad on purchases, nor of freight and insurance. All these have to be added if we would know exactly what our imports stand us delivered in this country.

It is a mistake to suppose that imports represent exports. They do so to a certain degree, but to a very small extent. We pay our public and private interest abroad out of the sales of our exports, and when we borrow money we rarely get actual specie, but only goods. Thus when a foreign loan is raised, there is always an increase in imports.

The great encouragement from the trade returns is found in the increase of nearly \$15,000,000 over last year. An expanding commerce is the most healthy sign a country can show. Presumably all transactions are done at a profit. If they were not they would not be done. Hence we may infer that the margin of profit last year was larger than ever before in the history of our country. We believe that the period of growth has only fairly begun. Canada is certainly on the threshold of a period of extensive railway construction, and this means a large expansion of our trade. As has already been shown in these columns, our commercial relations with the Orient are only in their very smallest infancy. The Northwest is filling up with people, and the quantity of surplus grain is growing with tremendous strides. At the same time, our great southern neighbor is drawing nearer and nearer to the time when its export of food products will decline. These and other things encourage the belief that Canada's growing time has only begun.

## MR. SEMLIN'S DUTY.

The Colonist has always looked upon Mr. Semlin as a gentleman of honorable instincts and patriotic, it sometimes mistaken, views. It submits to him in all its capacity of the hour the heavy responsibility of the hour to hand his resignation to the Lieutenant-Governor. He knows not that his government will be defeated on the day the house opens, or whenever the Address is moved. Would it not be far better for him to recognize the inevitable and bow gracefully to it? We are confident that if Mr. Semlin consulted his own feelings he would adopt this course, but he may allow his better judgment to be overcome by his colleagues. We refuse to believe that he will be influenced by the fact that by holding on in the face of certain defeat in the house and the overwhelming tide of public opinion he can draw a few months' more salary. It appears to be his clear duty to inform the Lieutenant-Governor that he has lost the support of the majority of the people's representatives, and leave His Honor free to select advisers who can command it.

## OUR VISITORS.

Victoria is very glad to see the representatives of the Eastern newspapers, and is sorry that it has not more seasonable weather to offer them. We know how prone people are to apologize for the weather, but it is true nevertheless that we rarely have such an August as the present one. When did it happen before by any chance that was to take place in August had to be postponed on account of the rain before this year? Our visitors can rest assured that the city council is not in any way responsible, and that while much may with justice be laid at the door of the Semlin government, we do not believe they have anything to do with it. It just happened so, and if it will do our visitors any good, we feel safe in assuring them that any other year they could have counted upon fine weather with just as much certainty as upon fine scenery. We people who live here are much more concerned about this new departure than any visitors can be. Heretofore we used to make our arrangements without any allowance for rain. No one, not even the most orthodox of the churches, ever thought of putting D. V. in a picnic advertisement. But it looks as if we would have to do so.

There is this to be said in extenuation. It is only within a year or so that we have had a complete weather bureau here, and possibly the officials have not yet got on to the combination. When British Columbia secures cabinet representation, there will doubtless be a change in this respect.

This, we may remind our visitors, is the most westerly city in Canada. It is also the best. It is said that all good Americans wish to go to Paris when they visit Europe. Most Victorians would be content to stay right here. They have several ferry schemes under consideration just now, but none of them has anything to do with the River St. J. Yet though we may not look it, we are a fairly decent sort of folks, and though this is such a far western city, it is not in the least wild or woolly. We go to bed at reasonable hours and get up at the same, only more so. No one ever gets his pocket picked here or is held up

on the streets, so if this happens to be the fate of any of our visitors, they can settle it among themselves on their way home. We have a police force, and we think it a pretty good one, but it is really more for ornament than use. This will make the Chief mad, but he has had so little to disturb his equanimity for so long a time that he will be all the better for it.

But this is not all there is to be said of Victoria. Our city does not exactly look out over the greatest of the oceans, but we know that just beyond the low hills where the sun sets, the billows of the Pacific roll, and that beyond the line, where sky and water meet there is no land until the shores of Asia are reached. Our people realize this tremendous fact, which makes their city the outer threshold over which the expanding commerce of Canada with the Orient will pass. They realize also that far to the north are gold-fields of vast but unknown value. They know that in our own Vancouver Island are vast stores of wealth, which now are just beginning to feel the influence of capital and enterprise. Possibly our visitors will be interested to learn that careful calculation shows that this island alone is able to provide homes and a livelihood for every person now living in Canada. We Victorians also know that all over the province there are fields for energy, and are confident that we are able to secure our share of the prosperity soon to be enjoyed.

We welcome our visitors. One of them at least is from that city on the Atlantic which is the headquarters in Eastern Canada of the prowess of Great Britain. He has crossed a continent, and to-day he will see where that same watchful Mother of Nations guards the interests of her people on the Pacific. This is one thought that our visitors should take home with them—the magnificence of Canada and its importance as a part of our much-loved, world-embracing Empire. It takes a journey from ocean to ocean to make a man appreciate what it is to be able to say, "I am a Canadian."

We all hope that the visit of such representative and influential people will have a beneficial effect upon the future of the Dominion. It is certain to do so. They will see now that we are not so far away after all. They will understand better what British Columbians mean when they ask for a policy which will develop the province. They will take a keener interest in our future relations with the New West, which has hitherto been called the Orient. A wonderful future awaits Anglo-Saxon enterprise and the hearty civilization of Asia. This matchless province may become the base of operations from which that future will be exploited. But what is of more present interest, it is a province where the surplus population of the East may find scope for its energy and industry. No part of the world offers better opportunities for the youth of Canada. It is all one great and glorious opportunity.

Very many unpleasant reports come from the Yukon touching upon the administration of affairs there. If we do not give currency to them, it is not because they are not numerous and apparently trustworthy. For the present we shall confine any reference to them to what has just been said, in the hope that the Department of the Interior will do a little investigating. The Colonist does not at all year ago warned the government that such reports were coming out, and asked for investigation. It was not forthcoming, and the result was a grave scandal. It is not necessary to say anything about the merits of the Tupper charges. People out here believe they were well-founded, but be this as it may, the country is injured by the circulation of such charges, and Sir Herbert Tupper only voiced what every one on the Coast was saying. We tell the government that people are beginning to say many unpleasant things again, and that it is just as well to have the administration of the Yukon carefully scrutinized.

The Japanese government has adopted very stringent regulations regarding religion in that country. This is the first evidence of an official character of the spirit of reaction, which has lately manifested itself in that country. There should be such a spirit is not unnatural. The novelty of the Europeanizing process is wearing off, and the old tastes of the people are re-asserting themselves. The fact of the case probably is that the Japanese are finding out so much wiser than they are after all. There are many things about our Occidental civilization which look decidedly doubtful to an intelligent heathen.

The Globe makes a strong plea for a convention of the opposition party, and is able to cite the opinion of several influential Ontario papers in support of its view. There is no doubt that a very widespread feeling exists in favor of such a course. Whether it is the wisest course to be taken just now may be worthy of consideration, and we shall watch with much interest to see how the decision is reached. The Colonist is not given the proposal much thought. It was in favor of an informal gathering of the opposition at New Westminster, in order to open the campaign in that city, but this was not to be in the nature of a convention. Before expressing ourselves definitely we must look further into the matter. We are disposed to fall in with the views of the majority of the friends of better government.

A man's wife should always be the same as the man, but if she is weak and nervous, and uses Carter's Iron Pills, she cannot be for they make her feel like a different person. They all say, and their husbands say so too!

## PROVINCIAL NEWS.

## GREENWOOD.

Greenwood, Aug. 17.—W. S. Keith, of Keith & Ketchum, has returned from Copper Creek on the main fork of the Kettle river, with J. Edward Leckie and Ronald Harris, M. E., who went up together to examine properties. They report the country looking very rich. A large number of prospectors are on the trail going up the river to the new falls. Numbers of claims have already been staked on Copper Creek and across the river to the southwest.

At West Bridge, where a large number of prospectors are camped, some are going up the main river and some up the West Fork. While the party were there they heard of a big strike of quartz, carrying copper, on Cranberry Creek, and another on Boomerang Creek, on the West Fork, the latter being a bluish white quartz, carrying iron pyrites and galena.

Both the West Fork and the main river are experiencing a boom, and another year, Mr. Keith says, will put these two places among the rich mineral camps of the Boundary country. James Wilkes, organizer in British Columbia for the Federation of the West, and president of the Boundary Country Federation of Miners, has arrived in Greenwood for the purpose of organizing the miners of the mining camps in Boundary. There already exist a number of unions in the mines, and Mr. Wilkes is confident of organizing strong unions.

Mr. J. P. Johnson, arrived here to-day. Johnson represents New York capitalists who are interested in the Mother Lode mine, two miles from here. As has been announced, he has come to erect a smelter somewhere in the vicinity of Greenwood. However, beyond the fact that it has been decided to erect a smelter as soon as the railway is in and machinery can be put in place, there is nothing definite to report. Mr. Johnson's first business will be to select a site, and after he has fully acquainted himself with all the local conditions, plans will be prepared and the contract let. So far it has been decided to erect a 250-ton copper furnace, and to enlarge the plant as required up to a capacity of 2,500 tons a day if necessary. The first cost will be about \$100,000. In reference to power and water, these are matters of detail and are not specially important factors. The smelter in all probability will be three or four miles from Greenwood on Boundary Creek. Mr. Johnson built and ran the Hall smelter at Nelson for a time, and since then rebuilt and operated a smelter in California, with a capacity of 1,200 tons a day, the largest in America, and just before coming to British Columbia prepared the plans for a large smelter in California. He says Boundary will be the place where the great smelters of the country will be operated. The one now projected will smelt all available ores, as well as those of the Mother Lode mine.

Another party of shareholders interested in the Knob Hill and Old Bonanza Greenwood camp, arrived to-day in Phoenix. The party consists of J. P. Graves, managing director; J. P. Whitte, president of the Phoenix Copper Works, Pennsylvania, and of the City of Paris Mining Co., White's camp; W. E. Henton, representative of A. L. White & Co. in Pennsylvania; Clyde Graves, son of the managing director; and Rev. Brian C. Roberts, tutor to Clyde Graves. They will be in Phoenix to-morrow and return the following day. Mr. Whitte and party were delighted with the progress and prospects of their properties and with the country generally so far as they had an opportunity of judging. Whitney, as is well known, is one of the large capitalists of the United States.

Clyde Graves and his tutor, the Rev. B. C. Roberts, are on a tour of the world which will occupy two years, leaving San Francisco in September by way of the Orient. There has been an unusual amount of rain in the Boundary district. It is understood have secured from Wood & Galloway, the townspeople, an option on the Boundary Falls water power, and the franchise for the electric lighting of the city, and state that they propose to install a plant as soon as it can be obtained from the manufacturers. They are endeavoring to secure an extension of the franchise from the city which expires on the 13th of October. There is said to be some difficulty in the way of an extension, as the Dominion Copper Company have in view the power and franchise in question, and it is thought the latter is favored by the city in that connection.

A number of merchants and hotel keepers in Greenwood are making arrangements to start branches of their business in Phoenix, the new town in Greenwood camp, where the Knob Hill and several other large properties are located. Phoenix is about four and one-half miles from the city.

No Congestion.—A report has been current that a congestion of freight existed on the Northern route, and that all the freight destined for Dawson could not possibly reach its destination this season. This is declared by persons returning from the Yukon to be entirely unfounded. There was not a ton of delayed freight north of Skeena on the 15th instant, and there are steamers and barges available to carry far more than is likely to be offered.

The committee in charge of the exhibits for the Paris exposition have been busy boxing and shipping the ore specimens. Two or three specimens from all the leading properties in the camps about have been secured, including ores from Camp McKinney. There are six large boxes full, in all about half a ton, of the very best specimens of Boundary minerals. The specimens go direct to Ottawa, where they will be assayed and forwarded to Paris.

At last night's meeting of the council the requirements of the fire department were considered, and a complete outfit will be provided, including ladders, hose, fire alarm and ladder trucks, bell and coats, hydrants and a fire hall. A. paid chief, W. E. Henton, was appointed. The fire department is now being organized, and the fire hall is being built. The fire department is now being organized, and the fire hall is being built.

At a meeting of the Presbyterian congregation last evening it was decided to build a church costing about \$2,000, the lots for which have already been secured in a very central location. As soon as a site is started, three churches will be in process of erection, the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. The Catholics have had a good church building for some time, and are now erecting a new one. Over \$10,000 worth of new buildings are in course of erection, many of them

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Prepared Paint

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substantial business blocks, including several brick structures.

W. A. Campbell and John McGregor, representatives of Eastern capital, it is understood have secured from Wood & Galloway, the townspeople, an option on the Boundary Falls water power, and the franchise for the electric lighting of the city, and state that they propose to install a plant as soon as it can be obtained from the manufacturers. They are endeavoring to secure an extension of the franchise from the city which expires on the 13th of October. There is said to be some difficulty in the way of an extension, as the Dominion Copper Company have in view the power and franchise in question, and it is thought the latter is favored by the city in that connection.

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The committee in charge of the exhibits for the Paris exposition have been busy boxing and shipping the ore specimens. Two or three specimens from all the leading properties in the camps about have been secured, including ores from Camp McKinney. There are six large boxes full, in all about half a ton, of the very best specimens of Boundary minerals. The specimens go direct to Ottawa, where they will be assayed and forwarded to Paris.

At last night's meeting of the council the requirements of the fire department were considered, and a complete outfit will be provided, including ladders, hose, fire alarm and ladder trucks, bell and coats, hydrants and a fire hall. A. paid chief, W. E. Henton, was appointed. The fire department is now being organized, and the fire hall is being built. The fire department is now being organized, and the fire hall is being built.

At a meeting of the Presbyterian congregation last evening it was decided to build a church costing about \$2,000, the lots for which have already been secured in a very central location. As soon as a site is started, three churches will be in process of erection, the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. The Catholics have had a good church building for some time, and are now erecting a new one. Over \$10,000 worth of new buildings are in course of erection, many of them

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