

TOLL ROADS.

The demands from Kootenay for new roads would, if complied with, involve an outlay of \$80,000, and the season for road making there can hardly be said to have begun. Kootenay is only one of many localities which want roads, and it would be a very difficult matter for the government, if it had the money to expend, to know where to begin. Moreover, as we pointed out in a former reference of this matter, it is not possible for anyone to say what proposed roads can properly be regarded as works for general public advantage, and what can only be considered as for the benefit of a few individuals. Manifestly the former should have the preference, when it comes to expending public money; but it is equally clear that a road to a group of mines or to a townsite may be both necessary and valuable, although the first effect of its construction might be to enhance the value of some particular private property or facilitate the carrying out of some private enterprise. There is upon the statute book a law authorizing toll roads, and just as we all agreed as to the wisdom of permitting the establishment of toll, ferries until the necessities of the case warrant the erection of free bridges, so the toll road in many cases may be very properly allowed to precede the public highway. We think that if the government shall see its way clear to act upon the statute referred to, and sanction the making of toll roads under proper restrictions as to charges and reasonable conditions on which they may be taken over by the Province if experience shall show them to be for the general public advantage, it would be a good thing for the mining sections. We have been told by several persons who are interested in mines situated at some distance from public highways, that they would be glad to avail themselves of the privilege of making roads to them, if they had the right to exact a reasonable charge from others who used the roads. We have been told of numerous cases where the owners of promising mines have declared their readiness to pay reasonable tolls if anyone could be induced to make roads to them. There is a feeling of opposition to the principle of toll roads, but it is not so long ago that Ontario had them by the score. In fact they have in most countries been the stepping stones to a great system of public highways, and we can see no good reason why British Columbia should not adopt the plan. It is nearly, if not quite, two months since the *Colonist* suggested that the making of toll roads might with advantage be authorized, and we have yet to hear the first objection. We think it may be taken for granted that the people of the Province would sustain its government in authorizing such roads in a certain class of locations, subject to supervision as to charges and with the right to assume possession of them on fair conditions.

"DEPRESSION" IN ROSSLAND.

The Rossland Record speaks of a business depression in that city and says it is due in part to a fear that the next session of the legislature may witness the passage of the Alien Mining law. We do not think there is any foundation for such a fear, and still less do we believe that the legislature will be elected next year will favor any such mischievous legislation. The Ottawa Citizen, which has been Conservative ever since it was printed, and Conservative in the bluest sense, thinks it means, when taken in connection with Nova Scotia's election, that the people are tired of the Conservative party. This is too sweeping a proposition. If the Citizen had said that these elections signify that the people are tired of the old issues it would have been more nearly correct. We think this explanation is pretty close to the truth. There are old political issues in Canada, which "ing" for the country when they are consigned to the limbo of forgetfulness. A new Canada is awakening and if the Conservative party hopes to win in the future laurels equal to those which have crowned it in the past, it must come before the people with new watchwords, it must challenge their attention by new aspirations, it must leave the dead past with its dead.

The William Head quarantine matter has got into parliament. Col. Prior acted very properly in bringing the matter up, which it is to be hoped will now be thoroughly ventilated. We observe that Dr. Duncan's name appears to have been brought into the discussion. This was inevitable, but the Department of Agriculture will make a great mistake if it supposes the complaints concerning the quarantine have any connection with that gentleman's dismissal from office. Nine people out of ten do not care who is quarantine officer at William Head, but everyone ought to be desirous of seeing only such regulations enforced there as are really necessary, and that the enforcement is made at little onerous as possible upon the subjects of it. We think also that the facts that have been printed and the expert opinions that have been given on this subject in the columns of the *Colonist*, are of sufficient weight to lead the government to take

would do more business and in the long run make more money. It is infinitely better for all concerned that mining properties should be in the hands of strong people who can develop them rather than that they should be held by those who cannot afford to do so in the hope that a fortune may be made out of one year's operations. What British Columbia needs is more developed mines. An increase in the dividend paying properties will add to the value of every present and future prospect, and there is only one way to get property developed, and that is to put it into the hands of some one who has the necessary capital. If the people of Kootenay and elsewhere will disabuse themselves of the idea that they can by holding out for stiff prices make investments that will pay them as well as the so-called depression pass away as quickly as it came, and a condition of things so healthy and more permanent than anything the district has yet experienced.

THE RESULT IN QUEBEC.

It is impossible at this distance to interpret the Quebec election with any certainty as to the conclusions arrived at, and the comments of the newspapers published on the scene are too much tinged with partisanship to be very trustworthy guides. The thing which will strike people first of all is that the Conservative overthrow came close upon the heels of an agitation against the Liberals, with which the French people were supposed to be in the closest sympathy. In many parts of the Dominion persons, who are by no means favorable to sectarian education, backed their political success upon what they believed were the just claims of the Quebec clergy in educational matters. It is true that the occasion of the conflict arose in Manitoba, but it was supposed that it was Quebec's battle. Well, Quebec, first last June and now this week, has chosen to give her political support to the party that was supposed to be antagonizing the views of that province on educational matters. We hardly think there will be many political martyrs hereafter in the other provinces to the cause of sectarian education.

Another matter which must not be overlooked in this connection is that the election took place during the visit of Mr. Merry del Val, who came to Canada expressly to examine into the relations between the church in Quebec and political matters. Mr. Laurier may not have been exactly *persona non grata* at the Vatican, but he was not credited there with being its very hearty sympathizer with the plans and ideas of the Canadian-French hierarchy. To the papal representative it afforded the remarkable object lesson of a popular verdict in favor of the party of which Mr. Laurier is the leader, a verdict which has the effect of dismissing from office a public, a provincial ministry that had been conspicuously honest and reasonably efficient. The lesson will not be thrown away upon Mr. del Val and his ecclesiastical superiors.

DEPRESSION IN ROSSLAND.

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up the whole question of quarantine, to see if needless obstacles are not being placed in the way of commerce. On this point there ought to be complete accord between the British Columbia members and we enter our protest against the matter being allowed to appear as though it were the outcome of a local squabble over a paltry office.

The Winnipeg *North-Westerner* thinks that the whole Northwest, including British Columbia, will be greatly benefited by the change in the Canadian Pacific management, which puts Mr. Whyte in control of the Western Division. In a long editorial on that gentleman's qualifications for his important position, it says: "There is no doubt that the changes which have been made are in anticipation of the largely increased mileage the C.P.R. will shortly have under its control in the Pacific division. It is a distinct advantage to the mining districts of British Columbia that their transportation interests shall be in the charge of one so thoroughly alive to the importance of their rapid development as is Mr. Whyte. Whatever intelligent energy can do towards upholding the great trade which those regions are susceptible of yielding, it is quite certain will now be done by the C.P.R."

The Times thinks that it has made a great point when it says that the *Colonist* "assumed that the public generally look upon the Lieutenant-Governor's action as due to advice by his ministers," the reference being to the reservation of the Oriental labor bill. This is the last expiring groan of a badly riddled factitious. Now, as a matter of fact, it is perfectly true that the *Colonist* supposed the public would take exactly that view of the matter, for the question involved is one with which most people are unfamiliar, and it was to correct the erroneous opinion that we took occasion to explain the law and the practice in such cases. The Times is welcome to the comfort it can get out of this admission.

The president of the Western Confederation of Miners in the United States hopes to see 20,000 armed men in the ranks of labor. There is a good deal of bumptious language used by these labor leaders, but it would be the gravest kind of mistake to suppose that beneath all this foam there is not a strong tide. Those most closely in touch with public sentiment in the Western and Pacific Coast states admit that forces are at work that may be revolutionary. Congressman Dingley's statement that he hopes one effect of the new tariff will be to "protect the currency will not tend to promote social harmony." The United States is perilously near social war.

The election of Mr. John Manly as Mayor of Grand Forks, B.C., is an appropriate recognition of the man who is fitly called "the father of Grand Forks." Mr. Manly many years ago recognized the excellence of the forks of the Kettle river as a trading centre when the fertile district surrounding it became populated, and he purchased a large acreage which includes the present townsite, where he has ranches ever since. A business man of industry, enterprising and of unflinching courage, Mr. Manly is well qualified to pursue the fortunes of the new and ambitious mining and ranching town to a successful issue.

The Canadian Gazette expressed the fear that the anti-Chinese clause proposed to be inserted in railway charters by the opposition, would render them unconstitutional. Our London contemporary will be glad to learn that the opposition fell in with the *Colonist's* suggestion and accepted the general bill. This was one of the few things for which the opposition deserved commendation.

The Nelson Miner says the *Colonist* is overlooking a good piece of news, by not telling how many members of the provincial government are interested in the Cassiar Central railway. When any of the members of the provincial government become interested in that project the *Colonist* will print the fact.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

She (angrily)—I believe you think more of that nasty old pipe than you do of my wife. He (mildly)—Well, my dear, I can keep my pipe from going out—*Cincinnati Commercial Tribune*.

Watts—I saw you down this morning with your better half. N. Peck—If you please, she is not my better half. She is the whole thing.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

"How do you stand on this irrepressible financial question, Chumpley?" "Sorry old man, but I can't spare you a cent to-day."—*Detroit Free Press*.

"Did you get seats at the opera?" "Yes; front row." "How was the chorus?" "I can remember." "In singing?" "No; shape."—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Robson—So you were married on the day of the election, were you? You didn't vote, then? Yabsley—No; I was paired.—*Trib-Bite*.

"They always talk about the seven ages of man," said the curious one. "Why not one 'one is enough for them.'"—*National Commercial Tribune*.

"Little Man (to self enthusiastically)—Why don't you play golf?" "Big Man (blase)—Why; because I object to chasing a quinine pill around a cow pasture.—*Sketch*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

PREPARING FOR TRAFFIC.
The C.P.R. evidently has great faith in the immediate future of the West. This is demonstrated by the fact that extensive additions are being made to their locomotive stock, chiefly for the benefit of the West. They are about to have two heavy consolidated locomotives built for the mountain sections, three compound freight locomotives for the Pacific division, six ten-wheel passenger locomotives for the western division, and other half-dozen for the eastern division, and four more locomotives for use wherever required. Doubtless the Crow's Nest road will utilize a number of these new engines.—*Alberta Plaindealer*.

CHEAPER METHODS NEEDED.
Any man who takes the position that the possibilities of the Rossland camp are to be measured by the conditions which exist at present, and that ores are smelted on the basis of a transportation charge of not less than \$6 a ton, to say nothing of other high charges of a purely arbitrary character, is outside the field of calm and reasonable discussion.—*Rossland Miner*.

THAT PREFERENTIAL CLAUSE.
The technical view of it is being taken, and public opinion in this country is settling down to the conclusion that because the tariff resolutions do not specify in words that Great Britain shall be given preferential rates, the German and Belgian treaties and the favored nation clause of other treaties will not affect the situation.—*Manitoba Free Press*.

REVENUES FREED.
Those papers which are comparing the condition of British finances with that of Canada, the latter's disadvantage, forget one very important item. In Canada the total revenue from taxation, post office, government railways, etc., amount to about \$7,25 a head. In Great Britain the figure is \$18 a head. If Canada had Great Britain's rate of taxation, instead of a revenue of \$6,000,000 she would have receipts of \$65,000,000.—*Montreal Gazette*.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.
The liberality of the government of British Columbia should be an object lesson to the law-makers of the United States.—*Nelson Miner*.

A RAILWAY COMMISSION.
Such a commission has worked well in Massachusetts and in other states of the neighboring union; and it might work well here.—*Atawa Citizen*.

ASKS NO FAVORS.
West Kootenay can better afford to get along without Eastern Canada than Eastern Canada get along without Kootenay's trade.

OVER FORTY MILLIONS.

If this week's list of joint stock companies newly arriving on the scene of the Rossland is small, what is lacking in numbers is made up in the valuation placed on their intended operations by the promoters of the concerns. There were twenty-two new corporations added to the official list by yesterday's Gazette, and of these four hail from this city. As far as figures go one of this list is worth a cool \$20,000,000 to carry on the business of miners and metallurgists, and to win, get, mine and work ore, mineral, precious stones, metallic substances, etc., etc. Another Victoria company with similar objects sets \$10,000,000 as being a fit and sufficient sum where-with to carry on the business of capitalization—a cool \$20,000,000 to carry on the business of miners and metallurgists, and to win, get, mine and work ore, mineral, precious stones, metallic substances, etc., etc. Another Victoria company with similar objects sets \$10,000,000 as being a fit and sufficient sum where-with to carry on the business of capitalization—a cool \$20,000,000 to carry on the business of miners and metallurgists, and to win, get, mine and work ore, mineral, precious stones, metallic substances, etc., etc. Another Victoria company with similar objects sets \$10,000,000 as being a fit and sufficient sum where-with to carry on the business of 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