

The Colonist

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1899.

THE WAR

The battle of Modder River was fierce and bloody. The enemy had the advantage of cover and position, but were unable to resist our attack...

At the time of writing there has practically been no war news for twenty-four hours. A despatch received yesterday morning said it was reported that Cronje had withdrawn on Bloemfontein...

We are almost without anything to guide us to a conclusion as to the condition of things in Natal. It is said that Joubert must have from 15,000 to 20,000 men there. If this is all his force, we greatly outnumber him, and his position, while temporarily safe, must in the end prove extremely precarious.

Public feeling is at very keen tension over the condition of things in South Africa. Reports from several sources give color to the belief that the Boers may be, in part at least, retiring on Pretoria. It is said that Kruger desires some such movement as this, which is not at all surprising.

The reports of discussions between the Free States and the Transvaal may not be without foundation, for at present the Free State is menaced with invasion and the Transvaal is doing nothing for its protection.

Some impatience is shown at the delay on the part of our columns, but we think the explanation is simple and that the plan is to advance only when sufficient artillery and cavalry have been brought up to enable either column to strike a blow that will tell.

MINING ON THE ISLAND.

We print this morning a brief synopsis of the work done on the West Coast of Vancouver Island during the present year. We are indebted for it to Mr. William M. Brewer, the well-known mining engineer, a gentleman who is known in mining circles as very conservative in his statements.

THE NEEDS OF THE PROVINCE

The discussion which has been going on in these columns during the past week has done a great deal of good, although possibly in the direction that either of the parties to it anticipated, but we are sure the others will, like ourselves, be none the less gratified.

The Colonist is sometimes asked why it keeps local matters so much to the front to the exclusion of the personal features of federal politics, which receive attention at the hands of so many of its Eastern contemporaries on both sides of politics. More than one reason can be given for this course, but the principal one is that the local questions come right home to us as British Columbians.

Some people say that the immigration of people from the Eastern provinces means the transportation to this province of Eastern issues; but we do not believe it. On the contrary we think that the majority of Eastern people are the readiest of all to break away from their old party ties, and in this new land form such alliances as will serve best to advance the material interests of the adopted home.

VICTORIA'S TRADE WITH THE NORTH

We print to-day some statistics in regard to the trade of Victoria with the North that will give the residents of this city the liveliest satisfaction. They show that of the trade of the Canadian Yukon and Athlun, over 80 per cent. is from Canadian points, and of this between 60 and 65 per cent. is done by Victoria.

THE WHOLE TRADE OF THE CANADIAN YUKON AND ATHLUN

In 1872 the Stafford ministry in New Zealand was defeated on a vote of want of confidence, asked for its dissolution and a dissolution. In 1877 the Grey ministry had the same experience, and protested to the secretary of state for the colonies against the refusal, but the Governor's decision was upheld.

THE COMING SESSION.

Less than a month will elapse before the legislature will be in session and the two parties will confront each other on the floor of the house. We see no reason to alter the view hitherto expressed in these columns as to the early defeat of the government.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Let us suppose for a moment that Mr. Turner had remained in power in this province. If he had, there are some things which would not have happened. The development of Athlun would not have been retarded by unwelcome legislation, and the mining industry of the Slokan would not have received a black eye in the shape of the eight-hour law.

The only instance in Canada since confederation of a ministerial overthrow in parliament was the defeat of the Liberal-Conservative ministry in 1873. The first session of the second parliament of Canada was opened on March 5, 1873, and was prorogued on August 13. A second session was called on October 23 of the same year.

The press correspondents talk about the "fall" of the British in South Africa. The losses have not been frightful, or anything approaching it. Every recent arrival from the West Coast of the Island speaks in enthusiastic terms over the prospects of metalliferous mining there.

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Forwarded to Ottawa.—The several tenders for the carriage of the mail between Victoria and Ottawa, which were forwarded to Ottawa, and the name of the successful tenderer is expected to be announced from the federal capital in about ten days.

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TO BREWERS. E. L. CLARKE. 22 St. Francis Xavier St. MONTREAL. Machinery and Brewery Fittings. Malt, Hops and all... Brewers' Supplies.

B.C. Year Book 1897. By R. E. GOSNELL. Cloth \$1.50 per copy. Paper Cover.. 1.00 per copy. THE TRADE SUPPLIED. This book contains very complete historical, political, statistical, agricultural, and general information of British Columbia. THE COLONIST P. & P. CO., LTD. VICTORIA, B.C.

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