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D. M. CARLEY EDITOR IN CHIEF.
L. G. HENDERSON BUSINESS MANAGER.
Office No. 77 Johnson Street.

VICTORIA, TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1883.

B. C. BOARD OF TRADE.

On Friday last, the British Columbia Board of Trade held its annual meeting under the chairmanship of the retiring President, Mr. T. B. Hall. The report of the Council, among other matters, in view of the widespread dissatisfaction with the existing service, expressed its desire for an alternative telegraph line *via* Puget Sound to connect with the U. S. system. It was stated that already numerous important messages are mailed to Port Townsend and Seattle and from there despatched to the east by wire. Satisfaction was expressed with the statement by Manager Hosmer that the C. P. R. Telegraph Co. contemplated the laying of a cable to Japan and the hope was expressed that Australia might have a similar connection.

In regard to the subject of railways, it was represented that, although within the past five years, charters had been granted to twenty-nine railways within the province, but two had been constructed and seven are being built, while the probabilities of the others being carried out are remote. It is said that some of these charters are in the hands of people who cannot raise the necessary funds, while the price they put upon the charters places the enterprises out of the reach of capitalists.

As we have often said, we, in British Columbia, have constructed by far too many railways upon paper, and have thus locked up from development large areas of territory which, so long as they cannot be reached by railway, must remain to a great extent without the advantages of civilization. The council very properly observe that the time has come when every applicant for a railway charter should be obliged to give bonds to secure the expenditure of a certain sum of money within a reasonable time upon every concession received. Until some such course as this is followed, development by railway cannot fail to be retarded, as there are a number of railway and land "crusiers" who scour the country prospecting and snap up everything there is to be had and hold it for others to pay them for allowing it to be turned to advantage.

The report speaks of the advent of the steamship *Miowera*, the pioneer of the new Canadian-Australian service, which, since it is possible to develop a large trade, ought to be given every possible encouragement. Reference is made to the line as a magnificent route for travel, in contrast with the dull, dreary journey *via*

the Suez Canal; moreover, it is pointed out that several days can be saved in the transport of mails between London, England, and Sydney.

Indeed, it may here be remarked that the *Warrimoo*, the sistership of the *Miowera*, which arrived on Sunday, is endeavoring to show that the record can be materially broken, even though half the all round trip be made as in this case from London to Sydney *via* the Suez Canal on the P. & O. steamship *Himalaya*. That vessel left London on May 19, and reached Sydney on the forenoon of June 17, the *Warrimoo* sailing the same evening, a few hours having been afforded the merchants of Sydney to answer their correspondence. Railway facilities were provided at Vancouver for a rapid trip across the continent and though it may not be a case of round the world in sixty days, there remained on Sunday eight days out of the sixty during which to make the remainder of the journey. With as good a trip over the C. P. R. as the *Miowera's* mails had, not much more than sixty-four or sixty-five days will be occupied. It is stated that the *Warrimoo* had head winds and contrary seas, and yet she did her part of the work in twenty-two days. There is little doubt that in any case this will be the shortest all round mail trip yet made, and so far the augury is an excellent one. The Council of the Board of Trade very properly refer to the tariff barriers in the way of trade between Canada and Australasia, and commend to their successors the advisability not only of following up the advances already made by them to the Dominion Government on the subject, but of a competent delegate being sent out to Australia to ascertain from personal observation what branches it is possible to develop.

To the immensely wealthy Kootenay country, the report of the Council directs attention. The value of its ores are enlarged upon, it being observed that its development is steady and undoubtedly solid, all that is required to transform the districts referred to into the richest mining camps on the American continent being the capital required to construct railways. After glancing at the lumber trade of the province, a reference is made to the surveys carried on last year by thirteen parties under the auspices of the provincial government and to the valuable information which is expected from the expeditions which have this year been sent out.

Already, we have learned something of the wealth which it may be expected to realize when the necessary capital and labor have been expended. It is remarked that it is a revelation to many to learn that there are within the province grazing and agricultural lands sufficient to sustain a population many times greater than it now contains. Yet, in the meantime, we import from Eastern Canada and the United States an immense amount of food products and fruits. The more we know about these things, the better position we are in to offer inducements to both labor and capital to come amongst us. So far, European immigration here has been much restricted, owing to the distance we have been from the old lands and the little that was known about us; but, with additional

light thrown upon us and our conditions, we may hope for much better incomes than the Chinese upon whom we have been compelled to depend for the labor we required.

The subjects of insolvency and quarantine are dwelt upon at length. In regard to the former the Council do not hesitate to say that in consequence of lax regulations and the want of modern disinfecting appliances, smallpox was allowed to enter the province, and resulted in completely paralyzing business for some months. The Dominion Government are censured by implication for not having appointed, as requested, a commission to inquire into this subject, but it is noted that the commission appointed by the Provincial authorities traced the origin of smallpox in British Columbia to the China, Japan Mail ships. The Dominion Government, it is observed, are carrying out extensive quarantine works at Williams Head. The Council agree with what the BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL has continually urged that only the Dominion Government can enact an insolvent law which shall be efficient, and it is to be hoped that the weight of opinion from all parts of Canada to this effect will have its due influence with the Dominion Parliament at its next session.

The business outlook appears to be most encouraging, a variety of unavoidable circumstances having until recently conspired to give it a severe set back from which we appear to be now recovering. Taken altogether, the meeting and the facts adduced at it give grounds for general satisfaction and we cannot but say that the President and Managers have done our commercial interests very excellent service. We heartily endorse the thanks of the Board to retiring President Hall, for his untiring labors among the two years in which he has been President, and thank that thanks are also due to those gentlemen who have so heartily cooperated with him in his official capacity.

B. C. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

There has recently been established on the Mainland what is known as "The Municipal Association of British Columbia," its president being Mr. D. S. Curtis, Mayor of Westminster. Its objects are to secure the discussion of subjects having relation to municipal government and the advancement of the general interests of the community; to promote all legislation deemed necessary in the interests of good municipal government; to secure uniformity in procedure and the general conduct of municipal affairs, and to circulate useful information as to municipal government, public health, sanitation, road and bridge construction, municipal law and other subjects. An association of this kind is calculated to be most useful, and its establishment will be regarded by many as timely and considered by many to be beneficial. Our general municipal law is a fearfully and wonderfully made thing, difficult to understand in view of the manner in which it has been amended, and as anyone will understand it is a very hard thing to carry out.