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SHABBY TREATMENT.

There is a time when patience ceases to be a virtue. As between Victoria and the Canadian Pacific Railway that time has long since expired; but as between Vancouver and "the great monopoly" that period appears to have just arrived. As long as the Vancouver people tolerated every indignity which the C. P. R. magistrates heaped upon them, everything was well and good; but now, when they arise in their might and declare that they have rights and mean to assert them and at the same time preserve their dignity, there is likely to be a coolness.

The trouble has all come about in this way. The Canadian Pacific Railway recently brought to Vancouver a car-load of Chinese in bond from New York billed to Hong Kong, the fare paid for each one being \$95. On the arrival of the Chinese at Vancouver, and previous to their embarkation for Hong Kong, the ship's medical officer rejected two men, who were pronounced lepers. The C. P. R. people thereupon caused the two afflicted men to be placed in a car, provided them with sufficient provisions and shipped them back to their starting point. When the car got back as far as Swift Current, the railway company was informed that the New York authorities would not accept delivery of the diseased Chinese. The car was then returned to Vancouver. Mr. J. W. Townley, assistant superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, no doubt acting from a sense of what was due to human beings in distress, in his official capacity wrote the city council requesting them to take charge of the unfortunate creatures—provide them with food and place a guard over them—and the C. P. R. would pay the bill. Eleven days later, Mr. H. Abbott, superintendent of the C. P. R., in his official capacity, wrote the Vancouver health inspector repudiating the action of Mr. Townley, and intimating that the company would not consider itself responsible for any debts contracted in the care of the lepers. The city council rightly believed that a precedent which would permit the Canadian Pacific Railway to turn Vancouver into a dumping-ground for the diseased of any and all nations would be a dangerous one to establish, and therefore refused to pay out any more money for the keeping of the Chinese lepers; but in order to prevent them coming in contact with the citizens a guard was placed over the two Chinamen by the chairman of the

Board of Health. Thus the matter stands.

Certainly this is a clear application of the truism that "no man can serve two masters." The newspapers of Vancouver have vied with one another in their servility to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and now the company repays their sycophancy by turning the city into a pest-house. Had the press taken an independent stand at the beginning, it is doubtful if the company would have dared to submit the people to this indignity. It is a discreditable piece of business for a company like the C. P. R. to attempt to palm off on the city of Vancouver these two lepers, after accepting their passage money from them. Vancouver should never have been dragged into the case. The lepers were simply bonded goods going through the city, and we apprehend that the customs department, in other cases, looks after cars in bond, that the contents are shipped as bonded.

A SALVAGE CORPS WANTED.

The *Montreal Insurance Chronicle*, the accredited organ of the fire underwriters of the Dominion, contains the following:

"Not long since, the city of Victoria, British Columbia, had a fire in Spencer's Arcade, a small one, indeed, so far as fire damage went, it being scarcely a hundred dollars. The damage from water, however, poured on by the firemen is stated at about \$8,000. THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL says that the city is not unlikely to be called upon by the insurance companies to reimburse them for this damage. We mention this case because it is a sample of what frequently occurs in numerous other places besides Victoria, and because it illustrates the value of a good salvage corps in towns of any considerable size. Covers promptly spread would, in this case, have saved somebody the greater part of the \$8,000. Firemen, especially those not thoroughly trained by constant judiciously directed service, are apt to pour upon or into a building on fire all the water they can bring to bear, regardless of the size or location of the blaze, and excess of water is frequently a good deal more destructive than the fire itself. A salvage corps should, in some form, be an adjunct of every fire brigade. Its services may save more in a single fire than its cost for a whole year."

There can be no doubt that our contemporary is speaking by the book, when it expresses itself in this way. It not only speaks for the companies which are so deeply concerned, but in the real interests of insurers and the communities in which they live. A fire means, to a great extent, an absolute loss of money and money's worth that can never be restored.

A LIGHTHOUSE WANTED.

We observe by the *Nanaimo Free Press*, of a recent date, that Mr. D. W. Gordon, M.P., the Pilotage Commissioners and the Board of Trade, are moving in the direction of securing the erection, on Jack's (Sharpe) Point of a lighthouse, to be used as a leading light to vessels entering and departing from Nanaimo harbor during the night. With the light in operation, mariners would experience not the slightest difficulty in entering the harbor, even on the darkest night and running with a "full speed" bell to within a few hundred yards of the loading wharves. The *Free*

Press puts forth claims for such a light as are certainly entitled to the consideration of the Marine Department. One of these claims is that Nanaimo is the port of call for the large ocean mail steamers, the provincial mail steamboats, and the regular trading vessels up and down the coast. This traffic has so increased during the past few years that there is now almost a constant going and coming of these vessels. It is of the utmost importance that every assistance should be given to these vessels in making schedule time. The New Vancouver Coal Company have so materially improved and enlarged their loading facilities that the ocean liners, as well as the smaller craft, are now loaded within a few hours. The natural facilities of Nanaimo harbor are of the highest order, admitting as it does 5,000 and 6,000 ton vessels at every stage of the tide, and the channels are moderately well outlined by a system of buoys and beacons. Nanaimo is to day the largest exporter in the province, sending away over \$2,500,000 worth of coal per annum. It is the bounden duty of the Dominion Government to foster and assist such a factor in the prosperity of the Province in every legitimate manner. The Marine Department, it is believed, will be disposed to look with favor on the request of the Nanaimo people.

THE U. S. ELECTIONS.

The fuller returns from the American elections show that protection, the leading plank in the platform of the Republican party, has been indorsed by the people of the country at large, although the Republican candidates in every State in which there was a contest manifested what is termed their old-time carelessness about elections in non-presidential years. The situation in 1892 will be in all essentials what it was in 1888; that is, there is no Republican State that was classed as sure for the party national candidate in 1888 that is not equally sure to cast its electoral vote for the party nominee in 1892, except Michigan, where a Democratic change in the law will undoubtedly secure a portion of its electors to the Democracy even if the Republicans carry the State by their usual majority.

The doubtful States for 1892 will be the same as were doubtful in 1888, viz.: New York, Connecticut, Indiana and West Virginia. Were Mr. Blaine the candidate, it is probable that even in Virginia and Delaware the Republicans had a good fighting chance for victory. Of the new States the Dakotas, Washington, Idaho and Wyoming are regarded Republican, but Montana, while classed with the doubtful States, is probably Democratic. The battleground in 1892 will be in New York and Indiana, as it was in 1888. The following is regarded as a fair summary of the situation, although it appears in a Republican newspaper:—

	Votes.
Sure Republican States	208
Sure Democratic States	170
Doubtful States	66
Total	444
Necessary to elect.	223

If the Republicans hold the 208 and carry Indiana's 15, they will elect; or if they carry New York's 36 and lose the other