

SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

THE British Columbia Legislature convenes next Monday. Already there is considerable speculation as to what will be the leading features of policy of the Government. But the matter which is absorbing the most attention is the course which will be adopted by the Davie Government as regards the proposed British Pacific Railway. On the building of this line depends in many respects the future of Victoria, and naturally Victorians are interested as to the outcome. The Premier and his Government have signified their willingness to entertain any reasonable proposition which the promoters of the line are prepared to bring forward. Whether the proposition will be "reasonable" or not remains to be seen.

There is, however, another matter, which to the minds of many will appear equally as important as the building of the British Pacific—that is immigration. In British Columbia there is a vast area of unoccupied land, of easy access and ready for the plow of the tiller. This Province must have population, if it hopes to hold its own with the other provinces of the Dominion, and in what way can this be better brought about than by pursuing an aggressive policy of immigration. Bring farmers to the Province and place them on the land. Now is a good time for this work to begin. Hundreds of farmers in Minnesota and Dakota would be only too willing to escape the rigors of a severe winter, if the opportunities of this much favored climate were made known to them. They would be only too glad to take up their homes in a country where a market for their products is right at their doors.

This is a propitious time, it would seem, to bring prominently before the people of Great Britain and other countries in Europe, the advantages and opportunities which Canada presents to immigrants and investors; to the man who desires to build up a home for himself and family and to him who is looking for a place in which he can invest his capital with security and reasonable expectation of getting a fair return on it. With a population capable of supporting a railroad there will be little difficulty in securing the wherewithal to build it.

The Governors of the Bank of England have issued circulars announcing an extension of the term of the Baring liquidation until November 15, 1895, in accordance with the powers granted in 1863. Every exertion will be made, the circular says, to close the liquidation as early as possible. The liquidation is making favorable progress. In the last year the liabilities were reduced £1,999,-

235, but the sales do not suffice to enable the liquidators to close.

A well-informed correspondent of the *Canadian Gazette* writes to that paper from St. Johns, Newfoundland: "I think you are entirely right in questioning the accuracy of our excellent Governor's statement to the effect that the Annexation sentiment is stronger than that of Confederation. I should say that the Annexation sentiment is really nil, while there is a strong and increasing party in favor of union with Canada."

It is stated in a cablegram from London, England, that the Right Hon. William Lidderdale, ex-governor of the Bank of England, is to stand at the next election as a candidate for a London district, with a view of entering Parliament for the purpose of defending the Bank against the attempts to reform the constitution, which are favored by Sir William Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It was the Duchesses of Gordon, a clever and beautiful Scotch woman, who successfully dumfounded a pretentious dandy. He was beside her at the supper party and in order to gain her good graces, affected a liking for the Scottish tongue, declaring there was not a Scottish phrase that he did not understand. "Rax me a sprawl o' less that bubblyjock," replied the duchess, without changing a muscle of her face. The exquisite looked appalled and then slunk away in confusion, while the commission was performed by a cavalier hailing from the north of Tweed. She wanted a turkey wing.

The trans-Atlantic record breaking of the past few months has been utilized by a New York game "publisher," and the toy shops are shewing a game of the dice-throwing class called "The Ocean Racers," in which each cast urges on or delays a tiny model of one of the several big liners. Several children can each have a vessel, and a retailer said that the game had made a hit.

Farm rents are ridiculously low in England. The Duke of Northumberland owns a farm of 130 acres in Surrey. There is a modern farm house, barn and two cottages on the land, and the rent is \$300 a year.

Nearly two-thirds of all the letters carried by the postal service of the world are written, sent to and read by English-speaking people.

It is stated that the Westminster lacrosse club wants to play an exhibition game with the Victorias.

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