

The Colonist.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1890.

THE WAR.

The Associated Press seems disposed to minimize every British success in South Africa and to magnify any real or imaginary advantages which the Boers may have. The fighting at Belmont afforded an opportunity for the former. The Boer position was taken, their ammunition was destroyed and they themselves were pursued five miles, and yet the Associated Press describes the story as "black enough" from the British point of view. Stress is laid upon the statement that our troops may have outnumbered the Boers. That they did so is not certain, but it is certain that the latter had all the advantages of position. The result of the fighting is supposed to be the opening of the road to Modder river. This point is about 25 miles south of Kimberley. Presumably by the Boers will make a stand at the river, and if they do the result of the fighting there will be very important, for when Gen. Methuen gets across the river the way to Kimberley can hardly be obstructed by anything the enemy may do. The number reported killed, wounded and missing by the morning's despatches were 230. The afternoon summary put the number at 220. Included in the morning list were 13 missing, and possibly some of these may have since reported. The Boer loss is unknown, but the prisoners are said to number over 50. Our loss is due to the fact that our men do all the attacking and are therefore subjected to fire from the enemy, who are under cover.

News from Ladysmith is awaited with great interest, and indeed this remark applies to the whole of the scene of hostilities in Natal. Accounts of successful fighting by Gen. White are reiterated, and so far we have yet to hear of anything that can be construed into a Boer success. The news from Mafeking is disquieting because it speaks of the sort of conditions which we would expect to prevail there. It is important to bear in mind in this connection that Mafeking is 223 miles from Kimberley, and this is the distance which Gen. Methuen's forces will have to cover after relieving the latter before they can be of any help to the former.

THE C. P. R.'S PLAN.

The intention attributed to the C. P. R. in regard to railway extension towards the Coast by a Grand Forks despatch in yesterday's Colonist, is of more than ordinary interest to Victoria, because it proves to be correct it means the indefinite postponement of the proposed line from the Coast to the Interior south of the Fraser. The route outlined in the despatch comes westward in the direction of the coast within about fifty miles of Hope, that is of the Fraser; when it will strike northward to the Nicola Valley following this down to the Thompson at Spence's Bridge. With such a line in operation there will be very little inducement for any company to build through the Hope Mountains for the sake of establishing connection with the Coast. We regard this as very serious and as for the time being at least, completely shattering the hopes of those who hoped for a new line from Victoria to the Interior. From the standpoint of the railway company the plan as alleged has many things to recommend it. The Similkameen and Nicola valleys are certain to furnish a large amount of traffic, and the country lying between them is presumably as well mineralized as that to the South. Residents of the Coast cities are likely to look at railway construction in the Interior from a different point of view to that which commends itself to the railway company. We will act wisely if we get this idea fixed in our minds. It may enable us to avoid mistakes in the future, and may lead the people of Victoria especially to recognize what is their only true policy in the future. We have no right to complain if the Canadian Pacific develops Southern British Columbia in the way that seems to its management to be that best calculated to promote the interests of the road. What we ought to realize is that there is no reasonable prospect that Victoria will have any connection with the Canadian Pacific system or highway of traffic into Yale and Kootenay except by way of Vancouver. This is something which the people of our city ought to be very careful to understand. Before leaving the subject we wish to direct attention to the fact that the railway policy of the Turner government provided for and would have secured the construction of an independent railway from the Coast to Kootenay, and without desiring in the slightest degree to criticize from a hostile point of view the plan which the C. P. R. is said to have adopted, we may say that it would have been greatly to the advantage of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, the Fraser municipalities and the Interior if the Turner policy had been carried into effect.

As matters now stand, we submit that the people of Victoria ought now to realize in what direction their interests lie. They should make every effort to open the Island from end to end by a railway and to establish such connections to the North and South as will establish a highway of traffic through our city. The sources of prosperity lie at our doors and we may as well dismiss the idle dreams in which we have been indulging, and against the realization of which Nature and a wisely managed railway corporation seem to be combined.

The man on the street corner advertises his wares by wind. If you buy and find you are sold, it's your fault. You take no chances in buying "Hondt." Ask all those friends of yours who use it.

PUBLICITY DEMANDED.

The Colonist has not done many things that have evoked such hearty expressions of approval as the stand it has taken for the utmost publicity and for full, open discussion of matters pertaining to every department of the city government. Nothing can be more encouraging than the expressions of approval received from all sides. Publicity is the very life of good municipal government. It has proved so everywhere else and it will prove so in Victoria.

In every other city experience has shown that when affairs are carried on in secret, abuses creep in, and it does not seem to make any difference how honest and well-meaning officials may be. Secrecy develops official cliques and official cliques are sure to be mischievous. It is as much in the interests of officials themselves as of the citizens generally that municipal business should be conducted as fully as possible under the watchful eye of the public.

TELEGRAPH TO DAWSON.

The Yukon Sun of October 3 contains an account of a banquet to Mr. Charlson on the occasion of the opening of the telegraph line to Dawson. The most interesting statement made was that by Mr. Charlson to the effect that he has received instructions from the Department of Public Works to make immediate arrangements to extend the line south to Quesnelle. The distance in a direct line is about 600 miles, but we suppose the route which the telegraph line will have to follow will be in the neighborhood of 750 miles. The Western Union had a line at one time for about one-third of the distance from Quesnelle. It was to have been extended all the way to Siberia and thence to Europe, but the successful laying of an Atlantic cable led to the abandonment of the enterprise. If the same route is followed by the new line, this part of the distance will present no great difficulties. We think that there must be in the neighborhood of four hundred miles of the route to be covered yet to be thoroughly examined before a final section is made. The work will necessarily occupy some time. We should suppose that, if it can be completed in two years, great credit will attach to those having the enterprise in charge, although as work can be begun at several points simultaneously perhaps the time mentioned will be adequate. The points referred to are from Atlin south, from Telegraph Creek north, from Telegraph Creek south, from the Naas north, from the Naas south, from the Skeena north, from the Skeena south and from Quesnelle north. That is, eight parties might be put in the field simultaneously. We suppose this would be the cheapest way to do the work.

THE DOMAIN OF THE UNKNOWN.

The limits of human knowledge are not very extensive. We live in an atmosphere of uncertainty even as to material things. For example, astronomy has discovered what seems to be a workable hypothesis for the movements of the heavenly bodies, but no one can be quite sure it is correct. Some years ago a great comet was visible. Its tail extended tens of millions of miles from the nucleus. When the comet neared the sun it swung around that luminary in a few hours and its great tail also swung around, the outer end describing a semi-circle hundreds of millions of miles in length in the same short period of time. No known hypothesis can explain how such a motion could be possible. Take another sphere of research. A picture is projected on the retina by the lens of the eye, but science has not the most remote conception of how that picture is impressed upon the consciousness of the individual. The simplest flower, a pansy for instance, presents an inscrutable mystery. The most minute analysis of the sap or the tissue of the blossom will fall to suggest a plausible reason why yellow coloring matter should always be deposited at one point in the flower and some other color at another point, or in the case of a carnation why the color occurs in streaks in some varieties and in blotches in others. What we do not know about material nature is immensely greater than what we have been able to find out by the most careful research and experiment.

If this is true of tangible things it is even more so of the intangible. When we leave the domain of matter and enter that of the mental or the spiritual, we realize at the very outset that we are on the borders of an ocean whose further limit is far below the horizon of our vision. As the Apostle said, now we know in part, and we might have added that the known part is so far as can be judged infinitesimal, when compared with what is beyond the grasp of our senses as far as they have yet been developed in the very great majority of mankind. This is one reason why all progress in physical research is necessarily slow and the results are often confusing. We are arguing from inadequate premises when we attempt to explain satisfactorily what seem to be demonstrations from the outer world. Therefore the conclusions at which we arrive may be, and are indeed very likely to be, quite unwarranted. Research in this direction is praiseworthy and as it progresses under intelligent direction many valuable truths may be learned. But it is a mistake to be in haste to come to fixed conclusions. This observation applies to such things as faith cure, hypnotism, clairvoyance, telepathy and matters of that kind, which are as proper subjects of scientific inquiry as are matters relating to ores or plants or other things. These matters have nothing to do with religion, although many people seem to think so, just as they used to think that the shape of the earth and its motion in its orbit had so much to do with religious truth that men were buried at the stake for their opinions on that point.

VICTORIA WEST.

The people of Victoria West have at last made themselves heard, and there is now every prospect that their reasonable requests will be complied with. They must not relax in this activity because of the very friendly conference with the city council, for we all know the fondness of municipal bodies to put off till tomorrow many things as can be postponed. The Westerners have succeeded, and we are glad to say principally through the medium of the Colonist in getting their views and requests fully and fairly before their fellow citizens generally, and these will secure ample recognition, if they keep a watchful eye upon the Council.

As we anticipated, Alderman Kinsman said that he only spoke of tar and feathers in a Pickwickian sense, and this case being removed a modus vivendi can readily be reached. We think the people across the Arm made out an excellent case for better fire protection and for the lighting and improvement of the road on the Indian Reserve. We also think that if the portion of the reserve above Point Ellice bridge and adjoining the Arm can be got as a recreation ground for the low rent of \$100 a year, there would be no objection to a lease of it being taken and some improvements being made. In the end it would be wise to act on the Mayor's suggestion and secure a title to the fee when the Reserve matter is finally adjusted.

In the matter of Craigflower road, we understand that the city is no longer a party to the dispute, the question at issue being whether the land belongs to private owners or is vested in the crown. This can only be tested in the courts, and at the expense of such individuals as may care to assume the responsibility. It is just as well that this point should be thoroughly understood in order to prevent the city officials from being held responsible in public opinion in connection with any litigation which may hereafter grow out of the dispute. The whole matter now stands upon the same footing as any other private matter. We think the public generally can congratulate themselves upon the outcome of the discussion of Victoria West's particular interests. It has led to a much better understanding all round. It illustrates the good effect of free and full debate of all matters of a public nature.

NO LABOR ISSUE.

The Inland Sentinel has worked itself up to quite a fever heat over the alleged "intention of a strong and influential faction" to deprive "white men of the opportunities of labor the natural resources of the province otherwise so abundantly offer." Our principal objection to what the Sentinel says is that it is not true. No man or combination of men is seeking to do what the Sentinel alleges. We take it for granted that the large employers of labor in this country have quite too much good sense and are quite as patriotic as any one else. On all large problems involving the investment of money or the development of the province their views possess great weight and their co-operation is eagerly sought. It is reasonable to think that on the alleged question whether this is to be a "white man's country" their interests ought to be in favor of an affirmative answer.

The employment of cheap labor is not an issue in British Columbia, however much certain political agitators may seek to make it so. There is no desire on the part of any one to oust white laborers and supplant Chinese. There may be a very strong objection on the part of men who invest their capital in mines or other enterprises to the employment of Chinese as to whom they shall employ, but by commission or a civil government for the Philippines immediately following the suppression of the present insurrection, a complete system of suffrage in the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico, with educational and property qualifications required for all voters, the immediate construction by the government of a cable between the United States and the Philippines.

A FATHER'S PRIVILEGES.

He May Chastise His Daughter Even Though She Is an Heiress to Millions. New York, Nov. 24.—The suit of Rosa Cahm for thirty thousand dollars, damaged alleged to have been done her by her millionaire father, Isaac Cahm, has been decided by a jury in the supreme court in favor of the defendant. This ends a remarkable case which was the first in the history of jurisprudence in which a child had sued her father asking damages for assault. Counsel for defendant made a strong plea in his argument, contending that from the time of the Romans no one had questioned the right of a father to chastise his children.

SLIGHTING THE COAST.

A correspondent has directed the Colonist's attention to the fact that Mr. Charlson, who erected the telegraph line to Dawson for the Federal government, brought his workmen with him from Montreal, and that their expenses out to the Coast were paid in addition to their wages. If this is correct, explanations are certainly called for. We admit that difficulty might have been experienced if Mr. Charlson had wanted until he got to the Yukon before hiring his men. It will be conceded that it was wise to take them north to do the work. But what we think calls for explanation is the hiring of men in the East, when all the necessary labor could have been secured in the Coast cities. We also object to the plan of hiring men in one part of the Dominion to work in another part of it. Our own legislature has declared against the hiring of laborers in other provinces to work in this province by private corporations. We did not favor the act of the legislature, because we thought it hostile to the principle of confederation and our objection to the course taken by Mr. Tarte in the matter referred to is based on the same principle. If the government had any money to spend in any portion of the Dominion it is only right that the necessary labor should be employed on the ground, and not be imported from other parts, where possibly the rate of wages is lower than where the work is to be done. It is true that a British Columbia laborer asks higher wages than a resident of Quebec, but he pays about five times as much into the revenue of the country.

For "Gold in the Head" use Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure, 25 cents a box, dollar free. For rheumatism use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

THE POLICE CHIEF.

From the Victoria Times. This morning the Colonist passed a few remarks upon the Chief of the Victoria police force which were not necessarily severe. On the contrary, it is decidedly refreshing to have so unequivocal a statement upon a question that is vexing the best of our citizens.

We have been at some trouble to ascertain from a very large number of our leading merchants and other men closely identified with the city's progress and prosperity, just what they think of the present Chief of Police, and we are bound to say that the opinion on the matter is practically unanimous. There is now no desire as there was a few years ago, to shield or condone the conduct of the chief constable; all who were spoken to expressed with varying degrees of vehemence the indignation they felt at the condition of things. One gentleman put the matter in what we think is rather a novel light by pointing out the extremely bad advertisement Victoria is getting from those recurrent squabbles about the behavior of the present Chief of Police. As he further urged, it is almost a fatal objection in the view of the most desirable class of settlers to find that the police department of the place in which they wish to settle is not above suspicion. The kind of people that Victoria wants to see coming here are men of high character and of such a state of affairs as has been revealed by the investigation now going on.

It is not a pleasant thing to have to discuss the personality of an official, but the press and people of Victoria are not to blame because the necessary for such discussion is painfully obvious. The thing must be done in an earnest and dignified spirit if the present unpleasant state of affairs is to end. There is a general agreement amongst those citizens whom we have consulted that Chief Sheppard is a man of very excellent qualities. He is an amiable man, kind-hearted and considerate, and he has beyond dispute what he lacks that strength of purpose so necessary in one occupying a position where decision of character is of so great importance. Chief Sheppard has shown that he has weaknesses which are distinct handicaps to the proper management of a police force.

Some of our friends discussing the qualifications of a chief of police have urged that a military man, especially one of advanced age, for so many years to command prerogative and to receive unumbrating obedience most prompt, it stands to reason that those sentinels in the army who have experience considerable difficulty in dealing with a free public, and a chief of police has to come a great deal in contact with the public.

Then the conditions of the modern police and detective services are very different from what they were in the days when army officers were considered the most fit to command civil forces. Moreover, men are to be found in the city itself who have received the very best kind of training in the Canadian police to fill the high responsible position of Chief of Police of like Victoria, and who have not only an intimate knowledge of the city and its surroundings, but also the highest esteem by the majority of the citizens. If the Police Commission in their wisdom see fit to remove the present Chief of Police they will not have far to seek for a competent successor.

THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

Forms of Government for Them Subjects for McKinley's Next Message. New York, Nov. 24.—President McKinley has received a synopsis of Secretary Root's annual report, which he is now considering in connection with his message to congress, says the Washington correspondent of the Herald. The most important recommendations are the immediate appointment of civil governors for Cuba and Porto Rico; the substitution of civil governors for military ones; the recommendation that by commission or a civil government for the Philippines immediately following the suppression of the present insurrection; a complete system of suffrage in the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico, with educational and property qualifications required for all voters; the immediate construction by the government of a cable between the United States and the Philippines.

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DO YOU FEAR HEART FAILURE?

WELL, YOU MAY, IF YOUR BLOOD IS THIN AND WATERY.—DR. CHASE'S NERVE FOOD PREVENTS HEART FAILURE. No death comes so suddenly and unexpectedly as that caused by heart failure, when the blood begins long before, when the blood first begins to thin and watery, and the nerves starved and exhausted, finally the heart becomes more rapid than the process of repair, until the heart is so weak that shock has caused the heart to cease, and the wheels of life to stand still. These are the signs of irregularity of the heart, palpitation, nervousness, sleeplessness, irritability, tired and depressed, and a host of other symptoms, which are among the early symptoms of approaching prostration and heart failure.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food forms new red corpuscles in the blood, revitalizes the nerves, and positively stops the wasting process, which ultimately leads to heart failure, nervous prostration or paralysis. In all such cases, and, indeed, in a host of others, we have found Calvert's Carbolic Ointment invaluable. For "Gold in the Head" use Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure, 25 cents a box, dollar free. For rheumatism use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

LAND REGISTRY ACT.

IN THE MATTER of the "Land Registry Act," and in the matter of the application of Marion Henrietta Baker, of the City of Victoria, Province of British Columbia, for a Certificate of Indefeasible Title to that piece or parcel of land situate in the City of Victoria, and being Lot Sixty-five (65) and part of Lot Sixty-six (66), Yates Estate, forming part of Section Ten (10) Victoria District, and containing twenty acres (20) more or less.

NOTICE is hereby given that it is my intention to issue a Certificate of Indefeasible Title to the above lands to Marion Henrietta Baker on the 27th day of January, 1891, unless in the meantime a valid objection thereto be made to me in writing by some person having an estate or interest therein, or in some part thereof. S. Y. WOOTTON, Registrar General, 25th October, 1890.

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