

THE CITY SCHOOL INSPECTOR.

The school trustees at their meeting to-morrow propose to appoint an inspector who will be specially charged with the duty of overlooking the educational work of the city. That such an appointment is an important one goes without saying. It is one that the trustees for some months have fully considered, and it may be presumed that as intelligent men and women they have arrived at the decision to appoint such an official after impartial consideration.

There are some citizens who object to the appointment on the ground of expense. Economy, they say, must be practiced just now. A rigid supervision of the finances of the city is absolutely necessary, and as the Victoria schools have hitherto been managed without an inspector, they ought still to be able to do so. The argument is not without weight. At the same time it must be admitted that the necessity for an efficient and capable superintendent is very apparent. Unity of purpose, best methods of teaching, accurate grading of pupils, similarity of instruction, together with complete oversight over every teacher are among the benefits obtainable by the appointment of an inspector.

THE YUKON TRADE.

We hear a good many complaints against the Dominion government for dilatoriness in placing customs officers on the Alaska and Northwest boundary line, where supplies from American cities pass into Canadian territory without paying duty. The loss of revenue in consequence of this "free trade" is no doubt considerable; a still greater evil it is claimed, is the loss of trade to British Columbia merchants. Were the customs laws enforced, it is asserted, most of the supplies would be purchased in Canada, as there would then be no duty to pay in taking them to the Klondike district of the Yukon.

While this may in a measure be true, it is open to question if the absence of customs officials is the greatest evil. When the gold fever becomes epidemic, as it is now, men do not give much thought to the tariff. Their first consideration is the route to be taken to the gold field and the means and cost of transportation. Duties to be paid and cost of supplies are to them matters of secondary importance. This is shown by the present rush to the Canadian gold fields on the Yukon. The only line of steamers running to Juneau and Lynn Canal, the ports nearest the upper waters of the Yukon, is American and starting from an American port. Naturally the miners go there to embark on their voyage, and there they purchase their supplies. If Victoria and Vancouver have not outfitted as many men as Seattle and Tacoma the principal cause can be found in the steamship connection and the advantage taken of their opportunities by the merchants of the Sound cities. The conditions have been against our merchants, and they have suffered in consequence. By placing the steamship Islander on the route from Victoria to Lynn Canal, this will be changed, and our business men may expect to do a fair share of a business which will in all probability grow to enormous proportions. With bonding privileges through the new strip of American territory and Canadian customs officers on the boundary line—which the Dominion government have been asked to provide—a still larger volume of trade will almost immediately be carried on by British Columbia merchants. To secure this traffic should be alive to the situation and be ready to meet it. Both governments by prompt action may greatly assist in diverting the trade into proper channels, but they cannot create or control it if our business men are not, like their competitors across the line, fully alive to their own interests.

The Stickeen river route is favored by many. With the right, which we possess by treaty, of navigating the Stickeen and the Yukon, this route is practically all within Canadian territory. From Tekestep creek, the head of navigation on the Stickeen, to Tealin Lake, or the headwaters of the Yukon, the trail is not a difficult one, and only requires the expenditure of a few thousand dollars to put it in fairly good condition. It has been urged that the provincial govern-

ment should supplement its vote of last session and authorize Mr. J. C. Galbraith to continue the work of improving this trail, and to authorize the expenditure the suggestion has been made that the legislature should be called together. The cost of a session of the house would be more than the cost of completing the trail. It is precisely in cases like this, cases of emergency which cannot be forestalled, that government expenditures are made under orders-in-council. The amount required is not large, the emergency is admitted, and assuming that the information in the hands of the government as to the practicability of the route justifies the work—the duty of the government is clear. The trail should be built this year. The present government took authority by order-in-council to assist the Fraser river flood sufferers and were supported by both sides of the house in so doing. Divested of its purely humanitarian features, the need for prompt action was not greater than that it is now. It is important that no time be lost. There are signs that we are entering again an era in comparison with which the golden-age of Cariboo will appear transient and insignificant. Marvelous changes may take place in a few years. Where there are now but a few thousand adventurous spirits, there may be shortly tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands. The effect will be revolutionary in its extent and importance, and nowhere, outside of the immediate gold area, will it be more desirable than in the first city of British Columbia, which was founded during a similar epoch in the history of the province. If the government is wiser to the occasion, and will build the road, private enterprise can be depended upon to do the rest.

WARSHIPS FOR BEHRING SEA.

We understand that this year the British government are sending up to the Behring Sea sealing fisheries a much stronger patrolling force than usual. Already two men-of-war, the Wild Swan, of 1200 tons and 8 guns, and the Phoenix, of 800 tons and 6 guns, have sailed for Behring Sea, and they will also be followed in a few days hence by H. M. S. Amphion, a powerful cruiser of 5000 tons and 10 guns. Besides these vessels there are two cruisers detached from the China fleet for the seal fisheries, one of which is H. M. S. Rainbow, a powerful modern cruiser of 4000 tons and 8 guns.

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few of the electoral districts. Mr. McGregory, of Nanaimo, would have been appointed to the new Inspectorship of metallic mines some time ago, only that the ministers were afraid—with good cause—that his successor in the seat would be an oppositionist. Then there is the speakership, which the ministers have hopes of securing as a prize for some still faithful supporter through Hon. Mr. Higgins' retirement. What foundation these hopes have, must be left for time to decide.

THE YUKON RUSH.

There is every prospect of the "Clondyke fever" doing a large amount of harm by causing a rush of men to the district who can have but a small chance of success there. Words of caution are generally thrown away on those who think they see an opportunity of satisfying the thirst for gold, but it seems at least in order to advise a careful consideration of the risks to be run and the chances of reward. The district is notoriously prolific of hardships for those who go there in the search for the yellow metal. All provisions must be taken into it over long and rather uncertain routes. A partial break-down of the means of transportation might leave the supply of food too scant for the people who are bent on rushing in, and it will be very fortunate if a famine does not person to collect it, the loss to the revenue being estimated at \$7,000 for the last twelve months. Goods forwarded by the St. Michael route, that is, up the Yukon river, are intercepted by Mr. J. H. Davis when they cross the boundary line, as the steamers on the Yukon are operated by the commercial companies, and the little freight is carried for other traders. But the loss of revenue is not the greatest evil. Traders and miners go to Seattle to outfit, thus depriving British Columbia cities of a business which properly belongs to them and which they would have the customs laws enforced as they ought to be. Collector Milne has made several reports to Ottawa on this matter, and to-day a telegram, signed by Messrs. Bostock, Dr. Milne and W. Templeman, was sent to Hon. Mr. Patterson, recommending that an officer be sent to Chilkoot on next steamer and that that post be administered by Collector Milne, whose knowledge of the country and the character of the trade that will be carried on eminently qualify him for the supervisory work. The government officials at Ottawa do not act as quickly as they should in these matters. They are too much inclined to follow the roundabout routine of the department, which, however well it may serve the requirements of old commercial centres, is utterly unsuited to a district like the Yukon, where fabulous wealth is attracting many thousands of people and an enormous quantity of supplies is taken in without paying duty. As matters stand at present, the richest alluvial mines probably that the world has ever seen, although in Canada are pouring their wealth into the United States, and our merchants have not even the satisfaction of doing a fair share of the trade which would be mostly theirs under an efficient enforcement of the customs laws. It is to be hoped that this grievance will be removed at once.

THE YUKON TRADE.

Representations have been made to the minister of customs in regard to the necessity for the immediate appointment of a customs officer at the boundary line on the Chilkoot Pass, and it is expected that a favorable reply will be received within a few days. All goods from the United States taken into Canadian territory via this pass escape duty, except what goes past Fort Cudahy because there is no person to collect it, the loss to the revenue being estimated at \$7,000 for the last twelve months. Goods forwarded by the St. Michael route, that is, up the Yukon river, are intercepted by Mr. J. H. Davis when they cross the boundary line, as the steamers on the Yukon are operated by the commercial companies, and the little freight is carried for other traders. But the loss of revenue is not the greatest evil. Traders and miners go to Seattle to outfit, thus depriving British Columbia cities of a business which properly belongs to them and which they would have the customs laws enforced as they ought to be. Collector Milne has made several reports to Ottawa on this matter, and to-day a telegram, signed by Messrs. Bostock, Dr. Milne and W. Templeman, was sent to Hon. Mr. Patterson, recommending that an officer be sent to Chilkoot on next steamer and that that post be administered by Collector Milne, whose knowledge of the country and the character of the trade that will be carried on eminently qualify him for the supervisory work. The government officials at Ottawa do not act as quickly as they should in these matters. They are too much inclined to follow the roundabout routine of the department, which, however well it may serve the requirements of old commercial centres, is utterly unsuited to a district like the Yukon, where fabulous wealth is attracting many thousands of people and an enormous quantity of supplies is taken in without paying duty. As matters stand at present, the richest alluvial mines probably that the world has ever seen, although in Canada are pouring their wealth into the United States, and our merchants have not even the satisfaction of doing a fair share of the trade which would be mostly theirs under an efficient enforcement of the customs laws. It is to be hoped that this grievance will be removed at once.

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Canada and transfer them bodily to Alaska. Our friends across the line should be ashamed to display so much ignorance.

The new El Dorado has its name spelled in as many different ways as it has means of access. "Clondyke," "Klondyke" and "Klondike" are the most frequently used in the papers, while Mr. Ogilvie calls it "Klondak."

The Nelson Economist is the latest acquisition to the press of British Columbia. It is an excellently printed paper of twelve pages, and its editor, D. M. Carley—an old acquaintance in the journalistic field—gives to its editorial pages an incisiveness and vigor which are peculiarly his own. The Economist is the third paper in Nelson, and although the field is limited, there is little doubt that it will succeed. Merit in a newspaper, like blood in a racehorse, is bound to tell in the race for supremacy.

At a meeting of the Kootenay Mining Protective Association the following resolution was passed: "That a memorial be prepared and sent around to the principal mining companies and owners for signature, praying the Honorable the Controller of Customs to place ore cars, sinking pumps, rapid hoisting engines, crushers and rolls on the free list, as the quality of those manufactured in Canada is not of such a character as to induce mining owners to use them. These articles are not used for purposes other than mining, and we emphatically desire to express our opinion, based on experience, that until the Canadian manufacturers make suitable machinery to meet this demand these articles should not be taxed."

We take off our hat to the Nelson Economist for the following compliment: "The publisher of the Victoria Times may be credited with having been the first to unfurl the banner of the Liberal party to the breeze in this province. He advocated the principles of his party at a time when it was unpopular to do so. Now, the Times criticizes the Liberal party as cautiously as almost as it did what it considered to be the mistakes of the Conservatives, especially if it feels that British Columbia interests are being side-tracked. Perhaps Mr. Templeman feels that the greatest friend of a political party is the one who points to the rocks in the tortuous channel and averts possible catastrophe. The Economist will never be accused of holding strong Liberal views, but it ventures the hope that the day is not far distant when others will follow the example of Mr. Templeman's independence."

The Nelson Tribune says: "The conditions of the Cassiar land grant are such as will hamper the development of all mining interests save those of the monopolistic company. Cassiar is now placed in the position which Kootenay had occupied had the Robson administration pursued its railway policy which gave proposed railways ten per cent. of the ore taken from all mines tributary to them. West Kootenay then stood, in respect to mineral development, in much the same position that Cassiar stands to-day. The government did not know the value of the air which it proposed to give railway promoters for a railway into Kootenay, but the development of West Kootenay has amounted to nothing. The government should have learned the folly of such reckless legislation, but it did not, the incubus which it was prevented from inflicting upon West Kootenay has succeeded in inflicting upon Cassiar."

The Canadian Gazette of July 1 has the following note: "All Canadian hearts rejoice to-day, for this is the anniversary of the birth of the Dominion. From shore to shore in Canada itself there is joy, congratulation, and a happy forgetfulness of party strife. That same spirit pervaded the proceedings at the Dominion Day dinner at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday. Sir Donald Smith made his first appearance since he became, as Lord Lorne jealously put it, Lord High Commissioner, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a speech which impressed the Daily Mail—and we cannot wonder at it—to compare him with some of the best of British statesmen, and to wish that it were possible to place him side by side with them in the Imperial parliament. Sir Charles Tupper arrived in London on the day of the banquet, and it was at one time hoped that he, too, might have found an opportunity of being present to join in the general homage to Canada's natal day."

The writer in the Nineteenth Century who points out that France has practically reached the limit of her military power only calls public attention to a fact that is well known in all the war offices of Europe. The French army in active service and in reserve, including all classes, numbers some 4,300,000 men. The German army is of about the same size. But while Germany has 52,000,000 people and is increasing her population at a rapid rate, France possesses to-day only a trifle more than 38,000,000 inhabitants, and the number of births and deaths among the French is practically equal. In the last five years the increase in the population of France has been less than one-half of 1 per cent. In another decade, if no great war intervenes, to check the normal growth of the German people, France will be far in the rear. This number of her fighting men, this should make for the peace of the world. The Gallic thirst for warlike glory has kindled some of the most sanguinary

acts of modern history. It looks as though this propensity were likely to be curbed in the future through sheer necessity.

It was a curious incident in the history of Mormonism when the great Mormon tabernacle in Salt Lake City was filled with from twelve to fifteen thousand members of the Christian Endeavor Society. The Mormon priesthood attended their own services and gave the building over to the use of the Christian Endeavor Association, exclusively. In the evening the Mormon choir of a thousand voices took part, and the great organ was played by Professor Stevens, who officiates at the usual Mormon services.

Telegrams from India have demonstrated that the disturbances at Bombay, Calcutta and Simla are between the Hindus and Mohammedans, and that there is no wide-spread feeling against British rule. The animosity between the Moslem and the Hindu idolaters dates from the very establishment of Islam, and the Moslems of India are only restrained from aiming at the destruction of idolaters by the strong arm of British rule. Of course there are always disturbances in India. But there are no evidences of wide-spread discontent. That the Sultan of Turkey is working mischief in those parts is more than probable. But the government of India is far more wide awake on such matters than it was at the commencement of the mutiny of 1857.

Judging from the vote and the discussion at yesterday's meeting, the majority of the members of the Board of Trade would feel that the board has "money to burn." Otherwise they would surely have given more consideration to the proposal to give a \$50 bonus to a pamphlet and map enterprise connected with the Yukon region. Mr. Scaife was undoubtedly right when he represented the transaction as being altogether too hasty. Had any member there will be an adequate return for the money thus voted? If there was any available it is a pity it was not produced, for as the circumstances now appear the impression will inevitably gain ground that there was too much readiness to vote away the board's funds. The investment may be a good one for all we know, but it was made in a most peculiar fashion. One might have supposed that the goods to be purchased should be open to inspection before a body of shrewd business men would think of buying.

HE HAD A GUN HANDY.

An Illinois Bank Cashier Who Refused to be Held Up.

MOBILE, Ill., July 20.—Two men this morning entered Williams' bank and, placing a revolver at the head of Cashier Von Buskirk, ordered him to throw up his hands and pass over the cash. Von Buskirk was ready to meet such an emergency, as he had weapons at his command, which he raised to shoot at the robbers. The robbers fled and the cashier at once gave the alarm.

People on bicycles, horses, wagons and afoot followed the would be robbers, who ran to the east of the town where they jumped into a buggy driven by two boys. They drove the horse hard until they saw their pursuers gaining when they leaped out of the buggy and made for a cornfield. Hundreds of people surrounded the field and after several desperate attempts to get away the miscreants were caught.

Numerous shots were fired, but no one was injured. The robbers were brought to town and lodged in jail to await the action of the grand jury. At the preliminary examination they gave the names of Frank W. Jackson and Harry Howard, both hailing from New York.

GREAT WHEAT CROP.

Oregon Farmers Will Enjoy a Season of Prosperity.

Pendleton, Or., July 20.—There will be raised in this county this year a total of 3 per cent. of the wheat crop of the United States, or between four and five million bushels. The farmers will receive for this about \$2,000,000, perhaps a quarter or a half million more, as the indications are for the opening of the local wheat market at 50 cents. All the prominent wheat dealers here and several from Portland who have been here recently named 50 cents as the opening figure. This is based on a beginning price of about 65 cents in Portland. A 65-cent opening at Portland will be an advance over last year's initial price of about 35 cents per bushel.

They All Come Back

"There are few in medicine as well as in other things," said a busy druggist, "but the most remarkable thing about Hood's Sarsaparilla is that customers who try other remedies all come back to Hood's, and this is why the enormous sales of this great medicine keep up while others come and go in a short time out of our shops entirely." "Why is that?" "O, simply because Hood's Sarsaparilla has more real curative merit than any medicine I ever sold."

Hood's Sarsaparilla

It is the standard—the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills keep you in good health. Hood's Pills keep you in good health. Hood's Pills keep you in good health.

ORPHAN BOY CASE.

Haskins and Brown in the Magistrate's Court at Vancouver.

The preliminary hearing in the Orphan Boy case took place at Vancouver on Monday morning before Capt. Melton, J. P., and H. A. Anderson, S.M. The case was called in the case were J. W. Haskins, president and manager of the Orphan Boy Mining Co., and H. A. Brown, secretary-treasurer of the same company. Haskins was represented by Messrs. G. H. Cowan and H. O. Shaw for the defendant Haskins; and, later in the day, Mr. A. Williams, M.P.P., appeared for the defendant Brown.

The charge read was on the information of A. E. Garvey, sworn on the 14th July, that John W. Haskins, president of the Orphan Boy Gold Mining Co., Ltd., and H. A. Brown, secretary of the said company, in the month of March last past at Vancouver in the said county, unlawfully, fraudulently and deceitfully did conspire and agree together to defraud A. E. Garvey and other shareholders in the said company, by collusively obtaining judgment against the said company and forcing a sale of the said company's property in execution of the said judgment, and by divers other subtle means and devices to destroy the value of the shares of the said company.

Objections to the procedure were offered by Mr. Cowan, but the court finally decided to go on with the preliminary hearing. Though the warrant was defective the information was held good. Evidence, and was there called as a witness. He testified that he was secretary of the Orphan Boy Gold Mining Co., and had been appointed to that position in December 21st, 1896. Witness identified the various books of the company. On page 28 of the journal was an entry "sundry debts to J. W. Haskins." He made the entry on the instructions of Mr. Haskins, and witness saw him pay a lot of the money out. The next entry "amounts to J. W. Haskins, transfer of account of C. B. Hance & Co., \$1148." was made because Hance & Co. accepted Mr. Haskins as security for their account. The entry was made on March 11th, 1897; also the previous mentioned entry, which was \$1,275.88. They were separated in the journal and put together in the binder and the total amount was carried to Haskins' credit in the ledger and would be found on page 1. The company had been incorporated on October 18th, 1896. Witness had been served with a writ of summons in Mr. Macdonnell's office.

Registrar Beck was then called to produce copy for inspection of the affidavit of service and other papers in the suit against the company. Resuming, Mr. Brown said he had been notified by Mr. Haskins to come to Vancouver on March 17th "paid secretary's expenses to Vancouver and return, \$100." He was witness' expenses in that connection. Upon resuming the witness said that Haskins had never been paid to him. The item on March 17th "paid secretary's expenses to Vancouver and return, \$100," was witness' expenses in that connection. Upon resuming the witness said that Haskins had never been paid to him. The item on March 17th "paid secretary's expenses to Vancouver and return, \$100," was witness' expenses in that connection.

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THE LAND OF

Resume of the Work Undertaken by Dominion Authorities in Klondyke Region.

Yukon, Trading & Transportation Project—A Big Continuation from San Francisco.

Ottawa, Ont., July 24.—Now Dominion government is in possession of reports corroborative of authentic reports sent out of the richness of the new placer diggings on Klondyke and Yukon. Klondyke and Yukon diggings of the district is believed. Two years ago the diggings of the interior established a foothold on the Canadian side of the frontier.

The officer in command, Inspector Stanton, established two posts, Fort Cudahy and Cape Atkin, and proceeded to acquire and collect revenues for the department. He collected about the first year. Encouraged by reports of the revenue, the government, 1896, appointed D. W. Davis, member for Alberta to the position of customs officer for the district, recently received, estimated collections to about \$35,000.

This work of organization suggested to the government North American Trading and Transportation Company, which was the British territory should be interested so as to guarantee the interest. It was not until the Dominion authorities, however the surveying parties then in had with more or less difficulty the first meridian of west which forms the boundary between the Canadian and American territory from Mount St. Elias to the Arctic.

When this had been accomplished the setting of police posts began. The Police Force, a small American coast party reached of the government here. It was charged that the Canadians were being territory in Alaska that did long to them.