The Colonist.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1898.

IMPORTS AND DUTIES.

The total imports of Canada for the last fiscal year were valued at $111,294,021, of which $66,220,765 worth were dutiable and on these duty to the amount of $19,891,996 was collected, or a fraction over 30 per cent. Oddly enough the proportion of duties to imports was almost identically the same in the previous year, although in the meantime there was a change in the tariff. Estimating the population of the Dominion at 5,000,000, we have the average duty paid per capita a fraction under $5. British Columbia has the fourth place on the list as to the amount of imports and duty paid, Quebec leading, Ontario a close second, Nova Scotia a third and British Columbia not very far behind the latter. It is worth while to compare the last two provinces:

British Columbia, populat'n.	110,000	(est.)
Nova Scotia " "	450,000	"
British Columbia, imports	$6,926,504	
" " duty paid	1,558,889	
Nova Scotia, imports	7,902,734	
" " duty paid	1,611,659	
Brit'sh Col., duty per capita.	$14.17	
Nova Scotia " " "	3.38	

This tremendous disparity would be found to be even greater if there were any means of estimating how much duty the people of British Columbia pay indirectly upon goods purchased in the Eastern cities. Only a very small part of what this province pays in duty is recouped by the sale of the articles in the East. These figures are very remarkable, but as they are official they cannot be disputed. We have taken Nova Scotia for the purpose of a full comparison, but our province loses nothing by comparison with the others. Following are the per capita contributions to the customs revenue of the other provinces:

Ontario	$3.35
Quebec	5.42
New Brunswick	3.00
Manitoba	4.00
P. E. Island	1.00

It is right to say that the amount paid in Quebec in excess of the other provinces, except British Columbia, is due to the fact that Montreal is the great importing centre of the Dominion. These figures plead the case of British Columbia so eloquently that it would be a mistake to add any comment.

THE MORTGAGE TAX.

We believe that some such provision, as that suggested in the COLONIST a few days ago, would do very much to put the burden of the mortgage tax upon the right shoulders. At any rate the experiment is worth trying. It could not possibly injure the borrower, although it would of course be open to the objection that it would be no relief to those who are already under covenant or otherwise obligated to pay the personal property tax on money borrowed by them. The legislature has the constitutional power to make such a law retroactive, but to do so would be such a violation of contract that no representative body could be induced to agree to it. We frankly confess that we see no way of relieving such persons except by a law repealing the tax altogether, unless the mortgagor is permitted to reduce his personal tax by the amount of his mortgage indebtedness. At present the exemptions include:

"So much of the personal property of any person as is equal to the just debts owed by him on account of such personal property, except such debts as are secured by mortgage upon real estate or are unpaid on account of the purchase money therefor."

If the words "except such debts as are secured by mortgage upon real estate" were struck out of this exemption it would confer some relief. In the majority of cases this would relieve the mortgaged farmer from the payment of any personal tax whatever. We do not claim that the measure of relief to be granted by such an amendment would be at all what the mortgagors would like, and in many cases it would probably be no relief at all, because the mortgagor's personal property would already be covered by other exemptions.

What we would like to see adopted is such a law as would compel the mortgagee to pay the tax upon the money he has invested, and at the same time would prevent him from recouping himself at the expense of the mortgagor. For the future we believe such a provision as we suggested would have a good effect. For the past there is no remedy except by the exemption of money secured by mortgage from taxation, and we are not sure that this relief would even in a majority of cases enure to the benefit of those in whose interests it would be made.

PROFITABLE EXPENDITURES.

We make no apology for a second reference to the great per capita contribution of the province to the federal revenue, but this time not for the purpose of demanding consideration because of what the province has done in the past, but to show how exceedingly profitable it will be for the Dominion to deal liberally with British Columbia development projects in the future. The argument generally made in Ontario against expenditures of this nature in other parts of Canada is that that province is the Milch Cow of the Dominion, and all the people in other parts are being nourished at its expense. That this has not been true of British Columbia in the past is very clear. The masterly exposition of this subject by Mr. R. P. Rithet in the legislature last winter has not been answered, for it is simply unanswerable. In view of the facts compressed into his speech on that occasion, no one need fear to challenge any statement which implies this province to be in any sense a pensioner upon the bounty of Ontario. What we have received we have paid for and there is a great balance standing to our credit.

But strong as is our claim on account of which has transpired in the past, it is not even so convincing as the argument to be drawn from the future. In this regard not British Columbia alone ought to be taken into account, but the whole northwest coast portion of Canada, which includes the Yukon. The development of this great region, having an area of nearly half a million miles, not only deserves the immediate attention of the government and parliament of Canada upon the broad ground of national interest, but as a profitable financial investment. The brief epitome of the trade returns printed in this paper yesterday show this. They show that for every person added to the population of the Pacific slope of Canada nearly $15 are added annually to the customs revenue, and if to this there is added what is paid in excise dues, and allowance is made for the exceptionally large consumption of the Yukon district, it will be found that for every person added to the population on this slope $20 will be added annually to the revenue. The other sources of revenue, which the Dominion treasury possesses, such as mining licenses, royalties and other fees of that nature, will meet all the additional expenses for administration to which the government will be put, and this will leave the $20 per capita so much clear gain.

What British Columbia and the Yukon ought to have in order that their great wealth may be profitably and speedily utilized are: A railway south of the Fraser from the Coast to the Columbia, by way of the Boundary Creek country, with a Victoria connection; the construction of the proposed line from Bute Inlet to Cariboo as the initial step in the great project called the British Pacific; a railway from a northern seaport in British Columbia to Teslin lake; the extension of the E. & N. railway to the northern end of Vancouver island, and a railway to Omineca. We do not say that all these things ought to be provided for at once, but we do claim that they all form important parts of a comprehensive and necessary system of internal development, which ought to be perfected within the next five years.

We are willing to discuss this system on the basis that it will involve an assumption by the government of Canada of a liability amounting to $10,000,000, and are prepared to maintain that even on such a basis the expenditure would be highly advantageous.

That the construction of the suggested lines of railway would add a quarter of a million people to the population of the Pacific slope of Canada is not open to question, nor is there any doubt that those new comers would at the end of five years contribute $5,000,000 yearly to the revenue of the Dominion over and above any additional charges upon the revenue which their presence in the country would entail. The increase of receipts would begin the moment the policy of railway construction was fully inaugurated, so that if the federal aid were provided by the issue of treasury bills redeemable at call, or on very short dates, they could be retired out of revenue.

We present these considerations fo the attention of the ministry at Ottawa We are informed that at least the holder of one federal portfolio is under the impression that nothing ought to be done for British Columbia because nature has done so much for the province already. It is very true that nature has been very lavish in her favors to the Pacific slope of Canada, but it so happens that under the articles of Confederation the whole Dominion receives the lion's share of benefit from a revenue standpoint, and consequently the provincial government is not in a position to adopt a policy of development commensurate with the vast revenue that will be yielded by the country when developed. There are certain direct benefits to be received by the province which warrant the legislature in aiding such a policy, and we believe there will be no disposition in any influential quarter in British Columbia to act niggardly in the premises. In fact the consensus of public opinion undoubtedly is that the two governments ought to act in harmony. But we believe the whole Dominion, which will receive the greater advantage, should bear the greater burden. We have in this article spoken of the matter from a revenue standpoint only. We shall deal with it later from the commercial and industrial standpoint.

BRITISH COLUMBIA has maintained the third place in the table of exports. Her exports are three and a quarter millions in excess of those of Nova Scotia.

IN view of the way the Ontario election has gone we suggest that a coalition might be a good thing. Or else the two parties might manage affairs week about.

IF the United States government does not expect to fight Spain why all this feverish preparation for war?

VICTORIA VITRIFIED BRICK.

In a couple of letters in the evening paper, Mr. J. Keller, agent for a Seattle pottery, endeavors to condemn the manufactures of the Victoria pottery. There is a possibility that the city, in the near future, may have its business streets paved according to modern ideas, and among the pavements recommended is that of vitrified brick, a material which answers its purpose admirably. Seattle has used vitrified brick for its main thoroughfare, with excellent results, and, moreover, the bricks were of home manufacture. Mr. Keller made a strong pull for Seattle sewer pipes and used similar arguments to condemn the Victoria made article as he does now in regard to the successful making of vitrified brick, so there is probably something more than patriotism in his unasked advice. The sewer pipes made by the Victoria company proved an excellent article, and have been used in other provincial cities. The various manufactures of the company are sold generally throughout the province, and have given general satisfaction—the best proof of quality. Mr. Keller asserts that the glazed bricks made for foot pavements are lead glazed and not salt glazed. This statement has been flatly contradicted by Mr. Barham, the manager of the Victoria pottery, and the only excuse for Mr. Keller, who claims to be a practical man, seems to be that he is very desirous for a commission on the Seattle product, and has trifled with the facts.

Should bricks be used for street paving in this city, there is no necessity to go abroad for the material. The Victoria pottery is quite competent to produce as good an article as can be imported. As Mr. Barham points out, machinery for their manufacture is all that is required, the necessary clays being abundant. There will always be people who will hold to the opinion that an article of manufacture must be imported to be first-class. There are too many of this kind in Victoria, and they should be altogether ignored in their efforts. If Victoria is to continue a prosperous city, the sooner its citizens loyally back up its home industries the better. By doing so large sums of money now sent abroad for manufactures and foods will remain in circulation here, and a general benefit result. As for the subject under discussion—material for street paving—we can make the brick or saw the wood, as the case may be.

THERE can be no possible objection to whatever correspondence on the Ruthven case the government may have in its possession being laid before the house, unless it is of such a nature that its publication at this stage would interfere with the due administration of justice. The only question on such a point is as to the time when such correspondence ought to be brought down. We know very little of the facts of this case, but judge from what the Attorney-General said in the house yesterday that there may be some papers which may be properly laid before the house. If this is the case, they should be forthcoming, and Mr. Braden did right to move for them. Every man, no matter whether he is or is not a British subject, is entitled to the fullest protection of the law, and it is quite within the right of the legislature to investigate any proceedings which have been taken in connection with a prosecution, with the sole reservation that the government may, if it deems best in the public interest, temporarily withhold any information in its possession. We do not understand that this is the case in the Ruthven matter.

THE Nanaimo Review re-opens the John Biggs case. Biggs, it appears, had some cattle which were wrongfully seized by Sheriff Prior and sold under execution against one Powers. The solicitors for Biggs compromised the matter for something less than half the amount which Biggs claims he lost. This happened in 1880. Since then Biggs has been able to find no one to take the case up for him to enable him to get the balance, which he says ought to be paid him, and the Review thinks that if the government had "the least respect for the rights of a private citizen" it would put an amount in the estimates to recompense Biggs. We fail to see what the government has to do with this matter, which appears to be between Biggs and his solicitors. If a government is called upon to ask the legislature for money to protect every suitor who loses money through the acts of his solicitor, where shall the line be drawn? The fact that the sheriff was a party to the transaction cuts no figure in it.

THE action of the Canadian police, if it was their action, in planting the Canadian flag at the summit of the Pass from Skagway is not intended as an aggression, but simply to mark where the territory over which the United States exercises jurisdiction is to be considered as ending. The value of this step is wholly to the miners who have a customs escort. It shows the point beyond which such an escort in is no longer necessary. There is not the least disposition on the part of Canada to claim a foot of land that is not rightfully hers; but it would be absurd to permit United States customs officers to accompany Canadian goods past the summit of the Pass, for under no possible construction of the treaty can our neighbors claim any rights beyond the watershed.

MR. COTTON'S threat that the opposition will delay the passing of supply is proof, as strong as holy writ, that the opposition have exhausted all the ammunition likely to be of value in an aggressive campaign. We hope the government will give Mr. Cotton an opportunity of exhibiting himself as an obstructionist. He has opposed almost everything for the advancement of British Columbia's interests. As far as he can he obstructs every movement to develop the province. He seems now about to display his ingenuity in discovering ways and means of prolonging the session. If one may rely upon reports from Vancouver, it is not difficult to discover why Mr. Cotton should desire to keep his seat this year as long and to make as many speeches in the legislature as possible.

ON to Khartoum is now the order on the Nile, and Sir Herbert Kitchener is to lead the expedition. His success in the early part of the campaign against the Khalifa augurs well for the future, and there is little reason to doubt that he will succeed in the next movement. Although Khartoum is the objective point of the advance now to be undertaken, there is little likelihood of the progress of the Anglo-Egyptian army being stayed when that strategic position has been occupied. The whole hinterland of equatorial Africa must be occupied to prevent its being taken possession of by France, if for no other reason. Great Britain is experiencing too much difficulty in West Africa by reason of French aggression to contemplate with equanimity the possibility of complications of the same nature on the Upper Nile.

THE announcement that the Dominion government will make a survey for a railway from Telegraph Creek to a British Columbia seaport is very welcome; but it does not go far enough. The government ought to arrange for the construction of the line at once. We believe it would be good policy to alter the contract with Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann so as to provide for the immediate construction of the whole line from Lake Teslin to the coast. If this is not done, then there ought to be a vote for sufficient money to open a highway down the Stikine, that would be readily available from Wrangel after the river closes.

THE Grand Forks Miner celebrated Washington's birthday by printing a portrait of that illustrious statesman surrounded with a laurel wreath. The fact that a paper published in Canada by an American can do such a thing without anyone raising the slightest objection shows what a delightfully free country Canada is.

A CONTEMPORARY referring to Mr. Forster, M.P.P., says he is not a fluen speaker. We had supposed that if any member of the house could claim to be fluent it was Mr. Forster, who we are glad to say talks both well and fluently, although we do not find ourselves able very often to agree with the views which he advances.

THE Columbian says it does not want a trial of right between the Dominion and Provincial legislature as to the power to restrict Oriental immigration, but only that the provincial legislature shall insist on its rights. As these rights are undefined, we think our contemporary distinguishes between things that are no way different.

SOME Eastern houses say their February trade was 250 per cent. ahead of last year and attribute the increase to Klondike orders. If our Eastern Canadian exchanges had taken up the fight for this trade sooner Canada would have enjoyed even more of it.

THE Vancouver World quotes approvingly of Lord Rosebery's saying that "whenever you find a soft thing you find a Scotchman sitting beside it." May we ask our esteemed friend what particular soft thing it is sitting by at present?

THE Toronto Globe thinks that the Ontario ministry will have a vote of fifty when all the returns are in. If this is the case it can get along for a time; but what a tremendous falling off, is there, my countrymen.

THE Vancouver World says the Ontario government is all right because it can strengthen itself at the by-elections. This reminds us of the man who said that his constitution was all gone and he was living on his by-laws.

THE estimates are to be brought down at a very early date this year. We think it is a long time since they were introduced into the British Columbia Legislature at so early a day in the session.

THE Rossland Times has discovered that the government has lost four votes, which it says makes a difference of eight against it on a division. Well, this certainly is news.

SINCE the King of France with twenty thousand men marched up the hill and then marched down again, there has been nothing equal to the United States relief expedition to the Yukon.

THE despatches this morning show the Grand Trunk up in an extraordinary light as endeavoring to build up Seattle at the expense of Victoria and Vancouver.

900 DROPS
CASTORIA
A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of
INFANTS CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.
Recipe of Old Dr SAMUEL PITCHER
Pumpkin Seed - Alx Senna - Rochelle Salts - Anise Seed - Peppermint - Bi Carbonate Soda - Worm Seed - Clarified Sugar - Wintergreen Flavor.
A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.
Fac Simile Signature of
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 DOSES—35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE —OF— Chas. H. Fletcher. IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA

Castoria is put up in one-size bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

Klondyke Outfits

PRICE LISTS NOW READY

B. WILLIAMS & CO.,

CLOTHIERS and HATTERS, 97 and 99 Johnson Street,

Victoria, B.C.

WATSON'S DUNDEE WHISKIES

SELECTED OLD BLENDED GLENLIVET

ARE THE BEST OBTAINABLE, THE BEST ON EARTH AND THE BEST TO DRINK; AS THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY PURE, WELL MATURED AND DISTILLED FROM PURE MALT.

JAMES WATSON & Co LTD. DISTILLERS DUNDEE.

AGENTS: JOHN BARSMAN & Co., 100 Wharf St., Victoria, B.C.

LEA AND PERRINS'

OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE Lea & Perrins IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER of every Bottle of the ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors Worcester; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Oilmen generally.

RETAIL EVERYWHERE.

Agents—J. M. Douglas & Co and Urquhart & Co., Montreal.

R. P. RITHET & CO.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS, Wharf Street, Victoria, B.C.

Groceries, Wines and Liquors

KLONDIKE OUTFITTERS & MARINE UNDERWRITERS

Agents for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's Direct Steamers to all Klondike Points.