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The Coal Interest.

The question of our coal stores is one which should of itself give this colony very great importance. It is one which cannot fail to exert a potent influence upon the distribution of political power on the Pacific. It is one which, if turned to proper account, cannot fail to make British Columbia the seat of power, politically, commercially and industrially. In this respect Nature would appear to have dealt partially. Notwithstanding the extended seaboard secured by our grasping neighbors, much of which ought by right to have been ours, we may be said to possess in our little 'sandwiched' frontage a monopoly not only of good harbors, but of good coal likewise. Coal, the great motive-power, the controller, the mineral King. 'Give me the coal of a country and I will control every other interest.' Not only are our coal-measures practically inexhaustible, but they are unrivalled in quality. So far as our bituminous coal is concerned it will be sufficient to state that, notwithstanding the high price charged and the heavy duty ($1 25) with which it is met, it is now a recognized power in the San Francisco market. And it is not too much to say that with proper working, and a reasonable reduction in price it will, under the operations of a reciprocity treaty, experience no difficulty in driving every other coal out of the San Francisco and Portland markets. This is a proposition that will be readily admitted on all hands. Turning to anthracite coal we have even stronger grounds for self-gratulation. And here let us allude to a very able and exhaustive report of the 'Queen Charlotte Coal Mining Company,' which has just come from the press. Passing over that part of the report which chiefly concerns the shareholders, we find that there no longer exists any reasonable doubt as to the extent of the valuable formation. Notwithstanding all the losses and crosses, the discouragements and misfortunes incident to most pioneer efforts, but, perhaps, experienced to an unusual degree in the present instance, the Queen Charlotte Company now find themselves in possession of a coal measure which will afford many years' continuous working, and from which they are already in a position to calculate upon a steady output of one thousand tons per month, so soon as the outside ways and works shall have been completed, with power to increase to three thousand tons per month whenever it shall be deemed necessary to do so. To give the reader an idea of the profitableness of the operations of this company, pursued as they are upon a limited scale, and under peculiar disadvantages we may just mention that, notwithstanding the duty, and high freight and other charges, the net profit upon every thousand tons of the Queen Charlotte coal delivered in San Francisco is $4100, thus securing to the Company on its minimum out-put an annual available profit of $49 200 to be divided amongst its eighty shareholders. It will be admitted that this is not bad. And there is one interesting feature about this Company to which we may be permitted to allude. These eighty share-holders are all of ourselves, residents of the Colony, and, consequently, every dollar obtained for their coal in San Francisco is a dollar added to the capital of the country. In this view a very much larger sum than the above may be taken to represent the annual benefit to the Colony of the operations of this Company. Having said this much about the extent of what is called the Skidegate seam, and the position and prospects of the enterprising company who have opened it up, let us devote a few moments to the consideration of the *quality* of the coal, a point possessing an interest which extends far beyond the breeches' pockets of the shareholders of the Queen Charlotte Company. And here we prefer to introduce to the reader those who are better entitled to give evidence upon this point than we are. First, let us present scientific evidence. F. G. Claudet, Esq., Superintendent of the Government Assay Department, made an analytical assay of a sample of the coal, and with the following result; Moisture 5,10; volatile combustible matter 17,26; fixed carbon 71,20; ash 6,40; total 99 99; specific gravity 1,46. Mr. John J. Landale, Civil and Mining Engineer, also gives the result of an analytical assay, with results substantially the same, thus placing the coal in the highest ranks of the anthracite family. To this may be added testimony of a more practical but not less valuable kind. Messrs Spratt & Kreimler, of the Albion Iron Works say:

"We have great pleasure to inform you that we have tried the Coal from the Queen Charlotte Coal Mining Company at Skidegate, and find that it is quite equal to the best Anthracite Coal from Pennsylvania. We have used the Queen Charlotte Coal for smelting purposes in our foundry several times, and find that in consequence of the absence of sulphur the iron melted by it is considerably improved in quality, renders it softer and tougher and easier to work."

Messrs. Dougal & Son, Caledonia Iron Works say:

'We find on testing the Coal from your mine on Queen Charlotte Island that it smelted 1200 pounds of iron, which we ran into one piece, in fifteen minutes sooner than we have ever done with the Pennsylvania Coal we get here, and 3400 more which we ran into small pieces. The time occupied in smelting with this coal alone (for the same weight of iron and coal alternately that we use with the Pennsylvania) was forty-five minutes.

The metal when cast we pronounce not softer (which is impossible), but as strong, tough iron as can be made.

On looking at the analysis of Pennsylvania Coal by Mr. Bull, and that by Mr. Claudet of this Coal, we should say that there is at least from 8 to 10 per cent more carbon, and the same less of combustible matter, in the Coal we tested than in the Pennsylvania.

We have worked with Pennsylvania Coal the last 17 years, and we pronounce this coal equal in standing the blast, and quicker in melting, which proves that it has more carbon than the best Pennsylvania Anthracite.'

Messrs. Lamont & Morton, Watt Iron Works, say:

"We have given the Coal you sent us from the Queen Charlotte Mine an impartial trial, and we are happy to say that the result exceeds our anticipations. We have had a great deal of experience in melting iron in the United States, and it is only simple justice to say that the Coal from your mine brought down the metal quicker and better than any we have ever used before. In our opinion it is pure Anthracite, and will melt ten pounds of iron to one pound of coal. The heat lasts in a very remarkable degree, as to refuse, there is absolutely none.

We congratulate you on the acquisition of such property as the Queen Charlotte Mine, not only because it is certain wealth to the shareholders, but because it cannot fail to be a source of convenience and profit to every foundry on the Pacific Coast."

Other testimony might be added, but the above will suffice to show that the Queen Charlotte Coal is of a quality which cannot but secure for it an important place, and, we trust, secure to its owners a handsome profit. These desultory remarks are scarcely worthy of a subject of such importance as the coal interests of British Columbia, interests which are destined to obtain a commercial magnitude under reciprocity, and a domestic manufacturing magnitude under the operations of a free port which we cannot trust ourselves to reduce to figures. The coal-stores of British Columbia are unquestionably destined to be the secret of its future greatness. They will become the arbiters of peace or war on the Pacific. Let it be our more immediate aim to make them a source of Colonial wealth and prosperity.

THE ENGLISH PEASANTRY.—A good deal of discussion is at present going on in England in reference to the condition of the peasantry. In many quarters that condition is deplorable, especially in the south-eastern and south-western counties. Devonshire, for instance, which in many respects, such as climate, may be spoken of as the garden of the country, has in this respect a noticable, bad pre-eminence. The agricultural laborer in that and some of the adjoining counties is, in general, most unfavorably situated. Sir Charles Trevelyan says his "ordinary subsistence is not sufficient to maintain him in the health and strength required for the efficiency and therefore the economy of labor; it is impossible for him to make any provision out of his scanty earnings for sickness and old age, and all he has to look forward to is a life of uninterrupted toil, shut out from every hope of advancement, and with his being pensioned as a pauper on the poor rates." He is made old before his time and crippled with rheumatism even before he is old, while throughout life he is in a state of ignorance too passive even to be called contented. Two dollars and a quarter per week without board is about the average he can earn when in employment, and broken time is not known in 'Merrie England.' In Northumberland and Cornwall, where the wages for farm labor are highest, they never rise above five dollars a week without board, and no hope of anything better. These counties are the English laborer's paradise, and yet let any one say if there is before working men there any such prospect as the average industrious laborer on a farm may have in British Columbia.

LEECH RIVER.—An arrival from this river last night announces that there has been a tremendous freshet and that the Flume Company's works have been swept away. Everything is "clean gone;" and we fear the diggings will have to be abandoned.

FREESTONE.—A large cargo of freestone for the French Hotel came down on the schooner Industry yesterday. The stone is similar in quality to that taken from the Newcastle seam.

AMATEUR SPORTSMEN.—A party of Victorians are shooting duck at the mouth of the Snohomish River. Yesterday they telegraphed to a friend here that they are bagging 200 ducks daily.

THE WRECK OF THE SHIP COWPER.—The schooner Alert arrived early yesterday morning from the scene of the wreck of the ship Cowper bringing a full cargo of sails, blocks and standing rigging, which formed a portion of the outfit of the ill-fated vessel. Capt Peck was still engaged in dismantling the ship and would fill McKay's schooner Favorite with the remainder of loose gear. The ship and cargo will be sold by auction, we believe—the ship on account of the owners, and the cargo on account of the underwriters. The wreck is one of the most unfortunate that has taken place in our waters. The Cowper was a fine, large ship and only seven years old. She was bought especially for the Nanaimo coal trade, about one year and a half ago, and has made many successful trips between San Francisco and Nanaimo. Capt Peck was formerly in command of the ship Shooting Star, belonging to the same owners, and is a reliable and experienced commander.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—The Montreal *Witness* understands that some considerable changes in the management of this important institution are to take effect on the 1st January next. The General Manager of the Bank for thirty years, Thomas Paton, Esq., will retire, returning to the old country, and his place will be filled by Mr. McNaab, who has long been Secretary of the Corporation in London. Mr. John Paton, Commissioner of the Trust and Loan Company of Kingston, will, we understand take charge of the New York Agency of the Bank. The departure of the Messrs. Paton, uncle and nephew, will be a loss to this country, inasmuch as to distinguished business ability they added decided piety and active benevolence. They were just the men to have charge of other people's means, and it would be well if financial institutions generally had more regard to such qualifications.

STOCKGROWERS in the interior would supply Victoria with live stock but the road-tolls are so excessive that the Government would own the animals before they reached the sea. The Council at its coming session should go in to reduce these tolls to a figure within reason, or we shall be dependant for many years on a foreign country for our supplies.

A CAT, which was placed in a basket and conveyed in a wagon from Yates street to Rocky Point, a week ago, returned three days afterwards, foot-sore and half-starved. The animal had traveled to reach home twelve miles. Either its scent is powerful or its *feline* attachment is so strong that distance but lends enchantment to the view.

THE annual dinner of the St. Andrew's Society will come off at the Colonial Hotel on Tuesday evening next. These yearly reunions of Scotia's Sons are among the most social and convivial gatherings given here. Tickets have been fixed at the low figure of $3 each. The Chair will be taken at 7 o'clock precisely.

FINIS.—The drain from the French Hotel to Bastion street is at last finished and workmen were busily engaged yesterday in removing the piles of dirt that have so long obstructed our principal thoroughfare.

RIFLE MATCH.—A match will be shot to-day at the Clover Point But's between the Commissioned and non-Commissioned officers of the Rifle Corps on the one side, and seven of the privates on the other. Shooting will commence at 12, noon, and the match promises to be the best of the season.

LARGE gangs of men are employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company in repairing the line in Washington Territory. The magnetic current moved reluctantly yesterday.

The little Leviathan will be repaired and used as a dispatch boat between Port Townsend and Victoria, connecting with the Constantine for Sitka.

THE Gussie Telfair will sail from Portland to-day for Victoria. She must have had a rough time on her downward passage. There is no advice as to when the G. S. Wright will sail again for this port.

THE ship Nation's Hope is on the way from San Francisco for Burrard Inlet to load with lumber for a foreign port.

THE Enterprise with 20 passengers and some freight, sailed yesterday for New Westminster.

Confederation.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—It grieves me to have been obliged to neglect 'S.' and 'B. W.' If the latter imagines that people will join the Confederacy for the sake of saving a few dollars in postage, he will be mistaken. I do say British Columbia does not want the Canadian Tariff, it being so entirely unsuited to her condition. People do not want to save on the Tariff and then to make up the loss by direct taxation. It greatly depends upon the value of our little business what the local government will get for it, and upon what it gets hangs the problem—whether the local government will have to raise additional local taxes or not. The local government ought to have a greater income than now, otherwise it will not be able to carry on any greater number of works and improvements than it does at present. It is essentially necessary then to learn the value of our business, it being impossible to know what to ask for it. The value can only be learned by the aid of figures, and therefore I shall supply them to make a few calculations, hoping thereby to come to a probable conclusion and thus prevent the colony being sold at a sacrifice. I am of opinion that Confederation does not mean simply responsible government and the change of one set of officers for another set—it means a great deal more. What is our business worth? In conducting this enquiry I shall take the mean revenue of Canada—viz—$300,000 ($50,000 less than before). Neither Confed's nor Anti's will complain of this. Whether Canadian statesmen are mercenary or not, is not the question, they are at all events politicians. This is merely a matter of business and care must be taken that the colony of British Columbia be not 'taken in,' or, if taken in, 'done for.' It will be wise for the Government to make it to the interest of the public to amalgamate the union, otherwise British Columbia will only be attached by a rope of—sand.

It must be presumed that the average debt per head for the people now composing the Dominion of Canada is $21 88. Each person pays $3 35 per annum custom-duties. Each person receives from the general government, for head money and subsidy, $0 92. The general government therefore receives annually [from the Customs] for its own use $2 43 from every person in the Dominion.

If British Columbia joins the Confederacy her people should not pay any more for the support of the general government than the people of other portions of the Dominion do, viz., $2 53 per head or $3 35 to the customs.

The income of British Columbia from customs duties amounts to $320,000. At $3 35 per head it would take 95,500 persons to make up the amount. British Columbia by this equalization of taxation becomes entitled to a population of 95 500 souls, and a debt of $2 089 540, or $989,540 more than her present one. At $0 92 per head she is entitled to $87,860 and $49,477 interest, or, altogether, $137,337. This ought to be given for the support of the local government of British Columbia. This approximates to the value of our little business.

Let us now equalize the rate of the debt; a population of 50,000 will do it. Each head will now contribute $6 40 to the customs, or $3 05 more than the people of the provinces; this for 50 000 persons would amount to $152,500. This sum and $46,000 for headmoney and subsidy, or, altogether, $198,500, ought to be given for the support of the local Government of British Columbia. If the mean of $137 337 and $198,500 be taken it will give $167 918. This is the sum that ought to be given for head money ($40 000) and subsidy $127,918, or $40 000 x35,813 for the support of the local Government of British Columbia and is the value of her business at present. (Anyone may put in now any sum he thinks ought to be added for future prospects.) In other words, a population of 100 000 people and interest at 5 per cent. upon $1,115,000 or a debt of $2,250 000 or say head money $40,000, subsidy $50 000, and a further subsidy of $77,918 annually, or the proposition that $2 43 bear to the increased revenue.

Now let us see how much Canada can give out of the revenue of British Columbia for the support of local government of B. C.

Expenditure of Canada for Governor, Judges, Customs Offices, Postal Com., &c	$126,000
Interest on B C debt and sinking Fund	71,500
Expenditure of Canada	$197,500
Income of Canada, Customs, Postage, Excise &c	$350,000
Expenditure of Canada	197 500
Minimum present value of our business	$152,500

Put it in another way and suppose Canada has to pay full interest upon our debt. It must here be remarked that a large portion of our debt is floating, which can immediately be funded at less interest than now paid.

Expenditure of Canada, for Governor, Judges, Customs' Officers, &c, &c	$126,000
Interest on Public Debt	120,000
	$246,000
Income of Canada, Customs, Excise &c	$350,000
Annuity on acct. Loans falling through	50,000
	$400,000
Deduct minimum value of our business	246,000
	$154,000

It will be observed in this case that the income of British Columbia still pays the interest on public debt; of course the larger the revenue the greater will be the value of the business.

The sum, then, that Canada can give for our little business, without taking anything whatever from the Dominion funds, is $152,500; that sum corresponds with the preceding calculation. It is plain, too, that she pays it out of British Columbian money. The sum, then, that must be had for our business is at least $150 000 per annum. Care must be taken that the Dominion government does not take for its own use the present revenue of this colony. We want more money than we have. Canada must look to the future for gain in money from British Columbia. The people cannot make a hearty meal off responsible government alone—although a few officers may. Money, more money, is is the thing required, but of what use is a small gain if the colony is bereft of the power of regulating its commercial and industrial affairs and be greatly injured by the Dominion Tariff?

J. S. HELMCKEN.

A Practical Suggestion.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—About two years since I addressed those interested in mines troubled with much water—through the *British Columbian*—on draining them by means of a certain pump, of which I had just seen a brief notice. The ground for my doing so was the opinion of the English engineering firm to whose judgement I had submitted my plan, that it was admirably adapted to the purpose. Afterwards, indeed, in reply to a second letter pointing out that they had, in part, misconstrued my first—they declared it 'impracticable' though very efficient for low lifts. This was a damper but did not convince me. I accordingly submitted my notions to the judgment of the best pump makers in San Francisco who coincided with the first in the opinion as to its value and economical working for low lifts, but judged it not economical, though not impracticable, for lifts of 200 feet 'possessing no advantage over Cornish lifting pumps,' giving me the approximate cost of one capable of doing the duty I had supposed would be required to be done. Thinking it by no means impossible that English engineering firms may employ a still better pumps or make them much cheaper than they can be purchased on this coast, I addressed a second English firm who, it appears—as I learn from their catalogue, are patentees of the pump of which I had seen a notice and actually employ it for lifts up to 200 feet by a method differing but little from that which had suggested itself to my own mind. There remains therefore only to me the barren satisfaction of believing that my method is not impracticable, but those who own mines difficult to drain may be glad to learn that the pump is both efficient and cheap. The patentees say of it—they make every kind of pump—that 'it will discharge a quantity of water greater in proportion to the power employed than any other pump, is economical in use, simple in construction, and of great durability; is little effected by sand, grit, mud and other foreign matter, and that its cost measured by the quantity of water discharged, is greatly below that of all other pumps in use.' As it also discharged a continuous stream of water the piping need not be nearly so large. The cost of one, including packing case, to lift 500 gallons per minutes 90 feet high is $165, to lift 300 gallons per minutes 100 feet high is $145 50, to lift 500 gallons per minute 200 feet high $530, to lift from 1000 to 200 gallons per minute from 20 to 40 feet high $222. These prices are exclusive of driving gear, piping and motive power. The horse power required for any one of these and I need hardly say depends wholly on the amount of work to be done, and where waste of power is of no object, *i. e.* when large bodies of water can be made use of, any one of the above pumps would raise 2 or 3 times the above quantities. The best of all contrivances for conveying power in a country like Cariboo, where labor and fuel are high, is a turbine—independent alike floods and frost. The cost of one depends on the height of the water supply, the higher the supply the less the cost and quantity of water required—one of 30 horse power for a 30-foot fall costing £105, whereas, if the fall were but 6 feet the price is £240—the former requiring about 800 cubic feet per minute and the latter four times as much. The estimated cost of 20 horse power, 6 foot fall, at San Francisco is $2 200.

There is a method by which water can be prevented from entering a shaft at all—at any rate can be discharged from it without the intervention of a pump, of which I well understand the rationale, but nothing more. I will, if I can get a full explanation of the method and if cheap and efficient—for depths not exceeding 100 feet, however—I will publish the particulars as soon as I learn them. JOHN PLEACE.

P. S.—The opinion has been expressed to me, that certain parts of Antler Creek, shallow, but troubled with very much water are rich. I suggest the query whether the last mentioned pump is not 'admirably adapted' for such localities?

The DeCosmos and His Pledges.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—When Mr. DeCosmos was asked to publish an address he distinctly said that it cost him $90 at the last election—leaving one to infer that this amount was paid for the address, instead of which he paid $20 only. Now, $20 is all he was asked to spend for an address on this occasion, and his long-winded letter in the *News* of the 25th inst. will not remove these facts. There is in this letter also the statement that he always carried out his pledges to the people to the utmost of his ability. Again and again have I heard him declare himself the defender and champion of the people's rights, and that he, like Garibaldi (!) was fighting for their freedom. At the time he was passing the Unconditional Union Resolutions through the House, Mr DeCosmos was reminded by Mr Burnaby, [then a member of the Legislature] that if they did not have conditions our representative institutions might be taken from us; but Mr DeCosmos scorned this wholesome advice, and what is the result? He has reduced us to the position of slaves. We have no voice in our country's affairs and we have this pink of political perfection to thank for it—this man who pledged himself the defender of the people's rights and the champion of their freedom.

Mr. DeCosmos, at his public meetings, tells the people they are intelligent gentlemen, and yet in the same breath insults them by indulging in language fit only for an audience composed of men from the back-slums of London. If they are intelligent people, as I truly believe them to be, Mr. DeCosmos may yet find it would have been better for him to have treated them as such and when speaking of his opponent before the audience he should have kept within the bounds of reason and not have given low abuse as arguments. This line of conduct is never practiced except by ignorant men. The way Mr. DeCosmos has treated the people at his public meetings shows that he believes them to be a low class.

I feel convinced the people will give Mr. Lowe fair play. They all know that if he be elected he will make one of a party who will strive to their utmost to obtain good terms before entering into Confederation with Canada, and such terms as shall be for the interests of farmers. If the electors will only use their own judgment and investigate whether Mr DeCosmos is really guilty of the accusations brought against him, I think there would be no doubt of a large majority for Mr. Lowe. ELECTOR.

"CLEANSING THE BLOOD," upon which charlatans have harped so much, is not a mere catch-word and delusion. The microscope shows that some diseases exist like parasitic growths upon the globules of the blood, and it is further known that some subtile substances destroy or expel them. These substances have been combined to make Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which does effectually expel the disorders that breed and nestle in the blood to rot out as it were the machinery of life. [Mercer (Pa.) *Whig*.] *

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The changes of temperature and weather frequently upset persons who are most cautious of their health and most particular in their diet. These corrective, purifying, and gentle aperient Pills are the best remedy for all defective actions of the digestive organs; they augment the appetite, strengthen the stomach, correct biliousness and carry off all that is noxious, from the system. Holloway's Pills are composed of rare balsams, unmixed with baser matter, and on that account are peculiarly well adapted for the young, delicate, and aged. As this peerless medicine has gained fame in the past, so will it preserve it in the future by its renovating and invigorating qualities, and its incapability of doing harm. *

IT is reported the Legi
not be called together uni