

VIEWS OF MR. MUNN ON THE CHINESE

TEXT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN IN MONTREAL

He Thinks Chinese Government Should Impose Restrictions the Same as Japanese Authorities.

Herewith is published the substance of an interview given by D. J. Munn, a member of the Oriental commission, to the Montreal Witness, which supports the views expressed in his minority report to the government. The report recommended that a treaty should be entered into with China similar to that existing with Japan, by which the latter country agrees to restrict the emigration of its subjects to Canada, and failing that a \$200 tax should first be imposed:

"In the first place," Mr. Munn said, "the people of British Columbia are a unit in opposing the further entry into that province of the Chinese immigrants. Take a vote of the whole people, high and low, and you would find unanimity on this point. The commission obtained the fullest expression of opinion possible. The women did not testify, and this, perhaps, was to be regretted, for doubtless there could have been some strong expressions of opinion and feeling on the part of the women, particularly as regards domestic service, for women have found it impossible to do their own work and attend to their children, and the Chinese had been employed as domestic servants. The women, however, would not testify. The reason was obvious. There might be irritation; there might be on the part of some rough characters, abuse. Even those who had derived benefit from the Chinese testified against their coming in. The very ministers of the gospel, with two exceptions, were opposed to any more Chinese coming into the province. They said that self-preservation was the first law of nations, and that the province had no right to receive people who would be a menace to existing conditions under which white people lived and prospered."

"Would it not have been thought that the ministers would have let the Chinese in in order to Christianize them, so that, returning in due course to their native country, they might spread the knowledge of the Christian system?" Mr. Munn answered that as regards Christianizing the Chinese in British Columbia, there were 14 Chinamen out of sixteen thousand who had, after many years of labor, embraced the gospel.

"Did the ministers complain of the vices which the Chinese are supposed to bring with them?" "No; except that they mentioned the opium habit."

"Which was imposed upon them by the British government?" "Very true; as for other vices, I do not think that they are worse than those which exist under our civilization. Indeed, I doubt if they are as bad, for the whole object of the Chinese system of life is to produce asceticism. They live abstemiously; they eat rice chiefly, and sweets; they do not eat flesh meat largely. They thus are better able to control their passions, which are fostered by the heavier diets of the Occident."

"But the objection of the ministers was this. The Chinese say, take up their abode in a certain district; they will work, they save money, but they do not marry; they do not build schools or churches; they do not improve the district. Yet their occupation of it will prevent the white man from settling there, and if the white man settled there he would build churches and schools; he would set up social and religious life, and he would improve the district from the educational, the social and the religious point of view, not to speak of material growth and expansion. There is another point. White people who would be glad to do the work which the Chinese do are told that there are sixteen thousand Chinese in the province, out of a population of one hundred and thirty thousand. That is a deterrent effect. Such people stay away. The province gets the Chinese, being a Chinese province. It prevents the settlement of the province by white people."

"Asked if Chinese labor had brought down wages in British Columbia, Mr. Munn replied that it had not; that the highest wages paid anywhere were still paid in the province, but this was a condition of things which could not endure, the more especially if there was any desire to compete with other people."

"Mr. Munn himself advocated, while upon the commission, that a tax of \$200 should be first applied, followed by a treaty restricting emigration to Canada. The treaty was not impossible."

"He thought it too bad that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should be associated with a measure which treated the Chinese like cattle. The Chinese might be weak—that is, unorganized, but they were a proud people. The United States got a treaty with the Chinese in regard to immigration. Was it fair, was it wise, to throw the Chinaman down without first approaching his government in the matter?" Sir Wilfrid had always desired the cordialization of nationalities; he had said noble things in regard to human rights; and yet his government was placing a tax upon a people who were intelligent, peaceable and industrious, a tax which practically said that if the Chinese came in it must be as cattle would come in. He had strongly urged the securing of a treaty which was not impossible. And in the course of ten years or so, if the Chinese continued to make progress in China, as they said they were doing, that treaty might be modified, and it might be possible to have the Chinese identifying themselves in a measure with the life of the country in which they settled, marrying and bringing up their families. He thought that even yet an effort should be made to secure a treaty. If that were impossible, then we could not be blamed if we protected ourselves by legislation."

"Asked if the Chinese at present in the province were a menace, Mr. Munn said

that while he would not say they were a menace, they were a serious factor. Perhaps out of the white population you had twenty-one thousand young men workers. Sixteen thousand Chinese spread over Canada would not be noticed. Lumped together in a province with a small population, it told. The proposed tax would be prohibitive."

SCHOLEFIELD RETURNED.

Effects of the All-Canadian Tour Already Being Felt in Eastern Canada.

"The tour of the All-Canadian team is already having beneficial results in Eastern Canada." This is the statement of Ken Scholefield, captain of the Victoria Rugby team, and one of the city's representatives on the team which has just completed a tour of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. Mr. Scholefield has been away for about five months, the longest time in the country's history, and he has been at points some time after the departure of the other members of the team. He took part in twelve games, but at Harrogate had to stop playing owing to blood poisoning in his stomach, which he participated five were victories for the Canadians, two were drawn and the other five defeats.

It is from observation of the present conditions in Quebec and Ontario while on his way home that Mr. Scholefield asserts that the instruction received by Eastern players in the English game through the tour is resulting in the introduction of the English game at points where before nothing but the Canadian Rugby game was played. At Montreal he saw Capt. MacLure, of the All-Canadian team, who said that in that city the women did not testify, and this, perhaps, was to be regretted, for doubtless there could have been some strong expressions of opinion and feeling on the part of the women, particularly as regards domestic service, for women have found it impossible to do their own work and attend to their children, and the Chinese had been employed as domestic servants. The women, however, would not testify. The reason was obvious. There might be irritation; there might be on the part of some rough characters, abuse. Even those who had derived benefit from the Chinese testified against their coming in. The very ministers of the gospel, with two exceptions, were opposed to any more Chinese coming into the province. They said that self-preservation was the first law of nations, and that the province had no right to receive people who would be a menace to existing conditions under which white people lived and prospered."

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A COAL FAMINE SEEMS INEVITABLE

THE PRICE HAS BEEN RAISED FIFTY CENTS

The Supply Is Limited and a Number of Dealers Are Now Looking Abroad.

A coal famine, judging from the present outlook, seems inevitable in this city. Local merchants fear such a contingency, and even now feel a stringency in the supply which may at any time cut off, not only from all the Island mines, but from the American side as well. There would be no other resource than to look to the Crow's Nest for a supply.

Already the local coal dealers realize an embarrassing position. They have advanced the price to \$9.50 to conform with the quotation which has all along prevailed in Vancouver. This disparity in prices arose from the fact that some time ago merchants of this city came together to form a supply from the mine owners, in effect that if coal was reduced 25 cents a ton to them they in turn would make a cut of 50 cents a ton to the consumer. The proposition was accepted, hence the difference of 50 cents a ton in the prices named.

From canvassing the situation this morning, a Times representative was informed by a number of merchants that they feared a shortage. In fact there is a shortage at present. Coal can only be obtained from Nanaimo in a limited quantity, and should the miners there be struck, the result of the heavy drain, in a quarter would be impossible unless the fuel obtained was screenings, of which there is an abundant stock on hand. Then Extension mines closed down it would be a result of the heavy drain, in a quarter would be impossible unless the fuel obtained was screenings, of which there is an abundant stock on hand. Then Extension mines closed down it would be a result of the heavy drain, in a quarter would be impossible unless the fuel obtained was screenings, of which there is an abundant stock on hand.

It is now claimed that the supply, as a result of the heavy drain, is becoming pretty well exhausted. Dealers have therefore to go elsewhere for what they require. The steamer Sadie this morning was sent over to the Sound for a supply of coal, and the least three days, a scow load of the precious fuel, and though she has sailed, there appears to be considerable doubt as to whether she will be successful in securing a cargo.

To bring coal here from the Crow's Nest, according to one merchant, would be to advance the price of coal \$7.50 per ton, or to bring the current quotation up to \$10.00. It is true that under an act coal has to be sold at the mine at not over \$2 a ton. It is then not screened, however, and when it is remembered that the local commodity goes through this process at least three times, it will be seen how expensive the up-country coal will become when a heavy freight charge is added to its value.

As for the Comox product, this, it is contended, is not as good for domestic purposes as other varieties, while it does not appear certain that the miners there are likely to continue to work. At the same time there are three sailing ships waiting to get cargoes. A steamer is also in port, and another is on her way for the cargo. From all these circumstances it will be seen that the coal situation is not by any means a comforting one, and a famine would seem inevitable.

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The provincial Gazette to-day contains the following list of appointments.

John Burns, of Trail, police magistrate, to act for the absent magistrate for the county of Kootenay, and magistrate under Small Debts court for said city and within radius of five miles.

Frank H. Mobley, of Atlin, to be license commissioner for Atlin licensing district, vice J. St. Clair Blackett, resigned.

John Kesley, of Cumberland, to be a member of the board of examiners for coal mines, vice W. Johnston, resigned.

An order-in-council passed at Ottawa, providing that the regulations relating to hay lands in Manitoba and the Northwest Territory shall apply to lands within the latter belt in the province of British Columbia.

Further notices that applications for coal prospecting licenses in Southeast Kootenay shall be made, appear in the issue.

The Dundonald Mining Company, Ltd., capitalized at \$250,000, is incorporated. The stock is divided into 1,000,000 shares.

The British Columbia Power & Manufacturing Company, Ltd., also is included among those certified as incorporated. Its capital is \$25,000 divided into 250 shares. It is organized to carry on an iron foundry business.

The Trites-Wood Co., Ltd., is incorporated with a capital of \$250,000, divided into 250,000 shares. The object of the company is to carry on a general mercantile business.

Another company is the Pingston Creek Lumber Company, Ltd., which is capitalized at \$15,000, divided into 150 shares. Its object is to carry on a lumber business.

Tenders for the Eburne school building are invited up to April 20th. The building is a one-story frame one.

SATISFYING MR. SMITH.
Premier's Bill Will Likely Meet With Approval of Members for S. E. Kootenay.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

At this afternoon's sitting of the House J. H. Hawthornthwaite will ask a number of questions regarding the employment of Chinese and Japanese at white men working underground.

It is expected that when the adjournment is taken this evening that the House will stand adjourned until Tuesday. By that time, it is said, the estimates will be ready for presentation to

the legislature, and may be expected to satisfy E. C. Smith, M. P., that the government do not intend to sacrifice the coal and oil lands of Southeast Kootenay. That no sacrifice of these should take place has been made an essential feature of that member's support of the government. The Premier's bill looks like an attempt to satisfy the member for Southeast Kootenay of his readiness to comply with that member's wishes in this respect.

A WELL-KNOWN FIRM OF GROCERS ASSIGN

Business of Erskine, Wall & Co. Taken Over by Creditors—Receiver Is in Charge.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

As will be seen by a formal notice in the advertisement columns of this paper the firm of Messrs. Erskine, Wall & Co., the well known grocers, doing business on the corner of Government and Broughton streets, have assigned to J. Lawson, son, representing R. P. Riddet & Co., and Messrs. F. W. Todd & Sons, a receiver, Mr. R. Riddet, of the former concern, was appointed to-day, taking charge of the establishment early this afternoon.

This time trouble came as a surprise to the general public, the majority of whom never thought for an instant of questioning the ability of Erskine, Wall & Co. to hold their own in the commercial world. The business was one of the largest of its kind in the city, and the popular impression was that the trade was proportionately extensive and profitable. It is understood, however, that heavy book debts proved a crippling factor, while another circumstance, a very deplorable one, involved the loss of several thousand dollars.

This was the unfortunate disaster to H. M. S. Condon, which occurred considerably over a year ago. The store, for the last and ill-fated voyage of this vessel had been purchased from Erskine, Wall & Co., and the loss of the ship knocked the account on the head. Under the terms of the purchase, the store would stand good for the amount involved, the firm's solicitors communicated with Lord Strathcona and J. H. Turner on the subject. The former apparently submitted to the firm the creditors, and the latter, who was in charge of the vessel, had been purchased from Erskine, Wall & Co., and the loss of the ship knocked the account on the head. Under the terms of the purchase, the store would stand good for the amount involved, the firm's solicitors communicated with Lord Strathcona and J. H. Turner on the subject. 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