

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY

A GOOD BEGINNING.

Alfred Holland's resolution with respect to the Indian reserve is an excellent one and we trust that it will be acted upon promptly. That the Indian reserve should be within the city's limits is not good either for the Indians or the citizens. The worthy alderman's resolution is the first step towards providing for their peaceable and equitable removal. The land is needed by the city and should be at its disposal. It is not right that so large a part of the city's area and that, too, with much more than the average proportion of water front should be locked up with no prospect of its being improved either by its owners or the city.

We are glad to see that it is proposed to give the Indians fair value for their right to occupy the land. The disposition of the purchase money is an after consideration. Some of the Indians themselves, have, we think, indicated how it can be invested with the greatest advantage to the members of the tribe. What Ald. Holland said about cutting away a portion of the reserve, which is an obstruction to navigation, and using the soil excavated and dredged for the purpose of raising the James Bay flats, is well worthy of consideration. It is necessary to transform those useless and foul-smelling flats into dry and healthy sites for buildings. By transferring the land near the railway bridge to the flats a double purpose will be served. The harbor will be improved considerably, and the area of James Bay east of the bridge will be utilized and made very valuable.

The new Council in suggesting improvements so necessary and of such great value, is beginning well. If it carries out what it has designed, it will be the most useful Council that ever managed the affairs of this city. That its members will not be satisfied with merely talking about the reforms and changes that are required, we are convinced. "Deeds, not words," is evidently the motto of the majority of the new Council.

ENGLISH OPINION.

The London Times is, at last, paying some attention to Canada. Hitherto, the Thunderer appeared to think Canadian affairs of very little importance. Its information as to what was going on in the Dominion was filtered through a correspondent living in Philadelphia, whose sources of information did not appear to be either very numerous or very trustworthy. Of late, Canada has risen in the estimation of the Times. It seems now to know what is going on in this country, and its correspondents have been able to gauge Canadian public opinion on various questions with some degree of accuracy.

In an able and comprehensive review of the state of the colonies, the writer says with respect to the influence of the McKinley tariff and the efforts which the Government of the Dominion are making to counteract the effects of that piece of restrictive and, as regards Canada, unfriendly legislation.

"The hostile tariff was received as a dividing fence between Canada and the United States, and the colony turned its face resolutely towards home. The spirit shown by Canada, under the circumstances, has been such as to awaken a warm answering sentiment in this country. Estimating the losses which her trade is likely to suffer from the American duties, she has set herself to recover the balance elsewhere, and chiefly within the empire. To this end she has entered into negotiations for reciprocal commercial advantages with the West Indies, and is feeling her way to some similar agreement with the United States. She has also shown much energy in the endeavor to open up markets for farm and dairy produce in this country, and is offering every inducement to colonists to settle in the fertile agricultural lands of Manitoba. Active negotiations have also been carried on for the development of lines of communication both by rail and by sea. The first steamer of a new fast line already established between Vancouver, China and Japan will leave Liverpool on the 15th of this month, and the Canadian Government is in treaty for the establishment of a fast Atlantic service of four 20-knot twin-screw steamers between Great Britain and Canada. These steamers would run from London and Plymouth to Halifax and Quebec, and connect with the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk and other railway systems. They will, if the scheme is carried out, be supplemented by a Pacific service running between British Columbia and the Australian colonies, which will consist, to begin with, of three twin-screw steamers of not less than 16 knots. The steamers of this service will perform the passage across the Pacific in from 18 to 20 days, and will be able, if necessary, to reach the nearest Australian port from Vancouver in 14 days. This brings the coastmost districts of the continent within little more than a fortnight of each other, and the total length of the journey from London through Canada to Australia by this route will be 32 days. The ships will carry mails, and will be subsidized by the Government of Great Britain, Canada and Australia. They also, as is the case with the line running between Vancouver and Japan, form a part of the scheme of imperial defence, and will be specially designed as fast armed cruisers and transport ships. They will be built under the supervision of the Admiralty, and fully provided with all the necessary gun platforms and fittings.

It is also intended that they shall be, as far as possible, manned by crews of the Royal Naval Reserve. The scheme has not yet been presented for the acceptance of Her Majesty's Government, but the Canadian Government has already voted its share of the subsidy. The views of the Australian Government are understood to be generally favorable, and the endeavor to carry this matter through will probably be the first Canadian undertaking of the year.

It is evident that the spirit of self-reliance which the Government of Canada has displayed in this crisis has won for Canadians the respect of thinking men in Great Britain. It must be remembered that the opinion of the Times on a matter of this kind is generally that of a very large proportion of the most intelligent as well as the most influential of the people of Great Britain.

THE RIGHT WAY.

The Indian who told a *Colonist* reporter that the men of the Songish tribe do not want a reserve, but would gladly sell out and buy homes for themselves, indicated very clearly the solution of the Indian difficulty, not only in Victoria, but in every part of this continent. Having the Indians on reserves is the very worst thing that can be done with them. Forming an isolated community, they perpetuate the tribal feeling, their wild notions, their language, and the improvident habits they have inherited. The best friends of the Indians have been long trying to persuade them to hold land in severalty, to settle upon their own farms and to cultivate them as white men do. But the Indians like their wild ways too well to change them readily. A few, here and there, have taken farms and adopted the white man's mode of living, to a certain extent, and they have done very well; but the great majority are too much attached to Indian habits and have too great a distaste for continuous hard work to become either cultivators of the soil or raisers of stock.

But here we have a tribe who are desirous to live as white men do. Each member of it wants to own land in his own right, to cultivate it for himself and to take upon himself the duties and responsibilities of a free citizen. Would it not be well to treat these men as they want to be treated? Let part of the consideration for their right to the land, that, for want of a more appropriate name had been called "a reserve," be farms situated in places selected by the Indians themselves, not necessarily all in one block, but detached, some of them perhaps many miles apart. We think that with the consent and cooperation of the Dominion Government this could be easily done. If the Provincial Government buys the reserve the Indians might be allowed to choose farms on the island or the mainland. The public domain is large and these few Indians might be allowed a free choice. If the city buys the land directly from the Indians, with the consent of the Dominion Government, farms might be bought for them, with the purchase money wherever they wished to settle. We believe that the business could be so managed that the Indians settled on farms of their own would be very much better off than they are now, and they would be free from many influences that keep them in their present unsatisfactory condition. Persons who know the British Columbia Indians well, say that those who believe them to be stupid and unimprovable make a very great mistake. Many of them are sharp and shrewd, and if they were in favorable circumstances, could they have their own against white men, whose opportunities were no better. The plan of making them self-dependent property owners is, we think, a very promising one. The experiment ought to be tried. It may result in a very great improvement of the condition of the owners of the reserve, and if it fails after a fair trial they will not be a great deal worse off than they are now.

That the Indians on the reserve must go is a foregone conclusion. The only question that is to be considered is how shall they be removed? Is not the way that they themselves have chosen the very best that could be suggested—best for the Indians themselves as well as for the citizens of Victoria?

A POLITICIAN.

The elevation of Governor Hill of New York to the Senate was expected. Governor Hill is a skillful politician. He, better than any New Yorker, knows how to work the machine. It is said that he worked it so well that in order to secure his election to the Governorship he spoiled Mr. Cleveland's chances of being President for a second term. Both men were Democrats, this was not exactly what high-minded men consider loyal or patriotic. But the ways of politicians of Senator Hill's stamp are not to be judged by a high standard. When it came to be a question whether he should be Governor of New York or Cleveland should be President of the United States, Hill, having control of the voting machine, did not hesitate to sacrifice Cleveland. It is said that Hill's election to the Senate has been effected to take him out of Cleveland's way when the time comes for nominating a Democratic candidate for the Presidency. If this was the bargain, Senator

Hill will very likely keep it. Before the nominating convention is held, the machine will be in other hands. The machine is a local institution, and is worked chiefly by men who take a leading part in state politics. A United States Senator who has held his seat for over a year is almost out of the swim. Other hands have been pulling the wires, and the new men will not, when the presidential election comes round, be willing to put the machine into the hands of the old engineer. They will insist upon working it to please themselves. The chances are, therefore, that Hill's transference to the Senate will make Cleveland's nomination a sure thing. There is no other candidate in sight.

A GOOD MEASURE.

The Libel Bill, which Mr. Beaven has introduced, will be found, on examination, to be a fair and reasonable measure. It does no injustice to any member of the community, while it protects the publishers of newspapers against malicious and frivolous prosecutions.

It declares that there shall be no presumption of malice. The third section provides that no action for libel shall be brought or maintained, unless the person who considers that he has been libelled shall have requested the newspaper proprietor to publish a retraction or correction.

The fourth section requires the person believing himself to be injured, to give the publisher a notice in writing, specifying the statements complained of.

The sixth section makes reports of meetings, duly advertised, privileged.

The seventh does the same for reports of the proceedings of Courts of Justice, provided they are fair and authentic and without comment.

Section eight provides that actions for libel shall be tried in the city or town or electoral district in which the newspaper is published.

Section nine gives the publisher the privilege of requiring security for costs in certain circumstances, and with certain qualifications. The presumption of malice is as unjust and as unreasonable as anything can possibly be. To presume that the publisher of a periodical, the object of which is to give the public accounts of what occurs in the world, that is worthy of note, is actuated by malice is simply absurd. In the first place, he does not know, and can have heard nothing of, the great majority of the persons who are noticed in one way or other in his newspaper. In the second place, it is simply impossible for him to see or know anything of the articles, reports and paragraphs that appear in its columns. The editors and reporters are very much in the same position. They cannot, in the nature of things, regard with malice one out of a thousand of the persons whose sayings and doings it is their business to record and comment upon. They regard the great mass of them with perfect indifference. They neither love them nor hate them, and they smile at the absurdity of the presumption that they entertain any feeling of malice with respect to them. But to the responsible head of the establishment this presumption, which is a legal fiction invented by old-time lawyers, who looked upon newspapers and all connected with them, with dislike and suspicion, is no laughing matter. It is really a reproach to the legislators of these days, who profess to be liberal and to act according to the dictates of common sense, that it is allowed to remain a principle of law in actions for libel.

As a matter of fact the presumption is really the other way, there is not one case in ten thousand in which the publisher is actuated by malice. He, and those whom he employs, have no desire to injure any one. Their interest is to please as many of their readers as possible and to give no one a reasonable ground to complain that he has been injured personally by what appears in their newspaper. The fair presumption therefore is that in what they publish, they have no desire either to offend or injure any member of the community, but rather the reverse.

Every fair-minded man will admit that it is only reasonable to give a publisher an opportunity to retract, or correct, or explain, any statement made in his newspaper that may be regarded as injurious, and that the retraction, or correction, should be taken into consideration when damages are assessed.

To hold a newspaper publisher responsible for what may have been said by a speaker at a public meeting, or for the statements made in any resolution which may have been submitted, is so manifestly unjust that in these days no one thinks of taking advantage of the state of the law which leaves such publisher open to prosecution for what appears in a fair report of the proceedings of such a meeting. But it is fair to leave him without protection in publishing what is considered legitimate news, for there is so urgent a demand that the editor who would refuse to publish it would be condemned by the public as unenterprising and as unfit for his business.

The same remarks apply to the reports of the proceedings of Courts of Justice—

made, Tory and Liberal, Radical and Socialist will forget their differences and unite to uphold the Protestant Succession as established by the constitution more than two hundred years ago. In the Bill of Rights, which is as dear to the English patriot as the Magna Charta itself, the principle of Protestant Succession is embodied, and the first sentence in the Act of Settlement by virtue of which Queen Victoria holds the sceptre of the Empire of Great Britain, contains the following clause: "That whoever would hereafter come to the possession of this Crown, shall join communion with the Church of England, by law established." Considering how highly this provision of the Constitution is prized by the British, as a nation we are not surprised to see that Mr. Gladstone has hastened to let the world know that he had nothing whatever to do with Sir John Pope Hennessy's motion. The fact that he is politically connected with the mover of such a motion will lower Mr. Gladstone in the estimation of the people of England.

Everyone should be protected from frivolous and vexatious lawsuits. The newspaper proprietor needs this protection more than any one else. He, more than anyone, is exposed to lawsuits, or blackmail or revenge. Anyone who chooses to consider himself libelled by what appears in a newspaper, and who wants to annoy its owner, can, with the aid of an unscrupulous lawyer, enter an action against him, and put him to considerable expense. There may not really be any ground of action. The suit may know very well, but he hoping to scare the journalist into making a compromise, or desiring to put him to much expense as possible allows the proceedings to go on. When the case is tried and the verdict is against the plaintiff he is quite happy. He has nothing, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has put the man on whom he has taken his revenge to much annoyance and considerable expense. All this could have been avoided by the plaintiff being required to give security for costs. Mr. Beaven's bill is so framed that the demand for security for costs cannot be made a device to deprive the poor man, who has a good case, of a remedy for the injury which has been inflicted on him. It will put a stop to those actions only, the motives of which are malicious and mercenary.

We do not wish to see newspaper proprietors protected, in wrong-doing. We believe that the man who wantonly tries to injure the reputation or the business of his neighbor by spreading false reports deserves to be severely punished. We have no desire to screen such an offender, let him be whom he may. All that, we think, ought to be done is to protect the publishers of newspapers from manifest injustice. This, we believe, Mr. Beaven's bill does. It does not go quite as far as we would like, but we hail it as an installment of justice, and we believe that it will recommend itself to the good sense and the love of fair play of the members of the Legislature.

PROTESTANT SUCCESSION.

We are not in the least surprised to learn that the amendment to Mr. Gladstone's motion, made by Sir John Pope Hennessy, to the effect that the Sovereign of Great Britain and Ireland should be permitted to be a Roman Catholic, met with the most uncompromising opposition from the members on both sides of the House, and was received with loudly expressed indignation by the nation generally. The people of Great Britain have become exceedingly tolerant. Religious disabilities have been almost entirely removed. Men of all creeds, and of no creed at all, are eligible for almost every office in the gift of the people. But although the people of Great Britain have become very liberal, indeed, in all matters relating to religion, they do not for a moment forget that Great Britain is essentially a Protestant nation. The great majority of the people are proud of their Protestantism, and a very great many of them believe that the freedom of the nation, its prosperity and its greatness depend upon its remaining Protestant. Many Englishmen who smile at the hatred expressed by their great-grandfathers of "Popery and wooden shoes," would not listen for a moment to such a proposition as Sir John Pope Hennessy has the boldness to make in Parliament. "Popery" has not the terrors for them that it had for their fathers, but they, nevertheless, feel that Protestant succession is a part of the British Constitution, with which it would be most unwise and imprudent to meddle. Men who are not religious and who have very little respect for sacred things, who pious Protestants regard as things, would vehemently oppose permitting an avowed Roman Catholic to become the occupant of the British throne. So strong is this feeling in favor of Protestantism, and so general is it, that we would not be surprised to find that Sir John Pope Hennessy has raised such a storm about his ears and has called forth such an expression of public opinion as will very effectively prevent any one following his example for many a long day. When considering this proposition he has

made, Tory and Liberal, Radical and Socialist will forget their differences and unite to uphold the Protestant Succession as established by the constitution more than two hundred years ago. In the Bill of Rights, which is as dear to the English patriot as the Magna Charta itself, the principle of Protestant Succession is embodied, and the first sentence in the Act of Settlement by virtue of which Queen Victoria holds the sceptre of the Empire of Great Britain, contains the following clause: "That whoever would hereafter come to the possession of this Crown, shall join communion with the Church of England, by law established." Considering how highly this provision of the Constitution is prized by the British, as a nation we are not surprised to see that Mr. Gladstone has hastened to let the world know that he had nothing whatever to do with Sir John Pope Hennessy's motion. The fact that he is politically connected with the mover of such a motion will lower Mr. Gladstone in the estimation of the people of England.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

MR. W. A. ROBERTSON'S letter to the City Council, recommending to their favorable consideration the pitiful condition of the survivors of the "renowned Six Hundred," is well worthy the attention of both the City Councillors and the citizens generally. It is a reproach to the Government and the people of Great Britain that these brave men, who faced almost certain death in the service of their country, should be allowed to drag out what remains of their existence in penury and want. These men are now unable to fight the "Battle of Life." Age has robbed them of their strength and care and sorrow have broken their spirit. They, when they were in their prime, gave the best they had to their country. Their country, now that want has come upon them like an armed man, should do something in their old age for them. It would take very little to make the short piece of life's road which they have still to travel smooth and easy for them. If the Government of their country neglects them and refuses to give them that little, their fellow subjects who admire courage, and who believe that England still expects every man to do his duty, should let the gallant old fellows see that their countrymen, far and near, do not forget them. Let Victorians show their sympathy and appreciation in a substantial way.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR:—The reason why agriculture makes such slow progress in Vancouver Island is that the land is heavily timbered, not easily accessible, and, in addition, not easily mapped, for which reason it is very difficult to find a claim. The absence of settlement is not due to the land laws, for, within the past forty years, every kind and description have, in various parts of the island, been made available. To these may be added the modern craze for residence in cities. The labor and expense of clearing are the chief obstacles to progress. To make one acre of timbered land fit for the plough, costs, even with Chinese labor, about one hundred dollars. If a farmer, then, clears an acre of land and makes it fit for cultivation, he is spending by his own labor one hundred dollars. Can he realize one hundred dollars if he wishes to sell? The answer is no, excepting near the city, or some other popular centre. One can scarcely be expected to clear more than two acres in one year, for, remember, he has to live, and for this purpose to cultivate what other prepared land he may have. If a man, then, has 120 acres, it will take him sixty years at this rate to make the whole useful. Of course if a man speaking of heavily timbered land. How little, then, has the Government price of land to do with settlement. The obstruction to agricultural progress stares one in the face, it is the cost and difficulty of clearing the land. Timbered land then for agricultural purposes may be considered worthless. Of course, if a man has a few acres of prairie, older bottom or easily drained swamp, he can begin therewith and do very well. The cost of the actual necessities of life are not great; the artificial wants are what make living expensive.

How, then, can settlement on such lands be promoted or procured and production increased? Remember the great want is a labor supply. The Government should give a liberal bonus to everyone who renders one acre of heavily timbered land fit for the plough? The land is the estate of the government of the country (i.e., all that has not been sold), how can they make it profitable to the country? Let the government prepare to borrow, say a quarter of a million, and with this money render productive three thousand acres of land! It is true that the interest on this money would be ten thousand dollars per annum. This interest would be a charge on the cleared land. Could they sell this land at one thousand dollars per acre? Could they rent this land at five dollars per acre? This, however, is hardly the way to look at a question involving the improvement of the country. If they want to get this price they must make the clearing easily accessible, and have a market ready. Does not this mean a railway? Of course the aid might also be rendered in the form of the stump puller to rot—they would only take a quarter of a century to do it! It is, however, another course which might be followed, viz., build farm houses on desirable lands, and having cleared two or three acres of the latter, rent the whole claim with a promise to sell at a given figure simply covering the cost of the improvement. It is a well known fact that if a man can find a claim of this kind, he is willing and anxious to take it, stick to it and go on clearing more land. He will pay the rent, because he has the power to buy, which also means to sell his lease. The rent of such an improved claim would not exceed thirty-five dollars per annum. There is, however, another way of looking at the matter. Three thousand acres of land will produce about ninety thousand bushels or two thousand seven hundred tons of wheat, the value of which

amounts to about one hundred thousand dollars. Mind, when once the land has been cleared, it will produce this or some other equally valuable crop annually. The interest to be paid out of this is ten thousand dollars, leaving ninety thousand dollars for working expenses. What would the working expenses amount to? I do not know. Three thousand acres of cultivated land will yield a very good living to one hundred farmers and their families, so that the country would have so many more "settlers." Doubtless each farmer would make the land produce more than he has reckoned, because dairy husbandry and so forth would yield larger income. Of course, there would be a little larger outlay. Each farmer of thirty acres would have to pay about one hundred and twenty dollars per annum rent to the government, until he bought out his allotment.

The above are cogitations only. Business and privileges are offered people who will erect industries profitable to the country. Why should not the same be applicable to people who will clear the lands? Of course it may be said that agricultural products may be brought from foreign countries without all this trouble. We know this to be our sorrow to be so. If this had not been so easy, if people had been necessitated to grow their own provender, Vancouver Island would have been better off today.

If we are to have a resident productive agricultural population in Vancouver Island, the government must encourage it in some material shape or other. I have seen every kind of land policy pursued without effect. It is of no use inviting immigrants to settle in the forests without having first made a clearing for them. Of course, it is supposed that when any one buys a portion of the cleared land the money paid will be applied to the clearing of other land and so forth.

J. S. HELMCKEN.

TO THE EDITOR:—I would like to call your attention and that of the public to a matter which is of considerable importance, bearing directly, as it does, on the preservation of the public health, and reflecting most unfavorably on the action of the sanitary officer. About two weeks ago a large dog was found poisoned on a vacant lot adjoining No. 95 Kingston street, and the sanitary officer was notified of the fact, but took no action whatever to remove it. Since that time he has been repeatedly called out in the neighborhood, and serious consequences would result, if the present officer neglects his duties now, it is only reasonable to infer that he will do so then, when the consequences of such negligence might prove fatal.

C. E.

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A NUISANCE.

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C. E.

KAMLOOPS NOTES.

Funeral of the Late James McArthur—The Electric Light Proving a Boon—Slight Fall of Snow—Weddings, Etc.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

One of the largest funeral corteges witnessed in Kamloops was that of Sunday last, when the late James McArthur was interred. Deceased, who died after a brief illness of little over one week, was well and favorably known in the district, and was but 26 years of age. He was married last March, and his young widow survives him. The funeral procession was headed by the local brass band playing the Dead March in *S. O. F.*, followed by the members of the *S. O. F.*, of which deceased was one of the charter members, and the general public walking four deep. At the brief service held in the Presbyterian church Mrs. McArthur fainted twice, and was removed to a friend's house not far distant. The greatest sympathy was felt for the widow and relatives of the deceased.

The introduction of electric light into Kamloops is proving a great boon, and it is expected that the town will be lit up by powerful are lights, two of which are now placed in position in the streets. The incandescent system is that applied to business and private houses.

The citizens of Kamloops have resolved to make the members of the local volunteer fire brigade their guests at a ball to be held on Thursday evening next. The affair promises to be a great success, active preparation is being made for it.

Mr. J. H. Baker, eldest son of the late Major Alfred Baker, Bengal Civil Service, was on Monday married to the widow of the late Mr. Thomas Elwyn, of Victoria. The marriage ceremony took place in the Episcopal church, Rev. A. Shidrick officiating.

Mr. W. G. Sutherland, a conductor on the C.P.R., has returned to town with his bride. He was married on the 4th inst. at Berwick, N.S., to Maie Seldon, youngest daughter of H. C. Masters, M.P.

The second fall of snow since winter set in was enjoyed on Thursday. It fell to a depth of half an inch, and had almost disappeared before nightfall. Not since 1876 has there been so mild a winter. On none of the ranges of this district has hard frosts been found necessary this winter. Cattle are thriving in the open, with plenty of grass.

January 28th.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and fretfully nursing your crying baby? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mother's Friend" for your little one. It will soothe and cure your baby's colic, teething, its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little creature of all its troubles. Depend upon it, mothers there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates Bowels, soothes the Wind, Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives relief to the whole system. "Mother's Friend" is a safe and reliable remedy for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the best medicine for children in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mother's Friend" and take no other kind.

Shylock.

No Shadow of Doubt.

No sane person doubts that what we say of B. B. B. is true. The evidence of its power to cure is so overwhelming that it is almost certain that B. B. B. will cure dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache, neuralgia and all blood diseases.

WEST KOOTENAY MINES.

The Wonderful Future of the Kootenay Lake Mines—Bottle of T. A. Portland Cement—Urgent Request.

J. E. Boss, manager of the North-western Sampling and Milling Company, who is spending a few days in this city, is well acquainted with the mineral locations of West Kootenay, having spent two seasons in that district. Mr. Boss has seen Montana and Idaho grow from non-producing barren territories into those which now furnish many millions of dollars annually, and he is confident that he will witness as great a change in the Kootenay Lake region as that which has taken place in the American continent, while the Toad Mountain silver lodes comprise the most wonderful mineral deposits in the Northwest. If such a change is to come to pass in any quantity, it would have a population of five thousand within a year. As it is the Kootenay Lake mines have created great excitement among the mining men of the States. Many of them have become financially interested in these mines, and have already begun to build up the necessary facilities. The building of roads to the various camps is the most urgent necessity of the district to-day. It would be impossible to ship ore in any quantity from the mines this summer unless these roads were provided. One hundred thousand dollars could be profitably disbursed in the construction of roads and trails, though it is, perhaps, too much to expect that the government with so small a revenue could devote this large sum to the district. Still, in Mr. Boss' opinion, it would be a handsome investment for the province. If roads were built to meet the demand it would mean a development unexampled in the quartz mining history of the province, and in a year or two the expenditure would be more than repaid in revenues from the population of the district.

Mr. Boss also thought that it was the duty of Victorians to interest themselves financially in the district, and encourage the work of opening it up in every way possible. By doing so they would simply be making a strong bid for its trade, which, as they knew by past experience with Cariboo, would be a very large and profitable one. Encouragement given the district at this stage of its existence would be a fine lasting gratitude. If roads were built, so as to bring ore to Nelson, and his associates would immediately erect a sampling works, and purchase the ore at that point, the works to have a total capacity of 200 tons daily, when in full class running order. This would be of immense benefit in opening up the mines, for it would enable everyone to secure the assay value of their ore at home.

Mr. Boss could not speak too highly of the worth of the mineral resources of Kootenay Lake district, and he expected to see the famous first mine turn out millions of dollars in the course of a short time. Machinery was now going in to facilitate the work of getting out ore and thoroughly opening up the property. While this was the case, the value of the property was discovered, there were many other sections where the ore bodies were rich and extensive. In the Hot Springs camp, on Goat River, Trail Creek and other points, fine prospects had been secured. As he before said, cheap transportation was the one thing wanting to start extensive development, and he trusted, in the interest of the district and the province, that the Government would see their way clear to make the expenditure necessary to furnish the desired facilities.

Neck-tie socials, bonnet hops, "cake walks" and "pillow dances" have been among the recent methods, by means of which entertainments have been improvised, and some of them have proved remarkably successful and attractive. Among other ventures a number of gay and festive, and at the same time practical, young gentlemen are talking of having what is in effect a "Dance Society." It is proposed that it shall be called "The Dancers," and it may be followed by that operation. The affair is to be a masked one, the young fellows provide the entire entertainment, to which it is proposed for them to invite their friends. Each of the gentlemen will bring with him a small parcel containing a gift, and each will be required to make a duplicate to be given. One of these is retained by the owner, while the other is to be given to some of the ladies visitors, who are expected to present it and claim her parcel, with which she will deal as she sees fit. The lady shall be obliged to accept the attentions of the gentleman who possesses the number corresponding with her own; but she will be in honor bound to carry out her obligations with respect to the clothing. Some people who have been spoken to on the subject, express considerable interest in it, and the idea may not be carried into practical shape. However, when the matter fairly comes up, this paragraph will assist in its being the better understood. Who knows in what it may result?—lovely young men made mad by the "Dance Society" with but one single thought given an uniform "entire,"—an ample amount of amusement for the time being, without either of the number being, unless both are anxious to ascertain all about it, knowing why the other is.

The World Enriched.

The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and when Syrup of Figs was first produced the world was enriched with the only perfect laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the Spring time or, in fact, at any time and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

Color of Natural Wool.

There are certain fallacies as to the color of natural wool, and of natural silk, too, for matter, so that a furrier is very complicitous to keep his "natural" underwear of a decided gray color, his "natural" silk dress of a rich pink, which he, furthermore, is expected to verify as being the natural color of the undyed thread, says the *Colonist*. Now, many a long hour's soaking in water, and the following, will be sufficient to acquire the "natural" color demanded by the public, and the customer is so used to the deception which he consistently false notion compels the manufacturer to practice, that he would believe the real, undyed fabric genuine if he saw it.

Learning by Ear.

Pupils who learn "by ear," without thought as to the meaning of the words, are to be pitied. Recent teacher in the grammar school, one of her boys: "What is the meaning of 'topaz'?" "A topaz," said the boy, "is where the mules walk when drawing a canal boat."

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