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A BRIGHT FUTURE.

There is no section in the mining world that has a brighter future than Southern British Columbia. The onward march of development can be observed all over the face of the country from the Rocky mountains to the Similkameen, and from the southern boundary line to Cariboo. From every point that has been prospected in this vast area good tidings of the discovery and development of valuable mining properties are coming in so frequently that it is difficult to keep in touch with them owing to their large number. So extensive are the deposits of mineral that it almost seems that the country is paved with gold, silver, copper and lead. The deposits are being opened with great energy, and judging by the number of railway charters which the next legislature will be called upon to grant, this rich and extensive mining section is to be fairly gridironed with roads, so that every portion will be made accessible and, as a consequence, its different varieties of ores placed in a condition so that they can be marketed. New smelters are promised here and there, and these with those that have already been constructed, will give the miner an opportunity to have his ore reduced at points not too remote from the places of production. Besides this, many points hitherto too remote from transportation to have their products marketed at a profit are being brought into closer touch with the railways. This will result in an increase in the output and an enlarged employment of men, not only in mining and smelting, but in the other industries that are germane to mining, such as the making of machinery and the furnishing of all sorts of supplies and products used in mining and smelting, and by the people engaged in those occupations.

One of the side issues that will spring up in connection with the development of mining in this section will be that of farming. The fertile valleys that lie between the mountains here offer excellent agricultural possibilities. Those that are not now occupied by farmers will be, and they will be systematically tilled for the reason that the mines in the mountains close by offer the best market for farm products of all kinds. The raising of cattle, too, will find large vacant areas here and there suited to his business, and will make it profitable with so good a market as that given by the mining population.

With an assured increase in the output of the precious metal mines, a certain augmentation in the number of men employed, with a large market for the products of the farm and the range, a better business for the merchant, professional man and banker, and plenty on all sides, as great as the prosperity of Southern British Columbia is at present, it is certain to be infinitely greater in the years that are to come.

THE COPPER MARKET.

The copper market gains steadily in strength. Lake copper is now firm on a basis of 12 3-4 cents the pound, with other grades in proportion. A feature of the situation is the scarcity of offerings. During the past month producers have held the whip hand without question, and they have not been slow to take advantage of their position. It is known that consumers of the middle states have within the past few days scoured the market with a view of getting concessions, but without effect. On every hand there has been uniform firmness, and it is conceded that an imperative order for any great amount of copper, deliverable during the next six months, could not be obtained at ruling prices. It is freely predicted in various quarters that the metal will advance to 13 cents and above within the immediate future. A number of the principal producers are apparently sold up well into future months, and yet it is claimed that some of the heaviest consumers have not yet stocked up. The statement in a current weekly market letter that lake copper is now selling on a basis of 13 cents the pound might be all right one

week from now, but at the moment it is premature. Copper is still obtainable in certain quarters at 12 3-4 cents, and according to New York advices a few small speculative lots have been offered at 12 5-8 cents. Copper interests are quite generally agreed that 13 cent copper is not far away, but it is not yet here.

SUCCESS OF THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

The people of British Columbia have at length awakened to the necessity of devising a means whereby the mal-administration of their affairs shall be stopped and whereby the splendid resources of the Province shall be developed on sensible lines.

The organization of the new mining association, with representatives of all the interests affected by the welfare of the mining industry, will create a power in the land which must be listened to by any government in power.

Local branches of the association have already been formed in many districts. Delegates have been selected at Revelstoke, Fort Steele, Aspen Grove, Nicola Lake, Texada, Camp McKinley, Lillooet, Ashcroft, Cowichan and other places. At Victoria and Vancouver the number of available delegates has been found to be so large that the only question is what limit is to be assigned to the number admissible.

The delay which has occurred in appointing delegates from Rosland, Nelson, Grand Forks, Phoenix, Greenwood and the Slokan, has been due to the desire of the executive committee that Mr. Hobson, the leading spirit of the movement, might have an opportunity of being present at the meeting to explain the objects of the association and to give his personal experience of the benefit which accrued to all the inhabitants of California by the formation of the California Miners' association.

It is indeed a very pleasing compliment that Mr. Hobson has paid to the Kootenay district, in selecting it as the single district of British Columbia wherein he would personally address the public during the few days he has at his disposal. It is to the working classes especially that he wishes to speak. Had it been possible for him to be present a little earlier, the fiasco at the little Ymir meeting could not have occurred, as all the requisite information about the movement would have been given to those half dozen wisacres and they would not have so stultified themselves.

Most of the cities of Kootenay will hold their public meetings next week, and there is not a shadow of doubt that a strong and enthusiastic delegation from each will assemble at Victoria on the 25th.

THE BOUNDARY TREATY.

Some predictions were falsified by the U. S. senate promptly ratifying the treaty respecting the Alaskan boundary. Now the vexed question will go before the tribunal provided for, to consist of three jurists representing Canada and three representing the United States. The character of the proposed tribunal is a most unusual one, since there is no provision for an umpire, and a decision either one way or the other can only be reached by one of the representatives being convinced that the opposing case is right. If the three men on each side hold out there will be no decision, in which event the United States will of course hold on to the territory. Some politicians and papers on the other side assume that no matter what may be the strength of the Canadian case there is no chance of any one of the U. S. commissioners recognizing its validity and agreeing to a verdict in the least degree favoring Canada. On the other hand, they say, the commissioners to be appointed by the Imperial government will very likely be ready to accede to the United States' contentions. That is to say, the United States may win, but cannot possibly lose. This way of talking seems to carry a gross insult to the prospective commissioners on the American side, who are represented in advance as unjust and hopelessly prejudiced. The jurists to be nominated, say these people, are to be men whose decision will be arrived at in advance and whose ears will be hermetically closed to the evidence on Canada's side, however strong it may be. In short, they are to be actual rascals. That is surely a shameful thing to say in advance of men who are expected to deal with a grave international question, and it would be wrong to accept such a reflection on the national character as correct until there is evidence in its support. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer's valuation of the morals of American jurists may possibly be right, but we should prefer to assume that three honorable men will be appointed, who will deal with the matter in a judicial spirit. The evidence may go so decidedly against the Canadian case that only a verdict in favor of the United States will be possible. In that event the Canadian commissioners may be depended on to approve such verdict, and Canada will have to yield to the inevitable as gracefully as may be. We have surely a good right to expect that the same spirit of fairness and justice will prevail among the American commissioners.

FOOLISH SCIENCE.

Christian Science is rapidly progressing. To its utter contempt for disease it has added supreme contempt for law. Man's ailments being mythical, imaginary and altogether unworthy of material attention, man's laws are likewise but a state of mind; a mere "claim." In fact, perhaps the most foolish laws of all are those of the health board. With narrow-minded ignorance and medieval superstition, they were framed as safeguards against epidemic, contagion and other human fancies, the absurdity of which becomes at once apparent. Disease not existing, contagion through its spread is impossible. Epidemic, consequently, can never occur. Hence, the laughable position of the health authorities and the absolute indifference with which their orders may be received. When the man who breaks a leg gets up and runs away, when teething tots intuitively cry for Mother Eddy's portrait, when ambulances, abandoning liniment, carry copies of "Science and Health," then may we expect this novel understanding. Until then, however, health laws are here to be obeyed and the Christian Scientist who deliberately disregards them, as do those who fail to report contagious disease, merits the severest punishment which the law is capable of inflicting. In so far as Christian Science is a religious belief, this country's freedom gives it full sway. In a like measure, liberty protects the man who wishes "Science" to cure his appendicitis. As a religion, Christian Science has equal rights with Methodism, Catholicism or any other sect. As a cure for illness, also, it may exist as long as homeopathy and osteopathy, if it gets enough support. But when Christian Scientists endanger the health and life of people outside their own cult by loftily disregarding public rules and regulations, they sink to the level of lawlessness and enter the criminal class.

Christian Science, according to its devotees, recognizes the Divine law only, but it is a poor compliment to Divinity when law breaking, in human affairs, is made a part of the faith. The healer, in that case, is a brother to the healer. Disease may be mythical and ailments imaginary, but there is nothing either mythical or imaginary about a jail. It is distressingly material and totally unresponsive to persuasive treatment. The healer has found this out. Will the healer take the hint?

POLITICS IN IT.

"There are all kinds of rumors afloat about what we shall see when the legislature meets," says the Victoria Times. We are told the strength of the government in the house will surprise us. Nothing that the most brilliant political imagination can picture as likely to develop when the two factions—or whatever number of factions there may be—meet can possibly surprise us, or anybody who knows by experience the peculiarities of the politicians of British Columbia. Their ways are indeed past finding out. Our eyes would not open a fraction wider if we beheld as in a dream the member for Alberni clothed in robes of dignity and dealing out even-handed justice from the speaker's chair. It would not disturb us in the least if we beheld the member for Delta and his friend the premier in perfect harmony if it came to a vote of want of confidence in the government. It is said Mr. Gilmour will henceforth be a "steady" supporter of the administration. That would not cause a great disturbance, because the member for Vancouver has hitherto leaned with a considerably stronger bias towards the government than in the direction of the opposition. It was assumed that because Mr. Gilmour has hitherto been a devout disciple of Mr. Joseph Martin he would follow his leader whithersoever he went. Mr. Martin has declared his uncompromising opposition to the administration of Colonel Prior, but the only follower he has left of what was once a devoted band has been discreet in his utterances to the point of saying nothing at all. When a politician in British Columbia has nothing to say it is as well not to classify him. The safe course is to leave him to do that himself. The crux of the situation lies in the fact that the majority of the members of the house do not want a general election just yet. The complexities of the political situation will furnish a sufficient number of them with an excuse to keep the government in power, incapable though it may be of passing measures necessary to the welfare of the country. The public may as well curb its fancy, watch and wait for developments. Our opinion is the same as that of our sage contemporary, which sees the cloven hoof of politics in everything. We are certain there is politics in the legislature.

BOYCOTT'S NEW DIGNITY.

Boycott is no new word in American affairs, but it has received a brand-new dignity at the hands of one Dowie. Mr. Dowie, who founded a religious community in the neighborhood of Chicago and called it Zion, is a simple, puritanical soul. His community was to have been self-supporting but somewhere in the mechanism a cog lost its place and the head Zionite got in debt.

His creditors, Chicago business men, endeavored to collect, whereupon the reverend gentleman called them all "miserable curs" and announced that a Christian boycott would straightway be declared against them. Brother Dowie no doubt was greatly vexed, as indeed he might well be, considering the character of the insult offered. He owed men money and they actually demanded payment! Such a display of worldly grossness any first-class Zionite would resent. When the sect withdrew from the world, they supposed it generally understood that they withdrew as well from worldly obligations. Of course, a shopping tour to the world might be made occasionally, but under no circumstances was celestial Zion to be soiled by earthly bills or charged accounts. This system, of course, is not original with the Zionites, but other people who employ it are known by a different, and far less charitable, name. A Christian boycott, moreover, is utterly beyond their means. It is rumored that Brother Dowie intends settling further west, but if any settling is to be done, Chicago deserves first call.

THE OTTAWA PROGRAM.

It is announced that the Dominion government will meet on March 12th. If the Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Globe is well informed, as he certainly should be, some of the items in the session's program will be as follows:

1. A bill for the redistribution of constituencies.
2. A bill to revise the Railroad Act and to provide for the appointment of a railway commission.
3. A bill for the compulsory arbitration of disputes on railways.
4. A bill for the revision and consolidation of the acts relating to telegraph and telephone companies.
5. A bill to amend the Militia Act.
6. A bill for the adoption of cattle guards on railways.

And it is not improbable that there may also be a revision of the tariffs.

On the subject of the tariff revision Sir William Mulock has made ministerial utterance. The issue, as he divides it, is not between free trade and protection, but between a high protective tariff and a just tariff. The government is, he said, in favor of a just and fair tariff, not a prohibitory tariff. He accused the Conservatives of being anxious to do away with the British preference, which he considered would be unpatriotic and unwise. He held that by reason of the preference the Canadian farmers had found a market in Great Britain for their products, and had been enriched by millions of dollars. Each party should discourage any movement that would sever the strong ties between Canada and the Mother Country. Of course, politicians out of office must not be taken too seriously, and one does not for one moment imagine that, even were the Canadian Conservatives again in power, they would attempt to repeal the preferential tariff.

THE HOME AND THE SCHOOL.

At a recent meeting of the American National Educational association a superintendent of schools in one of the western cities read a paper on the "Usurpation of Home by School." In this he claimed that national greed had encroached upon American social life that the family had given over its care and training of children to the public school; that parents were absorbed in bread winning and social duties; that home life is reduced to a minimum compared to what home life was fifty years ago. The remedy offered for this state of things was that the state should avowedly and professedly assume the responsibility and training of the child for ten hours of each day, and this should be accomplished by so increasing the corps of teachers that part might have charge of the pupils in the school house, part in their out-of-door life.

This sounds a quixotic, but it nevertheless points to a social problem that is as interesting as it is important. It is true that Canadians and Americans have so magnified the power of their school system that many parents delegate to it functions that it was not originally designed to exercise. It is true that the power and scope of the school system has been so enlarged that it is now performing work which the home once shared with it. The girl used to learn to cook and sew at home. The truant child was formerly disciplined by his father, but today he is attended by an officer of the law. Teachers in the meantime are complaining that they are overworked, that they teach too many hours, and in consequence have too little healthful leisure; that they have so many pupils as to be able to give but little attention to any one. Yet the demands of the parents seem insatiable, for the complaint is often heard that the public schools do not teach enough subjects, nor teach them well. There is a flagrant social evil somewhere here, and the question is, Where does it lie, and what is the remedy?

The trouble is not to be met by making injudicious comparisons between present society and "the good old times." In general early Canadian home life offered little that was distinctly aesthetic and

cultural. It was a semi-patriarchal family life, in which the child worked for the father until he became of age. The education that he got was, on the whole, meagre and in the main, obtained from short sessions of school. The undoubted fact is that the school system has improved, but that while well-being is more generally diffused among families, the cultural influence of the family has not kept pace with the cultural influence of the school. The school has not so much encroached on the home, but the home expects too much of the school, and has willingly become a silent partner in the education of the child. While the new styles of Canadian homes, with their artistic arrangements and conveniences, are in themselves educative, still the Canadian parents have yet to learn the important share they must have in the education of the Canadian child. No socialistic school machine, however admirable and smooth its working may be, can take the place of the individual interest of the parent in the child.

An educator of long experience recently said: "The Canadian child gets his education from the school, his manners from the street, his religion from the Sunday school, his virtues from his home." Between the hours spent at school getting his education and those spent at home getting his "virtues," there is a long hiatus of wasted time upon the street or in intercourse with companions who may meet in haphazard play. The question is how is that time to be so profitably filled in getting "manners" that the best manly and womanly qualities may be brought to expression. There is the borderland in every child's life that is yet to be reclaimed and civilized—the hours when he is not at school and not at home. Machine schooling, the whole socialistic theory notwithstanding, cannot fill in this gap though the school hours be increased. The personal needs of the child and the limitations inherent in any "system" obviously forbid it. It is even probable that such an extension of school authority over the unclaimed hours in a boy's life would result in a tyranny in which no manhood could develop.

TRAIL SMELTER POLICY.

Apologists for the Trail smelter management entertain the peculiar idea that they set up a sufficient defence when they abuse and lie about The Miner. Even if their statements with regard to this paper were true instead of being false, what bearing could they possibly have upon the smelter question? Here is the plain proposition that by following a reasonable and judicious course the owners of the Trail smelter could ensure that practically all the ores of this district would be treated in Canada instead of switching a large percentage of them across the border. That the suggested reduction of the freight and treatment rate would reduce the direct profits from the Trail works may be perfectly true, but the owners of the smelter are also the owners of the railway, and the railway profits would increase in ratio with the increase in population that would certainly result from a liberal smelter policy. The Miner is not concerned with the advantage to be gained by this or that mine. It is concerned with the prosperity of this district and the upbuilding of Canadian interests generally. To that end it has urged and will continue to urge the adoption by the C. P. R. of such a policy as would secure the defection to the Canadian side as much as possible of the work that now goes southward. That policy would at the same time render feasible the development of properties now idle and would generally increase the resources of the district to a very substantial extent. It needs no acute mind to perceive how much that would mean for the district, for the whole country and for the C. P. R. itself. There is surely much significance in the fact that instead of endeavoring to combat this proposition on its merits the apologists for the policy that now prevails offer nothing but puerile sneers at The Miner and a quantity of wishy-washy nonsense that has nothing whatever to do with the question. The Miner would be satisfied if the higher authorities of the company could be induced to give their attention to the subject, for there would then be a good prospect of its being considered on broad and liberal lines, narrow and shortsighted considerations being thrust into the background, where they should be. The little people who now attack this paper with their little weapons would then be obliged to take a very sharp turn.

YELLOW RESPECTABILITY.

An article in the Criterion upon Yellow Journalism by an "Ex-yellow journalist" analyses the peculiar features of a literary creation which is supposed to be essentially modern, but which the writer points out has been in existence for many years. He cites the New York Herald, the old Cincinnati Enquirer and various other newspapers in support of his assertion. Incidentally the writer says that the enormous circulations gained by these newspapers have in no way interfered with the prosperity of the more staid and respectable newspapers. On the contrary, the yellow journals have, by their picturesque methods, created armies of new readers, the overflow from which naturally drifts

toward the more sober and reliable journals of the day, so that, in the capacity of bush-beaters, the yellow journals are slowly contributing to the growth of their more reputable brothers. The article goes on to inquire into the peculiarities of these journals and the causes of their undoubted success, for which the reader may be referred to the article itself. The conclusion which he draws is that there is merit in the yellow journal scheme, and he seeks to find a means of applying it to a more reputable use, without adopting its more glaring faults. Of this he says, in conclusion:

I believe that such a thing is possible, but not on the lines which the respectable thinkers have been generally inclined to follow. You cannot print a paper with small headlines and no pictures, have it speak respectfully of the Northern Securities merger and severely of the arrogance of labor unions, and expect to circulate it largely on the East Side because it sells for a cent. Your respectable paper, if it is to reach the masses, must be yellow in so far as yellowness is not disreputable. It must not be afraid of big headlines or pictures, although both might advantageously be toned down somewhat, as even the original yellow papers are discovering. You must not lay too much stress on delicate taste. You must not be afraid to shout instead of speaking in gentlemanly undertones. You must not hesitate to criticize corporations and millionaires when they do things opposed to the public interests. When there is a strike you must not instantly assume that the strikers are wrong and summon the governor to call out the militia. What you may do in the way of improvement is to refrain from printing a story until you know it is true, to make accuracy instead of record-breaking celerity the supreme requirement in your news room, to reserve somewhat less prominence to the brighter and more to the brighter side of life, and to refrain from dragging family skeletons into the light unless there is some public reason for the exposure. These things will not impair the popularity of your paper, and if, with them all, you could convince the masses that you were honestly concerned about their interests, you might manage to make the reformed yellow journal pay its way—the only test of genuine success.

WEST YALE.

Politics in West Yale is becoming decidedly warm. The government is on trial in a constituency where the strength of the opposition is, for various reasons, great. The chief of these is the fact that C. A. Semlin has been induced to take up an attitude of hostility to the Prior government. It is a very great pity that it is so. It is a very great pity that Mr. Semlin should have succumbed to the influences which made such a complete failure of the government which bore his name, but whose policy he did not direct, and should have thrown the weight of his personal popularity in West Yale into the scale for men who are popular neither in West Yale nor anywhere else in British Columbia. He has done so, however, with the result that while Charles Semlin, prime rancher, could probably be elected without any difficulty, Charles Semlin, ex-premier of British Columbia, stands a very fair chance of being defeated. The people of British Columbia of all sections, grades and classes were thoroughly dissatisfied with the Semlin government. They have no desire to see such a government in power again. It is not likely that the election of Mr. Semlin would restore or aid in restoring any such combination as the Semlin government was made up of. But, if elected, he would be a member of an opposition quite as incoherent and unstable as that government was, and be quite as incapable as a member of the opposition, as he was as premier, of reconciling the disagreements of his coadjutors. The spectacle of Mr. John Oliver of Delta and of Mr. Richard McBride of Dewdney stumping West Yale in favor of Mr. Semlin's candidature is one to cause a smile. What in the wide world has Mr. John Oliver in common with either Mr. McBride or Mr. Semlin? And what in the wide world has Mr. Semlin himself in common with either of them? These are questions which the electors of West Yale must be prone to ask themselves, and the answer that they are likely to make is that they would be false, both to the interests of the province and to their own if they elected a member of an opposition made up of such incongruous elements, however excellent a man he might be in himself and apart from political considerations.

Returns from far-away Yukon show how rapidly that district is being rescued from primitive conditions. During the calendar year 1902 there were registered 139 births and 138 deaths. Of the latter 21 were accidental, 3 murders and 4 suicides. One hundred and two marriages were celebrated in the same period. There are now nine schools in the Yukon receiving government support and giving tuition to 375 pupils. They are located at Dawson, at White Horse and on the creeks. Since gold was discovered, followed by the mad rush to the Klondike in 1897, the Yukon gold output has amounted to \$80,500,000. Last year 6,056 mining licenses were issued and 4,461 renewed, while 2,040 claims were relocated and 1,198 new placer claims recorded. The quartz claims recorded for the past twelve months numbered 1,135, indicating that that branch of the mining industry is receiving much more attention than formerly. Still, there are better opportunities for the prospector in Kootenay than could ever be expected in the Yukon.

AROUND DIS

Notes of Pro Parts of the Inter

Work in the Lumber Cam Report

The news from various mining districts would cate a busy and prosperous there were no artificial hinder work. Some of moment disconcerting may yet disappear, business gives good pational briskness.

THE SLOC

The Highland mine shipping ore regularly ber of men at work. tor is running full force. From all accounts the Ainsworth will resume early date. The Sunlight, another property, is also working force of men are working mine. The outlook for son is fairly good. The Blue Bird is shut to Trail. The Idaho grows rich ment progresses. The Co-operative St. City has gone the way present-day co-operat R. S. Bradshaw will stock on hand. The Hartney is working force. The property, some doubtful periods, manager is greatly en cent developments. Weekly shipments a from the Fisher Malde erty is developing sat management. The ore and of high grade. The Hewitt mine will until the concentrator der consideration are R. F. Green, M. P. P. has been visiting Van lately on political busin J. M. Harris of San telegram from his sold to the effect that the case of the Star Minir Byron N. White compa missed by the full co This was an appeal on Byron N. White compa decision given by the St decision given by wit pany recently by wit given permission to ex derground workings of property. The Slokan Star will a large scale as the B. pany have just closed a trust smelter at De the entire output of t The terms of the contr be favorable. Sandon played off th spliel last Tuesday.

EAST KOOTE

About ten days ago chief of the Tobacco Pla at the ripe age of 90, p was under the impress settlement of the bound baco Plains the U. S. g taken more land from than belonged to them years he squatted on t as the "Leonard Farm," boundary. Finally he by his people to cross the tie on the B. C. reserve where he spent the re days amongst his peop king and country. He a hard battle with the B. feet and was well know ers of the Plains" at Stand-off. He was bur ve and his funeral v tended by the Indians as settlers.

The double mill that at Meadow Creek by the may Lumber company for sawing lumber betw 20th of this month. Th chinery is expected ear and will be installed wh the company is anxious contract for 750,000 ties c James Nelson and part been developing the Co eral claim at Isadore ca ning a tunnel to tap the of 70 feet. The shaft f with a good showing of The machinery for th mill includes a double circular mill, a planing kiln of large capacity should be in full operat die of May. The total mills will be 150,000 fee The company owns an of timber, estimated at 6 is yellow pine, tamar yellow pine and cedar ally fine and clear an best of shop lumber at terial. John Brecken brook is president of the lam Carlin of Fort St eding director, secretar J. B. Donald, who but line from Grand Forks Kinney, is now operat line in Alberta, N. W.

THE BOUN

The Washington & has secured all the r tween Curlew and Mid tion survey between t and Molson, Wash., is The titling reverbera the Granby smelter is n It is used as a stora matte, which is drawn