The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

The week ending with the 9th of May showed more strikes than any week, it is safe to say, in the preceding ten years in the United States. In all about 100,000 men struck, as compared with 50,000 in the preceding week. Although no statistics are available, Canada has presented a very similar state of affairs. Now, every one of these strikers imagines that he has struck because of some particular grievance against his particular employer, and in his particular trade. It is not so, however. It cannot be so, or there would not be a general epidemic of strikes all over the continent at the same time. The strikers are influenced by some common cause of which they themselves are profoundly ignorant, and of which nobody knows much, if anything. The strike bacillus has not been located. The Dominion government has set two very worthy gentlemen to the task of locating it by investigating labor conditions in British Columbia. We wish them joy of their task, which has so far baffled the most acute economists and sociologists in the world. But we can only compare it to the putting of children with wooden spades and buckets in their hands, upon the shore of the ever-sounding sea, and asking them to elucidate the mysterious movement of the tides, and the "silent influence" of the heavenly bodies thereon. The roar of the sea is in their ears, and the sweep of the tides before their eyes. Masses of men are driven hither and thither in a yeasty flood, and it means something, though we know not what. Each man in his own intelligence hears but the echo of the sea, preserved as it were in the recesses of a shell, but none has yet arisen to fully interpret what it says. We do not mean to deny that there are strikes due to individual and special causes. But we do most unhesitatingly affirm that when, after comparative freedom from strikes for a term of years, a general epidemic of them breaks out, that is not due to individual and special causes, but to some general cause or predisposing condition in the industrial structure. The last time the phenomenon was noticeable in North America was in the years 1892 and 1893. Then, as now, it was preceded by great industrial inflation, and more immediately by a decline of values on the Stock Exchange and a restriction of credit. The process of liquidation then was accompanied by a financial panic of most exaggerated features. The process now has been exactly the same, although the panic conditions will, it is to be hoped, not appear, and thus it may be rendered less acute in its effects. As a working hypothesis for the explanation of the strike epidemic, or rather as a working hypothesis leading up to such an explanation, it might be set forth that strikes in an epidemic form are the reflex action on labor of the same conditions in industry of which, declines of Stock Exchange values and restriction of credit are the reflex action on capital. That, it is true, does not show what these conditions are, but it affords a line of research along which, we firmly believe, these conditions may be discovered and guarded against. But although it does not show what the conditions or causes are, it disposes at once of certain things which they certainly are not. It is frequently said that decline in values and restriction of credit are due to lack of money. If a man were to say that the ebb of the tide were due to lack of water, his statement would equal that explanation in intelligence. And yet, not baldly stated, but dressed up in the whimwhams of logic with which human beings are ever ready to adorn their scarecrows of causation for effects from which they suffer but do not understand, this explanation has led to some astonishing vagaries. Yet, with all due deference to the financial experimentalists of the French Directory, Mr. William Jennings Bryan and others, their theories rest upon a foundation of sand, as has been abundantly demonstrated upon any and every attempt to put them in practice. Our hypothesis has at least this merit, that it excludes them absolutely from rational discussion. On the other hand, it is frequently stated that strikes are due to a revolt by labor against the efforts of capital to squeeze an undue profit out of laboring men. This fallacy is the root and foundation of the hatred of capital which threatens the structure of industrial society. Towards this heresy men should be tender. Because in the cry of men who are hurt, and have no garnered resources to assuage their suffering, there is a note of human pain which makes their ignorance of the causes of their hurt not ridiculous, but pathetic. In the face of poverty and suffering and the submersion of so many of our fellow-beings in unillumined misery, we are all ignorant—oh, how ignorant!—but unless this world is ruled by a malignant devil, society is not an artifice to perpetuate these conditions, but an evolution, through the discovery of their causes, to effect their cure. If an undue profit were being extracted at any particular time from the wages fund, Stock Exchange prices would reflect that profit. But we find that workers begin to be conscious of such a profit and strike against it, coincidently with, in fact after, a decline in values of all kinds has shown that profits are being restricted and not maintained. The facts certainly make for our hypothesis that decline in values, and arrested progress in wages giving rise to strikes, are due to a common cause affecting both labor and capital at the same time. What that cause is we do not know, nor is it sufficiently known and accepted to be the occasion of remedial action that will provide a real remedy. But there is one consequence of the acceptance of our hypothesis which is important so far as it goes. It puts capital and labor in the same boat, it makes them the victims of the same conditions, and that is a conclusion which we believe to be true, so far as it goes. Now, what would we think of a crew who shouted, "The ship's a-leak—kill the captain," or of a captain who shouted "The ship's a-leak—massacre the crew," or of passengers who, taking one side or the other, added their voices to the pandemonium? There are times in which a man who stands aside and thinks with his elbows on the taffrail of destiny and his eyes upon the fog-laden sea of time, might be inclined to fear that he has taken passage for eternity with a shipload of lunatics who have signed their articles in Bedlam.

DOWN TOWN CHURCHES.

"Since I came to New York," says Dr. W. S. Rainsford, "below Twentieth street forty churches have moved uptown and over 300,000 people have moved into that section of the city from which the forty churches have gone." That is a simple statement of fact. An increase of population and a diminution in the number of congregations in the section where the increase of population has taken place. It means that as the members of the churches moved away to better parts of the town, the churches followed them, in spite of there being a larger population to draw recruits from. If that means anything at all, it is either that the ordinances of church worship have no power whatever to evangelize those who do not attend church from custom or because it is an evidence of respectability, or that the churches do not desire to do so. We should be sorry to say that the latter is the true cause, but Dr. Rainsford does say it, and in language that cannot be mistaken. "That is the great mistake," he says, "the Protestant churches have made; they are all alike—Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists—their whole idea of church relation is based on the family that can live in a twenty-foot house. As soon as that social unit moves away from them they are lost. The church ought to be able to fit herself to new conditions. She is like a fisherman accustomed to earn his bread at catching herrings; presently the run of herrings goes away from that part of the sea; in their place comes a tremendous run of smelts. If the fisherman could change his net, he would be a richer man than before, because smelts are better fish; but he starves because he cannot change the size of the meshes." To our idea Dr. Rainsford is entirely mistaken as to the primary idea of church services. Surely they exist for the purpose of supplying spiritual nutriment to their members. They are not nets for irreligious people, but schools for religious people, where the cultivation of faith, hope and charity may be carried on. Naturally, then, as the spiritual nutriment of the person who lives in a twenty-foot front house differs in form of presentation and method of assimilation from that of a person who lives in a tenement, the church must remain within reach of the only people who can profit by its ministry or change the character of its ministry. The real problem for the churches to consider is that they provide no spiritual nutriment at all, which a very large and ever-growing percentage of the population can or will assimilate. Is it the churches or mankind that are out of tune with true religion?

THE OPEN DOOR.

The United States is expected to join with Great Britain and Japan in advocating the "open door" policy in Manchuria and China generally. Such action will come with special grace from the United States of America. The policy of monopolization of trade pursued by Russia fades into insignificance compared with the monopolization of trade pursued by the United States where it has an opportunity. The United States took Porto Rico and Hawaii and shut them up tight as a drum. So far as the Senate could, it tied up the trade of Cuba exclusively to the United States. In the Philippines, the United States gave the world as solemn a promise of the open door as ever Russia did in Manchuria, and then proceeded shamelessly to violate it by trick and artifice. The United States is not a believer in the open commercial door unless it is someone else's door that is to be kept open. Whether the policy which America has adopted in regard to her possessions is the right one or not whether it is the best one or not, for either the people of the United States, or for the people in these dependencies, Russia has certainly as much right as has the United States to shut the door of any territory she has acquired by force or fraud. We imagine that protests from the United States will lack convincing power. The United States is quite as big a sinner as Russia is ever likely to be. Its one idea of foreign possessions is to sweat them for the benefit of the United States. If Russia is a pot, the United States is certainly a kettle.

AN INGENIOUS RACE.

Britons and Americans have an idea that they are the most practical races on earth, and the latter claim an inventive capacity in excess of any other people. As a matter of fact the so-called inventive genius of the American is very similar to that of the Briton. They are both imitative and adaptive of ideas that have already been proved to have a utilitarian value rather than susceptible to new ideas. Americans may adapt and develop new ideas quicker than Britons after they have made up their minds that they have a utilitarian value, but their attitude towards new ideas regarding which they have not so made up their minds, is as sneering and contemptuous as that of the Britons, if anything more so. Inventive genius is probably found in individuals of all races in about equal proportions. A nation need not pride itself upon the individual inventor. Its attitude to the invention as such is what it may legitimately be congratulated upon. If that is admitted, it is the quick witted Frenchman who is entitled to the palm, not the Anglo-Saxon, whether British or American. The French are the people who took up and developed the automobile, the name of which is a tribute to their connection with this remarkable modern invention. The French were sympathetic to the idea of a horseless carriage before the utility of horseless carriages was understood. Similarly with submarine navigation, the French have painstakingly experimented with this invention when neither the English nor the Americans had any grasp of its coming utility in war and peace. Very remarkable results the French have already achieved, sufficiently remarkable for the opinion to be hazarded that the future of naval warfare lies with submarine vessels, and not with floating castles. That is the opinion the French hold anyway, and such an opinion and the lack of it in England and America illustrates precisely the difference in character we are pointing out. Who, except the French, again, would ever have thought of hanging up prizes for, and encouraging by public demonstration the science of aerial navigation? The other day an airship started out from Paris and made a journey over several suburban towns, circled the spire of the Nantes cathedral, and returned to Paris. The journey occupied one hour and thirty-six minutes, and the distance traveled was 23 miles. Aerial navigation is at present of no practical utility, and therefore its development is confined to France. But when it does become of practical utility will not a great deal of the credit belong to the French and their active interest in scientific progress for itself, and not because financiers can make money and common people increase their comforts by it.

THE YUKON OUTPUT.

It is generally the fashion to assume every year about this time that the output of gold from the Yukon is going to be greater than that of the succeeding year. We are afraid that there is no reason for such an assumption. Reliable authorities say that the gold output of the Yukon will this year be less than it was last year, and that so far as gold derived from exceptionally rich ground is concerned it shows no signs of recuperation. Evidently that is the anticipation indulged in by the banks. If the columns of the Dawson News are to be credited there is a pretty severe process of credit restriction going on in Dawson which is very unfavorably affecting the business interests of the city. In Dawson there is a long period of credit and a rapid liquidation immediately the clean-up begins, and the stream of gold commences to flow. This, it is needless to say, affords a very profitable business opportunity for the banks, and one they would not be likely to curtail, unless they were afraid that their commitments were becoming larger than the output of gold is likely to liquidate. In other words, it is only an anticipated restriction of output which would lead the banks to restrict credit to the business community. There comes a time in every placer mining country when the rich deposits of gold procurable by crude methods and a limited water supply become more or less exhausted; and that time is, as a rule, not long delayed, because the object of everyone owning and operating placer ground is to exhaust it as soon as possible. The quicker the gold can be got out of the ground the greater the profit in getting it out. When that time comes, the future of the country depends upon working lower-grade ground with adequate machinery and an adequate water supply, and that means intelligent co-operation and the investment of heavy capital. This is always a difficult corner for a placer country to take. The necessary capital to inaugurate a water supply and mining operations upon a grand scale must receive a fair show of adequate compensation. The natural tendency of capital is to seek the largest possible compensation it can secure, and it is not seldom that this tendency comes into conflict with local interests in the shape of claims and water rights. In fact, so uniform is this conflict that most placer camps die out altogether as such, before they are again worked upon a comprehensive scale in the only way by which their remaining treasures can be profitably secured. In the Yukon the natural difficulties of such a situation are accentuated by the fact that the government is thoroughly distrusted, and that every concession given for the purpose of securing capital is tainted in the eyes of the people with very excusable suspicions of corruption. The great sufferer by the character of the Yukon administration is the Yukon itself. While gold was pouring out in a giddy and intoxicating stream, the character which the administration was earning for itself might be neglected and ignored by the business elements of the territory. But now that the territory is approaching the crisis of its history, a strong, honest and trusted administration is an asset at which the Yukon is bound to feel the want, and the first to suffer are those business elements which connived at and ignored the reputation the administration was acquiring so long as they were making money, and which are now face to face with the effect of that reputation when they are no longer making money.

THE INEVITABLE.

It is an astonishing thing how the activities, opinions, resentments, and ideas of human beings repeat themselves. Given the same circumstances and the reaction upon these circumstances of any set of human beings you like to name, and you will get exactly the same results. It is not very complimentary to human individuality perhaps, but it is inevitable to human nature. At the Gamey investigation, there has been precisely the same trouble in respect to the newspapers, which is appearing in the investigation before a parliamentary committee in British Columbia, and that again was preceded by precisely the same trouble during the sittings of the Parnell commission some years ago in London. We may go further and declare that it will crop up in every parliamentary or political investigation which ever takes place in the future. Some people make it a ground of complaint against the province, that our legislators constitute a peculiar and special brand of legislator. It is very strong evidence to the contrary that during the conduct of such an investigation as the present, they take the same objections in almost the same language to the proceedings of the newspapers in connection with the investigation, as their contemporaries in Toronto and their predecessors in London. It is quite evident that there must be a fundamental common cause for such a similarity of conduct. What is it? The reason is that in the newspapers the politicians see themselves as others see them, and not as they see themselves. Politicians are greatly gifted. The press is the power of which Burns spoke which enables them to see themselves as others see them. Under ordinary circumstances they cannot resent it, and they put the portrait down to prejudice and misrepresentation. But under special circumstances, such as a semi-judicial investigation, where prejudice and misrepresentation would be even more highly improper than at any other time, they can and do resent even the most faithful portrayal. Any portrait of their words, and actions, and attitudes, which does not represent them as saying, doing, and being exactly what, in their imaginative egoism, they think they say, do, and are, is to them, journalistic assassination. It is journalistic assassination, but all that is assassinated is that false picture of himself which every man, as well as every politician, carries in his own breast. Every reputable newspaper regrets exceedingly any breach, however slight and unintentional, of the respect due to proceedings of a grave and important character, and no reputable newspaper deliberately colors news. The good newspaper man is the man, in passing through whose brain, the news he reproduces, receives the smallest amount of refraction. Most politicians, however, desire to woo their constituencies through the photographs produced in the press, and what they want is a skilled photographer, who can touch up the plates so as to make an Adonis out of a Satyr.

ORACULAR.

The oracles of Delphi were not more vague and mysterious than the utterances of the Times upon the political situation. There was an article in the Times the day before yesterday which was so utterly unlike anything that ever before appeared in its columns, that it gave us the impression not merely of novelty, but of importance. We read it with care but could extract neither meaning nor guidance from it. What it meant was to our humbler intelligence "wrapt in mystery." Yesterday another article appears in the same unwonted style on "Colonel Prior's Duty" which is either a jest, or we have totally misunderstood its cryptic signification. The Times is not usually humorous. It is always acrimonious, even when there is truth and logic in its utterances, but from the accusation of being humorous it may safely be acquitted. But if the article in question is not a jest we should like to know what it is. It says that Colonel Prior should resign. That much is clear enough. It is what follows which amazes us. Having resigned, it appears that Colonel Prior is called upon by his duty to carry on as Premier, because he is the only man under whom, as Premier, the estimates can be passed; and that then, he should really resign, so that his successor would not have to meet the legislature for another year. This course of conduct is described as leaving the Lieutenant-Governor "untrammeled in the exercise of the prerogative." Here is a new idea, new, and original, and startling. Since when has it been possible for a private citizen, even if he be a Premier, to "trammel" the prerogative of the Crown under the British constitution. What this awful offence is we do not know, but if Colonel Prior is "trammeling" the prerogative of the Crown, he should be immediately taken out to Beacon Hill and there solemnly hanged, drawn and quartered. We are prepared to recommend this course if the facts are proved as alleged. A Royal commission should immediately be issued to inquire into this awful accusation. If the prerogative of the Crown is being "trammeled" in this province, we want to know it. We want to know what "trammeling" the prerogative of the Crown is, how the prerogative of the Crown is usually "trammeled," and what process of "trammeling" Colonel Prior is guilty of. We are prepared to advocate very extreme measures to "untrammel" the prerogative of the Crown, even to the decapitation of the Premier. We are afraid, however, that what Colonel Prior is "trammeling" is not the prerogative of the Crown, but the designs of his political enemies and those of the country. If Colonel Prior has lost the confidence of the Crown, the Crown can dismiss him, if he has lost the confidence of the legislature, that body can defeat his government, if he has lost the confidence of the country, the country can snow under his supporters at the polls. That is the due course of constitutional procedure as we understand it. It is of elementary simplicity. There are some people in this country who, when they discuss constitutional procedure are like Indian fakirs. They rear up a ladder on the open ground, run up it, and disappear in a cloud of mist at the top. Then the next you see of them is their coming up from somewhere to perform some other monstrous antic. In the meantime, the country goes on, and the sun rises and sets, much as usual.

GOOD WORK.

A permanent stock of useful knowledge about Canada has been injected into the press of Great Britain by the journalists who visited us last year. The papers were full of their descriptions of what they saw, for some time after their return. Some of these descriptions were very superficial and valueless, but others showed evidence of painstaking efforts to get at facts and impress them on the British public. Naturally a good deal of the display has disappeared, but an echo of that famous visit is still occasionally audible, and no doubt much is continually appearing in the press which is influenced by it, although the direct connection cannot be traced. More particularly one gentleman has started out to educate Yorkshire on the opportunities and resources of Canada. Of him it can be said without injustice to his fellows (he was the representative of the Leeds and Yorkshire Mercury), that he has displayed more accuracy of observation and sympathetic comprehension of Canadian affairs than any of the others. Not content with newspaper articles, he has taken to the platform, and with illustrated eloquence is forcing upon the Yorkshire people the lessons he learnt in Canada. Nor is British Columbia forgotten. The short report of his most recent lecture which we have before us states that "the lecturer devoted a considerable part of his address to the province of British Columbia, where, he stated, he met more Yorkshiremen than in all the other Canadian provinces put together. In addition to showing a great variety of superb pictures of mountain and forest scenery, the peaks and glaciers of the Selkirks, the lakes among the clouds, and the canyons of the Thompson and Fraser rivers, Mr. Lumsden illustrated the manner in which cities spring up in a few years in the gold and copper mining districts. Every stage in the process was illustrated upon the screen—the staking of claims, the rush of miners and storekeepers, the clearing of the forest, the laying out of the "townsite," to the evolution of fine towns like Nelson and Rossland. The scenery along the Columbia river, the Arrow and Kootenay lakes, entirely new to audiences in this country, was greatly admired by the audience." We venture to think that such work as is being done by this relatively obscure journalist, is worth more than very many much more pretentious agencies are accomplishing, and that in British Columbia at least there is no lack of warm appreciation of his services to the province.

The output of coal from the Dominion Iron and Steel Companies collieries for April, was 263,878 tons, an increase of 21,526 tons over the corresponding month last year.

The Montreal Gazette says that government ownership of railways is dangerous because "it is only occasionally that a politician is also born a railway manager." That is true. It is also true, however, that many railway managers are born politicians, even if they only manage dining cars.

Senator Proctor wants the United States to apply the Monroe Doctrine to China. The Monroe Doctrine depends for its validity upon the determination of the United States to declare war if any territory to which it applies is annexed or violated by a European country. Its application to any part of the Asiatic continent would be laughed at until the United States had fought Russia, and after Russia all the other European powers. After that there would be a Monroe Doctrine or American protectorate over the whole world. Senator Proctor requires surgical treatment.

HOW TO GET UP AN APPETITE.

Distaste for food often follows Grippe, and fevers and is associated with a general weakness of the system. To impart a real zest for foods, and give power to the stomach to digest and assimilate no remedy can equal Ferrozone. This is a new and startling discovery. It strikes at the root of disease and by removing the cause, cures quickly and permanently. Ferrozone will quickly enable you to eat and digest anything. All druggists and medical dealers.

"Campbell's Clothing," semi-ready, the best ready-to-wear clothing made in Canada. B. Williams & Co., agents. *

When washing greasy dishes or pots and pans, Lever's Dry Soap (a powder) will remove the grease with the greatest ease. *

Board of Trade Favors a Bonus

Passes Resolution Urging Government To Help Lead Mining Industry.

Interesting Address By President Keen, of The Mining Association.

(From Friday's Daily.)

At a meeting of the Board of Trade held yesterday evening, John Keen, president of the Provincial Mining Association, delivered a very instructive address illustrative of the present condition of the lead mining industry in the province and the need of it receiving some federal assistance to enable it to be pursued with profit. The board heartily endorsed the attitude of the Mining Association and passed a resolution urging the government to adopt the bonus scheme suggested.

President L. G. McQuade occupied the chair, and there were present also Messrs. Lugrin, Leiser, Pitts, Shaw, A. Henderson, Scott, Rebbick, H. Smith, W. T. Andrews, Monteith, Mara, McKeown, H. A. Munn, Shallcross and Beckwith.

Mr. Shallcross reported that a deputation had waited on the Premier regarding the Alberni wagon road, and that he promised to give the matter full consideration.

The Trades and Labor Council invited the board to be present at a meeting on the 19th instant to discuss the question of establishing a technical school. The invitation was accepted.

The lead mining question was next taken up, the secretary reading correspondence bearing on the subject. John Keen, president of the Provincial Mining Association, explained the status of the question at the present time. The general idea was that everything should be done to aid Canada in manufacturing her raw products, the resolutions passed at Sandon being the result of full discussion. The lead ores were shipped out of the country at London prices, but $1 per hundred was deducted for shipment. The Idaho men got better prices, because of the United States manufacturing their own raw products. It was up to Canadians to see that they adopt some method of taking care of her raw products. The Dominion government, it had been proposed at Sandon, was to be asked to afford protection, but the Finance Minister had announced that the tariff would not be changed this season. A bonus was asked for to temporarily aid the industry. Mr. Retallick, who had made the request at Ottawa, had his hands strengthened by the passing of strong resolutions by the executive committee of the Mining Association, which resolutions the speaker read.

The Provincial Mining Association represented all the interests of the country, and had to look at the question through different glasses than the silver-lead owners, and for that reason favored assisting the miner, the smelter and the refinery. Mr. Retallack asked for a straight bonus of $15 per ton, and it was thrown on the minister to choose the best method of meeting the situation.

He did not know if the government would give any relief; but if it did not, it was not hard to predict what would become of the industry. If it was not taken care of, it would close down, and not re-open for many years. He quoted figures to show the extent to which the country was suffering.

Mr. Lugrin expressed curiosity to learn what reasons could be advanced by the government for refusing to meet the wishes of the silver-lead men; he did not feel competent to discuss the question until such information was before him.

President McQuade called attention to the fact that Mr. Campbell's figures for retail lead were too high.

Mr. W. T. Andrews was against the suggested duties, and he questioned Mr. Keen as to the number of persons dependent upon the industry. He did not think it fair to ask thirty per cent. of the people of Canada to pay two and five-eighths per cent. increase in order to benefit a few people in British Columbia. He thought it was decidedly unfair to the general consumer in Canada to ask the government to increase the price of lead to them. As there were no export manufacturers of lead in Canada, it showed that the industry was in its infancy; and for that reason he favored bonusing the industry. The bonus system was more equitable, as, instead of two million people paying the tax, the aid would be distributed over the whole population of Canada.

Mr. Shallcross thought it was time that the West spoke with no uncertain voice—the East had too long dictated the commercial policy of Canada.

Mr. Beckwith did not think a tariff could be framed for any individual section, but for the whole country—and this was a case where British Columbia should get its innings.

Mr. Lugrin said it was desirable, in view of the fact that the government was opposed to increased duties, the bonus proposition should be endorsed by a strong resolution.

The president thought the safest way was to accept the resolution of the Mining Association as indicating the feeling of those most directly interested in the matter and endorse it.

A resolution was then passed heartily endorsing the request of the Mining Association for a bonus.

ASSAYING OF GOLD.

The following report of a special committee on the assaying of gold at Victoria was then read, the resolution suggested carrying unanimously:

Until the last few years it was the practice to send all gold dust to San Francisco—either to the government mint there or to the Selby Lead & Refinery Co.

Under these conditions the miner bringing out gold dust, could either sell his gold dust here at the best price obtainable, which was, of course, below what was expected to be its net value, or he could hand it to one of the banks, and the bank would forward to San Francisco and disburse proceeds when received.

The miner had, therefore, to accept less than its mint value for his dust, or remain in Victoria until proceeds were received from San Francisco.

At the time when gold dust first began to come out of the Klondike in large quantities, Seattle made strong representations on the subject to the federal government, and endeavored to have a mint established at Seattle.

The federal government were not willing to establish a mint at Seattle, in addition to the one at San Francisco, but they met the views of the Seattle men by agreeing to establish an assay office at which gold would be received on the same terms as at San Francisco.

This arrangement involved the re-assaying of the gold, when it reached a United States mint, the cost of sending it to such mint, and loss of interest. These expenses the federal government agreed to cover by a special appropriation which was made by congress.

Miners found it was a great convenience to be able to get mint value for their gold at Seattle without loss of time, and many of them made a practice of going to Seattle, who would otherwise have come to Victoria.

After the lapse of some time, the Ottawa government were asked to establish a mint in Canada, and agreed to do so, but this mint is not yet in operation, and through the efforts of Mr. Maxwell it was promised that an assay office should be forthwith established in Vancouver.

Meanwhile, however, the business men of Victoria, finding that Canadian trade was losing greatly through the lack of facilities for disposing of gold dust in Canada, called a meeting to consider the question. Representations were made to the provincial government, who agreed to make a nominal charge for assaying, and to guarantee the correctness of their assays, to the banks who agreed to reduce their charges for honoring the assay certificates of the government, and to the express company, who made a special rate to Seattle.

A guarantee fund was created by the citizens of Victoria to cover all expenses up to the time that the gold reached the Seattle assay office, so that it became possible to charge the miner no more than he would have to pay if he took his dust to Seattle, and to give him his proceeds within twenty-four hours.

The assay charges at Seattle amount to 7 cents per ounce on the gross weight of the gold, after melting, together with $1.00 for each melting.

This is the amount which is charged by the provincial government on the assay certificate and paid by the miner.

The provincial government, to cover their own separate expenses, make a charge of $1.00 for each melting.

The assay certificates are cashed at sight by the Canadian Bank of Commerce for a charge of one-tenth of one per cent. to cover interest until proceeds of the gold there are received by the government from Seattle.

The express charge is 75 per cent. per thousand, plus consul fees of $2.50 each shipment.

It is these four last mentioned charges which are reimbursed by the citizens' guarantee fund.

The total amount subscribed is $6,655, of which $2,500 is subscribed by the council—a call of 20 per cent. has been made on this fund.

Last year the Dominion government included a sum of $1,000 to cover the liabilities incurred by the citizens' gold fund, but Dr. Eugene Hamel, superintendent of mines, has advised the committee that no appropriation will be made this year, and in his letter of 31st March, 1903, to the Hon. Sir William Mulock, he gives his reasons. The letter is attached hereto.

He states in this letter that he fears that the effect of the continuance of the Victoria assay office will be to close the Dominion assay office at Vancouver, and he suggests that free assays are given at Victoria in consequence of this appropriation, but Dr. Hamel is evidently under a misapprehension.

In his letter Dr. Haanel states that free assays are given at Vancouver to miners from the Yukon Territory. No free assays are given at Victoria.

Dr. Hamel states the regular assay charges at Vancouver are one-eighth of one per cent. on gross value, $1.00 for each melt and 12 cents per $100 value. These assay charges are less than the Victoria assay charges. For example:

Take a parcel of gold dust, value $200, and weighing 16½ ounces.

The Victoria charges would be 7c. per ounce, or $1.16 plus $1.00 for melting, or $2.16.

The Vancouver charges would be ⅛ of 1 per cent., or 2½c. plus 12 cents per $100 or 24c. plus $1.00 for melting, in all, $1.26½.

The minimum Victoria charge is $1.50.

The charges at Seattle would be about the same as those at Victoria, varying slightly with the "fineness" of the gold.

The Dominion absorbs out of the public revenue the cost of sending the bars from Vancouver to a mint, with loss of interest, etc., as also any loss there may be in carrying on the assay office at Vancouver. The total cost to the Dominion government will be found to be many times in excess of the cost of carrying on the same work at Victoria.

Your committee feel that Victoria should be placed in a position to offer the same advantages to miners and others that are to be obtained at the Vancouver assay office, and your committee consider that the citizens of Victoria are entitled to expect the assistance and support of the Dominion government in this matter.

Although the value of gold dust brought to Victoria has not shown an increase this year, the number of assays is steadily increasing, and it is evident that it would be a great loss to the commercial community if the present arrangements could not be continued—the loss would not be to Victoria alone, but to Canada, as much of the gold would be sent to Seattle, leading to the diversion of trade.

Your committee beg to submit the following resolution, which they hope the members of the Board of Trade will support:

"That the Victoria, B.C., Board of Trade consider that it of the utmost importance that miners and others should be able to sell their gold dust at Victoria on the same terms as are obtainable at Seattle and Vancouver, and that the withdrawal of the present facilities which have worked so well during the past two years will inevitably lead to the loss of trade, not only to the city of Victoria, but to Canada as a whole, and this board would strongly urge the renewal of the appropriation of $1,000 made last year to enable the citizens' guarantee committee to continue the arrangement for the purchasing of gold at Victoria."

Dated at Victoria this 15th day of May, 1903.

S. J. PITTS, Chairman,
F. H. PAULINE,
J. J. SHALLCROSS,
Committee.

Ottawa, 31st March, 1903.
(Memorandum).

Hon. Sir William Mulock, K.C.M.G., M.P., etc.

Re Appropriation to Gold Guarantee Fund Committee, Victoria, B.C.

By order-in-council dated the 26th of June, 1902, by which previous orders-in-council, relating to assay charges to be made, were cancelled, only miners of the Yukon Territory, who in person present their gold at the assay office, accompanied by a certificate from the comptroller of the Yukon Territory, at Dawson, that the royalty at the rate prescribed by the regulations has been paid, are entitled to free assays. Charges of ⅛ of 1 per cent on gross value of deposit, $1.00 for each melt, and 12 cents per $100, to cover the marketing of the gold, are exacted in case of all other deposits.

The expenditure of the gold guarantee fund committee, Victoria, B.C., are applied as follows:

1st—To pay the provincial government for melting and assaying the gold in the first instance.

2nd—To repay the provincial government for all other charges in shipping the gold to a mint.

3rd—To pay the bank, at which the government cheques are cashed, 1-10 of 1 per cent., the sum representing interest between the time a cheque is paid by the bank and receipt of a draft from the mint, to which the provincial government ships the gold.

It is evident that if a grant be made to the gold guarantee fund committee to cover these expenses in case of every gold certificate cashed by the provincial government of British Columbia, depositors having their gold assayed at Victoria will have greatly the advantage over those depositing in the Dominion of Canada assay office, Vancouver, B.C.; the effect of which will be to close the Dominion of Canada assay office in Vancouver, B. C., and hand the business over to the provincial government of British Columbia.

I may state that very few deposits are made by Yukon miners; the majority of deposits are from British Columbia.

(Sgd.) EUGENE HAMEL,
Superintendent of Mines.

A BIG QUARTER'S WORTH

is always found in a bottle of Polson's Nerviline, the best household liniment known. It cures rheumatism, neuralgia, toothache, headache, sick-stomach, in fact is good for everything a liniment ought to be good for. Mothers find it the safest thing to rub on their children for sore throat, cold on the chest, sprains and bruises. Never be without Polson's Nerviline. It will cure the pains and aches of the entire family and relieve the vast amount of suffering every year.

Fifty dozen Boys' English Straw Hats at 25c. each. B. Williams & Co. *

MEN AND THINGS.

Russians who are religious do not eat pigeons, because of the sanctity conferred on the dove in the Scriptures.

It is stated that on January 1, 1903, there were 1,134 butuminous coal miners in operation in Pennsylvania, as compared with 948 on December 31, 1900.

Many English doctors are now convinced that the eating of pigs' flesh in different forms is greatly responsible for the increase of cancer. They point out that it is most common among the poor, whose chief meat is that of pigs, while the disease is extremely rare among the Jews.

Many queer customs and usages are prevalent among the Cossacks. No man changes his clothes on a Monday. On Thursday no fat or flesh must be pickled or corned. Wool is not spun on a holiday. A hen is always given an uneven number of eggs to hatch, never an even number. Bones left from a dinner at a funeral are thrown into the river; and at the small meal no one dare cut bread—it must always be broken.

For the last 10 years the most popular dancer in Madrid has been one Senora Alari, who was prima ballerina of the Royal opera house. She has been dined and feted by the gilded youth of the city, and has, incidentally, so report has it, accumulated a nestegg of a million francs. Her career is ended. Not long ago she fell and hurt her ankle, and the physician who attended her discovered that she was a man, and for 10 years had been fooling the public.

Mrs. Chas Smith of Jimes, Ohio, writes: I have used every remedy for sick headache I could hear of for the past fifteen years, but Carter's Little Liver Pills did me more good than all the rest.

An extraordinary story is going the rounds of the coast papers of a man named Hector McLean having attempted suicide at Tranquille by cutting his throat. No one at Tranquille has heard anything about the alleged occurrence and the fact of Hector McLean being at the present time up the Cariboo road would rather suggest that the story was a "canard."—Kamloops Standard.

Twenty cases fine imported Straw Hats 50c., 75c., and $1.00. B. Williams & Co. *

Travelers from the Lardeau country state that the snow has hardly commenced to disappear in that locality except in the lower valleys. At some of the mines, where last year at this season the snow was all gone, it is now still from six to eight feet deep, and the creeks are as low as in midwinter.—Nelson News.

The population of Ireland, which forty years ago was over 8,000,000, is now less than 4,500,000.

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Builders' Hardware, Mechanics' Tools, Iron and Steel, Pipe and Fittings, Brass Goods for Steam and Water, Garden Hose, Belting, Agricultural Implements and Vehicles.

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