

# The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1897.

## CAN WE BUY ALASKA?

The delimitation of the boundary of South-Eastern Alaska will be a matter of very considerable difficulty, although the strip of territory lying between the line is claimed by the United States and that claimed by Canada is of no apparent great value to any one, except in so far as it affects the head of Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet. We use the word "claimed" in regard to the boundary in a colloquial sense only, for as we understand the matter, neither country has expressly formulated its claim in the matter. In a general way the United States is understood to intend to hold that the word "ocean" in the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia, means the waters inside of the Archipelago, that there is no "summit" within the meaning of the treaty in the mountain range running along the coast and within ten marine leagues therefrom, wherefore the boundary must be drawn at a uniform distance of ten marine leagues from the continental coast line, disregarding the islands altogether, which line would be parallel to the sinuosities of the coast and hence put all the inlets within Alaska. The Canadian position may, in the same general sense, be said to be that by the word "ocean" in the treaty the high sea outside of the archipelago is meant, and that the boundary must be drawn ten marine leagues from the outer rim of the archipelago, except where the summit is nearer the coast than ten marine leagues, in which case the line will follow such summit. This would give Canada all of the inlets and even a portion of some of the islands, which latter would appear to have been contemplated by the treaty, for that document expressly provides that the whole of Prince of Wales island shall belong to Russia. The legal and natural inference from this would be that the whole of the other islands might not belong to Russia when the line was located. A secondary claim on the part of Canada is that, admitting the water on the shore of the mainland to be the ocean, there is a summit nearer the coast than ten marine leagues, and that the two inlets above mentioned extend beyond it. Should the claim of the United States, as above defined, be sustained, Canada would have no harbor on the coast between the 56th and 60th parallels of north latitude. If the Canadian claim is held good, the head of Lynn Canal and of Taku Inlet would be in Canada, and if the contention that the boundary shall not be at a greater distance than ten marine leagues from the outer rim of the archipelago prevails, Canada would own the whole of the Stikine river.

It will be seen from this that the question is surrounded with many difficulties and the first, namely: What is to be understood by the word "ocean" in the treaty? is not one that the United States would be likely to submit to arbitration. This is the crux of the whole matter, for once this is disposed of, an international commission would have very little difficulty in arriving at a compromise line that would do justice to the language of the treaty and the rights of both nations.

We have said that the strip of territory in dispute is of great value to anyone, excepting so far as the terminus of the inlets is concerned. This needs to be qualified by a reference to Juneau and the quartz mines in that vicinity. The mines are extensive, including among them the famous Treadwell mine, but this is not owned by American citizens, at least so we understand. The other mines are held by joint stock companies and it is difficult to say where the individuals owning the stock reside. It would be no disadvantage to the owners of these properties to have the sovereignty over the locus in quo transferred to Canada. The commercial interest of the United States in Juneau and the surrounding country is not very large and when the gold mines have been worked out will cease to be of any importance. It would not be wholly sacrificed, if the country became Canadian. It is a matter of some, though not vital importance to Canada, owning the interior, to also own the seacoast. No argument can be made either way on the score of naval supremacy in the North Pacific ocean, for both countries have all the coast line they need from that point of view.

Another question arising from the ownership of Alaska is that of the seal fisheries. This is a bone of contention upon which it seems very difficult to reach a conclusion that is satisfactory to anyone. It is likely to remain an open question for some time to come, and it may easily be magnified to embarrassing proportions. It would be a good thing to both countries if it could be disposed of in some way.

The best solution both of the boundary and the sealing question is for Canada to buy Alaska. It is worth a good deal more than the United States paid for it, and would be a profitable investment for the Dominion at \$50,000,000. The money could be readily procured, for we fancy that the Imperial government would guarantee the loan. Such a purchase would put an end to many vexed questions. As a matter of fact the United States has no use for Alaska that its citizens could not enjoy quite as well

as they do now, if it were a part of Canada. It might be possible to arrange for a purchase on the condition that American citizens should have equal rights with Canadians in the mines and fisheries, so that the United States would really lose nothing except the political control of a piece of territory, that is always likely to be a source of trouble to it. How such a suggestion will be received in the United States, we cannot of course say, but as the territory was bought in the first place, there would be no loss of national prestige in now discussing its sale. The proposition is one that ought to receive some consideration.

## DR. DAWSON.

Among the many distinguished visitors, by whose presence Victoria has been honored during the last few days, none holds a higher or more deserved place in the esteem of Canadians than George M. Dawson. In one sense he is the discoverer of Canada, for the geological survey, of which he has been the chief, has done more than all other agencies combined to make the potentialities of the Dominion known to the world. He has been engaged in the work so long that he can look back over it with the profound satisfaction which comes from the knowledge that his judgment on points of extreme interest and value has been amply justified by events. The development of Kootenay, the hydraulic mines of Cariboo, and the gold mines of the Yukon are all foretold in the interesting pages of Dr. Dawson's earlier reports. Therefore, when we find in the voluminous products of his pen, wherein the results of his observations are recorded, anticipations of great mineral development in parts of the province that are yet unexplored, we feel almost as if such developments were guaranteed. A careful observer, a conservative reasoner, a skillful writer, Canada possesses in Dr. Dawson a public servant, the value of whose services can never be over-estimated. His name carries authority with it on any subject upon which he speaks. That a long career may be before him is the hope of all, for we all know how much that means to the Dominion.

## THE OPPOSITION PRESS.

Our friends, the Opposition, are valiant fellows. When the Colonist challenged them months ago to formulate their charges against the government, they straightway with one accord began to make excuse, like the people in the parable of the supper. After a time, when they thought the challenge had been forgotten, they grew very brave and called on the Colonist to defend the record of the administration, which we very promptly assayed to do, taking up the case of the two members of the cabinet, who have been most persistently attacked, and, after recapitulating their official careers, invited criticism. This would seem to be a fairly reasonable attitude to take. There may be some assailable entity known as the government which is distinct from the membership of the government; there may be some assailable record composed of something else than what the members of the ministry do or have done; but if so, it is our misfortune not to know what they are. Our Opposition friends have certainly something else in their minds, and that interesting but somewhat hysterical sheet, the Columbian, is quite clear that the only thing worth discussing is something that happened in 1890, before the present ministry was formed, and is really quite indignant with the Colonist for declining to take up this piece of ancient history out of its turn. The fact that we have several engagements booked ahead cuts no figure with the Columbian; but we again assure it that while such problems as the origin of species, the story of Jonah, and the source of placer gold remain unsettled, we do not feel like taking time or space to consider the somewhat more modern, but infinitely more interesting question of the redistribution plan of 1890. Our very unreasonable neighbor, the Times, grew quite Delphic in its observations on the records of the ministers referred to. It told us that there was a time and place for these things, which is about the most truthful statement it has made in a long time. Will our neighbor think we are unreasonable if we say that the time and place are at hand? We have the authority of the Times itself for expecting that the moment the record of a minister was defended it was prepared to annihilate it. But something has restrained the impending blow, whereat we feel a measurable degree of satisfaction, for that it is withheld in mercy we are well assured, and hence are reasonably certain that it is kept back because the hand is impatient that it would strike it.

Meanwhile our friends keep on hammering away at the Colonist, as though the Colonist were an issue before the voters, as though some great and important question freighted with all manner of consequences to the people depended upon its being demonstrated that the Colonist is the incarnation of all the wickedness that has ever existed, said wickedness having assumed the shape of divers and several great corporations, aggregations of capitalists and such like. There is not an enterprise, from the building of the Canadian Pacific railway to the projection of the Cassiar Central, which the Colonist has

not aided and abetted in the most dastardly manner. There is not a capitalist in British Columbia who has not bought the influence and support of this paper, and who is not now actively engaged in editing it. There is not a man of energy and enterprise with whom we are not hand in glove in some outrageous scheme to advance this unhappy province. It is well known that the government of British Columbia exists solely to sustain the Colonist, and that the amount of "pap" and "boodle" poured daily into the coffers of this unhappy paper is simply incalculable. How we bear up under this load of sin, this diversity of control, this accumulation of wealth we do not know. We are afraid to stop and think about it, lest we should be like Britain will be, if as Tennyson says she ever "learns and fears her greatness." or words to that effect. Meanwhile we are not a little surprised that our extremely able contemporaries have become the victims of the dreadful people above referred to.

We have made this full confession of our sins to save our dear friends any further travail of soul. It must be getting a little monotonous to their readers to be told day after day and week after week that the Colonist says so-and-so; but every one knows that the Colonist is so-and-so. For ourselves we are simply amused at the poverty of intellect and invention which these persistent attacks betray. It is to save our friends any further trouble along this line that, for the purpose of the argument, we plead guilty to anything they can think of charging us with. This being done, may we ask how it makes their position one iota the stronger or that of our government one iota the weaker? Having asked this question we withdraw the plea of guilty, and invite our friends to keep on in their labor of love.

## OUR VISITORS.

The visit of the British Association to this province is an event of supreme interest and will doubtless be of great material advantage. The members of this distinguished body are careful observers, and those who had the good fortune to come in contact with them will testify that they used every opportunity at their disposal to the best advantage. Highly trained in their several lines, they know how to appreciate things that come under their notice and they will carry back with them a valuable and extensive fund of information about our province. One and all expressed themselves as greatly impressed with the prospects before British Columbia. They all return to their homes convinced that here on the Pacific coast is what is destined to become the scene of great prosperity. It is impossible that such a party can return even from a hurried visit to our province without becoming to a greater or less degree champions of our interests. They will no longer regard British Columbia as an unknown land of which all manner of exaggeration may be circulated, but as one of which their personal knowledge tells them that too much can hardly be said. The visit of this party will be a red letter day in British Columbia history.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT.

Professor Saunders, who has charge of the experimental farms, says that the experiments at Agassiz have established the fact that certain fruits, notably apples, pears, plums and peaches, British Columbia can produce all that are needed for home consumption and an immense exportable surplus. The experiments with fruit at Agassiz have proved very successful, and it is interesting to note that nuts, such as almonds, filberts, English and Japanese walnuts, have been tried and promise very well. Of the fruits named above three things may be said: They yield abundantly, they are fine in flesh and delicate in flavor. The California fruit sold in Victoria is not by any means satisfactory, one reason being that it is usually picked before it is ripe, but there is another reason for the superiority of our fruits, which is embraced in the recognized rule in the vegetable kingdom that plants are at their greatest perfection the nearer they approach the northern limit of their successful cultivation. This is further illustrated at Agassiz, where orchards are planted on benches at various altitudes, the highest being 1,080 feet above the sea level. It is found that the more exquently favored fruit is grown on the higher benches, elevation being equivalent to more northerly latitude.

The Agassiz experiments demonstrate that the area in this province available for fruit is very large, and embraces localities which are quite unadapted for cultivation of any other kind. There are thousands of acres on Vancouver Island which Professor Saunders says are every bit as well adapted to fruit as the farm at Agassiz. The experiments are being conducted on a very extensive scale. Hundreds of varieties are being tried, and all parts of the world are being laid under tribute for varieties. Thus several hundred sorts were last year imported from Germany. Japan plums have been tried and found to do much better than in their native soil. It must not be understood that all the varieties tried succeed, for in point of fact the majority of them do not yield well enough to render them desirable for cultivation in this

province; but every orchardist will concede that it is nearly as important to know what varieties will not succeed as it is to know what will.

The superintendent of the farm is prepared to furnish a number of acres of approved kinds to those who ask for them. He cannot supply them in commercial quantities, as yet at any rate, but such as he has to spare, he will gladly send out on request. Doubtless many persons will avail themselves of this privilege.

It is not easy to over-estimate the good results that will accrue to British Columbia from the full development of this great industry. One advantage will be the production at home of an abundance of an agreeable and wholesome food. Another will be that the large imports of fruit from California will be cut down to what is needed before our own supply becomes fit for consumption, which means the saving of a good deal of money to the province. Another is that a large shipping trade can certainly be developed. The East, the prairie section and the northern mines will take our fruit, and there has already sprung up a demand in Japan. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that British Columbia will one day find her orchards a greater source of wealth than her gold mines.

## AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE.

A very extraordinary case occurred at the outer wharf on Monday night, although it may not be an unusual thing. A prominent Victoria merchant, having to pay a small sum of money on extra baggage going out on the City of Puebla, offered the young man in charge some Canadian silver, which was refused on the ground that it was not United States currency. On the Victoria man insisting, the young man said he could not take it without permission of his superior, who being summoned repeated the refusal and curtly said he had no time to discuss the reasons. Finally he took the money, but under protest only.

This appears about as impertinent a piece of business as can very well be imagined. To have the money refused in a Canadian city and United States money demanded is well calculated to arouse a feeling of very deep indignation. This sort of thing must stop, and stop at once. Probably the managers of the steamship company have not issued any directions to their employees not to take Canadian money in Canada; but if they have, the sooner they rescind them the better. If such unwarrantable impertinence is repeated, it will not be difficult to discover a means of showing that a man, no matter what his nationality may be, must when in Canada accept Canadian money as legal tender. We repeat that we believe this performance to be due to the whim of some under-strapper, and not to have been directed by any one in authority; but whoever is responsible for it, let him understand that he cannot continue the practice any longer with impunity.

## OUR FRENZIED NEIGHBOR.

There is really no excuse for the esteemed Times working itself up into a frenzy. Its last craze is over certain "threats and abuse" which the Colonist is alleged to have directed against the Opposition press. May we beg to be a little specific? We are not going to ask very much of it. Simply one little sentence of abuse, simply one small threat truthfully quoted from the Colonist will do. We will go further, and if one single word of abuse, either of the Opposition press or any member of the Opposition, can be quoted from the Colonist—just one word that any man can say can by any construction of language be called abuse, we will most humbly apologize for having employed it and will not offend again. We have held a mirror up so that our Opposition friends could see just what they look like, but it is not our fault that they do not like the reflection. One day a settler in the backwoods bought a small looking-glass and carried it home in a basket. His little boy, who had never seen one before, peeped into the basket, and, seeing his face reflected, jumped back, exclaiming, "Father's brought home a cub." We can suppose that some such process as this went on in the Times office yesterday morning; but surely the Colonist is not to blame for complying, so far as its contemporary is concerned, with the aspiration of Buras, and enabling it to see itself as others see it.

The Times tells us that the opposition press will not be deterred by our abuse and threats from agitating for reforms. May we ask who is trying to deter them? Are we not indeed endeavoring to get them to begin the good work of reform where charity ought to begin—at home. There is something very amusing about the frenzy of the Times. For weeks the Colonist has been the object of every spiteful epithet that the opposition press could invent. The attack has even extended to coarse personalities against the editor of this paper. We have made absolutely no reply. We have simply expressed the amusement which we feel at such puerile efforts to conduct a political campaign. We have not tried to express the infinite disgust which every decent man feels at the campaign of falsehood, forgery and invective of which the Colonist is the victim. If we cared

to descend to the level of our assailants we might make it a good deal hotter for them than they think, without resorting to such expedients, but we have more respect for our readers than to indulge in such a course, which would be exceedingly repulsive to ourselves. We tell the Times and his fellows that they may have all the business of mud-slinging to themselves. When we feel like doing it we will hold the mirror up to them again.

We notice by the Rossland Miner that Judge Forin has declared that he will not hold another session of the County court in Rossland unless a court house is provided. With all due respect to Judge Forin, we say that if he made any such statement as is attributed to him, he has taken more upon himself than his judicial office warrants. A judge may very properly decline to hold a court if no provision is made for a court room; but no judge has a right to dictate to the government where court houses shall be built. If the accommodation provided for the County court sessions at Rossland are inadequate, and it is desirable to continue the sessions there, as it probably is, better quarters should be arranged for; but for a judge to declare that he will not hold court unless a court house is built is going a little too far. We fancy that Judge Forin has not been reported correctly.

The gentle Times admits that it forged one quotation from the Colonist. While it was about it, it should have made a clean breast of the matter and acknowledged its other forgeries. We state in the distinctest possible language that a newspaper which will deliberately print in quotation marks a sentence and attribute it to another paper is morally guilty of forgery though it may not be legally guilty of the crime. It is time this sort of thing was stopped. We call upon the Times to substantiate its alleged quotation from the Colonist as to the liability of corporations, or stand convicted of untrustworthiness in the eyes of the whole community.

PROFESSOR PERRY, of the Royal College of Science, speaking of our low grade ores, said he was satisfied that it would be only a matter of time before a cheap and practical method would be devised for treating them. It would be absurd, he said, to suppose that science, with all her achievements, would be blocked by such a thing as this. There has not until recently been any incentive for investigation along this line. Now that the necessity has arisen we may feel very sure that science will do her share. Prof. Perry, in the course of a conversation upon our mining development, said we needed men of science, who would devote themselves to experiment rather than to the business side of mining. It is the hurry to get properties and processes upon the market that explains so many failures.

Once more British diplomacy has triumphed in the Eastern question. Things have a funny way of disappointing a certain class of prophets. These gentry have lately for the twentieth time demonstrated that Great Britain has ceased to be a factor of importance in European politics. Everything had been cut and dried when the Czar and the Kaiser met. Then something had to happen, and it happened just as Great Britain wanted it to and as the others did not want it to.

Our correspondent, Bainbridge Holme, is not quite right when he says that the only way for an all-Canadian rail route to the Yukon, that will be open all the year round, is via Lynn Canal. That would be the shortest route, but a better one, and one that would open a great extent of valuable country can be found from a point further down the coast. There are in fact several available starting points in British territory for such a line.

The advance of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition up the Nile is proving so far a very easy task. Whether the Khalifa is withholding desultory opposition with the intention of striking a heavy blow by and bye, it is of course impossible to say, although it seems very unlikely that he will yield without one grand effort to retain his supremacy in the Soudan.

Our visitors were greatly impressed yesterday with the surroundings of Victoria. Jupiter Pluvius was on his good behavior. The clouds around the horizon gave an indication of what he could do if he tried, but he forbore trying, for which we all feel very much obliged.

THE esteemed Columbian is like history. It has taken to repeat itself. Is this because it has run out of adjectives wherewith to describe the wickedness of the Colonist? If so we beg to inform it that good dictionaries can now be bought quite reasonably.

THE return of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition from the North confirms the conviction that the more we learn about that part of the world the less we really know. The secret of the Ice King is as safe as ever.

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# THE BLOCKADE

Cretans Have Accepted t  
An Autonomous For  
Government.

Therefore There No Long  
Reason For a For  
Fleet There.

CANEA, Crete, Sept. 6.—T  
in command of the fleets of  
in Cretan waters have decid  
the blockade of this island  
next September 10, the cau  
blockade having disap  
agents having accep  
form of government  
admiral's have request  
to disarm everybod  
troops. Admiral C  
admiral officer who has been  
by virtue of seniority, of the  
has not been recalled with  
warships. He has left Cret  
absence on board the Ital  
Sikilia, leaving the Italian  
charge of the Italian officer  
in rank. The Russian adm  
left Canea, and the British  
sail from here shortly on  
sence.

AN AYOVED ANAR  
Said He Intended to Assassinate  
Chief of Police.

BARCELONA, Sept. 6.—Th  
at court martial of Barri, t  
who attempted to assassinate  
Police Portas and Chief Tel  
day evening last, as they  
the court, asked if it was a  
years' imprisonment be in  
the prisoners. The defence  
ten years would be adequat  
for the accused. Barri ad  
the court martial that he c  
with the intention of assass  
of Police Portas on accus  
measures taken by the l  
anarchists.

Dictate Terms For Releasing  
They Carried A

TANGIER, Morocco, S  
pirates belonging to the R  
who about the middle of  
boarded and sacked the  
Fiducia, off the Riff coast  
prisoners her captain, E  
one seaman, and who abo  
later seized and plundered  
guess bark Kosta Faro a  
the captain and crew, a  
crew, have agreed to relea  
ers in exchange for the  
were captured by the ste  
and upon the payment of  
\$3,000.

FAST ATLANTIC S  
Lord Strathcona Going to S  
With Sir Ritchie

OTTAWA, Sept. 6.—(Spe  
is current to-day that Me  
Cameron and McMillan  
Ottawa as soon as Sir Wil  
turns, to have a further  
the school question, wh  
said, has not been settled  
a demand being made for  
concession by the Manito  
Lord Strathcona is exp  
morrow to confer with S  
wright about the fast. A  
when it may perhaps  
whether Peterson, Tate a  
posited \$10,000 as secur  
pletion of their contract

MORE ON THE  
Lord Lister and More Scie  
British Consul

WINNIPEG, Sept. 6.—  
eral Montgomery Moore  
Lady Colborne and Capt  
sed through Winnipeg  
private car en route to B  
Lord Lister and party  
board the train, Pa  
bound.

Eighty new grain elev  
teen flat warehouses  
structed during the past  
commodate Manitoba  
railway lines in Man  
Northwest. These, with  
ments now being made  
will increase the storag  
4,000,000 bushels.

POLITICAL CH  
Mr. Scott Likely to B  
Governor

TORONTO, Sept. 6.—(S  
tawa correspondent of  
that Laurier has offered  
Governorship of Ontari  
who will likely accep  
land is spoken of as  
net vacancy and it is e  
or Brodeur will succee

HAPPY AND PR  
Business Active All Ove  
Ontario

TORONTO, Sept. 6.—(S  
dustrial exhibition is  
so far. The attendance  
city crowded with visi  
has been previous  
able activity in busi  
brighter prospects than  
past.

Hagyard's Ye  
The great pain cure  
cures Rheumatism, s  
bruises, stiffness, pain  
description. Internally  
cold, sore throat, who  
bronchitis, quinsy, etc.  
gists.