

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, JAN. 16, 1899.

## AN UNSATISFACTORY SECTION.

The provision in the act relating to placer mines, specifying how incorporated companies shall be dealt with, appears more unsatisfactory the more it is examined, and the explanations of the Attorney-General do not make it any clearer. A New Brunswick judge once said to one of the commissioners who revised the statutes of that province: "What you say, Mr. —, may have been the meaning of the legislature, but unfortunately the legislature omitted to make arrangements to bind you up with the statutes, and so we must take the words just as we find them." If there was any certainty that Mr. Martin could be handed down to posterity with this bill, and that he would always be in the same equitable frame of mind as he appears to be when explaining how simple and innocent the section really is, the house might pass it as it stands; but even Mr. Martin will admit that there may come a time when his presence and counsel will not be available to steer the ship of state, and hence it would be well to guard against the errors of his possible successors.

The proposal is that the government— for that is what the expression "lieutenant-governor-in-council" means, the lieutenant-governor not having anything to do in the matter except to carry out the recommendation of his advisers—shall pass upon every application made by a company for a free miner's certificate, and shall refuse it if there is a reason to believe the corporation is a cloak for alien ownership. The act does not say so. His successor in office may think it means nothing of the kind. This is objection No. 1. Objection No. 2 is that the stock of a company organized in good faith by British subjects may pass into the hands of aliens the day after the certificate is granted, and the transaction may be made in perfect good faith. There is nothing in the bill to say that aliens may not hold stock in a company to which a certificate has been issued. We take the position that there should not be any such provision in the act, for it would be a wholly needless interference with the right of people to do business as they see fit and to sell what they have to any person who will buy. There is no great objection to aliens owning stock in placer mining companies, and they cannot readily be prevented from doing so under any circumstances.

The section is objectionable also because as it now stands it will interfere with the development of hydraulic propositions by foreign capital. We do not think this is desirable. What the colonist has had in mind in this matter was a law which would prevent a horde of people from rushing into British Columbia from every quarter of the globe and picking up our most easily worked placers, carry the gold out of the country and bring all their supplies from the United States. Nobody wanted to prevent foreign capital from taking hold of hydraulic mines; nobody was desirous of preventing aliens from organizing companies to work placers in this province. Companies operating in this province with their headquarters here will likely buy their goods here.

We suggest that the bill should be amended by a provision declaring that it shall not apply to companies entitled to do business in the province, having a bona fide capital of a certain minimum, of which a certain minimum shall be paid up.

## EXCLUSION OF ALIENS.

There is said to be a good deal of feeling in Seattle on account of the bill for the exclusion of aliens from our placer mines. It is no doubt rather hard upon the people of that city; but if they want to know who is to blame for it chiefly they have only to call at the corner of Second and Cherry streets and they will find the responsible party. The disposition on the part of the people of this province was to treat every one on precisely the same footing in regard to mines, and it is with a feeling of the greatest regret many people have given their adhesion to the measure in question. They were driven to it by the foolish course taken by the Post-Intelligencer, which left no stone unturned in its efforts to injure the merchants of British Columbia. For week after week and month after month that paper, armed with gross mis-statements intended to do Victoria and Vancouver every possible injury. The character of our merchants, the quality of the goods carried by them in stock, the prices, their ability to supply the demands of customers, were derided—everything in short which malignity could suggest was made an order to keep trade from these cities. Our people are not afraid of fair competition, but when confronted with a policy of slander, they naturally resented it. There was nothing they could do in regard to the Klondike, but when the discoveries at Atlin showed that large placer fields existed there, it was seen that an opportunity had occurred to pay off our slanderers in a way that they never dreamed of, and the agitation which has culminated in the new placer mine bill was the result. Therefore, if our neighbors feel indignant at seeing the most promising field on the American continent closed to them, they will know who is to blame for the demand for such legislation.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES.

The London Economist's report on the mines of British Columbia, already referred to in these columns, continues to at-

tract a good deal of attention. The Monetary Times discusses it at some length, and demonstrates very clearly that the Economist's special commissioner is extremely foggy in his views. The Times, however, emphasizes one point made by the writer, namely, that over-capitalization is injurious to our mining prospects. It is an easy thing to say this now, but we are not prepared to join with those who decry what is called over-capitalization as an unmixed evil. The stocking of a prospect for \$1,000,000 in shares of \$1 each can hardly be called over-capitalization, when the stock is offered to the public at a cent or two cents a share. To the London money market such a proceeding may look badly, but to those who understand the conditions under which the Kootenay mines were developed, there will not appear to have been anything very objectionable about it. Money had to be obtained for development purposes, and the only way to get it was to appeal to the speculative side of people's nature by offering them for a trifle what might prove to be a great deal more. Indeed if it were necessary to choose between buying shares at par on the one hand, and a prospectus and paying two cents for one-millionth part of a hole in the ground, we are not sure that a sensible man would not select the latter, especially in view of recent developments.

But the day has gone by when investors looked askance at British Columbia mining propositions. So many properties have passed out of the speculative stage that it is possible to invite the attention of capitalists to prospects as business investments and not as mere "gamblers." Hence we think it is desirable to take a new departure. Since we are hereafter to go principally to the London market for money, we must consult the views of that market.

Another point made by the Economist is worth driving home, and it is that development is retarded in many cases by the absurd price asked for prospects. The colonist knows a case of a prospector, who had a bona fide offer of \$500,000 for all the claims he had located during a season. The offer was on the basis of a certain amount down, the balance to be paid after examination. He declined it. He said that no one would offer him \$500,000 for his claims unless they were worth a good deal more, and he was going to hold them at a higher price. He has never had another offer and has had to abandon his claims. This is no doubt an extreme case, but it illustrates the point. It is doubtless very unfortunate, but it almost always happens, that the discoverer of a mine rarely makes a fortune out of it. The man who makes the money is the one who buys it from him, or possibly it passes through many hands before it becomes a property of much value. The speculators stand in their own light when they demand fancy prices for their discoveries. A reasonable figure, with the retention of an interest, would be far better for themselves and the country.

## THE WHITE PASS RAILWAY.

Among recent railway enterprises the White Pass railway is worthy of special notice because of the great engineering difficulties met with and the skill with which they have been surmounted. Notwithstanding the success that has attended the construction and operation of railways through other mountainous regions, many people were in great doubt as to the possibility of constructing and maintaining a line over the White pass. But the thing has been done, and its achievement reflects great credit upon the plucky capitalists who put up the money for the enterprise and the able staff employed in construction. It makes very little difference what other routes shall be provided for reaching the Yukon, that by way of the White pass will always be a great favorite. It is likely to be a great scenic route. Hitherto the tide of pleasure travel has turned back after visiting such points as could be reached by steamer. Hereafter it will be regarded as the correct thing to ascend the Pass by rail and probably take a run down the Yukon waters, visiting the Atlin district at least. The route at which development is progressing in the North is astonishing even to those who keep track of it. The colonist takes particular satisfaction in recording the success of the White pass route, because it was the first paper to advocate it as the best way from the head of Lynn canal to the Yukon. At that time all the other papers on the Coast were advocating the route via Dyea as the only feasible one; but the colonist, after examining all the evidence, decided in favor of the White pass, and therefore has the special pleasure in being able to chronicle the evidence that its views were well founded.

## RESIGNATION OF MR. McPHILLIPS.

Mr. McPhillips has found it necessary to resign his seat in the legislature because of his having unintentionally violated the provisions of the law regarding the independence of the legislature. He will offer for re-election and doubtless be re-elected handsomely. It seems to be a matter for regret that this and the other resignations should have been necessary. No one imagines for a single moment that Messrs. Hall, Tisdall and McPhillips intended to violate the law, or that they were in the slightest degree influenced by any little transaction in which they have been concerned. There is doubt as to their having violated the statute. Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that there are said to be other members of the house in the same predicament, we suggest that the matter of fairness all round the resignations of Messrs. Hall and McPhillips should be

returned by acclamation, and that an act should be passed indemnifying them, and any other member now in the house, from any penalty incurred by reason of any unintentional violation of the law. The public would sustain the house in such a measure, which would be a simple act of justice to all concerned.

## THE BREADTH OF CANADA.

The Colonist has made several references lately to the breadth of Canada, but none more interesting than the statement that a good wheat crop was raised at Port Providence last year. Port Providence is situated on the Mackenzie river a little east of Great Slave lake, in latitude 62 degrees north. This is more than nine hundred miles north of the international boundary. It is quite probable that the limit of successful northern production of this grain has not yet been reached, because as the hours of daylight increase the danger of summer frosts becomes no greater for some distance down the Mackenzie valley. Of course the point is not far distant where the season without frost is too short for the production of this grain, but it is highly probable that wheat can be successfully grown, during some years at least, one thousand miles north of where Canada borders upon the United States. This makes the Canadian wheat belt substantially as wide as that of the United States.

In this connection mention may be made of the fact that the latitude of Port Providence is only a little higher than that of St. Petersburg, and wheat is grown in large quantities in the country lying behind the Russian capital. Archangel, a seaport on the White sea, is the point of export for large quantities of wheat grown in latitude corresponding to that between the Peace river and Great Slave lake. This ought to be kept in mind, for it will then be seen that no unprecedented claim is made when we insist that the great lone land, stretching across Canada far north of the Canadian Pacific, will yet become the home of a prosperous people.

As the Colonist did not wish to drag provincial politics into the mayoralty contest, it did not refer to the attack upon Mayor Redfern in connection with the recent citizens' meeting, made by the Times. The evening paper says that the mayor had no right to take the position of a partisan at the meeting. It is quite true that Mr. Redfern took the chair because he was mayor of the city, but this was no reason why he should not express himself as strongly as he felt about the issue before the meeting. He did not speak as mayor, but as Charles E. Redfern, British subject and a voter of the city of Victoria. It is folly to talk of a man presiding as mayor at a meeting called to discuss a matter of provincial politics. He convened the meeting as mayor, but if he had presided during the evening it would simply have been as a citizen. As a citizen he had a right to speak, and he spoke on the right side, which is where the shoe pinches with Senator Templeman's paper.

Now that appendicitis is getting so common as almost to be vulgar, it is interesting to know that Dr. J. T. Hunt, of Chicago, a physician of twenty-seven years' experience, who has successfully treated 49 cases out of 51, claims that an operation is not necessary. He says: "My treatment for appendicitis is free colomel-and-soda purgations, supplemented by hot applications, to be followed by a saline if action is too slow." This seems so simple that it may not be worth considering, but most people will agree with us that anything is worth investigating that will render the use of the surgeon's knife unnecessary.

## THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

We do not believe there was the slightest legal necessity for the resignation of either Mr. Hall, Mr. Tisdall, or Mr. McPhillips. If there was, then it is difficult to say who can sit and vote in the legislature without incurring a penalty. Suppose that a member of the legislature owns a hotel and a member of the provincial civil service stops at it while travelling on public business. Such member forthwith becomes disqualified. Suppose a provincial constable in pursuit of a prisoner should arrive at a member's ranch and find his horse jaded. He would ask the member to let him have another, while under ordinary circumstances he would doubtless do so, he would not dare to do so now, unless he was prepared to give the services of the horse or the horse itself, in case it should be killed, to the government. Suppose it so happens that some one in the employ of the government should absolutely require something for the public service, which could only be obtained where he was from a store or a ranch owned in whole or in part by a member of the legislature, as has often happened, he will have to do without it, because if he buys it from the store or ranch, the member will be subject to a penalty. Let us suppose that some time in the summer of 1898 some member of the civil service bought, in connection with his public duties, a quarter of a dollar's worth of something from some member elected to the general election of that year, without the knowledge of the member. Under the nonsensical doctrine now prevailing in this province, that member is liable to a penalty of over a quarter of a million dollars for having sat and voted in the house during four sessions. All that is necessary is for some busybody to search the matter up, and he will doubtless find not only one, but many cases where members of the late house rendered themselves liable to penalties in this or some other way equally ridiculous.

We contend, as we have all along contended, that the law of this province is not so nonsensical. It is utter nonsense to claim that Mr. Tisdall violated the act to secure the independence of the legislature. It is utter nonsense to say that Mr. Hall did so. It is utter nonsense to say that Mr. McPhillips did. The colonist stands for the enforcement of the law, but it is opposed to such a construction being placed upon it as will reduce it to an absurdity. Therefore we have urged, and will continue to urge, that an act should be passed defining the meaning of the section. The provision which we should like to see adopted is the one which follows:

That the words "contract or agreement" shall not be construed to apply to any purchase of goods or merchandise in the ordinary way of business made by any person in the employ of the government, or to be paid for out of the public treasury, unless in pursuance of some previous understanding with the government, and that the word "contract" provided the amount of such sales did not exceed one hundred dollars.

This would not apply to the case of Mr. McPhillips, but we are unable to suggest anything that would meet his case, which was wholly what might be called a sentimental one. We may add that it is quite customary in other parts of Canada for the members of the legislatures to be given large salaries by the government, and it was never held to be a violation of the independence of parliament, although a perfectly proper subject for political advertisement.

## THE PLACER MINING BILL.

There is something approaching a panic in Seattle over the bill to exclude aliens from British Columbia placers. Every state in the Union, it is said, is to ask the Dominion government to prevent the legislation from being enacted. There is some local feeling on the subject and we print some interviews exhibiting it this morning. While the Colonist is largely responsible for forcing this matter to the front, and while it adheres to its view that, reserving the rights of every person who has acquired any under the law as it now stands, the ownership of the placer mines should be confined to British subjects or companies authorized to do business in British Columbia, we shall continue in future, as hitherto, to permit the fullest discussion of the subject in our columns. It will be remembered that the colonist invited the views of its contemporaries on the question and printed them in full, the majority of the expressions of opinion being against the exclusion of aliens.

There will doubtless be a strong demand made for the disallowance of the bill. If the people of the United States think that the right hereafter to exploit our provincial gold fields is of such great importance as they now claim, perhaps they will tell us what they are willing to give for it. The people of British Columbia are disposed to be fair. They have been treated brutally by their neighbors; but they are not unreasonable nor revengeful.

We find in the Post-Intelligencer a lot of rubbish about what United States citizens have done for the gold fields of Canada. No one denies that they contributed much to the development of Kootenay, and they have as a rule made very well out of it. No one wants to stop them now from coming in and developing quartz mines. The colonist never asked that they should be prevented from developing what are known as hydraulic propositions. But the nonsense talked about all the mines of Cariboo, Cassiar, Omineca, Peace river and everywhere else having been developed by Americans simply makes old British Columbia miners laugh. Mr. J. C. Callbreath favors the Seattle paper with an interview. We venture to say that Mr. Callbreath has been misreported, for we

do not believe he ever talked such nonsense as is attributed to him. He is represented as undertaking to express the sentiments of Canadians towards the people of the United States, and as saying that Canadians hate Americans, and that he has lived forty years in this country and knows. The greater part of these forty years Mr. Callbreath spent on the Stikine and the remainder in Cariboo, in both of which places the opportunity to become acquainted with Canadian sentiment was certainly limited, the more so because he himself says that the mines in those districts were developed chiefly by United States citizens. It would unduly magnify the importance of the words which the Post-Intelligencer has put into Mr. Callbreath's mouth to do more than say that there is not the least foundation for them.

## A ROMANCE OF THE AGES.

One of the most striking works of E. K. Liska, the artist, represents a wide expanse of desert, the sun sinking beneath the horizon. In the foreground, lying stretched upon the sand and partly covered by a sheet, is the figure of a boy. Near him sits a woman, her face turned toward him, her hands clasped in prayer, her eyes fixed upon his. A little way from her is a staff and empty water bottle. It is a picture of Hagar and Ishmael, the beginning of a romance, which is centuries old. Of all the men, whose shadows are thrown across the background of history, none is more remarkable than this son of Hagar and Abraham. We see, as we look backward, the figure of a stalwart youth, bronzed by the air of the desert, strengthened by many exercises, of whom the ancient chronicler wrote: "And God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness and became an archer."

The Biblical story tells us that God promised almost as much to Abraham as Ishmael's portion, as for that of Isaac. History tells us that there lived side by side in Southwestern Asia two races, one descended from Isaac and the other from Ishmael. The Hebrew race claims Isaac as its ancestor; the Arab race claims Ishmael. Both regard Abraham as their father. These two great branches of one family have practically given the Occidental world its character. Taking mankind as a whole in connection with the history of the race during the last four thousand years, it may be divided into three great sections: The Occidental section, embracing the people of Western Asia, Northern Africa and Europe; the Oriental section, embracing the people of India and China; and a third section including the aboriginal races of America, Central and South Africa, and Australasia. What we mean when we speak of history is the record of the Occidental section.

The two great contending forces in the Occidental section during the last fourteen centuries have been Christianity and Mohammedanism. The former owes its origin to the descendants of Isaac; the latter to the descendants of Ishmael. The important glimpses afforded of the progress of human thought, which influences the destiny of mankind more than the operations of great soldiers, indicate that for centuries before Christ the same antagonism existed. But be this as it may, there is no doubt that the conflict has been acute for the greater part of the Christian Era. Its influence upon the Occidental world has been profound. Let us take a single instance, that of the Crusades. These were prompted by a desire to wrest the holy places of Christianity from the Moslems. They failed in their object; but they broke the power of the great feudal barons in Europe, and made human slavery no longer possible there.

In Great Britain they facilitated the restoration to the people of the right of self-government, which was in jeopardy owing to the introduction of the feudal system from Normandy. They also inspired the people of Western Europe with a desire to know more of the Orient, of whose marvellous wealth they heard so much from the returning Crusaders. They had learned about it around their camp fires in the Holy Land. This led to the inauguration, after Europe had recovered from the exhaustion of the expeditions and the domestic turmoil induced by them, of voyages in search of a new route to India, and ultimately to the discovery and colonization of America.

Time and space would fail to tell of the varied incidents of this antagonism, and their influence upon political and social conditions, the development of literary thought, the progress of invention and discovery. The two branches of the family of Abraham have met at a hundred different points and in a hundred different ways. The very latest phase of it is the campaign which terminated in the capture of Omurtag, and this has inaugurated a new phase, in the shape of an effort to introduce European ideas into the very heart of the most intense Mohammedanism. We need not assent to the theory which claims the Anglo-Saxon family to be descended from Isaac, for whether the British race is the heir in its religious conceptions of the younger son of Abraham.

Thus the great romance of history is being worked out. Like many other romances, it is originated in a woman's jealousy, for the banishment of Hagar was due to the jealousy of Sarah. If she had been content to allow the young Egyptian bondswoman to remain at home, the whole history of the world would have been different. The strife between the two branches of the family is far from being ended. Rivers of blood have been shed because of it. Countless treasure has been expended in the vain endeavor to terminate it. The struggle has at times advanced and at times impeded the progress of mankind, and still

no man can look over the situation, as it stands to-day, without recognizing that the greatest struggle is yet to come. Many and many a dark and bloody chapter will be written before the word "Finis" is inscribed on this Romance of the Ages.

It is absolute nonsense to insinuate, as the evening paper does, that the late government connived at violation of the law to secure the independence of the legislature.

Marvellous are the ways of the law. Mr. Cotton, finance minister, can as manager and stockholder in the News-Advertiser Printing and Publishing Company, legitimately make as much money as his contract will allow out of any work his company may do for the government; but when the clerk of his neighbor, Mr. Tisdall, sells six bits' worth of cartridges to a policeman, Mr. Tisdall vacates his seat in the house and renders himself liable to hundreds of dollars in penalties.

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Ottawa, Jan. 4.—The Interior has received from Survey a preliminary report on deposits and conditions of Klondike region, by Messrs. J. B. Tyrrell of the Survey, and J. B. Tyrrell of the Survey, who say that the productive gold district and covers an area of 1,000 square miles situated between the Klondike river and the Yukon river, and that the latter river, the Klondike, is separated by long ridges and smaller streams and terms in even slopes and hills. The general aspect of the region is one of high mountains, and the fact that the creeks radiate out in a central point, and that the name given to a prominent ridge separating the Klondike river from the Yukon river is the highest point in the Klondike region, at an elevation above the sea of about 3,000 feet. The forest generally covers the slopes, especially of black and white some birch and poplar.

ADDITIONS TO PRODUCE. The approximate area of the known gold fields, and not to the act of the Klondike river, and the lower slopes of the adjacent mountains, and the creeks so far as only four Dorado, Bonanza, Hunker and the greater proportion of the last two years also Dorado and Bonanza. The of four promising creeks length of about 30 miles, and the Klondike river, and the lower slopes of the adjacent mountains, and the creeks so far as only four Dorado, Bonanza, Hunker and the greater proportion of the last two years also Dorado and Bonanza. The of four promising creeks length of about 30 miles, and the Klondike river, and the lower slopes of the adjacent mountains, and the creeks so far as only four Dorado, Bonanza, Hunker and the greater proportion of the last two years also Dorado and Bonanza. 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