

The Colonist.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1898.

A ROAD TO ATLIN.

We hope to be able to chronicle that the provincial government has appropriated a sufficient sum of money to secure the immediate opening of a road from the White Pass to Atlin. We understand that a comparatively small amount—not more than \$10,000—will make a good winter road and keep it open until spring. It is true that no amount may be available out of the votes of last session for this purpose, but the emergency is such that a special warrant might very properly be issued to cover the outlay.

The Atlin gold field is in British Columbia, and no doubt any leader exists as to its value. Its trade will naturally come to the British Columbia cities. People will begin to go in about the first of the year, and a good winter road ought to be ready for them. The Colonist thinks that public opinion will more than support the government in making the necessary expenditure up to at least the sum above mentioned.

THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The date fixed for the calling of the house is earlier than usual, but not as early as it ought to have been, in view of the extraordinary character of the political situation. Some very interesting developments may be expected when the members get together. It is reported that Mr. Prentice will not take his seat, and we may assume, although we have no definite information on the subject, that Mr. Stoddart will be on hand to occupy it. Whether any of the election petitions will be disposed of by that time, and, if so, what the result will be upon the complexion of the house, we are not in any better position to judge than anyone else.

It is reported that the government will propose the name of Mr. Forster when the election for the speakership comes on. Among the members of the government party, Mr. Forster has claims quite equal and in some ways superior to those of anyone else, but how Mr. Kellie will submit to being overlooked is another matter. We anticipate an exceedingly close session. Unless something develops which is not now in evidence, it seems hardly possible that the government can organize the house. It is very clear that they cannot hope to carry on the business of the country. When the inevitable defeat comes, almost anything may happen. The man who thinks he can correct the course of the government of British Columbia politics for the next six months, has abundant faith in his own discernment. The elements which make any suggested situation difficult to work out are many. About the only thing that is absolutely certain is that the present makeshift government is destined to a very early overthrow.

AN OFF-SEASON IN POLITICS.

There is a surprising dearth of political topics of interest just now, and the efforts of some of the papers to pretend that they are waging active warfare against their opponents is not a little amusing. One side is just like the other. A few stock subjects are trotted out but, as they are labeled, not many people take the trouble to read the articles. If any one does, he is sure to find himself wondering if he has not got hold of a paper of year before last or some other remote period. The fact of the matter is that no one is taking very much interest in politics just now. If you meet a friend on the street, he rarely thinks it worth while to speak about any political question. There are two reasons for this. One is that the people have got tired of political controversy and are thinking more about business. They know that the sessions of parliament and the provincial legislatures are not far off, and they realize that they will get not only a dose but a surfeit of political news. Another reason is that large political questions occupy very little place in every one's attention.

The respite is rather agreeable. It would not be a bad plan if, by common consent or otherwise, it could be arranged that no politicians would take a vacation after the fashion of the lawyers, and that any steps made in the game during that period would be counted. One advantage of such an arrangement would be that the bitterness engendered by party strife would have a chance to pass away and people would be able to get together in efforts to advance the material prosperity of their several localities. But pending such an agreement it is not at all unsatisfactory to have an off-season in politics, such as Canada is experiencing just now.

THE BURDEN OF SUCCESS.

The people of the United States entered upon the war with Spain with a light heart, and events proved that from a military and naval point of view they were right in not harboring any anxiety. A few weeks ago it was reported that countries have a decided rising tendency. The result of this is that old prophecies are being re-opened and new ones are being eagerly sought. In illustration of how such prophecies have advanced, it may be mentioned that five years ago the whole attention of the copper properties in the Lake Superior district was about \$40,000,000, while at present, basing the value of stock on the prices quoted on the Boston stock exchange, the amount is close to \$105,000,000, of which \$25,000,000 is accounted for by the advance in the value of stocks since the beginning of the present year. Calumet and Hecla will pay a dividend for 1898

ment. Here the experience of Great Britain in Egypt may be mentioned as an illustration. When orders were given to the fleet to suppress the revolt of Arabi Pasha, without waiting for the co-operation of France, there was no intention on the part of the British government to reconquer the Soudan. Indeed it was at one time expressly declared that this part of Egypt's possessions would be definitely abandoned. Most people are familiar with the chain of events, which led up to Kitchener's expedition and the peremptory order to France to quit Fashoda, and will agree with us in saying that the outcome has been due to the irresistible logic of facts of which the bombardment of Alexandria was the beginning. The occupation of Egypt carried with it certain responsibilities, and these have been discharged under a species of compulsion, that has led to the results being tolerated, if not expressly approved of by all the powers except France. We will appreciate the dealings of the United States with Spain better if we bear in mind the resemblance between them and Great Britain's dealing with Egypt, a resemblance which has frequently been pointed out by the British press.

The case between the Washington and Madrid governments divides itself into two branches, the future of Cuba and the future of the Philippines. So far as Porto Rico is concerned, the case is closed. In several important respects the two parts of the case are similar. Both Cuba and the Philippines were in revolt against Spain at the beginning of the war, and in neither case did the insurgents contemplate changing their allegiance. Their hope was to set up independent governments. Both Cuba and the Philippines were burdened with heavy debt incurred by Spain chiefly in suppressing revolts. If in either case the insurgents had been successful, they certainly would not have assumed the debt which their mother country had placed upon them. In other words, if Spain had lost the islands through rebellion, she would have had to assume the debts. The best evidence available is that the people of neither colony are capable of self-government. It is therefore probable that Spain would have lost both Cuba and the Philippines, and would have had to assume the debt charged against them, while the islands would have been left in a chaotic condition, under which life and property would not have been safe. The occupation of the islands by some other power would have been inevitable, in which event no one would have suggested that such power should relieve Spain of the debts. We are unable to see how the United States by simply anticipating the course of events and compelling Spain to abandon her colonies without placing an greater debt upon them, incurred any responsibility for the outstanding liability.

The disposition that shall be made of the Cuban and Philippine debts is one of the burdens which the success in the late war has cast upon the United States, for a refusal to bear any part of them is only a little less important than the assumption of the whole liability. But the great question with which the Washington government will have to deal is the future of the Spanish colonies. Can Cuba be permitted safely to organize as an independent republic? We do not think so. The experience of the Central American and South American republics is an unanswerable argument against any experiment of that nature in an island inhabited by a people, less fitted to manage their own affairs than those of any of the former continental possessions of Spain. Having taken the responsibility of driving out the Spaniards, the United States cannot shake themselves clear of the obligation to substitute some other control that will secure peace to the island and protect the lives and property of those who now live or may hereafter go to reside there. In regard to the Philippines the case is even stronger. To allow Spain to remain the mistress would be to inaugurate a period of anarchy, for the insurgents would gain such headway that it would be impossible for that country, in her present crippled condition, to keep them under control. To attempt to set up a republic there would be an act of insanity. The people do not possess a single element fitting them for such a task. In either event, other nations would readily discover excuses for stepping in and acquiring portions of the archipelago, so that in the end Spain would lose the islands anyway. Being in possession of the Philippines, the Washington government cannot discharge its duty to retaining them. To do so is a task of enormous difficulty; but success carries its own burdens with it. Great Britain has long felt this, and the United States cannot hope to escape the operation of the rule.

A BOOM IN COPPER.

There never was such a boom in copper properties as is now in progress in the Lake Superior district. The New York Commercial Advertiser says that the foreign and domestic demand for copper has never so much increased as now and that the majority of outside observers realized that the war itself was the least serious part of the business, and that the problems to which success would give rise were likely to be of a far graver character. So it is proving to be. In order to understand the situation, it is necessary to bear in mind that it was not the intention of the United States government at the outset to acquire any considerable amount of territory by the war. This was expressly stated in the resolutions adopted by congress and the proclamation of the president. But events often prove to be stronger than the most resolute govern-

of about \$6,000,000 and its stock, which jumped from a gross value of \$24,000,000 to \$28,000,000 in five years, may be expected to make another advance, for the anticipated dividend is fifty per cent. larger than that of last year. The Tamarack has crested in value in two years, the Quincy has increased four-fold and the Osceola six-fold. These properties were each valued at from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 two years ago, so it will be seen that the rise in price represents an immense sum of money. A group of six properties, which were considered dear three years ago at \$25,000, is now quoted on the stock exchange at \$9,800,000. It is interesting to know that the United States supplies 60 per cent. of the copper used in the world. There are few copper mines on the coast of British Columbia ought to be able to successfully compete with those on Lake Superior in the foreign market. The development now in progress on the lake ought to stimulate the prospecting for copper in this province, where hitherto it has occupied hardly a secondary place in public esteem.

BRITISH INFLUENCE.

The Paris Journal prints the following which is as strong a piece of evidence as to the far-reaching influence of Great Britain upon the coast of British Columbia as can well be desired. It is a French paper in a French journal and at this juncture is not the least interesting feature in connection with it: "You have had, General, he was asked, 'to fight against English influences. Are these so deeply rooted as the people say?'" "Yes, to an extraordinary degree. We have had a veritable English war, do not doubt it. I will give you an example. 'At Ambato-draza two Frenchmen were captured and assassinated. Six days afterwards the Falvaros arrested an Englishman. But not only did they do him no harm, but two days afterwards the prisoner was able to send to one of his compatriots a letter couched in these terms: 'I am a prisoner, but I do not want for anything. I am able to send you this to tell you that the station will be reached in ten days. Be careful to put on the most clear mark of your English nationality, and you may be sure that no harm will come to you. The French commander, and the Falvaros got a very warm letter. But you see that the great is the influence of the English.'"

THIS WONDERFUL CENTURY.

Its Achievements and Those of Other Centuries—Some of Its Great Features. (By Alfred B. Wallace, author of "Darwinism.")

Having now completed our sketch of those practical discoveries and striking generalizations of science which have marked the nineteenth century, and the outward forms of our civilization, and will ever remain memorable the century now so rapidly developing as to have twelve during that century, it will be well now to give comparative lists of those above enumerated. OF NINETEENTH CENTURY. 1. Railways. 2. Steamships. 3. Electrical telegraphs. 4. The telephone. 5. Electric trams. 6. Gas illumination. 7. Electric lighting. 8. Photography. 9. The phonograph. 10. Röntgen rays. 11. Spectrum analysis. 12. The germ theory of disease. 13. Antiseptic surgery. 14. Conservation of energy. 15. The theory of evolution. 16. Velocity of light directly measured, and earth's rotation experimentally shown. 17. The uses of dust. 18. Chemistry, definite proportions. 19. Meteors and the meteoric theory. 20. The glacial epoch. 21. The antiquity of man. 22. Organic evolution established. 23. Cell theory and embryology. 24. The germ theory of disease and the function of the leucocytes. OF ALL PRECEDING AGES. 1. The mariner's compass. 2. The steam engine. 3. The telescope. 4. The barometer and thermometer. 5. Printing. 6. Arabic numerals. 7. The printing press. 8. Modern chemistry founded. 9. Electric science founded. 10. Gravitation established. 11. Kepler's laws. 12. The differential calculus. 13. The circulation of the blood. 14. The theory of probability. 15. The development of geometry. Of course these numbers are not absolute. Either series may be increased or diminished by taking account of other things which are equally important, or by striking out some which may be considered as below the grade of an important discovery. We think our readers are able to ascertain the relative heat and chemical constitution of the stars, and ascertain the laws of the revolution of the sun and planets, and the motion of stellar bodies which are entirely invisible. 12. The use of anaesthetics, rendering the most severe surgical operations painless. 13. The use of antiseptics in surgical operations, which has further extended the means of saving life. Now, if we ask what inventions comparable to the steam engine and the printing press of the previous (eighteenth) century, it seems at first doubtful whether there were any. But we may perhaps be able to find some. The steam engine from the rude but still useful machine of Newcomen to the powerful and economical engine of Watt. The principle, however, was known long before, and had been practically applied to the raising of water from the mines of Worcester and by Savery; and the improvements made by Watt, though very important, had a very limited effect. The engines made were almost wholly used in pumping the water out of deep mines, and the bulk of the population of the more or less civilized world, derived any more direct benefit from them, than if they had not existed. "Perhaps," said I, "on the whole, the one great and far-reaching invention was that of the telescope, which in its immediate results of extending our knowledge of the universe, and giving possibilities of future knowledge not yet exhausted, may rank with spectrum analysis in our own era. The barometer and thermometer are minor discoveries. In the sixteenth century we have no invention comparable to the steam engine or the printing press. The mariner's compass was invented early in the fourteenth century, and was of great importance, and thus facilitating the discovery of America. Then, backward to the dawn of history, or rather to prehistoric times, we have the two great engines of knowledge and discovery—the Indian or Arabic numerals leading to arithmetic and algebra, and, more remote still, the invention of alphabetical writing. Summing these up, we find only five preceding time—the telescope, the printing press, the barometer and thermometer, which we may add the steam engine and barometer, making seven in all, against thirteen in the nineteenth century. Coming now to the theoretical discoveries of our time, which have extended our knowledge of the universe, we find them to be about equal in number as follows: 1. The determination of the mechanical equivalent of heat, leading to the great principle of the conservation of energy. 2. The molecular theory of gases. 3. The mode of direct measurement of the velocity of light, and the experimental proof of the earth's rotation. These are put together because hardly sufficient alone. 4. The discovery of the function of the blood. 5. The theory of definite and multiple proportions in chemistry.

have been fit for the office. We shall not make any further comments at present, but will leave the legal gentlemen, who support Mr. Martin and his colleagues, to digest this very delicious morsel of news at their leisure.

A returned Klondiker has been telling the people of Chicago that the perils of a journey to the Yukon are beyond description, and that none but those of the stoutest bodies and strongest minds should contemplate it. This fellow is somewhat belated with his warning. His story would have been all right a year ago, but next year it will be as easy to go to Klondike as to Chicago.

The Nainaimo Review does itself an injustice. The Colonel did not say it was unworthy of notice, but only that one special article could be so characterized. The Colonist has given the Review many occasions to note that it regards it as worthy of notice.

The Golden Era complains that the people of Donald are being shamefully treated in the matter of a resident physician, the gentleman who formerly held that position having been removed to Revelstoke. This is a matter which seems to call for government action.

It is back we can find nothing of first rank except Euclid's wonderful system of geometry derived from earlier Greek and Egyptian sources, and perhaps the most remarkable mental product of the earliest civilizations; to which we may add the introduction of Arabic numerals and the use of the abacus. Thus in all past history we find only eight theories or principles antedated with twelve during that century, it will be well now to give comparative lists of those above enumerated.

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WEST INDIAN UNREST.

The Governor Takes Steps to Remove General Impression of British Neglect.

Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 3.—Gen. Hallwies, the acting Governor of Jamaica, started on a tour of the eastern parishes on Monday for the purpose of personally investigating the causes of dissatisfaction in the recently disturbed districts. The tremendous heavy rains which have fallen since Saturday converted the rivers into torrents, obliterated roads, rendered travel dangerous and altogether isolated the so-called Maroon territory. The General, however, refused to postpone his journey and continues to force his way into the interior. In so doing he experienced a thrilling escape from being swept away by the Bamboo river yesterday. This determination to get into touch with the disaffected people is expected to produce excellent results. The feeling of the people may be gathered from the following quotations from the local press: "The Roseau Dominican says: 'While Mr. Chamberlain is doing his utmost to assist us, yet it is quite clear that the mass of the British people do not care one iota as to whether we sink or swim. The situation will soon have to be straight and square before the British voter as to whether he is inclined to cut the connection and allow us to make our own arrangements. The telegram about Jamaica wishing to cut the painter and which at first we treated as a huge joke, appears after all, to have been based on truth. Yes, the time has come when something will have to be done to get us out of the rut and make us feel that we are not altogether a God-forsaken people.'"

MR. CORBIN'S SCHEME.

Chief Government Organ Now Advises That Charles Be Granted His Him. That D. C. Corbin may receive more support at the coming session of the Dominion parliament than he did at the last in his application for the railway charter seems likely from the attitude of the Toronto Globe, a government organ, which is strongly favoring granting the application. That paper writes editorially in relation to Mr. Corbin's application: "There is little doubt as to the course which the government will pursue. It will be urged, and with some force, that the interests of the Dominion as a whole will be benefited by the Canadian Pacific railway, to whose construction the government has already given a decided advantage to the Canadian manufacturer and trader, and who has subsidized in money and land, and enjoys other special and valuable privileges or any kind, seems to us to pass the bounds of reason and justice. No matter where the money for the railway comes from, it is a public charge, and it is not fair to give a decided advantage to the Canadian manufacturer and trader, and who has subsidized in money and land, and enjoys other special and valuable privileges or any kind, seems to us to pass the bounds of reason and justice. No matter where the money for the railway comes from, it is a public charge, and it is not fair to give a decided advantage to the Canadian manufacturer and trader, and who has subsidized in money and land, and enjoys other special and valuable privileges or any kind, seems to us to pass the bounds of reason and justice. No matter where the money for the railway comes from, it is a public charge, and it is not fair to give a decided advantage to the Canadian manufacturer and trader, and who has subsidized in money and land, and enjoys other special and valuable privileges or any kind, seems to us to pass the bounds of reason and justice. 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