The Colonist.

MONDY, JULY 25, 1898.

A WORD WITH SENATOR TEMPLEMAN.

The Colonist prints this morning a letter from Senator Templeman, headed "A Word With the Colonist." During the heat of a political controversy many things are said and written, to which those responsible for them do not give much consideration. When the contest is over sensible men forget them, unless they were clearly malicious or calculated to do a permanent injury to the person against whom they were uttered. Editorials are written in haste, just as speeches are made in haste. The idea of the writer is to give a Roland for an Oliver, or to score a point against an opponent, and he is not always quite as particular as he might be as to the language he employs. This is doubtless to be regretted, but it would not have occurred to the Colonist that Senator Templeman, of all men, would have felt it necessary to treat seriously a few casual expressions in the Colonist. He is a public man, and an active one; hence his conduct naturally calls forth comment. He would be very much disappointed if it did not. He would not like to think that he was so insignificant that his political opponents would ignore him entirely. In addition to this, Senator Templeman is manager of a newspaper, and that paper has been persistent in its attacks upon the public acts and the private reputation of individuals, and has by no means confined itself to those who are in public life. His paper has been violent and coarse. It has been malicious. It has sought to do private individuals personal injury. Surely if any man ought not to feel called upon to write such a letter as that which the Colonist prints this morning, it is Senator Templeman.

The Colonist does not feel called upon to say whether the references to which Senator Templeman takes exception were intended for him. In view of what is hereinafter said, that question is perfectly immaterial. Senator Templeman by his letter invites a discussion of his qualification as a Senator of Canada, and as this is a public matter, it is quite right that his request should be complied with. We may tell him that if it had not been for his letter, which even his friends will concede is a very foolish production, the Colonist would have permitted him to enjoy his honors in peace. When he was appointed this paper was the first to offer him congratulations, and these were sincere, because, in the opinion of this paper, there is not so much recognition of the work done by the press, that a paper should refuse to congratulate the representative of another paper, even though of a different political party, when he is promoted to an honorable and responsible office. The congratulations of the Colonist to Senator Templeman were sincere, and it may further tell him that this paper, although repeatedly urged to do so, declined to make the question of his qualification the subject of discussion, giving as a reason that it did not care to raise such a question in regard to any one, and least of all in regard to a newspaper man. Further forbearance being likely to be misunderstood, the Colonist presents some facts which it believes show that Senator Templeman should not have received the appointment in the first instance, and ought not to have taken the oath of qualification. We repeat that the matter is one of more than personal importance to Senator Templeman. It goes to the very bottom of the question of senatorial appointments, and now that it has been raised, it is proper for the Senate to institute an inquiry.

The position taken by the Colonist is that to render the appointment of a senator valid, he must at the time of his appointment possess the qualifications prescribed by the British North America Act, 1867. These are:

He must be of the full age of thirty-three years.

He must be a subject of Her Majesty.

He must possess in freehold within the province for which he is appointed real estate to the value of four thousand dollars over and above all charges against the same.

His real and personal property must together be worth four thousand dollars above his liabilities.

He must be a resident of the province for which he is appointed.

We contend that each of these requirements is as binding as any of the others, and that a man cannot be legally gazetted a senator unless he possesses them all. For instance, suppose through mistake a man were gazetted a senator who was not a British subject, he could not become naturalized and then qualify. Nor would it be valid to appoint a resident of Ontario a senator for British Columbia and permit him to come here after his appointment and qualify. In like manner the appointment of a man as senator who possesses no real estate or less real estate than the act requires cannot be helped by the acquirement by such person of sufficient real estate afterwards.

Such a contention is reasonable. If the object of the act, which was to secure that senators should possess at the time of their appointment certain qualifications, can be defeated by acts done subsequent to the appointment, it would be senseless to continue the provision any longer on the statute book.

Applying the law to the case of Senator Templeman, we find that he was appointed in November, 1897. At this time he was undoubtedly thirty-three years of age. He was undoubtedly a British subject. He was undoubtedly a resident of the province of British Columbia; but so far as the records of title seem to disclose, he was not possessed of any real estate. Parliament met on February 3rd. Senator Templeman did not attend at the opening. He remained in Victoria for some weeks. It was currently reported that he was arranging to qualify. On February 28th last a deed was filed for registry in Victoria of Lots 14 and 15 of part of section 2, Beckley Farm, the title being to William Templeman, and the value being placed at $5,000. After this Senator Templeman went to Ottawa, and it is to be presumed took the oath of qualification, since he took part in the deliberations of the Senate.

We submit that the acquiring of this property by Senator Templeman did not in any way cure the defect in his original appointment, any more than any other defect could have been cured by a subsequent act, and we submit further that the Senator was badly advised when he took the oath of qualification, which is as follows:

DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATION.

I, A. B., do declare and testify, that I am by law duly qualified to be appointed a member of the Senate of Canada (or as the case may be), and that I am legally or equitably seised as of freehold for my own use and benefit lands or tenements held in free and common Socage (or seised or possessed of for my own use and benefit of lands and tenements held in Franc-alleu or in Roture (as the case may be), in the province of Nova Scotia (or as the case may be) of the value of four thousand dollars over and above all rents, dues, debts, mortgages, charges, and incumbrances due or payable out of or charged on or affecting the same, and that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands and tenements, or any part thereof, for the purpose of enabling me to become a member of the Senate of Canada (or as the case may be), and that my real estate and personal property are together worth four thousand dollars over and above my debts and liabilities.

We direct the attention not only of Senator Templeman, but of the public, to the language with which the oath begins. "I, A. B., do declare and testify that I am by law duly qualified to be appointed a member of the Senate of Canada." Granting that at the time he took the oath he was qualified to be appointed, he had already been appointed, and at that time he was not qualified, so far as the records of titles shows. We draw attention also to the phrase "that I have not collusively or colorably obtained a title to or become possessed of the said lands and tenements or any part thereof for the purpose of enabling me to become a member of the Senate." We contend that the words "collusively or colorably" ought not to be construed as applying to the words "become possessed of." We admit that at first reading they may be understood as qualifying both the expression "obtained a title to" and "become possessed of," but the rules for the construction of statutes warrant the contention that, where language is capable of two interpretations, that interpretation will be given to it which is most in harmony with the whole intention of the act and in accordance with sound public policy. That is, the British North America act does not contemplate that an unqualified person may be appointed senator and may at his convenience thereafter obtain the prescribed qualifications and then take the oath of office. Senator Templeman ought, not, we submit, to have sworn on the strength of property acquired in February, 1898, that he was duly qualified to be appointed a senator in November, 1897. We do not, in making this claim, by any means necessarily impugn Senator Templeman's good faith in taking the oath of qualification, preferring to treat it simply as a case where he was wrongly advised.

Our point is that, as at the time of his appointment Senator Templeman did not possess the property qualification, his appointment was invalid, and that as he obtained the property in respect of which he took the qualification oath after his appointment, the presumption is that he obtained it to enable him to take the oath of qualification, and hence that he has violated the law, has rendered himself liable to a penalty for improperly sitting and voting in parliament, and that his seat ought to be declared vacant.

We have in the aforegoing observations made no reference to the collusive procuring of title. Upon this point the Colonist has no evidence and hence says nothing. It does not desire to make any reflection upon Senator Templeman in this regard; but he evidently had this in his mind when writing his letter and therefore, if he will say that, at the time he was appointed senator, he was in possession of the money which went to pay for the property, and that this money was his own, that the purchase price of the property was what it purports to have been, namely $5,000, and that it was paid by Senator Templeman out of his own private money, and that he did not procure the money to enable him to buy the property so as to qualify, we will gladly publish his statement, and rest the case wholly upon the facts above set out. Further, if at the time of his appointment in November last, Senator Templeman was in possession of the requisite amount of real estate to make him a proper person to be appointed senator, and if his real and personal estate at that time were together worth four thousand dollars over and above his liabilities, the Colonist will publish the evidence to that effect, if it is furnished, and apologize for having said anything capable of being interpreted into an expression of doubt as to his senatorial qualification. If he cannot do this, the Colonist will feel it to be its duty to insist, in the most public manner possible, that the procurement by Senator Templeman of real estate on February 28th, 1898, to enable him to take the oath of qualification was an evasion of the law and that his appointment as senator is wholly invalid.

The postoffice is in its new quarters. This shows that time works wonders. It is now possible that the filter beds may be got into operations before the crack of doom.

ONTARIO POLITICS.

There is something very much like a political sensation in Ontario. Premier Hardy has called the legislature together, for the avowed purpose of legalizing certain things in connection with the recent election, and also in order that there may be a session of the house with all the constituencies represented. So many protests have been filed that if the session is put off until the regular time a very large percentage of the seats will be vacated by the action of the courts. Under these circumstances Premier Hardy has taken the somewhat remarkable step of calling the house together within a few months after the last prorogation. The chief question involved in the proposed legislation is the right of constables to vote. The law says that no person, who receives any money for services rendered in connection with the election shall vote, excepting the deputy returning officers and their clerks. It is alleged that the custom in Ontario has been to permit constables attending at the poll booths to vote; but this year, when some of the majorities are very narrow, every vote counts. In the whole of Ontario there were 3,153 constables to whom the prohibition applies, and as in some constituencies there are as many as seventy, it is quite probable that the vote of these paid employees of the government may, in some instances, have led to the election of the government nominees.

Premier Hardy's proposition looks to an outsider very much like a high-handed act. There does not seem to be any virtue in laws, which can be set aside by ex post facto legislation. If members illegally elected can sit in the legislature and pass a law declaring themselves to be legally elected, the end of popular government seems to have been reached. There does not seem to be any necessity for holding the elections at all if things like this can be done. The wisdom of the provision prohibiting persons receiving money in connection with the election from voting does not enter into the question. It is the law, and being the law it should be respected. As the matter will be fully thrashed out when the legislature meets, further reference at this time is needless, but it may be discussed with advantage when the merits of the case have been brought out on both sides in the house.

We reprint on this page an article from the Colonial Goldfields Gazette, of London, dealing with the recent election contest. It was, as will be seen from perusal of it, written before the election. The review of the situation shows a remarkably clear insight into British Columbia affairs, and the opinion expressed as to the desirability of Mr. Turner being retained as Premier is not only sound, but we are glad to feel assured altogether likely to be warranted by events. It would be a mistake at this juncture to put a new man at the head of affairs, and the friends of the province abroad will be glad to learn that nothing of the kind is likely to occur.

The Seattle Times says that there is good reason to believe that the amount of gold brought down by the Roanoke was fully $3,750,000, and it further asserts that there is a combination on the part of the transportation companies to represent the output as less than it is. It declares that the arrivals of gold in Seattle during the month of July have been at least $4,765,000 worth, the principal part having come by the Roanoke. The Times put that of the Cottage City down at $50,000, the New England at $15,000, the City of Seattle and Samoa at $600,000 and $300,000 respectively, the Dora Bluhm at $50,000 and the Lukme at $750,000.

A correspondent suggests that the city council, in adjusting the water rates, ought not to forget that the man who uses water to keep his grounds beautiful benefits the city by making it attractive. Except in the few cases, where private grounds are enclosed from public observation or are so distant from the street as to be hidden from sight, fine lawns and an abundance of flowers furnish nearly as much pleasure to others as to their owners. It was Charles Lamb, if we are not mistaken, who said the rich people were very good to keep up their beautiful gardens so that he might have something pretty to look at as he walked by.

The Rossland Miner of the 17th complains of the delay in holding the Cassiar election. The Miner probably by this time understands that there was no unnecessary delay, but it may be mentioned for the information of others, that owing to the great distance between polling stations in Cassiar and the distance, also, from Victoria, it is impossible to bring an election on speedily. Even now it is doubtful if the returning officer has given himself time enough.

If a man were sent out with a sharp axe and directed to go along the residence streets of this city and cut down the rose bushes and other shrubs that are growing in a manner to partially obstruct the plank sidewalks, a good many people would rise up and call the street committee blessed.

That sidewalk in front of the postoffice is rather a doubtful piece of work. It began to wear out before it was finished.

Among the aftermath of the campaign there is nothing quite so sad as the efforts of the Columbian to keep its courage up.

Reading between the lines of the Times' despatch from Vancouver the opposition gathering there was not quite serene.

Every day brings news of a gratifying character about Kootenay.

NEWS OF THE MINES.

YMIR.

Ten men are at present working on the Tamarac mine. On account of surface water work was shut down on this property early in the spring. The Tamarac is considered to rank with the best properties around Ymir, and it is thought this mine will be a shipper before a great while.

There are at present about thirty men employed on the Porto Rico mine repairing the road and clearing the site for the ten stamp mill which will be placed at an early date. Sufficient ore is in sight to keep the mill busy for a long time. The number of men employed after the mill is erected will probably be 60 or 75. Work on the 2,500 foot aerial tramway will commence probably the latter part of this week or the first of next. The contract for the building of the tramway has already been let.

The Duncan Mines Co., Ltd., will do considerable development work during the summer on the Little George, situate on Wild Horse creek. This same company own the Wren mine, from which quite a large sample shipment of ore was made to London recently. The Wren has had several hundred feet of development work done on it, and the company is well pleased at the way the property is showing up at the present. The Duncan syndicate also own some valuable property in the Slocan country.

Richard Diamond reports the sale of a half interest in the Midnight to Vancouver parties. This claim is situate on Round mountain close to the Flossie R., and was located by Mr. Diamond in January last. The price was not stated to us. We are informed that the Vancouver parties will put a force of men to work on the Midnight at an early date.—Miner

ROSSLAND.

The renewal of shipments from the Le Roi mine is a most satisfactory occurrence, says the Rossland Leader. Shipments give confidence as nothing else will. There are always those ready to say if a mine is not shipping it is because it cannot ship, however far from the truth the statement may be. A renewal of confidence means a revival of business and a flow of money into the camp for development. The Rossland barometer points set fair. Money is to be made here this fall and people are beginning to find it. There will be no return to the boom basis of 1896 and nobody wants it. But Rossland holds the lead easily among the mining camps in the Northwest and looks as though it would continue to hold it and even increase it. Its output for 1898 bids fair to overshadow its record for 1897. And after all is said and done the wealth of a mining community is measured by the wealth it takes out of the ground not the money the community induces other people to put into it.

Latest reports are to the effect that a New York syndicate are negotiating for the purchase of the Le Roi on a $5,000,000 basis. The British America Corporation holds, according to Mr. Mackintosh, 280,000 shares in the 500,000 shares at which the company is capitalized, so that the new deal will result very favorably to the B. A. C. There appears to be no doubt but that the factions so recently warring will now work together to put through the new deal.

CARIBOO.

A wash-up from the Cariboo mine, from the Horsefly cement and also from the Horsefly Gold Mining Co., where the elevators are at work, may be expected very soon now. From the Cariboo will be good but not as large as the next run is expected to be, after this washup—some of the bottom of the pit is to be washed. Men who have worked in the pit and assisted in sinking to a depth of 35 feet below the present floor of the pit state that the output when this part of the mine is worked will be enormous. The Horsefly results will be good from both mines.—Ashcroft Mining Journal.

KAMLOOPS.

John F. Smith has been busy during the fore part of the week getting in readiness for his annual trip to the mica mines in the Tete Jaune Cache. He is accompanied this year by Samuel Winter, of Moncton, N.B., who has the property under bond. Mr. Winter is satisfied with the quality of the mines, and if the quantity proves up as strong as is represented, he is prepared to take hold and develop them to their fullest extent. The pack train will be sent up to the Pea Vine Flat light, while the outfit will be taken up to that point on the steamer Ethel Ross. The party expect to be away about three months.—Sentinel.

GENERAL.

The whole face of the tunnel in the Montezuma, at Ainsworth, is in a good grade of concentrating ore and it is expected that the mill will resume operations in the near future.

The Surprise mine on Texada island is about to be examined, with a view to purchase, by the representative of a strong American company.

Recent strikes reported on Seymour creek have sent a considerable number of prospectors from Vancouver to explore the surrounding country. Geological experts who have examined this section say that there is every reason to expect good mineral deposits in the mountains across the inlet.

A pay streak three inches wide, running 1,000 ounces silver is reported to have been struck in the Tamarac mine, in the Slocan district.

At the Noble Five mine, near Sandon, over 4,000 feet of air pipe has been laid. Two carloads of machinery for the same property is now being taken up to the mine.

The Payne mine, the largest shipper in the Slocan, has taken on its old force of men and may from now on be counted upon to furnish a big increase to the present ore shipments from this section.

Work has been suspended on the Forty Thieves group in the Bridge River district.—Vancouver Province.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.

The Toronto World Astonishes the Ontario Masons by Reporting Their Secret Session.

Toronto, July 22.—(Special.)—The World to-day writes up a private session of the Masonic Grand Lodge. Its representative walked into the meeting with the other members and got a report of the proceedings. As it happened there was nothing of special importance to report, but when the members read the report in the World this morning of their meeting, the proceedings of which are usually guarded with the greatest secrecy, there was quite a flutter in Masonic circles.

Mother—Johnny, what do you mean by playing with that Gubler boy? Didn't I tell you never to let me hear of such a thing again?

Offspring—You needn't blame me for hearing it. I didn't tell you.—Boston Transcript.

Current Comment

ARE COLONIES NECESSARY TO AMERICA?

It is rather a weariful business to go over the facts about England's colonial trade. But take a single instance which may win attention: British merchants control the trade of the Philippines. They have won this with the islands under Spanish sovereignty. It would thus appear that England can increase her trade with other countries' colonies. She does not need to own or govern an island in order to trade with it. And is she in the slightest degree anxious about the possibility of the United States taking away the Philippines from Spain? Emperor William is reported to be concerned about the peril to German interests in Manila, but nobody hears of Great Britain lifting a finger. She knows that her merchants will keep the Philippine trade as they got it, no matter who owns the islands, by attending strictly to business and having goods to sell which the natives want. Any merchant of any nationality can do this in any of her colonies, and that is all she asks—a fair field and no favor. As for our sudden discovery that we need colonies in order to get foreign trade, it is a little late. We have already got the trade. Without a single island to our name, our exports, even of manufactured goods, have been increasing enormously from year to year. At the very moment that the secretary of state congratulates congress on our having the markets of the world at our mercy, congress is arguing away for dear life that we must have colonies or we shall never sell a dollar's worth abroad. That is superstition, but it is not dark; it is so transparent that even a Voodoo could see through it.—New York Nation.

PROTECTION OF BRITISH COMMERCE IN TIME OF WAR.

It is well to remember that while the chief aim of our military shipping will be either to blockade the enemy in his own port, or induce him to come out and then to capture or destroy him at sea whenever or wherever found, there is to be considered the larger duty of protecting commerce by direct means. It will not be sufficient for the navy to blockade and fight the enemy, because if this alone were done the damage which might be inflicted on our commerce by one or two cruisers which got out, on to the trade routes, would be simply incalculable. The danger from cruiser attack in the blue water, and of torpedo attack in the narrow seas, are the two great elements of danger which we have to face in defending commerce.

I am aware that the objection has been raised that international rules would scarcely allow of a torpedo boat attack upon the mercantile marine during war. International rules, which may be observed when insignificant powers quarrel and there are all the great powers to look on, and perhaps to interfere, are likely to be much more elastic when the greatest naval power—ourselves—is opposed to a coalition of two or more of the next greatest powers. In other words, there is no possible chance of securing the recognition of so-called international rules and usages in warfare unless the parties to the quarrel are overawed by a possible combination stronger than themselves, or the fear of reprisals acts as a deterrent. Apart from this, the torpedo boat argument is very weak, in my opinion, because it is permissible for a cruiser to destroy commerce by means of torpedoes—a right which no one seeks to deny—it is on the face of it hardly likely that the right could be denied to the torpedo boat pure and simple.

With regard to cruiser attack in blue waters, a foreign programme of strategy, which lies before me as I write, points out that "to have Great Britain at our mercy, it suffices to starve her by intercepting and hitting her enormous mercantile fleet which carries the treasures of the world; it suffices to starve her by stopping the packet boats that supply corn from foreign lands. These long files of cargo boats generally take the same course, routes that are known to all navigators; each of these ships represents, in its turn, certain capes, that serve as landmarks on their way. It is, therefore, easy to overtake them on their usual route or at their landing place."

This plan of attack will undoubtedly be adopted by any power opposed to us, and it will be the damage done before we are ready that will be the worst. Shippers are very nervous people, and the frightful losses which our mercantile marine is, at present, likely to suffer upon the outbreak of war, would send up insurance rates to a prohibitive figure, deter shippers from sending cargoes afloat until our navy had achieved some striking success, and these two items would so operate as to cause an immediate and alarming rise of prices in this country directly war was declared.

It will be seen, therefore, that the solution of the problem how to meet these dangers lies entirely in the question of adequate organization before there is any probability of war. A definite system of keeping open the line of communication must be laid down. The Admiralty part of the plans for the mercantile marine in time of war ought to be cut, dried, and pigeon-holed, ready for use. To the best of my knowledge and belief, there are no such plans, except of the most elementary character. There were none in 1888, and it is unlikely they have been made since. The dangers are undoubted.—Lord Charles Beresford in Cassier's Magazine.

"THE CROSS ROADS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC."

Among the measures enacted at the last session of congress none can be said to match in importance the resolutions providing for the annexation of Hawaii. In giving those resolutions the force of law the representatives of the nation at Washington gave a new direction to the impulse toward expansion, which is seldom missing among the characteristics of great nations, and which has in truth been sufficiently conspicuous in the history of the United States, in fact, whatever may be said about out theoretic traditions. The original thirteen states constituted only a strip along the Atlantic coast, which did not reach as far as the gulf, and the original area of the United States, after the cessions from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia from 1784 to 1802, comprising only 849,145 square miles, very considerably less than a third of its present area. The Spanish cession of 1819 completed the coast line on the Atlantic and the gulf, and the annexation of Texas and the Mexican cessions of 1848 and 1853 brought the area of the country up to 3,025,600 miles, and gave it a coast line upon two oceans. The additional area of 577,390 miles, and this was the first important acquisition unconnected geographically with the main body of the country's territory. The acquisition of the Hawaiian Islands does not increase the area of the country much, the extent of the islands being 7,000 square miles; but the islands are of importance because of their strategic position, whether considered from a military or a commercial point of view, and when the flag is raised in Honolulu it will fly above "the cross roads of the North Pacific."

The annexation of Hawaii is not, considered as a question of policy, a matter of recent origin. It was under consideration by our government forty-four years ago, under the administration of President Pierce, when the state department was under the direction of one of the strongest talents that its history can boast—William L. Marcy. That statesman clearly recognized the importance of the islands and the influences making for closer relations between them and the United States, and he set forth with definiteness, and his instructions to the American minister, Mr. Gregg, the policy of preventing the islands from becoming the appendage of any foreign power other than the United States and, without hastening the course of events, of acquiring the sovereignty of the islands rather than see it transferred to any other power. So also he pronounced unmistakably in favor of annexation as opposed to a protectorate. The policy, as it happened, was not carried out at that time, but it has finally been adopted after the lapse of over four decades. For the present the existing government of the islands will be continued in force with such modifications as the change in sovereignty will immediately demand. The administration of the islands in the future will be regulated by a scheme of laws to be formulated by a strong commission appointed by the President immediately after the adjournment of congress. The work of this commission will be regarded with particular interest for the reason that, as events are shaping themselves, the principles on which the laws of the regulations they adopt may not be confined in their application to Hawaii.—Bradstreets.

THE KLONDIKE.

The arrival of the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer St. Paul from St. Michael, bringing returning miners from the Klondike, has not settled the question of the richness of the district or determined what degree of success attended the operations of the gold diggers during the past winter. Although large quantities of dust were brought down no one can tell exactly how much there really was, because of the pardonable absence of frankness of its owners who have their own reasons for refusing to state the exact amounts in their possession. It is asserted that one man who represented his gains to be about fifty thousand dollars really had five times that much, but he had to make his statements in this city square with his return to the Dominion authorities who are exacting a heavy royolty upon every ounce taken out of the soil under their jurisdiction. It is related of other miners that they have purposely made their representations modest so as to relieve themselves as much as possible from the importunities of friends. Observation has taught them that it is unfortunate to be too fortunate, and they have governed themselves accordingly.

For these and other reasons it will be difficult if not impossible to arrive at an exact estimate of the Klondike and Alaskan output for the past season. That it has been large no one will doubt. Whether it will reach the exaggerated figures at which it was fixed early in the spring is doubtful, and the doubt cannot be cleared up. It is noteworthy, however, that many of those who speak pessimistically of the country and its hardships say that they intend to return. This raises the suspicion that a disposition to discourage other adventurers from trying their luck exists. Whether it will succeed in the face of the showings that will be made by the mint and the assay offices remains to be seen.—S. F. Chronicle.

THE B. C. ELECTIONS.

Features of the Contest as Viewed by the "Colonial Goldfields Gazette"

The British Columbian parliamentary elections are about to take place, and the various candidates are busily engaged in the inevitable task of canvassing and speech-making. Speculation is rife throughout the province as to the chances of the Hon. J. H. Turner, the Premier and finance minister, being returned with a working majority. In some well-informed quarters the oponion has been expressed that Mr. Turner would find himself in a minority in the new parliament. Hostile critics assert that in the past Mr. Turner's sympathies have been too much with the Island constituencies, and too little with those of the Mainland—that he exercised his influence too much on behalf of Victoria and neglected the interests of the mining community in the Kootenays. Certainly when the Klondike "boom" was at its height Mr. Turner and his colleagues displayed a good deal of energy in their efforts to secure for the coastal towns the fullest possible benefit of the rush to the golden North, and no one can deny that these efforts resulted in a large volume of trade being obtained for Vancouver and Victoria, which otherwise would have gone to Seattle and other United States ports. More recently still the Turner government has successfully grappled with the Yukon railway problem after it had been abandoned by the Dominion government, and in various other ways the British Columbian Premier has left no stone unturned in his efforts to open up communication with the Yukon country.

Short-sighted critics have not been slow to discover in these efforts a misguided partiality for an ephemeral "boom" which, in their opinion, would do more harm than good to the mining industry of the province itself. For our part we have always contended that the Klondike discoveries, of whatever value they might ultimately prove to be, would have the effect of drawing attention to the mineral wealth of British Columbia, and we are still of opinion that the rich finds in the creeks and gulches of the Yukon country have served the useful purpose of advertising the mineral resources of Southern British Columbia. Mr. Turner, it seems to us, foresaw and took advantage of the possibilities of the Klondike rush, and although Victoria and Vancouver did undoubtedly receive the immediate benefit of the exodus from those ports, there can be no disputing the fact that the mining districts of British Columbia will untimately benefit in a more permanent way from the prescience displayed by Mr. Turner and his colleagues during the time of the Yukon gold fever. Reviewing Mr. Turner's policy as a whole, we can find no justification for the assertion that he has been sacrificing the interests of the mining districts to those of the coastal towns. On the contrary, Mr. Turner in the face of bitter opposition, has secured the expenditure of large sums of money in providing the mining districts with railroads, trails, and with local facilities for the transaction of public business. The remarkable development of the mining industry demanded a bold and vigorous policy of public works on the part of the government, and Mr. Turner appears to have promptly proved himself equal to the situation. The railway policy adopted by the government involves the borrowing of the sum of five million dollars, which sum will be expended in the speedy construction of railways to districts that stand most in need of transportation facilities.

We suppose that English investors take but a languid interest in the British Columbian elections, and care very little in whose hands the government of the country is placed. The matter, however, is really of vital importance to the mining industry, for there can be no manner of doubt that the next four years—the period for which the British Columbian parliament is elected—will witness an extraordinary growth of the mining industry and the consequent framing of a good deal of mining legislation. The period between now and June, 1902, will decide the future of British Columbia as a gold mining province, and it is therefore essential that the men who are charged with the task of directing the destinies of the province should be thoroughly qualified for the important duties which they will be called up on to undertake. We hold no brief for Mr. Turner, but it seems to us that he is fitted by his experience and his qualifications to assume the Premiership at a critical juncture better than any other man in the provincial legislature. His career as a British Columbian public man extends over a period of nearly twenty years, and throughout the province he is esteemed for his ability and integrity. On the principle that it is unwise to change horses while crossing the stream we should, in the interests of the mining industry, like to see Mr. Turner entrusted with the task of conducting the affairs of the province during the next four years.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

Carolus Duran, the famous portrait painter, is generous to a fault. On a recent voyage, when his ship picked up two shipwrecked men he offered his promise to paint a portrait of the highest bidder on board, and then gave his money to the unfortunate mariners.

The Rev. John Whitney has been installed as rector of the Catholic University of Georgetown, D.C. He is a convert to the Catholic religion. He was at one time an officer in the United States navy, but resigned his commission to become a member of the Jesuit order.

John Henry Cromwell Russell, sixth in direct descent from the Lord Protector, has died in Switzerland at the age of 92 years. His grandfather was Oliver Cromwell, of Chestnut park, great-grandson of Oliver's son Henry, and the last of the family who bore the name of Cromwell.

A peculiar interest attaches to the election of Count Herbert Bismarck to the Reichstag, as he has been returned for the district of Jerichow in the Old Mark of Brandenburg, which his father represented in the United Diet, or first approach to a Prussian parliament, in the year 1847.

THE FUNNY THINGS WE FIND.

Caramels and Kid Gloves, Tobacco and Nursing Bottle, to Say Nothing of Mary's Little Lamb.

Some of the things people are picking up on Victoria streets these cool midsummer days are funny enough to be described in detail. As yet no one has appeared to announce the finding of any gold sacks or nuggets, but possibly these are to come later on. During Wednesday afternoon Mr. Herbert Fletcher, while enjoying a spin along upper Fort street noticed a little package on the sidewalk. He opened it and found the contents to be chewing gum, chocolate caramels, a baby's nursing bottle and a plug of smoking tobacco. Whether the assorted treasures were dropped by a man, a woman or an infant in arms can scarcely be determined by the character of the collection, but whoever the loser is, he or she may recover possession by calling on Mr. Fletcher. Rev. J. P. Hicks, like Mr. Fletcher, is an enthusiastic wheelmen, and like him also—a finder of things in the road, other than the rocks, ruts and rocking that all cyclists have to complain of. His Wednesday trophy was a little box containing eight pairs of kid gloves and await the coming of the owner to recover, at the Methodist parsonage, Springfield avenue, Victoria West.

Harry G. Brown, the owner and driver of one of the night hacks stationed at the corner of Government and Yates streets, is a third lucky man. He has in his keeping a lost lamb that came sadly bleating from the direction of the Poodle Dog. The hackman could not quite decide to his own satisfaction whether the solitary sheeplet had reached the melancholy stage at which life loses all its brightness, and rather than commit suicide was looking up the manager of the B. C. Market—or whether it was Mary's little lamb adrift on a night cruise and sorry for it. In any event Mr. Brown thought it was only common humanity to pilot the wanderer to his home. It is at the command of whoever will establish the right of possession, and explain how it came to be out at night without a chaperon.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Miss Spacer—I suppose when a joke gets into an almanac it is supposed to be old?

Mr. Scribbler—Oh, no! A joke cannot really be called old until it gets into an Englishman.—Puck.

"They tell me your wife is a particularly fine housekeeper."

"Excruciatingly so. I've seen that woman sprinkle the clock with insect powder to get rid of the ticks."—Detroit Free Press.

Cutting: He—You appear to be angry with my friend from the West; but you mustn't mind what he says. He's a rough diamond, you know. She—Then I shall assist in cutting him.—Puck.

Doyle—Shea choosed a novel mithod av committin' suicoide. Duggan—How did he do th' thrick? Doyle—He attinded an East Solde mask boll riprisintin' a Spanish To-ray-re-ray-ay-ay-dor.—Puck.

THE WHALERS ARE SAFE.

Gratifying Assurances From the Point Barrow Relief Expedition.

Seattle, July 21.—A member of the Bear relief expedition writes from Point Barrow under date of March 28, confirming the news received from Captain Tuttle regarding the imprisonment of the whalers. The fleet had been reached and they were better off than had been expected. Most of the vessels will be saved, and the men have not suffered seriously. They have subsisted on fish and reindeer.