The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE STRIKE SETTLED.

The settlement of the Fernie strike through the exertions of the provincial government is a cause for great satisfaction, and congratulations are in order to those who have been instrumental in bringing about such an excellent result. The Colonist has been aware for some time of the earnest desire of the ministers to bring the unfortunate condition of things prevailing at Fernie to a speedy conclusion, and has refrained from commenting thereon for two reasons, one being a desire that the representatives of the government should have an absolutely free hand, so far as public comment was concerned, and the other a fear that the bitterness, characterizing local politics, would find expression in hostile comments, calculated to prejudice the miners against the government's efforts. It is exceedingly unfortunate that this disposition to bitter criticism should have gained such a hold upon the Opposition press, but it is there, and has to be taken account of in the consideration of every public question.

The strike threatened to have a very serious effect upon important industries in the province and to put the people of Alberta to very great inconvenience. A shortage of coke would have interfered with the operation of the Kootenay mines and smelters at a time when the business was getting upon an exceedingly satisfactory basis. It would have created a more or less general fuel famine in the province of Alberta, a very serious thing to be contemplated at the beginning of winter. During the absence of Mr. McBride in the East, his colleagues here gave the matter their earnest consideration and took, in as quiet a way as possible, every step that seemed likely to promote a settlement, and on the Premier's return, he entered into the work with a determination to bring things to a satisfactory conclusion if it was possible. The result is very gratifying, and incidentally it casts light upon a line of duty, which devolves upon governments nowndays. On several occasions the Dominion government has been able to use its good offices to settle labor troubles; on others the various provincial governments have done so. These are among the most difficult functions, which governments are called upon to exercise, because the relations between workmen and their employers are necessarily of a delicate character. That the work of conciliation has been on so many occasions successful in Canada is a matter for profound satisfaction, and perhaps there has been no instance, where the matters at issue seemed harder to settle and where the effect of a failure would have been more mischievous than the strike at Fernie, now so happily brought to a conclusion.

THE EXHIBITION BY-LAW.

On Thursday the ratepayers will have to decide upon the proposal to purchase the sixty-three acres, which adjoin the Exhibition grounds and include the race track. The price is $40,000. They are also asked to authorize the expenditure of $10,000 on improvements on the Exhibition building and the land to be acquired, making in all $50,000 to be borrowed. The purchase proposed is, from a real estate standpoint, a good investment. On this point we refer readers to the letter of Mr. R. A. C. Grant, published elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Grant's views will be borne out by any one who is in touch with real estate values. A block of sixty-three acres within a few minutes walk of a car line need not go begging for a purchaser at that price. So much for the question of value. We concede that a city is not supposed to go into speculative real estate business, but it is always desirable that, when a municipality buys property, it ought not to pay more than it would bring, if sold to a private individual.

As to the desirability of the city owning the property, it all turns upon the desirability of continuing our fall fairs. If it is intended to continue these, it is absolutely necessary to keep the race track for a race track, not simply for the purpose of having what used to be called "agricultural hoss-trots," but as a place for stock exhibitions. Of recent years the gentlemen in charge of the exhibitions have realized fully the value of live stock exhibits in connection with a fair. We do not now mean a lot of animals arranged in stalls, but animals shown in the open. It is the finest part of a show. Racing does not compare in general interest with it. Year by year this feature of our exhibitions is being made more of, and it is absolutely necessary, if we are going to keep up the exhibitions, to have more ground. Another consideration is that the city is rapidly growing in population, and will have every year hereafter a larger leisure class. These people will find many ways in which to make such a use of a race track as will add to the attractions of the city. The consolidation of all the island fairs at Victoria, that is now mooted and stands a fair chance of being successful, would be an excellent thing, not only for all the localities participating but especially for Victoria. It would tend to concentrate the interest of the farming population of the Island upon Victoria. This consolidation will hardly be possible if the land in question is not acquired. It will be good policy for the city to buy the tract, and we hope the ratepayers, who think so will turn out and vote. Those opposed to the purchase will be sure to be in evidence.

BOYCOTTED.

The Colonist has been notified by an eastern publishing house that it will not be favored with its books for review until we cease publishing a Sunday paper. We shall endeavor to struggle along as best we can under this boycott; but we prefer to permit the employees of the Colonist to have Sunday as a day of rest, rather than receive occasionally a book for which we give in return advertising worth in cash several times its price.

It is exceedingly difficult to understand the preference of certain people for a Monday paper over one printed on Sunday. When a paper is issued on Monday morning, the employees must go to work about noon on Sunday. In the old days of hand composition even the type-setters had to go to the office on Sunday afternoon to fill their case, although they might, if they chose, fill them on Saturday afternoon. Now they would not need to come to their work before evening; but they are only a very small part of those who have to be considered. The editorial staff, and some members of the business staff must be on hand at least half the day. Advertisers in such cases get up their advertisements on Sunday. Telegraph operators must work on Sunday. People must be seen on news subjects on Sunday, and even preachers very often find it convenient to drop into newspaper offices after their Sunday services to see that they get good reports in Monday morning's papers. The writer of this paragraph sat in his office one Sunday night, while a minister corrected the report of a sermon, which he had preached that day on Sunday observance, and in which he had condemned the Sunday newspaper.

On a Sunday paper every employee of the office has that day as one of rest. If he wishes to go to church, he can do so. He does not have to hunt people up at their homes to get news items from them. He does not have to importune the telegraph office for press reports. He does not have to keep his correspondents all over the country on the qui vive to send him news. He has his Sundays as all men ought to have them, as days for worship, rest and recreation, just as he feels inclined.

It is a matter of regret that we are boycotted because we remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy, so far as abstention from unnecessary work is concerned; but we are not the first people to be persecuted because they did not choose to obey the mandates of bigots. We shall struggle along as best we can, endeavoring to give readers of the Colonist every Sunday morning a paper that will not only tell them what the news of the day is, but will give them matter to read that will not unfit them for the duties of life, and possibly may be as beneficial to them morally as the smug platitudes of people who fancy themselves so much holier than every one else.

GET TO THE POINT.

Will the Times, in its hostility to the province, kindly get down to the point? What is there about the demand for better terms that it objects to? Will it not try to be specific? It is playing into the hands of the opponents of the province with all the vigor and all the vituperation at its command; but why will it not tell us what there is wrong about the provincial claims? We ask it again to answer these questions:

Does it believe the province has a case for better terms?

Does it believe that $100,000 a year for ten years, even with $40,000 additional for ten years and $30,000 in perpetuity, would be a just compensation for what its political leader calls exceptional expenditures rendered necessary by permanent conditions?

These are the issues. Get to the point, and answer the questions. The Times is the property of the Hon. Mr. Templeman. Mr. Templeman is the representative of British Columbia in the Dominion Cabinet. The Times has told us that Mr. Templeman is not responsible for what appears in its columns from day to day, which statement we have accepted and congratulated Mr. Templeman upon it. But several weeks have passed since Mr. McBride left Ottawa, and it is utterly impossible that Mr. Templeman can be in ignorance of the fact that his newspaper is devoting all its energies to strengthening the hands of those opponents of the province in the East, who are hostile to the claims of British Columbia. The Colonist has avoided any reference to the Minister of Inland Revenue in this matter as long as possible, because it desires to act fairly by all public men, and it recognizes the burdensome nature of the duties imposed upon members of the Dominion Cabinet. But the time has come to speak. His newspaper day after day passes the limits of courteous discussion, to state the case mildly, in its references to the provincial ministers. It displays a striking degree of ingenuity in discovering reasons why better terms should not be granted, and the public have a right to know if, in so doing, it correctly represents Mr. Templeman's view of the case. We are quite satisfied that it does not voice his opinions as to how public men should be spoken of. It does not treat its political opponents, as he treats them in his speeches. It does not refer to them as he would like newspapers to refer to him.

In view of these considerations, we ask the Times to tell us definitely where it stands, and whether in its vituperation of its opponents, and its hostility to the just claims of the province, it is to be understood as voicing the sentiments of Mr. Templeman and the Liberal party in British Columbia. We also ask the leaders of that party, if the tactics pursued by their leading paper commend themselves to them? Are they also going to play into the hands of the opponents of the province? Are they also preparing to enter upon a campaign of Billingsgate? It is time that these things were understood.

"STAND BY THE GUNS."

Mr. McBride, speaking at Duncan, said that the only thing for British Columbia to do on the better terms question is "to stand by the guns." We wish that his appreciation of the necessities of the case was more generally recognized by the public men of the province, but we have yet to see the first declaration by a Liberal leader that we should continue to press for a full measure of justice. Of criticisms of Mr. McBride's course of action there have been plenty. We have been told over and over again that he ought not to have done this, that or the other thing; but we are not told what we ought to do now. No honest man can say that the case of the province does not stand in a better position as the result of Mr. McBride's visit to Ottawa than it ever did. The exceptional nature of our claims has been admitted both by the Dominion government and all the provinces as represented by their respective premiers. This is a substantial advantage. It clears the ground for future action. It will never be necessary for a representative of this province to plead for the recognition of our special claims. The only thing at issue is as to the amount which we ought to receive, and as much as the province needs the money, we can better afford to wait, than to accept an amount, which every voter in British Columbia knows is inadequate. Let us stand by our guns.

THE PROVINCE AND THE DOMINION.

The Toronto Globe continues to devote attention to the financial affairs of British Columbia, which it says are its concern only because this province seeks to shift a portion of the responsibility of the other provinces. Our Toronto contemporary, by advancing this explanation for taking an interest in our affairs, opens a line of discussion to which less attention has been paid in this province since the close of the Ottawa conference than its importance demands. British Columbia does not ask for a single dollar contributed by the people of the other provinces to the federal treasury. All that we ask is a fair share of what we ourselves pay. This we do not receive and never have received.

British Columbia is very rich in natural resources, and the development of these means a great increase to the revenue of the Dominion, very much greater, indeed, than to the revenue of the province under any system of taxation that could be devised without being absolutely prohibitory upon that development. The revenue contributed to the Dominion by this province is now, in round numbers, $4,000,000 annually, and is constantly increasing. The Dominion expenditure in this province amounts, in round numbers, to about half this amount. In the revenue paid we do not include the duties on goods purchased by British Columbia in the eastern provinces. Putting the population of the province at 200,000, it will be seen that we pay about $20 per head into the Dominion treasury and get about $10 back. Our provincial taxation amounts to something like $1,500,000, and it is admitted that it is quite as heavy as the business of the province will stand, in view of the fact that there are other parts of Canada and other parts of the world that compete with British Columbia in every line of industry prosecuted here. The people of the province pay $5,500,000 in direct and indirect taxation every year, not including municipal taxation, and we fancy that the Globe will admit that this is a large amount of money to be collected from 200,000 people. If this was not an exceptionally rich province it could not stand up under such a burden, especially as $2,000,000 of the amount is the price we pay annually for belonging to the Dominion, and not a dollar of it is spent here.

The provincial indebtedness is, again using round numbers for convenience, $13,000,000. This debt has practically all been incurred in expenditures rendered absolutely necessary by the development of the country. There was no other way of getting the money, and that the investment was judicious is shown by the fact that the revenue of the province from local sources trebled during the period in which the expenditure was being made. The result of this has been as follows: By reason of these expenditures on capital account the revenue paid by the people of the province into the local treasury increased $15,000,000 in fifteen years over what it would have been if the development had not taken place; and during the same time the contributions of the people of the province to the federal treasury were more than $25,000,000 in excess of what they would have been if the development had not taken place. That is to say, the advantage to the Dominion of the expenditure of the province in development works has in fifteen years been 75 per cent. greater than the advantage to the province. Let us endeavor to make this point clearer.

Some fifteen years ago—that is, shortly after the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed—those who had charge of the government of the province became convinced that the time was ripe for a broad policy of development. In pursuance of this it was decided that it would pay the province to borrow money to use in this direction, and from time to time various sums have been obtained on debentures and chiefly expended upon permanent improvements. Of the present outstanding indebtedness, probably $10,000,000 is for money that went directly into public works, the remainder going for outlay called for by the growth of the province, but of a transitory nature. It would have been quite out of the question for British Columbia to have undertaken these public works by paying for them out of the current revenue. The result has been that the revenue of the province during those fifteen years has been about $15,000,000 in excess of what it would have been if the country had not been developed with borrowed money, and the contribution to the Dominion treasury has been about $25,000,000 greater. Of this increased contribution to the federal exchequer, the Dominion government has expended in the province about $7,000,000, leaving the Dominion up to date $18,000,000 the richer because the government of British Columbia went in debt some $13,000,000 to develop the province. We have no means of estimating how much benefit the Dominion will ultimately derive from these provincial expenditures.

We have reached a stage when it is necessary to supplement the work that has been done, and to supplement it on a very large scale. Southern British Columbia requires large further expenditures, and to undertake to provide for them out of our present revenue is next to, if not quite, impossible; Central and Northern British Columbia will, when the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern have been completed, call for an outlay of enormous sums. These expenditures will prove immensely profitable to the Dominion treasury, and all the experience of the past shows that if the Dominion were to recognize this and pay to the province an annual subsidy, even in excess of the largest sum named by Mr. McBride, when at Ottawa, the money from a simple dollars and cents point of view would be well invested.

The aforegoing considerations must demonstrate to the Toronto paper that, in asking for additional contributions from the Dominion, this province is not seeking a single cent paid by the other provinces, but that, on the contrary, if we receive everything we ask there will yet remain a very large amount to our credit. If the Globe would give more attention to this aspect of the case and less to advancing general critical propositions as to the manner in which previous provincial governments have handled the country's resources, and the possible ways and means whereby future governments could increase the burdens of the people, it would render valuable service to the Dominion by aiding in the solution of a question, which, like Banquo's ghost, will not down.

A FEW QUESTIONS.

If the Times would be less abusive it would be more interesting. It seems utterly unable to discuss any question whatever without resorting to a style of language that no gentleman would employ to another, and we submit that the quality is the test that should govern newspapers in their political controversies. Monday, for example, it devoted two articles to the Colonist, without naming it, and the language and general style of them was such as ought not to find a place in the columns of a newspaper which expects what it says to receive consideration. The easiest thing in the world is to be nasty.

While our contemporary's manner of treating other newspapers is so exceedingly coarse as really to deprive its statements of any weight they might otherwise have, we refer to it in order that its incorrect representation of the position of the Colonist may not go unchallenged. The Colonist made no objection to the policy of Mr. Oliver in running his department "like a glorified real estate office," but, on the contrary, said that he was acting according to his lights. We add now that such a policy is a narrow one, and that a minister, with a broader grasp of the needs of the Dominion, would not confine his advertising to those parts of Canada where he has land to sell. We are not alone in this complaint, which is also made by the press of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, without regard to party. Our contemporary would avoid placing itself in antagonism to its own party, if it would indulge in less sarcasm and endeavor to learn more about what is going on in the country.

If it had done this it would have known that the Grand Trunk Pacific is to run through Yellow Head Pass, and therefore, instead of opening the 3,500,000 acres in the Peace River valley, will be from 200 to 300 miles south of it. The Colonist does not "look with foreboding" upon the construction of this railway, as the Times alleges. Its observations in regard to the Peace River land had no reference whatever to the G. T. P. or any other railway, as the Times ought to have known. Perhaps we are doing it an injustice to suggest that it supposed that the G. T. P. was going to run through the Peace River valley, but we must attribute its observations either to ignorance or to a desire to mislead its readers, although possibly it is due to neither, but only to a wish to write something that will seem to be clever to those who read words only and do not care whether or not the facts presented are correct. We will assume that our contemporary would like to promote the welfare of the Province if it knew how, and therefore we invite it to answer a few questions:

Does it hold that the Dominion government ought to select and hold the 3,500,000 acres in the Peace River country, without making the province any allowance whatever for the great outlay that will be rendered necessary when the Department of the Interior puts the land upon the market?

Does it hold that the province ought to be at the expense of all the roads, trails, bridges, court houses, school houses, and so on, that the sale of this land will call for, and that the Dominion should receive every dollar derived from such sales?

Does it object to the surrender by the Dominion of its claim to the land referred to?

And, generally, does it hold that the province is entitled to anything in the nature of better terms?

We all know what our contemporary professes to think of the members of the provincial government individually, of the ministry as a body, and of the Colonist. This has been published ad nauseam. Suppose that for a change it tells us what it thinks about some public question. In its humble way, the Colonist is endeavoring to elucidate important public matters. It would be glad to have the help of the Times, which might advantageously present the side of the case opposed to that advanced in these columns. Instead of this we get only—well, we prefer not to characterize it.

HINDU INVASION.

Seven hundred more Hindus have reached this country. A correspondent sends us a clipping from the Montreal Witness, wherein a writer, named J. Bawden, says that the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists "must unite to oppose the British Columbian faction who seek to hinder the employment of Hindus in our Pacific Coast province." As substantially everybody in British Columbia is of one mind on this subject, the letter referred to is an appeal for the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists to coerce the people of British Columbia into submitting to a deluge of undesirable immigration. If Mr. Bawden should succeed in his effort, he would probably find a good many descendants of the United Empire Loyalists in this province, who understand the question, which is more than he does, ready to resist coercion in every legitimate way.

The people of British Columbia do not object to Hindu or any other kind of coolie labor because it is cheap. Its cheapness remains to be demonstrated. The experience of most people, who have employed Hindus is that their labor is costly. The daily wage may be lower than white people are willing to accept, but their labor does not pay anything like as well as white labor at the higher price. That is one aspect of the case. Another is that the Hindus are unfitted for the country. The other day two Hindus were working in a garden in this city, and when it came time to eat their lunch, they asked for a cup. One was given them; it was taken from a cupboard where such things are kept, and it was perfectly clean; yet the Hindus would not drink out of it; they scoured it for some five or ten minutes with mud. The incident is a trifling one, but it illustrates how the peculiar racial characteristics of these people exhibit themselves in every phase of life. Two men of different castes will not work side by side, nor eat together. They will not eat the same food as white people. They are a race more apart even than the Chinese. Their habits of life are unsatisfactory. They do not bring their wives with them, and will not make homes and rear families. They are totally unfitted for a white man's country, and we use the expression only to indicate a country in which the very great majority of the people are white. For the Sikh in his home we have every respect; for the Sikh in Canada there is no proper place, and it is a great unkindness to a well-meaning people to bring him here.

As the Colonist has already pleaded for fair treatment of those Hindus, who have come here under a false idea of what to expect, and has pointed out the danger, which may come from the circulation of stories of ill-usage through the bazaars of India, it need not add anything upon that point. While Hindus may legally come into the country to seek for labor, they ought to be treated decently, and they will be so treated in British Columbia; but if the tide of immigration is not checked, the result will be exceedingly serious. We have the greatest sympathy for these people. They want to earn something better than the trivial wage paid in the Orient; but they are unsuited to the country and the country is unsuited to them.

WHERE IT STANDS.

The Times says that the Colonist knows where it stands on the question of better terms. This is not a very direct answer to our question, but as we have already said that we understand it to be hostile to the claims of the province for better terms, and to be ready to play into the hands of the opponents of British Columbia, we accept its answer, although not without regret. We, therefore, on its own authority class the Times with the Toronto Globe, which insists that, rather than give us an increased subsidy, it thinks we ought to be asked, in common with all the other provinces, to consent to a reduction, with Premier Tweedie of New Brunswick, who has declared that the eastern provinces will not consent to our receiving anything more than was offered, and with all the rest of the eastern public men and newspapers, who utterly deny our right to anything. We know just where it stands, and having learned it beyond cavil, we once more ask it if its stand is to be taken as that of the Hon. Mr. Templeman and the Liberal party generally. This is a question that must be answered. The question of better terms is agitating British Columbia and will, before another election is over, agitate it more than any other subject that has been before the people in a quarter of a century. It is right that the people should know where the Minister of Inland Revenue stands upon it. Does his paper speak for him? Unless it says that it does not, he must be held responsible for its utterances. If this were purely a question of local politics, it might be said that the introduction of Mr. Templeman's name into the discussion was uncalled for. But it is not simply a local question. It is also a federal question. It is one to be decided some way or other between the provincial and federal ministries. Mr. Templeman is a member of the federal ministry. As such he has a right to a voice in deciding what treatment shall be accorded to the province. Are we to understand that he, like his newspaper, is so utterly opposed to Mr. McBride that he will not consider the question of better terms while Mr. McBride and his colleagues are in office. This is the attitude of the Times. In the vain hope of defeating Mr. McBride, it takes a position antagonistic to the best interests of British Columbia, it advances statements and arguments which strengthen the opposition to the province in the East. We ask, and we have a right to ask, if this is the position of the gentleman who owns the Times.

FARMING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Agriculture is daily assuming a more important place among British Columbia industries. The change in this respect is surprising. It is only a very short time ago that the man who ventured to predict any great development in farming here would be credited with more optimism than sagacity. Ten years ago it was freely stated that strawberries could not be successfully grown on Vancouver Island, and that we would have to look for our supply to Oregon and California. Fifteen years ago it was alleged that the grasses of the Pacific Northwest coast region were unsuited for the production of butter. We were told that we could not grow real good apples, and that the production of pears was not to be seriously thought of. Every one admitted that we could grow good cherries, but this was because we did grow them. If there had been no cherry trees here, the wiseacres would have been prepared to argue that we could not hope to grow cherries. It is even now asserted that poultry-raising cannot be profitably carried on here. One does not have to seek far to discover why this pessimism in regard to our agricultural resources prevailed. It was because very few people had intelligently tested them. Some had done so, and grown well-to-do thereby; but when their cases were cited, an explanation was always ready to the effect that these individuals had enjoyed exceptional advantages. They doubtless had, but they consisted in intelligent industry applied to those lines of farming in which there was a reasonable certainty of profit. The truth is that only very few people came to this province in the old days with the intention of making a living by tilling the soil for a living. Some of those who secured farms, did so because it enabled them to have homes among pleasant surroundings, where they could live on assured incomes. These people farmed little, because they did not have to farm much. If they had any surplus produce, they could not sell it to advantage, because the combined surpluses of all the farmers was not sufficient to meet competition from California and other points in the United States. They could not hope with their small lots of stuff, indifferently put up, to compete with large lots in proper packages from other places. The local supply was a negligible quantity, among the wholesalers, and its owners very naturally did not feel like peddling it around town. This sort of thing has now changed; farming is getting on its feet; the capabilities of the country are being understood, and it is not too much to say that at last agriculture is regarded as likely in the long run to be the greatest source of wealth to British Columbia.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT.

The necessary railway construction to open the southern two-thirds of British Columbia has been assured. We may not be able to say with certainty how soon the roads will be finished, but the date cannot be very remote, when there will be at least three lines traversing the province north of the Canadian Pacific. These will be the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian Northern, and the Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon. They will all be south of the 55th parallel of latitude, and as the province extends to the 60th, there will remain a very large area to be opened. Yet it will mean very much to have the southern two-thirds of our area available to settlement and investment. We do not propose in this reference to say anything about the great financial burdens, which will have to be assumed to meet the absolutely necessary requirements of the new area. They will be large, certainly, but doubtless some way will be found to meet them. The point which we wish to make is that the portion of the Mainland likely to be settled in the immediate future has been pretty well provided for, as far as projected lines of railways go. The main trunk lines will all be compelled to build branches, and the fifteen hundred and more miles within the province, which the three companies referred to are to build, will by no means be their total mileage west of the Rocky Mountains. It is safe to say that within ten years from the building of their main lines, their subordinate mileage will exceed the main lines. Therefore it is not necessary at present for the people of British Columbia to concern themselves particularly with railway construction on the Mainland, until the need has been shown for opening the region north of the 55th parallel.

The time has come when Vancouver Island should be considered. The Quebec bridge is approaching completion. It will cost about $8,000,000. We do not condemn the government for assisting very largely in its construction. When it was first proposed, doubt was expressed as to its necessity, but the preparations, being made by railway companies to make use of it, show that it will be a very important link in Eastern transportation systems. Railways are being built from points in the United States so as to be able to utilize this bridge. Not only will the Canadian Pacific, the Intercolonial, the Grand Trunk, the Grand Trunk Pacific, and the Canadian Northern make use of it, but other lines that were not originally thought of in connection with it. So it will be when a railway is built to connect Vancouver Island with the Mainland. Those who are not well informed as to the merits of that proposal may be unable to see its great utility. They may regard it as a project advanced in the interest of a particular locality, or a particular company. But it is something very different. It will be a work of vast importance to all Canada, and one that will be utilized by every railway company having lines in the Pacific Northwest. Given an unbroken line of railway to Victoria and the other ports on the ocean front of Vancouver Island, and every railway company will lay its plans to reach them. The effect of the approaching completion of the Quebec bridge proves this.

This question is non-political. The Colonist has therefore no hesitation in pressing upon Messrs. Smith and Sloan, who represent Island constituencies in the House of Commons, to take it up with all the vigor at their command. We ask the Hon. Mr. Templeman to do the same thing, but our reference is specially to the other gentlemen named, because, as every one knows, a member of the Cabinet cannot make himself conspicuous in the advocacy of a project to which the ministry has not given its approval. But the other Island members are under no such handicap, and we urge them as strongly as we know how to take an early opportunity in the session, which is soon to open, to place themselves on record as calling for the very early completion of this essential link in Canada's transcontinental railway systems. It would hardly be right for the Colonist to suggest the manner in which they should do this, or the times when they should do it; but they have each been able to discover occasions, when they could press other matters upon the attention of the government, parliament and the country, and they ought to find no difficulty in being able to do what we suggest. What is wanted now is the concentration of public opinion throughout Canada upon this great project. The ability of the Island newspapers to do this is limited. Something has been accomplished, but only a very small part of what is needed. The floor of the House of Commons is the place where work can be done that will tell. This connection will be the culminating feature of Canadian transcontinental communication. Railways, which stop on the shores of inlets, behind islands, and only accessible through intricate channels, cannot be said to be truly transcontinental, while there remain harbors opening upon the ocean itself from which they are debarred access.

Mr. W. R. Hearst says that he is going to take a rest. That's real nice of him, but the voters of New York said it first.

At the rate water is running over the dam in the Highlands it will soon be up to some one, who shall be nameless, to recast his views on the eternal question.

Newfoundland is going to raise a very nice point by arresting some United States citizens for fishing contrary to the statutes of that province, although strictly in accordance with the rights conferred upon them by the modus vivendi agreed upon between London and Washington.

A Danish inventor has an improved system of wireless telegraphy, which records conversations on a steel wire, from which they are taken off by an apparatus similar to a phonographic cylinder. Absolute secrecy is ensured by this system, and duplex transmission is possible. The invention has been proved a success in practical work.

Some people are alleging that Mr. McBride could have secured $100,000 in perpetuity for the province, if he had only remained at the conference a little longer. This is a very absurd claim to make in view of the facts. There is not the least reason to suppose that the premiers would have given the province a dollar more than they offered, if Mr. McBride had remained in the conference until its close. It is utter folly to talk of the acceptance of any such sum on account, because the premiers would not have consented to its being given in that way.

Three of the Eastern provinces are urging that new territory shall be included within their borders. An Ottawa despatch says that Saskatchewan wants all north of the Churchill river, Manitoba all of Keewatin, and Ontario a sufficient part of the shore of Hudson Bay to give access to Fort Churchill. If Saskatchewan wants all the territory north of Churchill river, it will extend to the Arctic ocean on the north and to Hudson Bay on the northeast. If Manitoba wants all Keewatin, it will come into possession of the whole of the west coast of Hudson Bay, and will therefore shut out Saskatchewan from a useful seaboard. If Ontario gets sufficient of the Hudson Bay littoral to give it Fort Churchill, it will shut off Manitoba from the sea. The claims alleged to have been made are quite irreconcilable.

In its anxiety to defeat the claim of British Columbia for better terms, the Times finds fault with the government of twenty years and more ago for not holding on to Vancouver so that the province might have the advantage of the high prices prevailing for town lots there today. It forgets that there would not have been any Vancouver if the government had kept the land off the market. However, the Toronto Globe will not see this objection to the suggestion of the Times, and will be able to cite it as another instance of the manner in which the resources of British Columbia were squandered, and this must be what such absurd things are written for. No one in this province takes them seriously, but they supply our opponents in the East with much-needed ammunition.

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

Out of evil sometimes comes good. Out of the festering political sore diagnosed and surgically treated at London may develop a system of election cleansed of all impurities and made the wholesome thing it ought to be.—Ottawa Free Press.

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HARTLEY—On the 6th inst., the wife of A. H. Hartley, of a daughter.

GOWARD—On the 11th inst., at Rockwood, St. Charles street, Victoria, to Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Goward, a daughter.

JONES—On the 6th instant, to the wife of F. Jones, a son.

LANGLEY—At Victoria, on 13th inst., the wife of W. H. Langley, of a daughter.

MARRIED

DUNN—CHAPMAN — In Oakland, Cal., November 9th, by Rev. W. De L. Kingsbury, pastor of Grace M. E. Church, Hyde Dunn, of Seattle, Wash., to Mrs. Fanny Chapman of Victoria, B. C.

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