The Colonist.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1898.

DISPOSAL OF CROWN LANDS.

The publication of the notice regarding Crown Land sales having directed attention to that department of the public service, some further discussion of it will be timely. The crown lands of British Columbia form a very valuable asset of the province, but they are of no value unless realized upon. The province cannot pay its debts with land that it will not allow people to purchase. The policy of locking up the public domain in the hands of the Crown is as mischievous as the policy of permitting private individuals to lock it up. If a man who wants a piece of land cannot get it, the result is the same whether it is kept from him by some private speculator or by a public speculator calling itself the government. What we all want to see is the vacant land of the province occupied by people who will utilize it. One hundred and sixty acres of land in a state of nature owned by the Crown is not to be compared in value to one hundred and sixty acres with a man on it who owns it.

The first change which we suggest in relation to the crown lands, is the rescinding of the late notice regarding sales. It is absurd that every man who wants a piece of land should be obliged to lay his whole business before Mr. Semlin, who will discuss it over with his colleagues, and then let him have the land or not, as they may deem expedient. We are utterly opposed to such paternalism. This has hitherto been regarded as a free country, where a man could engage in any business he preferred, so long as it was not contrary to the public interest. This applies to every line of industry. It was right to apply it to the purchase of crown lands. Under the new regime, a man who requires a piece of crown land in order to carry out any business enterprise he may have in hand, must submit his plans to Mr. Semlin and their colleagues. This is un-British and is calculated to repress enterprise, to say nothing of the abuses which such a policy makes possible.

The second change ought to be the prompt repeal of that section of the crown land act, which confiscates one-quarter of a man's property, if he has the supreme hardihood to do something upon it which makes people want to come there and live. This section was inserted in the law in 1896 in response to the clamor of so-called land reformers.

The third change which we suggest is a radical one, namely that every acre of crown land within the province should be open to purchase by the public at public auction. We do not mean that all the crown land should be put up for sale, but that no land should be sold, except to actual settlers under the pre-emption law, except by public auction to the highest bidder, and that any land should be so obtainable on certain conditions.

To carry out such a plan the law would have to be carefully framed so as to prevent the locking up of large areas for speculative purposes. The law would have to be carefully drawn up, and after a good deal of consideration. Simply as an illustration of what we have in mind, and not as a definite conclusion as to the proper details, we suggest that the public domain should be classed under several heads, as follows:

Land for actual use for agricultural purposes.

Land for use for milling purposes.

Land for use for general manufacturing purposes.

Land for townsites.

Other classifications might be advisable, but these will do for purposes of illustration. Any person desiring to purchase land for either of the three purposes first above named might do so by application to the department specifying the land required and the purpose for which it was desired. On receipt of such application the department should at once advertize the land for sale for such a purpose to the highest bidder at public auction, giving notice of not less than thirty days, and perhaps even more. An upset price should be fixed, and the purchaser, whoever he might be, should be required to carry out the conditions prescribed by the law in regard to purchases for either of the purpose specified in the application. This would prevent factious opposition to bona fide purchasers.

The conditions of the sale might be as follows: At the time of sale the purchaser should be required to pay a certain proportion of the purchase price, say one-half, and should thereupon receive a permit under which he could enter upon the land and begin his improvements. The permit should be transferable. In the case of agricultural land the purchaser might be allowed, say five years to bring a certain proportion of his land under cultivation or make certain improvements, having a fixed relation to the acreage, and whenever during the five years he was able to show that he had done this, he would be entitled to his grant upon paying the balance of the purchase money. In the case of milling or manufacturing establishments, the condition might be the expenditure of a certain sum per acre in erecting a plant within a specified time, the grant to issue as in the case of agricultural lands.

Such a plan as this would, we submit, prevent the purchase of land for purely speculative purposes, and at the same time give every person, who might bona fide intend to put land to valuable use, an opportunity to acquire all he required, while discouraging more extensive purchases than could be profitably used. It would not be necessary for the intending purchaser to specify the nature of the manufacturing business he intended to carry on, as a general statement would show under what class of conditions the purchase came.

In regard to townsites, the government ought to lay these out at all points where they appear to be necessary, and should be obliged to do so on the application of a specified number of persons, declaring their belief that it is in the public interest that a townsite should be located at a certain point, accompanied by a deposit of money as a guarantee of good faith. When any townsite had been located any person should be at liberty to purchase any lot, as long as it remained ungranted, at public auction, after such reasonable notice as the law might require. There should be an upset price on all lots, and sales should be to the highest bidder, with a condition as to the erection of buildings within a specified time, the grant to be withheld until the condition had been complied with. In this and in the cases above mentioned, the first instalment of the price should be forfeited if the conditions of the sale were not complied with. An intending purchaser should be permitted to have any lot put up at auction at any time after the necessary notice. Improvements should be allowed to persons making them in all cases.

We submit that if the crown lands of British Columbia were dealt with in the manner above laid out, with such variations in detail as more careful study of the matter might show to be desirable, the utilization of our public domain would be stimulated, the public convenience would be greatly served, enterprise would be encouraged, and a valuable asset would be made a source of revenue. At the same time, there would be no incentive to speculation. We invite the consideration of the government to the above suggestions.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE ABERDEENS.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen will carry with them to their home the most kindly feelings of the Canadian people. Few incumbents of the vice-regal chair made a more conscientious effort to keep in touch with Canadian sentiment and lead Canadian opinion in right directions than they. They have not always been able to strike a popular note, but no one has ever attributed to them any but the utmost sincerity and singleness of purpose.

His Excellency the Governor-General has not been disposed to regard himself as by any means a figure-head to the body politic. He claimed the right to make his own views of what was proper known and felt in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion. While many of us may not feel able to endorse his action at all times, all will concede that his demonstration, that the governor-generalship is not a position of mere passivity, will not be, on the whole, disadvantageous to Canada. His efforts to understand Canadian sentiment were very successful, and his advice on public occasions was usually wise.

The Countess of Aberdeen has shown herself to be a strong personality, and her influence has been greatly for the good of the people. It is impossible to come in contact with her and not be impressed by her sincerity and devotion to good works. The movements with which she identified herself were all for the betterment of mankind, and the stimulus which her presence and work in Canada gave to reforms of various kinds will be lasting.

The official stay of such distinguished people, animated by qualities of so high an order, has had in Canada a highly beneficial effect in more ways than can very well be mentioned. In a comparatively new country like our own, where people from one grade of society are constantly passing into other grades, the example of right living and broad Christian fellowship set by Lord and Lady Aberdeen can hardly fail to be instrumental in doing much good.

The people of Victoria, who on the two occasions on which they visited the city came to know them very well, have only the most pleasant memories of their official career, and we feel that we voice the sentiment of all in expressing the hope that health, long life and prosperity may be theirs.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

There is considerable talk in Eastern Canada and in Jamaica about the annexation of that island and the other British possessions in the West Indies. We are inclined to doubt the expediency of any other political connection between these portions of the Empire than now esists. If it would be of any advantage to both regions to remove all trade barriers between them, this, we suppose, could be done as readily without any political change as with one. It could hardly serve any special good purpose to the West Indies to have their affairs administered from Ottawa, or to be of any advantage to Canada to have representatives from the islands accorded a voice in the making and administration of our laws. There may be reasons for such a union that have not yet suggested themselves to us, but at present we feel inclined to the view that all the good features of such an arrangement can be got by a reciprocal tariff. We agree fully with the Montreal Herald that the question is not outside of the field of disucssion, but think that the essential prerequisite to any discussion is a statement as to what confederation with the West Indies would give us which cannot be obtained just as well without encumbering either part of the Empire with the purely domestic problems affecting the other part. There may perhaps be some treaty arrangements with foreign powers, which prevent the negotiation of a comprehensive reciprocity scheme with Canada or the establishment of a preferential tariff. The whole subject is one that requires a good deal of light to be thrown upon it before it becomes a live issue in the Dominion.

A CONTRAST.

The American illustrated papers contain pictures of the celebrations in Philadelphia and Chicago in honor of peace with Spain. Some may think the festivities a little premature, but the irresistible impulse of the American public to avoid "getting left" will account for almost anything in this way. One of these pictures of the Philadelphia celebration shows Lieut. Hobson being driven in a carriage in a parade and on either side is marching a man with a placard on a stick, announcing who the distinguished occupant of the carriage is. The decorations in both cities were elaborate. The enthusiasm was terrific.

Contrast this with the return of Kitchener and the Guards. The British populace certainly displayed sufficient enthusiasm, but it was purely spontaneous. It was an unrehearsed and wholly popular welcome. There was no reviewing stand, from which the great men of the land bowed acknowledgments to the Guards. No one walked in procession with a placard labelled "Kitchener," for the purpose of indicating that distinguished officer, so that the public would recognize him.

The contrast is a marked one. We shall not stop to compare the two campaigns, for they are so unlike that comparison would end in confusion. The point upon which it is worth while to speak is the enthusiasm of the Americans. It has certainly been grotesque, but it is very representative of the feeling of the people, who have the most grotesque notions concerning what their army and navy did in the late war. The great mass of Americans think that, since war was first waged on earth, there has been nothing quite as heroic as the exploits of their soldiers and sailors during the rumpus with Spain. This is not unnatural. They are like children with a new toy. This was their first real foreign war, for the squabble with Great Britain in 1812 and the invasions of Mexico could hardly be claimed as foreign wars. The funniest part of the whole business is that the same papers, which now claim the victory over Spain to be the greatest thing ever accomplished, a few months ago were busy endeavoring to demonstrate that Spain was about the weakest power in Christendom. The enthusiasm over which it is impossible not to smile, is a boyish ebullition, but it is through such processions that a self-reliant nation is developed. With our own country it is different. England has fought twenty-four wars with France alone. Almost every year sees soldiers returning to the shores of Britain, who have performed feats of marvelous courage and endurance. The story of one famous achievement has hardly been told before, fast on the heels of it, comes another. The swamps of West Africa, the plains of Zululand, the mountain heights of the Himalayas, the deserts of the Soudan, these and so many other places, that no one will pretend to recall half the names, have shed new lustre on British arms within the memory of boys now at school. Almost every social circle in the Three Kingdoms has one or more heroes of as gallant feats as that for which half the girls in the United States have tried to kiss Hobson. The difference between the two countries is like that between a young lawyer, who has won his first case, and a veteran at the bar.

Our amiable neighbors devoted yesterday to saving the country. Come to think of it, it is not so sure that they could save it anyway, for if one may judge of their choice between the political parties from the cartoons and newspaper headlines, it seems to be like that offered by the negro preacher to his congregation when he said: "Brudders, dere is two roads; one leading to 'ternal perdition, and de odder to everlastin' destruction. Which am yer gwine ter choose?"

The Toronto Telegram lauds Mr. Bostock for starting newspapers in British Columbia. So far as the Colonist is concerned, he may start as many papers as he thinks fit, and we will not complain. Our objection to his papers is that they have been used to malign honorable men and create sectional strife; but we are glad to be able to say that since the Colonist undertook to point out to him the error of his ways in this respect, there has been a marked improvement.

Prof. Petrie's discoveries in Egypt of a prehistoric race, to which he assigns an antiquity of about 6,000 years, opens a door for much speculation. The structure of the skeletons leads Prof. Petrie to think the race distinct from any which lived in the Nile valley during the historic age. The people were not large, being about of the same average as modern Frenchmen. There is considerable variation in size, notably among the men, the women being more nearly uniform. As it is a rule that savage races vary little in size among adults, for the reason that all the people live under much the same conditions, the diversity in stature in these remains indicates that the race, to which they belong, had attained considerable progress in civilization. Investigation is gradually pushing the childhood of humanity further into the background, but it may be interesting to mention that Prof. Petrie's very ancient friends have no more trace of a tail than the most up-to-date end-of-the-century baby.

GOVERNMENT BY TENDER.

The suggestion is sometimes made that it would be a good plan to put the government by tender to the lowest bidder. The P. R. P.'s are moving in that direction. In the last Gazette there appears a notice inviting in the following language:

All persons interested in obtaining government aid for roads, trails, or bridges are requested to send to the department of lands and works the following information:

1. Description of work desired.
2. Reasons that make the work desirable.
3. In case of roads or trails a rough sketch of roads and trails in the neighborhood of the proposed work.
4. Estimate of cost.
5. Information as to whether any persons or companies to be benefited are willing to pay any part of the cost.

The News-Advertiser, in commenting upon this, complains that the late government never did anything of this nature. This is true, and our contemporary would probably be unable to discover any government in any part of the British Empire that ever did. Such a notice is another illustration of the correctness of our contemporary's position when it announced that the principles of the British constitution did not apply to British Columbia.

This new departure is directly at variance with the whole British system of parliamentary government, because it seeks to deprive members of the legislature of their representative capacity. Hitherto in British Columbia, and at present in every other part of the Empire, the member for a constituency is the channel through whom the people communicate their wishes to the government. Mr. Semlin's cabinet proposes to ignore the members entirely. They are wholly ignored in the notice. If the public were invited to send their representations to the department of lands and works through their representative in the legislature, the case would not be so glaring. But nothing of the sort is proposed, and if hereafter any member is unwise enough to make any suggestions as to what his constituents require, he is likely to be met with a host of applications of which he has never heard. The late government received most of its suggestions as to public works through the members of the legislature. In some instances the necessity for public expenditures was brought to the notice of ministers in the course of their ordinary routine work, but as a rule the members of the house on both sides of politics were asked what their respective constituencies needed, and an effort was made as far as possible to comply with their requests. This is the British system of carrying on affairs, and it prevails in all parts of the Empire where the British constitution is in operation. It has proved sufficient for the requirements of this province, which has seen large sums of money expended in public works in a manner that has given profound satisfaction in all sections and has contributed immensely to its material advancement.

The new system is of a piece with the other changes inaugurated by the P. R. P's. It will not fail to be unpopular. It is unjust to the representatives of the people. It will lead to confusion and disappointment and to the employment of improper influences.

THE DISPOSAL OF CROWN LANDS.

In the reference to the disposal of Crown lands made in yesterday's Colonist brief mention was made of the principle which the plan suggested was designed to carry into effect. This principle has three aspects.

The public domain should only be sold to those who will make an immediate beneficial use of it.

Any person desiring to make immediate beneficial use of any portion of the public domain should be allowed to do so.

When any of the public domain is sold, the utmost publicity should be given to the sale, so that as good a price as possible may be obtained and the rights of persons in possession may be protected.

Some modifications might be advisable in the plan suggested, but something based upon the general lines proposed in yesterday's article would unquestionably promote the three aspects of the case above specified. It would place all men upon an equal footing. It is further suggested that in any new act framed for the disposal of Crown lands there should be a provision expressly divesting the Crown of any prerogative right to part with the lands. The claim is made, and there may be some foundation for it, that although the legislature has directed how lands may be disposed of, there is nothing in any law to prevent the Crown, that is the government for the time being, from disposing of the public domain in some other way, the idea being that the Crown cannot be divested of its prerogative rights except by special legislation. If this is good law in regard to the Crown lands, it ought to be altered, for although no harm has come to the province by reason of it, no one can foretell what may happen.

The Province understands that President Hill of the Great Northern has determined upon a fight with the Canadian Pacific that will drive the latter road into the hands of a receiver. The simple fact that this is announced as Mr. Hill's intention leads us to believe that he contemplates nothing of the kind. As a rule he never does what gossip says he is going to do.

Present indications are to the effect that next summer will witness a great deal of activity in interior Alaska. The developments on the tributaries of the Yukon below Dawson are very promising. By the way, can anyone tell us whether Kuyokuk is in Alaska or Canada? Such descriptions of the locality as we have received leave the matter in doubt.

COURTESY TO THE PRESS.

No invitations were given to the press to attend a banquet to the Earl of Aberdeen on the eve of his departure from Ottawa. His Excellency, with his fine sense of justice, atoned for the conduct of the committee as far as he was able by furnishing the Citizen with a copy of his speech. There was a case somewhat similar in Victoria not very long ago. It is about time that the press of Canada stood upon its dignity in these matters, by ignoring those functions, the managers of which ignore the press. Half the entertainments to distinguished people are got up by men who are desirous of the eclat, that will attach to the association of their names with them. When the motive is a higher one, the whole object sought would in nine cases out of ten be defeated without the co-operation of the press. No one can lay down a hard and fast rule to be followed in every case. There are occasions when complimentary invitations ought to be extended to the newspapers. There are others when the newspapers ought to be asked to subscribe to the fund for the banquet or other function. The money side of the question cuts no figure at all. The reference is not to the editors of papers. If they participate in a public function of any kind they do so just as any other citizens do. They would not consider themselves under any obligation to report the proceedings, any more than a lawyer would expect to draw up any papers in connection with the matter, or a physician to prescribe for any one of the guests, who might happen to feel ill. The reference is not to the newspapers as exponents of public opinion, but as purveyors of news. The press has the remedy in its own hands for any discourtesy extended to it in that way, and ought to apply it.

Ladies, Take the Best.—If you are troubled with Constipation, Sallow Skin and a Tired Feeling, take Karl's Clover Tea; it is pleasant to take. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

TROUBLES OF THE SEALERS.

Captain Cox and Captain Taylor Return East—A Second Petition For the Industry.

Capt. J. G. Cox, of E. B. Marvin & Co., and Capt. Taylor, of Nova Scotia, who was sent to the Coast to make a valuation of the Canadian sealing fleets, have about completed the work that has kept them busy ever since their arrival in Victoria. They expect to leave for Ottawa, en route to Washington, D. C., where the commission resumes its sessions to-day, on Saturday, by which time they will have completed the collection and arrangement of all their data.

Rumor had it on the water-front yesterday that still another petition was in preparation protesting against the abolition of the sealing industry, and to be signed only by the representative business firms of the community whose trade must necessarily suffer severely if an end is made of the sealing.

There is also considerable dissatisfaction expressed locally in connection with the appointment of Capt. Thayer, of the American Lloyds, as valuator for the United States. He is supposed to come from Boston, Mass., and to be an absolutely impartial and unprejudiced agent; there are, however, some among the local sealers who declare him to be more San Francisco than Bostonian, and to have at least an indirect relationship with the management of the Alaska Commercial Co.

The Toronto Mail and Empire, in its issue of the 3rd instant, prints the following from its special correspondent at the Dominion capital, without mentioning, however, the name of the prominent citizen whose opinions are quoted:

"What will Canada secure for surrendering her rights to hunt seals in Behring Sea?" was asked of a Montreal gentleman who is well posted on the present state of negotiations on this subject before the High Commission.

"Absolutely nothing," he replied. "The United States is buying out the vessels and outfits of the British Columbia sealers, and when they have done that they will have reached the limit of the concessions which they are disposed to make to Canada."

"Do you think that the Canadian commissioners should accept merely the cash value for the vessels for foregoing the rights of all Canadian citizens to hunt seals?" was asked.

"The consideration may seem to be a small one when one regards the matter from the standpoint of Great Britain's contention before the Paris tribunal, but I do not see how the Dominion government can help herself to better terms. The Canadian commissioners are in this predicament: either they must accept the terms of the United States, or else they will find neither cash nor seals coming to the sealing men."

"What do you mean by that?" asked the newspaper man.

"Well, simply this: If Canada does not accept the offer of the big republic, it is not at all unlikely that the seals will be killed off on the rookeries. In that case Canada's right to seal in Behring Sea will remain, but if there are no seals to be caught, the right will be but an empty privilege. I may remind you that a bill has already passed the house of representatives at Washington to authorize the destruction of the seals on the rookeries, which, as you are well aware, are entirely controlled by the Americans. This may seem rather a brutal course to adopt, but in a matter of this kind, where our neighbors have the whip-hand, they will stop at nothing to gain their own ends. The bill has been hung up pending the consideration of all the questions before the commission. That the Canadian commissioners are disposed to accept the American offer would seem to be implied by the action of the two governments in appointing experts to determine the value of the sealing vessels."

Dyspepsia Cured.—Shiloh's Vitalizer immediately relieves Sour Stomach, Coming up of Food Distress, and is the great kidney and liver remedy. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

Chose the Assizes.—Adolph Sleur, found in possession of stolen property belonging to a surveyor's office in the Five Sisters' block, came before Mr. Justice Martin yesterday for election, and chose the assizes.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

Current Comment

MR. SIFTON'S RECORD.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is quoted as saying that Mr. Sifton will not retire from the ministry of the interior to a more lucrative post, where the political winds do not blow so loudly. The Premier is also stated to have added that Mr. Sifton's usefulness was so well recognized that it was not desired that he should quit his present place. Sir Wilfrid, of course, is the best judge of the kind of men likely to serve him best, but it will be difficult to comprehend how Mr. Sifton is held to help him or the government. The records are looked to in vain for evidence of Mr. Sifton's success. He is the head of the immigration department, and the immigration agents he sends to the British Isles are greeted with hostile criticism in their spheres of labor. The immigration that attracts most attention to his department work is objected to by the people of the districts it is directed to, on account of the newcomers' queer—if not unpleasant—customs and mode of living. He is, in one sense, the minister for the West, and his schemes in connection with the West do not gain the support of the representatives of that part of the country in parliament, even when they are Liberals. Mr. Oliver, M. P., and the Edmonton Bulletin, the most influential of the Alberta papers, have assumed towards him an independent semi-hostile tone. Mr. Richardson, M. P., and the Winnipeg Tribune are openly hostile, and make attacks upon him personally as well as upon his administration. So many Liberals, indeed, are against him that the situation amounts almost to a revolt. The wonder, as each new critic declares himself, is only as to who will be the next to speak out his thoughts. If in the East Mr. Sifton was winning respect or support, to compensate for the losses he is causing in the West, the benefit of his presence in the ministry would be understood. But the boldest adulator will not maintain that the Eastern provinces applaud him. He is known chiefly as the minister who went furthest in support of the Mackenzie-Mann Yukon railway contract, the killing of which has made the senate popular, even among Liberals. If the Premier admires the man who produces this sort of situation, well Ephraim is joined to his idols—let him alone.—Montreal Gazette.

SIR WILFRID'S BOSSES.

Sir Wilfrid is probably taking notice in these autumnal days when all things point toward sadness and invite melancholy of the peculiar circumstance that it is the ministers be brought in from outside his old parliamentary following to "strengthen the government" who have raised up for him enemies in all the four corners of his bailiwick. There were grumblers against the astute Mr. Blair to be heard in New Brunswick, before he got well accustomed to dismissing Tory employees from the service of the intercolonial. The ingratitude of the "Old Rouges" of this province toward the gentleman who had taken up up his shoulders the responsibilities and, incidentally, the privileges of performing their share in the government of this country, is too recent and was too loud-tongued to be forgotten already. Then when a good Liberal wishes to express his dissatisfaction with the feeble attempt made by his government to "reform the tariff" he seldom fails to remind the recipient of his woeful wailings of the dark fact that the finance minister, who is to blame for it all, was a newcomer, and knew nothing of the long years of agitation and denunciation which preceded the accident of '96.

And now we have the western revolt against Mr. Sifton, the newest of the newcomers. We simply do not know Mr. Sifton down here well enough to say half the things against him which are being printed from day to day in the Liberal papers of the West. Yet we are not wholly unacquainted with him. Something was learned of his notions of good government when he proposed his famous Teslin Lake railway scheme which was to give away the Klondike goldfields in a farcical payment for a railway that did not run anywhere near them. Then, again, we are now learning something of his ideas about the government of a gold mining region, and his conception of the proper kind of officials to send to such a district to keep order and administer the law. It was his idea, we presume, that it would preserve the impartiality of his officials—a quality exceedingly desirable under the circumstances—if he permitted them to take up mining claims and join in the tussle they were paid to supervise. So we Easterners know a little of him; but apparently his political friends in the West know more; and they seem to be inclined to share their knowledge with the rest of us.

All of which may lead Sir Wilfrid to take note of the circumstance that he brought in a good deal of trouble when he strengthened his government from outside his parliamentary party. It may be, of course, that he has had his attention called to this before. Possibly Mr. McMullen or Mr. Scriver or Mr. Beausoleil or Mr. Ellis or Judge Langelier or Judge Lister or Mr. Richardson may have chanced to mention the matter to him.—Montreal Star.

MINE INSPECTION.

The Miner desires to direct the attention of the provincial government to the verdict of the jury in the inquest as to the cause of the recent disaster at the Sunset No. 2 mine, wherein it is suggested that the act regulating the inspection of metalliferous mines be more rigidly enforced. The recommendation of the jury is quite in keeping with the facts of the case. This must not be construed in any way as a reflection on the manner in which Mine Inspector McGregor performs the duties of the office, but rather a suggestion that more inspectors be employed. Under present conditions the work of inspecting all the metalliferous mines of British Columbia, devolves upon one man. This is a great deal upon one man. There is a great need for assistant inspectors, and the government should lose no time in appointing at least one more. In so doing it would be well to provide that one of the two inspectors shall devote himself entirely to the Rossland camp, where the large number of working mines demand constant vigilance on the part of the mine inspector.—Rossland Miner.

BOUNDARY CREEK.

The opening of branch offices of the Bank of British North America and the Bank of Commerce at Greenwood, the other day, may be accepted as the best evidence that the Boundary Creek country has reached a stage of development that justifies extensive industrial operations on a permanent basis. For the last two or three years Greenwood has been the centre of a mineral district where much development work has been done. The discovery there of enormous copper and copper-gold deposits has encouraged extensive operations. The result in almost every instance has proved very satisfactory. It is known that there are a number of properties in the neighborhood that are already of great value, and there is not the slightest doubt but that they would be yielding handsome dividends were it not for the absence of adequate freight and treatment facilities. The time is near at hand, however, when the Boundary Creek country will enjoy all the advantages of direct railway communication with this city and the Kootenay smelters. Almost immediately following this Grenwood should become a place of considerable industrial and commercial importance and one of the richest of the many camps tributary to Rossland.—Rossland Miner.

THE ABERDEENS.

The amiability and courtesy which have marked his lordship's administration of the duties of his important office have endeared him to those with whom he has been brought in contact in the execution of those duties, and his departure from Ottawa will be sincerely regretted. No less will be the regret which Canadians will feel at being deprived at the presence amongst us of the Countess, who has so abundantly identified herself with the charitable institutions of the Dominion, the Local Council of Women, and the enterprise for the establishment of the Victorian Order of Nurses.—Ottawa Citizen.

MR. SIFTON'S SUCCESSOR.

Mr. Sifton has been offered the lieutenant-governorship of Manitoba. Whether he will accept or not remains to be seen, but Liberals are praying fervently that he will take it. Should Mr. Sifton do so he will be able to exercise more direct personal supervision of the editorial columns of the Winnipeg Free Press, which Events says he bought for $42,000. As to who will succeed Mr. Sifton is a somewhat difficult thing to determine. Major Sutherland is the best man in sight, but Jim has already refused a portfolio and would not touch it with a ten foot pole. He evidently prefers to be the power behind the throne. Next to him comes Mr. McMullen, who, after years of hard work, and making the auditor-general's report his pillow, is surely entitled to something. But the trouble is the great West will not be satisfied with an Ontario man, so that Mr. McMullen will have to stand aside for the present. Among the present Manitoba contingent there is no one who would be regarded by either of the Liberal factions in the province as acceptable. Mr. Oliver is the ablest of Western men, and knows the country better than the great majority of people, but the strain of independence in his nature will shut him out also. To British Columbia, therefore, the premier will have to go, and it is said Mr. Bostock, owing to the length of his purse, his social connections and his friendship for the solicitor-general, may be the lucky man, although if ability counted, Mr. G. R. Maxwell, M.P. for Burrard, should be chosen. Mr. Maxwell, by the way, arrived in the city on Saturday.—Ottawa Citizen.

A WONDERFUL COMBINATION.

Never in the history of newspapers has such an offer been made as that of the Family Herald and Weekly Star, of Montreal, this season. We have received a copy of their new premium picture, "The Thin Red Line." It is about 30x17 inches, and is the most popular British battle picture ever painted. Excellent as have been the premium pictures of the Family Herald and Weekly Star in previous years, "The Thin Red Line" surpasses them all, and such a picture combined with that great paper, the Family Herald and Weekly Star, is without doubt the biggest dollar's worth to be had. The Family Herald and Weekly Star should be kept busy this season. It is said subscribers are rushing in renewal subscriptions months ahead, to avoid the possibility of losing a single paper or the picture.

An Epileptic Sufferer.

A Fenlon Farmer Tells of His Remarkable Cure.

At Regular Intervals He Was Subject to Fits, and Doctors Told Him the Trouble Was Incurable—Now Free From the Malady.

From the Warder, Lindsay, Ont.

Mr. Robert McGee, of the 9th concession of Fenlon, Victoria county, says in speaking of his cure from this terrible malady: "I am 35 years of age and live on the old homestead where I was born, and have lived always since, and where my little family were born. This part of Fenlon is known as McGee's Settlement, there are so many of that name living in the vicinity. Never in my life did I know what a day's sickness was until March, 1895, when without any known cause, and without any warning, I was stricken down with an epileptic fit. It came on in the night, causing great consternation in the household, as my wife, who never saw anything of the kind before, thought it was my end; as for myself I neither felt nor knew anything that was going on about me. After coming out of the convulsion, which, they tell me, usually lasted from fifteen to thirty minutes, I would fall into a heavy sleep, from which I would awake with a dull, heavy feeling, and all the muscles of my body would be sore. This would pass away, and in a day or two after the attack I would be able to attend to my farm work; but, strange to say, every four months after as regular as a clock I would be seized with a fit, which always came on in the night. Various doctors and specialists were consulted, and I took several different medicines, but without effecting a cure. Several doctors said the disease was incurable. I read of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the newspapers and was advised by friends who had experienced cures from other seemingly incurable ailments to try them. In November, 1896, I commenced and kept on taking them regularly for a year. The dreaded period passed and passed again and again without a repetition of my trouble, and I felt that I was at last released from this terrible malady. I am now in the best of health, and I attribute my cure to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills." In conversation with Mrs. McGee she said that her husband's trouble was the cause of most seriously affecting her nerves and general health, and she was always living in dread and could never enjoy a night's rest. The slightest noise would startle her, and if it had not been for the kindness of a neighbor who always came and stayed at the house over night, she believes she would have broken down altogether. She also is thankful for the great change that has been wrought, and is only too glad to let others with similar afflictions know that there is a remedy for this terrible disease.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure by going to the root of the disease. They renew and build up the blood, and strengthen the nerves, thus driving disease from the system. Avoid imitations by insisting that every box you purchase is enclosed in a wrapper bearing the full trade mark, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. If your dealer does not keep them they will be sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.