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## THE OLD AND THE NEW.

It is almost too soon, considering that the year 1892 has not yet died out, to pass judgment upon it, as in its remaining days events may occur which, though they might not change the current of history, may have a great deal to do in modifying one's estimate of its results. To all appearance the year goes out with a record of tolerably general prosperity, though for Victoria and British Columbia the progress and the successes of the twelve months have not been equal to those of the like period ending a year ago. The industries special to the Province of British Columbia have had material setbacks, which have not been caused by anything within themselves, but rather by outside influences—the supply of salmon having been greater than the demand and the catching of seal having been prevented by special understandings between Great Britain and the United States, the latter having, however, assumed powers and prerogatives which in no way appertained to them. Then there was the smallpox visitation, which almost paralyzed everything, and from which it will yet take some time to recover. However it may be hoped and expected that after the holidays are over affairs will assume much of their wonted activity and prosperity. There are large and additional lumbering enterprises to which an impetus is being given, while several new salmon canning industries are about to go into operation. Our mining prospects were never better, and as for the coal trade, advices from San Francisco are most encouraging. In other departments the outlook is promising and though some of the sealers are going out of the business others of them are consolidating and placing themselves on a better footing to carry on operations. There is a much better feeling manifested in ordinary business, the Christmas and New Year's trade appears to have been better than had been looked for, and on the whole the year 1892 will come in with far fewer clouds overshadowing it than many had feared. We trust that our anticipations may prove to be correct, and feeling as we do congratulate our readers on the prospect.

## THE OUTGOING CHIEF.

Judging from past experiences one would hardly have supposed that the retiring Board of Aldermen had enough go in them to actually transact the amount of business with which the minutes of the

last few meetings accredited them. They actually worked and only found time to crack a few sorry jokes at the expense of a dozen miserable turkeys which were reported to have been plucked alive by denizens of Chinatown. Unless there was some special provision of the law relating to the suppression of cruelty it ought not to have mattered much under what classification the creatures came with which it is possible that some of the funny men may yet undertake to pack their capacious paunches. Their fun, however, in the instance referred to, was, to say the least of it, ghastly; still, except for the unmanliness of the affair, the city can well afford to allow them to call off for recreation considering the unwonted amount of labor they performed.

The Citizens Committee have chosen their ticket. It is an improvement; it seems to us to give promise of a more business like personnel on the floor of the council chamber. Taken as a whole it is one that will be more acceptable to many who not seldom have refrained from voting because the candidates did not come up to the standard which they had set up. As we have repeatedly insisted, Victoria is passing a critical juncture in its affairs and requires its very best men to do it real yeomen service. It wants men of enterprise, men of tact, men of common sense, and, moreover, men of sufficient independence to dare to call their souls their own, and not allow themselves to be browbeaten out of honest opinions legitimately and after due consideration arrived at. It wants, however, no cranks who are brazen and ignorant enough to run amuck of everything and everybody.

We want no more political Mayors. We cannot see, for our part, how it can be compatible with the true interests of any community to have as its chief magistrate an individual prominently identified with any political party in the Provincial Legislature. Other communities have suffered on this account. Municipalities not unfrequently are compelled to seek for special legislation, or for considerations of one kind or another, and although it may be said that having friends at Court is very useful, an independent demand upon the Legislature is more likely to meet with hearty concurrence than one which comes directly and almost solely through partizan channels. To day, Victoria has in the House three out of its four members who almost invariably vote against the Government, while the present Mayor many a time went out of his way from the municipal chair to denounce the premier and the policy of his associates. It is true he polled a big vote when the elections took place; but there were special circumstances which favored his pretensions, and we are certain that, at the present time, he could not possibly receive anything like the same endorsement. Indeed, there are some who hold that he would be nowhere had he again to try his chances among the electors. Municipal representation and parliamentary membership are two different things. Mayor Heaven either forgot or wilfully ignored this and in consequence his actions have been such as we should not think were calculated to predispose the majority of the House in favor of anything he might be required to ask for his constituents.

## PANAMA CANAL SCANDALS.

France has of late been almost convulsed by the recent revelations in connection with the Panama Canal. These have shown that in the highest circles—particularly the political and journalistic ones—there have been bribery and corruption upon the most extensive scale, and that newspapers and public men have sold themselves for large amounts, which have been deliberately and unblushingly stolen out of the pockets of the hardworking and simple farmers and land owners to whom the name of De Lesseps was a talisman that opened the lids of their strong boxes and other receptacles and induced them to invest their hard earned savings in the canal scheme which was to largely increase *le pouvoir et la gloire* of France and in addition make their locked up resources, which they were otherwise afraid to invest, a source of handsome profit. The developments of late have shown how grossly these unfortunates have been deceived and how heartlessly they have been robbed and left without a dollar, not having even the small satisfaction of knowing that their money had served any other purpose than to enrich respectable blacklegs and confidence men.

In France, there has always been an element—and one of no small strength—which has made it its business to endeavor to turn to factional account any cause of public unsettlement, and the Bonapartists and the Bourbons have in consequence sought to fan into a flame the expiring embers of so called loyalty to Monarchical or Imperial institutions. However, though these men may succeed in creating disturbance, their mutual jealousies are such that they cannot combine for concerted action, although in their individual and sectional capacities they may be the means of causing disturbance and giving a shake to the republican institutions which were rapidly becoming solidified in the respect, not to say esteem, of the masses.

The Panama Canal, however, it would appear, is by no means a dead project as the government of the Republic of Colombia are trying to obtain authority to undertake the work of construction or to negotiate with any parties or companies who may be prepared to take up the matter. The rival Nicaragua enterprise is also being given as great an impetus as possible, and it may be that matters being as they are it will be regarded with increased favor, inasmuch as it has some advantages not possessed by the other scheme. Every one now realizes the great benefits that would accrue from the carrying out of any enterprise that would satisfactorily do away with the delays and dangers attendant on the passage round Cape Horn.

The first published official information concerning the foreign trade of Germany for 1891 has just been transmitted to the U. S. department, by Consul General Ed. wards at Berlin. It shows that 9½ per cent of Germany's imports come from the United States, while 10.3 of her exports come to the United States, Great Britain headed the list of countries with which Germany did business, furnishing 15 per cent of imports and absorbing 20 per cent of exports.