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INTERCOLONIAL RELATIONS.

The Earl of Jersey has, it is announced, submitted to the British Colonial office his report on the Intercolonial Conference held some months since at Ottawa. He is understood to be thoroughly in sympathy with the objects of that important gathering, heartily favors the cable and steamship projects and advises the British Government to remove any restriction, treaty or statutory provisions which stand in the way of intercolonial trade. On the subject of establishing a maximum tariff for foreign countries and a minimum one for members of the empire, His Lordship thinks that it would involve a fundamental change in the fiscal policy of Great Britain and the creation of new taxation. He believes that the treaties with Belgium and Germany would prevent Great Britain sharing any benefit which might be given by one colony to another though they would not render it impossible for her to give special advantages to the colonies. In fact by those treaties the Mother Country has bargained away her power to receive better terms in the colonies regarding her exports than are given to Belgium and Germany under the most favored nation clauses.

The conclusion at which he has arrived is that it will be a consistent and successful policy to recognize the reasonable nature of the request that autonomous colonies have the power, subject

to the veto of the Crown, to make such fiscal arrangements with each other as may seem to them most conducive to commercial prosperity. He adds: "It is within the power of Great Britain to settle the direction of the trade of the colonies and the current of their sentiments for many generations. Such an opportunity may not ever occur; there is impatience for action which which would be tried by delay and most sadly disappointed by indifference to the proposals now brought forward." This Earl thinks that so far as concerns the mail service much will depend upon the action of the Australian colonies, some of which, we may remark, have appeared anxious to shoulder off upon Canada and the Mother Country too much of the financial responsibility. No practical difficulty is seen in the way of the Pacific cable "which passing solely from British territory and through waters comparatively secure from attack must be a greater strategic advantage than the lines through European and Egyptian territories with constant liability to warlike complications."

The London *Times* pays a warm tribute to Earl Jersey's high capabilities, adding that the cause of Imperial unity will be better promoted by the national development of unfettered intercourse between the different parts of the empire and the consolidation of commercial and other interests than by any definite political scheme."

We notice that Mr. J. S. Larke, Canada's trade commissioner to Canada, sails by the next outgoing steamer on the 16th inst. He has been already preceded on a similar mission by prominent public men and officials, but thus far the most effective work in this direction seems to have been done by the Steamship and Postal service which was established several years ago. Mr. Larke will meet the members

of the British Columbia Board of Trade as he passes through Victoria.

A MINING BUREAU.

Mr. Kellicott is to be congratulated on having been successful in passing through the Legislature a resolution in favor of a Provincial Bureau of Mining, which was subsequently followed by the introduction by Hon. Col. Baker, of a Bill providing for the establishment of such an office by the Government. We have repeatedly expressed ourselves in favor of a departure of this kind and at the same time pointed out the great advantages which were certain to result from it. Henceforward with a well appointed, though not necessarily expensive office, it will be possible to give ocular demonstration, without the necessity of visiting the localities concerned, of the character of our resources, whose extent is so well known that but little additional proof is necessary. Capitalists being satisfied of the value of the minerals, as it is possible for them to become by visiting the Bureau, will, if they feel at all interested have no difficulty in further acquainting themselves as to their surroundings by visiting the localities or causing them to be visited on their behalf. We expect the mining Bureau—as has been the experience elsewhere—will have the effect of revolutionizing mining in British Columbia.

SIR HIBBERT EXPLAINS.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper's statements in regard to the matters at issue between this Province and the Dominion Government must, on the whole, be accepted as assuring. He has declared that whatever may have been wrong in connection with the relations of British Columbia and the central authority has been due to misapprehension and lack of information, and now that he has been enabled to inform himself on the