

TRADE WITH AUSTRALASIA.

At a meeting of the council of the British Columbia Board of Trade, held on Wednesday, it was announced that the steamers of the New Australian line are to dock here—not to anchor off the outer wharf as in the custom of the C. P. R. Oriental liners. The opinion was expressed among others by Mr. Robert Ward that a most desirable trade is to be built up between Canada and Australia, which would be of peculiar advantage to British Columbia—timber and salmon being mentioned in this connection. It was in consequence resolved to ask the Dominion Government to take into consideration with the respective Governments of the Australian colonies, the customs tariff now in force on both sides and to arrange such alterations thereto as will encourage the development of reciprocal trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and Australia. It was further resolved that an address be presented by the Board to the owners of the new line on the arrival of the first steamer at this port.

THE AGITATION.

The Mainland agitation is we notice still continuing to attract attention in Eastern Canada and with respect to it the *Monetary Times* says: "The separation of the Mainland from the Island is not, at present, made a question by any party; but it is held out as a possible future question. Surely British Columbia will not commit the folly of seeking to saddle on a small population the burthen of two local governments; the common sense and the real interests of the people may be relied on to save them from insanity of this kind." * * Redistribution is delayed by a contention over the actual result of the census, on which it depended. When this point is settled, a scheme of redistribution is promised by the Government. The contention of the Opposition is that the alleged ground for delay is not valid. With redistribution, the question of the seat of government is mixed up."

SANITARY MATTERS.

A special report to the Montreal Sanitary Association on the subject of the health conditions of that city says that a skilled inspector shows that in 53 per cent. of the better class of dwellings of that town there are serious defects. This being the case in what may be termed "upper tenement," what may there not be expected in those portions where the inhabitants, as it were, herd together? Bad plumbing and pipe laying are the most serious defects, and in almost all the cases sewer gas has access to the interior of the dwellings. To give one instance, it is said that in a large house in the best part of this city the soil pipes were found simply laid in without any jointing of any kind, and one two inch pipe, perfectly open at the end, was discharging volumes of sewer gas into the house. Besides this, the cesspool was situated directly under the kitchen where the servants lived, worked and cooked.

If matters in Montreal, which it was supposed had such an excellent sanitary

system, and the members of whose provincial board of health are accustomed to travel in search of information and learnedly discant abroad on how matters ought to be, what may we expect to be the case in less pretentious places where we know sewerage upon some set system has only just begun to be carried out? For instance, what is the condition of Victoria? Our City Fathers have never done squabbling over matters of a comparatively trivial character; have become accustomed to employ a high priced sanitary engineer and pay sewerage commissioners whose hands are tied for want of something to do, and that because the authorities do not act, while lack of confidence in the whole outfit has led the ratepayers to refuse to vote them the supplies necessary to carry on operations.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Mr. Clive Phillips Wolley has visited the Imperial Institute and, if what he says be only partially true, there has been a very great deal left undone to make British Columbia's contribution a representative one. He remarks that if we want to attract to our shores the best of the immigrants from England, we ought to do more than we do individually and collectively to publish the merits of our colony to the world. In this connection, he observes that Agent-General Becton complains that he has been unable to get anything sent to him that he wanted, or something to that effect, and he has no doubt been a great deal on the spot trying to make the show a success, but he must have much real hearty co-operation from our side, and a great deal of gratuitous help in the way of specimens, pictures, fish, fruit, grain and other exhibits.

C. P. R. DISCRIMINATIONS.

Again Victoria has good reason for complaint against the C. P. R. management. It is notorious that since the movement towards the Kootenay country has been accentuated, an effort has been made by discriminating rates to divert the wholesale business of that rich section to Winnipeg. We claim that that business properly belongs to Victoria or Vancouver—the commercial cities of the province to which the Kootenay country belongs. Under the original Pacific Railway construction arrangement, Victoria was to be the objective point; but considerations of that kind, even if they be written down in the bond, have little or no force and value with the gentlemen who have so far controlled our railway destinies. Several endeavors have been made by the company to give a special boom to the prairie city. We have no objection to that so long as our own cities and our own province are not unfairly dealt with; but, if we can do no more, we shall continue to raise our voice against a policy which from its inception has been an unfair one to Victoria in particular and the province in general. It is true that C. P. R. high officials have embarked in mining in Kaslo and other parts of the Kootenay country, but, it was only after Victoria and Vancouver capital and enterprise had demon-

strated how big a thing there was there, that they put up their money and lent it their influence.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

CANADIAN exporters of cattle to Great Britain have been notified by importers at Glasgow, that it is useless for them to ship beeves to Great Britain, the regulations of the board of Agriculture having made the trade a ruinous one.

THE visit to British Columbia of the Ministers of Railways and Militia it is to be hoped will result in the requirements of the province being better understood and more promptly attended to. The Hon. gentlemen have had numerous representations made to them in connection with their departments.

THE British Columbia Board of Trade has declined to send a delegate to the annual meeting of the International Reciprocity Convention, which opened in St. Paul on Monday, for the reason that the McKinley tariff is a direct blow at Canada, and that any proposition for reciprocity should come from the United States. Moreover, the Board, while favoring reciprocity could not approve of anything that would interfere with the mother country or discriminate against her.

THE patent self-acting, double ventilating dolt, the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has, we notice been obliged to take back water in connection with the Marine Hospital at Victoria. In a letter to the Board of Trade he has largely qualified some of the statements which he made as to the receipts and expenditures on sick mariners' account and has officially announced that as satisfactory arrangements have not been made with the Royal Jubilee Hospital the Department proposes to continue the Marine Hospital in operation.

THE new line of steamships between British Columbia and Australia seems to have awakened the interest which some time back was taken in the subject of closer trade and other relations between Canada and the British Colonies at the Antipodes. Advices from Ottawa state that communications have recently passed with the governments of the countries concerned and in connection with the line of steamships, the first of which is expected here daily, it is thought the Australasians will contribute a money subsidy. Moreover, it is understood that the people of the South Pacific would welcome a commission from Canada to discuss with them questions of reciprocal trade. Some years since Hon. John Young went there at the instance of the Mackenzie Government and subsequently Mr. Alexander Woods, of Quebec, performed a similar mission under instructions from the administration of Sir John A. Macdonald; but little came of their respective efforts. Both gentlemen reported that "Barkis was willin'," but the way of doing what was aimed at was never properly demonstrated.