

The Colonist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1898.

BUILD TO THE COAST.

There is a growing opinion that any railway policy looking to connection with the Yukon will be incomplete if provision is not made for the extension of the line to the Coast at the earliest possible day. The bill now before parliament provides for the construction of such a line by Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann and their associates at any time within ten years, if they see fit to accept the same terms as any other capitalists are willing to contract for. There are bills before the local legislature for the incorporation of companies to build several lines from points on the Coast. The Colonist has no desire to champion the cause of any combination of capitalists in this connection; but it wants to see the line constructed at the earliest possible day, and it hopes that all interests will be subordinated to the public good in making the arrangements for the building of the line.

Our information is that the route to Kitimat Arm is the best by which the Coast can be reached from the Northern Interior. The distance to Alice Arm or some other point on Observatory Inlet is much the shorter, but as yet there is no certainty that a feasible route can be found. On the other hand it is positively known that a good route exists from the head of Kitimat Inlet to the Skeena and thence north to Telegraph Creek. Such a line would have many advantages. It would start from an excellent harbor, would traverse a level and excellent piece of country, would give access to the mineralized land along the Skeena, would serve as a route to the Omineca and would be a direct route to the Yukon. Our information leads us to believe that the line would not be a very expensive one. Having an open ocean terminus, it could probably be built for less per mile than the road from Telegraph Creek to Teslin Lake.

In connection with this line, and in order that its advantages may be fully realized, the railway ought to be extended to the head of Vancouver Island. This would reduce steamer navigation to a little over 300 miles, and, if a railway ferry were established with Vancouver, would give both that city and Victoria an equal chance in competing for the trade of the Yukon. This part of the project does not press for immediate consideration. At least it can afford to wait until after the line on the Mainland has been provided for. Some present interest attaches to it, however, and it may therefore be properly mentioned at this time.

What we want to see done now is the effecting of an arrangement between the Dominion and Provincial governments so that work can be begun upon the line to the Coast very early during the present year. A force of men could be put to work at both ends, and we think, at more than one point between the terminals. The whole line could be got into shape so as to be available for traffic next spring, if a start is made this spring.

Yesterday afternoon the Hon. J. H. Turner sent a message to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on this very question. His action in so doing shows his high appreciation of its importance and will gain for him the hearty approval of the whole province. The interests of British Columbia and Canada are at stake and it is a matter for profound congratulation that the Premier has thrown the weight of his influence in favor of prompt action on the line indicated. The despatch is as follows:—

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa:—
"Realizing the vital necessity of the protection of British Columbia and Canadian interests generally by the immediate construction of a strictly all-Canadian line to the northern gold fields, I would strongly urge your earnest consideration of a measure for the speedy construction of a railway from a northerly seaport in British Columbia to Telegraph Creek."

"J. H. TURNER."

THE JAPANESE.

In yesterday's Ottawa special to the Colonist there was a report of an interesting incident. Senator Macdonald made inquiry as to the intention of the government in regard to the exclusion of Japanese from the Klondike, and was informed substantially by Senator Mills that the government does not see its way clear to treat the Japanese in a manner different to that in which other civilized nations are dealt with. In view of certain legislation that was introduced into the British Columbia legislature last session, and would have become law, if Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney had not withheld his assent, and also in view of a measure now or soon to be before the house, this statement of the representative of the federal government in the Senate has an immediate interest.

Colonist readers will recall that when this subject was brought up during the last session, this paper took what it knew was the unpopular side, but what it felt sure was the side which in the long run would prevail. It pointed out then that in view of the close relations existing between Japan and Great Britain and the rapid advance of the former power towards a civilization similar to

that enjoyed by ourselves, it was useless for the British Columbia legislature to attempt to draw the line against Japanese and in the manner proposed. We also pointed out the danger of including in private bills a provision forbidding the employment of Chinese or Japanese in connection with the enterprises contemplated by such measures, and our advice was acted upon in that particular, so that the objectionable section was struck out of the individual bills and the subject dealt with in a substantive enactment.

For taking this view of the case the Colonist was very roundly assailed on all sides, and especially by people who fail utterly to keep in touch with the progress of events and who are actuated by the notion that the wage-earners of the province are as ignorant as themselves. We did not then deny, and do not now deny, that Oriental labor may prove a serious factor in competition with white labor. We expressed the opinion then, and repeat it, that it is highly desirable to keep this competition within bounds; but we were also able to take a wider view of the principle involved than our critics and therefore to forecast with accuracy the position which the Dominion government would find itself compelled by the irresistible logic of facts to assume. This position was taken by Senator Mills, and whether we like it or not one thing is certain, namely, that we will have to put up with it. It is of no use for the legislature of the province to set itself up against what is established Imperial policy, and the recognition of the Japanese as entitled to the same privileges in British countries as are accorded the people of the most favored nation is undoubtedly the settled policy of Great Britain. We think it may be taken for granted that Senator Mills spoke understandingly upon this point.

There is another aspect of the case which ought not to be lost sight of. This province, and we believe the whole of Canada, have much to expect from close commercial relations with Japan. That empire needs what we produce and we need many things which Japan produces. There exist all the elements of a large and profitable commerce between the two countries and it would be highly unwise, even if it were possible, for British Columbia to throw obstacles in the way of its development. To some persons it may seem as if anything which we might expect to gain from a Japanese connection in this way will be more than offset by what our wage-earners may lose by Japanese competition; but we are satisfied that this is an erroneous view. As yet Japanese competition is largely a myth, and we have been unable to discover any reason for thinking it will assume formidable dimensions under any circumstances. Against the importation of Japanese coolie labor, such as has taken place in Hawaii, we would enter the strongest kind of a protest; but between this and legislation depriving Japanese of the same rights as are enjoyed by Turks, Greeks, Austrians, Germans and every other nationality there is a very substantial difference. New conditions have arisen so far as our relations with the Orient are concerned, and it is just as well to no longer attempt to disguise the fact.

UNEXPECTED TESTIMONY.

Among the visitors to Victoria yesterday was Mr. Thomas H. Andrew, representing the G. H. Hammond Company, of Omaha, one of the greatest packing houses in the world. Mr. Andrew came here to make observations preliminary to the opening of a branch house. He says that his company, after looking the whole situation over, have concluded that the outfitting for the Yukon must be done in British Columbia, and that Victoria is the best point at which to open business. As this firm has already a large branch house in Seattle, it may be taken for granted that they know the situation as well as anyone can. Their testimony is of the very highest value.

In this connection we may mention that every day brings new proof that we are only at the beginning of great business prosperity, and that, as the weeks pass, Victoria will get an increasing share of the North-bound business. Nearly every American who comes here sends back word to his friends favorable to the city. This has already told in favor of the city, and will tell more. The only difficulty after a few weeks will be to attend to the business that will offer, but our merchants will prove equal to the emergency.

One factor of importance in determining the trend of travel is the condition of the Stikine route. The latest information, which is down to February 4, is that the travel on the river and across the land to Teslin Lake is in first class condition. There is really no more reason why a man should outfit in Victoria to go up the Stikine than if he were going over the Passes; but in the public mind Victoria and the Stikine are closely associated.

It has been a long and hard fight to get the public informed as to the facts in regard to outfitting and routes, but success seems now in sight. We think our rivals realize it. They have been compelled to expose the weakness of their own case by sending a representative to Ottawa to plead for concessions. In the meantime let all join in pushing forward the construction of a road from Telegraph Creek to the Coast.

FRANCES WILLARD.

The death of Frances Willard removes from the public field one of the most devoted workers in the cause of social reform. Her life has for nearly a quarter of a century been devoted to the propagation of the principles of total abstinence, although of more recent years with her temperance work. That she has done a vast amount of good must be conceded. Her name will go down to posterity as that of one of the most energetic and public-spirited of reformers. We think it can be said of her, as of very few others in these latter and money-getting days, that she labored far more for the sake of those whom she could benefit than for any pecuniary advantage that might accrue to herself. Indeed, with her talents and education and the world-wide reputation which she achieved, she might readily have secured a position that would have entailed little labor and given her a very high salary. She chose the field of reform work, and this every one knows to be most fruitful in labor and disappointment than in pecuniary advantage.

As a public speaker Miss Willard was effective, and at times eloquent; but withal very unassuming. It was a pleasure to listen to her, and those who heard her could hardly fail to be deeply impressed with her sincerity. She leaves behind her a savory memory. She exhibited what an earnest woman can do in the way of advancing the best interests of humanity. There will be no feeling anywhere except of regret at her death. Her place will be a difficult one to fill.

The ruling of Mr. Speaker as to the right of members of the legislature to refer to the action of Messrs. Turner and Pooley in accepting positions on a board of London directors is an evasion of the real question raised by Mr. Macpherson. We contend that the second member from Vancouver was wholly within his rights in discussing the action of the ministers and should have been allowed to proceed. Mr. Speaker either cannot or will not see the distinction between the discussion of an act and the discussion of alleged libellous statements made in connection with the same act. The citations from May do not apply to what Mr. Macpherson was seeking to do. If they did, they would also apply with equal force to the introduction of a substantive resolution. We think the proposed amendment to the address was properly ruled out of order, because it is not in the nature of an address to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and therefore not germane to the address in reply to the speech. There is a parliamentary way in which the subject could be brought up on the address, but the members of the opposition do not appear to have discovered it.

The Post-Intelligencer thinks it will in due time be enlightened as to where the good route from the coast of British Columbia to the Yukon is. We doubt it. The Post-Intelligencer never was strong on geography. A couple of years ago it devoted several columns to a description of a railway from Seattle to St. Petersburg, crossing Behring Strait on a bridge, which was to be built by Russia. This precious railway was to have a branch to Teheran, Persia, and another to Beloochistan, and its object was to crush British prestige. So perfectly was the Post-Intelligencer fooled on its geography that it induced some of its friends to take up the promoter of the alleged project, who was dined and wined to his heart's content and whose checks were promptly cashed by admiring friends. The promoter, who had a really beautiful Russian name, is now languishing in the Oregon state prison. He was the commonest kind of a swell deadbeat.

There is a remarkable falling off in the viciousness of Seattle's comments upon Victoria. The fact of the matter probably is that our neighbors have realized that the Post-Intelligencer has been making their city look absurd in the eyes of intelligent people. Seattle is getting pretty hot shot from all sides. In Sunday's San Francisco Examiner there was a letter from a Californian complaining in the most bitter terms of the treatment accorded him in Seattle. Our very lively neighbor will find out by and by that in the long run it pays best to be honest.

A WEEK has passed since the legislature opened and honorable members are yet discussing the address. Every one knows the old story of the fellow who wrote out a prayer, pinned it on the bed post and used to point at it as he jumped into bed, exclaiming: "Them's my sentiments." Our opposition orators might take last year's debate, or the debate of the year before, or of any old year, and use it in the same fashion, thereby economizing much in time, breath and printing ink.

A RAILWAY war is in progress. We do not know that war was very much wanted. There was already a prospect of quite as many people coming out to the Coast as are needed here, and the great reduction in rates will send thousands more.

The Kootenais says that "fortune will knock at the door of a good many men this year only to find that they have gone to Klondike," which is a little better thing we have seen in the way of a paragraph in many a long day.

The Golden Era contains a furious attack upon the Supreme court in connection with the Connacher estate. After narrating what it says are the facts of the case, it says that "if the Turner-Pooley crowd had the pluck to do their duty, they would use parliament as a means of having a complete investigation of this affair." We are sure that if any member of the legislature makes representation that the official administrator has not done what is right in connection with the estate in question, there will not be the slightest difficulty in having a thorough investigation; but we may remind the Golden Era that it is one thing to use gross language in a newspaper and quite another thing to make out a case against a public officer.

Mr. Booth made a very successful exposition of the fallacy of the representation by population plea, when he pointed out that not many years ago the greater part of the population of the province was in Victoria, and the other districts were little more than geographical expressions. Representation by population would hardly have worked then. The argument from this is that it is unreasonable to talk about distributing representation according to population until the distribution of population has got down to something like a permanent basis. The moot that can be done is to remove any inequalities which occur from time to time. The number of members in the legislature and their several districts must remain tentative for some years yet.

DR. WALKER made a strong point when he showed how differently the home-owning miners of Nanaimo and other coal mining centres are situated in respect to taxation to what the transient class of miners in Kootenay and other gold and silver mining regions are. To-day it is said that hundreds of miners in Kootenay are saving every dollar possible, so as to be able to pull up stakes and start for the Yukon. In the coal mining districts few people are thinking of leaving home. This is not intended as an argument for retaining the tax on the former, but only to show that it would have been unjust to have imposed it upon the latter.

The debate on the address has consumed another legislative day, and only very good luck will bring it to a conclusion on Monday, unless the government decides that the house shall not adjourn on Monday until the discussion is ended. Among the changes desirable in the British Columbia legislature one is to leave the discussion of the address to one or two speakers on each side, reserving what may be called the debate on the state of the province until the motion to go into supply.

We have in the roadway leading up to the parliament building an illustration of the value of drainage in road making. Here is a piece of road made during the wettest weather we have had in a year, and it is as solid and as dry as a floor. The rain has hardened instead of softening it. The explanation is that the drainage is perfect. You cannot have a good earth road without good drainage.

If the stories which come from Skagway and Dyea are only half true, those places are a little worse of anything this Coast has ever seen. There is doubtless some exaggeration about them, but it is very clear, from the character of some of the people who have gone North, that the social conditions there must be very bad.

Mr. KELLIE thinks that Kootenay ought to have fifty-two members. Possibly the honorable gentleman arrives at this conclusion from self-examination, in which case we are inclined to think that fifty-two would be none too many. But fancy a legislature with fifty-two Kellies in it!

If it shall appear on investigation that the battleship Maine was destroyed by an explosion from the outside, there will be such a tremendous demonstration of feeling in the United States that it will be utterly impossible for the President to resist the demand for a declaration of war.

TRUE to its reputation for opposing everything calculated to advance the interests of British Columbia, the News-Advertiser is at it hammer and tongs day after day against the Stikine-Teslin railway project. The News-Advertiser is so constituted that it can see no good in anything.

MR. SORBY'S harbor improvement scheme begins to loom up large. If it can be carried out in a manner that will do justice to all interests, it would be an excellent thing for Victoria. As presented by Mr. Sorby, the scheme has an exceedingly attractive appearance.

The British Columbia News says, "Kootenay is better than Klondike." We do not know how true that may prove to be, but frankly concede that Kootenay ought to be good enough for anybody.

The Rossland Miner wants three additional representatives for Kootenay. The Miner is only one-tenth as acquisitive as Mr. Kellie.

HON. MR. BRAVEN thinks we misunderstood his first letter and writes a second to demonstrate the proposition. We do not think he succeeds. He contends that the provincial government has the right to authorize the construction of a railway to connect with the Yukon on the one side and a point of the seaboard, now in possession of the United States, on the other. We do not believe the legislature has any such power.

THE Vancouver World hopes no one at Ottawa will take Col. James Hamilton Lewis seriously. This does an injustice to the congressional warrior. Col. Lewis has his peculiarities and one of them is to affect much foolishness; but it would be a mistake to rate him in the featherweight class of politicians. He has a good deal of sagacity, no end of audacity and a superabundance of pertinacity.

THE Klondike Official Guide, prepared by William Ogilvie and published by Hunter, Rose & Co., with the authority of the Minister of the Interior, is at hand. It is well got up and, as it bears the sanction of Mr. Ogilvie's name, may be regarded as of the highest authority. It is profusely illustrated and contains a number of excellent maps.

THE tone of the stock market indicates some uneasiness as to the effect of the blowing up of the Maine upon the foreign relations of the United States. Oddly enough, however, while American stocks were depressed Spanish stocks have risen slightly in Paris.

NEWSPAPER readers may expect a budget of stories regarding the explosion in Havana harbor, and must not be in haste to accept any of them. To account for the unfortunate accident will prove a very difficult matter, if it does not always remain a mystery.

THE Rossland Miner says the C.R.P. is behind Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann in the Stikine-Teslin contract. The Colonist has the most positive assurance that this is not the case, and the assurance comes from the highest possible authority.

IT was very unfair on the part of the Victoria Times to attribute to Hon. Mr. Braven the use of the word "potentuous" which appeared in his letter printed in yesterday's Colonist. What Mr. Braven wrote was "potentuous."

We do not understand what the Times finds wrong about the present arrangements for reporters in the legislative chamber. Possibly our contemporary thinks they should be given seats alongside the members.

MR. VEDDER made his maiden speech yesterday. While not sympathizing with his adverse criticism on the government, we congratulate him on his appreciation of the importance of the agricultural interests of the province.

HE DIDN'T GET THE SHILLING

"How many minutes in an hour?" asked a gentleman of a bright schoolboy. He expected the prompt answer, "Sixty," and in that case he would have given the boy a shilling. But the lad looked thoughtful and slow in reply. "It depends. Not more than fifteen I think, when I am rowing or playing football. Every hour I spend studying, though has sixty long minutes. Then when I am ill—which isn't often, thank goodness—and lie awake all night, waiting for daylight, I think every minute of the sixty is doled." The gentleman thought that boy had too much imagination. Perhaps he was right, yet read what the correspondent writes from Loan Folds, Guildtown, near Perth:—

"At night I had to sit up in bed for hours together. What my sufferings were it is almost impossible to describe. When persons suffer in this way the least sound distresses them. They toss from side to side, staring at the wall and the faint outlines of objects in the room. The striking of the clock is torture."

"In March, 1886," the lady writes, "I began to suffer with severe indigestion. After everything I ate I had intense pain at my chest and a sensation I cannot better describe than by calling it a constant working in the stomach. So bad did this become that I was afraid to eat, and I often sat down to my meals and would take nothing but a drink of tea, and even this would distress me."

Then the lady tells of her horrible nights, when, as the schoolboy said, each weary hour seemed stretched out to 120 minutes. "I got weaker and weaker until I could scarcely walk," the letter continues. "I got medicines from the chemists in Perth and also consulted a doctor who gave me a prescription. I took his medicines but nothing did me any good. At last I began to think that if I did not soon get relief I could not last much longer."

"After my sufferings had continued for a whole year, my husband read in the church magazine of the benefit many had received from Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and he persuaded me to try it. After taking this medicine for a short time I found signs of improvement. My appetite was better, and the food I took agreed with me. I continued with it, and when I had taken six bottles I was as well and strong as ever. Since that time I have kept the medicine in the house as a family remedy, and when any of us is ailing, a few doses set us right. You have my permission to make what use you like of this statement. Yours truly," (signed) Elizabeth Kidd Methven, May 31, 1894.

A year with no really refreshing sleep; a year in which good wholesome food is a thing to be afraid of, is a long time. We receive letters from people who suffer longer than that; but Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup never fails to soothe and strengthen them. Mrs. Methven recognized the nature of her disease at the first acquaintance. Some of our correspondents tell of night-sweats, coughs, palpitation, and pain in the joints. They think they have consumption or heart disease, when they have indigestion; a thing no more to be trifled with than rattlesnakes and man-eating tigers. You cannot kill the tiger with a pop-gun, nor indigestion by doctoring for heart trouble. Use a good rule for one, and Mother Seigel's incomparable remedy for the other.

Leather coats with sheepskin lining, made specially for the Yukon country. B. Williams & Co.

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JAMES WATSON & CO'S LTD.

CELEBRATED DUNDEE WHISKY.

There was a short, but somatic ending to the County of Schultz and Powell yesterday. The court was crowded with spectators to hear judgment on the case. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. The court was called by Chief Justice Davie. Chief Justice delivered judgment as follows:—

This is an action on an attornment performed for the Rutheven, who describes himself as ex-Roman Catholic priest, but ex-facto produces any certificate and declines to say what obtained one. He was arraigned on criminal libel and it was for which action is brought, finding him upon his commission magistrate on Saturday taining his admission on Sunday (a most extraordinary proceeding). It seems that had an appointment to deliver on the Sunday, and that his friends were very anxious for keep it; that a judge of the court had declined to act, and plaintiffs succeeded in getting County court judge, who was committing magistrate, to grant the application on the afternoon, whereupon the lecture given.

It is now sworn by Rutheven plaintiffs' services were not to for and that his case was taken by Mr. Schultz to that express understanding. The evidence on this point directly in conflict that it became a matter to scrutinize it closely to tell the truth. According to Schultz, met him on Friday July, begging to be allowed to another change in which Rutheven on bail, saying it was a principle with him to defend and it should not cost Rutheven. The next day Mr. Rutheven Officer Cameron arrested him door of the Victoria hotel and arrest asked him if he had a law which Mr. Rutheven replied that Schultz had been talking to him had offered to take the case for that he and the officer then proceeded to Schultz's and met Schultz's office, Rutheven remarking, "I rested, does your offer hold. To which Schultz replied, "I'm fairly," and they then went into the case. But the officer Cameron different story. He arrested not at the Victoria hotel on Herald street. Rutheven He wanted to see his lawyer, Mr. and the officer accompanied him. They met him out on the street. Rutheven said to Schultz, "I see you," and handed him the Rutheven went into the office officer with him and Schultz proceeded on hand at half past two to the case. Cameron if he had a law Rutheven's question of Schultz, your offer hold good?" and Rutheven not cross-examine him either a question or as to his own state the officer that Schultz had taken the case for nothing. Schultz and Powell sent in to all three defendants and seeking asking payment, particular Rutheven asking if they had not the and to none of these letters is suggestions of any real evidence verbal, claiming that the servile gratuitous. Schultz denies that the voices were gratuitous and Po firms him by showing a lump sum of \$700. Schultz agreed upon by Rutheven, and them state that they made applications to all three defendants were promised payment. Rutheven knowledge to having been on Buffalo upon the completion of a Presbyterian mission, retaining money under false pretences whereunder he served a term of months' imprisonment months which he earned as salary for good conduct while in prison. He swears that he had a fine of \$15 or any other the imprisonment rather than fine. But the duly certified by Buffalo which has been produced that there was no option of fine of \$15 or any other it appears that he he collecting in the name of some Presbyterian missionaries, was what Dr. Peyton prosecute in reference to this, Mr. Rutheven evidence before me, after certain documents of character quote from the short-hand report collected \$15 first and last and in petty sums of 20 cents. I certificates of exchange bank draft by which I actually money to Australia. And documents I can produce."

"The Court—You are at produce any documents you like."

"The Witness—I have just case do you desire me to produce if the court will allow me half will go and produce these documents."

"The Court—Produce any you like."

"The Witness—My Lord, that, and I am exceedingly you for your permission."

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"The Witness—I will bring the money to Australia. Then I that to-morrow morning, my morning."

"The court here adjourned next at 10 a.m."

RUTHVEN IS ARRESTED

A Sensational Ending to Court Case in Which Defendant.

Chief Justice Davie. Arrest in the Court for Perjury.

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