LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Bill to Exclude Aliens From Placer Mines Receives Its Second Reading.

Objection to Authority as to Companies Reserved to the Provincial Government.

THURSDAY, Jan. 12.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, and prayers were read by Rev. Archdeacon Scriven.

PETITIONS.

Petitions were presented as follows:

By Mr. Prentice—From Peter Ryan, John Shields and C. R. Doxat, asking for a private bill to consolidate the Ashcroft Water Works Co., Ltd., and the Ashcroft Light & Power Co., Ltd., and for an enlargement of the powers enjoyed under the respective charters.

By Mr. Munro—From Albert Nicholson and others, respecting certain liabilities incurred by the late commissioners of Sumas dyking district.

By Mr. Higgins—From John H. Senkler, Arthur P. Judge and Edgar Bloomfield, of Vancouver, seeking the incorporation by private bill of a company to carry on a general commercial and financial business.

By Major-General Kinchant—From J. H. Senkler, A. P. Judge and others, seeking the incorporation by private bill of a company to build and operate a railway from Quesnelle Forks to the Skeena.

POLICE AND PRISONS.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving the second reading of the bill to amend the Police and Prisons Regulations act, explained the scope and purpose of the measure as being to separate the direction of the police and the management of the gaols and lock-ups, at present vested jointly in the department of police. It was intended to take the responsibility for the proper conduct of the gaols out of the jurisdiction of the superintendent of police and make the wardens responsible directly to the department of the Attorney-General. This was the essence of what the measure contemplated, except to empower the Lieutenant-Governor in council to make rules for the guidance of those in charge of the gaols, such rules and regulations having heretofore emanated from the superintendent of police. It was also proposed to have the appointment of all police officers vested directly in the Lieutenant-Governor in council, instead of indirectly, through the superintendent of police. Another point touched upon was the working of prisoners outside of the gaol limits, the law providing at present that where this was done, consent of the Lieutenant-Governor in council must be obtained. This rule had been constantly disregarded in practice as unworkable, and it was now proposed to make it discretionary with the wardens where the prisoners in their charge might be put at work. Again, justices of the peace were at the present time required to commit prisoners to the gaols or lock-ups in their immedate districts, while for greater convenience or safety this was often inadvisable. It was proposed to make the rule more elastic in this particular, and also to facilitate the machinery for the transfer of prisoners from one gaol or prison to another where this might be found expedient.

MR. EBERTS saw nothing especially objectionable in this bill, although during the time he occupied the position of Attorney-General, he had found the act worked well in its present shape. What it was proposed to do in this bill had, in fact, been done in practice long ago. The only salient charge suggested was that of making the superintendent of police ex-officio instead of officially warden of jails. He did not see any real advantage to be derived from the change, but if the government thought it would improve the workability of the act, he certainly would offer no objections. Although sitting on the opposition side he did not intend to oppose any measure submitted by the government unless he felt such measure to be adverse to the country's interests. If the government introduced wise and beneficial legislation—he said "if" for such a character of legislation was not suggested by the one bill that had been passed—no one would give it more cordial support than he. He looked upon this measure as neither markedly good nor of necessity bad, and this being the case, would support the second reading.

The bill then passed its second reading, to be committed on Friday.

ALIENS IN PLACER MINES.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (Hon. Mr. Hume) next moved the second reading of the bill to amend chapter 136 of the Revised Statutes, known as the Placer Mining act. This measure it was proposed to amend (by the bill, the text of which has already been published in this paper) with the object of preserving the gold in our placer mines for the benefit of our own subjects. As was well known to all, a rich placer mining field had recently been opened up in what was known as the Atlin lake district, to which American miners were now flocking in hundreds and thousands. One steamer only yesterday had carried 300 passengers from the United States, bound for this part of the province. These foreign miners were flocking into the northern sections of the province, not with the intention of becoming residents, but of securing British Columbia gold and returning with it to their own lands. They also purchased their "outfits," for the most part, before starting from their own lands, greatly to the detriment of the business of our provincial merchants. It was not necessary to say much more as to the principle of the bill; it was largely self-explanatory. He was glad to see by a published interview in one of the Vancouver papers that the honorable leader of the opposition was thoroughly in accord with the government on this measure and would give it his hearty support.

"What paper did you see that in?" inquired Mr. Turner.

"I believe it was the World," was the reply.

MR. TURNER, proceeding to speak on the bill, said with respect to the alleged interview that he could only say that he certainly had no knowledge of having been interviewed. He had gone directly from the train to the boat at Vancouver, and many gentlemen had spoken to him and welcomed him home. One young man, whom he did not even know, asked him what he thought of the proposition of keeping aliens out of the provincial placer mines, and he had replied that it might certainly be objectionable to allow aliens to come in in such numbers as to crowd out our own people from the enjoyment of our placer resources. The principle of legislating against the people of another country was not one that he liked, however, and this was the principle involved. He had not at that time seen or heard of this bill, however, and could not, therefore, have expressed any opinion upon it. As a matter of fact, he had not seen the bill until a few minutes ago, when it came from the printing office. It required careful consideration and comparison with the old act, and he hoped that it would not, therefore, be unduly rushed. While at present he could not see grave objection to the proposition for the exclusion of aliens, there seemed to be some misunderstanding as to the attitude toward our miners of the country it was now proposed especially to legislate against. He held in his hand a letter from a prominent and well-informed gentleman on the other side of the boundary, who had noticed that it had been stated in British Columbia that Canadians were not permitted to work in the placer mines of the United States. This statement the writer distinctly denied. An act of congress had been passed during 1897 explicitly providing that aliens in all territories of the United States, excepting the District of Columbia, might hold mining claims, both quartz and placer. He (Mr. Turner) gave this letter to the house for consideration, with the question as to whether it would be well to discriminate against the people of the United States, while that country afforded Canadian miners equal privileges with their own citizens. He hoped the Minister of Mines would adjourn the consideration of the second reading of this bill in order that both sides of the house might give the measure the consideration which it undoubtedly deserved.

HON. MR. HUME observed that the only point in objection to delay was that the American miners were already flocking in numbers to the Atlin country, and if the legislature intended to make them ineligible as claim owners, it would be well that they should know it at the earliest possible opportunity. It appeared to him that action to be beneficial must be immediate.

HON. MR. SEMLIN also maintained that it was only fair to those going into the Atlin country that they should know promptly what was meant by the anti-alien legislation foreshadowed in the speech from the throne. This measure was not to be considered as a bill of retaliation by any means, directed against citizens of the United States. It was simply and solely a measure of self-preservation in the interest of our own people, and in accordance with the stand he had taken for years. It was very similar to legislation that had prevailed in the United States some little time ago, and had the effect of increasing the advantages of citizenship. Men if they knew that to become sharers in the mineral wealth of the country they must first become naturalized subjects would be more ready to become identified with the country and increase the settled population.

COL. BAKER held that the question involved in the bill had its pros and cons. In considering the principle involved in this bill the fact should not be overlooked that it might be the means of excluding capital that otherwise might be of great benefit in the development of the mineral resources of the province; while it would unquestionably tend to preserve the natural wealth of the province for the benefit of our own people. Yet if it were desirable thus to conserve the natural riches of British Columbia for subjects of the Queen, why confine the preservation of these advantages to the placer mines? If the principle was advantageous in connection with the placers, why not extend its application to proprietorship in quartz mines, ownership of land, etc? If protective measures were good in the one case should they not be equally desirable in the other? All residents of British Columbia knew well how largely instrumental American enterprise, intelligent mining methods and capital had been in the exploiting and marketing of the wealth of the Kootenays. It was to the American prospectors and mine owners that the opening up of this important part of the province was to be attributed, for they had certainly been the ones to start the ball rolling, and they had done their full share to keep it moving. It was therefore evident that very serious consideration should be given to this proposal for exclusion. One little clause in this bill before the house also merited more than passing attention—that innocent looking sub-section of section 2, which delegated power to the Lieutenant-Governor in council to pass upon the application of any companies for miners' licenses. That such a section should have been incorporated in the bill at all events showed the government to be consistent in their policy of making every available factor contribute to the maintainence of their oligarchy, placing the government in a position to utilize the power to the advantage of their friends and disadvantage of their opponents. It would place the government in the position to refuse the desired license unless the company applying became subservient to the oligarchy and contributory to the success of its plans. The same principle showed through all the actions of the government. In the past the development of the mineral or other resources of the country had been kept altogether separate and apart from politics, and the party opinion of the gentlemen administering the laws maintained distinct from the business of the country. He was sorry that any departure should be made or proposed to be made to this method of administration. One other matter—the custom of the past had been to refer legislation in connection with the mining industry to the special standing committee of the house, constituted as it was of gentlemen supposedly possessing special knowledge of mining. He thought that this custom might with advantage be followed in the present case. He would not object to the second reading of the bill if the minister of mines would then permit it to go before the mining committee at its meeting in the morning, so that the house might be in possession of the views of that body when the bill was considered in its committee stage.

HON. MR. HUME observed that the only objection he could see was the apparent necessity for immediate action. If the house desired the bill to go to the committee he would not oppose it.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL endorsed the necessity for immediate action and saw strong reasons for confining the operation of the principle to placer mining. The Americans had undoubtedly been chiefly responsible for the development of the Kootenay country and no attempt should be made to deprive them of the credit attaching. Personally he was in favor of allowing aliens, as heretofore, to prospect in the province for quartz ledges and to hold mines resulting. The argument of the member for South East Kootenay with reference to the opening up of Kootenay contained strong grounds for this view. Quartz mining was essentially dissimilar from placer mining. In quartz mining large expenditures were necessary for the payment of labor and the introduction of machinery required in the extraction of the gold from the refractory ores. The Americans had put their enterprise and their capital into the Kootenay country to its lasting advantage, yet even this had not been an unmixed blessing, for they had at the same time done the country lasting injury in the introduction of their American methods of mining speculation—in company flotation, charter and prospect speculation, etc. He defended the sub-section which Col. Baker had taken exception as absolutely necessary for carrying out the intention of the act. The member for South East Kootenay in inferring that dishonest use would be made by the government of the power to be granted by this sub-section——

Col. Baker corrected the Attorney-General. He had neither used nor intended to use the word dishonest, and he did not intend that words should be put in his mouth in order that upon this false foundation the Attorney-General might build up an argument in defence of the government. What he had said was that he objected to unnecessary power being given the government that might be made a weapon of political influence.

The Attorney-General held that this was an imputation of dishonesty or it meant nothing at all. It meant that the government, if they had the power proposed to be given, might expect to favor their friends and take undue advantage of their political opponents. He could well understand a member of the late government taking this view, for it had apparently been the guiding principle with them. (Cries of "Oh! Oh!") When they saw this section in the bill they had at once thought of what they would do with similar opportunity, and spoken accordingly. ("Oh! Oh!") The interests of the country had meant nothing to them in comparison with the opportunity of favoring their friends. He maintained that the section complained of was essential to the accomplishment of the purposes of the act. Without such a provision there would be no means of preventing the wide-awake Americans evading the principal of the act. He could see no other way of safeguarding the provisions of the measure than by placing in the hands of the government—whatever government might be administering the affairs of the country—the power to fully investigate the bona fide provincial character of any company applying for mining license privileges.

Col. Baker, in explanation of his former remark, observed that as the government had already used their power in the house to retain a working majority, they might fairly be suspected of aiming to use the power proposed in this legislation toward a similar end.

HON. DR. McKECHNIE claimed that section 90 of the old act gave to the former government precisely similar powers to that now proposed, in that it vested in the executive power to grant licenses of placer mining ground. If the former government were entitled to have such power delegated to them, why should not the present administration be entrusted with similar power to protect the purposes of the act, or any government that might come after them sufficiently enjoying the confidence of the people as to be entrusted with the direction of their affairs? As to the suggestion that the bill before the house, on becoming law, might operate toward the keeping out of capital, it was well known that placer mining was the mining of the poor man, whereas quartz mining was the business of the capitalist. The machinery necessary in the one form of mining was entirely unnecessary in the other. Briefly the scope of this bill was to retain the riches of our own country as much as possible for the benefit of our own people, instead of handing over to outsiders the profits of our placer mines, with a reduction of but 10 per cent. Too many people followed a "boom" such as was now taking place in connection with the Atlin lake discoveries, forgetting the danger of the reaction, or the even greater danger to the country of the too rapid exploitation and working out of a mining district. If the mining ground of this Atlin country were retained to our own people, the working of the country would unquestionably extend over a much longer period than if the doors were thrown open for all to come and help themselves. Our own country at the same time would enjoy the benefit of the entire gold output, instead of a meagre 10 per cent., while permanent trade would be created for our merchants and settlers. He encouraged for the purpose of supplying the wants of the mining population, for the Atlin lake district was spoken of as an excellent agricultural and a magnificent grazing country. If indiscriminate access to the mines were permitted, it might be expected that the mines would be quickly exhausted and agriculture be utterly neglected, whereas in the event of a slower development of the mines, settlers would follow the miners and the permanent settlement of the country be attained. He could see no parallel between the admission of aliens to rights in placers and in quartz mines, and looked upon self-interest as the underlying principle in this, as in all politics. It was to the advantage of the people of the province to retain the placer mines for their own use and benefit, at the same time that it was to the advantage of the province to secure the introduction of as much outside capital as possible for use in the opening up of the quartz mines. The conditions were reversed, for in placer mining little machinery was demanded and immediate returns were had, while the working of the quartz mines was a slow process—a distinct business for the employment of both men and machinery. Again, too, quartz mining was productive of the establishment and maintenance of towns, and of the dissemination of large sums of money in wages, operating charges, etc., which placer mining was not, and he failed to see the proposition to exclude aliens from the placers as on the same plane at all that a similar proposition would be applying to quartz mines.

MR. SMITH (Lillooet) thought it was painfully evident that the president of the council was unfamiliar with mining when he said capital was not required in the development of placer mines. Take old Cariboo, as an example, and observe the vast sums that had been spent there and were still being spent in the development of placer mining ground. He maintained that larger sums were quite frequently spent in the opening up scientifically of placer workings than were invested in quartz propositions. Years of work were also put upon the properties, and he could name properties in Cariboo—such as the Cariboo company's—that were just as expensive to develop as any quartz mines of the province. He mentioned this as the statement had been made by a member of the cabinet that capital was not required for the exploitation of the placer sections, and this was certainly a great mistake, as any mining man would know. He did not go so far as to object to the exclusion of aliens from our provincial mines, but thought that all should be put on the same footing. Reference had been made to the large sums that would be taken to the United States out of the placers of the North, but had not infinitely more been lost to the country and gained by the United States through the operations of the quartz mines of the Kootenays? With another point taken by the president of the council he could not agree—he was a believer in the opening up of the country, not in hampering and retarding its growth in the manner proposed. Personally he favored the exclusion of aliens from the quartz interests if they were deprived of the privilege of working placers, and of encouraging the purchase of quartz miners' outfits, as well as the small necessities of the average placer miner, from our own merchants. Whether this bill become law or not, the fact would remain that miners, like other people, would buy their supplies where they could make the best bargain. One thing he wished to be satisfied upon before the vote on the second reading—if this bill became law, would not all claims at present held by foreigners at once be forfeited?

Mr. Smith then concluded his address by expressing the hope that if the exclusion of aliens were decided upon, this exclusion should apply to quartz as well as to placer mining.

MR. HELGESEN (Cariboo) endorsed the principle of saving at least some of the country for the people of the country, and said that even the Americans in his own district would agree to the justice of this measure of self-protection. He did not think that Canadians had been treated as generously in the United States as Americans had in this country heretofore, and endorsed the bill as a necessary and just measure of retaliation as against the citizens of the United States. He had not had time to go into the details of the bill as he would have liked, and in consequence requested the minister of mines to consent to the adjournment of the debate until some future date, in the interest of fair consideration by members on either side of the house.

MR. BOOTH did not propose to give a silent vote on such a measure. He was not in favor of such enactment if fair terms could be got from our friends across the border, and held that it might be well to learn how the United States was treating and would treat our people before taking such action against citizens of the neighboring republic. As to the position taken by the Premier, he disagreed as to the policy of forcing any man into citizenship. If a new-comer into the country did not wish to become one of us of his free will, he did not approve of holding out such inducement. Citizenship was an honor to be sought, not to be encouraged by a consideration. As a measure of self-preservation, the principle involved in the bill was desirable, but he favored its further extension to the quartz interests, which would not suffer thereby, now that the resources of the province in this regard were proven and known to all the world. With one portion of the remarks of the President of the Council he was thoroughly in accord—he quite approved of the advantage of slow and permanent rather than "boom" development of any country, as productive of lasting and infinitely more beneficial results.

MR. J. M. MARTIN (Rossland) endorsed the bill, but thought it would be a very different proposition altogether to contemplate the extension of the principle to the quartz mines of the Kootenays. The bill would of necessity operate toward the retention of trade by the merchants of our Coast cities, and the gentlemen opposite to be consistent would be bound to support it, as they had always been great sticklers for the preservation of provincial trade in its natural channels. He could remember as an illustration how, when a certain railway had been proposed for the advantage of Kootenay, that it had met with vigorous and pronounced opposition on this very ground that it would divert trade to the United States. As to the quartz mines in Kootenay, it had been found that when the mines were opened up and the miners came to work in them or to prospect, they brought with them their wives and families and settled, to contribute to the population and prosperity of the country, in many cases voluntarily casting in their lot with the country and becoming naturalized citizens. In this, therefore, the quartz miners of Kootenay were unlike the northern placer miners. Besides, the application of the principle of this bill to quartz interests would greatly retard the development, not only of Kootenay, but of Cariboo. The Americans were beyond question the best pioneers of the mining industry. They were willing to take a risk where the English investor was not. The latter was quite willing to invest and to pay a good price for proven properties, but he was not sufficiently venturesome to be a good prospector or pioneer in mining work. For this reason he objected to the extension of the operation of the anti-alien legislation to quartz properties, while agreeing with the object of the present bill.

MR. HELMCKEN gave his hearty support to the bill, it being directly in line with his constant effort since he had been a member of the house to retain all the industries of the province and the profits arising therefrom as much as possible for the use of our own people—not only in mining but in other directions; not only from the Americans, but from the Chinese and the Japanese. He had always been ready to do all in his power in this direction, as his record in the house would show, and was glad now to have the assistance of the gentlemen opposite in the policy he had conscientiously pursued ever since entering public life. The closer relationship between the Americans and the British nation might possibly, however, lead to a remonstrance from the Imperial power in the event of the passage of this bill, as in the nature of unfriendly and discriminatory legislation. He thought the principle of this bill worthy of every commendation, while he regretted the giving of so much power to the lieutenant-governor-in-council. At the same time he had sufficient confidence in the government of the country, however constituted, to believe that it would see that the provisions of the act were not abused. Viewed from every standpoint, he thought that this bill should pass as a measure of self-preservation, to be assented and promulgated with all possible despatch.

MR. GREEN (Slocan), referring to the objection that had been made to power being given the Lieutenant-Governor in council to enforce the provisions of the act, could see no other method that could be adopted of assuring the object aimed at. It was the only way to make the bill effective and prevent flagrant evasion of the anti-alien principle. As to the suggestion that the principle of the bill be extended to quartz mines, it showed dense ignorance of the conditions and peculiarities of quartz mining. Placer mining was distinctly and pre-eminently the poor man's mining, while quartz mining was a business requiring liberal investment of capital. The conservation of the rights and benefits of our own country for our own people was certainly to be approved, but conditions were essentially dissimilar in placer and in quartz mining. The Americans when they came into Kootenay taught the people of British Columbia how to mine in hard rock; they did more, for they invested their money in the opening up and development of the mines they found, and they showed how, before a mine was placed on the market, it should be brought beyond the stage of a prospect, to that of a mine. The Americans in Kootenay had spent their money lavishly when others would not put a dollar, and while undoubtedly they had earned their reward, the advantage the province had gained through their enterprise, their intelligent application of the sound principles of quartz mining, their confidence in the unproven mineral richness of the land, and their introduction of these mines to the world should not be underestimated. They were still doing their part honorably and well for the upbuilding of the mining industry of British Columbia, and he could not look with favor upon any proposal to discriminate against them in the quartz mining field, while at the same time he endorsed the principle of the present measure, and would vote for its second reading.

MR. CLIFFORD was utterly and irreconcilably opposed to this bill, the fundamental principle of which was the exclusion of alien miners. As a placer and hydraulic miner of twenty-three years' hard practical experience he maintained that if this bill passed it would be the means of doing great injury to British Columbia. The history of Cariboo, of Omineca, of the Yukon, of Cassiar, of the Fraser river and of Kootenay alike showed the American miner as the pioneer of the gold fields, and their development to be attributable to his enterprise and his skill. Take old Cariboo for an illustration, and it would be found that it was the American miner who was to be thanked as the discoverer of Cariboo's famous creeks—Antler, Lightning, Williams and many others. From his personal experience he knew the American miner to be the best man in his profession, and to pass any measure for his exclusion would be to legislate against the progress of the country. Instead of placing obstacles in the way of the American miner, British Columbia should encourage his coming in every way possible. New mining fields certainly required the presence of the best miners, or otherwise the tenderfeet would pass over rich ground with unseeing eyes, and return to their homes to pronounce worthless what in reality might be a second Eldorado. As to the American miner taking the money out of the country, he could say that for every dollar made in placer mining, a dollar and a half or two dollars would be spent. To exclude the Americans would be to retard the development of the country to an enormous extent—and with what object? The president of the council had said that if the Americans were allowed in the Atlin gold fields they would be exhausted in two or three years, whereas if they were kept for our own people they would not be exhausted for thirty years. Surely this was a poor compliment to the skill of our miners, if they required more than a quarter of a century to find and win from the ground or gravels what intelligent American miners would secure in two or three years. And this class of greenhorn miners, from the East or from Manitoba, were just the ones that did a mining territory injury, for not knowing how to go about their business they achieved no pronounced success themselves and went away giving the country a bad name. If the government would amend the bill to open the mines to British subjects "or Americans" it would have his support, but not otherwise.

MR. NEILL (Alberni) denied that any reasons had been adduced even by the last speaker to justify the rejection of the principle of this bill. If it were contemplated to exclude aliens from the operation of the quartz mines, the proposition would be a very different one, to which he and other members would heartily object. He believed in the preservation of our placers for our own people, and observed that if the placer mining was a losing business, as the senior member for Cassiar contended, the American friends or clients of that gentleman should thank the house if it prevented their engaging in a losing venture. He supported the bill.

MR. MACPHERSON claimed that the late government had disregarded the mining committee in their recommendation to prohibit the issue of miners' licenses to aliens, and endorsed section 3 of the bill before the house as showing careful supervision of the framing of the bill to make evasion of its provisions impossible.

The second reading of the bill then passed, the measure to go to committee at the next sitting of the house.

ROAD OVERSEERS' BILL.

MR. BOOTH, in moving the second reading of the bill to provide for the election of road overseers, explained its import as being in the direction of securing better road making through giving the supervision of the work of construction and maintenance into the hands of those directly interested, instead of making the selection of the road foreman a matter of political appointment. It was right that the making of the roads should be supervised by the people who would have to use them. This was the principle of the bill, while the expenditure would remain in the supervision of the government. The choice of the road foreman would have an educative influence upon the people of the districts, and the change proposed would relieve the government of dealing with the applications of its friends for the office and place politics in the districts upon a higher plane than competition for a petty position or promises of that position. It was not intended to force the new system on any district, but merely to give the districts opportunity to adopt it if they so desired, on application to the chief commissioner of lands and works, who would set the machinery in motion. He would have no objection to the amendment of the bill which he offered the house, so long as the principle involved was favorably considered—the principle of local supervision of road construction.

PREMIER SEMLIN recognized that there was much good in the principle referred to, and which the member for North Victoria said he had tried in his own district with marked success. The government were in fact experimenting along similar lines at the present time, but it was as yet too early to know the result of these experiments. If the member for North Victoria would withdraw his bill and place it in the hands of the government, a measure embodying the principle would be offered to the house next session if the experiments referred to demonstrated the workability of the plan proposed.

On this understanding Mr. Booth asked that the order for the second reading be discharged, and it was so ordered.

Prior to the rising of the house for the day, the name of Mr. Deane was substituted for that of Mr. Neill on the mining committee, and that of Mr. Green for Mr. Kellie on the committee on railways.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Helmcken—For a return of correspondeice between the Dominion and the Provincial governments relative to the removal of the Indians from the Songhees reserve, since the return presented to the house on the 31st of March, 1898.

By Mr. Helmcken—For a return of correspondence between the Dominion and the provincial governments touchine the establishment of a mint in British Columbia.

THOSE TIRED KIDNEYS.

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills help tired kidneys to do what they must do if you are to be a healthy man or woman.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

A Glimpse of Our City Affairs as They Will Appear Years Hence.

Things That Conduce to Make a City Great and Flourishing.

Sir: To illustrate more clearly the subject the writer wishes to present he would feel grateful to you and the readwill kindly imagine—for a few minutes only—that this is the month of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty. The population of Victoria is four hundred and fifty thousand, and of the Island one and a half millions. The daily issue of the Colonist is 500,051 (sworn circulation, i.e., if you, Mr. Editor, are given to swearing). Victoria has earned the title of "Queen City of the Northwest," and has proved herself in every way worthy of the proud name she bears.

As to how this marvellous growth came about, is at the moment, a matter of comment and public discussion. This being the case, you, Mr. Editor, have naturally instructed members of your staff to search through the files of the Colonist for twenty years or so back to find if there were any other than ordinary reasons for this rapid development. A copy of the Colonist for January 9, 1899, is now placed before you in which has been found a report of a meeting held in Victoria the evening previous to that date, which seems to throw light upon the subject. The following is a verbatim copy of the report taken from the files of the twenty-one years previous.

In response to a call advertised in the daily papers last week a public meeting was held in the Town hall yesterday evening "for the purpose of considering the advisability of taking action towards the attraction of a desirable class of settlers to the Island, and of other wise promoting the agricultural and industrial interests of this locality." The meeting was fairly attended.

His honor, the Mayor, opened the meeting with a few appropriate remarks, stating the object of the gathering.

To ascertain the sense of the meeting the following resolution was offered and seconded: "Resolved, that the colonization of the Island of Vancouver with a desirable class of citizens is a matter worthy our serious consideration."

The debate on this resolution, crystalized into a few words, developed the following opinions: First—That although the island was in some respects at a disadvantage in doing a manufacturing and export trade, yet it was hoped that this would be met by bridging the straits or by the construction of gigantic ferry boats for carrying trains across, thus making Victoria the centre of a great radius of traffic, and that, therefore, colonization was not so much an object as getting railroads to bring their trains across to Victoria. On the other hand several speakers maintained that unless our population increased, and unless we developed manufactories on established manufactories so as to make it worth while for the railroads to come across for what we had to sell or exchange we could not expect them to come. Capital could and would remove to the most convenient place of operation, and unless the citizens of Victoria and the Island at large bestired themselves in the matter of increasing her population, developing her resources and establishing manufactories, she might expect to find, when too late, that she was being deserted by both railroads and capital. The latter view seemed to be the opinion of the many, for when the motion was put it was carried almost unanimously.

A citizen present then offered the following preamble and resolution: "Whereas, it being apparent that the future prosperity of our Island and of the city of Victoria depends, in a great measure, upon the development of its resources, both agricultural and mineral, and,

Whereas, it is obvious that local development is impossible unless a productive force in the shape of an industrial population is present and employed, and

Whereas, to secure these ends it is necessary that a public spirited movement be inaugurated having for its object the attraction of a desirable class of settlers to this locality; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of three citizens be appointed by the chairman of this meeting to prepare a circular to be addressed to the business men and property holders of this city, in which they shall set forth the views held by the majority of those present at this meeting, and in which they shall make such recommendations and suggestions as they may deem necessary to further the object in view, with instructions to report back to this meeting the result of their labors at 7:30 p. m. to-morrow. The meeting then adjourned.

At the meeting the next evening the committee submitted a draft of a lengthy circular, of which the following is a synopsis:

The circular, which was addressed to the merchants and property holders of Victoria and vicinity, commenced by relating the fact that the Island possessed almost inexhaustible resources in timber, coal and other minerals; that it had a large unexplored area, which gave indication of possessing as great wealth as what was already known to exist; that it had valuable fisheries; that its agricultural possibilities had never been fairly tested; that with the exception of an occasional blizzard in winter it had a mild climate; its rainfall was ample, but not excessive; that on account of its healthy climate and the beauty of its scenery, it was an ideal spot for the homes of those who were operating in latitudes where it was undesirable to take their families, and that it should be made attractive to that class; that the development of its resources would serve the interests of the mercantile community best if undertaken by intelligent citizens who were permanent residents, rather than by a nomadic element brought by non-resident investors from the cheapest labor markets, with no end in view but that of the exploitation of the resources of the Island for personal profit, and the expenditure of that profit in the gay capitals of Europe or elsewhere.

It was admitted that the matter presented many difficulties, and that something akin to a self-sacrificing spirit would have to be manifested by those taking it in hand.

It recommended the creation of a fund by voluntary monthly subscription, and the election by the subscribers of three or more trustees to administer the trust thus created; that these should purchase as large a tract of land, suitable for cultivation, at the lowest price and upon the easiest terms obtainable, as their means would permit, and that they should have such tract surveyed and subdivided into small farms, and that this process should be repeated as necessity required and means would permit; that these farms should be offered to settlers on easy terms, but at a price that would cover all expenses incurred, and which would also provide for the return, when practicable, to the subscribers to the trust fund the sums subscribed by them and in addition interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, but that no profit should otherwise be made, and that no taint of speculation or political jobbery should be allowed to attach to the management of the trust; that, if the funds permitted it, machinery necessary for the economic clearing of the land and removal of the timber should be procured and leased to the settlers, and assistance should be rendered, so that the very best disposiiton of the timber taken from the land should be made; that assistance should also be rendered in securing favorable legislative action towards the building of roads to the various settlements established; that financial aid should be rendered in establishing co-operative creameries and other rural industries that require capital and collective effort, all such assistance, however, to be fully paid for by the settlers, and the advances of money made by the trust to be amply secured; that the only profit to the subscriber, outside of the 5 per cent. on the amount of his subscription, would be an indirect one by and through an increase in the local trade and the general welfare that would certainly result from an active propaganda and performance along the lines indicated.

That the trustees should be given full scope to act, with power to do all things necessary for the faithful carrying out of the objects of the trust; that they should have power to employ and discharge the help necessary for carrying on the work, but should receive no compensation as trustees.

That a bureau of information should be opened, pamphlets printed and judicious advertising resorted to, so as to place before the public the advantages the Island offers as a desirable place for settlement and investment.

It was also shown that the encumbered condition of the land was a great drawback to the individual settler, and that unless assisted and encouraged in the manner described, there was nothing to attract him. Broad acres ready for the plow were open to him in neighboring states, and there he would naturally go. It was also shown that without the farmer as a foundation, other industries, of which there should be many in Victoria, could not flourish. Cases were cited where business men had come together, and by honest effort and a liberal, energetic, helpful policy, had transformed villages into cities in the course of a few years. They showed that Victoria's opportunity was right now to make something more of herself than a depot for the receipt and reshipment of commodities grown and manufactured elsewhere. That her citizens must not think they had the world by its caudal appendage because it was the seat of the provincial government. Nor were they to imagine that water would run up hill in this latitude, except in the shape of snow before a gale. They were also admonished to remember that a gentleman named Mahommed once having business with a mountain had to go to it, after waiting a long while to see if it wouldn't come to him. Suggestions were also made about digging the mud out of a big ditch somewhere, building harves and making room for ocean vessels, all of which were more or less pertinent to the question of expansion treated of in the circular.

With a few amendments the circular was ordered printed and issued.

The chairman, in closing the meeting, expressed his satisfaction at the earnestness shown in the discussion of the subject, which augured well for success. He described it as an unselfish selfish movement, and explained this paradoxical statement by showing that to secure the object in view, which was in the ultimate a selfish one, that it would be necessary to eliminate every idea of selfishness in the conduct of the movement. He said the matter was now fairly before the public, and its success would depend in a great measure upon the manner in which it was received. A few could not be expected to do all the work and also carry the burden of expense upon their shoulders. He hoped that each one present would constitute himself a committee of one to talk the matter over with his neighbors, and he also hoped that the press would consider the movement as one deserving its active and helpful assistance.

Victoria, Jan. 3, 1899.

FIDUS ACHATES.

AIDS TO BEAUTY.

Have pure air in your sleeping rooms, even though, in order to renew the oxygen, you must leave it for a little while so that the gas may be turned out and the windows thrown open as wide as possible. You may not be able to withstand the effects of a too free circulation all night, but leave a window lowered so as to renew the air. Regular hours for sleeping and for eating are the best means for keeping perfect health.

Take a morning sponge bath with unfailing regularity. To harden and whiten the bust rub freely with alcohol. This is also a fine preventive against taking cold, and is an indispensable precaution to those who are in the habit of wearing low-cut gowns. The secret of a graceful stage carriage is revealed in the fact that actresses invariably walk with the limbs swinging from the hips like a pendulum, and, to this precaution, add a care to keep the weight of the body forward on the balls of the feet. Sleep on a very low pillow or none at all. Sleeping on a flat bed will do much to give straight, firmly poised shoulders. Long walks are as bad as too little exercise, unless you dress purposely for them. Your clothing should be loose, not too warm, and, above all, your shoes extremely comfortable. It is folly to overtire yourself, or you undo the good effects of the first part of your walk, and should you feel the need of it on your return, take some refreshment and a little rest before undertaking anything else. At this season, if the skin feels roughened from the contact of smoke, dust and raw chill air, bathe the face thoroughly with rather warm water to which has been added benzoin, stimulating the muscles by firm, gentle rubbing with a flannel wash cloth.

RUSKIN'S ART PRINCIPLES.

In truth, although Ruskin admitted that "art was not meant to teach science," nature, the scientific phenomenon that involves the whole world, absorbed his faculties even when, if half unconscious of it, he reared upon it his theories of morality. His art is record rather than creation, and his aim, broadly speaking, scientific in its essence rather than artistic. He has declared, in one of those moments of clear introspection which illumine his character with so bright and exquisite a light, "I am no poet—I have no imagination." A poet he was and is; but imagination or invention of the higher pictorial sort he had not. He did not realize the truth at first, but sought to restrain much play of imagination in others as harmful. To Sir Edward Burne-Jones, who loved to realize his invention and ideals, not only in the figures in his pictures, but in every sort of accessory, he would say, "Ned, Ned, go to Nature"; and only in later days did he regretfully recognize his limitation, as conveyed in the pathetic words spoken to me years ago: "I might have made such charming records of things!"—Scribner's.