

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1900.

TAXING COAL.

At a meeting held at Northfield, the government candidate, Mr. McInnes, in answer to the argument that the government ownership of railways would increase the taxes of the farmers, asked why the money to pay for the railways could not be got by taxing coal. There are some people to whom such a proposition will appear very reasonable, and it is worth while to consider it for a little while, for experience shows that one may not safely take it for granted that the public will see the fallacy of an erroneous proposition unless it is distinctly pointed out to them. When it is proposed to tax coal, only the output of the two companies on Vancouver Island can be meant, for all other coal is subject to a royalty of five cents per ton. That raised by the New Vancouver Coal Company is free from royalty, because the land was granted to the company before the royalty was imposed, and so also is the coal raised on the B. & N. company's lands. This coal is, therefore, free from taxation as such, although the land in which the coal is contained becomes taxable under certain conditions. What is meant by those who claim that this tax should be imposed is not that a tax should be levied upon the probable value of the mine, but upon the output.

We shall not enter into a discussion of the legal right of the legislature to impose a tax upon coal in contravention of the contract under which the companies named received their grants. By contract we mean the terms of the grant, for when the crown grants land to any one, it enters into a contract with the grantee, namely, that the latter shall have what is purported to be given him, and this would not be the case if, after granting land to a man free of any royalty upon the coal contained in it, although expressly conveying the coal to him, the legislature should seek to impose a tax upon the coal after having given it free. We say that we shall not enter into an argument upon this point, but pass on to the business aspect of the case, for this is what will come most closely home to the people generally. There is mined in British Columbia now about a million tons of coal every year. For the purposes of argument we will assume that the product of the two Vancouver Island companies is a million tons a year. If a royalty of five cents a ton were imposed upon this, the revenue realized would be \$50,000 a year, or sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund upon \$1,250,000, or less than one-tenth of the cost of Mr. Martin's proposed railway from the Coast to Kootenay. To meet the interest and sinking fund upon the cost of that railway alone, a royalty of 50 cents per ton would have to be imposed upon the coal output of the two companies in question. Such a royalty would doubtless close the mines and not only throw out of employment the thousands of people engaged in mining or in connection therewith, but would crush out of existence Nanaimo and the other coal mine towns, and strike such a blow at the business of Vancouver Island as could not be recovered from in three generations. But doubtless the advocates of this sort of taxation will say that they do not propose to levy the whole amount upon the coal. Let us then suppose that only a small part of it is so levied, who will pay it? The companies owning the mines? Well, not exactly. And this brings us to the discussion of a great fallacy in the demagogic arguments of the class mentioned.

There is a home market and a foreign market for the coal produced on Vancouver Island. The home market is practically a monopoly to the two companies, that is, no one can hope to come in and undersell them. They can fix the price. In point of fact, they do fix the price, and for years to come they are not likely to have any serious competition. The foreign market is not a monopoly. There the companies have to compete with coal produced everywhere, and in San Francisco, the principal foreign market, they have to compete against coal protected by duty. Impose a new charge upon the coal produced by the Vancouver Island companies, and they would at once take steps to get it out of their customers. That is business, and no one would undertake to say that it was an improper thing to do. It is the same in every other line of business. The producer endeavors to get all the charges on his product out of the consumer, and we suppose coal mine owners are built upon much the same lines as the rest of mankind. Could they impose this extra charge, necessitated by the tax to meet a railway loan, upon foreign consumers? Every one will have to admit that they could not, because they could not raise the price in the foreign market, owing to competition. They would have to collect the increased cost from the home consumers, which would be a comparatively easy matter, because, as we have shown, they can fix the price in the home market. Therefore the people who would pay this tax upon coal would be the local consumers of coal, the steamboat owners, the owners of factories, every person who buys a ton of coal for family use. This is where the incidence of the taxation would fall, and indeed the coal mine owners should decide not to increase the price of coal to the consumer, but to reduce the wages of those engaged at the mines. If the local market would not stand the

increase, that is, the burden of the whole royalty, including that upon exported coal, the miners and others employed in getting out and handling the coal would have to pay it. That is not a question of what one man would like to do. It is a simple business proposition. Mr. Robbins or Mr. Dunsinville might personally be averse to reducing wages in order to meet added taxation, but they would be unable to avoid it. They are not the sole owners of the properties which they represent, and we may be very sure that they would both find themselves compelled to apply to the mines under their control the same business principles that prevail everywhere else in the world. Therefore if a sufficient tax were imposed on the output of the Island mines to have any appreciable effect upon the enormous taxation effected by the government railway policy, the effect would be extremely serious upon local consumers of coal, and probably also upon the wage-earners employed in connection with the mines. The demagogues who plead for such taxation in order to make good their chimerical scheme of government ownership of railways are simply misleading the people.

ONE EFFECT OF THE WAR.

One lesson of the war in South Africa is that the much-talked-of invasion of India by Russia will be indefinitely postponed. The defense of the Tugela, by the Boer forces has demonstrated that it is next to impossible to force a strong position defended by an army with large resources. If the Boers had been just a little stronger, Buller might still be south of the Tugela, and Ladysmith might have been compelled to succumb to starvation. In view of these undeniable considerations it is evident enough that the northwest frontier of India could be easily held by the Indian army against any force which Russia could hurl against it. This is a very important matter. As long as there was the least reason to suppose the Empire to be vulnerable on the northwestern frontier of India, our foreign policy had to be shaped accordingly, but this menace has been removed, and oddly enough, not by what our forces have done, but by what they failed to do elsewhere. What Buller did not accomplish simply could not have been done. The remarkable advance of Roberts through the Free State and into the Transvaal was due to the fact that he had room in which to execute flanking movements, which Buller had not in Natal. Now, on the Tugela frontier, flanking movements would be out of the question. Our forces would hold position, but that could not be turned, and hence an enemy from the north would dash itself to pieces all in vain. The details of the last assault by the Boers upon the defenses of Ladysmith show the immense superiority of the defense. A determined effort was made to carry Bester's Hill, the idea being that if our troops could be driven thence in confusion, the enemy could take advantage of the panic and rush into the beleaguered town.

Our forces attempted to capture the hill, but it was easily held in check. Our outposts that were attacked were numerically weak, while the enemy were very strong. Yet the latter could not advance after their presence was detected, and when reinforcements were hurried up the situation was changed, and the whole effort of the Boers was to secure refuge, where they would be fairly safe from our fire, until darkness enabled them to retreat. Russia cannot hope to do even as well against the force which we could throw into the frontier mountains of India, as the enemy did against the defenses of Ladysmith, or those of Kimberley and Mafeking. Hence India is safe from invasion, and a bugbear of many years has been disposed of.

The superiority of the defense was already well known, but it has been vastly increased by modern weapons. The heroic resistance of Plevna, a town poorly adapted to defense purposes, was the first great lesson in modern times that a defending force could withstand an immensely superior attacking army. Plevna would probably never have been taken if the garrison could have been supplied with food and ammunition. Means of defense have been greatly improved since the last Russo-Turkish war, and the advantage is on the side of the defenders even more than it was at that time. In the case of our frontier posts in India there would be no danger of their supplies being cut off. They would have behind them the whole of India to draw upon for men and munitions of war, and behind India the open ocean, on which we will be supreme for many a long day. Hence on this important frontier the conditions for defense would be the most favorable possible, while those against which the attacking force would have to contend would be difficult. Hence we feel very certain that India is safe, and that its safety has been established on the banks of the Tugela.

BRYAN'S CHANCES.

Very great confidence seems to be felt by the supporters of Bryan in the coming contest for the presidency of the United States. At one time it was thought that he would not receive anything like the solid assistance of the New York Democrats, but there has lately been a great change in this respect, and there seems to be a chance that the great vote of New York in the electoral college will be cast for Bryan, whose nomination by the Democratic Convention seems to have been taken for granted by every one. If Bryan can carry New York, his chances for success will be

vastly improved. We still feel, however, that the next president of the United States will be William McKinley. From the point of view of an outsider there would appear to be some risk attending a change of administration at the present time. The United States stands committed to a line of policy, which cannot be departed from without risk. Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines present problems that will not be improved by experimenting with them. A settled line of action must be determined upon, and be carried into execution, no matter how much it may apparently antagonize what are claimed to be the essential features of the United States system. Take Porto Rico, for example. In this new possession of the United States the President appoints the governor, the executive council, the upper branch of the legislature and the judges. He has an absolute veto on all legislation, the absolute control of all franchises, and the people are not consulted on the question of taxation. The latter have the right to elect the members of the lower legislative body, but its powers are so slight that this concession is only a mockery of representative institutions. This is very much like the government of what we call a Crown Colony, but what else can be suggested? It is like to talk of applying to such a situation the principles of representative government, even to the extent allowed in the territories of the United States, while to make of the island a self-governing community would be a piece of absolute foolhardiness. If Bryan were in power to-morrow he would have to follow much the same course in this respect as McKinley has pursued. He might change a few things, but it is plain to every impartial observer that for years to come Porto Rico and the Philippines must be governed, to a very large extent, from Washington. Cuba presents another class of problems, because Cuba does not belong to the United States. Nevertheless, the United States, having forced Spain to abandon Cuba, is responsible for the good government of the island, and the responsibility cannot be shifted without serious consequences. It is for such reasons as the above that we decline to think the majority of the people of the United States will decide to change the policy of the Republican party, which so far has worked very well, for the experiments of the Democrats, and at the forthcoming presidential election, the great issue will be the government of the newly acquired possessions of the United States.

There are government railways in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, West Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. The following is an official statement of their earnings in 1899 upon their capital cost:

Queensland	2,430,000
New South Wales	3,750,000
Victoria	2,750,000
West Australia	4,400,000
South Australia	3,150,000
Tasmania	1,010,000
New Zealand	3,250,000

In no single case, except it be that of West Australia, particulars of which we have not at hand, do the roads pay anything like the interest on their cost, not to speak of the sinking fund. There is a very serious deficit in each case. In New Zealand, which is the colony to which most frequent reference is made in this connection, the railways cost a little under \$40,000 per mile, showing that government construction is not specially economical. There are in this colony 2,000 miles of railway, so that the internal carrying trade of the country is almost entirely in the hands of the government. There is one important private line. The running expenses of the latter amounted last year to 46 per cent. of the total earning, while the running expenses of the government lines were over 63 per cent. of the gross earning, making a great difference in favor of the management of the private line.

The white population of New Zealand is a little over 607,000, and the revenue is upwards of \$25,000,000. Deducting from the latter the running expenses of the railways at the amount of taxation, and we have \$17,245,000 contributed by the people in the form of some kind of taxes, which is \$28.50 per head. This is a very large sum, and we fancy the voters of British Columbia will think a long time before they will grow enamored of the New Zealand system, which places such enormous burdens upon the people. The people of New Zealand are paying, over and above what they contribute in the way of passenger fares and freight charges, the sum of \$1,250,000 every year in direct taxes. There may be something about this that commends itself to the minds of the people of British Columbia, but we feel to see what it can be.

There are, of course, no statistics in the official year books to enable us to judge of the character of the accommodation furnished by the New Zealand railways, but the statement is made elsewhere that it is of an inferior kind. As nearly as we can gather from the returns the average mileage charge upon passengers is a little over 5 cents per mile, and if it were not for the fact that many persons are carried on season tickets the rate would be considerably higher. On the whole the railway statistics of the Australasian colonies are, if favorable to government ownership, they demonstrate very clearly that such a policy would be folly in the case of a province like ours, where the sources of revenue are limited to what we can raise by direct taxation.

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ORIENTAL EXCLUSION.

In some of the Vancouver Island controversies very great stress is laid upon the question of Oriental exclusion as an issue at this election, and the advocates of provincial interference in this matter think also that steps should be taken to drive out of the country the Chinamen already resident here. The question calls for much consideration, because it is important that there should be no misapprehension of the power of the local legislature to deal with it. Notwithstanding all that has been said and written on the point, there still lingers in the minds of many people the belief that the local house has the power to exclude aliens from the country. We therefore state in the most emphatic way we can think of that the local legislature has no power whatever to deal with the exclusion of Chinese or Japanese or any one else from British Columbia. That power rests exclusively with the parliament of Canada. The Confederation Act, which, whether we like it or not, is the law of the land, expressly says that the parliament of Canada has exclusive control of such subjects, and if our legislature were to pass an exclusion law it would be promptly set aside by the courts; even if it were not set aside by the courts, it would be set aside by the Governor-General. There is no excuse for any mistake on this point, for the law is as clear as the sun at noonday.

But it is argued that if we cannot keep these people out of the country, we can drive them out of business and so compel them to leave. It has been decided by the courts that we cannot pass laws in the province affecting the standing of aliens here. The rights of aliens as such are under the jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada. Moreover, it has already been demonstrated that if a province undertakes to pass laws interfering with the rights of the subjects of a foreign power with whom the Empire is on friendly terms, it will be promptly disallowed without waiting for any one to invoke the interference of the courts. So well settled are these points that all Mr. Martin proposes to do is to pass laws time after time, notwithstanding their disallowance, until the Imperial government is forced to yield.

Some people, however, imagine that there is a much easier way to get at the same point, namely to impose a tax upon every person who employs a Chinese male servant. In support of such a policy it is claimed that a similar law is in force in Great Britain. This is of a piece with most of the arguments of a certain class of politicians. There is no such law in Great Britain. There is a small tax upon a person who keeps servants in livery, but it is not designed to keep people from employing servants who wear livery, but as an easy means of making well-to-do people contribute something to the revenue. The advocates of this special tax go so far as to fix the amount of it. They say it ought to be \$50 a year. Well, suppose it was \$50 a year? Would the effect be? If Chinese and Japanese were called upon to choose between leaving the country and taking less wages, they would probably choose the latter. Take a Chinese domestic who gets say \$15 a month. This is lower than the best get, but we are taking the lowest amount, for if the argument holds good in their case it will hold good with the higher priced servants. This class of Chinamen would find their wages reduced about 25 per cent. if they were driven out of the country. We doubt it. Even \$11 or \$12 a month and board would be much better than they could hope to do in China. Probably in practice the burden of the tax would be divided between the employer and the servant. It would mean that the employer would have to pay a little less wages than before, but would have to make up more than the difference by an addition to his taxes. The consequence would be that people of small means might feel compelled to do without hired help. The tax would not be a serious one to those in better circumstances, for, as we have said, a part of it, if not the whole, would be paid by the servant. Depend upon it, as long as the Chinese are in the country, they will get work at something, and even if they can be driven out of city households and from the farms, they will be found competing in other walks of industry with white labor. We can only get rid of the Chinese by adopting a policy which will prevent them from coming into the country, and the only legislature in the world that can do this is the parliament of Canada.

But it will be asked: Can nothing be done with the Chinese now in the province? We admit that this subject is one that will bear investigation. In his card to the electors of North Nanaimo, Mr. John Bryden speaks of sanitary inspection that will limit the number of inmates in dwellings. Mr. Bryden does not say that this is aimed at the Chinese, but it will apply to them. The local legislature can certainly stop the huddling together of scores of the Asiatics in small apartments. It can compel them to conform to Western ideas of sanitation and thus render their cost of living greater, which will prevent them from cutting the rate of wages and put them more upon a par with white people in competition. If this can be done, the result would probably be that the Chinese now in the whole Dominion, and if spread over the whole of the Orient were cut off either by a high head tax or some such provision as the Natal Act, we would soon find ourselves freed from Chinese competition. This is the line along which the local legislature can proceed. It has its limitations, but we say, with a full conviction of the importance of what we say, that we believe Mr. Bryden has pointed out the most efficient way of dealing with the Chinese question by our legislature. It will doubtless be found necessary to go further than he suggests, but if we keep our eyes on the main object, we can reach the goal. We all like Mr. Yates. Yet Mr. Martin knows when he got Mr. Yates into his cabinet that he would not in any way interfere with him. He presented Mr. Yates with a platform and a cabinet office, and Mr. Yates swallowed the bait for the sake of the latter. It is the old case of the good little boy who takes his pills in jam. Mr. George Washington Beebe is so little known to the rest of mankind that we are at a loss to form any opinion as to his qualifications for office. It is understood that Mr. Beebe came down to be sworn in, drew a month's salary and went home. He has probably drawn another month's salary since. He is money in pocket, no matter how he comes out at the polls next Saturday. Mr. Martin was safe in taking Mr. Beebe into his councils. He knew there would be no kicking over the traces by taking a lively interest in that industry by which we have Mr. Martin. Mr. Curtis is alleged to have said something about turning Mr. Martin down in a certain event. We think we see him doing it. Mr. Curtis is rather hard of hearing, and we feel sure that if he heard himself say anything of that kind he would have promptly denied it, for Mr. Curtis is much too close to Mr. Martin to interfere with him in anyway. This leaves us Mr. Brown. We hardly know what to make of Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown has had the reputation of being a very formidable person, one who is prepared to sally out with a whole arsenal of the moment any one even thinks of doing anything to interfere with his real or imaginary rights. Now Mr. Brown is cooling as gently as a sucking dove in the sacred shade of Mr. Martin's cabinet. Mr. Martin was shrewd enough to see that the way to get rid of Mr. Brown was to make Mr. Brown answerable for his political sins, and so he invited him into his cabinet, and Mr. Brown, after the usual number of protests, succumbed. It is the sad story of how the only virtuous public man in British Columbia, according to himself, was seduced by the sweets of office. Thus Mr. Martin is happy in the possession of a cabinet that will stay with him, if the electors give permission, until any place you choose to think of. His platform was a series of blunders; his acts of administration have been conspicuous for errors; his legislation is a hodge-podge of mistakes; but his cabinet—well, if he gets a lease of power from the people, he can do just exactly as he will, for all the resistance that need be expected from his colleagues.

NOTHING FOR THE FARMERS.

The present government has nothing to offer the farmers. In the twenty-two planks in Mr. Martin's platform there is no mention of this very important class of the community. He does not seem to recognize that there is anything which he can do to make the province better fitted to be the home of an industrious farming population. Yet, perhaps, there is hardly a question that is of greater importance. We send abroad thousands upon thousands of dollars every year for farm produce of one kind and another that could be just as well produced at home. It is said by some that nothing can be done for the farmers, but that is the rankest political heresy. Much can be done for them. Much has been done for them elsewhere. Whatever else may be said about the administration of Mr. Turner, it cannot be alleged that he did not seek to promote British Columbia agriculture, and he never let an opportunity of the industry not permitted a session to pass without doing something that seemed calculated to advance it. This same cry that nothing can really be done for farmers and that all promises are merely election cries is not confined to this province. It has been heard elsewhere.

But it has been established elsewhere that very much can be done for farmers. We may mention some of the lines in which the governments of other provinces have assisted agriculture. One of them is in the establishment of co-operative dairies. This has been very successful. The aid given is not very large. It is really more in the nature of an encouragement than anything else. In New Brunswick a grant of \$200 is given to any company formed to carry on a dairy. The amount is not great, but it has proved to be a valuable incentive, and during the eight or nine years that it has been in operation it has done a great deal of good. It was the little necessary stimulus that met the necessities of the case. There are other directions in which much good can be done.

A very excellent thing for farming communities is the introduction, from time to time, of new seeds, especially of the various grains. Grain grown for a series of years on the same soil deteriorates, and frequent changes are found advisable. The governments in several of the provinces expend money in the purchase of grain, which is sold at cost. Nothing is lost to the treasury, and the farmers get a good deal of benefit from the change.

In British Columbia explosives play an important part in the clearing of new land. These explosives are purchased by the farmers directly from the manufacturers, but they pay retail prices. It has been pointed out that if the government would purchase explosives and sell them to the farmers at cost, the latter would be very considerably benefited. Here is a subject that is well worth looking into.

In the matter of stock, the government can give the farmers very considerable aid. There are localities where new blood is needed in the herds, and the farmers are hardly in a position to get

it. The government might very well purchase, occasionally, a number of young bulls and sell them for what they would bring in the farming districts. It may be objected that this would have a tendency to interfere with the business of breeders of improved stock, but, in point of fact, it has not had this effect where it has been tried, and if a little good judgment were shown, it would not have that effect here. Indeed the stimulus that would be given to the improvement of stock by a little judicious assistance of the kind mentioned would, in a short time, have a most beneficial effect upon local breeders, by creating a demand for pedigreed animals. Moreover, in British Columbia it would be possible in many cases to purchase the needed pure bred animals in the province from the local breeders, and in this way send out to remote sections what would be as much new strains as if the animals were imported from Ontario or Great Britain.

The government and the legislature can do a great deal for the farmers simply by taking a lively interest in that industry, and by creating thereby an interest in it on the part of others. In British Columbia we have thought so much about mining that we have almost lost sight of the importance of farming. Yet it is true that, whereas the operations of the miner is take constantly from the wealth of the country, and must ultimately exhaust it, the work of the farmer enriches it for all time, and he is creating a permanent source of prosperity. The best mines become exhausted, but the man who clears up an acre of land for the plough creates an asset that will be of value forever. Hence we contend that it is time the government of British Columbia gave greater attention to agriculture, and we find, in his omission to give this great interest any attention whatever, one of the strongest proofs that Mr. Martin is not alive to the real needs of the province.

It is announced that sea-sickness can be prevented by inhaling pure compressed oxygen, and tubes containing it will soon be placed upon the market. The oxygen is said to be infallible in its effects.

For the information of people who may have occasion to use Spanish names, it may be mentioned that, like the Chinese, the last name borne by a Spaniard is often the least important. Suppose, for example, you were introduced to Pedro Diaz y Castillo, you would not be correct if you afterwards called him Mr. Castillo. You should call him Mr. Diaz. Castillo is simply his mother's name, which he has appended to that of his father so as to avoid confusion with other men who may be called Mr. Diaz. And the same thing would be true of a double name, even when the letter y is not used to connect it.

Naval experts all the world over—and this includes those of the United States—are agreed that the Spanish war has been thrown no light upon the conditions of modern naval warfare, and that it is altogether too soon to condemn the torpedo boat, as many have been inclined to do.

After posing for some time as an independent, Mr. W. W. B. McInnes has come out as a Minister, although he persists in denying that he is one. He refused at Parkville to say how he would vote on a plain want-of-confidence motion based upon Mr. Martin's platform and the record of his administration, and now he has gone to Comox to work in the interests of Mr. McPhee, who has declared himself a Minister.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles, of the United States army, is responsible for the statement that "the grandest enterprise in which mankind was ever engaged was the preservation of the American Union." This is apropos of Memorial Day. We see no objection to our neighbors celebrating that day in the most energetic way possible, but they are rather inclined to bumptiousness in connection with it, as this letter from the commander-in-chief of their army shows. There have been many events since the beginning of historical times which were worth quite a high place in the estimation of mankind. For example, if it had not been for the Crusades there would never have been an English-speaking republic in America or anywhere else to preserve. Moreover, it is not absolutely certain that the world at large would not have been just as well off if there were two English-speaking republics in America, instead of one.

We have good reason for thinking that it has not yet been decided at Ottawa what to bring on the general elections. Word has gone out to the Liberal party to be ready, but we do not think any final decision has been reached. The government is doubtless halting for reasons other than those that are partial. The census must be taken next year, and after the census will come redistribution of seats between the provinces. If a plan could be devised for announcing the population returns in time for a redistribution bill to be passed during the lifetime of the present parliament, it would be a good plan to adopt it, and so do away with the need of a dissolution of parliament within a short time after the census. We do not know that the government is considering this matter, but think it might do so with very great advantage. We believe British Columbia will be found to be entitled to one or two more representatives after the census, and would very much like to have them.

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B. W.

Assay Office At Day

Board of Trade Strongly mends the Establishment of One.

Seattle Reaping Benefit to Lack of Government Enterprise.

At a meeting of the British Board of Trade held yesterday action was taken on a question of interest to Victoria and the whole of the west coast of Canada. The subject was the establishment of an assay office at Dawson. The mining government will be strong to meet the wishes of the people respect to one. Other matters on the situation in the North were discussed. There were present Messrs. L. G. McQuade, Lindell, Simon, Leiser, D. R. Kerr, J. Cross, Capt. Cox, A. G. McCann, Secretary Elworthy.

The mining committee, to whom had been submitted certain resolutions by the Vancouver Board of Trade, the Yukon district, submitted recommending changes in the laws of a rather drastic character, was suggested in its opinion that the government should do away with the imposition of a penalty, from disposing of any manner except through the assent of the government.

Capt. Cox thought this a most proposal. The miner who was paid for his license, conformable to the laws of the country, should be allowed to do as he pleased with his gold. The resolutions of the Board of Trade were as follows: 1. That the 10 per cent. royalty levied by the government of the Yukon is distasteful to the miners, and that the government should do away with it. 2. That the present mode of assaying gold is not satisfactory, and incidentally causes perjury committed in respect to the result.

3. That it is eminently desirable as possible of the business rived from the mining industry, conserved to the people of the country, and that the government should do away with the gold revenue in a manner alike agreeable to the miners and the government.

4. That the government should best desirable results it is respected that the present tax of 10 per cent. on the gold should be abolished, and that the assay office be opened in Dawson, and all taxes upon said gold. 5. That notice be given if must be assured in the government office and paid there, a person found attempting to do without a proper certificate say office stating the correct value of gold so being taken shall be seized and forfeited found in possession of the same, or such other penalty deemed desirable by the government.

Mr. Kerr thought it was most that the government should establish a government assay office, where the full market value of gold, the same as Seattle. The Canadian government should not be allowed to pay for gold, the same as Seattle. There is incentive for the miners to try and smuggle the gold out of the country, and the government should be paid for by drafts bank in Canada. If this adopted there would be no for the miners to come to their checks and spend at the mines, and they would be their gold, much to the detriment of the coast cities, which mainly rely upon the development of the Canadian gold. Capt. Cox pointed out that the miners were not to be cashed in Seattle. Mr. McCandless agreed.