

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY AT VICTORIA, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTION - - \$2.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates on Application.

D. M. CARLEY . . . . . EDITOR

L. G. HENDERSON . . BUSINESS MANAGER.

Office—No. 77 Johnson Street.

VICTORIA, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1892.

## PROVINCIAL SETTLEMENT.

It has been on several occasions explained in the Provincial Legislature that one of the reasons why more vigorous efforts were not being put forth in order to bring in immigrants and settle up the country was that the Government had but imperfect information as to the character of the public domain and its capabilities. It was said that surveyors were busy at work in this field, and that before long there would be something positive on which to go. Already a report has been issued of what was done last year, and this season numerous parties are out in hitherto unknown sections of the islands and mainland, the result of whose joint effort is awaited with interest. The definition of the westerly limit of the Island Railway belt is not yet finished, and towards its completion it is likely that Mr. Rolph will accomplish much this season. Mr. Gauvreau is doing an important work between the Stickeen River and the head of Takou Lake, while in addition to other operations a close survey of the north end of Vancouver Island is being prosecuted. The Kootenay country is in the hands of the surveyors, as is also the Skeena, and of all these accurate maps and plans are in course of preparation.

## PROTECTED MONOPOLIES.

The *Dry Goods Review* commenting on the cotton combine recently carried out in Canada, says: "Monopolies seem to be the order of the day on this continent. In the United States, the distance between the poor man and the rich seems to be widening more and more every year, and is becoming the most important problem for the statesmen of that country to solve, a problem that may not be solved without bloodshed and a temporary state of anarchy, and here in this country we are apparently drifting into the monopoly system also. It would be well for our Government and parliament to be watchful in this matter. The general welfare of the people is their special charge, and although it is difficult to legislate to prevent the existence of large joint stock companies, nor perhaps prudent to attempt to do so, the tariff can be lowered whenever these monopolists overstep the mark and attempt to benefit themselves at the expense of the consumers. The voters who enabled our legislators to increase the tariff to protect our struggling manufacturers from the onslaughts of foreign foes will uphold them in pulling down the tariff, if necessary,

to protect the consumers from foes within our borders. Meantime it is right and proper to give the Cotton Syndicate time to show its policy and not condemn it until it deserves condemnation."

As was the case with the sugar monopolists, they were by the arrangement into which they had entered enabled to boycott and oppress those whom they saw fit to attack and constituted themselves not only into a close mercantile corporation, but into a trading tyranny, which was most oppressive and in many respects utterly unreasoning outside of itself and unreasonable in its exactions. Without doubt these large concerns can be carried on more cheaply and in many other respects to greater economical advantage than smaller ones, but will they consider the claims of the public and of those whom they employ? The former will be forced to buy from them so long as the tariff fence is kept up and foreign goods are kept out, while the operatives will be at the mercy of their employers, who, having control of the entire product, will be able to close their factories and starve them into submission.

## THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The latest developments in the United States political situation will rather astonish some people. That James G. Blaine should have been thrown out of the Presidential running by so large a vote in the Republican Convention is, to say the least of it, remarkable, since, despite his own silence on the subject, there were many well-informed politicians who were certain that he would make a fight with the best chances of success. However, it would now appear that if the party are strong enough Benjamin Harrison will have a second term. In connection with the resignation of the Secretary of State from President Harrison's Cabinet, there does appear to have been some friction on one or two foreign questions. The President seems to be very firm of opinion, but all the facts are not yet before the public. There is color, however, for the statement that Mr. Blaine was more pacific in the Chilean business than the President, who favored a strong policy from the start. There are some hints, too, of disagreements over the Behring's Sea controversy, which once assumed a very serious aspect. At the opening of the Convention, particularly in view of Mr. Blaine's persistent silence, it is fair to have assumed that he would have been a candidate could he have controlled the delegates. He has now, however, according to the published reports, acquiesced in the decision and thus expressed himself:—

"The resolution, energy and persistence which marked the proceedings of the Convention at Minneapolis will, if turned against the common foe, win the election in November. All minor differences should be merged in the duty of every Republican to do all in his power to elect the ticket this day nominated by the National Republican Convention."

This looks like as if he really desires to see the Republican party succeed, but, like the thimble-rigger's pea, his characteristic has thus far been, "Now you see him and now you don't."

## MINISTERIAL POLICY.

Hon. Col. Baker, the new Minister of Education and Immigration, has been elected by acclamation by his old constituents of East Kootenay. His policy was thus defined in his address:—"It has always been my object to deal fairly by each section of the district as far as lay in my power; to open up the country by trails, roads and bridges; to advocate in the Legislature all measures which were in the interests of miners, lumbermen and agriculturists; to adjust the balance between labor and capital, so that both should not suffer through the antagonism of each other; to strenuously promote railway communication between East Kootenay and the markets which are available for its undoubted natural wealth; and, lastly, to do my duty to the best of my ability." That programme is a very commendable one, and though, as the Colonel says, he has not always succeeded in carrying it out, he will no doubt be in a position to do better as a Minister of the Crown in the event, of course, of his not finding that in that capacity his hands are bound more tightly than ever. There was one piece of news in the hon. gentleman's address which would be productive of much satisfaction. That was: "I have much pleasure in announcing that my exertions to open up the southern portion of the district by a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass are at last to be realized, and the road will be commenced this year." Col. Baker ought to know something about this. He was a fellow-traveller with President Van Horne from Vancouver eastward, and before they separated had doubtless ample opportunities of acquainting himself with that gentleman's intentions.

## THE PAUPER ELEMENT.

It is now announced that the Conservatives in Great Britain, if returned to power at the approaching elections, will introduce a measure to restrict foreign immigration. This is as it should be. The old world is beginning to feel how the system works there which has long been in vogue with mischievous effects here. Paupers of all names, nationalities and races have been deported from their native land, and to use an expressive term have been dumped here to fare as best they might. Whatever poverty there has been on this side the international and provincial boundary has been imported, and much the same may be said of Eastern Canada. Nevertheless, despite the protests which time and again have been sent across the Atlantic, wholesale shipments have been made of those who were no good either to themselves or to anyone else. Not only did the Societies and indeed the authorities at home work off their surplus population on us; but they were unwilling to assist in preventing the squalor and sloth of the European continent being transported here. For that undesirable element a resting-place had to be found; part of it was landed in Great Britain and now the authorities have been gun to reflect that possibly the people of America were not so far out when they raised their complaints.