The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH, 1890.

WELL AND WISELY DONE.

The City Council did wisely to throw out the petition of those who asked them to take over narrow streets. There could be no greater folly than to have this city, situated as it is in a country where land is plenty, deformed by streets of less than sixty feet broad. Such streets are inconvenient, and they are, from a sanitary point of view, abominable. Diseases of all sorts find a permanent home in dirty narrow streets and lanes. There is no room in such thoroughfares for air to circulate, and their supply of light is exceedingly limited. In old times when the laws of health were not understood parts of cities were built as suited the whims and the narrow ideas of greedy and ignorant proprietors and builders. Many of the streets were narrow and crooked, and the houses on them were built in defiance of sanitary law. These slums, as the cities grew, were a nuisance as well as a disgrace. Many of them were not suffered to remain. When the city government became enlightened, and when the citizens came to know that they were hotbeds of disease they were condemned as dangerous deformities, and the whole area on which they stood was re-arranged and re-built. The dirty narrow lanes were replaced by wide, handsome avenues, and fine buildings were erected on the sites of the cabins and hovels. The dirty, stinking quarter, inhabited by people who lived in squalor and misery, was transformed into the most beautiful and salubrious part of the city. But this was done at an immense expense to the community. This transformation has not taken place in every city. The narrow filthy streets are allowed to remain in too many cities, and are to them what a festering sore is to the human body. When they became too unpleasant to live in with any degree of comfort, "respectable, well-to-do people left them. Every year they became more shabby and every year their inhabitants were a grade lower and less reputable than those of the preceding year, until at last they are now the lairs of the dregs of the city's population—places in which no decent person enters, if he can help it, even in daylight, and which no honest man or woman thinks of passing through after night sets in. The narrowness and the darkness as well as the noisomeness of these narrow streets make them safe for the lawless and degraded part of the population.

No one wants nests of crime and misery to be built in Victoria, but if the Corporation permits these narrow streets to remain they will, no matter how respectable the people that live in them now may be, become more and more disreputable until the time comes when no decent person will live on them or do any business in their vicinity.

The by-law which makes the minimum width of a street in this city sixty feet is a wise one. No street is fit to live on which is less than sixty feet wide. Let the owners of property on these narrow lanes have the street made of the proper width. It is their interest to do this. A house or other building is worth more on such a street than on one that is too narrow for either health or convenience. The twenty feet or so which is necessary to make the street of the proper width will not be lost to the owner of the property. The strip which becomes part of the street will add very considerably to the value of the whole property.

The corporation very properly refused to take over the extension to Pandora street until it was made of the width required by law. Are the owners of the property along that street now sorry that the Council was firm. We venture to say that there is not one of them who will not say that the Council did perfectly right even when their own interest in the property is alone considered, and there can be no question as to the wisdom of their action when viewed from the standpoint of the public welfare.

There are, we see, twenty-one of these narrow streets in different parts of the city. The Council is furthering not only the welfare of the city, but the interests of those who own land bordering these streets when they refuse to recognize one of them as a public thoroughfare. We are quite sure that in refusing to take over a street less than sixty feet in width they have the cordial approval of the great majority of the citizens.

THE HUDSON'S BAY ROUTE.

The projectors of the Hudson's Bay Railroad possess any amount of courage, and their confidence in their powers of persuasion is unbounded. To ordinary men the project to construct a railroad over six hundred miles of unproductive country to a sea which is not navigable for nine months of the year would appear impracticable. But the advocates of the Hudson's Bay route make light of all objections. They have satisfied themselves that a trade between Europe and the regions of the Northwest—and a trade in grain too of all things in the world—can be carried on over that immense extent of wilderness and across that ice-encumbered sea, and they have set about convincing others. And they are, it appears, succeeding, for we read that no fewer than one hundred and sixty members of the House of Commons signed a memorial to the Government, praying them to grant a subsidy to this road. We wonder how many of these one hundred and sixty members of Parliament have read Lieut. Gordon's accounts of his exploratory voyages through Hudson Strait and across Hudson's Bay, in ships expressly fitted out for that purpose. The man who, after carefully reading those accounts, can come to the conclusion that it is possible to carry on a regular trade on the Hudson's Bay route, a trade in which it is necessary for men to insure their ships and to be able, with something like exactitude, to calculate upon their arrival at stated times, must have a singularly constituted mind. We can understand how men who are too lazy, or too careless, or too stupid to investigate for themselves and who are besides ready to believe any fine story that a sanguine or an interested projector tells them, may come to believe that the Hudson Bay can be made a trade route. But how an intelligent man, who is determined to make his own enquiries and to do his own thinking, can come to that conclusion is past our comprehension. Even if all other conditions were favorable the difficulty of navigating Hudson's Bay would, in our opinion, lead any reasonable man to the conclusion that the route is impracticable. But the other conditions are not favorable. Nearly the whole line of railroad is through a country which produces nothing, and which cannot be made to produce a great deal. Its inhabitants are a few half-starved Indians and some Hudson's Bay Company employes. The railway can have no way traffic. The cars which carry the wheat and other products of the Northwest to the sea must come back empty. This will make the cost of transport very heavy. Can a bulky commodity like wheat bear that cost?

Then the navigation of Hudson's Bay, such as it is, closes so early that the grain cannot be sent across the sea for many months after harvest. It would be worse than useless to send grain laden vessels to Great Britain by the Hudson's Bay route in what we call the autumn. The grain would have to remain in store until June or July of the year after it was grown. Could the grain trade bear this delay? A light rate of insurance is a necessity of trade in these days. The insurance company is not yet formed which would take Hudson's Bay risks at a moderate premium.

It is said that the Hudson's Bay Company have demonstrated that the route is practicable. We hardly think that the grain trade could ever be made so independent of weather and so regardless of delay as the fur trade which has been carried on by that venerable corporation. One or two or three months delay was not regarded by the Hudson's Bay people as a very great misfortune. No one expected the ships of the Company to arrive and depart with anything like punctuality. But the exigencies of the grain and provision trades require the merchant to be able to calculate almost to a day the arrival of a shipment. But it would be folly to expect anything like regularity from ships sailing by the Hudson's Bay route, even during the short season in which the navigation is open. Those who depended upon the arrival of the Hudson's Bay grain-laden ships in the nick of time would find themselves grievously disappointed.

It would no doubt be a very great advantage to the northwest to have an outlet to the ocean by Hudson's Bay; but seeing the benefit of the route if no obstacles stood in the way of using it for traffic, will not make it practicable. We cannot help thinking that those who have brought themselves to believe in the Hudson's Bay railway have studiously avoided considering the number and the character of the obstacles which nature has placed in the way of its ever becoming a part of a trade route to Europe.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

Those who are acquainted with German socialism say that it does not deserve to be called socialism at all. The principles held by a very large number of men who are called socialists in Germany would not be considered socialistic in Great Britain or America. As in Great Britain not very many years ago any political doctrine which the majority desired to reprobate and to brand as dangerous, was denounced as "radical," so in Germany to-day any advanced idea, any liberal opinion, is condemned as "socialistic." Many men now living can remember when "Radical" was a term of reproach, and stood for every thing that was detestable, socially as well as politically, in Great Britain and her colonies, and to affix the stigma of radicalism on a man was to banish him from almost any circle that considered itself respectable. This is something like the position which socialism seems to occupy in Germany in the present day. But as, on better acquaintance, radicalism does not appear so very dreadful; so, perhaps, when the world knows more about socialism as it exists in Germany, it may come to be regarded with toleration. When the platform of the German socialists, which was circulated previous to the last election, is examined, it does not look so dreadfully communistic after all. Here it is:

"1st—Abolition of the standing army, and in its place the creation of a militia, after the Swiss Republic. 2d—Abolition of all indirect taxes and the derivation of revenues from a single, graduated, progressive income tax. 3d—Universal, equal and direct suffrage, with secret ballot at all general and local elections. 4th.—Abolition of all laws which promote inequality and repress free thought and free investigation. 5th—Unlimited right of federation for workingmen. 6th—Laws to protect the person and health of workingmen. 7th—That Sunday work be forbidden by law, as well as the employment of children, and that woman's work be properly regulated. 8th—As the basis for better popular education, free instruction in all public schools for the children of all citizens."

With the exception of the single tax plank—on income, be it observed, not land—there is nothing in this platform to which Canadians of all parties would not subscribe. There is really nothing that is commonly regarded as communistic in it from one end to the other. We have in this country free public education, of which persons of all classes may avail themselves; laws for the observance of the Lord's Day; laws to protect the person and health of men working in factories; working men have the unlimited right of federation; we have no laws promoting inequality and none repressing free thought, free speech, or free investigation; we have universal male suffrage and the secret ballot at elections of all kinds, and we have no standing army. If the above platform is socialistic we in this country are all socialists, for we have embodied in our laws seven of its eight planks, and the remaining one is a matter of mere fiscal arrangement which the country is free to adopt at any time. It has not been adopted not because Canadians regard it as socialistic, but because they look upon it as unwise as not calculated to promote the prosperity of the country. How anyone holding the principles enunciated in this platform can be regarded as a dangerous member of society, and why he should be marked for reprobation by the Government of his country, is what most Canadians will find it difficult to understand.

MINING MACHINERY.

The importance of placing mining machinery on the free list, as far as this province is concerned, cannot be overestimated. But to be of advantage to the miners of this province and the capitalists who back them, the machinery must be really free. No one must have it in his power to throw obstacles in the way of the free import of mining machinery.

It is not difficult to see that if the miners of this province are to derive any advantage from the apparent concession made to the mining industry, very much indeed depends upon the way in which the Customs Department interprets item 230 of the revised tariff, and the regulations which it makes regarding that item. The following is the item verbatim:

"Mining machinery imported within three years after the passing of this Act which is, at the time of its importation, of a class or kind not manufactured in Canada."

The Customs Department is, as a rule, by no means liberal in its construction of the tariff. If there is a doubt as to the exact meaning of the words of the tariff the importer does not get the benefit of that doubt, and if rules must be made before the tariff can be applied, the interest or the convenience of the importer is not generally consulted. Miners would be wise if before they import machinery they find out from the Customs Department what constitutes proof that the "kind" or "class" of machinery imported is not manufactured in Canada. Then it would be prudent to have a clear definition of "kind" and "class" in this connection. A narrow and ill-liberal interpretation of the tariff may make the free importation of mining machinery an impossibility. We have read what the Minister of Finance has said on the subject with the hope of getting a hint as to how the tariff is to be construed by the Government officials. But he leaves searchers for information completely in the dark as to the operation of the tariff in this particular. In order that our readers may be fully informed on a subject in which so many of them are deeply interested we reproduce below what the Finance Minister said in his budget speech about the temporary and qualified exemption of mining machinery from duty. On columns 2,644 and 2,645 of the House of Commons Debates we read:

"The House will recollect the discussion which took place here a short time ago on mining machinery, when I urged that the House should defer the discussion until the Government had brought down its tariff measure. All over our country these indications of interest in the development of our mining resources are plain and unmistakable; our resources are being, every year, more and more explored; we are coming ourselves to have a better and more adequate knowledge of the immense wealth we have in this country; and this information is filtering out into other countries, and is producing an interest in the minds of capitalists of other countries, which is continually growing, and which we believe will be productive of large investments in this country. On the whole, it appears to me that we are on the eve of large developments of the mining industries of this country, and in the future we may look for large accretions of interest and increasing employment of labor in the development of the vast mineral and metallic stocks which we have scattered throughout this country from Cape Breton to British Columbia; consequently there has arisen a demand for free mining machinery. It is stated that the best and most improved machinery must be used by experimenters who put their money into enterprises the outcome of which they cannot certainly see. It is felt by them that the very best possible machinery should be got. It is felt by some that for a period at least there should be no restriction whatever on the buying of it, and by others, that there should be no other restriction than that imposed by the consideration whether or not the machinery is made in this country. Looking over the whole question, the Government have come to the conclusion that it will not be wise or prudent to resist this demand at the present time, in the interest of the development of that large part of the country's resources, and it is proposed to allow mining machinery of a class and kind which is not made in Canada at the time of the importation, to be imported into this country free for the period of three years and no longer. That will have a double effect. It will grant to those persons who are investing their money in the development of our mining interests the freest market for the purchase of the best possible machinery they can get—a market, the freedom of which is only limited by the fact that the machinery they may require is made in Canada; and no person, I apprehend, is so unpatriotic as to wish a provision to be inserted which would allow him to buy a machine outside of Canada when it could be made in Canada by industries which have been fostered and brought into their present state, by the operation of the tariff which we have enacted and maintained. It will have this other effect. By the free introduction of mining machinery such as is not made in Canada, and by the impetus which will be given to mining after the period of experimenting is over, and after the richness and paying quantities of these resources are demonstrated, there will be a continued and progressive development of that industry; and after the period of three years that development will naturally add to the demand for the production of this machinery in Canada, which will, consequently, promote and encourage that industry after that period."

It is gratifying to see that the Finance Minister is alive to the importance of the mining industry of the Dominion and to the necessity of giving it some encouragement. The kind of encouragement it needs is so easily given that we wonder why there has been the slightest hesitation in extending it. All that the miners ask of the Government is to be let alone. They do not beg of it to burden other industries in order to foster theirs. They do not ask any man, woman or child in the Dominion to subsidise them directly or indirectly to the extent of one single cent. All that they want is to have their hands free so that they may have a fair chance to discover and develop the mineral wealth of the Dominion. This is a very easy thing to do. One would think that the Government which is ready to tax the whole consuming population of the Dominion for the sake of fostering the flour milling industry and in order to give aid to one hat factory or a solitary calico-printing establishment would not hesitate to exempt so important an industry as that of mining from a tax that has been found to be so exceedingly burdensome as to prevent its development and growth. What the miners want is very little indeed for the Government to give, but it would have been a boon of inestimable value to them.

As we have already said, we fear that their request has been granted to them only in name, that placing mining machinery on the free list in the way it has been done will yield them little or no advantage. We may be mistaken. We trust we are. But we believe it would have been better policy from every point of view to have extended the concession to the miners in such a way as to leave no possible doubt as to its value.

THE KAISER'S CONFERENCE.

The Emperor William's international labor conference has ended its labors. It is not known whether or not it has done anything of any great importance. The questions which were discussed at its sessions are by no means new, and some of them had been decided by free countries long ago. Laws have been made in England to protect women and children working in factories, and Sunday labor is condemned in Great Britain and her colonies and in the United States, both by public opinion and by legal enactment. These were among the subjects that occupied the attention of the Labor Conference. From the account that we have seen of the results of its deliberations it does not appear that the delegates went very deeply into these matters, or that the reforms which they recommend are of anything like a sweeping nature.

It is said that the Conference will recommend the establishment of optional courts of arbitration, consisting of representatives of employers and workmen, to settle labor disputes. There is nothing to hinder such courts of arbitration being established in free countries. If employers and employes agree to settle a dispute by arbitration they do not, in this country at any rate, need the interference or the authorization of law to enable them to do so. They are perfectly free to choose this way of settling all disputes if they see fit to do so. It is, too, a reasonable way of settling misunderstandings, and if it were resorted to more frequently there would be in many places a better feeling between employers and workmen than now exists.

But the Conference considered other questions which would, we think, be better left to be arranged by private agreement than by legal enactment. We have no great faith in the interference of law in the management of business concerns. Law cannot regulate everything. Employers and workmen cannot be tied down by laws in all their relations with each other. It seems to us that with regard to such questions as the following which were discussed by the Labor Conference, more reasonable regulations could be made by the mine owners and the work-people than could be drawn up by Government officials let them be ever so intelligent and, ever so well-meaning. Different circumstances require different rules, and regulations can readily be modified by private agreement to suit circumstances. But let the law once be the regulator and circumstances must bend to the regulations if they can be made to do so. The questions we allude to are these:

"Whether a restriction of the duration of the shifts should be prescribed for mines in which work is particularly dangerous to health?

"Whether it is possible to subject work in mines to international regulations in order to assure the regularity of the supply of coal?

"Whether work should be prohibited on Sunday, except in case of need, and, if so, which exceptions may be allowed?

"Whether these exceptions should be determined by international agreement, by law, or by administrative measures?"

If matters like these are arranged according to law, what is to be left to private discretion? If the workmen had nothing to do with the contracts they made, the regulation of the hours of work and other matters that concerned them, if the law did everything for them, would they not in time become mere working machines? There would be nothing for them to exercise their intelligence upon. They would have no use for their brains. The law makers would do their thinking for them, and nothing would be left for them but to work during the number of hours specified by law and to receive the remuneration that had been decided upon by law. For if the law is to interfere in every other matter in which there is room for dispute between the employer and employed, will it not soon be obliged to interfere in the matter of wages? If workmen are not free to make bargains as regards the hours they shall labor and other matters connected with their employment, they are not free certainly to decide how much they are to get for their work.

If the Government is to treat both the employer and the employe as if they were mere children, unable to think and to act for themselves, what chance will there be for improvement and elevation in the condition of either the one class or the other. This paternalism is, we think, a mistake. We freely admit that there are many men who are looked upon as wise and philanthropic who favor the state regulation of industries; but we cannot believe that they are right. Have men for thousands of years been struggling and fighting, exercising to the utmost their energies and powers of mind and body merely to become, in the fullness of time, parts of a big machine in which their duties will be marked out for them, and they will be under no necessity to exercise their will or their intellect independently on any subject whatever. Is seems to us that our present condition, hard as it is, requiring incessant watchfulness and the perpetual exercise of the powers of the individual is infinitely preferable to that condition of supposed perfection, when there will be no struggle for existence, but the nevery one, whatever his occupation, will have his thinking done for him and will only be required to act according to certain rules and regulations laid down for him by the State.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY.

The amended Extradition Treaty came into effect on Friday last. After this the embezzling bank cashiers and thieving treasurers and other officials will not be able to run across the line that divides the United States from Canada to escape justice and to enjoy their ill-gotten gains. Other offenders against the laws of their country will have to seek a new place of refuge, for they will not be safe either in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States. This is as it should be. Canadians have for a long time been ashamed to see their country made the asylum of every American thief who managed to elude the officers of justice in his own country. We believe that the certainty that offenders cannot escape arrest, and punishment by crossing the boundary line will in many cases act as a deterrent. Escape seemed easy to the persons contemplating crime either in Canada or the United States that they must have been frequently encouraged to commit crimes; but now that the door of escape is closed they will be far less liable to yield to temptation. It will require much more courage to run the risk than it did a week ago, and consequently there will be a large proportion of possible offenders whose fears will keep them on the safe side. All of them may not be conscious of what it is that keeps them from becoming criminals, but that does not matter. The certainty that there is no safety on the other side of the line will be sure to influence very many who want some outside help to keep them in the paths of honesty.

NOT ITS BUSINESS.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Boston Journal says, wasted some valuable time in voting for Mr. Quincy's resolution, opposing the reimposition of the duty on hides. The legislatures of the different States have nothing whatever to do with the tariff. It is the prerogative of Congress to impose customs duties. In dictating to Congress what it should or should not do the House of Representatives was taking upon itself a function which it was not authorized, either by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts, to perform. The opinion of its members on the subject of the proposed duty on hides was really worth no more, nor of any greater authority, than that of the same number of electors picked out of a crowd on the street. When the House undertook to pass a resolution on a subject outside its powers it degraded itself, into a meeting of irresponsible private citizens. This is evidently the view which the Boston Journal—which, by the way, does not approve of the duty—took of its action, for it says:

"The Legislature was not elected to make up the various schedules of the tariff, and if it attempts to supervise the work of Congress it will find its hands full. * * * Mr. Quincy's resolution was simply a bit of humbug, designed with a view to gaining a little capital for the Democracy to trade on in the next campaign. It deserved to be rejected, and the only fault we find with the Legislature's action is that it did not reject it with even more promptness and emphasis."

If the different legislative bodies in the United States and in the Dominion do their own constitutional work well and faithfully, no reasonable man will find fault with them for not meddling with matters that are beyond their jurisdiction, and which it is the business of another body in the State and another set of representatives to attend to and legislate upon. The Eleventh Commandment, "Mind your own business," applies to Legislatures fully as much as it does to individuals. We see that the Ontario Legislature is asked to pass a resolution on trade matters. It is to be hoped that its members will have the good sense to treat it as the Massachusetts House of Representatives treated Mr. Quincy's resolution on the duty on hides.

A MERE RUMOR.

There is again a rumor of the proposed abdication of Queen Victoria in favor of the Prince of Wales. It is hard to tell whether or not there is any foundation for the report. So many sensational stories are told about eminent persons in these days that one does not know which to believe. It may be that some enterprising news-gatherer or news-manufacturer, knowing that the Queen's health is not very good and that she is a sufferer from rheumatism, has raised the report that she is wearied of public life and that she wishes to see her eldest son on the throne. There is nothing very improbable in this story, and he may calculate upon a very large proportion of the public taking it for the truth. But if such an important change is really contemplated, is it likely that the nation would receive the first intimation of it in this way? Kings and Queens and Ministers of State are not in the habit of taking newspaper correspondents into their confidence. Those correspondents are generally excellent authorities with respect to what has happened. They are very industrious and exceedingly watchful, and they have many means of finding out what has been done. But when they look into the future and tell the public what is going to come to pass, they are not nearly so reliable. Their guesses and conjectures are, as a rule, no more to be depended upon than those of persons of ordinary intelligence. It is just possible that the Queen may abdicate, but we think that when she makes up her mind to do so she will not suffer her intention to become a matter of mere gossip. Her secret will be kept until the announcement is formally made by high state official to the representatives of the nation.

The Universal Supply Store.

The only one of its kind in British Columbia, Russell, McDonald and Co., 134 Douglas street. Dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, tinware, glass and crockery, remarkably cheap. Boys' suits made to order, $5.00; boys' pants made to order, $1.25; mens' pants to order, $3.00. Tickets are now being issued for half yearly drawing; $210 cash prizes, $300 in silverware. w

Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam loosens the phlegm, curing coughs, colds, hoarseness, croup, asthma, bronchitis and all affections of the throat and lungs. w-f-s

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

The Tariff Changes Introduced by Hon. Mr. Foster.

The New Duties Not Meeting with Unanimous Approval—The Budget Debate—Some Great Speeches.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 28.—I suppose there was hardly a business man in Canada who does anything of an import trade but what had his thoughts turned Ottawawards yesterday. I have seen more crowded galleries on budget day in the commons, but perhaps there has never been manifested amongst the members themselves so much interest in the prospective tariff changes. Last year and the year before delegation after delegation came to Ottawa, pressing for tariff revision, and although no promises were made on the part of the government, many believed that certain changes would be made. It turned out, however, that they were doomed to disappointment. This session, comparatively early, the announcement was made by Sir John Macdonald that the government intended to bring down some important tariff resolutions, and to-day the changes have gone into effect. It is needless for me to say much about Mr. Foster's statistics. The result of the operations of last year was announced some months ago, the surplus being $1,865,035. The surplus for the current year, which ends in June, is estimated at about $2,700,000, and the estimated surplus for next year $2,500,000. The revenue this year will be about $39,200,000, and next year it is expected it will be about the same. A profit of nearly $3,000,000 on a business of less than $40,000,000 is not bad. There is this drawback, however, that the increase in the national debt up to 1892, and that after that we shall begin to pay the debt off. When Mr. Foster had recited his figures he launched out into a glowing panegyric of

THE DOMINION'S PROGRESS AND GREATNESS

and his eloquent compliment to the foresight and courage of the statesmen, who with a sublime faith in our future, had dared at an early stage in our then insecure national government to incur the great financial responsibilities they did, was well worth listening to. The Minister then proceeded to devote an hour to the principal changes he proposed to make in the customs duties, a synopsis of which was duly telegraphed to THE COLONIST. Every collector of customs in the country will receive a copy of the amended tariff by mail, and the printed lists will reach Victoria simultaneously with the arrival of this letter. It is needless, therefore, for me to occupy space in referring to the changes at length, as it will be possible for any person interested to procure copies. I am bound to say, however, that amongst the Ministerialists the changes do not meet with unanimous approbation. The amended tariff will undoubtedly be a grand thing for Ontario, but it strikes pretty hard at some of the other provinces. One Conservative member from Nova Scotia, representing a constituency one half of the voters in which are coal miners, told me to-day that it would be utterly impossible for him to face the music of another election and to satisfactorily explain the increase in the duty on flour from 50 to 75 cents per barrel. The Ontario members are simply delighted with this change, and one of them said to me to-day that if Sir John went to the country to-morrow simply on the tariff issue he would receive a tremendous majority from the premier province. The farmers are tickled with the increased duty on pork and beef, the millers, along with the farmers, will profit largely by an increased duty on flour, while the fruit producers and nurserymen benefit by the reimposition of the duties which were taken off two years ago by a fluke. British Columbia gains by the removal of

THE DUTY ON MINING MACHINERY,

and in this connection some observations which Col. Prior made to me tonight may not be out of place. Said he: "If the concession, which the Government has made in placing mining machinery on the free list, will not only be a boon to the province of British Columbia, but an act of justice as well. Although Canadian manufacturers may lose a little for a year or two, it will be better for them in the end, as they will be able to see now what kind of machinery is required for mining. Without free mining machinery I am perfectly certain that there would have been no mines developed in British Columbia within a reasonable time, but now that American capitalists, particularly, see that they can get their machinery in at a reasonable figure they will be sure to invest large sums of money in the Kootenay country and at other accessible points near the railway. The British Columbia members have been hammering away at the government to secure this concession for the last three years, and it is some satisfaction to us to know that at last our efforts have been crowned with success." "What about the three years limitation?" asked THE COLONIST correspondent. "At the present time," said the genial colonel, "I consider that that limitation will be quite ample. Sufficient time is afforded in three years to demonstrate beyond a doubt what are the different classes of ores that will have to be treated, and thus we shall be able to see what kind of machinery will have to be used. I am a strong upholder of the N. P., and as soon as this is shown I believe that our own Canadian manufacturers will be able to supply the machinery we want. Our iron works in Victoria can make any machinery that is required for any class of mining, but the reason they have not done this hitherto has been that the patterns cost several thousand dollars, and no machine shop would care to go to the large expense of buying patterns for any special class of machinery unless they were certain they could sell a good quantity of these machines. As soon, however, as it is ascertained what classes of mining machinery will be most required in the province,

OUR VICTORIA IRON WORKS

would at once be prepared to go to the outlay of procuring patterns and putting themselves in the position to manufacture the necessary mining outfits. I am very sorry that the government has seen fit to propose to the House an increase in the duties on flour and beef, as I consider an increase on these two articles most detrimental to the interests of our province. When I say this I believe I am speaking the sentiments of the whole of the B. C. contingent, although I have no authority to say so. I greatly regret that the government has made a change in these two articles."

Shortly afterwards THE COLONIST correspondent ran across Mr. Earle, and asked him what he thought of the tariff changes. Said he: "We are pretty well satisfied with the arrangement with reference to the admission of mining machinery. We are thoroughly convinced that the machinery we want is not now made in Canada. Every enquiry has been made to ascertain if it could be obtained within the Dominion, and, therefore, as the machinery is not made here this concession will enable us to get it in free. Several large and influential companies are ready to embark largely in crushing, smelting and everything in connection with mining, and it only required the removal of the heavy duties on what is probably the most valuable machinery of its kind in the world to induce them to embark upon what is at the best a somewhat risky enterprise. Mining is always a hazardous undertaking to capitalists, and therefore, I think, we ought at all times to do what we can for the purpose of encouraging this industry, an industry which is of the greatest importance to our people, probably the most important of any industry in B. C. With regard to the three years limitation, that was what we asked for. Early in the session, when

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waited upon the Government in a body, we represented that it would be an advantage to the manufacturers of machinery in Canada if we were successful in getting our mines developed, as by the free importation of machinery for three years there would be a sufficient market created for further machinery, and an inducement to them to obtain the patterns and build the machinery in Canada. As it is, the manufacturers know so little of what is really required, and will not know until they see the machinery we want in actual operation, that it will be a positive advantage to them for us to bring in the machinery free for a while. The concession will actually have created a market for them. With regard to the advance in the duty on flour, I believe all the British Columbia members are opposed to it. Hearing of the strong pressure which was being put upon the Government to increase the duties, we, early in the session, made representations to the Government for the duty to be kept at 50 cents a barrel. We did so for the reason that British Columbia has to import the larger amount of the flour which she consumes than is made in the province, and consequently the increased duty will most likely enhance the price to our consumers. We have this crumb of satisfaction, however, that we have succeeded in inducing the Government not to make the duty $1 a barrel as was asked for by the Ontario millers. I believe it was the intention of the Government to advance the duty to $1 a barrel, and I think it is largely due to the representations of the B. C. members, as well as those from the maritime provinces, that we have succeeded in keeping down the advance to 25 cents a barrel, instead of 50 cents as was asked for."

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

It is most discouraging to have to put up, year after year, with the blue ruin speeches of Sir Richard Cartwright. Following the Minister of Finance, he gave us for over two hours one of his doleful ditties of the ruin and desolation which he says Canada is on the one hand, and the necessity of free trade with the United States, on the other. Referring to the McKinley Bill, now before Congress, he claimed that if it passed it would be as much as the result of the ill-advised actions of the government, who had seemed to do everything in their power to aggravate and annoy the States, and now if they hit back by means of this bill, which would do a great injury to many Canadians, it would be entirely the fault of the government. After Sir Richard Cartwright had concluded, Dr. Ferguson, of Welland, rose and asked if it were true that Sir Richard Cartwright was at Washington at the time the McKinley tariff was proposed, and he desired to give the honorable gentleman an opportunity to state to the House whether or not the rumor was true. Evidently Sir Richard did not like the question. He flushed, looked uncomfortable, and finally blurted out that he knew nothing about the McKinley tariff. He said he never was consulted about it nor had a word to say about it. Sir John Macdonald reminded him that that was not an answer to the question, but Sir Richard declined to give any further satisfaction, and the House had to draw its own inferences. Mr. Colby, the new president of the Privy Council, replied to the ex-finance minister, and his reply is acknowledged on all hands to have been one of the most valuable contributions on tariff matters of late years. He clearly proved the fallacy of Sir Cartwright's statistics, and showed from competent authorities that many of the States of the Union were in a far worse condition than adjacent States of the Union. He then made an incidental reference to the wonderful growth of Canadian cities, and presented a glowing picture of the prospects ahead of us. Yesterday the debate was continued by Messrs. Paterson, Charlton, Peter White and others.

ONTARIO MATTERS.

A good deal of attention has been devoted this week to the proceedings of the Ontario Legislature, especially the Toronto House of Assembly. If all that we hear be true, there have been some lively times in the little ramshackle building on Front street. This is the last session of the present Legislature; it is therefore the fighting session, and the fight of the session has taken place this week. As British Columbians are doubtless aware, under the British North America Act the Roman Catholics of Ontario are guaranteed to them, their separate schools. The opposition allege that the Mowat government, instead of recognizing that prima facie all school supporters should be subsidized out of public school supporters unless they declared their adhesion to the separate schools, and that thereby they have been undermining the great principles of our school system. It is urged, and with good reason doubtless, that every effort should be made to promote the public school system of the province, and that as little encouragement as possible be given towards the developing the separate schools, outside, of course, what the Roman Catholics are fairly entitled to under the constitution. There appear to be grounds for the belief that Mr. Mowat has been dickering with the hierarchy, and accordingly Mr. Meredith's proposal to give separate schools aid