

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1901.

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THE DAILY COLONIST.

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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

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THE SEASON'S PROSPECTS.

The prospects for the coming season of the mining country, in whose progress Victoria is specially interested, are very good. The field is widening steadily. There were many people who thought that the Klondike diggings would be exhausted in a very short time, and after that the Golden North would become a memory.

Coming nearer home, the mines of the West Coast, which have been steadily increasing trade with Victoria for several years, will during 1901 be more actively worked than ever. One might almost feel justified in saying that from what is now in sight there is good ground to expect a one hundred per cent gain in the importance of these mines during the next twelve months.

The importance of the Mount Sicker mines is steadily advancing, and in short, taking the Island as a whole, we feel very confident that its mining interests will contribute more to the business of this city this year than they ever have during any season in the past.

We have no reason to suppose that there will be any less activity in coal mining this year than last. We regret to have observed that Mr. Zlobins, of the New Vancouver Coal Company, not long ago notified his men, when they asked for an advance in wages, that they might be asked to accept a reduction. This suggests that there is likely to be a drop in the coal market, but we have no other information on the point.

We pointed out yesterday that the miners expect a good season for fishing, and there seems to be no reason to expect any decrease in activity in the lumber trade. It is too early yet to say whether there will be any railway construction during the year that will contribute to the business of this city. We look for a good tourist year, although the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo may serve to divert a good deal of western travel eastward.

In such a review as this, mention ought to be made of the war cloud arising between Russia and Japan. One cannot very well see at this distance how an outbreak of hostilities is to be avoided. If it would come, while there would be no immediate prospect of Great Britain being involved, there would be much preparation for eventualities, and this would have an effect upon business on the British Columbia coast.

and his rulings were undoubtedly sound, but it would have done no harm to have given Mr. Curtis all the rope he needed for the more he had the more likely he was to hang himself, so to speak, by showing that under the guise of a simple motion for papers, he was really asking the house to vote want of confidence in the government.

It is hardly necessary to say why the government could not bring down the papers asked for. More than one minister has already declared in the house that circumstances prevented a declaration of policy on the railway question at the present time. It is immaterial to inquire as to the sufficiency of those circumstances. The ministry deem them sufficient, and that is all that at present any one has a right to ask. It was hardly necessary for Mr. Turner to explain that no policy could be announced in the absence of a reply from Ottawa.

The house has full confidence in the ministry, and that being the case, it was really unnecessary for anything more to be said than that it was not deemed expedient as a matter of public policy to bring down the papers at the present time. But Mr. Turner, with that desire always favored by the present administration to take the house into its confidence, went further than this and suggested two most cogent reasons why the papers should not be brought down. One of them was the fact that application for the building of the road had been advertised for, and the time was not yet up, and the other, that no reply had been received from the Dominion government on the several matters relating to railways submitted to them.

MR. ELLIS SUGGESTS.

Mr. W. H. Ellis was a witness before the Chinese Commission yesterday, and made a suggestion that is well worthy of consideration by the federal authorities. He pointed out that the real objection to Chinese and Japanese immigration is that they cannot and will not assimilate with the white population, and he did not think it desirable that they should do so. Before speaking of his practical suggestion, some observations may be made in regard to the matter of assimilation. Most of the witnesses who have spoken of this phase of the question have treated it as though it meant that the Oriental immigrants would adopt our methods of life, and by and by demand the same rate of wages as white people do. We think that assimilation means very much more than that. When a Scandinavian or an Italian or a representative of some other European nationality comes to Canada, his individuality soon becomes merged in the population, and if he himself does not become like the rest of us, his children do so. The European races under favorable conditions actually assimilate, so that in a generation or two it is not possible to tell what the descent of their progeny has been. We have in Canada people who have within a few generations back had ancestors representing several very distinct nationalities. This sort of assimilation is wholly the question of the respect to the Chinese. That race has no desire, as a rule, to intermarry with the white race, neither has the white race any desire to contract matrimonial alliances with the Chinese. The few exceptions to the rule only make its universal character the more evident. It is very true to say whether there is any disposition on the part of the Japanese to intermarry with the white race or vice versa, but we think the evidence is all the other way. Neither do we think it at all desirable that there should be any such amalgamation of races. As a rule such intermixtures of blood do not produce good results, as is shown in the case of the Eurasians of India. We think, therefore, that the assimilation of the Oriental and white races is not a subject which can be considered at all at the present time, with the slightest advantage.

THE FISHERIES.

We print this morning a memorial presented by the Salmon Cannery to the provincial government. The facts there stated are of the utmost importance. We fancy that comparatively few people have an adequate idea of the value of this industry to British Columbia. The yield of the fisheries is second only to that of the mines, and far ahead of that of the sawmills. It is a million and a quarter dollars are paid out of the Fraser river alone for fish, and the amount of the necessary supplies for the province is fully \$3,000,000 in a good year, not including what is sent out of the province for tin plate and other material. Surely an industry of this magnitude and importance cannot have no treatment that can be given. We regret to learn that salmon fishing is on the down grade, and that the cannery on the Fraser expect only one more good year. Practically nothing is being done to replenish the stock of fish. We shall say nothing further at present, but will take the matter up again. In the meantime we invite perusal of the memorial.

Mr. Ellis' suggestion is that the money collected by the Dominion as Chinese head-tax should be used as a fund to bring immigrants to this province. This is a practical suggestion, and we repeat that it is well worth the very serious consideration of the federal authorities. British Columbia needs colonists. It needs a large number of people ready to undertake manual labor. It needs farmers. It needs domestic servants. Some of these may be procurable in Eastern Canada, but we think only a limited number. They are probably procurable in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and in Central Europe. To a limited extent they may be procurable in the United Kingdom. We think it is desirable that the money, paid by the Chinese in order to enter the province and compete with white labor, should be expended in securing immigrants who will render the influx of people from the Orient no longer necessary.

THE SALMON FISHERIES.

There is no politics in the demand of the salmon cannery for consideration at the hands of the government of Canada. They themselves say that there is not. They are not specially complaining against Sir Louis Davies any more than against his predecessors in charge of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. They have never had the consideration to which the magnitude of the industry in which they are engaged entitles them to. The cannery say that the industry is on the wane. They must know whether this is true or not. They can have no possible object in making such a statement if it is not true. As long as there are plenty of fish to be caught, it is a matter of supreme indifference to them whether they are the property of salmon hatcheries or in the ordinary way, are produced in artificial hatcheries. What they want is salmon, and they say that there is imminent danger of the supply being exhausted, they know that they are talking about, and are not to be understood as wanting a law for hatcheries for the mere sake of having them. We may, therefore, in discussing this question, accept as established that there is danger of the supply being exhausted. Certainly such a contingency would be a very serious thing for British Columbia. The demand for canned salmon will increase, and instead of our being com-

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