

FIRE PROTECTION.

The statements made by Chief Deasy in yesterday's Colonist are very important, and citizens should lay them to heart. It is not our desire to take the role of an alarmist, but with the experience of New Westminster fresh in mind, it is evident that Victoria needs better fire protection. The proposed outlay being thought necessary by those whose business it is to investigate such matters, if the voters refuse to sanction the loan, the fire underwriters may find themselves compelled by orders from their head offices to increase insurance rates, and this would cost the property owners very much more than the interest and sinking fund upon the \$20,000 asked for. In point of fact the sum which it is thought will be adequate for present purposes is comparatively small. A very ordinary fire, which the new appliances would prevent, would easily entail a loss of a much larger amount. The Chief's statement that "we seldom save a building" above Cook street makes action imperative. Voting on the proposed loan will take place on November 2nd.

THE PROVINCE AND THE YUKON

Commenting upon the suggestion that the Yukon should be annexed to British Columbia, the Toronto Star says that our history "is not calculated to assure the ordinary Canadian that the province is especially fitted to cope with the Yukon problems." The Star has read the history of British Columbia to very little purpose, if it really believes this. The Yukon problem is no more difficult than those with which the province has already successfully dealt, as it is essentially the same in character. What is the "Yukon problem"? It is the administration of the law in a mining country. British Columbia has been dealing with such a problem successfully for years in a manner which has given profound satisfaction to very one, and without giving rise even to the faintest breath of scandal. There were the Fraser River, the Cariboo, the Cassiar, the Omineca, and other "rushes," and all were handled without friction and at a very reasonable cost. In later years there has been the development of Kootenay, which presented problems fully as difficult as any which confronted the Dominion government in the Yukon. It was managed in such a way as to call forth the strongest expression of approval from every one who had any means of forming an intelligent opinion about it.

The Star may object that the Yukon is a long distance away. Distance in these days is measured not by miles but by days, and judged in this way, Klondike is nearer Victoria than Omineca, and very much nearer than Cariboo or Cassiar were, when the gold excitement in those places was at its height. The nasty and contemptible insinuation, which the Star has seen fit to make, is probably the outcome of prejudice and ignorance. In common with some other Eastern papers, the Star has been stuffed full of all manner of misinformation about the government of this province. It was led to believe, through its political prejudice, the false and calumnious reports so diligently circulated by the opponents of the late administration. It ought to be ashamed of itself for so basely maligning the province.

The Star gives another reason. It says: "Canadians would not see the care of the Yukon pass into British Columbia hands without some apprehension that the circumstances which have given such trouble to the Dominion government will lead to a serious bungle in the hands of a lesser power."

The Yukon has given no one any trouble. The source of such trouble as has arisen has been Ottawa. No easier problem could be suggested than the administration of the Northern country presented. The men who went into the Yukon, no matter from what part of the world they came, carried with them a profound respect for British law. They went there expecting that the law would be rigidly enforced, and that equal justice would be done between man and man. The Mounted Police will bear testimony that a population more easy to control never went into any country. It is a calumny upon the venturesome miners of the North to suggest that they gave trouble to the Dominion government. The framing of the mining regulations called for the exercise of good judgment, which was not in evidence, while if the British Columbia regulations had been adopted, there would have been no complaining from any quarter. We concede, however, that it was desirable to collect a royalty from the miners, and the provincial regulations do not make such a charge, but it has given no trouble. Possibly in many instances the payment of the royalty has been shirked, but the shirking of taxation is not confined to Klondike, and there has been no trouble of any kind about it. The trouble of which every one has complained was in the Gold Commissioner's office and the alleged post office, and not elsewhere, and the miners here it with phenomenal patience. The good people of Toronto would not have submitted for fifteen minutes to the impositions endured by the rough miners of the North for a twelvemonth. Trouble, here never would have been any suggestion of such a thing as Dawson, if the responsible ministers had exercised even rudimentary judgment in dealing with the plain problem before them.

THE PUNISHMENT OF VICTORIA.

The Vancouver World threatens Victoria with the early loss of one of its representatives in the House of Commons, and in so doing uses this extraordinary language: "Victoria has again and again demonstrated the fact that as a people it has little or no sympathy with Liberalism and Reform principles generally, and the dominant party in Canada will not be true to itself or past traditions if it allows a continuance of the system now in vogue regarding the representation of the province in the House of Commons. Our contemporary has certainly the courage of its partisanship. No matter what reasons can be given against interference with the representation of this city as it has existed ever since Confederation, the World brushes them all aside because the voters here have hitherto seen fit to elect Conservatives to the House of Commons. The inference seems to be that if Liberals had been chosen the case would have been 'altered quite.'" We hardly think that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will feel grateful to the World for the employment of such language in connection with such a threat. Doubtless there are other constituencies in Canada which are over-represented according to the line of argument favored by the World. If the way the people vote is to be a guide in determining their right to representation in the House of Commons, then after each change of government we may be prepared to look for a gerrymander. We protest that the doctrine advanced by our contemporary is full of danger, and if it is to be acted on, will call forth an indignant expression of opinion from every quarter of the Dominion. The demand that Victoria shall be punished for its conservatism by being deprived of a representative in the House of Commons is so startling that it only has to be mentioned to be condemned.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

A very marked decline in the value of exports from the United States, as compared with those of last year, is noted by the commercial papers of that country, and some uneasiness is felt because of it. The greatest drop is in cotton, and there is a growing opinion that the production of this crop is larger than the market is likely to call for. Doubtless the Egyptian and Italian supply tends to diminish the demand in the United Kingdom for American cotton. With the opening of Equatorial Africa to intelligent cultivation, it may be expected that large quantities of cotton will be grown there, and while there will undoubtedly also be a large market for cotton goods among tribes, which now use very little dress material of any kind, the probability is that cheaper production and the fact that African cotton can be paid for in manufactured articles will have a tendency to turn the attention of British buyers to that source of supply. Cotton is no longer king in the United States, and will probably never be able to regain its throne. When speaking of the over-production of cotton, we are reminded that the real difficulty is not that too much is produced, but that too little is consumed. If every person in America used all the cotton really needed the supply would be inadequate to the demand. It is a remarkable thing that amid all the efforts made to open new markets, no one seems to think it necessary to investigate how the home market can be increased. We hear at intervals of over-production of this, that or the other commodity, but we do not hear of any reduction in the number of those who cannot get what is absolutely necessary to their comfort. Undoubtedly the purchasing power of the whole civilized world has greatly increased during the present century, but there remains the "submerged tenth," which never can get what it really ought to have. So it comes about that United States' cotton planters are disturbed because they cannot find a market abroad for what ought to be consumed at home.

RAILWAY TICKETS.

There is some agitation in England over the question of railway tickets, the contention being made that a ticket should be good at any time and in any direction. For example, if a man buys a ticket from Victoria to Nanaimo, he ought to be at liberty to use it to travel from Nanaimo to Victoria, and if he buys a ticket limited for a definite time, and is unable to use it within the limit, he ought to be at liberty to travel on it at any time thereafter. The reply of the railway companies to this is that it would entail much more elaborate book-keeping, would prevent the closing of accounts and open the door to fraud. Moreover it is stated that special rates are granted under special circumstances only, and it would be unfair to compel the companies to stand by those rates under normal circumstances. Persons who travel much buy mileage tickets, when they can get them, and such ticket is good at any time and in any direction. On suburban trains out of the large cities commuted tickets are sold at reduced rates, but these are good only under certain specified stations. It is hardly practicable to introduce the change suggested either in England or this country, and while undoubtedly some inconvenience and loss are caused to individuals by existing arrangements, they suffer very much less than the companies would by the adoption of the proposed system. The News-Advertiser wants a Royal Commission to investigate the Yukon scandals. We agree with it as to the desirability of an investigation by commission, but doubt if a "Royal" commission could be appointed for that purpose. One point is only as to the use of the word "Royal" in such a connection. The commission issued to Chief Justice McCall was called a royal commission, but it was not. It was a statutory commission. Royal commissions are those which the Crown or its representative issues by virtue of the prerogative. Other commissions may be either statutory, where they are appointed under a law expressly conferring upon the Crown the right to make the appointment, or parliamentary, where they are appointed in pursuance of a special resolution of parliament. It is desirable not to confuse these terms. We doubt the prerogative right of the Crown to appoint a commission to inquire into matters connected directly under the control of parliament. We assume that the Governor-General-in-Council is authorized by statute to appoint a commission in such a case, and one ought to be named. Parliament has undoubtedly such a right, and should exercise it, if nothing satisfactory is done between now and the session.

THE MANITOBA FREE PRESS ASKS WHY THE PAPERS WHICH QUOTE MR. H. S. WHITE'S LETTERS FROM DAWSON DO NOT PUBLISH HIS DENIAL THAT HE EVER SAID HE WAS GOING TO OTTAWA TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Manitoba Free Press asks why the papers which quote Mr. H. S. White's letters from Dawson do not publish his denial that he ever said he was going to Ottawa to take charge of the government. As the Colonist in its first paper in Canada in which these letters appeared, and as its relations with Mr. White were more intimate than those of any other Canadian newspaper, it is right for us to say that Mr. White never said that he was going to prefer charges at Ottawa against the officials at Dawson. As a matter of fact, it was not Mr. White's original intention to discuss the matter with the members of the government. It was in the Colonist office that the suggestion was made to him that, on his way east, he should see some of the ministers and lay before them a plain statement of what he had already published in the press, and such other matters as he might feel justified in saying. If it has been stated anywhere that he intended to make specific charges, he was greatly misrepresented. An embarrassment common to every political appointee to a judgeship was experienced by Mr. Justice Martin yesterday. He did not feel like hearing a motion in an election case, because he had taken an active part in the election. The feeling is natural, but unless the judge was a candidate for a judgeship in the case he is not disqualified, and even then he would be disqualified only as to that case. If the election cases are to come to trial, and any way, in view of the probability of the preliminary points coming before the Full court of appeal, Judge Martin will have to devote his spare moments to schooling himself into forgetfulness of his political career. Everything looks like a genuine advance in West Coast mining. The outlook is far better today than it has been at any previous date. This shows that development gives greater encouragement. There is room for another Kootenay on the West Coast, and when mining is in full swing, there, Victoria will go ahead by leaps and bounds. All that is required to give the district the needed impetus is the beginning of profitable shipments from one or two mines, and we judge this is not very far off. Next year may witness changes in that part of the province which would concentrate the attention of the investing world upon Vancouver Island to a degree comparable to the interest now taken in Kootenay. The record of the Calumet and Hecla mine on Lake Superior shows that there is a lot of money in copper. This property has been worked for thirty years, and in that time has paid \$33,850,000 in dividends. It is now valued at \$55,000,000. Its average net earnings are \$6,000,000 a year. Nearly a million and a quarter dollars were spent in developing this mine. Probably no mine would find a purchaser more readily than one giving good promise of copper. It is said on what appears to be good authority that the reason why the United States warships Oregon and Iowa have been sent to the Orient is not to do duty at Manila, but to be convenient to Chinese waters where it is thought they may have to co-operate with the British fleet to maintain the "open door" policy. A private London despatch says that the relations of Great Britain and France over the Fasoda affair are critical. The source of danger is to be found in the internal condition of France. One more serious occasion that country has sought in a foreign war relief from domestic problems. Hawaii is a part of the United States, yet, oddly enough, Hawaiian postage stamps, that is stamps bearing the arms of the defunct republic, are still in use. Alcohol is now being made from gas. A good deal of "gas" has been already produced from alcohol.

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The country has not been fully proved, but enough is known to warrant the most hopeful anticipations. The Atlin discoveries will greatly stimulate prospecting in Northern British Columbia and especially on the eastern slope of the Coast range. DE ROUGE MONT'S ADVENTURES. The hundreds of people, perhaps it would be true to say thousands, in British Columbia, who are following the story of the adventures of Louis De Rouge Mont, will be interested to learn that he lectured in St. James' hall, Piccadilly, some two weeks ago to a very large audience, that was disposed to be very critical. The London Times describes his lecture as very disconnected, and says that at times the interest flagged, but the meeting broke up with three cheers for the lecturer, who seems therefore to have scored a success. 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Clause I of the regulations to come in force on January 1st is intended to shut out foreigners, but as was pointed out at the Vancouver meeting, it would also shut out many others. It seems to have been agreed at a round table meeting, that is by the canners and the representatives of the fishermen, that Clause I is impracticable and will have to be changed, unless the fishing industry is to receive a blow that will be little short of deadly. The reduction in the number of licenses issued to canners was very strongly objected to by the cannery men present, and it is feared that they will be placed at a serious disadvantage. They are agreed that fishermen are entitled to a reasonable measure of protection, but they do not unjustly claim that the protection ought not all to be on one side, as it would be if the number of licenses issued to each cannery is cut down from 20 to 10. It is understood that there is no such difference of opinion between the canners and the fishermen on this point. The regulation forbidding the transfer of licenses is unwise. At present a license can be transferred with the consent of the department, and this works very well, the department meaning the local inspector. The proposed change will be hard both upon the canner and the fisherman, for it is very easy to suggest cases where it might be a serious loss not to be able to transfer a license. We think that if the regulation on this point is allowed to remain as it is, the public interest will be fully protected. The requirement of a two-months previous residence in the province before a person may receive a license, bars fishermen from other parts of Canada or from the United Kingdom, who may have come to the province immediately before the fishing season, or have lived here for a longer period and not registered as fishermen. Indeed, there was no difference of opinion at the meeting as to the undesirability of establishing a register of fishermen, and chiefly for the reason given above in connection with Clause I. It is to be hoped that the fisheries department will see its way clear to make such modifications in the regulations as will prevent any interference with the very important industry to which they apply. We are encouraged in this hope by the observations made by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and the attitude taken by Messrs. McInnes, Maxwell and Morrison at the meeting. The views of Mr. Thomas Earle, who is both a canner and a member of the House of Commons, ought to have a great deal of weight with the department, for he is not only ought to know what the industry requires, but can be held to account for his recommendations upon the floor of parliament. When Col. Prior stated that he was always prepared to support Mr. Earle on this subject, he said what most people will consider a wise thing. In view of Mr. Earle's peculiar dual representative position. CHURCH OPENING. The new Presbyterian church in Sooke will be opened for divine worship on Sabbath, October 30, at 11 a.m., by Rev. D. Macleod. A great deal of work has been done since the opening of the church. At 7 o'clock Mr. Lyman A. Thompson will preach his farewell sermon. The public is invited to all the services.

A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. Awarded Highest Honors, World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

THE SALMON REGULATIONS.

The regulations to govern salmon fishing call for the very serious consideration of the fisheries department, and the discussion at the meeting held in Vancouver last Thursday will do much towards putting the matter in the proper light. The cannery owners recognize the desirability of the department to do all in their power under the circumstances, and there is no hostility between them and the fishermen or the labor organizations. On all sides there is a desire to get at the best possible arrangement. In view of this, no great difficulty ought to be experienced in framing regulations that will meet the peculiar exigencies of the British Columbia fishing industry. One thing must not be lost sight of in this connection, namely, that the conditions existing on the two coasts of Canada in regard to fishing are very dissimilar. On the Atlantic there is a large population, which makes fishing its chief means of obtaining a livelihood, and in other work in which the men engage is simply to occupy themselves when there is no fishing to be done. On the Pacific Coast the men who fish follow that occupation only when they have nothing else to do. Hence there is no certainty from year to year whether there will be enough men to supply the canneries. Hence also the attempt to rigidly confine the issuing of licenses to British subjects is not likely to result in giving any more employment to this class of residents than they would otherwise obtain. There is quite as often a shortage of fishermen as a sufficient supply. As the regulations now stand every holder of a license is supposed to be a British subject, but not very stringent means are taken to enforce this provision. Clause I of the regulations to come in force on January 1st is intended to shut out foreigners, but as was pointed out at the Vancouver meeting, it would also shut out many others. It seems to have been agreed at a round table meeting, that is by the canners and the representatives of the fishermen, that Clause I is impracticable and will have to be changed, unless the fishing industry is to receive a blow that will be little short of deadly. The reduction in the number of licenses issued to canners was very strongly objected to by the cannery men present, and it is feared that they will be placed at a serious disadvantage. They are agreed that fishermen are entitled to a reasonable measure of protection, but they do not unjustly claim that the protection ought not all to be on one side, as it would be if the number of licenses issued to each cannery is cut down from 20 to 10. It is understood that there is no such difference of opinion between the canners and the fishermen on this point. The regulation forbidding the transfer of licenses is unwise. At present a license can be transferred with the consent of the department, and this works very well, the department meaning the local inspector. The proposed change will be hard both upon the canner and the fisherman, for it is very easy to suggest cases where it might be a serious loss not to be able to transfer a license. We think that if the regulation on this point is allowed to remain as it is, the public interest will be fully protected. The requirement of a two-months previous residence in the province before a person may receive a license, bars fishermen from other parts of Canada or from the United Kingdom, who may have come to the province immediately before the fishing season, or have lived here for a longer period and not registered as fishermen. Indeed, there was no difference of opinion at the meeting as to the undesirability of establishing a register of fishermen, and chiefly for the reason given above in connection with Clause I. It is to be hoped that the fisheries department will see its way clear to make such modifications in the regulations as will prevent any interference with the very important industry to which they apply. We are encouraged in this hope by the observations made by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and the attitude taken by Messrs. McInnes, Maxwell and Morrison at the meeting. The views of Mr. Thomas Earle, who is both a canner and a member of the House of Commons, ought to have a great deal of weight with the department, for he is not only ought to know what the industry requires, but can be held to account for his recommendations upon the floor of parliament. When Col. Prior stated that he was always prepared to support Mr. Earle on this subject, he said what most people will consider a wise thing. In view of Mr. Earle's peculiar dual representative position.

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FORTY-FIVE. CA. ADIAN DE. Murder of Galician. What Has Come All the Rain and Snow. Minister Dryden Treats Situation - St. Lawrence.

CRIME LAID TO. Winnipeg, Oct. 25.-A North-westerner, who is alleged to have murdered the of Bolesko Breechko last week. Detectives hunt after the man, an Indian cart have been circuitous route to Ross a fire being started. WHIRL CHOP A. Winnipeg, Oct. 25.-A western portion of the are most encouraging. covered the field a week threshing is now in progress, farmers were through stock yesterday, and a to all expectations was. Evidently the damage a week ago is fortunate realized.

NORTHWEST EL. Winnipeg, Oct. 25.-A tion campaign is being North and South in the Territorial assembly. J. K. McInnis has been chosen to North and South. The elections will be held in St. Albert and other districts, owing to delay in writs. CONDUCTOR K. Winnipeg, Oct. 25.-A railway, was crushed by St. Anne's station to-day and injured. He left child at Port Rowan, ON SUNK IN ST. LAW. Quebec, Oct. 25.-Passenger report from the Port, a full peller, collided with the crew, between St. Croix and St. Lawrence. The crew were taken off and proceeded to Montreal. BREWERY SEIZED. Winnipeg, Oct. 25.-A brewery in the legislature, caused by the Charles Calder, County candidates were Hon. minister of agriculture Charles Calder, County of PATRIOTIC L. Hamilton, Oct. 25.-T. mittie of the Wentworth have decided to petition for amendment and allow be erected in Quebec to General Montgomery.

SPAIN'S LOSS OF. Extension of Time for. Peace Commission and the Election. Washington, Oct. 25.-nothing to-day the situation was gone over for the members who did not see yesterday. It was expected time limit for evacuation had been extended from January 1 and that they do not want a certainty should assume control of the several cities as fast as they were evacuated. Spanish troops probably be the last of move its troops and the State ever, must be accomplished of January. The question in Porto Rico shore by receiving the careful President and members of a currency system of the island and internal revenue, as well as many other incalculable important subjects, are considered and probably upon some length in forthcoming message to.

Paris, Oct. 25.-The vetting of yesterday's says: "It is certain but desire to gain time, the wishing to take the day before the United social elections have they do not want a certainty previously disclosed to become known at Paris to the attention of the some agreement between States and Spain, outside regarding Spanish sovereignty which the Asso already declared on high France. Continuing, that the Spanish intervention of the Cuban debt after the elections in the expecting them to get I. adds: "That it fears appreciate the advantage from the electoral situation." FORTY-SEVEN I. Caravan Engulfed in M. During Terrific Loss of I. Solomons, European T. terrific storms have been doing a lot of enormous damage and causing loss. In one instance a crew of 47 persons and 1000 guinea in the river Call drowned.