The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH, 1890.

ABOUT RECIPROCITY.

Reciprocity in trade with the people of the United States is favored by the inhabitants of every province of the dominion of Canada. There may be individuals here and there in some of the provinces who try to make little of reciprocity, and who believe themselves and try to make others believe, that it is of very little consequence to the people of Canada whether they have intimate trade relations with the United States or not. But these are the rare exceptions, and when the cause of this indifference to reciprocity is enquired into it is generally found that some special petty interest of their own would be furthered by placing greater restrictions on the trade between the two countries. The people in general see very clearly that the fewer obstacles that are placed in the way of the trade intercourse between Canada and the United States the better for them both.

There are some who are so impressed with the importance of free trade with our southern neighbor that they would sacrifice the commercial independence of Canada in order to obtain it. But the advocates of commercial union are now very few on this side of the line. The greater number of Canadians believe that even so good a thing as free trade with the States can be bought too dearly, and when in order to secure it they are asked to make the Dominion what would virtually be a dependency of the United States they shake their heads and say, "the price is too high."

The people of Manitoba, we see, set a very high value on reciprocity. They believe that it is absolutely necessary for the prosperity of their province. There are many of the products of the United States, natural and manufactured, which they need as cheaply as they can possibly be procured, and they consider it a very great advantage to have that country as a market for their surplus produce. Their legislature, which is now in session, a few days ago passed a resolution in favor of unrestricted reciprocity. The resolution is a long one, but at the risk of wearying our readers we will reproduce it. It is as follows:

"Whereas, in the year 1884 a special Committee of this House, appointed to inquire into the operation of the tariff on agricultural implements, lumber, canned goods, etc., submitted a report to this House, signed by the Hon. Mr. Lariviere, then a member of the Government, stating among other things that the effect of the tariff on articles absolutely necessary for settlers bears very heavily upon our people; whereas the said report was approved of by the Legislative Assembly, and presented to the Dominion Privy Council by the delegates sent by this Province in said year, 1884, to obtain certain rights; and, whereas the tariff has continued since the year 1884, and still continues, to press very heavily upon the people of the Province of Manitoba; and, whereas, on account of our geographical position, it would be of very great benefit to the people of this Province to have closer trade relations with the States of the American Union lying to the south of us; and whereas the Legislature considers the question of closer trade relations with the American States as aforesaid so important to the interests of the people of this Province that although the subject is one beyond our jurisdiction, still it is advisable to make representations to the authorities that have jurisdiction in the matter with a view of obtaining an amelioration of our condition; and, whereas the late Hon. John Norquay and Hon. C. E. Hamilton, representing the province at the Quebec International Conference in 1887, agreed to a resolution in favor of unrestricted reciprocity; therefore, be it resolved that a humble petition be presented by this House to the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada praying that steps be taken by the said Dominion Parliament to negotiate with the Governments of the United States of America with a view of arriving at some arrangement by which there should be unrestricted reciprocity in trade between the two countries, and also that a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council praying that he will take the state of the province into consideration and will take such steps as may be necessary in order to facilitate the bringing about of unrestricted reciprocity in trade between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America."

The wisdom of a provincial legislature passing such a resolution as this is, we think, open to question. The regulation of the tariff is one of the matters over which the Federal Parliament has exclusive control. The provincial legislature has nothing whatever to do with that business. It would resent any attempt on the part of the federal legislature to interfere in matters which by the constitution are placed under the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces. The provinces are very properly jealous of their prerogatives. They want to exercise all the authority they possess without let or hindrance. They believe that the permanence of the confederacy depends upon each of the parts of which it is composed keeping strictly within its own right and refraining from interfering with the rights of the others. Is not such a resolution as that passed by the Manitoba legislature on the subject of unrestricted reciprocity an attempt to dictate to the general Government in a matter which is beyond its jurisdiction? Does it not constitute an undue interference with the authority of the Federal Parliament? If that Parliament should pass a resolution expressing an opinion as to the course which a provincial legislature thought fit to pursue on a subject strictly within its legislative domain, would not that legislature regard the resolution as an impertinence, and would it not consider that its duty to itself required it to disregard that resolution and to show in some emphatic way that it considered itself competent to manage its own affairs without dictation from any quarter? We rather think it would, and we are decidedly of opinion that it would be doing what was right when it pursued such a course. "It is," as the saying goes, "a poor rule that will not work both ways," and if it is wrong for the Federal Parliament to meddle with affairs that are within the purview of the provincial legislatures, is it not equally wrong for the provincial legislatures to attempt to influence the Federal Parliament in a matter over which the constitution gives it exclusive control?

We think it safest and in every way most prudent for such legislative body to confine itself to matters over which it has an unquestioned right to exercise its authority. Manitoba is well represented in the Dominion Parliament. The province is supposed to express its wishes and opinions in all matters of general concern through its representatives in the House of Commons and in the Senate. That is what they are sent to Parliament for. If the people of any province feel deeply on any subject, this of unrestricted reciprocity, for instance, and wish to instruct, or to strengthen the hands of their representatives with regard to it, they can hold meetings and pass resolutions, or they can circulate and sign petitions. This, we think is the proper and constitutional way of attempting to influence the action of parliament on any particular question. The right of the people of a province to hold meetings and to sign petitions to be presented to parliament is unquestioned. It is their right and it is often their duty to express their desires in these ways. And when the feeling is strong and general it obtains prompt and respectful recognition when it is so expressed. But when a body which is elected for a certain well-defined purpose, and which possesses exclusive powers of its own, in its corporate capacity takes upon itself to express opinions on matters outside its jurisdiction, is the independent body to which it dictates likely to pay much attention to the expression of its opinions and desires? Will it not be rather inclined to look upon the interference as unnecessary and unconstitutional?

THE COLUMBIA AND KOOTENAY.

The construction of the Columbia and Kootenay Railway will do much to develop one of the richest mining districts in the province, and perhaps on the continent. This railway will enable the miners of the Kootenay district to send their ores cheaply and quickly to be smelted, and will open a way to the sea for all the surplus products of that rich country. This is what is required. If that section of the province is not to become virtually a part of the State of Washington, efforts must be made to connect it with the Canadian system of railways. The construction of the Columbia & Kootenay Railway will do much towards accomplishing this purpose. It is to be hoped that it will not be long before a branch of the Canadian Pacific will give the miners an all-rail route to the sea. In the meantime the means of transport afforded by the Columbia & Kootenay Railway & Navigation Company will supply a want that has been long felt.

The C. & K. line is not a mere paper railway that may be built some time in the indefinite future or not at all. The line is already surveyed and the work of construction will be commenced almost immediately. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which has the matter in hand, expect to push the work so vigorously that the road will be finished in September of this year. This is pretty quick work, but if the C. P. R. once undertakes a work it does not let the grass grow under its feet while it is in progress. This is a good commencement, but we trust that it is only a commencement. This province needs plenty of railroad accommodation. Its surface is so rough, and it is intersected by so many ranges of mountains that ordinary wagon roads are only useful for short distances. The time, we trust, is not far distant when private companies will find it to their interest to construct railways to open up all the rich mining, grazing and agricultural districts of the province.

VANISHED.

It was only the other day that our American neighbors were complaining about their extraordinary surplus. Their Government has for years been taking from the people a great deal more money than it required for its legitimate purposes. Although it kept paying off the national debt as it became due, and some of it before it had matured, there was at the end of each year a large surplus in the Treasury. This surplus kept accumulating until the United States Government was literally embarrassed by its riches. The great problem with its statesmen was how are we to continue the present protective policy and at the same time get rid of the surplus? Mr. Cleveland recommended Congress to take the tax off the necessaries of life and off the raw material of manufacture. But this policy, honest and wise as it was, lost him the Presidency. But when the Republicans were elected to office they were not long in making the surplus fly. They put Corporal Tanner in office and if he were allowed to have his way he would have expended the whole of it and a good deal more in pensions. But Tanner was too great a spender for even the Republicans and he had to step down and out. The spendthrift spirit, however, was not exercised with the spending demon Tanner. It is in the party still and is doing its work splendidly. Estimates for the coming fiscal year show not a surplus, but a deficit of $73,000,000. The estimated revenue is $450,000,000, and the estimated expenditure is $523,000,000. This is how Uncle Sam's money is to go.

OUR very polite contemporary, the organ of the Opposition, trying to put a bold face on its failure to produce authorities to back up the opinion it has uttered in its such confidence on the arbitration clause of the Attorney-General's bill, says: "We may as well tell the THE COLONIST that it has got all the 'authorities' from the Times that it is going to get." This is no news to us. We knew all along that what it said on the subject was utter nonsense, and that no authority, ancient or modern, could be found to support a position so manifestly untenable as the one it took. It was not for our own sake that we asked for authorities but for the sake of those who might be deluded into believing that a newspaper which condemned the legislation of the dominion and of Ontario on the subject of arbitrations must have some authority for the opinions it so confidently expressed. It is now seen that the Times evolved its opinion on this question of law out of its own inner consciousness. The material, it must be allowed, was poor, and consequently the manufactured article was worthless. The News Advertiser is in the same predicament. Its opinion either originated with itself or it borrowed it from the legal luminary of the Times. In either case it was not worth a straw.

THE TARIFF.

The changes made in the tariff can hardly be said to be very important, and will not, we think, very greatly help or hurt any Canadian industry. The object of the greater number of these is to give greater protection to the farmer. The increased tax on flour is, no doubt, a concession to the Ontario millers. Whether it will have the effect of reviving their business, which they declare to be languishing, we take the liberty to doubt. However, time will tell. The increased duties on animals and on meats will press more hardly on the inhabitants of British Columbia than it will on those of any other provinces, for the simple reason that they consume more imported provisions of all kinds than those of any of them. It must be remembered that many of the duties are not altogether new. The duty has been increased. For instance, the duty on sheep has hitherto been twenty per cent. It was raised on Thursday to thirty per cent. This increase of ten per cent. in the aggregate is considerable, but it does not warrant the dealers making a large increase in the price of the article on which the duty has been raised. British Columbia is a large importer of mutton in the shape both of sheep and dead meat. Last year we imported 138,759 lbs. of mutton, the duty on which was $1,387, or a cent a pound. The duty on mutton has been raised to three cents a pound, so that we may take for granted that very few carcases of mutton will, as long as the tariff remains as it is, be imported into British Columbia. The dealers will buy their mutton in the States on the hoof. Last year by far the greater quantity imported came in that shape. There were imported 33,816 head of sheep, valued at $63,087. The amount of duty paid was $12,607; under the tariff as it is now it would have been $18,910. The increase in the price to meet the duty would be one cent in ten. It is as well that the consumer should know this, for no doubt representations will be made to him that the increase in the price of the mutton he uses will be necessarily three cents a pound. The increase on mutton imported as butchers meat is only two cents a pound, and in the shape of sheep very little, if any, over one cent a pound.

It is contended that the increase of duty will encourage the raising of sheep on the ranches of the province. The rancher has hitherto had a duty of twenty per cent in his favor whether an increase in the import duty of ten per cent. will be sufficient to enable him to go into the business of sheep raising with a prospect of profit, those acquainted with the business can best tell. But six thousand dollars, the amount of the difference between the duty collected last year and that which will be collected during the current year, provided the import is the same, seems to be a small sum to effect a change in so large an industry as that of ranching.

The reader will see from the following statement how the trade of the province will be affected by the increased duties. During the year ended June 30th, 1889, there were imported into British Columbia:

	No.	Value.
Horned cattle	551	$17,907
Horses	240	17,838
Sheep	33,816	63,037
Swine	2,819	31,034
All others	5,236	5,236
	lbs.	
Lard	349,341	38,171
Bacon and hams	677,177	74,021
Beef	28,240	1,663
Mutton	138,759	10,775
Pork	17,540	1,659
	barrels.	
Flour	27,990	115,265

There could, we think, be very little said in favor of these taxes on the necessaries of life, were it not that there is the best reason for believing that the Congress of the United States intend to impose duties nearly, if not altogether, prohibitory on the agricultural produce of the Dominion. By what is called the McKinley Bill, old duties on agricultural produce are increased and new ones imposed. On eggs, which have hitherto been on the free list, a duty of five cents a dozen is to be imposed, and hides, hitherto free, are to pay a duty of one and a-half cent per pound. The duty on barley is to be raised to 30 cents a bushel, hops to 15 cents a pound, buckwheat 15 cents a bushel and potatoes 25 cents a bushel. Assuming that these duties will greatly decrease if not altogether stop the export of the articles on which they are imposed, to the United States, the loss to the trade of the Dominion will be very considerable, as the following statement will show.

The exports from Canada to the United States, in the last fiscal year, of articles upon which the American tariff is recommended to be increased were:

Barley	$6,454,603
Seeds	30,496
Butter	7,879
Eggs	2,156,725
Potatoes	192,756
Hides	454,105
Fruits	307,895
	$9,604,449

The export of these articles to Great Britain for the same period was only $1,587,353.

Now if the Canadian farmer is to be driven out of the United States market by prohibitory duties it is only fair that measures should be taken to prevent his suffering from unfair competition in the home market. This is really not retaliation, it is simply self-preservation. We would much rather see close trade relations between Canada and the United States, but since they have made up their minds to buy nothing from our farmers the Government must do what it can to make up to them for the loss of the United States market. The measure may not be a full compensation, but it will be a help.

There is in the new tariff a concession to the miners of the Dominion. We are informed that "mining machinery not manufactured in Canada" is to be admitted free for three years. This is somewhat indefinite. Is the importer of mining machinery to be compelled to prove that a particular machine or piece of machinery is not manufactured in Canada. This requirement may place an almost insuperable barrier to the import of mining machinery from abroad. It will require a minute enquiry, which it will be very difficult to make, because those whom he must interrogate will have a strong motive to give him incorrect information. We see that the Canadian Locomotive and Engine Company have issued a circular denying the assertion made in a recent debate that mining machinery could not be made in Canada. They submit a long list of articles which they are prepared to manufacture, and which includes nearly every article intended for mining purposes. How would such a concern answer the questions of the importers? Would its manager give such a reply as would satisfy the Customs Department that articles of the kind imported are not manufactured in Canada? Then again, will it be possible for this or any other manufacturing concern before the expiration of the term of three years to manufacture mining machinery of the kind required, and compel the miner to take it without regard to its quality or its adaptibility to the work he has to do, or to import the foreign article. There is nothing easier than for the Government so to word the provision, the apparent object of which is to give relief to the miners, as to

"—keep the word of promise to our ear
And break it to our hope."

The concession will be really no concession at all, unless the word "now" is inserted in the clause which extends it, and even then it will not be altogether satisfactory. The miners of this province, at any rate, would not get any more than bare justice if the clause read simply "all mining machinery." But if it is impossible to obtain that measure of justice, surely the Minister of Finance could be prevailed upon to make the qualification read "not now manufactured in Canada." It seems to us that the miners will get no relief whatever from the mining machinery provision of the tariff if it reads as it has been telegraphed to us by our special correspondent.

We are glad to see that the changes in the tariff are so few, and that business generally has not been thrown into confusion, by unlooked-for alterations. We trust, too, that the changes which the policy about to be pursued by the American Congress have in view, when they will, before very long, be superseded by a measure of reciprocity, which will be profitable to both Canada and the United States.

A REVELATION.

What have those who are always trying to show that the United States is vastly superior to Canada as a place to make a living to say to the following resolution moved a week or two ago in the United States Senate by Mr. Voorhees?

"Whereas, the deep and widespread depression and decay of the agricultural interests of this American people, the enormous and appalling amount of mortgaged indebtedness on agricultural lands; the total failure of home markets to furnish remunerative prices for farm productions and the palpable scarcity and insufficient money in circulation in the hands of the people with which to transact the business of the country and effect exchanges of property and labor at fair rates, are circumstances of the most overwhelming importance to the safety and well-being of the government; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that it is the highest duty of Congress in the present crisis to lay aside all discussion and consideration of party issues, and to give the promised and immediate attention to the preparation and adoption of such measures and other measures as will underpaid laborers of the United States."

The story which this resolution tells is sadder and more discouraging than the most gloomy of the Jeremiads of blue-ruin Canadian orators. It is difficult to believe that it is of the farming population of perhaps the greatest agricultural country in the world that these dismal statements are made. Who would believe that the agricultural interests of the country which possesses an almost unbounded extent of the most fertile prairie land cultivated by an industrious and intelligent people are depressed. That these farmers have been obliged to incur debts which they find it impossible to pay, and that the market of sixty millions of which we have lately heard so much does not afford them sufficiently remunerative prices for the purchase of the land. There surely must be something rotten in the Republic of the United States when the farmers of the country are obliged to appeal to the legislature for relief. If what is said in Congress about the farms of the United States had been said in Parliament about the farmers of Canada, a crowd of politicians would spring to their feet and tell us that the only cure for the evils which produce such lamentable results is annexation. But these suffering farmers, whose condition is pictured in Senator Voorhee's resolution, have had annexation and the market of sixty millions and all the other advantages which the United States has to offer its citizens, and still we hear this dismal cry from their representatives in Congress. There is surely something wrong somewhere.

This is now the Epoch of New York accounts for the singular phenomenon, but even as it puts the case of the United States farmers it is bad enough.

There are bills now on the files of Congress, designed for the relief of the American farmer, which are quite as socialistic as the much-talked-of German legislation for the benefit of artisans. There is, to be sure, this radical difference, that the proposals to lend American farmers the credit of the United States to enable them to raise money on the security of their land or crops are not intended to become law, but merely to satisfy the dictates of party prudence. That is to say, the Republicans cannot afford to have the Democrats outbid them for the farmer's vote, and the pressure of debt being now very severely felt in the West, the good intentions of the party find expression in impossible schemes for a National Land bank and for the issue by the Treasury of money in exchange for warehouse certificates. The Farmers' Alliance of Kansas has appealed to the representatives of the State in Congress to do something to provide relief for the people about to be rendered homeless by the foreclosure of hundreds of mortgages. One law firm alone in Southern Kansas is said to have undertaken the foreclosure of 1,800 mortgages, and the case of Kansas is not a solitary one. But it will hardly be met by putting the National Government in the place of the Western money lender, and still less will it be met by extending to the farmer the "benefits" of the protective tariff. What he needs is the power to buy in the cheapest market, instead of being compelled to sell in the cheapest and buy in the dearest."

AN OFFER.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs we see has unanimously adopted Senator Hitt's reciprocity resolution:

"Resolved, That whenever it shall be duly certified to the President of the United States that the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to enter into such commercial arrangements with the United States as will result in the complete removal of all duties upon trade between Canada and the United States, he shall appoint three Commissioners to meet those who may be designated to represent the Government of Canada to consider the best method of extending the trade relations between Canada and the United States, and to ascertain on what terms the greater freedom of intercourse between the two countries can best be secured, and said Commissioners shall report to the President, who shall lay the report before Congress."

This on the face of it is a friendly resolution, but we are afraid that if we have to wait for reciprocity with the United States until the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to enter into such commercial arrangements as will result in the complete removal of all duties upon trade between the United States and Canada we will have to wait a very long time. This preliminary requirement has made Senator Hitt's resolution impracticable. We do not think that either the Canadian government or the Canadian people are prepared for such unrestricted reciprocity. It is very difficult to see how reciprocity, such as the resolution outlines, can be established without a Commercial Union. Unless the two countries had the same tariff it would be impossible to prevent smuggling. Foreign goods would, in spite of every precaution, be smuggled across the line ticketed of Canadian or United States manufacture as the case might be. But Commercial Union means giving the United States power to frame a tariff for Canada and depriving our government of the power of regulating its trade relations with other countries. Canadians are not prepared for so great a change as this. They would be reluctant to discriminate between Great Britain and the United States to the injury of the Mother Country, but they would be still more unwilling to give the United States a power over Canada which Great Britain does not exercise, and does not seek to exercise. Under Commercial Union the Parliament of the Dominion could not impose a single customs or excise duty without the consent of the United States Congress. Compare that condition with the commercial freedom which Canada now enjoys. Mr. Hitt means well, we dare say, but he makes a bad beginning.

TORTURE IN CHINA.

Perhaps the most cruel and the most unreasonable of the practices of our forefathers was that of torturing witnesses and suspected criminals, in order to compel them to tell the truth. What was a confession extorted in this way worth? How the innocent must have suffered. It is no wonder that many of them, unable to endure the torture, confessed to crimes which they had never committed. It seems wonderful to us in these days that men, and good men, too, were so slow to see how monstrously unjust it was to punish, and that with barbarous severity, persons who might be altogether innocent of the crimes of which they were accused. It is not much more than two hundred years ago since men and women were tortured and burnt, had their legs broken in the boot, and their finger nails torn out with pincers in Great Britain; and it is little more than one hundred years ago since torture was legally abolished in France. A knowledge of these facts should moderate our horror and our indignation when we learn that torture is still practiced in the courts of law in China. Confession in China is still necessary to conviction, and when the accused person whom the judge believes to be guilty obstinately refuses to acknowledge his guilt he is allowed by the law to subject him to torture. The accused is not stretched on a rack, screws are not applied to his thumbs, his legs are not screwed in the boot until the bone is crushed, he is not forced to endure the deadly embrace of the "maiden," these and others were the modes of torture resorted to by the outside barbarian in the good old times. He is in China beaten with bamboos of different sizes. The contumacious criminal or the suspected prevaricator is thrown on the ground face downwards, an officer of justice sits on his shoulders and another takes charge of his feet. Midway between them the executioner is squatted, who administers the allotted number of blows on the thighs of the victim. The number ranges from thirty to three hundred. The skin is seldom broken, but the flesh of the unfortunate creature is pounded to a jelly and becomes a livid mass. The petty thief is beaten on the hand and the false witness is slapped on the mouth. Mr. R. A. Gundry, who writes about "Judicial torture in China" in the Fortnightly Review for March, says:

"If a woman is 'economical of the truth' mouth slapping is the usual corrective; a sort of flapper, like a shoe, being the instrument employed. Instances are said to occur where the woman retires from court with her face swollen to the size of a pumpkin; and the statement is not difficult of belief. A score or two applications of the implement might easily produce such a result."

There are other instruments of torture besides these bamboo rods. One is the Cangue, which is a kind of yoke fitted to the neck. It presses on the apple of the throat, and when applied for any length of time and in the most rigid way, it causes great pain. Another instrument analogous to the western boot, but made of wood, is used to press the ankle bones. There is an implement also for squeezing the fingers. There are other forms of torture prescribed by the law. It is said that the more severe of these are seldom used. Beating on the thighs with the bamboo stick is the ordinary form of torture. Instances are given in the article of the application of torture, which are horribly cruel and abominably unjust, but the reviewer says:

"We are concerned, however, in the theory and practice of judicial torture rather than with the noxious and out of the way statutes of Chinese law; and the cases which have been quoted will suffice to illustrate both the form torture commonly takes and the abuses to which it is liable. It would however, be a grave error to suppose that the excesses of cruelty so frequently described are being daily enacted throughout the length and breadth of China as it would be to take the Chinese literati at their own valuation as possessing laws of paternal leniency. The truth no doubt lies between the two extremes."

NOT MUCH OF A CONCESSION.

It will be seen by yesterday's special telegram from Ottawa that the exemption of mining machinery is so restricted and qualified as to be of little or no advantage to the miners of British Columbia. We, for one part, cannot see why the government hesitated a moment in consenting in such a way as that to the urgent request of the Legislature of British Columbia and its representatives in Parliament. The infant and struggling mining industry of this province is evidently looked upon as a step-child by the government at Ottawa, as they refuse to grant it what every one must see to be bare justice, for fear of offending some petted and pampered industry of the East. We cannot say, however, that the result was unexpected, for whenever we read the very timid and exceedingly cautious speech delivered by the Finance Minister in the course of the debate on Mr. Platt's motion, we concluded that if any concession at all was made to the British Columbia miners it would not be worth much. He must have thought that they would be very easy to please when they would be satisfied with what he has deigned to give them.

THE NEW BANK ACT.

The Toronto Globe appears to be well satisfied with the new Bank Act. It seems to think that the measure introduced by Mr. Foster is just what was wanted. We see by the debate when the bill was introduced that Sir Richard Cartwright is very much of the same opinion. This is what the Globe says:

"The new Bank Act, as outlined by Mr. Foster, will preserve intact the most valuable features of the Canadian currency system, viz; (1) Full security for the redemption of the bank note issue; (2) the quick responsiveness of the volume of this issue to the changing needs of business throughout the year. The improvements which Mr. Foster proposes were foreshadowed in his speech at the Toronto Board of Trade banquet last year, when he signified that provision ought to be made for the prompt par redemption of the notes of suspended banks, and for the par circulation throughout the Dominion of notes issued by the chartered banks, wherever situated. The machinery by which he proposes to effect these improvements seems adequate, but may best be discussed hereafter, upon the publication of the Act and the expression of expert opinion thereon."

It is indeed somewhat surprising that the Finance Minister has been able to satisfy two such irreconcilables as the Toronto Globe and the leading Liberal financier.

AN ESTIMATE.

People are guessing as to what will be the population of the United States after the census, which is to be commenced on the 1st of June next, is taken. The Oregonian of the 27th contains an estimate which it says is not partisan. This estimate makes the population of the United States at the present moment 65,000,000. The population is made up as follows:

Six New England States	4,500,000
Six Middle States	15,000,000
Seventeen Western States	23,500,000
Thirteen Southern States	22,000,000

By the census of 1880 the population of these states was as follows:

New England	4,010,529
Middle States	12,196,086
Western States	15,608,083
Southern States	16,837,316

The increase during the last ten years, according to this, was about 30 per cent., and twice the population of 1860. A country that doubles its population in thirty years has not done badly. It must be remembered, too, that since 1860 the United States has been devastated by a great civil war.

It is estimated that the population of the United States is composed of 56,000,000 whites and 8,850,000 blacks. Seventy per cent. of the population is in the West and South. This fact makes these two sections probably the most important, that is if they were made solid and continued solid. But this is not likely to be the case. The west is far from being solid now, and there is an active disintegrating element in the South.

If the estimate is correct, and allowing the House of Representatives to contain 355 members the New England states would have, say, twenty-five votes in the house and thirty-seven electoral votes; the Middle, eighty-two votes in the house and ninety-four electoral votes; the Southern states would have 119 votes in the house and 145 electoral votes, and the Western states would have 129 votes in the house and 167 electoral votes.

Of the significance of these changes only those who are well acquainted with the political arithmetic of the Great Republic can have any idea.

HOPE MOUNTAIN PASSES.

TO THE EDITOR:—Will you allow me a small space in your paper to correct Mr. Robert Stevenson in his letter to your paper of March 21st in connection with the British Columbia Southern. In the first place, the little lake 14½ miles from Hope has an elevation of over 3,000 feet (not 1,400 feet, as Mr. Stevenson writes); this elevation was taken by Dr. Dawson and again last summer by Mr. Stewart, C. E.

Again, Mr. Stevenson does not state that this elevation occurs between Hope and the 12 mile post (which is about 1,950 feet elevation) so that at the start this route is impassable for a railway. Mr. Stewart went all over the ground Mr. Stevenson mentions, and he found the Canon route equally impracticable, as at this end between Hope and the 12 mile post.

However, this does not shut Hope out of a railway, as Mr. Stewart found a splendid pass up the Coquahalla, 23 miles from Hope, with an elevation of about 3,000 feet, with a natural easy grade to Otter Flat and Princeton, about 70 miles from Hope, or to Otter Flat and Nicola.

Thanking you to publish this,

JAMES WARDLE.

Hope, B.C., March 24th, 1890.

Almost all the hunters belonging to the sealer Mary Ellen have deserted the ship and gone to Port Townsend to secure another boat.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

Rich Resources of the Peace River District.

Dr. Dawson's Report on Kootenay's Mineral Wealth.

General Approval Not Accorded the Banking Bill—The Improvement of Eastern Waterways.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 22.—At last the House has the banking bill before it, and judging from the discussion which took place in the chamber when the bill was introduced, it is not at all unlikely that Mr. Foster will have a pretty hard fight if he insists upon its going through in its present shape. I briefly telegraphed you yesterday the gist of the bill, but as the matter is of considerable interest, not only to the bankers, but to the mercantile community as well, the main provisions may be repeated. The first change, that notes of solvent banks shall be subject to discount, but shall be paid at par all over the Dominion, is one which meets with general approval. It is, however, in respect of the provision for the redemption of notes of insolvent banks that opposition is manifesting itself. It is the intention that not only shall the notes be ultimately redeemed at par, but shall not be suffered to fall below par, subsequent to the date of redemption. A "bank circulation redemption fund" is to be created with this object in view. The banks are to pay into this fund on the first of July, 1891, when the Act goes into operation, a sum equal to 2½ per cent. of their average circulation, and then the year following 2½ per cent. more, making 5 per cent. in all. As the average circulation of the Dominion is about thirty millions, this will mean that a million and a half of dollars will be held by the government, and on this fund interest will be paid by the banks at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. It is contended, however, that this proposal will have no other effect than to compel the strong banks to lend their credit and credit to risk their resources for the purpose of sustaining their weaker competitors. Some of the bank men in the House are, therefore, protesting against being subjected to the penalty of a tax for the purpose of bolstering rash and reckless administration. They claim that if the circulation of the banks is already secured, then no interference with the basis of the notes issues ought to be attempted; while if further safeguards are deemed essential these should be erected upon a general principle equitable in application and sound in theory, which is argued that the 2 per cent. tax for the creation of a safety fund lacks. It is even urged that this guarantee fund would not be adequate to meet the failure of a large bank or a simultaneous failure of two or three smaller banks of large circulation. Sir Donald Smith, one of the most influential banking men in the House, attacked the guarantee fund with considerable vigor, and on a division nearly all of the leading banks of the country, the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of British North America, it may be well understood that even the money men themselves are not agreed on the subject. The Montreal Gazette, an out-and-out ministerial organ, goes so far as to say that Mr. Foster has been completely captured by the bankers, and criticism on the bill in such a quarter portends anything but plain sailing for the measure. The third proposition that before any bank can undertake business the promoters shall pay $250,000 into the hands of the finance minister is a good one, provided the government holds on to it sufficiently long, but there are some members who think the sum should be increased, and the period of making the wind-up extended over four or five years instead of two years, as the bill proposes. The measure also provides for the usual ten years extension of the bank charters and to introduce an audit system. The suggestion is that the shareholders shall appoint two auditors who shall have all facilities for inquiry into the bank's affairs, and who shall present their statement at the annual meeting, copies of which statement are to be lodged with the finance minister.

DR. DAWSON'S EXPLORATIONS.

In view of the attention which is being directed to the Kootenay Mining district, Dr. G. M. Dawson's report upon his exploration in that part of British Columbia during the past season is of considerable interest. From an advance copy of this report I gather that Dr. Dawson is greatly pleased with the mining outlook of that district. He says that much prospecting has been going on in both east and west Kootenay for the past two or three years, and a large number of promising discoveries—chiefly of silver bearing ores—have been made. Attention was first prominently drawn to the mineral wealth of the west Kootenay region when the discovery of rich ore by the Hall Bros., on Toad Mountain, became known in 1887. Speaking generally of the district, he says that the result of his examination has been to convince him that the importance of the mineral discoveries made has not been exaggerated, while their number and the area over which they are distributed is such as to guarantee a large and continuous output of good ore so soon as means are provided for the transport of the product to market. He expects to make a comprehensive report of the individual claim and deposits which he visited, and these will be published shortly. He points out, however, that in nearly every instance the result of his personal examination has been to verify the accuracy of the statements made in the publication known as the "Report on the Mineral Wealth of British Columbia," much of which consisted of a number of details respecting the various deposits furnished by Messrs. G. B. Wright and G. M. Sproat. Dr. Dawson says that the majority of the ores met with are to be classed as silver ores, and in the vicinity of Hot Springs and Hendryx these are, for the most part, argentiferous galenas, which, in a number of instances near Hot Springs, are decomposed to a considerable depth, forming so-called "carbonate-ores." These possess a special value owing to the ease with which they are worked, and their importance in the process of smelting the unaltered galenas. The aggregate quantity of such "carbonate ores" to be found in the deposits already through must be great, but Dr. Dawson thinks that all of these will, no doubt, pass in depth into sulphide ores. He says, moreover, that it is not yet possible to quote assays of the ores from the Harrison Lake district, although he has a large collection of specimens, but he thinks it is safe to say that from several of the claims considerable quantities of ore can already be obtained by ordinary hand picking which yield from 50 to over 100 ounces of silver to the ton, in addition to a high percentage of lead. The Hall Bros'. property on Toad Mt., known as the Silver King mine, has turned out a considerable quantity of ore, which has approached or surpassed $300 to the ton in total value as sold at the smelter. Other claims now being opened out, he reports, present a very favorable appearance. He refers to the lack of transportation for getting out the ores, and says that the West Kootenay district merely wants some satisfactory outlet, when great developments must take place. He points out the advantage of a proposed railway from Nelson to Sproat's Landing, but a still more efficient and permanently satisfactory route would, however, be afforded by a direct line of railway from the north end of Kootenay Lake to Revelstoke, a distance of about 86 miles by the route which would have to be followed. Of this length of line, however, only that part between Kootenay Lake and the north-east arm of Upper Arrow Lake need be constructed, in the first instance, with a length of about 48 miles; the remaining portion of the distance being for a time served by a steamer on the Columbia. He refers, also, to another alternative outlet, which might be supplied by a branch line from the Northern Pacific Railway (the proposed line, which has just been killed by the Railway Committee of the House of Commons) but, in any case, Dr. Dawson urges, that it is of importance to the prosperity of the district, that it should have a means of communication independent of the rulings of the United States Customs as to the introduction of silver-lead ores, etc., into that country. The metals likely to be produced in quality in the Kootenay district are silver, lead and copper, all of which may be sold to advantage at first hand in the markets to which the same metals are exported to the United States. The last observation of Dr. Dawson is an excellent reason for the action of the House of Commons in desiring to build up the mining industry directly in the province rather than letting all the ores be shipped to the United States. The Dr. says that during the past summer a considerable amount of substantial progress has undoubtedly been made in the exploration of the mineral deposits already known, while a number of new discoveries of promise have occurred. The output of ore, which has already in a small way been fairly initiated will, he thinks, increase from year to year, till British Columbia attains the prominence from a mining point of view which her great mineral resources guarantees. The rate at which this development may proceed must depend for the most part on the degree of energy which those primarily interested exhibit. Dr. Dawson also points out that gypsum, one of the minerals until recently unknown in British Columbia, has been discovered in large quantity on the Salmon river, but twenty miles distant from the C. P. R., and from the excellent quality of the specimens which he has seen he thinks this discovery may prove to be of great importance.

Another report shortly to be issued by the geological survey is that of Mr. R. G. McConnell, on explorations in the Peace river country, a district in which the people of British Columbia have also considerable interest. He says, summarizing his work, that the whole country between the Peace and Athabasca, north of the Loon—an area of about 25,000 square miles—is generally forested, mainly with spruce and poplar, and is everywhere characterized by an abundance of lakes, and of muskegs and marshes. Strips of excellent land are usually found along the main rivers and surrounding many of the lakes, and in the interior many areas, equal in size to an eastern county, might be selected which are well adapted for cultivation. Gold was found in many of the bars along the Peace river and in several places in sufficient quantity to deserve some attention. Four miles above the mouth of Battle river is a large bar, nearly a mile long, from which 15 or 20 colors of fine gold were obtained by washing a few hundred pans of gravel with the ordinary frying pan. The bar was tried at several points, and always with the same results. A small stream descends from the plateau on the opposite side of the river, and by prospecting its course across the river, which is here a thousand feet wide, the bar might be easily and inexpensively worked on a large scale. A few miles further up the river a bar was examined, which also yielded from 20 to 40 colors when washed in the way just mentioned. He reports finding also large quantities of gas and oil. It is evident, therefore, from these synopses, that the most British Columbia has a splendid territory, as yet, comparatively undeveloped.

CANADIAN WATER-WAYS.

A formidable delegation representing boards of trade of the leading cities of Ontario, swooped down upon the minister of railways and canals this week to urge the completion of the St. Lawrence canals to a uniform depth of 14 feet of water and the lengthening of the locks to 260 feet. The great Welland canal, which has cost Canada over $20,000,000, has been, throughout its whole length, deepened to 14 feet or more, but until the chain of canals on the St. Lawrence is made uniform with this it would be impossible for the large class of vessels to reach the great lakes, and marine men are anxiously looking forward to the time when it will be possible for ocean vessels to traverse the distance between Liverpool, Toronto and Chicago without breaking bulk at all. Undoubtedly this will be the case within a very few years, as Sir John Macdonald gave the delegation most gratifying assurances that the government intended to push the work forward energetically, and he went so far as to say that it would be possible to complete the links within three years. With the canal system completed Canada will be in a position to greatly improve her foreign trade, and already it is a matter of patriotic pride to see Canadians looking to the future and building vessels which are a credit not only to themselves but the country to which they belong. In view of the great possibilities of trade via the St. Lawrence, it is significant that the government and parliament has put its foot down firmly against any more bridges over the great Canadian waterway.

THE RYKERT INVESTIGATION.

Sir John Thompson's speech on the Rykert matter this week has been the subject of considerable comment in parliamentary circles. The impression had gained ground that the government was bent upon whitewashing Mr. Rykert, but the Minister of Justice left it clearly to be understood that, if Mr. Rykert wanted to clear his skirts of the charge that has been made against him, he had to do it himself. There is one peculiar feature in connection with the discussion in the House on Monday evening, namely, that after the opposition had, almost to a man protested against any reference to the committee on privileges and elections and placed themselves on record as opposed to any such move, that they capitulated most unceremoniously when they found that, perhaps, more was to be gained in this way than by pass