

The Colonist

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1893.

THE ARBITRATION.

It is not a little singular, but still, in a manner it is not surprising to notice the manner in which the award of the Behring Sea arbitrators is regarded by the people of Great Britain and the United States, who alike seem to have made up their minds that they have gained their point—the one in the maintenance of the principle for which they contended, the other in securing the object which they had in view. This is well expressed by the New York Herald, which says, "It gives to the Government and to its lessee, the fur company, all that was rightly asked." Our neighbors have, it would appear, reason to congratulate themselves; for though they are beaten they, as it is said, have gained all and more than all, which the late Secretary of State Blaine demanded. Britain's victory is for Canada worse than a defeat, for though it is logically expected to have secured to the B.C. sealers, indemnification for the losses to which they have been subjected by undue United States interference, it has, it is claimed, destroyed a local industry in which a capital of over \$500,000 has been invested, and in which some 1,500 or more men earn their living, and at a low estimate that from four or five thousand women and children. "Schooners for Sale" will undoubtedly be the announcement on all hands, and the United States or the Alaska Commercial Company will be able to come in and obtain cheap vessels and outfits for the prosecution of that industry which they have managed to look up against those who were the first to develop it and to demonstrate its possibilities. Captain Warren's point would appear to be well taken: "The arbitrators agreed that we were in a legal and legitimate business," his question being only the natural corollary, "but why should it be taken from us without payment for value received?" Doubtless there are many who will be disposed to agree with Captain Cox, although they will hardly undertake to say so, when he remarked that the decision is "not to protect the seals" while "the arbitration was merely a farce, the motive of which was to give some shadow of color, some reason which England could advance when told of the injury, wanton and illegal, done to vessels flying her flag. She did not want to protect them, but must have an excuse for neglect." This, it may be remarked, is a most serious reflection.

The question, however, not unnaturally arises whether or not, since the regulations submitted are outside of the questions presented to the Board, although it was intended that suggestions for the better protection of seal life in the future should be made—a binding. The principle at issue was whether or not the course of the United States was justified by international law, the proposed regulations being, it is claimed, merely suggestive of mutual action for the future, and that being the case, should be open to revision and amendment. There were five questions arbitrated upon involving matters of principle, and the correctness of the British position with regard to them was fully vindicated by the award. Not having committed any international wrong—and this was the contention of even the British Government—the Canadian sealers ought not, they say, to be compelled in spite of themselves to submit to regulations which, as even the American agent, Hon. John W. Foster, with others, has declared, are "much better than Mr. Blaine vainly offered to Lord Salisbury in 1890 as a settlement. Mr. Blaine then proposed as the seal restriction of pelagic sealing to prohibit within sixty miles of the Pribilof Islands. The present settlement is also more advantageous than the one proposed by Mr. Bayard in 1888, as he asked no protection for the seals during May and June."

There is, however, a silver lining to the cloud even should it unfortunately have burst upon us in its fullest intensity. There is the prospect, unless the American sealers repudiate their obligations, of the British Columbian sealers receiving indemnity for the vessels that have been illegally seized—some of them confiscated—and for the losses to which their owners have been put, on account of an unwarranted interference with them in their legitimate avocation, and for the hardships to which the crews and hunters have been subjected, because of the enforced stoppage of their lawful pursuits. Great Britain, although our sealers are, some of them, inclined to complain of her action, has paid the bill for the injuries inflicted by reason of the sudden putting into force of the *modus vivendi*, and it is now for the United States to meet their obligations, otherwise the feeling of dissatisfaction and injury will be intensified.

But there is a strong element of dissatisfaction in the United States. Secretary of State Gresham, who occupies the position formerly filled by the late Mr. Blaine, is among this number, his views, it is said, being shared by his colleagues. But that is not on account of the stringency of the regulations, but because they are interpreted to mean that the United States will have entailed on them the cost and worry of patrolling Behring Sea without benefit to their sealers, while Russia, Japan, and perhaps other nations reap the harvest, the regulations being binding only on Great Britain, Canada and the United States. It is claimed that as a consequence of the regulations in the close season, during May, June and July, both Great Britain and the United States will be obliged to maintain a fleet of naval vessels to police the sealing waters, and it is believed at the Navy Department that this will result in the establishment of a permanent Behring Sea squadron for duty during the three months named. The United States

will also be obliged to maintain watch on the waters within the sixty-mile zone around the Pribilof islands during the entire mid season from April 1 to September 1, and it is probable this duty will be discharged by vessels of the revenue marine service. And for what object is all this? To secure a monopoly of the seal trade for an American company. The New York Sun thus puts the case: "The truth is that we never had the faintest grounds in international law for the claim that the Behring sea was a mare clausum, or that by cession from Russia we acquired exclusive jurisdiction over the eastern part of it, or that we possessed any right of property in seals outside of the three-mile limit. The money spent on the assertion of such a bare claim has been thrown away. So far as the case made by our State department, it met with deserved and detestable collapse by the Board of Arbitration, which the arbitrators deny the right of the United States to give, and for giving which we must pay damages to the owners of seized Canadian vessels, will henceforth be treated with the same contempt as a decree of the international tribunal. The arbitrators have taken measures to fulfill the humanitarian purpose of safeguarding seal life, which, however, was not the object of the United States, but it is claimed, destroyed a local industry in which a capital of over \$500,000 has been invested, and in which some 1,500 or more men earn their living, and at a low estimate that from four or five thousand women and children. "Schooners for Sale" will undoubtedly be the announcement on all hands, and the United States or the Alaska Commercial Company will be able to come in and obtain cheap vessels and outfits for the prosecution of that industry which they have managed to look up against those who were the first to develop it and to demonstrate its possibilities. Captain Warren's point would appear to be well taken: "The arbitrators agreed that we were in a legal and legitimate business," his question being only the natural corollary, "but why should it be taken from us without payment for value received?" Doubtless there are many who will be disposed to agree with Captain Cox, although they will hardly undertake to say so, when he remarked that the decision is "not to protect the seals" while "the arbitration was merely a farce, the motive of which was to give some shadow of color, some reason which England could advance when told of the injury, wanton and illegal, done to vessels flying her flag. She did not want to protect them, but must have an excuse for neglect." This, it may be remarked, is a most serious reflection.

The practical conclusion of the whole matter is, that whilst Canada gains in regard to all sealing things of the recent past submitted to the arbitrators' decision, the United States and their Alaskan vessels must incidentally profit largely by the results of the decision as to things future. The reason for this latter consequence being, however, an intention to protect seal life, we can console ourselves in the matter with the reflection that the Canadian case lost nothing from any want of argument, as also with the feeling that, although the arbitrators' view is correct in fact, the restrictions, somewhat arduous though certain of them seem, tend to prevent a still greater evil, namely, the extinction of a valuable fishery by utter depletion. We feel, moreover, considerable confidence that the skill and energy of those engaged in our sealing industry will, despite the restrictions in question, render good and profitable account of themselves year by year.

"A HUMANE PURPOSE." The New York Herald, in its congratulations as to the outcome of the Behring Sea arbitration, is inclined to be humorous. Indeed, the attitude of the United States in this matter has had about it a very great deal of the ludicrous; but, for all that, there was the constant presence of the eye to business. In its editorial on the decision of the arbitrators it says: "The position taken by the United States in the Behring Sea affair was the outcome of a humane purpose." Where has manifested the humanitarian aspect of the case? Was it upon the Pribilof Islands, where the hunters have, under Government protection, perpetrated the most atrocious cruelties upon the unfortunate seals, and it is to be demonstrated in the future in the unsparring use of the spears and clubs which are certain to be so effectively used on the island and other rookeries? How the well-known fur dealer, Mr. Liebes, appreciates the humanitarian aspect of the case he describes when he says: "In that decision we got just what belonged to us, nothing more and nothing less. Our rights have been preserved, and those of England have not been infringed upon. We have the seals and England gets the skins." Blood and fur is what the Alaska Company will have secured if the regulations go into force.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS. To THE NEWS-ADVERTISER: "Where your gibes now that once were apt to set the tables in a roar?"—Verè sap.

The Legislature of the Northwest Territories, yesterday opened its fourth session, mainly for the purpose of appropriating the moneys voted by the Dominion Parliament. It is announced by His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, that the apprehensions entertained as to the working of the liquor license ordinance, have not been realized, and he recommends more effective provisions for the carrying out of the prohibitory provisions of the Dominion Act in the unorganized portions of the Territories.

LOCAL CRICKETERS think—and the idea is worthy of serious attention—that it would be well for their brethren in this Province, to arrange not only to play a series of matches with the Australian eleven who are coming this way; but also to entertain them in such a way as to show how sincere the regard of British Columbians is for their long separated brethren at the Antipodes, with whom they have lately been brought into closer relations; which, it is to be hoped, will become still more pleasant and advantageous also.

is to treat with indifference questions of financial importance. Take, for instance, the votes which have time and again been cast at the polls upon financial bills. What proportion of the ratepayers were represented? The rioting in the city of Bombay, which has attracted some attention, is one more demonstration of that hatred which is aroused among people of all races, as it has been put, "for the love of God." Indeed, the quantity of bloodshed, everything considered, has been very great, for almost everywhere—particularly in Eastern countries—the man who believes himself to be fighting in a holy cause knows no fear and recognizes no obstacles, nor does he care that his belief is ill-founded make any difference. But it frequently happens in such cases that the more fighters are those who have little or no faith in the cause for which they are fighting, but who are ready to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded to gratify their brutal instincts.

THE GOLD INDUSTRY. TO THE EDITOR:—In continuation of the letter I sent you last month about the importance of developing the gold-producing industries of British Columbia, I will follow up the subject by relating to you some of the leading papers of Valparaiso to show you how the depreciation of silver is looked upon in a silver-producing country with no gold coin in common circulation. The depreciation of the price of silver is to occur because it was in the natural order of things, against which the astute combination of politicians and the manipulation of the market have done their best to prevent, and which is now being done for more than twenty years, during which its monetary relation to gold has remained invariable, was bound to bring its depreciation to a point where it would be not less inevitable.

This was a fact sure, foreseen, and many times foretold. The doctrine that only one metal should serve as a standard of all values, which from an attentive and passionate history of economy, had been produced by economists, has received in the last twenty years indisputable confirmation. Bi-metalism, based on a fixed relation between the value of gold and silver, could maintain its position while that proportion was not much removed from actual values.

"Ugill July 9, 1875 nations acting in concert could establish the value of the silver as equal to one dollar of gold, because in actual fact it then cost about the same to extract from the mines or to buy one dollar of gold measures to-day that it is beyond human power to maintain the same proportion, because in reality one dollar of gold is worth 23 dollars of silver, and it is impossible to say how many it may be in the future." "It is for this reason that the two international conferences assembled in Paris in 1878 and 1881, and that of Brussels in the past year have not been able to restore the value of silver to its former position, and would follow a fourth conference.

"It is an error to believe that yesterday the depreciation of silver in 1873 by Germany and the subsequent paralysis of silver in relation to the Latin union, and the depreciation of the rupee currency of India, and to-morrow the cessation of silver purchase by the United States, have been or are to be the cause of the depreciation of silver, and contrary to these measures have been, are, and will be simply the inevitable consequences of economical facts, clear and incontestable, that the law can neither conceal nor avoid. "If these facts these measures were, on account of the enormous and indefinite production of silver, while the production of gold remained stationary; and they were not only what we regard as the cause, but the means to produce the depreciation of gold—according to the well known law of Gresham; and the lowering of the monetary value produced a corresponding increase in the value of gold measures, which, by disturbing the markets and injuring the whole world except the producers of silver and some few speculators as unprincipled as avaricious.

"The United States, in 1873, after the war of secession, had the good sense to adopt gold as the only standard of value. But immediately thereafter began the development of its great mines in Nevada, Colorado, and Utah, which produced such quantities that, in a short time, the production of silver throughout the world was doubled. Naturally, the price of the metal throughout the world began to decline, and Yankee business men, much interested in bi-metalism. They lost, however, the campaign; because the best informed would not be misled; but in exchange they obtained from Congress, by a partial satisfaction of these interests in the shape of the Sherman law, according to which the Treasury was obliged to buy annually \$4,500,000 of silver.

"This law caused the United States to find themselves with the enormous deposit of more than \$500,000,000 of silver, of which the realization will leave enormous losses, and which should be undertaken with consummate prudence if a tremendous crisis is to be avoided, which would be no more fatal for any people than for themselves, who produce one-half of the enormous amount of silver which is thrown upon the markets of the world.

"With all this, and in spite of the money coined for India, which has been from 42 to 43,000,000 annually, the price of the standard metal of the world has been falling continually, as the following table will show:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Average price of Silver in gold, Mean rate of Silver to Gold. Rows include years 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890.

made upon a silver basis our exchange would have suffered by this time an enormous depreciation and upon the day of the return to specie payments, we would have found ourselves loaded from the bottom with a business world with repudiated currency, which will only be admitted in the early future as an auxiliary of gold, by all civilized nations. Unfortunately, this lowering of the price of silver is also a rude shock to our national resources, because the exportation of silver forms five per cent. of our total exportation. Unfortunately, also, was it that in the past year, our Congress did not approve the report of the commission on finance, which advised the immediate sale of the silver deposited in the mint at Santiago and the proceeds to be converted by purchase into gold, gold values, and our Government, in consequence, loses a large sum of money.

It would most likely be advisable in the past year, our Congress did not approve the report of the commission on finance, which advised the immediate sale of the silver deposited in the mint at Santiago and the proceeds to be converted by purchase into gold, gold values, and our Government, in consequence, loses a large sum of money. How far the price of silver will descend, it is impossible to foresee, because its future production will be determined with uncertainty, nor the capability of such markets as China and Japan of absorbing the surplus, that the action of the East Indian Government has set free. To the extent that the depreciation of the white metal may produce in Chile, two roads are open to our Governments and to our miners, the improvement of their mining methods, and the lowering of freights to and from the coast by the construction of new lines of railway, or let it be if necessary by the purchase of the private lines now operating in the northern provinces. The above is probably not a very elegant translation, but will be understood by those who care to read it. If it does not appear clearly from the report that the gold resources of British Columbia should be developed as well as the silver, then I have wasted my time and trouble, but I am hopeful that it will be understood. I will therefore conclude by saying that I have consistently believed about the year 1874, when I first began to study the subject, that the resources of British Columbia will never be developed until there is a line of railway built, not only into the centre, but through its gold-bearing area—and why not the Canadian Western or British Pacific, if that be the line that seems to secure the greatest degree of popular favor. H. P. BELL. Valparaiso, July 9, 1893.

A CORRECTION. TO THE EDITOR:—I have to thank you for your courteous treatment of my letter regarding the proposed railway to Cariboo. I had a slight error therein. In contrasting the receipts of the cars in 1892 and 1893 I inadvertently said that the figures given in the report of the Cariboo Railway Company had said that they covered the route from the entire system during the period named. D. W. HIGGINS.

GENERAL INDISPOSITION TO OPERATE PENDING SILVER LEGISLATION—BRADSTREET'S WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW. NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—The markets for securities were extremely dull all day today. The sales of stocks looked up 92,296 shares, and the trading for outside account was probably better than on any previous day for weeks or months past. More than half a dozen stocks showed important fluctuations, and in these instances the movements were most erratic.

During the forenoon, the heavy arrivals of gold, the announcement of further enlargement of the mint, and the fact that Washington advises that the silver question would be brought up for discussion in the Senate on Tuesday next led to a rally in the market. But the "bear" party held at the higher range of quotations and reaction ensued at the close. Speculation left off generally weak in tone. There is a very general disposition to operate, pending definite information in regard to silver legislation, and representative traders are losing interest in the market. Closing bids: Central Pacific, 71; Great Northern, 104; Wells, Fargo, 125; Great Northern, 104; Northern Pacific, 104; Canadian Pacific, 104; Oregon, 117; North Western, 92; Oregon Navigation, 30; Oregon Improvement, 9; Pacific Mail, 95; Southern Pacific, 18; Texas and Pacific, 53; Union Pacific, 162; Western Union, 53.

Bradstreet's to-morrow will say: "The list of mercantile failures in the United States this week shows a sharp falling off, and the total for the week ending August 18th was 409 as compared with 474 that week. Last week's stocks of wheat continue to show a weekly net decrease for Australia, the United States, Canada and Europe, notwithstanding a gain of more than 100,000 bushels in the North American wheat, the latter, last week. Exports of wheat, both coasts, continue to vie with those in former periods of heaviest shipments, the total being 6,129,000 this week, against 5,010,000 bushels last week, 3,750,000 bushels in the same week a year ago, and 5,761,000 bushels in the same week two years ago. Trade in Nova Scotia is quiet, but contractors are complained of. Exports from Montreal continue heavy. The district trading in staples in Ontario, usual at this season, is reflected in smaller clearings at Toronto. The bank clearings for the week ending August 18th were \$1,000,000 at Toronto, \$1,000,000 at Montreal, Hamilton and Ottawa, and \$1,000,000 at New York, and \$1,000,000 at London, a total of \$2,000,000, or 20 per cent. within a week, and of 11 per cent. as compared with the same week a year ago. There were 26 business failures reported from the Canadian Dominion this week. Last week the total was 28, and this week 26, and in the year before that, 18."

Winnipeg, Winkings. The Suspended Commercial Bank—Resumption of Work at the Mills—Manitoba and N. W. Railway. WINNIPEG, Aug. 17.—(Special)—The striking mill men have resumed work this morning. Mills 3 and 4 at Norman have been shut down, possibly for the rest of the season. The turn-out will not affect the company at East Portage belonging to the company. Justice Killam ordered to-day that the receiver of the Manitoba and North Western railway should pay the back wages of the employees, and work was resumed by all hands this afternoon. Trains will run regularly to-morrow. G. Hammond, a young Englishman of Rapid City, is missing. As a result of a meeting of the creditors of the Commercial bank last night, it was decided to recommend that S. A. D. Bertram be appointed provisional liquidator, instead of F. W. Ferguson, who is at present acting.

VIGILANT CARE. VIGILANCE is necessary against unexpected attacks of summer complaints. No remedy is so effective as Dr. Fowler's Extract of Sassafras. Keep it in the house as a safeguard.

BEFORE THE ELECTORS.

Public Meeting Held at the 150 Mile House to Discuss Provincial Politics.

Messrs. Adams and Murphy State the Platforms on Which They Seek Election. A public meeting was held in the interests of Mr. Adams, a candidate for the Local Legislature, on Tuesday, the 8th inst., at the 150-Mile House, Mr. J. Cummings being in the chair. Mr. Adams, on rising to express his views, explained that whilst he was no public speaker, he considered the electors had a right to hear from candidates. If elected he would support the Government, as its past treatment of the district had been favorable. With reference to the vote for the new Government buildings at Victoria, he would, had he been elected, have voted against the administration, if by so doing he would not grow infatuated, he would have voted in favor of the bill.

Speaking of the land laws, he condemned the requiring of settlers to live on preemption land, and stated that he would be permitted to purchase 320 acres in addition to the 320 acquired by preemption. In regard to meadow land he considered the present requisite of residence as almost prohibitory, inasmuch as it was impossible to expend twelve months of remunerative labor upon such land. He believed the discoverer of a meadow should be allowed to purchase it, on condition that he should reside on it for a year. Referring to roads and trails, he expressed the view that roads lately opened up should be backed up by a subsidy for improvement, otherwise the original expenditure was often completely lost, and it was in this present condition of the Horsey trails. Discussing the local dissatisfaction concerning the selection of a route for the road to Cariboo, he declared himself convinced that such a road should be the main trunk road at the 150 Mile House. Otherwise the money might be considered a Lillooet appropriation.

In reference to the construction of a railway to Cariboo, he said, so far the people of the district had been subjected to one continuous series of disappointments. The British Pacific was the latest scheme, and he believed it would be successful. If elected, he would do his utmost to aid any project to assist such a railway. He believed liberal land laws would bring settlers, and settlers would bring railroads. He deemed the public school system as applied to this district susceptible of improvement. He came from a province in which it was impossible for children to grow up without an education, and he thought here there was danger that such might be the case owing to the isolation of families rendering the maintenance of public schools a very difficult matter. He thought the Government should aid parents in keeping a teacher at home by allowing them the amount each child would cost if it attended the public school.

The speaker also alluded to the fact that he had been elected to the position of a member of the local legislature, and he would do his utmost to aid any project to assist such a railway. He believed liberal land laws would bring settlers, and settlers would bring railroads. He deemed the public school system as applied to this district susceptible of improvement. He came from a province in which it was impossible for children to grow up without an education, and he thought here there was danger that such might be the case owing to the isolation of families rendering the maintenance of public schools a very difficult matter. He thought the Government should aid parents in keeping a teacher at home by allowing them the amount each child would cost if it attended the public school.

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BEFORE THE ELECTORS.

Public Meeting Held at the 150 Mile House to Discuss Provincial Politics.

Messrs. Adams and Murphy State the Platforms on Which They Seek Election. A public meeting was held in the interests of Mr. Adams, a candidate for the Local Legislature, on Tuesday, the 8th inst., at the 150-Mile House, Mr. J. Cummings being in the chair. Mr. Adams, on rising to express his views, explained that whilst he was no public speaker, he considered the electors had a right to hear from candidates. If elected he would support the Government, as its past treatment of the district had been favorable. With reference to the vote for the new Government buildings at Victoria, he would, had he been elected, have voted against the administration, if by so doing he would not grow infatuated, he would have voted in favor of the bill.

Speaking of the land laws, he condemned the requiring of settlers to live on preemption land, and stated that he would be permitted to purchase 320 acres in addition to the 320 acquired by preemption. In regard to meadow land he considered the present requisite of residence as almost prohibitory, inasmuch as it was impossible to expend twelve months of remunerative labor upon such land. He believed the discoverer of a meadow should be allowed to purchase it, on condition that he should reside on it for a year. Referring to roads and trails, he expressed the view that roads lately opened up should be backed up by a subsidy for improvement, otherwise the original expenditure was often completely lost, and it was in this present condition of the Horsey trails. Discussing the local dissatisfaction concerning the selection of a route for the road to Cariboo, he declared himself convinced that such a road should be the main trunk road at the 150 Mile House. Otherwise the money might be considered a Lillooet appropriation.

In reference to the construction of a railway to Cariboo, he said, so far the people of the district had been subjected to one continuous series of disappointments. The British Pacific was the latest scheme, and he believed it would be successful. If elected, he would do his utmost to aid any project to assist such a railway. He believed liberal land laws would bring settlers, and settlers would bring railroads. He deemed the public school system as applied to this district susceptible of improvement. He came from a province in which it was impossible for children to grow up without an education, and he thought here there was danger that such might be the case owing to the isolation of families rendering the maintenance of public schools a very difficult matter. He thought the Government should aid parents in keeping a teacher at home by allowing them the amount each child would cost if it attended the public school.

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