

The Colonist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1895.

UNLOOKED FOR COMPETITION.

It is beginning to be seen that the opening up of China to European enterprise and the progress of Japan in the useful arts are not likely to be such very great advantages to the nations of Europe and America as was once supposed. The reason of this is that both the Chinese and the Japanese are good learners and clever imitators, and that labor in both countries is very cheap indeed. Instead of being good customers to the manufacturers of the nations of the West, China and Japan bid fair to be formidable rivals. In the manufacture of many lines of goods the Japanese have already made considerable progress. In the not distant future they will not only produce enough for home consumption, but they will be in a position to export to other countries, and their cheap labor will enable them to sell at what are now considered ridiculously low prices. The free trade system of Great Britain will then be put to a very severe test. Will the British Government be allowed to sacrifice Manchester, Birmingham and scores of other manufacturing cities, towns and villages in order that China and Japan may have Great Britain as a market for their cheap goods? This state of things is not so improbable or so distant as some people appear to imagine. Mr. L. S. J. Hunt, well and favorably known on the Pacific Coast as an able man and a keen observer, having just returned from a long visit to China and Japan, was interviewed by a reporter of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Mr. Hunt was deeply impressed with the progress which both these countries have made in the useful arts, and he believes that they are bound to advance until they become the equals of any of the civilized nations in manufactures. "Mr. Hunt," the interviewer says, "is convinced that Japan and China will in a few years be able to manufacture for the whole world, and that the cheap labor of these countries, once the opportunity is presented, will defy competition:

"From 5 to 10 cents a day," said Mr. Hunt, "these are the wages paid to operatives in Chinese cotton mills. The industries of the United States need protection not from Europe particularly, but from the results of cheap labor in the Orient. Should the ports of this country be thrown open free to the Oriental manufacturers, the producer of raw materials would suffer alike with the American manufacturer. Free trade with China and Japan would be ruinous to the United States, and anyone who has watched the growth of industries in the Orient will soon learn that there is more to fear from the laborer than from all the countries in the Old World. Take the most radical free trader of this country and let him make a careful study of the industrial conditions of China and Japan. If he is a fair-minded man and has the greatness of character to admit a mistake when once convinced of it; if he places the welfare of his countrymen above and beyond the question of party, you can rest assured he will return to the land of the Stars and Stripes a protectionist."

"I am not disposed to criticize the policy of our government in excluding Chinese labor, but why should not that policy be broadened and the Japanese excluded as well? However, the American laborer will find that Asiatic labor in its native home will be a far more dangerous rival than Asiatic labor transferred to the United States ever could be if our national policy ever becomes one that admits Oriental goods free. Either China or Japan can today ship cotton from Liverpool, manufacture it into fabrics, ship the manufactured goods back to Manchester, the home of the spindle, and underbid the Englishmen in competition for American trade."

"The only reason why China and Japan are to-day large buyers of English and American piece goods is because they only learned to manufacture a few years ago and have not yet the spindle capacity for their home demand. I advise political economists in their theorizing, however, to consider the development that will take place in China and Japan in the immediate future, as no mean factor in the formula of their teaching. Osaka, Japan, within the past six years has grown to a city of smokestacks which no New England cotton centre can equal. I predict that Shanghai, China, which is the New York of the Orient, will become, under the new treaty, one of the greatest manufacturing centres in existence."

Mr. Hunt illustrated his little lecture by directing attention to the clothes he was then wearing. He said: "Here is a sample object lesson in the clothes I am wearing now. This suit was made to order in a Chinese tailor shop, and is made of French goods. Any one of your leading tailors would charge me sixty gold dollars for a like suit, but in this case the fifteen silver dollars, or about \$7.50 in gold. The shoes I wear may not be in harmony with your fastidious Chicago style, yet I am sure they would cost \$10 made to order here, while made to order in a Chinese shoe shop they cost me \$1.40. And why this great difference in cost? Because, and I am glad it is so, the American tailor is able to make \$3 to \$5 a day in gold, while the professional Chinese costmaker gets but 124 cents in gold."

Even free traders, when they see China and Japan producing excellent goods at ridiculously low prices, will have to admit that their idealized system has its limitations, and that it will not do to allow Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen to starve in order that Chinamen and Japanese may grow fat. When free traders in Great Britain are face to face with this alternative, it is not difficult to predict what course they will take.

HEAVY EXPENDITURE.

The Government of the United States is seriously considering the course it must take in order to put its long line of sea-coast in something like a proper state of defence. The War department has estimated that it will take the very large sum of \$48,000,000 in order to fortify the seaboard and the lake coast. This is a very large sum for even the United States to appropriate for such a purpose. But it is not, however, proposed to spend it all at once. The expenditure is to

be spread over twelve years, and four millions a year devoted to making the seaboard cities of the country secure does not appear to be by any means an extravagant sum. The only fear is that before the fortifications are finished the artillery first put in position will be out of date. Improvements are made so rapidly in guns, in ammunition and in projectiles that it is not easy to say to-day how the sea-coast should be defended twelve years hence.

It is not surprising that many United States citizens, when they reflect upon the defenceless condition of the coast of their country, begin to feel nervous. A hostile fleet could do an immense amount of damage to American seaports in a very short time. Many cities in which is stored a vast amount of wealth could not make even the appearance of resistance to an attack made by ships of war. It says a great deal for the wisdom of the foreign policy of the United States that no nation is disposed to take advantage of its defenceless condition in this respect. We are, however, not surprised that its Government has determined not to place implicit reliance any longer on the peaceful intentions or the forbearance of foreign nations. When the \$48,000,000 are expended there will be no holding the tilters. If they are so warlike and defiant now what will they be then?

WHAT THE RESIDENTS SAY.

Much has been said and written about the massacre of missionaries in China and their ill-treatment in general, by persons who know nothing about the matter except from hearsay. Much of what is supposed to be information relative to the position of missionaries in China—respecting the way in which they conduct themselves, and the result of their labors—it would be folly to rely upon. If we are to believe some who pose as authorities on missionary effort in China, the missionaries as a class are lazy, self-indulgent and by no means intelligent. They, it is asserted, take no trouble to acquaint themselves with the opinions, the prejudices and the superstitions of the Chinese whom they have been sent out to teach. They are, consequently, perpetually doing things which are in direct opposition to Chinese ideas of propriety, and which are therefore calculated to strengthen and intensify the prejudice of the people against foreigners. The success of such missionaries in converting Chinese to Christianity is declared to be infinitesimal, and the detractors of the missionaries add that much even of this success is more apparent than real, for many of the so-called converts have expressed a desire to embrace the Christian religion from interested motives.

There are others who look upon the missionaries in China as devout, pure-minded, disinterested men and women who have devoted their lives to the work of Christianizing China. They go about their work for the most part prudently and judiciously, and are careful not to give offence to those among whom they labor. The outrages against missionaries are not provoked by anything that they say or do in the course of religion. They are the result of deep-seated prejudice, not against them as teachers of Christianity but as foreigners. Any other foreigners, it is contended, no matter how they treated the natives, would be, in places distant from the treaty ports, exposed to the same dangers as the missionaries.

It may be well to inquire how Englishmen and other Europeans living in China regard the outrages upon missionaries. Do they try to find excuses for the Chinese rioters and murderers, or do they assert or insinuate that the missionaries could not expect any other treatment at the hands of the natives than that which they receive? Nothing of the kind. As soon as the news of the massacres reached the British communities in China indignation meetings were held, and those who spoke at them freely expressed their estimate of the Chinese character and of the nature of the government of the country. For instance, the following from the London Times:

A crowded meeting at Hongkong, representing all races and creeds, held under the presidency of the Chief Justice, has unanimously passed resolutions condemning the failure of the British Government to realize that China is a heathen savage, declaring her entry into the comity of nations to be nonsense, she being unwilling or unable to prevent revolting outrages upon British women and children, and insisting that a complete change of policy and swift and stern action are necessary.

The following message was, under instruction, forwarded to the editor of the Times by the chairman of a public meeting held at Shanghai:

"We strongly urge upon the British people and the House of Commons that Lord Salisbury's demands are utterly inadequate. The Chinese have always promised to protect the missions and punish the guilty, but they never perform their promises. We believe that outrages are generally inspired by officials. It is imperative that the Consul at Peking should have a British escort. The Chengtu Commission must be reformed. Both cases require more than one British official of adequate rank. Delay will be dangerous to the outposts of the mission stations."

The community of Swatun in public meeting begged the assistance of the Times in influencing public opinion with regard to the Ku-Cheng massacre. A public meeting of the foreign residents at Tien-tsin expressed its opinion that the massacre is the natural outcome of the mistaken leniency shown with regard to Chinese outrages during the past thirty years. "The meeting declared its disgust at the platonic remedies attributed to the British Government which had hitherto proved futile." It advised drastic local reprisals in every case of outrage.

Not one word was said at any of these meetings reflecting on the conduct of the missionaries. It does not appear, as far as

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LADY ABERDEEN. What is Thought of Her by a Tenant on the Estate in Aberdeenshire.

Her Attitude Towards Domestic Servants Calculated to Increase Appreciation of Their Position. The subjoined report from the Aberdeen Free Press will be sufficient to show how absurd have been the stories recently circulated in Great Britain in regard to the attitude of the Countess of Aberdeen towards domestic servants in Canada. Her Ladyship's course in this country has been characterized by the greatest consideration for all classes and conditions, while the position of Mr. Duthie—a tenant of the Aberdeen estate, who is well known as a successful breeder of shorthorn cattle in Scotland and Canada—is sufficient to show how incapable the Countess is of following the line of conduct charged:—

"On the occasion of the annual district holiday on the 7th of this month, the grounds of Haddo house were as usual opened, and about 10,000 were present at the gathering, where the games, flower show, and various competitions took place. "At half past four o'clock in the afternoon the special prizes to the successful competitors in the horticultural, industrial, etc., sections of the show were presented by Mrs. Muirhead, wife of the factor on the Haddo house estates. The ceremony took place in front of the grand stand. Mr. Muirhead at the outset made a few remarks about the gathering, and after indicating the great interest which Lord Aberdeen still continued to take in his tenantry and in his estates, read the telegram which was received from His Excellency by the secretary. He would have great pleasure in sending word to Lord Aberdeen of the success of the gathering, which had been marred only by the rain. Mrs. Muirhead then presented the prizes. "At the conclusion of this ceremony Mr. Duthie, Collynie, proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen for the great privilege which they extended to people attending the Haddo House gathering in giving them free use of the spacious and beautiful grounds. They

had heard from Mr. Muirhead that their Excellencies had not forgotten the great gathering that day, and had telegraphed specially their heartiest congratulations and good wishes. He was sure they must have seen all pointed to a paragraph going the rounds of the newspapers regarding Lady Aberdeen's attitude to domestic servants in Canada. Those who knew the Countess would agree at once that such a statement was absurd, and that if Lady Aberdeen had done anything in her great work it was to lead domestic servants to regard their work as of the greatest importance to the community, and to look upon their badges of service as being quite as honorable as any profession. (Loud cheering.) "Mr. Allan, the secretary, then proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Muirhead for her services, and Mrs. Muirhead, in acknowledging, returned the compliment by calling for a vote of thanks to Mr. Allan, to whom was due the greatest share of the honor and success of the gathering."

SHIPS AND SHIPPING. Yesterday Mr. Justice Drake dismissed the application made on behalf of George Williscroft to set aside the garnishee order under which the steamer Nell was seized a couple of days ago. However, as Mr. Williscroft swore that he did not owe the judgment debtor Oleson at the time the order was given, the court allowed a stay of execution pending an appeal by the garnishee, provided proper security was given. Security for the amount of judgment having been satisfactorily settled, the Nell was yesterday afternoon released from the Sheriff's hands. Hon. C. E. Pooley appeared for the garnishee, and Mr. Belyea for the plaintiffs, the Royal Canadian Packing Co. The steamship City of Puebla, which sailed for San Francisco last evening, carried the following saloon passengers from Victoria: Miss C. Gussfeld, Miss A. Gussfeld, F. Schulte, Wm. Gussfeld, W. E. Sanborne, Mrs. Schulte, Mrs. Clarke, G. H. Haynes, L. Redon, Miss C. L. Boyd, Miss M. Frank, C. D. Jones, wife and child, C. W. Riley and wife, F. G. Christie, J. C. Rudy and G. A. Bain. It is uncertain which vessel will get in first from the Orient—the sailing ship Whiteleburn or the steamship Tacoma. The sailing ship left the Orient August 1, and ought not to be more than thirty days on the run. The Tacoma left August 20, and

This Property is within easy distance of many of the most important Gold, Silver and Coal Mines in West Kootenay. The soil is the best bottom land, and the locality is one of the few places in the Province where so large a piece of good farm land can be found in one block. A river runs through the property, and rainbow trout are plentiful and afford capital sport. Deer abound in considerable numbers. Bear, Wolf, Coyote and other large game are to be found in the hills. There are two creeks recorded and belonging to the estate, one flows all the year round. Limestone and brick clay are to be had in the valley.

The Gattle are well bred; a much larger herd could be farmed with the place. The bunch grass on the hills in the vicinity covers many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valley.

The Climate is not severe, the station was for many years the winter quarters of the H. B. Co.'s pack trains.

The Title is Crown Grant. Immediate possession can be given.

The South West Kootenay and Osoyoos Divisions of Yale District, British Columbia, judging from the actual ore products of the mines to date, are destined in the next year or two to be the richest and most important mineral centres in the world.

should be in about September 5. Both have big cargoes of beans. The vessels on the way now will just about clean up this year's tea crop. The Dominion steamer Quadra returned to port yesterday morning after calling at all the Gulf Lighthouses, where stores were landed. Professor Prince, commissioner of fisheries, accompanied the Quadra on this cruise, and was landed at Cowichan bay on Thursday. Captain Walbran reports the weather in the Gulf as most disagreeable and dangerous to navigation, fog and smoke being extremely dense.

J. A. Thomson, steamboat inspector, left for Nakusp this morning, where he will make a survey of the new steamer Nakup, built for the Columbia and Kootenay Navigation Co. The Nakup is the largest stern wheeler in the province, being of 1,085 tons register. After a fourteen-day trip the steamer Caplano, Capt. Foote, has returned from Alaska, whither she went with coal. She will leave for the North to-day to enter the halibut fishing business inaugurated last year.

Steamer Coquitlam came in from Haddington Island with stone for the new government buildings last evening. Steamer Rosalie will this morning take out a carload of salmon for shipment East.

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