

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY

A Suggestion as to How Victoria's Outfitters May Reach the British Public.

How Capital Has Been Wasted in Some of the Australian Mines.

TO THE EDITOR:—In your issue of yesterday, W. T. Cooksey writes of his impressions when visiting Toronto and Ottawa Expositions regarding the work done so far by Victorians to advertise our city as an outfitting point for the Klondyke regions. Without any doubt the laxity so far shown is lamentable. I have this morning received a communication from England asking for definite information, and the writer adds, that from notices he has seen in the English press the ports and cities of British Columbia are entirely unmentioned, while the towns of the South are given prominence; also that the English public will ignore us if such provincial outfitting points exist, further he states that he has noticed this in a prominent paper like the Standard. Now surely it is time our merchants awake and bestir themselves to counteract these influences so damaging to their trade.

Of my own knowledge I can say that a few years ago a visitor to Victoria, one well known and whose writings carry much weight, is already on its way to England for publication in the Westminster Gazette; if our solomency is so apparent to a visitor having no business interest here, must it not indeed be excessive?

I would suggest that the board of trade take up this matter in earnest and not rest satisfied with an advertisement in your valuable paper containing the bold statement that the Klondyke gold fields are in Canada. In the first instance it is important that a live business man be sent at once to England for the purpose of interviewing leading emigrants at all available points of the continent. Further, I would suggest that the scheme as mapped out by the B.C. and Yukon Lecturing and Information Co. have the hearty and immediate support, both moral and financial, of our board of trade and leading merchants.

The matter admits of no delay. Time is money, and if it is not taken up at once we will become a byword to all business people, besides losing thousands of dollars, which we can ill afford.

VERB-SAP.
Victoria, Oct. 7, 1897.

THE WESTRALIAN MINES.

TO THE EDITOR:—Glancing through your issue of the 3rd, I noticed Mr. Barrett's letter, which referred to Westralian mines and mining. I have but recently arrived direct from there after having spent five years prospecting on the Murchison, Norseman, Coolgardie, and East Coolgardie Goldfields, and I quite sympathize with Mr. Barrett's remarks in reference to immense sums of British as well as foreign money having been practically thrown away on valueless properties, when I say thrown away, I mean as far as the capitalist was concerned, for on the other hand the expenditure of money to make into the country from all directions, and who otherwise, generally speaking, would have had a very serious time, as food and water in the earlier days was not to be bought for a mere song.

I have noticed numbers of properties were sold for £2,000 up to £10,000, many had neither mine nor lode found, and the price of the yellow metal was not handed to the men in the form of sovereigns on their pay day. In other cases such sums as £15,000, £20,000 and £42,000 being paid for properties under twenty-five acres, and out of which perhaps not 100 ounces of gold had ever been obtained.

On the Murchison field, which has an immense area, I only know of about four properties which appeared worth their money at the time of sale, to wit, Star of the East, New Chum, One and the Mainland Consols, which have turned out per ton, respectively, since flotation 2 oz. to 4 oz., 3 to 6 oz., 15 1/2 oz., and the latter in two cases gave for 180 tons, 100 oz. and for 200 tons, 1,100 oz.

Whilst exceedingly rich pockets of gold had been found on the surface of all these properties, to quote some of those obtained on the Mainland Consols before its sale, 558 ozs. 15 dwt. from 15 cwt. crushed in a 9 ft. 6 in. battery stamp (all) where a man was kept with a team of horses pouring some over the tables every twenty minutes to keep the amalgam soft, and 12 tons for 126 ozs., 10 tons for 115 ozs. 15 dwt. I have worked most of this property for its truth; this property was afterwards floated in England for £15,000.

There are some good prospects found on the Murchison, such as 40 oz., 72 oz. 10 dwt., 75 oz. and 90 oz., this latter was discovered lying on the slope of a spur (low range), and it had to be divided between four mates, and having nothing better it was cut into four with a hatchet, and one piece being somewhat larger than the others the men drew grass straws to see who would take it. In the meantime the successful Arthur Bailey (afterwards the finder of Coolgardie) went out one morning prospecting and came on quite a cluster of nuggets, and when he had collected them he weighed them and found 200 ozs. £800 is not a bad day's work.

This discovery was made at a place called Nanine, about 60 miles from Cue, the centre of the goldfield. Notwithstanding these finds I feel sure not one-eighth of the metal on the field had any lode. But it was a dash of stone from the few mines and the fine alluvial sills from the few rich alluvial patches, combined with their publication in the newspapers, which brought in British and foreign capital, just the same as will be done with the Klondyke.

On the Norseman field, which is situated in the northwestern portion of the colony and within easy reach of the South Australian ports, there was a great quantity of capital expended in the same manner as on the Murchison properties, here Adelaide principally came in for the first name, and sent them to the various districts or companies. The chief features as regards massive buck reefs exist there as on the Murchison, quartz bodies are to be seen stand-

ing as high as 18 feet out of the ground, and from 12 feet to 20 feet wide, of course this is through the decomposition of the country rock which previously formed their walls.

Toungoo Coolgardie field, 114 miles from Norseman, N. W. W. The same thing was to be noticed, only Mr. Barrett states that thousands were spent in preliminary works—if he had said millions he would have been nearer the mark perhaps, and what is the difference? One mine, the Lady Luck, was the only one to come out of decent yield when I took the fish and I see since that work was almost impossible due to want of wages not having been paid, Bailey's Reward, which turned out £100,000 in dividends, has been practically idle for months, the rich chalcocite stone having apparently cut out. The Londoner and Wealth of Nations, another rich pocket, remains sunk to obscurity. The Canadian Mining Syndicate, Ltd., of Sudfeld, Eng., has been licensed as an extra provincial company, with capital of £50,000.

Tenders are called for supplying beef, vegetables and soft bread to H. M. S. ships at Coxon for the ensuing year, and also for certain supplies that may be required at Vancouver during the same period.

The sincerest sympathy of the entire community will go forth to Mr. C. L. Oulin in the grief that has come upon him with such awful suddenness, his wife, to whom he had been united something less than two years, dying yesterday at St. Joseph's hospital as the result of an operation. Her illness was of very brief duration.

ACCORDING TO THE INTERIOR EXCHANGES
A FAVORITE NAME AMONG SHIP OWNERS—SURVIVORS OF THE "NEW-ARRIVED" CREW.

(From THE DAILY COLONIST, October 8.)
THE CITY

The Comparative Synoptical Chart Co. has increased its capital stock to \$150,000.

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(From THE DAILY COLONIST, October 8.)
NOT YELLOW JACK.

The "Iolanthe" Completes a Tedium But Eventful Voyage From Acapulco.

A Favorite Name Among Ship Owners—Survivors of the "New-Arrived" Crew.

It was not until yesterday morning's daylight permitted of a rigid examination being made of the British ship Iolanthe that the quarantine authorities at William Head were convinced that they had not made the acquaintance of Yellow Jack himself. They were satisfied, however, and the Iolanthe received her bill of health and reporting herself at the custom house, completed a tedious but eventful voyage. Having been chartered to replace the London and Arctic salmon to Great Britain account of Evans, Coleman & Evans, the Iolanthe a British clipper ship, 180 tons, 126 masts, sailed from Acapulco on August 28 in ballast for Royal Roads with a light easterly wind, afterwards shifting to north and nor' west, 263 miles were run off the first day, the second day's mileage being 203 and the third one hundred and fifty. The pressure of wind increased until 12:30 P.M. when a strong gale from the south-west carried the ship to 22 N. and 126 E. Here Jacob Holmes, an able seaman, died of liver trouble, which also confined the mate to his berth during the greater part of the voyage. The North East trades were again encountered, the limit of the mountains which extend in the direction parallel with the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, according to the weather. British possessions and the coast, which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned (that is to say, the limit to the possession ceded by this convention) shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues from the ocean.

This seems clear enough. In reply to Professor Jordan's statement that the seals apparently find it no labor at all to climb over—hence the standing joke of the hour.

Yesterday's arrivals were the Ocean Bear, Captain Rupert Cox, with 702 Behring sea skins, or a catch of 950 for the season; the Umbrina with 811 Japanese coast skins, and 197 from the sea; the Annie E. Paint with a total of 1,298—Japanese coast, 886; Copper Island, 15; and Behring sea, 337; the Borealis with 500 from Behring sea, and the Borealis with 312 for the sea, or 630 for the season.

Each of the returning sealers bears out to a greater or less extent the reports that the branding operations

promise to depopulate the Pribyloff rookeries, to the advantage of the northernmost islands of Japan.

In reply to Professor Jordan's statement that it is nonsense to speak of the branding driving the seal away," the sealers reply:

"Quite so. No one has yet suggested that it is the branding. Well, I tell you it does not make one bit of difference for I have made allowance for that.

When there is a hill to climb, I have a winch and tackle by me.

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