

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1897.

THE YUKON RUSH.

The fact that twenty-five persons, bringing with them a million dollars, have come out from Dawson City is known by this time to the entire civilized world. It will supply a stimulus, where none is needed, to the rush to the Yukon. There is something amazing in the manner in which the gold craze has taken hold of the people. Doubtless the element of chance has much to do with the fascination surrounding placer mining. Every man is inspired by the hope that he will come day stumbling upon a pay streak of gravel that will make him a millionaire. He will admit that everywhere the majority fail; but this no more deters him from a venture than a similar state of things deters a man from trying his luck at Monte Carlo.

The craze has reached places that it ought not to affect. A gentleman from one of the Kootenay towns says that hundreds of people are saving every dollar they can in order to be ready to start to the Yukon in the spring. We are not underrating the Yukon gold field when we say that the prospector stands a better chance of striking a good thing in Kootenay than he does in the Golden North. His chance is better because Kootenay is a country that can be prospected more cheaply and for a longer period every year, and because the character of its formations is now pretty well understood. Moreover, if a prospector finds a good thing in the Kootenay, he can bring it under the notice of capitalists or develop it himself more readily than he could if the property were on the Yukon. The Kootenay papers are hasty in arriving at a conclusion when they say that their district will be a greater and more permanent producer than the Yukon, for that is only a matter of opinion; but they are wholly right when they discountenance a rush from that part of the province to the new gold fields.

We fear their efforts will be largely wasted. The prospector is born not made, and he will seek new fields, even if to do so he must leave what he knows to be worth examining. Like the placer miner, he is ready to pull up his stakes on a minute's notice and set out for something that is said to yield better than the particular piece of ground he is working on. The majority of men who have actually worked at placer mining have done pretty well, while they worked; but in the majority of cases they spend all their surplus in running over the country in search of something better than they had. The Yukon rush will be made up in a large part of miners and prospectors attracted from other fields. There is no use of advising this class of people nor of wasting any sympathy upon them.

There is a class to whom it may not be useless to say a few words of warning, and that is those who have had no experience in mining or prospecting. We do not give Punch's advice to this class, and say, "Don't," for that would not be worth while. What we do say to them is not to think of starting to the North without ample preparation. There will be a percentage of disappointments, and probably a very large one. Many persons will find the climate unsuited to them and be compelled to come back even if they have chances of employment or discoveries. This, and other contingencies, must be guarded against, and the time to do so is before starting in. It is quite true that next winter there is not likely to be a shortage of food and a good deal of work at fair wages, comparatively speaking, will doubtless offer; but hundreds and probably thousands will go North whom no inducements could persuade to remain there during the winter. It is desirable therefore, it is indeed, almost imperative that no inexperienced person should go into the Yukon without providing himself with means of coming out again. If he does not return, what he has provided against such a contingency will not come amiss.

THE SO-CALLED PLATFORM.

The committee of the self-styled Liberal convention at New Westminster devoted a great deal of unnecessary labor to elaborating the thing called a platform. A single line would have covered their whole case, thus:

Resolved, that we are agn' the government.

One gentleman present at the convention suggested this, but his idea did not meet with approval. His fellow conventionists were rather ashamed of the nakedness of the truth thus presented, and sought to clothe it with a miscellaneous collection of garments, which only serve to render the spectacle more ghastly. Once upon a time some prudish people proposed to drape some statues, but when the drapery was put on, the figures, which were modest enough in their nakedness, became quite the reverse. So with the proposition which was the motive and the conclusion of the labors of the convention. It looks worse in its clothes than it would without them.

To make some sort of justification for their opposition it was, of course, necessary for the platform committee to say something. So they presented what they fancy is a terrible arraignment of the government. Not a man of them

needed any such arraignment to stimulate his opposition. It would be impossible to suggest any possible combination of good things which Mr. Turner and his colleagues could do that would satisfy them. There is only one thing wherewith they would be content, and that would do them no good, namely, the resignation of Mr. Turner and his colleagues and the calling in of some one of their number to form a cabinet. We shall not try to figure out what they would do in such an improbable contingency; but examine a little into the alleged arraignment.

It is the easiest thing in the world to arraign a government. There are something like 200,000 words in the latest dictionaries, and if one has only a little patience and ingenuity he can select a sufficient number of them to make very startling reading. He can be particularly successful in this if he does not feel called upon to pay any attention to the truth. Thus our friends, when they built the thing called a platform, found no difficulty in alleging that the Turner government has squandered all the public money and all the public lands; that it has introduced class legislation; that it has promoted monopolies; that it has encouraged sectional jealousy, and that its members have used their official positions to their personal advantage. These are the stock phrases, and they show a terrible lack of originality on the part of our friends the platform committee. Such charges have their advantages. They are so vague that no one could answer them, even if he wished; they are of such a character that no honorable man would trouble himself about replying to them. A man cannot very well afford to pay attention to allegations of a vague nature, nor can a government do so. Both an individual and an administration have the right to know specifically what they are called upon to meet before replying. The Colonist has invited the opposition to make specific charges, and as yet its invitation has not been accepted.

When the platform was published containing the allegations of misdoing above referred to, the public, as well as the government, had the right to expect that in some way or other, since they had not done it in their platform, the opposition would tell them what they mean. If the generalities of the thing had been followed by specific statements in the press, if previous to the making of the platform there had been a public discussion of the subject in which all the points had been brought out, the criticism above made as to the vagueness of the platform would be in part answered. But there has been nothing of the sort, and the voters of British Columbia are as much in doubt as to what the platform committee had in mind as if there never had been any convention.

Thus we are told that the Turner government has squandered the money of the province. What is meant by this? Session after session the house meets, and no one has heard any speaker rise in his place and charge home upon the government specific instances of expenditure which can properly be described as the squandering of money. We know that Mr. Semlin, in his perfunctory way, has hinted that there were certain dark secrets which, if exposed, would show a terrible state of things; but he has never, in the whole course of his public career, exhibited his belief in his own generalities by asking for a committee to unearth the wrongful acts. Mr. Cotton, who has been Mr. Semlin's lieutenant, has made a number of very pleasant speeches on abstract propositions in political economy; but he has never felt called upon to get down to details. Mr. Foster has, in general terms, said many things that sounded fierce; but even he has not found either force or inclination for particulars. Mr. McPherson has not the habit of hiding his light under a bushel; but if he knows any wrong thing that the government has done, he has kept it religiously to himself. And so we might go through the whole legislature. Nothing has been alleged that could be specifically met, and very little that called for even a general denial.

We mention these things because we have an idea that if the government had been squandering the public money, and giving away the country to corporations, and establishing monopolies, and engaging in class legislation, and encouraging sectional jealousies, some member of the opposition some time would have found out something of the sort and said something about it in his place in the house, that he might have offered a resolution of want of confidence based upon his discovery, or, if he did not feel like doing that, might have asked for a committee of investigation. Instead of that the meetings of our legislature have been like friendly debating clubs. It is only when the house adjourns that the floodgates are opened and volumes of opposition invective are poured forth. These facts lead us to think that the whole position of the opposition, as outlined in the thing called a platform, is the outcome of idleness and inspired by nothing except the desire to get into office.

We have waited what we thought a reasonable time after the publication of the thing called a platform before speaking in this manner regarding it. The government having been accused of all manner of wrongdoing, in general terms, it was reasonable to suppose that those who were responsible for the charges

GOVERNMENT AID TO RAILWAYS.

We think it well once more to refer to the position taken by the Toronto Globe in regard to federal aid to British Columbia railways. Such of our provincial papers as have referred to the matter have, so far as we have observed, dissented from the Globe's view, with one exception, namely, the News-Advertiser, which appears to be opposed to any further governmental aid to railways. It may be that we have not correctly interpreted the Vancouver paper's articles, but the impression conveyed by a necessarily hurried perusal of them is that above expressed. It matters very little, however, whether we read our contemporary aright, for it is certain that ninety-nine people out of every hundred people in British Columbia claim that both governments are in duty bound to do everything in their power to promote necessary railway construction. We do not believe that any constituency can be found that will elect a representative, no matter how popular he may be personally, who will take his stand against governmental aid to railways.

There has been a disposition on the part of the opposition press to oppose subsidies to railways. We hope some member of the opposition in some one of the larger constituencies will have the courage to declare himself unequivocally on the point, in order that there may be an expression of opinion upon it. The New Westminster platform has a very extraordinary deliverance on this subject. The declaration is there made that in the opinion of the platform committee government aid should be given with a view to ownership by the government. One extraordinary aspect of this declaration is that it omits to say what government is to own the railways. Surely it is not claimed that the provincial legislature should grant aid to railways to be owned by the federal government, and surely no one expects that the federal government will vote subsidies to railways to be owned by the provincial government. Pending an authoritative explanation as to what government is meant, we may assume that the platform committee wish of a local government to do nothing in aid of any railway that it will not ultimately own. Applying this to matters as we now stand, we find that it completely disposes of all plans now under consideration in this province for railway construction. There is no escaping this conclusion, for if the opposition should succeed in the elections of 1898 they would be in honor bound, if they accept this platform, as they appear to have done, to refuse to bring any of the existing subsidy acts into effect, and later to repeal them. This would dispose of the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern project. The subsidy to this line is not based upon the idea that the government shall own it at any time, but wholly on the supposition that the Dominion government will supplement the subsidy sufficiently to warrant a private company in undertaking to construct the road. The grant of \$4,000 will practically amount to nothing, if the government is to own the line. Such a railway would cost at least \$20,000 a mile, and it is not too much to say that for the province to assume such a burden would practically prevent it from engaging in any other public work whatever. Not a single dollar could be obtained from the Dominion in aid of railway to be owned by the province. Let this fact always be kept in mind, for the railway plank in the New Westminster platform must be interpreted with the light that this consideration casts upon it. The platform therefore practically declares against any further aid by parliament to railways in British Columbia, to be given conjointly with aid from the province, a position which we do not believe the members of the platform committee will undertake to justify in the press or upon the public platform.

Therefore, while the railway plank in the New Westminster platform, followed out to its logical sequence, would seem to warrant the position taken by the Toronto Globe, we repeat that not one per cent. of the voters of the province will support any such view. We think that we may very properly call upon the opposition press to define its attitude upon this question. The Times of this city has already done so and has most unequivocally declared that it does not agree with the Globe. We have not heard from the Columbian, or rather if the Columbian has expressed its views upon this point, we do not recall them. The opposition weeklies ought to declare themselves very emphatically. We know that we can speak for the papers supporting the local government, and say that they are most distinctly opposed to the Globe's view and that they believe the federal parliament should act liberally towards British Columbia railways, giving at least two dollars to every one given by the province. Where do our opposition friends stand upon this point? They owe it to themselves and the province to express their views in terms that cannot be mistaken. It ought not to be possible for the Toronto Globe hereafter to say that its position met with the tacit support of any section of the British Columbia press. We hope that this appeal will meet with a hearty response.

We reprint an article from the Grand Forks Miner which shows the view taken in the Boundary Creek country upon a very important subject.

WHO IS GOVERNOR?

Who is Lieutenant-governor of British Columbia? The question is interesting and in some contingencies might prove important. The ordinary course in the appointment of lieutenant-governors is for the appointment to be gazetted after the appointee has been sworn in. This is done because the official publication in the Canadian Gazette of an appointment is notice to the world that the person named is seized of the office to which he has been appointed. Following this practice, the commission and oath book were sent from Ottawa to Hon. Mr. McInnes in time to reach him by last Thursday, and acting presumably on the assumption that he received it and had been sworn in, his appointment as lieutenant-governor was gazetted on Saturday, at least so the Ottawa despatches said. But the book has not yet come to hand and consequently Mr. McInnes has not been sworn in; but if he has been gazetted to the office he must be recognized by the world as lieutenant-governor. The public will have no notice of his taking the oath of office. No proclamation will be published to that effect, no statement will be made in the Gazette. The reason of this is that he ought to have received his commission and taken the oath before his appointment was gazetted. Clearly Mr. McInnes is nominally in office, that is, assuming the despatches to be correct, as we presume they are; but equally clearly, he cannot perform any of the functions of the position. What, then, is the status of Hon. Mr. Dewdney? There cannot be two lieutenant-governors of British Columbia at the same time, one *de jure* and the other *de facto*. If the appointment of Mr. McInnes has not been gazetted, Mr. Dewdney would be unquestionably qualified to perform all the duties of the position; but it is difficult to see how he can legally do so after the publication of his successor's appointment in the Canada Gazette. On the other hand, no one in this province has received official notice of the gazettement of Mr. McInnes. It can hardly be claimed that the people of British Columbia are bound to take notice of a news despatch. The provincial government can very properly say that they have had no notice. Mr. Dewdney cannot very well decline to perform executive acts because he has seen a despatch in a newspaper saying that his successor has been appointed. Yet there may be a grave question as to the constitutionality of any public act which he may have done since Saturday last.

The singular thing about it is that no one seems to blame. The clerk of the Privy Council sent the oath book and commission forward in good time. They simply have not got here. Mr. Dewdney has been waiting, postponing from day to day an important business engagement and keeping a number of other people in suspense, in order that he may be present when his successor is sworn in. It is not necessary that he should remain, but the instincts of courtesy lead him to do so. Mr. McInnes so greatly appreciates this that he has said that as soon as the commission and oath book arrives, he will notify Mr. Dewdney and be sworn in immediately. The provincial government is hampered because they do not want to do anything of doubtful constitutionality. In fact the whole thing is exasperating to everyone concerned, and there is no one who can be hailed over the coals for it. Meanwhile, what has become of the commission and the oath book?

NO TARIFF IN POLITICS.

One prominent feature in the canvass of Mr. Bertram in Centre Toronto was that the tariff ought to be taken out of politics. We are quite content, if it can be done. It is certainly desirable that business interests should not be kept unsettled by a fear of tariff changes. But it is a very funny thing that the Ontario Liberals should only have arrived at this conclusion since their own friends got into power. Before that time the tariff was their great bone of contention. There was no other political issue comparable to it. We can recall when the Liberals of the Maritime Provinces asked that the tariff should be allowed to drop out of sight, for they used to argue that, in a country where the greater part of the revenue must be collected by customs duties, the tariff question was merely a dispute between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. The Ontario Liberals would have none of this. The tariff was their issue, the only issue worth talking about; but a little over a year's experience of office has convinced them that the question is rather a ticklish one to handle. They cannot claim to have achieved a howling success in their first essay. No one expected anything of them at the first session of 1897, after the election of 1896, but it was thought that they would be able to devise something that would have the element of stability about it by the session of 1897. Yet, the most ardent Liberal in the country claims that the Fielding tariff is a success. So the Ontario government supporters have naively concluded that, after all, the tariff isn't much of an issue, and that it is very much better in the interest of business that it should be taken out of politics entirely. We repeat that we assent to this view; but think it comes with a mighty good grace from the quarter whence it now emanates. There remains the question: How are you going to take the tariff out of politics?

would tell the public at the first opportunity what were meant by them. This has not been done. The inference is that they have nothing to say. We all know perfectly well that if they had anything to say they would have said it. Therefore we charge that as a party they have taken the position of a common scold, and that their attack upon the government is not worth the consideration of the electors.

This suggestion has been made to the Colonist that the way to get over the difficulty in regard to the so-called mortgage tax is to pass a law requiring the mortgagor in all cases to pay the tax on the money loaned, but compelling the mortgagee to credit him with the amount on account of the interest. This is the way the land tax is collected in Great Britain; the tenant pays it and the landlord is compelled to repay it under a heavy penalty. Here is a question over which we would like to see correspondents exercise their ingenuity. Can anyone suggest how a law can be framed that will get at this point? As first sight it looks easy enough; but when it comes to drawing up the section innumerable difficulties crop up. How would it do to pass a law making it impossible for a mortgagor to contract to pay increased interest to cover taxes? Such a law would make it possible for him legally to refuse to pay a rate of interest that included the taxes. But would not money lenders at once advance the rate of interest? Or would it be likely that competition would keep the rate down? The subject is worth discussing along this line.

There is a certain gentleman, who shall for the present be nameless, who controls a very good newspaper in a town on the C.P.R. Nameless wants to be elected to the legislature next year, a laudable ambition. Nameless has therefore come to the conclusion that if he can identify himself with a scheme for a highway, railway or any other kind of a way from his doorway to the Yukon, he will be sure of his election. Not being especially desirous of Nameless' success from a public point of view, we think it hardly worth while to give him an excuse for an altercation with the Colonist over his pet impossibility.

It appears that a paragraph from the Times was inadvertently credited by the Colonist to the Rossland Miner. We regret the error. It is so seldom that we find anything in the Times worth quoting that it is so bad not to have credited properly the paragraph in question. But was the mistake, which is of a kind not altogether without precedent, worth a long, serious editorial?

It was a species of cruelty to animals that blocked the wires to the Seattle papers against the news from the North by the City of Seattle. The only papers in the world that printed the news of the arrival of the Klondyke party with a million dollars were the San Francisco Examiner and the Colonist.

Vancouver is getting the liveliest kind of a move on in regard to the Yukon trade. The merchants are not only advertising, but they are preparing to sell at bottom prices. Victoria should take the hint. We have a reason for giving it. Remember that quick sales and small profits are what will win next year.

We are glad to see the Columbian doing such good work to awaken the New Westminster people to a realization of the great opportunity before them in connection with the Yukon trade. But why, oh why spell Klondyke with a C?

Our impression is that we quoted the Columbian literally in the article to which it refers so indignantly in its issue of the 27th. Our recollection is that it used the very words which it now denies.

The Dutch appear to have again taken Holland. Centre Toronto has elected a Liberal in the place of Lount, the Liberal member, who recently resigned.

Will the News-Advertiser kindly write another article and tell what it means by its editorial on Sunday on local politics?

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"I'm a plain, everyday business man," said Merritt, "and I am nothing if not practical. Miss Wisely, will you be my wife?" "I admire your frankness, Mr. Merritt," replied the fair object of his affections, "because I am inclined to be rather matter-of-fact myself. How much are you worth?" —Chicago News.

ITCHING CREEPING CRAWLING STINGING
SKIN DISEASES RELIEVED BY ONE APPLICATION OF
Dr. Agnew's Ointment,
35 CENTS.

Mr. James Gaston, merchant, Wilkesbarre, Pa., writes:—For nine years I have been troubled with itching on hands and face. But at last I have found a cure in Dr. Agnew's Ointment. It is now so smooth and soft and free from every blemish. The first application gave relief. —Ed.
For Sale by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE —OF—

WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA

Castoria is put up in one-size bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A.

900 DROPS
CASTORIA
Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of
INFANTS CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.

The Fac-Simile Signature of
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 DROPS - 35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

E. G. PRIOR & CO., Ltd. Ly
ESTABLISHED 1859.
DEALERS IN
Miners, Loggers & Mill Supplies
BUILDERS' HARDWARE AND TOOLS,
BAR AND SHEET IRON, JESSOP'S STEEL,
FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY,
WAGONS, BUGGIES AND CARTS.
Headquarters, Victoria.
BRANCH STORES AT VANCOUVER & KAMLOOPS.

MACKINTOSHES,
\$4.90, \$8 and \$10.
Special Line at \$5.15 to Clear.
B. WILLIAMS & CO.,
CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS. 97 JOHNSON STREET.

LEA AND PERRINS'
OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE
Lea & Perrins
IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK
DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER
of every Bottle of the
ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.
Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors
Worcester;
Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London;
and Export Oilmen generally.
RETAIL EVERYWHERE.
Agents—J. M. Douglas & Co. and Urquhart & Co., Montreal.
SUBSCRIBE FOR THE
SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST.

HEINZE AND

Belief in Montreal
tween Them
Comp

Evidence Offered
Corporation W
a Sm

MONTREAL, Nov. 26.
been known for some
O.P.R. has been neg
Heinze for the Tra
road from Trail to R
It is thought the s
through to-day or be
gether. Mr. Heinze
Charles Wardell, ar
and this gives rise
something will be do
It is also said tha
not purchase the re
seek running power
son to China or M
thence switch off to R
of their own.
T. G. Blackstock, o
the city, denies that
prietors have any ne
smelter of their own
He says that the C. P.
one, he for the stat
War Eagle people we

MR. BLAKE'S
His Strathroy Annou
cussion in Ir

MONTREAL, Nov.
Star's London cable
is thrown in Irish cir
tation put upon Mr.
speech that he inte
Irish politics. Tim
Journal throws its c
the supposed "desec
on says that "rats a
ing ship."

C. P. R. F
An Immense Increase
pared With Its

MONTREAL, Nov. 26.
Canadian Pacific Re
statement for Octobe
lows: Gross earnings
expenses, \$1,374,
\$1,414,738. In Octo
profits were \$39,044.
For the ten month
Gross earnings, \$19,1
penses, \$11,125,757.
589. For the ten mo
31, 1896, there were
001. The increase in
same period last year
October \$475,098 and
October 31, \$1,739,688.

MANITOBA AND

Plans for Relief of D
Faker Exposed—S

WINNIPEG, Nov. 26.
Mr. Sifton and Mr.
by to-night's train f
departing the minist
he thought of the
tion at Dawson
said he did not en
ence in them as
information the dep
there would not be
first part of the wi
One of Major Walsh
be to ascertain whet
was sufficient, and if
too late he would
many men as possib
as it is impossible to
during the winter.

Mrs. Reichen, wife
the newly appointed
public schools for
dead at St. Boniface
ceased lady arrived
from Papineauville,
with her husband.
At Edmonton on S
W. Shearer was shot
a disorderly house.
Shearer had called a
companion. He will
Two weeks ago one
found prostrate on th
berry. He pretended
bagged and declared
nearly \$800. To-day
in Gaynor's trunk b
confessed to having
made a pretence of b

THE LUETG

Selecting a Judge for
the Sasau

CHICAGO, Nov. 29.
of Adolph L. Luetge
his wife was called
to-day. The big s
represented by ex-
Attorney Reise, Att
withdrawn from
after an interview w
lawyers. The cou
that Judge Cary sho
on the ground that
to sit as a criminal
overruled the mot
though intimating
that some other ju
case providing cou
could come to an
prosecution as to w
Farman and Reise
this afternoon with
Dineen, with the ob
on some other judge