

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1899.

## THE YUKON TELEGRAPH.

We have already made several references to the discussion over the Yukon telegraph line and think showed very satisfactorily that the Ottawa correspondent of the Times grossly misrepresented the action of Messrs. Prior and Earle in that connection; but having promised to speak of it when the Hansard report was received, we will do so.

In the first place it does not appear from Hansard that Mr. Earle took any part in the discussion at all. His name does not appear in it from beginning to end. So far as Col. Prior is concerned the greater part of his speech consisted of the reading of letters. There is not a single word in his remarks that can be construed into a suggestion that he is opposed to an all-Canadian line. Indeed that simply was not a matter in question. But to show how completely without foundation this gratuitous attack upon Col. Prior is, we may quote from a letter and from the speech of the Minister of Railways. On October 6, 1898, the Minister wrote to Mr. Roche as follows:

I am very much pleased indeed to learn that it is your intention, representing the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company (Limited), to proceed without unnecessary delay with the construction of the telegraph line from the Coast into Dawson City. We therefore regard the most speedy and which would give us connection with Skagway with the least delay, and that it was very much the more preferable route, and I expressed myself in that manner.

In his speech Mr. Blair said:

On examination of the routes which are laid down for these two telegraph lines, honorable members will perceive that the line which the Northern Commercial Company is incorporated to construct was the one which could be built the most speedily and which would give us connection with Skagway with the least delay, and that it was very much the more preferable route, and I expressed myself in that manner.

There is not a word in Col. Prior's remarks to this effect. The only person who seems to have expressed a preference for the cable connection with Skagway was the Minister of Railways. All that Col. Prior spoke of was the failure of the government to keep faith with the company, whose project met Mr. Blair's hearty approval. The Times represents Col. Prior as favoring a line to Seattle. No one favored a line to Seattle. No one said anything about a line to Seattle. No one proposed to build a line to Seattle. In point of fact the only person who expressed himself favorable to a line that would not be on Canadian territory for the whole of its length was the Minister of Railways. We do not wish to be understood as implying that Col. Prior did not favor the laying of a cable to Skagway. He does not say anything about this in his speech, but presumably as he seems to have favored the Northern Commercial Company's project, it may be assumed that he and Mr. Blair were alike of the opinion that the quickest way to get direct connection with Dawson was via Skagway; a proposition that no one who knows anything about the time necessary to build an overland line from Queenelle will dispute. But our reference to this matter is not for the purpose of discussing the merits of rival routes, for this is beside the matter altogether. It is simply to show that the Times has been guilty of the grossest and most indecent misrepresentation of Col. Prior's position and willfully made up out of whole cloth a slanderous statement concerning Mr. Earle.

### OH, SHAW!

Dr. Albert Shaw, the editor of the American edition of the Review of Reviews, perpetrates the following:

The Canadians were lucky enough to find themselves the possessors of the Klondike without dispute. They were embarrassed in their good fortune, however, by the discovery that the United States possessed the Yukon, which included all the ports and harbors that gave convenient access to the gold district. When they found that there was a chance to raise questions as to the exact location of the line between the American sea coast and the Canadian hinterland, they did just what the Americans probably would have done. They gave certain novel and arbitrary constructions to the wording of the treaty of 1825, and found that they could thus claim inlets which would give the Canadian Klondike independent access to the sea.

One would naturally suppose that a man fit to write for a magazine would at least make an effort to get within gunshot of the facts. He says the Canadians were lucky to get Klondike without dispute. If he was not phenomenally ignorant he would know that the boundary between Alaska and the Yukon where it is formed by the 141st meridian, was settled by the two governments concerned long before Klondike was ever heard of. He would know that the United States government had a sort of quasi-possession of a piece of territory a little east of the meridian, but vacated it immediately when the survey showed it belonged to Canada.

Dr. Shaw is also wrong when he says that the boundary question was raised because of the Klondike discovery. If he will take the trouble to inform himself he will learn that upwards of six years ago the two governments sent out expeditions to ascertain just where the boundary ought to be drawn, under the treaty. He will find Canadian maps, printed eight years and more ago, on which the whole of Lynn canal is put down as being in British Columbia. In any one else than a magazine editor Dr. Shaw's statements would be declared to be simply clumsy lies.

Later in his article, Dr. Shaw refers to certain maps, which he seems to think settle the case. Among them he men-

tions the map in the Encyclopedia Britannica. This is no authority, and no one knows it better than Dr. Shaw. He knows, also, that the United States government never pretended for a single moment that the line on the map was drawn in the right place, or that its location on paper was anything else than an expedient of the map-maker, who knowing that the line ought to be drawn somewhere made a rough sweep of his pencil from the head of Portland Inlet to Mt. St. Elias. Dr. Shaw will not find any two maps alike. His whole argument is upset by the fact that the United States government has never claimed the line to be correctly indicated on the maps, but sent out an expedition to determine, if possible, where it should be drawn.

### WHAT THE RESULT WILL BE.

We do not pretend to see the immediate outcome of the existing political situation. It possesses too many unique features to permit any one to apply to it rules that have been followed in other cases. Serious charges are preferred by Mr. Semlin against the Attorney-General. A very serious charge is preferred by Mr. Martin against Mr. Cotton. He also alleges that Mr. Semlin has been found utterly incompetent in two departments. Dr. McClellan has expressed his doubt as to the propriety of Mr. Semlin's action.

It is hard to say what course the Lieutenant-Governor will feel called upon to take, under these circumstances. We therefore regard the next development as problematical. But whatever may happen when His Honor returns, and however the executive council may be constituted during the next few months, it is very evident that we have come to a turning-point in the political history of the province. The time is at hand when the whole people of British Columbia will insist upon being considered in the formation of a new country. The time is near at hand when the people will insist upon having men in power who will give the province progressive and enlightened administration, in keeping with its imperial potentialities. In saying this we desire to reflect upon no one who has heretofore held the reins of power. The political state is to be wiped clean, and the new British Columbia will demand an administration representative of all its interests. To hasten such a time should be the object of every patriotic citizen.

### JAPANESE STATISTICS.

We are indebted to Mr. Shimizu, Japanese consul at Vancouver, for the thirtieth number of "La Resume Statistique de l'Empire du Japon." It contains statistics in Japanese and French, and many of them are of great interest. We learn from the first table that the Japanese empire consists of 594 islands, large and small, of which the largest is Nippon, with an area of 14,571.12 ri carre, a ri carre being almost the equivalent of six English square miles. The total area of the empire, including Formosa, is 27,082.46 ri carre, or exactly 210,282 square miles. The coast lines of the islands is nearly 18,000 miles long, or about equal to three-quarters of the circumference of the globe. The population on December 31, 1897, was 46,000,399, of whom 2,728,863 were in Formosa. The empire proper shows an increase of about half a million a year. During the last eleven years the gain has not been quite 11 per cent, which is not as rapid as the increase in Great Britain, the low rate being due probably to the small immigration into Japan. Of the population, 3,828 are nobles, representing 695 families; 651,578, representing 437,556 families, are Shizou or ancient warriors, the remaining being unclassified. The population per household is a little above 5 on an average, showing much the same condition in this respect as in America.

Of the cities, Tokio is the largest, its population being 1,338,256; Osaka is next, with 753,375; Yokohama is sixth on the list, with 118,455. In the whole empire there are seventy-four cities, having upwards of 20,000 population. There were 7,892,073 married couples in Japan on December 31, 1897, notwithstanding the fact that 124,075 divorces had been granted during the previous year. As this proportion of divorces, if applied to Victoria, would call for something like 56 a year, it will be seen that in this particular institution the Japanese have not much to learn by contact with America. The number of children born during the year 1897 was 1,335,125, which is not far from one child to every two married couples, and this we would suppose is a pretty good average, but the addition to the population is reduced by the fact that of these children 130,257 were still-born, which, very nearly 19 per cent, is, we imagine, a high average. The male infants exceed the female, but not very largely. This seems to have been the invariable rule since the compilation of statistics was undertaken. Somewhat over 100,000 children, or nearly 8 per cent, of the whole, were illegitimate. The death-roll for the year contained 876,837 names, or 20 per thousand, which seems high.

In 1897 only 23,857 Japanese left the country, of whom Canada received 209. The United States received 1,945. The largest emigration was to Hawaii, but Russia, China and Corea were not far behind. The total emigration for 1897 was less than for the previous year, but more than double that of 1892. In that year 58,785 Japanese were resident abroad, of whom 27,354 were in Hawaii. In all the British empire there were only 5,599 Japanese, and in this Hong Kong is included, which receives more Japanese annually than Canada. The statistics show that, so far, the Japanese are not prone to emigrate, and that, except where they are shipped away in large numbers under contract, as to Hawaii,

they prefer countries near at home. Thus in 1897 nearly 15,000 out of the 23,857 emigrants went to other parts of Asia. The number of foreigners then resident in Japan was 10,531, of whom the Chinese come first, the English next, and the Americans third. The increase in the number of foreign residents is slow. The industrial statistics are full, but a summary of them would not be of special interest. A few features may be mentioned. The forest lands have an area of about 18,000,000 acres belonging to the state, and of other lands the state owns about 27,000,000 acres. The forest area is slowly increasing. Of tea Japan produced 8,470,182 kwan, a kwan being equal to a little more than 8 pounds avoirdupois. The cotton manufacturing industry shows rapid growth, 32,068,243 kwan of the raw material having been used in 1897, a gain of 50 per cent. over the previous year. The manufacture of European paper is also growing very rapidly. Another industry that is increasing at a tremendous rate is the manufacture of matches, over 25,000,000 gross having been made in 1897.

Of the metals, the following were the products: Gold, 30,981 ounces; silver, 2,078,396 ounces; copper, 5,354,338 kwan; iron, 7,299,579 kwan. Almost all the metals are represented in the tables, but these are the principal, except manganese, of which the product was 4,782,923 kwan. In all the chief lines of mineral production there is a steady increase, and a particularly rapid one in manganese. Of petroleum 8,296,000 kwan were produced, a very rapid increase. The value of the fisheries was nearly 48,000,000 yen, and the increase is rapid. There is a rapid increase in the product of salt. All the industrial statistics exhibit remarkable progress, and it is interesting to note that between 1892 and 1897 the increase of wages steadily advanced, the increase varying from 30 per cent. to 150 per cent.

The foreign trade of Japan in 1897 was valued at 382,455,849 yen, the exports being largely in excess of the imports. There has been a gain of nearly 300 per cent. since 1888. The United States is first on the list of purchasers of exported Japanese merchandise, France being second, Hong Kong third, and China fourth. Great Britain stands on the list, with about one-sixth as high a figure as the United States, but the British Empire as a whole surpasses the United States in this respect. When we come to the imports of Japan, we find Great Britain first in the lead, British India being second, China third, and the United States fourth. Australia appears in the list, but Canada is grouped with "other countries." It is timely to mention that the importation of steel rails in 1897 was valued at 3,325,000 yen, or bar iron at 3,046,000 yen, of nails at 1,458,000 yen, and of sheet iron at 1,175,000 yen. In these items there is a steady increase. There were in Japan in 1897 2,950 miles of railway, of which 2,288 miles belonged to the state, and 3,186 miles under construction, 1,776 miles being carried out by the state.

The educational and criminal statistics are very complete, but space prevents an analysis of them in this issue. The book, which contains 159 pages of diagrams and an index, is an admirable compilation of its kind, equal to any, and excellent most.

### SPIRITUALISM AND FUTURE PUNISHMENT.

Some excellent people fear that if the so-called phenomena of spiritualism shall be found to be true, and it is there by established that there is not a place of future punishment of the orthodox soul, men will lose all restraint and wickedness will increase at a terrible rate. The world has believed more or less positively in a place of future material punishment, and we are not sure that much good has come of it. We do not believe that any of the institutions of our kind owe their origin to a fear of eternal torment. In short we decline to accede to the view that dread of future material punishment lies at the bottom of what good there is in humanity. It is not difficult to suggest reasons why the deification of the reality of spiritualism should have done the contrary effect from that suggested.

### A PRETTY KETTLE OF FISH.

Mr. Cotton avoids talking about the attempted dismissal of Mr. Martin, on the ground that everything in connection with it is in the nature of a cabinet secret. This is no reason for silence. It is intelligible that Mr. Cotton may think the least said is the soonest mended, and may desire by holding his tongue to put himself in a position to take advantage of any turn in the cards. Such a course may be a prudent one from his point of view, but it is far from being a courageous one. It is idle to pretend that the request for Mr. Martin's resignation and the facts leading up to it are in the nature of cabinet secrets. The whole business has been published at length in the papers, and all the facts upon which Mr. Semlin based his action have been open and notorious before he did anything at all. In fact, he only acted when he did because he, and we believe Mr. Cotton also, thought the demand upon Mr. Martin was in accord with public sentiment. As a matter of fact, a request from a Premier to one of his colleagues for his resignation is not a cabinet secret. It may be a party secret. In this case it is not that, certainly. Most people will agree with us when we say that Mr. Cotton ought to have been quite ready to express himself upon the extraordinary situation that has arisen, which, we submit, demands perfect frankness on the part of all concerned. It is, however, quite too much to expect frankness from Mr. Cotton in political matters.

Speaking of frankness, Mr. Martin's letter is frank, and even brutally so. We wonder what will be the sensations of the Lieutenant-Governor when he reads it. Will he believe Mr. Semlin when he says that Mr. Martin is a negligent, untrustworthy and disreputable Attorney-General, or will he accept Mr. Martin's opinion that Mr. Semlin is unfit for any place in a cabinet and has been tried in two of them and found wanting in both? Both Mr. Semlin and Mr. Martin are

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but only that they are a part of what the investigators into spiritualism claim to have brought almost within the domain of demonstration.

Spiritualism is now recognized as a proper field for investigation. It is quite too soon to jump at any conclusions about its real nature. In this respect we may use electrical discoveries as an analogy. When Volta made his experiments in his laboratory a century ago, he never foresaw the electric engine and the X-ray of to-day. Long periods of experiment are necessary to unlock the secrets of nature. So in this new domain, which we call spiritualism, for want of a better title, there may be developments as time rolls on and experiments become more intelligent with increased knowledge, which will be as far removed from the manifestations of today as a trolley-car is from the sparks given off by a cat's fur, or the glare of a mighty searchlight from the pale light of a glow worm. The most that any one can say is that humanity seems to be on the verge of a discovery that will be revolutionizing in its influences. As far as can be now judged these investigations, instead of lessening man's sense of accountability, will greatly strengthen it by making its reality more vivid, by giving personal demonstrations of what is now either a matter of faith or argument. They may result in a change in non-material, but in the material, as mentioned. They do not tend to relax our conceptions of duty, but they suggest that in discharging this duty we are "encompassed about by a great cloud of witnesses," and indicate that the possibility of receiving spiritual aid to what is right in this life and prepare ourselves for that which is to come may not be a mere fiction or article of faith but a demonstrable fact.

We make these observations because judging from present appearances a great flood of literature bearing upon the phenomena of spiritualism is likely to be set loose. The long years, during which the representatives of the Society of Psychological Research have been exposing fraud and humbug and sifting out of a mass of nonsense a few grains of truth, are beginning to bear fruit. Some of it is likely to be very startling, more some of it more sane. It is timely to mention that the educational and criminal statistics are very complete, but space prevents an analysis of them in this issue. The book, which contains 159 pages of diagrams and an index, is an admirable compilation of its kind, equal to any, and excellent most.

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His Honor's sworn advisers. What will he think of Mr. Martin's claim that Mr. Semlin never had a majority of the house at his back, and that he was only kept in a position, for which he was notoriously unfit, by the sufferance of Mr. Martin and a few others? Will he believe Mr. Martin when he says that Messrs. Semlin and Cotton were devoting themselves to scheming for a Conservative triumph, instead of seeking to promote the advancement of the province? Can he possibly convince himself that he has been honestly advised by a cabinet composed of such heterogeneous elements.

If ever there was a time when a Lieutenant-Governor was justified in exercising his prerogative right of dismissal and sending all of his hedge-podge ministry about their business, the present is the time. The whole country would have a sigh of relief to learn that the incapable crew had packed their grips and crossed the James Bay bridge for the last time. As to whom he should call upon to form a new ministry, we have no advice to offer, but if he will put the names of all the houses, exclusive of those in the present cabinet, in a hat, shut his eyes and pick out the first, he will be better provided with a chief adviser than he is now, and the country will feel safer in the new man's hands.

The whole situation is a screaming farce. It is the result of cunning endeavor, and mistaken cunning endeavor, to play at politics for personal advancement. Let any man, who is not a hide-bound partisan, take up the whole miserable record of legislation and administration, culminating in the disgraceful correspondence just made public, and say to himself honestly if it is not time that the prerogative was asserted and this ill-sorted and self-seeking political menagerie was disbanded. Some people are very anxious to save a part of it. Nonsense. Let the tail go with the hide.

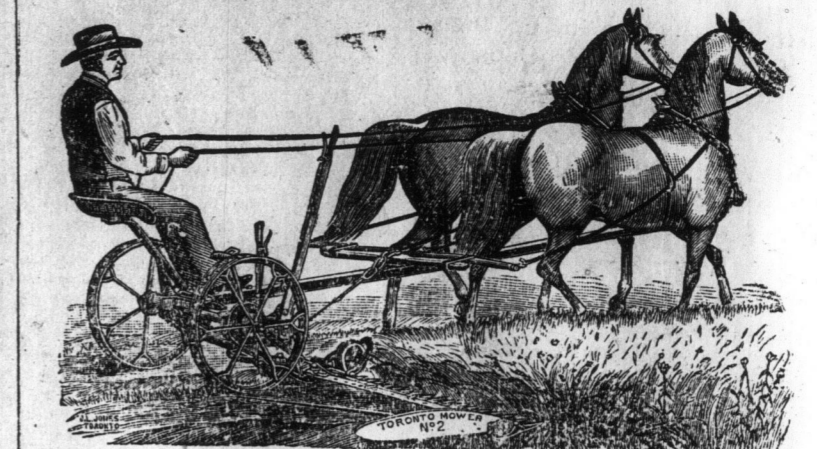
Kwang-Yu-Wei, the Chinese reformer, whose name suggests a fragment of an American college yell, is going back to Peking under the protection of the British government. Kwang was once the bosom friend of "the Son of Heaven," who he nominally emperor of China. It is alleged that the aforesaid son of Heaven continued to regard him with affection, but his "aunt," as she is called, though no mortal man can discover how the relationship is made out, thought their friendship dangerous to her prestige and broke it up. Kwang has an idea that he will do a little smashing in his own way some day. He is an exceedingly able, enlightened and courageous man.

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Permanent Court Settlement of D twensignator

By Associated Press.

The Hague, July 7.—The Hague Convention, which amended the article that when powers bety is a serious dispute a they cease all direct re considered exclusively mediatory powers. The paragraphs regarding court were also adopted of Prof. Zorn, of the tion, Count Nigra, head of the British de

enjoy; "Members of the perm and exercise all diplomatic privileges an "The bureau is auth offices and organization of signatory powers for tion of any special a

"The signatory powe communicate to the b any stipulation regardi signed between them, a of the permanent cour, take to communicate t laws, regulations and d forth the execution of nounced by the court.

"Article 1. With the op as far as possible, rec international relations, s agree to use all endea after it has been decide which may arise among "Article 2. The signat that in case of serious they will before appeal encourage the states to the good offices or m several friendly powers. "Article 3. Independen signatory powers deem of the means of concia arbitration scheme shal initiation, offer, as far permit, their good offic the contending states, ing their good offices hel connected with the con the course of hostilitie never be "other relations. "Article 4. The part of in resolution of signat resentment which m two contending states. "Article 5. The signat cease from the moment the not of the contending mediator himself that bails of amicable under by him has not been ac "Article 6. Good offic have the exclusive priv are devoid of obligator "Article 7. Pro conventio must be con event of good offices be the hostilities in concia tion or hostilities until signatory powers shall "Articles 9 to 14. Provi tion of an international arbitral tribunal, to be the of minor disputes not a interest of honor or of settlement by ordinary report of an inquiry co force an arbitral judic contending parties full conclude an amicable ar basis of the report or b lory to mediation or arb "Articles 15 to 19. It object and benefits it is the direction of the signing the convention, taking to submit in good judgment.

"Article 20. With the of an immediate recourse international differences, diplomatic means, the undertake to organize a permanent court of arbitr at all times and in all cases unless otherwise the contending parties full conclude an amicable ar basis of the report or b lory to mediation or arb "Articles 21 to 25. In consent of the parties, the object and benefits it is the direction of the signing the convention, taking to submit in good judgment.

"Article 26. An Internu tablished at The Hague the direction of the sign will serve as the office will be the intermediat ion concerning disputes to have the custody of management of an arbitr "Article 23. Each of the shall appoint within the persons this nominated members of the court of be communicated to the signatory powers. Any list will be brought by knowledge of the signat or more powers may agr the nomination and the same person is are to be appointed fo years. The appointme in case of the death o member of the court, it shall be made in the m "Article 24. The signa desire to apply to the ment of the differences the general list a num be fixed by decision of the bureau of their int to the court and give arbitral tribunal in o accordance with the ratification of the arbitrators they may an arbitral tribunal for a r will meet on the day fix ing parties.

"Article 25. The tribu nider to their ratificati of the consent of the parties their friends between threatening, which m garded as a tender of "Article 28. A manage ed of the diplomatic rep and the powers residi will exercise the functio be constituted as the possible after the ratific and the instrument wh the fish and organize the list which will remain under control. The council will of the constitution of the its installation, draw up i and other necessary regu questions the r to arise working