The Colonist.

MAONDAY, MARCH 27, 1899.

B. C. REPRESENTATION.

The population of British Columbia in 1891 was as follows:

New Westminster district	41,790
Cariboo	5,738
Yale	13,441
Victoria	21,758
Vancouver district	15,443
Total	98,170

According to this the population of Vancouver Island was 37,261. We think it not unreasonable to claim that a census now would give upyards of 50,000. We base this opinion upon the increased population of Victoria, which according to all the tests usually employed and the partial census made by the Colonist in connection with the last directory would supply half the estimated increase. There are a great many more people on the West Coast than there were in 1891, and the city of Nanaimo and the other centres of population on the Island will show a good increase. In the rural districts the average increase by excess of the birth rate has not been offset by any exceptional causes which would lead to a decrease.

Cariboo, which includes Lillooet and Omineca, must surely have increased by upwards of 2,000 since the census. It would doubtless be safe to estimate its present population at 8,000.

Yale includes Kootenay. A well informed gentleman yesterday placed the population of Kootenay alone at 60,000. If that figure has not already been reached, it will be reached and be exceeded before the year is out. It is surely not at all extravagant to place the population of East and West Kootenay, the Boundary Creek country, the Okanagan valley, the Slocan, the other mining and farming districts, and all the growing towns along the C. P. R. at the figure above named, 60,000.

This leaves us the New Westminster district which includes Vancouver and Cassiar as well as the Fraser river townships. There were about 27,000 people in this district in 1891 outside of Vancouver. No one will deny that the population of Vancouver is now 27,000 and this will bring the figures up to 54,000. But along the coast, up the Stikine, in Atlin and around Lake Bennett there must be 4,000 more people than there were in 1891. We believe this is a moderate estimate. Allowing for the probable increase elsewhere, there must be 60,000 people in the district now which number will be swelled before an election is held, if there is to be one this year, to at least 65,000. If these estimates are at all correct, a census of British Columbia taken next July ought to show a population at least as follows:

Vancouver Island	50,000
Cariboo	8,000
Yale	60,000
New Westminster	65,000
Total	183,000

But if a new House of Commons is to be chosen this year, it will be representative of British Columbia as it will be for the next five years, and before that period has elapsed the population will have grown to upwards of 250,000. There is hardly any room for doubt that British Columbia is entitled to seven members of the House of Commons today and possibly eight, and that the next census will show the province to be entitled to ten.

We claim that the government in dealing with the matter of representation ought to take this steady increase of the population and the other matters above named into consideration and give the province at least an additional member now. They may investigate the matter as they will, and they cannot reach any other conclusion than that we are entitled to such an increase now and will surely be entitled to at least three during the lifetime of a parliament elected this year. If things are left as they are, and a new election is held this year, British Columbia will be deprived of its proper share of the representation until 1904 provided the next parliament lives out its natural life. If this parliament is allowed to live out its natural life, a new election will be held in 1901, and the house then chosen may last until 1906. It will be a preposterous thing to confine British Columbia to six members until the latter date, and yet if an increase is not made this year that may be the case without any violence being done to the law. The B. N. A. act provides that the representation shall be readjusted after each decennial census, but it does not say that effect shall be given to the readjustment by holding an election. In fact it expressly says that it shall not come into force until the expiration of the parliament then existing.

Some persons may urge that the provision for a readjustment as above prevents the increase of the representation of a province in the meanwhile. But this cannot be sustained, for section 52 of the act expressly provides that the number of members in the House of Commons may be from time to time increased provided the proportionate representation of the provinces is not disturbed. It may be said that this means only that there may be a proportionate increase in the representation of all the provinces, but we submit such is not its meaning; that the previous section fixes the representation of Quebec at 65, that a greater representation cannot be given to that province without an amendment to the act itself, and that the intent of the 52nd section is to enable parliament to give growing provinces additional representation.

So the Prince of Wales is no longer the "glass of fashion." H.R.H. ceased some years ago to be the "mold of form."

THE BENEFIT OF DISCUSSION.

Any one who has attended meetings of citizens, of the Board of Trade or the legislature must have been impressed with the impatience of our people to discussion. If any one brings up a question and proceeds to explain it at any length, a feeling of uneasiness becomes at once evident. We have frequently heard members of the legislature apologize for taking up the time of the house when they had not spoken fifteen minutes on an important public question. Proper discussion of any large subject is impossible unless reasonable time is allowed to speakers. When men go to a meeting of any kind after having studied a question, they may be able to compress what they have to say into a few words: but every one with any experience in public speaking knows that nothing is more difficult than condensation, and that the effect of a good point is often lost because the speaker does not drive it home by a little explanation. Moreover it is a fact that when a man is on his feet explaining anything and has his mind fully concentrated upon his work, he thinks better than at any other time, so that by being impatient with those who are inclined to occupy some time in a speech, there is a loss to the audience, that is presuming the audience wants to get the speaker's best thoughts.

Applying these observations to the last Board of Trade meeting, two or three persons have stated to the Colonist that there were points on which they wished to make some observations, and upon which they thought the meeting would have taken some action, but that the evident impatience of the members kept them from speaking. This feature of British Columbia public gatherings ought to be corrected. Better conclusions would be reached in many cases, if every speaker who rises to address an audience did not feel handicapped by the thought that he might occupy too much time if he dealt with his subject as it deserved.

CONSOLIDATION OF DEBT.

Alderman Hayward has posted a notice that he will bring up the consolidation of sundry municipal loans at the next meeting of the municipal council. The notice is printed elsewhere in to-day's Colonist, and we refer readers to it for particulars. The point in the notice to which especial attention is directed is that contained in the preamble next to the last, which sets forth that by the proposed consolidation the sum of about $3,000 per annum can be saved during the twenty years which the new loan will run. Mr. Hayward has obtained from Mr. Raymur, city auditor, a calculation, which will be submitted to the council, and upon which he makes the claim of the snug saving of $3,000 a year. Of course, the explanation is that the money necessary to take up the loans can be borrowed at a less rate of interest than is now being paid, and upon this point there is no room for doubt.

The present annual payment for interest on these loans is $13,625, and for sinking fund $5,596.53, making in all $19,221.53. Under the consolidation plan the interest will be $8,360, and the sinking fund $7,778, making in all $16,148, thus giving an actual saving of $3,073.53 a year, which in twenty years amounts to $61,460, a saving that it is well to make, if possible. There is no doubt about the correctness of the calculations, and we do not think there is any doubt about the possibility of floating a new loan.

The Hamilton Spectator's statement that the coming of the French to Canada was a curse to this country seems rather extraordinary in view of the facts. There is a story told of a rather pompous lordling who was berating one of his tenants. As a final and crushing argument he said: "Do you know my ancestors came over with the Conqueror?" To which the tenant replied: "Did they? Then I think they found mine here when they came." For the English population of Canada to talk about the French coming to this country is an exhibition of ignorance quite unpardonable. If the French had not settled in the St. Lawrence valley, the probability is that the United States would, as one fanciful writer has said, be bounded on the north by the Aurora Borealis. Quebec remained loyal to the British crown during the revolution of the Thirteen Colonies, because there was no sympathy between the French and the English, the two having been at war more or less constantly for a long time. It was the French occupation of the St. Lawrence valley and what was then Acadia, and is now the Maritime Provinces, that made Canada as a British dependency possible. The Spectator has been a little hasty.

The Colonist is not opposed to a bicycle tax, if the amount is reasonable and the money is to be used for the direct advantage of the users of those vehicles. But it disputes the proposition of the Times that cyclists do not possess a standing in the community. They have as much right to use the streets as "the rich who ride in their chaises and the poor who walk," or get along as best they can. We wish to protest against this denial of the bicyclists of their legal status. Departing from our custom of not referring to gentlemen of the press personally (but surely the occasion is sufficient excuse), the poor plodding pedestrian often as he homeward plods his weary way sees flit past him the editor and manager of the Times, astride their wheels. Now, as the Times says, these gentlemen may have no standing in the community as cyclists, but we would not have cared to say so. On the contrary, the thought has flashed across many minds, that if they could do all things as well as they can ride a wheel, the Times would be a better paper.

THE DAWSON TELEGRAPH LINE.

It is understood to be the intention of the Dominion government to extend the Quesnelle telegraph line to connect with the line from the White Pass to Dawson. With this proposal we are heartily in accord. The old "Telegraph Trail," that is, the route followed by the Western Union, starts from Quesnelle and runs to Fort Fraser, and thence up the Bulkely valley to Hazleton. The country through which it passes is good for settlement as a rule, but so far as is known does not carry mineral in paying quantities. We suggest therefore that the line, instead of going to Fort Fraser, should be carried to the junction of the Stuart with the Nechaco, thence up the Stuart to the lake of the same name and thence through the Omineca district. If it is thought desirable to take in Hazleton, there is an open trail from Omineca that can be followed. This would lengthen the line about 80 miles. A direct line can be found from Omineca to the Stikine. The advantage of going by way of Omineca is two-fold. A rapidly growing mining interest would be served, and the line would pass through an occupied country, for after the coming summer there will be settlements at intervals all along the route.

What route ought to be taken from Omineca or Hazleton north remains to be determined, and we assume that the probable location of any line of railway that may be built from a British Columbia port to the Yukon waters will have something to do with it. What we wish to speak of to-day is the desirability of locating the line so that it will serve the increasing needs of Omineca.

AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

It is stated that the niggardly policy of the present provincial administration has led to such a reduction in the provincial police that the new mining camps cannot be said to be at all properly guarded. The order requiring constables to remain at headquarters until called for also is said to impair their usefulness. We shall investigate the matter more fully; but as our object is not to make a political point against the government, but simply to enter a timely warning against the efficiency of the force being impaired, we make this reference to it now.

Attorney-General Martin can hardly be expected to understand the requirements of mining communities as well as those persons who have had greater experience with them. What will do for a farming community will not do in a mining region. Legitimate miners and prospectors are as easy people to manage as can be found anywhere. They do not require to be managed, as a matter of fact, and are only anxious to obey the law and respect each other's rights. But as every one knows, there is an element that follows miners, which requires to be controlled with a strong hand. One of the boasts of British Columbia has been that wherever the miner went the representative of the law followed, and this kept the lawless element in check. It may be quite true that the record of the work done by the provincial police may not show that they have arrested many criminals, but this fact of itself shows how useful they are and what a mistake it will be if the usefulness of the force is impaired through false economy. Reduce the efficiency of the police and they will have very much more to do.

DE FALBE'S PROPHESIES.

De Falbe, the so-called Austrian scientist, who foretells such terrible things for the earth, bases his latest prediction upon the statement that "it is well known that the interior of the earth consists of molten matter covered by a comparatively thin crust, and that this molten matter is acted upon by the influence of the planets just as the tides are affected by the moon." Nothing of the kind is well known. What is known is that the temperature is found to increase in some parts of the world the further from the surface the observation is taken, and this rate of increase, if continuous, would at no very great depth, comparatively speaking, be sufficient to melt any known substance. It is also known that in certain parts of the world the ground is perennially frozen far beneath the reach of the surface cold, the distance being unknown, although in Poland borings showed the presence of frost at a depth of hundreds of feet. It is known that matter becomes more dense the nearer it is to the centre of gravity of the earth, and that if the rate of increase is continuous, the pressure must be so great, long before the centre of the earth is reached, that the existence of fluid matter at any great depth is an impossibility. It is possible that the centre of the earth is excessively hot and that, if it were not for the extreme pressure, the heat would be sufficient to convert everything into vapor; but it is difficult to reconcile such a condition with the continual presence of frost at such a depth that atmospheric conditions at the surface of the earth cannot account for it. If at forty miles below the surface the heat is great enough to melt iron, one would suppose that sufficient heat would have found its way upwards to melt ice at any depth beyond the reach of exterior influences. Nothing is definitely known of the condition of the interior of the earth, and all inferences drawn from supposed conditions are as likely to be wrong as right.

But some will ask if the existence of volcanoes does not prove the centre of the earth to be full of molten matter. It does not, nor does the occurrence of earthquakes prove that there is an ebb and flow deep underground. No satisfactory theory has ever been advanced to explain either volcanoes or earthquakes. The dynamic force of volcanoes is too small to be assigned to such a terrific origin as the supposed molten centre of the earth. There is a possibility that earthquakes may be due to causes exterior to the earth. An authenticated report of an earthquake in California shows that, although it was felt at the surface over a deep mine, it was not noticed in the mine. In 1882 a sharp shock was felt all over New England and the Maritime Provinces. Simultaneously therewith, or possibly a little before—for there was some divergence of testimony on this point—what appeared to be a large meteor fell apparently in the Atlantic near the entrance of the Bay of Fundy. Other facts in regard to earthquakes indicate that they may be due to a variety of causes. Changes are constantly going on upon the surface of the earth. Thus there is undoubted evidence that the coast of a part of the Maritime Provinces has subsided since the first settlement of the country by the French. This evidence is in the form of the submerged walls of a fort and the existence of tree stumps below the water level. On the other hand, the Baltic coast of Sweden has risen since it was occupied by men, as is proved by the discovery of ancient vessels far above the present level of the sea. The records of the seismometers indicate that the surface of the earth is in a state of constant tremor. Of course, the movement is so slight that it is perceptible without the use of delicate instruments only at intervals; but the motion goes on steadily, in some localities at least.

The truth is that many of the most important terrestrial phenomena have never yet been satisfactorily explained, and it is absurd for any one to pretend to possess such a knowledge of them as to be able to predict such things as De Falbe delights in prognosticating.

NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Is there such a thing as national righteousness? Kipling thinks so and expresses his views in the following stanza:

Keep ye the law—be swift to all obedience—
Clear the land of evil, drive the road and bridge the ford.
Make ye sure to each his own
That he reap where he hath sown;
By the peace among our peoples, let men know we serve the Lord!

In this respect Kipling strikes a loftier strain than Tennyson, although the latter recognizes the same idea. The late laureate seemed to see the human side of the case more clearly than the divine side. Kipling, though intensely human in most of his writings, appears when dealing with national obligations to get a glimpse of the Unseen. It was said of his Recessional that he appeared to be touched with a spark of the fire which inspired the old Hebrew prophets, and the more closely his national poems are examined, the stronger the suggestion becomes. The above quotation is from "The Seven Seas." It is needless to quote from the Recessional. His latest poem, "The White Man's Burden," while it may not awaken the religious sentiment as much as the others, is animated by a conception of duty of the loftiest character, and surely this, the antithesis of selfishness, is a strong exhortation to national righteousness. It is hardly necessary to say that all the Hebrew poets insisted that there is such a thing as national righteousness.

National righteousness does not mean the maintenance of a state church. It is a noteworthy thing that a large portion of British national ceremonial makes recognition of the Deity; but of itself this is very little. Outward expressions of duty to God have doubtless their educative effect, but they do not of themselves constitute righteousness in a nation any more than in an individual. Such righteousness as the British people possess as a nation is exhibited by their strong sense of justice and their hatred of oppression. French writers are fond of ridiculing what they call the British affection of Christianity. Certainly France is not open to any such criticism. France in practice declines to recognize "that the Lord, he is God," to use the old Hebrew expression. It was not always so. A century and a quarter ago the French monarchs described themselves as their Most Christian Majesties. How much of the reality of Christianity there was in their government, we may judge from the history of Madame Du Barry and other court favorites. A "Christian Majesty," who compelled his subjects to starve in the fields in order that he might have all their earnings to squander upon his favorite, was hardly the man to lead a nation into the path of righteousness. The Revolution dethroned Christianity as well as the Bourbons, and it has never been re-crowned. Since then France has been tending steadily to decay, so that to-day her most loyal sons look forward to the future with grave misgivings, which would amount to dread, if a century of instability had not made the nation incapable of taking a serious view of anything.

A great source of Germany's strength is its recognition of its obligations to the Deity. "We Germans fear God and nothing else in the world," exclaimed the Kaiser. This is more than a mere form of words. It voices a national sentiment. In this, as in many things the Kaiser has shown that he understands Germany. It is true that in no country has religious skepticism been more aggressive than there, but the vast body of the people recognize the obligation to righteousness.

In America we have been so busy subduing nature that little attention has been given to matters of the kind mentioned; yet we all know it to be historically true that New England was founded as a religious experiment and that the teachers of the Cross were the pioneers of Canada. How much America owes to national righteousness, in fact if not in formulae, can never be measured.

In the long roll of history we read of the rise and fall of many empires. The progress upwards and the descent have in each case been attended with different circumstances, but the lesson of it all is that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

RAILWAY CONNECTION

Mr. T. W. Paterson Suggests That Victorians Form a Company to Run a Ferry.

Other Important Business Considered at the Committee of Fifty Meeting.

When the subject of railroad connection was brought up at the meeting of the Committee of Fifty last evening, Mr. T. W. Paterson suggested a new proposition for railway connection. He said that it was a well known fact that the C.P.R. at present to the bulk of the transcontinental business, and he would suggest that instead of trying to bring a transcontinental road in here, that Victoria should form a company and select some point on the Provincial Mainland convenient to all lines and have its own connection. When one road recognized this point, it would not be long before all did. The subject of railroads was brought up at the close of all other business.

Mr. Noah Shakespeare, as chairman of the railway committee, had nothing very positive to report, but promised that next week the committee would be heard from. The committee expected to hear from the Port Angeles railway promoters next week, and on this proposition, as also the others, including the talked-of Island railway extension, the committee would report, as stated, next week.

Ald. Humphrey wanted to know why the committee did not devote some attention to a ferry to the Fraser river, and Mr. Morris why a Sidney connection was overlooked; but in answer to these things Ald. Williams, as one of the committee, said that all schemes were receiving due consideration. Providing a transcontinental road joined from the south, it would be only a short time before the C.P.R. was here also.

Mr. W. H. Langley had, too, something to say on Mainland connection, and advocated the improvement of Victoria's communication with Vancouver.

The appointment of new members to fill the vacancies caused by Col. Gregory and A. B. Fraser resigning was the first business brought before the committee. The committee enlisted Messrs. B. W. Pearse and Ald. J. L. Beckwith. The report on civic economy was then dealt with clause by clause. That referring to the levying of taxes had the words that the assessment rolls be made bi-annually struck out, the Mayor stating that the Attorney-General had said that the request to have the system based on the previous year's assessment was received too late.

The clause to combine the city departments was discussed and the inadequacy of some of the quarters was spoken of. An amendment was made to the report to have the public office hours extended from 4 until 5, while the portion of it dealing with the combining of the police and licensing commissioners was struck out.

The question of rebates on taxes, namely, 15, 10 and 5 per cent., according to the promptitude of payment, was allowed to stand, as also was that dealing with the lighting system. This, as the Mayor explained, was whether it was expedient to enlarge the present plant and the city assume the lighting of all public offices, or whether the system should remain as at present, with its inexpensive, "moonlight" schedule."

The Mayor reported the Sorby-Bowker improvement scheme being considered, as elsewhere published.

The full intensity of living is reached only by the perfectly healthy. Sickness discounts the capacity for enjoyment. If the body is all out of order and run down, he will not be able to enjoy anything, no matter how full of enjoyment it may be for other people. If he is just a little bit out of order, if he "is not sick, but doesn't feel just right," he will only be able to enjoy things in a half-hearted sort of way. The nearer he is to being perfectly well, the nearer will his capacity for enjoyment be perfect. If this condition doesn't exist, something ought to be done. This means nine cases in ten the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It works directly on the digestive organs, and on the blood and through these on every tissue of the body. It makes the appetite good, digestion and nutrition perfect and supplies rich, red blood to all the tissues, building up solid, healthful flesh.

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