

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY AT VICTORIA, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTION - - \$2.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates on Application.

D. M. CARLEY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
L. G. HENDERSON BUSINESS MANAGER.
Office—No. 77 Johnson Street.

VICTORIA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1891.

VICTORIA'S EXHIBITION.

The biggest and the best is what they say this week's exhibition in Victoria is destined to be. We hope every anticipation will be realized, for, as has been pointed out from time to time, there is a hearty unity of endeavor manifested on all sides. It is not a case of one pulling this way and another another, but there are indications of a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether. The show has been well advertised and has been made as attractive as possible in its different features, it is well managed and many people who are not directly interested have given to it an amount of attention which demonstrates the wholesomeness of the endeavor to make it "a big thing."

Days for societies and nationalities as well as a Children's Day and an America's Day have been arranged; in this respect, the successful departure of our neighbors at San Francisco and Tacoma having been followed. On America's Day, Wednesday, a big crowd is coming by special excursion from the Sound country, and on Canada's Day, Thursday, there are sure to be numbers of visitors from the Island and Mainland. What are called the outside attractions will be numerous, and the entry list for the exhibition proper is a rich and varied one, containing some most meritorious specimens in all the departments. It should be remembered that this is not a mere agricultural show nor an industrial exhibition only. It is a combination of these and more, the athletic exercises, races and outdoor sports being such as cannot fail to draw the crowds.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

We notice that the Agricultural Association, through their secretary, Mr. Renouf, have written to the Victoria City Council complaining that they have not received the whole amount of \$25,000, the amount of the loan which was negotiated by the city in their behalf. The debentures, it is said, realized \$24,800, but the Association only received \$24,-

491.83, the balance being expended in advertising and other matters connected with the adoption of the loan by-law. For our part, we fail to see why those expenses should not be paid by the Association for whom it was an accommodation to obtain the money. We are not aware that the citizens were anxious to assume the liabilities and assets of an organization that was unable to get along, and it was to relieve it of its burden and enable the work which it had undertaken to be carried out that the special effort was made in its behalf. Why the city should bear the expenses of effecting the loan, we fail to see, and think that the parties to the Agricultural Association's paper should be well pleased that they have got off so well. We would, however, be the last to say that the men who had sufficient enterprise to carry the Association should be made the losers, if their administration has been judicious, but think that they can well afford to wait for the balance in the hope of being reimbursed out of the surplus which the Association would appear not unlikely to have this year. We trust the exhibition will prove to be an abundant success, it ought to take, as we know that no effort has been spared to make it so. Indeed, so far as Exhibition Hall and the other departments are concerned, already there are satisfactory signs of success, which we trust will be fully borne out before the week closes.

TUPPER'S MANIFESTO.

Sir C. D. Tupper, by the grace and favor of Queen Victoria, Knight, etc., etc., has spoken his speech, and in an interview with the *Ottawa representative* of the *Colonist*, has endeavored to justify his peculiar action, or rather want of action in connection with the Fraser River salmon fisheries. In our opinion the hon. gentleman is impertinent, and but for the position he happens to occupy every one would say so. However, though it may be the rankest heresy to do so, we unhesitatingly say, that not content with having secured his knighthood at the cost of British Columbia's sealing industry, he, in his wilful blindness, cannot see how he has handicapped, and is continuing to handicap, the great salmon industry of the Fraser River. The "boy"—we beg his pardon, for the catechism tells us to behave ourselves reverently towards our betters (whether or not we may regard them as such)—Sir Charles H. Tupper, etc., etc., in the torrent of his verbosity makes it out that he is the embodiment of wisdom in regard to the salmon industry, while everybody else is but a short remove from the condition of a fool.

I from the character of his preliminary

deliverance we were inclined to expect, until we had arrived at the end of his interview, that the Minister was going to claim credit for having placed the Fraser River where it is, and for having stocked it with salmon in preference to fish of a less valuable quality. His colossal self-importance did not, however, lead him quite that far, albeit, he gave it to be understood that he had gone as far as he proposed to do, no matter what those most directly interested might be disposed to do or say. It is much to be regretted that the gentleman and his advisers should have assumed this attitude, inasmuch as it destroys all hope of any changes for the better in regard to the official and other regulations, unless Messrs. Tupper and Wilmot should experience a change of heart or be soundly converted to a new way of thinking. Meantime, we think that Tupper, junior, considering that he desired to say something might have done so in a much less objectionable manner. We think we may be safe in finally concluding that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has no idea of coming this way.

OUR MINERALS.

We have many a time heard of the mountains of marble which awaited development on Nootka Sound, and small specimens were long since sent down here to show its fine colors and other qualities; but it is only now that one knows actually what there is in that country, the steamer *Maude* having brought in some specimens of blue granite, which is said to work well and is in other ways likely to commend itself. So much for the marble on the Island of Vancouver, of which there are many varieties. Then, as for mineral, a considerable quantity of ore from the King Solomon and Golden Eagle mines at Alberni has recently been forwarded for treatment to the Tacoma smelter, while the miners up there are said to be most enthusiastic as to their prospects.

Coal is said to have been discovered in considerable quantity on the townsite of Vancouver, where numerous prospectors are boring for this important deposit. We are glad, in this connection, to note that large shipments of British Columbia coal are finding their way to neighboring American cities, the new tariff bill allowing it to be placed there in competition with the native product, to which we may remark that in quality it is superior. We ought to be able to do considerable with our native iron, but the course of the City Council upon a recent occasion has been such as to seriously delay, if not altogether prevent, the establishment of smelting works in Victoria, while Vancouver has decided at any rate for the present against bonusing the enterprise. But