

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1898.

CIVIC MATTERS.

Amid all the talk about civic reform, citizens should not lose sight of the fact that, no matter what changes may be made in the charter of the city, a new municipal government must be elected under the law as it stands, and that the influence of the mayor and aldermen to be selected in January next upon proposed legislation will naturally and properly be very great.

In this speaking there is always a danger of being misunderstood. The Colonist does not desire to be thought of as reflecting upon any of the gentlemen now in power. It is not in sympathy with that too common practice of berating the aldermen. These gentlemen do what they think is right. We believe the city council are an honest and well-meaning body of people. They have done very well on some respects, but it has been only too evident during the past two years that the majority of the taxpayers for the time being are not in sympathy with the aldermen.

We regard the next civic election as of extreme importance, for upon the result of that will depend the future of the city of Victoria, so far as relates to improvements, will depend. It is therefore not too early to begin to canvass the situation over to discover which will be available. It is very clear that some persons must make up their minds to sacrifice personal considerations in the public interests, and assume what is no trifling burden.

THE CITY AND THE SCHOOLS.

The decision of the city council to pay to the school trustees the sum necessary to meet the janitors' salaries is a wise one, and we do not think it unreasonable to couple therewith a condition that the question at issue between the two bodies shall be submitted to the court for determination. This will not be a sensitive matter, and as both parties to the dispute feel so very positive as to the correctness of their individual contentions, the best way to do in the public interest is to get an authoritative statement of what the law is. The suggestion that the matter should be allowed to remain open until the legislature meets, and that legislation should then be prepared to define the relative powers of the two bodies, does not commend itself to us. There is no certainty that the desired legislation can be secured, and there is probably as much difference of opinion as to what should be asked for as there is upon the meaning of the law as it stands.

COLONIZATION OF THE PROVINCE.

As the surveys of the West Coast of Vancouver Island progress, new ideas are gained of the agricultural resources of that part of the province. It may be taken as established that a large area of agricultural land is to be found on the West Coast. It is particularly adapted to cattle raising and dairy farming, owing to the amount of rainfall and the mildness of the winters. Facts of this kind ought to be made widely known.

We suggest to the consideration of the government that more might be done than has been to promote the colonization of British Columbia. What seems to be needed is that information regarding the province as a home for settlers should be widely disseminated. The world is pretty well informed as to its mineral resources, but no defined effort has been made to impress upon home-seekers that they will find within our borders conditions which are highly favorable. What has been done in this direction has been in a desultory way and only as incidental to the advertisement of the other great resources of the province. It would be well to circulate very widely a pamphlet, giving brief particulars of what is known on this point in regard to tracts now easily accessible to settlers. The abstract prepared from Mr. Gosnell's Year Book is too large and comprehensive for the purpose which we have now in mind, which needs something that can be given away, and the recipient can read through in a short time. It ought to cover one feature only, namely, what inducements British Columbia offers to persons contemplating settlement in the West for the purpose of farming or stock raising. The amount of money that is such a pamphlet it would not be wise at present to attempt a description of all parts of the province. For example, there is much good land in the Bulkley valley, but as the means of reaching it are at present of

the most primitive and difficult kind, it would be of no use to tell persons contemplating settling in the province that such land exists, except in a general way to indicate that hereafter, when the country is more fully opened up, the area of available agricultural land will be greatly increased. The idea we have in mind is a description of those localities where there is some reason to expect a settler to desire to go if he knew them. Of these there are many in all parts of the province. For example, there is probably some good land near Lake Atlin, and, if so, it would be a wise thing for a number of settlers to establish themselves on it. They would have a good market near at hand, and the means of reaching the district are easy. There must be many tracts in Kootenay, especially since the Crow's Nest Pass railway has been built, upon which it would be wise for settlers to locate themselves, because the land is fertile and markets are convenient. So up the West Coast; the tracts of farming land there can be reached easily, and there is a good market for everything that can be produced. Information covering these points should be epitomized into a handy little volume, that would cost little to print and could be given away. It should be distributed broadcast over the United Kingdom and the Eastern provinces of the Dominion.

The matter might either be got up by some one especially appointed for that purpose, or a prize might be offered for the best pamphlet on the subject. As it would be necessary for the writer to have access to all the official reports, probably the work could be done better by some one especially selected for the purpose than in any other way. The following points ought to be covered in regard to each locality: Character of the land, climate, extent of available land, means of communication, markets, etc. The great object should be to combine accuracy and clearness, so that there should be presented to persons, seeking information about this feature of the province, a brief epitome of what there is to be told, which would be likely to lead them to make fuller investigation.

SUGGESTED GERRYMANDER.

The Colonist would not expect the Vancouver World to agree with what it says in regard to the prospects of the Conservative party in British Columbia and elsewhere, nor as to the attractions which the brilliant record presents to the younger generation of voters. Therefore we shall not enter into any argument with it upon these points. When, however, it urges that Victoria is over-represented in parliament, and that one of its members should be taken away and given to some part of the Mainland, it takes a position which ought not to be allowed to pass unchallenged. Victoria has two representatives and has had them ever since the province joined the Confederation. This of itself is a good reason for continuing the existing distribution. To deprive a constituency of a share of representation, which it has always enjoyed, is something that is always avoided when possible, and no good reason can be given why Victoria should thus have its influence in parliament curtailed. Victoria has never proposed an increase of the representation of the Mainland in the House of Commons. Most people in this part of the province are opposed to any such proposal, and the last senatorial appointment might very properly have been given to some one residing on the Mainland. The government, however, thought differently, thereby showing that they are not influenced by the considerations which are expressed in the World's editorial. It is somewhat remarkable that, in the opinion of some otherwise estimable people, the first thing to be considered, when it is proposed to do anything for some other part of the province, is if what is wanted cannot be got by taking away something from Victoria. Yet if there is one locality of which it can be alleged to be truly the financial world, the fluctuations of that stock are almost without a parallel in the history of railroads. The amount lost in it has been enormous.

It is on the cards that the State of Washington may before long try the experiment of the Single Tax. The dog seems to be gaining ground there, although it is not likely to have supporters enough to control the next legislature.

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supply for the Terminal City. Why was it necessary to send to Winnipeg for it? Much is said about helping the agricultural community and much can be done to help it; but the farmers can do more to help themselves than any government can hope to accomplish. The amount spent with our own farmers for food products is kept in circulation at home. The money sent to Winnipeg for eggs and butter is never seen again. By all means let us keep our money in our own town and in our own province as far as possible.

An attempt is being made to create a lot of sympathy for the Yukon officials, who are described as men who are being much abused. The Toronto Globe tells us that the officials themselves did not know that they were being charged with wrong-doing. Our contemporary has forgotten that only a day or two before it gave, as one of the reasons for believing that the officials were more sinned against than sinning, that they had de-paused an investigation, but Major Walsh was not in a position to make one. Just how these two positions can be reconciled we must leave some other person to decide. We do not see all the Eastern papers and therefore cannot judge whether the Globe is correct, when it says the tide of vituperation against the officials has mounted higher and higher every day. There has been nothing in the papers published on the coast that can properly be called vituperation, but there has, indeed, been a notable absence of anything of that description. The general desire of people here has been to avoid magnifying the matter, and, in insisting upon an investigation, to refrain as far as possible from doing injustice to anyone.

The Province rejoices because Attorney-General Martin has already reduced the expense of his department by an amount sufficient to pay his own salary. Now if Mr. Martin really wants to serve his bleeding country, he might abolish himself, and save that much more. An able-bodied rumor has it that the colleagues of the pugacious politician from the prairies would not pine away and die, if he should resolve upon such a method of economy.

The St. Paul Globe, after carefully reviewing the wheat market, says that the outlook from the producer's standpoint is not highly encouraging, although there is a probability of higher prices towards the close of the year. The Australian and Argentine crops have not yet advanced far enough to enable an estimate to be made of their effect upon the market.

Down in Kansas on Monday they had a heavy snow storm followed by a tremendous blizzard, which completely paralyzed traffic. They do not have anything as bad as the Dawson route. What atrocious ideas a man may have in regard to the climate of a continent, he is relied upon parallels of latitude as a guide.

Our Eastern Liberal contemporaries are commending the advent of Mr. Ogilvie with many everts in the Yukon metropolis; but none of them seems to have remarked upon the coincidence that forthwith after his arrival the price of whiskey fell two bits a drink. Will the Laurier organs claim this as one of the benefits conferred by the new regime?

The Rossland Miner is hopeful that the problem of treating low grade ores has been solved, and that there are fully 40,000 tons of ore on the dumps and in sight in the mines of that district. It is very clear that if the Miner is correct, the discovery will prove of immense value.

Until recently San Francisco had the reputation for producing the toughest political cartoons in the world, but Ontario is rapidly disputing its claim to this unenviable precedence. Coarseness in a cartoon is just as objectionable as in an editorial.

A dividend on the common stock of the Northern Pacific is said to be forthcoming. This will be news indeed in the financial world. The fluctuations of that stock are almost without a parallel in the history of railroads. The amount lost in it has been enormous.

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Advertisement for Beecham's Pills, detailing its benefits for various ailments and its status as a 'wonderful medicine'.

A SUMMER CARNIVAL.

The suggestion has been made that Victoria shall hold a fruit and flower show next summer. The idea is popular with every one to whom it is mentioned, and we have no doubt that if it is taken hold of in the right way it could be very successful. We may mention at the outset that the date would be fixed so early that it would not in any way interfere with the fall shows.

We suggest that the plans adopted should embrace not only a display of fruit and flowers, but water fests, pyrotechnic displays and other features proper appurtenant to a summer carnival. The idea ought to be to make the event of more than local importance. It should be got up on a scale that would warrant its being advertised, not only all along the Coast, but in Eastern Canada. All the transportation companies would give their assistance. It is highly probable that if Victoria would make a special effort in this way, and the Canadian Pacific would give cheap excursion rates from Eastern points, hundreds of people would avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the Coast.

What we propose need not in any way interfere with our usual Queen's Birthday celebration, for the proper time for it would be the latter part of August. It might be made the culmination of a great observation trip from the East, which could take in Kootenay by way of the Crow's Nest Pass railway.

Who seconds the motion for a Summer Carnival next year?

THE ORIENTAL TRADE.

Mr. D. E. Brown, general agent of the C. P. R. at Hongkong, is quoted as saying: "I have seen the trade of this country with the Orient grow in the last five years from comparatively nothing to enormous proportions, keeping five lines engaged, with prospects of more in the future. The trade alone has grown from an annual consumption of 30,000 tons to about 135,000 tons." This statement is of importance because it epitomizes so clearly the tendency of trans-Pacific commerce.

It refers to the trade both of the United States and Canada, and is the opinion of a man who has the best possible means of knowing the facts of the case. We hope our Eastern exchanges and the Dominion government will lay its lesson to heart.

Those persons, who have paid much attention to the Oriental market and its probable demands, have anticipated the development of a new trade, but generally, they have been regarded rather as visionaries than as men of good judgment. When Sir Lewis Davies was on the Coast two years ago, he was told of the rapidly with which the trade was growing, and frankly said that it was a revelation to him, and that he could not believe what it meant. The Coast people have a reputation in the East for booming things for rather more than they will stand, and the representations made through the press and otherwise, as to what might be looked for in the way of commerce with Eastern Asia, have been generally taken with many grains of allowance, but the import of the truth has been absorbed. The immense possibilities in that direction have not yet sufficiently impressed themselves upon public opinion, either in the United States or Canada, to have had any influence upon the trade policy of either country.

We direct particular attention to the demand of the Orient for wheat flour. This is almost a new line of trade. Ten years ago the consumption of flour in China was confined almost wholly to European residents and a few natives on the seaboard. Even as yet it has not appreciably affected the diet of the people. Estimating the population of China at 400,000,000, we find that to supply them with flour, at the per capita rate of consumption, applicable to countries like Canada, would call for 40,000,000 bushels, to make which 2,000,000,000 bushels of wheat would be needed. We thus see what an insignificant part of the diet of the people the 135,000 tons of flour now shipped into the country constitute. It is less than one three-hundredth part of the maximum possible consumption. We are not suggesting that this maximum consumption can ever arise, or that if it did, there would be any possibility of supplying it. We are pointing out only what an immense field there is to work in, the number of people among whom customers can be found, and the enormous magnitude of the shipments which may be made without anything like approaching the limit of possible consumption.

The trade probably cannot be forced. It must be developed in a business-like way. It has increased four-fold in five years. There is reason to expect a more rapid gain hereafter, because the changes going on in the Orient will expand like circles in the water, and these changes will come one in the diet of the people, at least of that portion of them who will be in contact with the new works and enterprises to be inaugurated. It is not very easy to suggest how the government can aid in building up our commerce, but possibly one way, that would be more advantageous than any other, would be to appoint a resident agent at Hongkong, with instructions to keep Canadian merchants informed on all subjects relating

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Advertisement for Carter's Little Liver Pills, featuring the brand name and product image.

Advertisement for Carter's Little Liver Pills, titled 'CURE SICK HEADACHE'.

Advertisement for Carter's Little Liver Pills, titled 'ACHE'.

to trade. He ought also to be provided with sufficient assistance to enable him to satisfactorily carry on the large correspondence, which would be necessary and to make the investigations essential to the proper understanding of the market. Even if \$20,000 a year were expended at the very outset in this sort of work, it would not be extravagant. A good man, not a mere party hack, at a good salary, could do the country an immense service in such a capacity.

GOOD FIGHTING STOCK.

The charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman showed that the old fighting blood of the Anglo-Saxon was not weakened by long years of prosperity. About the same time a handful of marines from H. M. S. Hazard were exhibiting at Crete the same dauntless courage. The provoking thing about the latter achievement is that the particulars are so exceedingly scanty that the story can hardly be told. About all that Col. Scafe, to whose command the men belonged, has thought it necessary to tell is that a sergeant with eight men held an exceedingly difficult position for eight hours against a strong force of Bashahs. "We were in a very tight hole," says Scafe, "being burned on the left flank, with a murderous fire on our right flank and front, and the devils digging us out in the rear. The men knew that unless help came we were done for, but not one failed me." 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