CLOSE THE PASSES.

THTRSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1898.

At a large and representative meeting of Victoria business men held yesterday in the Board of Trade rooms, which was also attended by representatives of the Vancouver Board of Trade, the following telegram was ordered to be sent to the Hon. Clifford Sifton in the name of the boards of both cities:

"Referring to your telegrams of the third and twentieth instant to the Victoria Board of Trade and of the sixteenth and twenty-first to the Vancouver Board, the interests of Canadian trade demand the closing of the Passes at the head of Lynn Canal until satisfactory regulations are actually in the officers' hands at Dyea and Skagway."

The reason for sending this message is the apparent unwillingness of the United States to keep faith with the Canadian government in the matter of the regulations. It appears that although an agreement was reached at Washington between Hon. Mr. Sifton and the Secretary of the United States treasury under which no restrictions were to be placed in the way of the free transit of Canadian goods across the so-called Alaskan strip, much delay is taking place in putting the regulations in force or even in publishing what they are. This is being used by the merchants of United States cities very greatly to the disadvantage of Canadian cities, and it is felt that the time has arrived when some action should be taken to bring things to a head. The COLONIST said some days ago that it was time for the business men of British Columbia to speak and insist upon their they have done so, and in no uncertain of Mr. Speaker's decision is the follow-

We express the sentiments of every person in business in British Columbia when we say that rather than see Canada treated any longer as she is being treated in this matter, we would be pleased to see the whole Yukon country rule exactly meeting the case. If they remain closed long; but our business people are prepared to put up with ridiculous by the line of action now being followed by the United States gov-

There is no disposition to find fault with Mr. Sifton. He has evidently acted on the presumption that he was dealing barred from discussing anything that it with people possessed of some sense of sees fit to take up. This does not arise, what is due from one nation to another; and it will be time enough to discuss it but he seems to have been mistaken. when it does. What we wish to point He went to Washington and entered into an agreement in perfectly good faith. tion as to the right of the house to over-He returned to Ottawa and the Canadian part of the arrangement was at once put into effect. The part to be performed by the United States government hangs fire and no one can tell when it will be States Treasury telegraphed some days the house from considering the proago to the government at Ottawa that priety of Hon. Messre. Turner and the regulations would be put in force as Pooley acting on a board of directors. at Washington, which would be in the judice. No court has the right to pro that telegram was sent the collector was gested by the Colonist that the house at Juneau, and there was not the least should take up the discussion of the

fact close the Passes; that is, if the simply said that any rule that would light cast upon the question by the acgeographical conditions of the country will permit it. The answer is that the would be nonsensical. Passes can be closed by removing the to remove all obnoxious regulations

see such a course taken, because we under adjudication, and cannot be. would create hard feelings between the cation is whether certain newsare in Canada, and Canada must protect would have people think he is when he the trade of her citizens. If not we may pretends not to be able to see the disas well surrender our sovereign rights to tinction. If what Mr. Higgins contends away the gold. If we are going to allow trade, we may as well not own the coun-

NO ONE'S MOUTH CLOSED.

singularly unhappy, and his conception rule is as he states it.

unique, because while occupying a judi- hope of the opposition undoubtedly was

this paper said. For example, in the his usefulness or reputation. second paragraph of his letter he says that the Colonist advanced the proposition "that even if the Speaker should rule that a case which is sub judice may not be discussed in the legislature his rights, and we are glad to know that referred to the overruling by the house

Undoubtedly the legislature may by its own rules debar itself from discussing anything, but the right of any member to bring before the house any subject which he may consider of public interest cannot be taken away by closed. The loss attending the closing question arises under any rule framed in of the passes may be considerable, if that behalf, the house has itself the right to say how the rule shall be inter-preted, and from that decision there is ness people are prepared to put up with no appeal. Therefore, even if it be true this rather than see themselves imposed as has been alleged, that Mr. Speaker upon and their country made to appear will hold that the matters dealt with in the libels cannot be properly discusse by the house under its rules of order, it is quite competent for the house to over rule his decision and take the case up.

We shall not discuss the broad question as to whether the house can be deout is that the Colonist raised no quesrule Mr. Speaker and take up the discussion of a case sub judice. What we been brought in a court, in which the guilt or innocence of certain parties of an acted upon. The Secretary of the United alleged libel is involved, does not debar soon as the Collector for Alaska arrived This is not sub judice. It cannot be sub course of two or three days. At the time nounce upon it. It has not been sugprobability of his getting to Washington guilt or innocence of the defendants. yet left Juneau. This may be in accord- continue to maintain, that the existence falsely alleges, why did not the Alaska into the revenue yearly. Placer miners ance with national honor, but it is more of the libel proceedings is no bar to a like the trick of a political sharper. Mr. question asked on notice in the regular of the United States? If it is true that a question asked on notice in the regular of the United States? If it is true that a question asked on notice in the regular of the United States? Sifton, or rather the Ottawa government, way or to a resolution condemning man who buys Canadian goods must pa must act in the premises as becomes men the action of ministers of the Crown in the duties on them under any circumwho have to deal with people of that acting on boards of directors. Ministers stances, why did this experienced comclass, and give notice that unless good of the Crown cannot prevent their acts pany buy them? These are some nuts grant and the payment of royalty. faith is kept at once the Passes will be from being ventilated on the floors of the for the Seattle touters to crack. These house by instituting libel proceedings, are some questions for miners coming.

The question has been asked if the Nor did the Colonist say that the rule from the United States to ponder over. Canadian government can in point of under consideration was nonsensical. It Men who stop to think will see in the permit ministers to do such a thing

Referring now to the quotations from custom house to some other point and May which Mr. Speaker gives in his placing preventive officers on the river letter, we have only to say that they are to seize all goods entering the Yukon by wide of the mark altogether. They are that route. If an order is made to this three in number, and all refer to "mateffect, the merchants of the United ters under adjudication." But the fact States cities will beg their government of Messrs. Turner and Pooley being directors is not under adjudication. There is no question on that point. The We should be sorry, in one sense, to propriety of their being directors is not would prefer to see nothing done that The only question under adjudipeople of the two countries; but the papers used libellous language in time has passed when such matters can referring to that fact. We do not he considered. The Yukon gold fields believe Mr. Higgins to be as dense as he the country. We permit aliens to carry is the law of parliament, then all that a minister of the crown has to do is to bean alien government to hamper our gin a suit in the police court, involving proof that supply was voted last year, in order to shut off all discussion of the manner in which the government had administered the provincial finances. There is her own people the trade and the wealth remarkable for its extraordinary tone as county railway. Why has it not occurred excluded from participation in the where Yukon mining licenses can be for its authorship. We think, and be to the Minister of Railways to bring advantages of our great mineral deposits, obtained are Victoria and Vancouver.

of parliamentary law utterly without It is not the rule of the Colonist to His intervention in the discussion is do so now; but this it will say, that the to any but British subjects.

cial position in regard to the rules of the that the government and its friends would be unfair because the Yukon the meaning of a rule, which he has ner as if the suits had never been position that justified different treat- course of deciding in advance a question ment. He has seen fit to reciprocate upon which he may have to pronounce with a cheap attempt at sarcasm, more as the guardian of the privileges of the worthy of a callow youth than of the house. He does not know, and he canfather of provincial journalism," and not know, in what shape the question with what we must characterize as a de- may come up. He has, therefore, taken liberate perversion of the Colonist's the opportunity of declaring that the language. We say the perversion is whole subject would be out of order. We deliberate, because Mr. Higgins is too repeat that this is a perfectly unique familiar with the meaning of words position for a Speaker of the legislature not to know that he has perverted what to occupy, and one that will not add to

THEY BUY IN VICTORIA.

It is to be presumed that a great corporation like the Alaska Commercial Company, before placing an order for decision should be overruled." Mr. supplies, takes good care to ascertain Higgins must have known that in writing the facts about prices and quality of this he had no warrant in anything that goods. We have the best possible ground appeared in the Colonist. The only for thinking this an important test of portion of the Colonist's article which where to buy, because one of the reasons put forth in the interest of Seattle, in s circular recently issued by the Great Northern Railway Company, why people should outfit for the Yukon in Seattle, s that the Alaska Commercial Company

buys its goods there. The Colonist is in a position to state upon the best possible authority that, so far from its being true that the Alaska Commercial Company buys its goods for the Canadian Yukon in Seattle or anywhere else in the United States, that company has within the last few days placed orders in Victoria for goods agregating in value something in the neighborhood of two hundred thousand

We direct the attention of miners verywhere to this important fact. The Alaska Commercial Company is a ology, the most striking of the Psalms Inited States corporation and hence would not be likely to select Victoria as of Christ and His Apostles. The deduca place to buy goods if it were not advantageous to buy them here. The goods carried by the Victoria merchants must be of good quality and satisfactory in price or the company would not buy ample of Christianity is to be found in a them. This company has had a long do say is that the fact that a suit has and extensive experience in the Northern field. It bought a large amount of ing the mark of its disapproval. This is goods in this city last year, and this carrying political partizanship a long year its order is larger than ever.

way indeed. Can miners ask any better proof than this of the advantage of buying goods in this city? In the face of such a fact as this, what is the use of the people of Seattle and the press of that city setting up the cry that individual miners are unwise if they buy their outfits here? If it is true that our merchants buy seventy per cent. of their goods in the United States, as the Northern Pacific folder tion of this company, why the people of agency, legitimate and illegitimate, to persuade people not to come to Victoria.

EXCLUSION OF ALIENS.

Undoubtedly if the Dominion government would alter the mining regulations so as to prohibit any one, except British subjects or those who have declared their subjects or those who have declared their
intention of becoming such, to take out
minion government persists in refusing
minion government persists in refusing
thus? Can any boy tell me?
Bright Child (innocently)—Please, sur mining licenses in the Northwest, the to bear even a portion of the act would be well received throughout cost of maintaining the lazarthe country. This is not because the etto at Darcey island. It is people feel any hostility against their neighbors, but because they are not being fairly dealt with by the United States government. The impression which the true that the maintenance of the lazar etto at Tracadie, N.B., was a part of the agreement made at the time of confederation and hence cannot be cited as a "I was reading somewhere the other day about an artist who used to paint cherries which looked so natural that the birds would come to pick at them." "Gee, what a hit that fellow could make if he were up in the Klondike country now." country got from what transpired at precedent for the assumption of such a Watts—I've got an uncle 80 years old, washington, when Hon. Mr. Sifton was charge by the Dominion after confedera- and he is as frisky as a schoolboy. Potts there, was that all obstacles in the way tion; but it seems unjust that one leper out? of traffic into the Yukon would be speed-station should be maintained by this ily removed. They have not been recity, while the other is maintained by earth. She—Thank you, Mr. Hotter; but I am not in need of any more caddies at moved. On the contrary they are being the Dominion, both being not for the present. made more onerous constantly. It seems benefit of any particular locality, but for necessary, therefore that Canada should that of the community at large. take some step which will preserve to the mouths of our neighbors to accuse the Colonist's statement is not true, beimpute motives to others and it will not us of unfriendliness if we close our mines cause licenses can be obtained at Daw-

house, he has taken the unprecedented would take exactly the course which mines were brought to the knowledge of martyr, bound and gagged by a wicked course of deciding a case before it has Mr. Higgins has taken. They believed the world by United States citizens. prosecution, would be funny, if it were arisen, and has placed himself in a they would have a fine card to go to the We do not see what this has to do with not sad. There is something supremely position that unfits him to impartially country with; that they would the case, even if it were true. The fact ridiculous in a newspaper howling day listen to and decide upon the arguments be able to say to the public that an American citizen went into the after day that its mouth is closed. But that may be presented for his consider- that the libel suits were instiation. The only explanation of this tuted for the purpose of prevent- might give him some right to it, but it implies that some people, claiming to very remarkable performance that sug- ing the discussion of the action certainly gives no right to any other represent the rights of the press in this gests itself is that Mr. Higgins does not of Messrs. Turner and Pooley. They American citizen. Nor is it reasonable country, have a very limited conception contemplate holding his office any longer have been saying this already. To their to say that because we have permitted of what those rights are. We tell the than is necessary to formally open the great surprise they find the Colonist aliens to hold claims in the Yukon herelegislature. He surely does not propose foremost in contending for the right of tofore that we should permit others to do it may every day from now until the to sit in the Speaker's chair and go the legislature to discuss the whole thing so hereafter. It would be unfair to can-crack of doom proclaim its innocence of through the farce of pronouncing upon from beginning to end in the same man-cel any rights now exercised by aliens the libel with which it has been charged, by reason of their discoveries under the and that there is no power under the already attempted to interpret in the brought. This was just what they did laws as they now exist. We must deal sun that can prevent it from so doing. public newspapers and as a partizan. | not expect, and apparently the most fairly by those people who have If the Times has been advised otherwise, We think the tone of his letter is disappointed man of them all is the man come into the country and acted it has been wrongly advised. This right singularly unhappy. The references of in whom is vested the duty of preserving upon our laws in good faith; but this is, of course, exercised by a paper at its the Colonist to Hon. Mr. Higgins have for the house the privilege of free equitable consideration which ought peril. If, after having printed a libel, a always been respectful, even when we discussion. So disappointed is he to be extended to aliens now in the newspaper shall harp upon it, thereby have felt that he had placed himself in a that he has taken the unprecedented country, cannot by any process of rea- aggravating its original offence, the soning be claimed for those who shall court, in the event of a conviction, would come into the country hereafter. We doubtless consider this aggravation concede that to exclude aliens will tem- when imposing a sentence, but in no porarily retard the development of the other way, shape, manner or form could Yukon, for the great majority of those a court take notice of the matter. So who have their faces turned in that di- far as the Colonist's observations in rerection are aliens. But the country can gard to Hon. D. W. Higgins are conafford to wait until British subjects de- cerned, we do not think that gentleman velop the resources of the Golden North. will thank the Times for its defence In view of the exceedingly hoggish Whatever may be said of Mr. Higgins disposition shown by the government of no one can say that he whines himself the United States in regard to the Alas- or asks anyone else to do any whining kan gold mines, and in view of the ex- for him. treme unneighborliness evinced by it in regard to the extension of facilities for man as having the "courage of his contransportation across the so-called Alas-victions." This is a form of words kan strip, we think the Dominion gov- which is supposed to mean something ernment would be fully warranted in closing the country to aliens altogether, Where did it originate? It is very easy

> WE really think that the most extra- ing, but simply as an abstract expression ordinary thing put on paper in a long it has no significance. If a man's views time is the statement of the Times in re- are of a heroic cast, and his objects of a gard to certain articles which have ap- lofty and dignified character, it may be peared in the Colonist on Sundays. It right to say in a figurative sense that he tells its readers that "it differs in toto has the courage of his convictions, but to from the Colonist on its premises, de- apply it indiscriminately, as is usually ductions and conclusions upon the sub- done, seems very absurd. Can anyone ject." Two or three weeks ago the tell us who first employed the phrase Times charged the Colonist with crib- and how he employed it? bing the articles out of a religious encyclopedia, whatever that may be. Now it has concluded to withhold its assent from them altogether. There have been fifty and more of such articles published. The premises have involved the presentation of the salient historical facts in regard to the seven great religious systems of the world, the property have been made in such rapid chief of the recent discoveries in archaeand some of the most noteworthy sayings tions and conclusions from the whole review have been that of all the religions that mankind has ever professed Christianity is the best, and that the best exrighteous life. The Times brushes all

> > PLACER MINES.

At present a person who takes up a quartz claim can, after having expended \$500, receive a crown grant; but no matter how much money he may expend, he claim. He must spend \$1,000 every year that he is in occupation, and pay \$50 fore the wind.—Nanaimo Review. derstand that a request will be made to the same clothes—the the provincial government to put both the provincial government to put both the same, that is, as to weight, all the year classes of mines upon the same footing classes of mines upon the same footing houses are places to eat and sleep in—in respect to the obtaining of a crown we prefer the open air for the rest.—

We have not looked into the matter, but on the face of it the request seems to be reasonable. Possibly there may but those who are urging it say that the only reason the matter has not been dealt the Sound cities are employing every with as suggested is that the attention of the government has not been drawn to it. We only speak of the matter today for the purpose of directing notice to it in order that, if there are any reasons why the law should not be reasons why the law should not be game. He's papa coming home late, and changed as suggested, they may be made I'm you.

WE cannot understand why the Do-

THE Post-Intelligencer keeps up its We print a letter this morning from likely to be a warm discussion in parliation. D. W. Higgins, which is almost as ment at Ottawa over the Drummond try. In urging that aliens shall be where Vukon mining licenses can be where We print a letter this morning from likely to be a warm discussion in parlia- to be developed in the Yukon coun- old tricks. Its latest is that the Colofor its authorship. We think, and believe the great majority of people will
agree with us, that the intervention of
the Speaker of the House in a discussion
of this nature is unique. We think that
the house over which he presides ridiculthe house over which he presides ridiculthe Yukon, closed to every one except
the advocates of such a policy
the advocates of suc lieve the great majority of people will some sort of a suit and thus close the the advocates of such a policy What the Colonist said was that the United States citizens. It will not lie in must be added. The Seattle paper says son City. When did Dawson City get It has been said that such a course out to the Coast?

Tac Simile Signature of

Does anyone quite know what it means so far as relates to the holding of mining to imagine a connection in which it could be used with some definite mean-

THE COMING BOOM. Men who have followed the different mining excitements on this continent never saw such a series of propitious events as have occurred in this camp in the last three months. Sales of mining ion that it kept people busy makwere for such large sums that a transaction that involved less than \$30,000 was looked on as hardly worthy of notice. These large deals have not been confined to the operations of the Mackintosh and the Tupper syndicates, al-though they have been by far the largest and most important purchasers in the local market. It looks as though the example set by the big investors would be followed by others equally large, and that before long every property for sale having the least merit, in the Trail Oreek division, would be purchased and developed by English capital. In short, it seems that an era of renewed and

THIS SETTLES IT.

Anarchists or not, we, the opposition ists to the present iniquitous govern-ment, will rise like the phoenix from its ashes, at the coming election, and the rush of our (o)pinions will sweep the present rotten government from off its insecure seat, and scatter it as chaff be-WESTMINSTER FASHIONS.

Those who are neither sick nor old round, and from May to October

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Stage Manager-Can't you play your part Ghost of Hamlet—I am already wearing She-I know I am not the first girl you ever loved.

He—Well—er—at least you are the first girl I ever bought more than \$17 worth of

Mamma—Ethel, what do you mean by shouting in that disgraceful fashion? See how quiet Willie is!

Ethel—Of course he's quiet; that our

Benevolent Old Gentleman (pointing a moral to village school children)—Now, why do I take all the trouble to leave my home and come over here and speak to you

"I was reading somewhere the other day

He-I would follow you to the end of the

"Can you let,me have a five-spot for a few days?" asked the New Yorker of his Boston friend; "I'm dead broke."
"Sorry," was the Bostonian's reply; "I also suffer from a fatal fracture."

for you?"
"Well, Mr. Jones, I came to ask you for

your autograph? Delighted, I'm sure.

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A NEIGHBORLY R

Handsome Return Made ington for the Freedom Canadian Gold Field

Seattle Traffic Offered to Vessels Causes a Rem able Decision.

All-Canadian Route the Only of Escape From Petty O Annoyance.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Actin tary Spaulding to-day decided presented by the Canadian Paci on Co., that the transpor can freight from Seattle rican ports consigned for via Victoria, Vancouver or Nans at those ports transferred to Bri sels, is a violation of American laws, and subjects the mercha forfeiture. General Spaulding

"This measure is one of se course of preparation by the which seems to be called for b events and new conditions to pro develop American interests in the and Alaska.

"The act of 1893, under whi ruling is made, is as follows: ' chandise shall be transported penalty of forfeiture thereof fr point of the United States to port of the United States in a ver longing wholly or in part to a su any foreign power.'

THE EAST SNOWBOUND Montreal Streets Almost Impassa All Trains Delayed.

MONTREAL, Jan. 24.—(Special)the biggest snowstorms witnes Montreal for years commenced day and continued all day, and the streets are almost impassable to the heavy snowfall. The sto moralized street car traffic, and in railway trains are late. KIAOCHOU AN OPEN POR

Germany to Respect the British Con for Equal Trading Privileges There.

LONDON, Jan. 24.-The Time ditorially this morning: "We a o learn from various trustworth nutually independent sources th rumors of Germany's intention t Kiaochou to the world's commer vell founded. If this decision is ained, Kiaochou will possibly be reat, busy and flourishing port world's trade north of Hongkong. "The wisdom of the decision e doubted. It will tend to impromnecessarily strained relations be rermany and England. It is toped that other nations will rermany's example, and that the Castern question may be thereby

THE TROOPS FOR EGYPT Is the King of Abyssinia Who Proto Make the Trouble Guarded

London, Jan. 24.—As usual th ll sorts of explanations of the ash of British troops to Egypt, he right one. What really se ave happened is that Col. I hile en route to take over Kassa ie Italians, found King Mene byssinia in the greatest state of the surrender of the town (w lajesty regarded as part of his do
the Egyptians, and he has mo
a army with the intention of as
is authority. If the King sho
cting as suspected, in concert wi
lahdi, the danger of the situa
reatly enhanced, especially if the ay truth in the stories which a isfaction among General Sir itchener's Soudanese (who a ghters), and the reported lack o one shown by the Egyptians du

RECIPROCITY OUT OF SI ashington Has Put Aside for the Any Hope of an Arrangem

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.- Reci gotiations continue to proce anner satisfactory to the offici ere is no present prospect that ents will be concluded in the re. The British negotiation ciprocity with the West Indi vanced as a result of severs eetings between Sir Julian Pa d Commissioner Kasson. The change has been formulated, aft of an agreement has nade. The ambassador expects a few days much valuable i om the several colonies bearing ticles likely to come within the ent. The negotiations are re the West Indian colonies, the nadian reciprocity being put a present. Hopes are still ex some general arrangemen ade by which the commission th all Canadian questions, in t only reciprocity but also the matter. At present there ar tiations in that direction, alt

Mr. Davin Travels. WINNIPEG, Jan. 24.—(Special) vin, M.P., left to-day for d Ottawa.

said that they may be reported

ST. John, Jan. 24.—(Special)— merson, of New Brunswick, ring with the Beaver steams bout directing immigration runswick. It is hoped to ge inavians to take up crown land