The Colonist.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1899.

THE CORBIN CHARTER.

The discussion at the board of trade yesterday in regard to the application for a charter by the Kettle River Valley railway company proved to be very interesting, and so many points were involved in it that an adjournment was taken until to-day. We present a very full report of the speeches, so that those members of the Board who were not present and may desire to be present and vote to-day, may be in a position to know what was advanced for and against the project. Much space is occupied by Mr. Bodwell's remarks. As Mr. Lugrin said, Mr. Bodwell presented the best possible case that could be made out for Mr. Corbin, for it is the result of his long study of the question under instructions from Mr. Corbin. It is an interesting speech, but is specious rather than convincing. It scarcely touches the vital question involved, which is whether British Columbia shall be developed in the interest of Canadians, or shall contribute to build up alien towns and alien farming communities. In inviting attention to Mr. Bodwell's observations, we do so because they comprise all that can be said from the standpoint of the applicants for the charter, whoever they may be in point of fact. A very large part of his remarks deals with matters not really germane to the discussion. His declarations of Mr. Corbin's intentions bind nobody. They would not bind Mr. Corbin if made by him personally. The Colonist sees no reason to depart from the position it took yesterday, namely, that the Kettle Valley railway project is for a line having both its termini in the state of Washington, making a curve into this province for the sake of the business it can pick up here, and without which the road would never be built at all.

The amendment moved by Mr. Davies to the motion to rescind the resolution passed by the Council of the Board of Trade last year, is worthy of careful perusal, and will, we think, commend itself to the good judgment of the public. It is a reasonable proposition, founded upon preambles that must be endorsed by every one.

A point suggests itself in connection with this matter, and that is that the whole question has come up in a very irregular way. No one has asked the Board of Trade to endorse any railway scheme—that is, no one who is in a position to make any promises or give any guarantees on the subject. Mr. Bodwell was particular to say that he spoke only as a citizen of Victoria. He did not desire to be understood as speaking as Mr. Corbin's representative, and this being the case, there was no application before the Board from any one asking the endorsement of any railway proposition. Now, we submit that before the Board of Trade commits itself to the support of any application for a charter, it ought to ask the applicant to disclose his identity, to state his plans, and give his promises and guarantees, so that the Board may distinctly know who and what it is endorsing. At present the Board is simply asked to give its approval to an advertisement, which has not even been read to it. We submit that it ought not to be treated in this cavalier fashion, but has a right to ask Mr. Corbin, or whoever is behind him, to memorialize the board, setting forth his plans in some reasonable detail, so that there may be something definite to act upon. So far the Board has nothing of this kind before it.

A MARE'S NEST.

The people who have unearthed that so-called Russian boundary mound a hundred miles east of Dawson have simply discovered a mare's nest. The discovery may be what it is alleged to be, or it may not be. The answer is immaterial except so far as it may serve to cast light upon the early history of the Far North. No territorial claim can be set up by any one on account of the existence of any such mound, or of half a dozen of them. If some one should find a series of mounds extending all the way from the Arctic to the Pacific, it would not affect the boundary question one iota. The older the mound shall be proved to be, the less valuable it is, if it is possible for anything to be of less value than something else that is worth nothing.

Let us look at the case as if the so-called boundary mound were a century old. It is admitted, because it is a historical fact, that the respective claims of Great Britain and Russia to territory in the northwest of North America were for a long time undefined. A Russian trading company asserted certain rights over certain areas, and these were disputed by British companies. Now let us admit that while this condition of things existed, some one representing Russian interests set up a boundary monument 100 miles east of Dawson. This would establish that at that time Russians were in possession of the region where the mound was erected, and the fact would be very material, if the respective claims of the two countries depended upon occupation. We will concede for the purpose of argument that some time previous to 1825 the Russians were in possession of the valley of the Yukon and its tributaries 100 miles east of Dawson, and that this was the condition of things when the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and Russia met at St. Petersburg in that year to define the boundary. It is to be assumed that all the data bearing upon the question of occupation were submitted to the plenipotentiaries, and it is also absolutely certain that after considering the whole case, they arrived at a conclusion which was thus expressed in the treaty:

The line of demarcation between the possessions of the high contracting parties upon the coast of the continent and the islands of America to the Northwest shall be drawn in the manner following: Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called the Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees, 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called the Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent, where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian), and finally from the said point of intersection, the said meridian lines of the 141st degree in its prolongation to the Frozen Ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions of the Continent of America to the North West.

The object of the treaty being to settle upon a conventional line which would dispose of all disputes arising out of occupation, it is clearly absurd to suggest that proof of occupation by Russia of territory acknowledged by the most solemn instrument to belong to Great Britain could in any way render that instrument void. Hence if the monument antedates the treaty it is proof only of the enterprise of Russian explorers, and that the Russian government did not deem it desirable to base any claim upon the results of their enterprise in the region in question.

Now let us consider the matter as though the mound were erected since 1825. In that case it would be in contravention of the treaty and of no effect whatever. There is one way, and one way only, in which the boundary between Alaska and Canada in the Yukon valley can be determined, and that is by astronomical observation. If since 1825 any Russian explorers erected a monument eastward of the 141st meridian, and did so under a claim of right, they were simply trespassers, and gained no title for themselves or their government thereby. The boundary between the United States and Canada is the 49th parallel for a long distance. Undoubtedly in some places Canadians have trespassed upon territory below that parallel, and United States citizens have trespassed upon territory above it. All persons who have noted the progress of settlement along the boundary where it passes through a new country know that settlers do not exactly regard the line, for the reason that they do not know always where it is; but no one has ever pretended that this trespassing gave either nation a right as against the other. Therefore if the so-called boundary mound is of later date than 1825 it is of no value whatever as determining the limits of the two countries.

We have of late had stories from Atlin of traces of Russian occupation there. It is wholly probable that other evidence of the adventurous spirit of the Russians will be found in other parts of Northern British Columbia and the Yukon. Instead of jumping to the conclusion that such discoveries open the boundary question, we should bear in mind that the very object of the treaty of 1825, which settles the claim of the United States in the most definite manner possible, was to dispose of all the open questions that might be raised by reason of acts of sovereignty or occupation exercised by either Russia or Great Britain or the subjects of those powers within territory declared by treaty to be the territory of the other. It is needless to point out that all the United States bought from Russia was what Russia owned under the treaty of 1825. We have not the treaty of 1867 at hand, but our recollection of it is that Russia cedes to the United States expressly such territory as is described as belonging to her in the treaty of 1825.

CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATION.

The Westminster Sun lays down a correct principle when it says that it is a mistake to contend, as some do, that the question of Conservative leadership should precede the work of organization. No one denies the importance of leadership, but if there is anything in what we call Conservative principles, surely the leadership of the party is a secondary matter. Perfect the party organization along lines of policy, and the question of leadership will settle itself. In the natural order of things, Sir Charles Tupper cannot long remain at the head of the party. Although a man of surprising vigor for his years, and in many respects beyond comparison with any man now in Canadian public life, he must necessarily give place to some one else before long. He is now approaching his 78th birthday, and while he has doubtless many years of usefulness before him, it is hardly to be expected that a man of his years can attempt much more than to assist his party with the benefit of his counsel and ripe experience. Until he himself offers to lay down the leadership, there will be no disposition among the great body of the Conservative party to suggest his retirement. Indeed, while he is willing to bear the responsibility of leadership, it would be unwise as well as ungenerous, to suggest that he should be relieved of it. Younger men, no matter what their ambitions may be, ought to be content to serve under him and wait until he lays down the honor before urging their claims to take it up. Meanwhile the matter of organization ought to be earnestly attended to. No Conservative can hope to know when the government will appeal to the people. Hence the importance of being ready. The way to get ready is to perfect each local organization. We tell the Conservatives that nothing will be gained by belittling the contract they have in hand when they undertake to wrest the control of the Dominion from the Liberals. Over confidence did its share towards the defeat of the party in 1896. Over confidence is likely to be the result of a long lease of power, and it often takes years of experience in opposition to convince a political party that they are not invincible.

Speaking for British Columbia, we believe the chances for the Conservative party to carry the province at the next Federal election are good, but the way to make sure of success is to prepare as though the task were to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. For this reason we heartily endorse what the Sun says as to the need not only of perfecting an organization, but of keeping it alive.

THE CORBIN CHARTER.

The Board of Trade, after two days' discussion and a strong dissenting vote, decided to recommend the Corbin railway charter, so-called. The Colonist has no right to find fault with the decision of the gentlemen who took a view contrary to that which it has supported. They have a right to their own opinions and to give expression to them in their own way. We think, however, that, now the discussion is over, the successful party will realize that a great mistake was made yesterday by those speakers who went out of their way and exhausted their ingenuity in discovering how they could most severely arraign the Canadian Pacific railway. The discussion on Tuesday was in a different spirit entirely. Mr. Bodwell refrained from any attack upon the Canadian company, and the other speakers refrained from any attack upon Mr. Corbin. The endeavor was made on Tuesday to deal with the merits of the question at issue, and some of the speakers yesterday also followed that course. By others there was a virulence displayed against the great Canadian road, which we are sure is not shared by a majority of the Board or by anything like a majority of the people of this community. We believe, on the contrary, that only a very small proportion of the people of Victoria entertain the feelings of hostility to the Canadian Pacific, which some of the speakers expressed yesterday.

We think the chief cause, which led to the decision of the Board, was one that did not find expression in any of the speeches yesterday, but was freely made use of privately, namely, the desire of the Victoria business men not to antagonize what are understood to be the wishes of their customers in the Boundary Creek country. This is a very natural desire, and we hope that the effect given to it yesterday will not result in greater injury than benefit. By this we mean that if yesterday's vote contributes in any way to the construction of the Kettle River Valley railway, we hope the result of such construction will not be to retard rather than advance the development of Victoria's business interests there. In view of the claim made by Mr. Bodwell to the effect that the line is to be the Grand Trunk's western connection, we fear that Victoria will meet competitors in the new and rich country about to be opened up, who will be hard to oppose successfully.

We think it not unfair nor discourteous to the majority of the Board to say that the standpoint from which the subject was approached by many of them was such that no arguments that could have been advanced would have influenced a sufficient number of votes to have changed the result. If this would have been possible greater consideration would have been paid to the amendment offered by Mr. Harvey, and afterwards withdrawn, setting out that the Board was proceeding on hearsay and newspaper reports, and to the point briefly mentioned by Mr. Lugrin that if 65 miles of railway to be owned by Mr. Corbin are all that stand between a crushing monopoly, not only of freight, but of smelting and mine ownership in the Kootenay, the Board before pledging itself to Mr. Corbin's scheme should have insisted upon some condition being inserted in his charter that he would sell neither the charter nor the railway to the company, whose monopolizing tendency the majority of the Board seemed to dread so much. But the majority of the Board were not disposed to consider these things at all, and since such vital matters as this were disregarded, it is not easy to suggest anything that stood the least chance of receiving consideration.

The Colonist feels that it will serve the true interests of this city, the Boundary Creek country and the province at large by refusing to accept the decision of the Board as closing the discussion, for there are points which ought to be brought to the attention of the people, that were not brought out at the Board meetings, and could not be brought out owing to the circumstances attending the deliberations.

AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY.

It is alleged that in the province of Quebec hundreds of bogus ballots against prohibition were stuffed into the boxes by the returning officers at the close of the polls. We are also told that no one blames the government for this, and that the Hon. Sidney Fisher, to whom representations on the subject have been made by the Prohibition Dominion Alliance, asks that the names of the guilty returning officers shall be sent to the government in order that the Minister of Justice may proceed against them. This is very good as far as it goes; but the amazing fact is that the government in selecting the returning officers should have chosen men who would show themselves to be so utterly unfit for the position. If one or two returning officers had been guilty of wrong-doing, the explanation might be made that in selecting so many there is always a chance that some may be chosen, who are unfit for the position; but seeing that the fraudulent work has been done at wholesale, the conclusion will be reached by many that a selection was purposely made, so as to secure a large adverse majority in Quebec. This is a very serious allegation to make, and in advancing it, we do so under reserve, because the facts so far made public do not warrant anything definite being alleged as an explanation of the course followed by the government in naming the returning officers. We shall watch with a great deal of interest to see what the outcome of the matter is. The idea that any government could stoop to such a trick as to select men as returning officers, who would see that a certain result was reached, is too monstrous to be advanced without strong proof in its support, so we content ourselves with saying as above that an inference to that effect might be warranted from the facts as far as they have been made public.

SAMPSON IS GRACIOUS.

The American Admiral Rejoices to Welcome Great Britain as an Ally.

London, March 22.—The Times publishes this morning a letter from a correspondent in Bermuda, who describes Rear Admiral Sampson's visit there last month, and gives an "authorized" interview with the admiral. According to the correspondent, Admiral Sampson, remarking upon the "marvellous change in American opinion," said: "Formerly England was regarded as the only European power with which the United States was liable to have difficulties. Now we regard England as our best, perhaps our only, friend. I cannot say whether this feeling will prove permanent, but I hope it may. Possibly we could not hope for more than England's moral support in the first instance in any conflict with a Continental power, but in times of real difficulty it would ripen sooner or later into a defensive alliance. I say frankly the United States, in my opinion, has much more to gain from such an alliance than England. Therefore I rejoice unfeignedly at the change of sentiment in the United States. I am not less gratified that no such change is needed in Great Britain, and if any words of mine can cement a friendship calculated to benefit the whole world, it is a pleasure to myself and a duty to my country to utter them."

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

Considerable Australian Mutton Being Handled Locally—Potatoes Scarce.

Much Australian mutton is being sold this week. It is cheaper than the home killed sheep, which run very high at present. Beef is likewise very stiff in price and has lately been marked up half a cent a pound by local dealers. Potatoes are the scarcest thing in the market and can hardly be bought for $1.50 per cwt., or $30 per ton. Good apples also are hard to get in large quantities and all the way from $1.50 and $2.25 a box is being asked for them.

Ogilvie's	$ 5 50
Lake of the Woods (Hun.)	5 50
H. B. (Hungarian	5 50
Three Star	5 50
Premier	5 25
Snowflake	5 00
Hungarian (Armstrong)	5 50
XXXX (Armstrong)	5 25
Graham, per 10lbs.	35
Wheat, per ton	26 00@ 30 00
Buckwheat, per 10 lbs.	50
Straw, per bale	60@ 75
Onions, per lb.	04
Rhubard, per lb.	12
Oats, per ton	20 00@ 23 00
Barley, per ton	28 00@ 30 00
Bran, per ton	23 00@ 25 00
Middlings, per ton	25 00@ 26 00
Ground feed (Cal.) per ton	28 00@ 30 00
Chop feed (B. & K.)	23 00@ 25 00
Corn, whole, per ton	26 00@ 28 00
Corn (cracked), per ton	27 00@ 28 00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs.	35
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40@ 45
Rolled oats, 7 lbs.	30@ 35
Citrons, per lb.	03
Cabbage, per lb.	04
Potatoes, per cwt.	1 50
Cheese, per lb.	20
Red peppers, per lb.	15
Hay (baled), per ton	9 00@ 13 00
Eggs (Island), per dozen	25
Eggs (imported), per doz.	20
Butter—	
Butter (fresh) per lb.	25
Butter, dairy (East), per lb.	25
Butter (Cal.), per square	30
Butter (B.C. crmy.), per lb.	35
Hams (Canadian) per lb.	16
Hams (American), per lb.	15@ 18
Bacon (American), per lb.	16@ 18
Bacon (rolled), per lb.	14@ 16
Bacon (long clear), per lb.	12½
Bacon (Canadian), per lb.	14@ 16
Shoulders, hams, per lb.	12½
Meats—	
Beef, per lb.	09@ 15
Sides, per lb.	8½@ 09
Veal, per lb.	10@ 15
Mutton, per lb.	10@ 15
Carcass, per lb.	10½
Pork (fresh), per lb.	09@ 12½
Ducks (Brant), per pair	1 00@ 1 25
Turkeys (Eastern)	15@ 18
Turkeys (Island)	20@ 25
Geese (Eastern)	14@ 16
Geese (Island)	18@ 20
Fruit—	
Apples, per box	1 50@ 2 25
Apples (Island), per box	1 50 2 25
Lemons (Cal.) per doz.	25@ 35
Oranges, per dozen	20@ 35
Oranges (Naval), per doz.	40@ 50
Bananas, per doz	35
Salmon, per lb.	10@ 12½
Halibut, per lb.	12½
Rock Cod, per lb.	06@ 08
Ling Cod	08@ 10
Smelts, per lb.	08@ 10
Flounders, per lb.	08@ 10

Dyspepsia in its worst form will yield to the use of Carter's Little Nerve Pills, aided by Carter's Little Liver Pills. They not only relieve present distress but strengthen the stomach and digestive apparatus.

INSOMNIA.

SOUTH AMERICAN NERVINE RESTORES REST AND HEALTH.

If the digestive organs refuse to do their work, indigestion and dyspepsia follow like lightning's flash—the nerves are shattered and then insomnia runs riot, and the patient is on the road to the mad-house or insane asylum. A well known Toronto newspaper man was a victim of nervous prostration and insomnia through overwork—retiring at night was more of a dread than a welcome to rest—prejudiced against medicines and remedies, he spurned the thought of resorting to what he called nostrums—he became almost incapacitated for work—he was recommended to try South American Nervine, procured a bottle and when half of it had been taken, he found himself improving—sleep was induced, the nerves grew quieter, the appetite returned—he continued to take the remedy until he had used six bottles, and at the end of that time the twenty pounds he had lost in worry and for want of rest was put on again—to-day he says, "I feel strong enough to do two days' work in one."

South American Nervine is without a peer in the cure of nervousness, indigestion and insomnia. A few doses will convince the most sceptical. It gives immediate relief and effects a cure in every case. Strong as this statement may seem it is absolutely true.

South American Rheumatic Cure is never baffled—relieves in six hours and cures after years of agony have been suffered.

South American Kidney Cure cures Bright's disease, diabetes and bladder troubles. A few doses will convince. 11

FOR SALE BY DEAN & HISCOCKS AND HALL & CO.

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

Trial Size 25c Now Out

A trial of a good article establishes its goodness. The merits of this preparation will do the rest.

All druggists. Large bottle, 60 cts.

Japanese Morning Glory.

GOOD SEEDS,

When buying Seeds do you consider the difference between "Good Seeds" and Seeds that are sold at bargain prices? You prize a well-stocked, carefully attended garden, rather than the one that is neglected. Here is just the difference between the value of carefully grown Seeds, and Seeds that are carelessly and cheaply grown; which do you think the best for you to grow? Every careful planter considers the high character of the Seeds he uses, this is the class of trade we supply, and that more may prove the fact that GOOD SEEDS PAY BEST we offer the following TRIAL COLLECTION. Every package contains full quantity.

STEELE, BRIGGS' Good Vegetables

Any SEVEN varieties FOR 25 CENTS; the 12 VARIETIES FOR 40 CENTS.

Cabbage, Succession. Carrot, Chantenay. Mk. Melon, Exquisite. Onion, Giant Prizeta'r. Parsnip, Guernsey. Radish, Non Plus Ult. Cucumber, Evergreen. Blood Beet, New Half Long. Water Melon, Sweet Heart. Peas, Dwf. Excelsior. Lettuce, G'd. Rapids. Tomoto, Early Ruby.

FREE—When ordering, state where you saw this offer, and we will send a packet of Giant Pansies and our Handsome Catalogue free.

Try UpTo-Date Flowers and see the difference.

NEW SHOWY FLOWERS

5 PACKETS (one each full size FOR 25 CENTS. Regular price 10 cents each. NEW BRANCHIN ASTER. GLOBE OF GOLD SUNFLOWER. JAPANESE MORNING GLORY. GOLDEN MIGNOETTE. SNOWBALL POPY.

REMEMBER our FAMOUS SEEDS are sold by leading dealers. Refuse cheap (?) Seeds and substitutes, the small saving in cost will not warrant the risk of crop. "Good Seeds" are surest and pay best. Every packet bears our name.

The Steele, Briggs Seed Co. Limited. TORONTO, Ontario

The Secret Lies in the Ingredients

Given a certain quality of "this and that and something else" and almost any one can mix paints—so-called—it's merely a matter of "stir."
But what are you "stirring"?
Wherefore the "this and that and something else"?
Are they ingredients that'll make good paints?
Don't know?
It's your undisputed right to know when you pay your money.
If the ingredients are pure and true to name you can look for
BEAUTY OF TINT,
RICHNESS OF LUSTRE,
DURABILITY,
COVERING CAPACITY.
If you don't get these you are not using The Elephant Brands of ready-mixed paints, for they give you all of these. They are made of ingredients which we know to be right, because we make them.
The moral is there as plain as if it was printed in letters of fire.

The Canada Paint Company, Limited,
THE LARGEST PAINT, COLOR AND VARNISH FACTORY IN CANADA.
Montreal Toronto St. Malo St. Johns Vancouver Victoria

Character in Dress

One may have a good ear for music, and yet be unable to define what constitutes good music.

A man may know the sort of clothes he wants to wear, when he sees them, and yet be unable to describe their peculiarities to a tailor.

But it is just these little peculiarities which make character in dress, which harmonize it with the wearer's individuality, with his ambitions, mental proclivities, habit of figure, carriage of head and shoulders, etc.

"Fit-Reform" clothes (ready-made) are facts—not prophesies—and their effect can, by trying them on, therefore be judged, before purchasing.

Price is about half that of the Custom Tailor for similar grades, viz:—$20.00, $18.00, $15.00, $12.00, $10.00 per suit. Catalogue on request.

Allen's Fit-Reform Wardrobe
WILL OPEN AT
73 Government Street
ABOUT FIRST WEEK IN APRIL
Sole Controllers for Victoria.

COFFEES DISCRIMINATING BUYERS SPICES
Will find it profitable to handle only the best in...
PURE COFFEES PURE SPICES and PURE BAKING POWDER.
HIGHEST STANDARD GUARANTEED.
STEMLER & EARLE, IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS VICTORIA.
HEAD OFFICE:—Thomas Earle, 92, 94 and 97 Wharf St., Victoria, B.C.

March... Weather

Crocus blooming, Frogs croaking, Birds singing, Cows lowing, Man rushing as gardening does not prevent the rush for our bargains.

Kippered Chickens.....2 tins for 25c
Granulated Sugar.....21 lbs. for $1
Navel Oranges.....per doz. 20c.
Our Blend Tea.....20c
Golden Blend Tea.....40c
We defy any Package Tea to equal it at the price.

Dixi H. Ross & Co.

FIFTY CASES....
NEW SPRING GOODS
.....JUST OPENED
Spring Samples for Eastern Tailor Made Suits Just to Hand.
B. WILLIAMS & CO.
Clothiers, Hatters, and Outfitters....
97 Johnson Street Victoria, B. C.