

CHINA.

The news from China to-day is not calculated to relieve the misgivings which have been felt as to the fate of the inmates of the foreign legations. If the story as to the manner of death of the Russian minister and his wife should prove to be true, and all the other foreigners have met with similar treatment, the general opinion will be that the cup of China's iniquity is full. It is perhaps just as well at the present time not to discuss the subject too freely or to dwell on the sufferings which the people must have undergone who were at the mercy of those frenzied mobs. According to all accounts, the North American Indian at his worst was an angel of mercy compared with a Chinaman with a helpless victim in his power. Let the altruists and the apologists for the Mongols say what they will, there is no room for a nation like China in the world to-day. Recent occurrences will have a tendency to clear the way for the powers to work their will in the East and to justify them in forcing a people who have hitherto preferred darkness to come forth into the light. It has been contended that the civilization of China is ancient and "high," and that it is not clear that a great amount of good would be done by forcing upon her that which has not always proved an unmixed good. At any rate, the deeds which have been done in China would be impossible in any other part of the world at the present day, and the nations owe it to themselves to take such measures, if possible, as shall prevent similar occurrences in the future. The government cannot divert itself from all blame. Those in control, or who claim to be in control, cannot hold up their hands and say they are innocent without confessing their weakness and acknowledging that the reins should be given over to those who have the will and the power to do their duty and take measures for the maintenance of law and order. China is divided against itself, and like every institution in such straits, its end is apparently at hand. The viceroys of the several provinces are evidently pursuing their own course in utter disregard of the central government, and some of them are actually in rebellion against it. The massacres will have the effect of turning those who were inclined to defend China against her, thus making the proposed division possible without a single protest.

NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION.

The annual report of the Board of Trade will make interesting reading to all residents of British Columbia on account of the fulness with which it deals with the commercial and industrial progress and prospects of the province. It is gratifying to know that notwithstanding the unsettled conditions of the past year and the retarding influences of the labor troubles substantial progress has been made in all lines in British Columbia, and with the lessons which have been learned in the past to guide us there are the best of reasons for believing that the future has great things in store for us as a people.

Probably the matter of most vital concern to us, and to Canada generally, at the present time is the problem of independent, untrammelled communication with our possessions and our own people in the North. Until that boon has been secured there is likely to be a feeling of uncertainty, of doubt, as to what may be the next move of those antagonistic to this growth, and this must be the reverse of conducive to healthy development. Our neighbors in the United States are aggressive business men, and if they perceive opportunities to take advantage of the conditions over which we at present have no control, no high sense of business or national honor will bar the way. The occurrences of the past in various parts of Canada bear out what we say. The Federal government of the United States may be friendly and it may instruct its officers to carry out strictly the provisions that have been made to facilitate the course of commerce through the strip of American territory which lies between Idewater and the Canadian possessions, but after all it is largely left to the customs authorities to interpret these regulations, and the customs officials are to a certain extent in the hands of and in sympathy with those to whose interest it is to hamper the trade of Canadian merchants. The contention has been advanced in American newspapers that all the business of what they are pleased to designate "Alaska" naturally belongs to the United States, and that it is the duty of the officials of the republic to take advantage of all the means which, through the carelessness and indifference of former governments of Canada, and perhaps of Great Britain, and the activity of the United States to grab everything in sight on this continent, have been placed in their hands to force commerce out of its natural channels. Contentions such as these fully explain the attitude of the Skagway officials, and that attitude will be maintained and

perhaps aggravated according to the character of these officers and the weight of the pressure that is brought to bear upon them.

Perhaps the Alaska boundary dispute may be settled some day, but by the present indications it will not be during the existence of the present generation. The Americans are in possession and they will not give up. They will not submit their case to arbitration except on conditions which would be no arbitrament of the question at all—that all they have at present they shall hold. We might as well let them keep it without going to the expense and trouble of constituting a court and submitting the question to it. The very fact that they should take such ground and insist on such unfair conditions is the very best of evidence of the weakness of their case. They know that even if they could be forced from their unreasonable position—the position of a bully and a bluff—no civilized nation of the present day would think of going to war over such a trivial thing, and so they have determined to maintain their ground and to retain possession of territory to which they are conscious they have no legal title.

These are the facts which confront the people of Canada and of British Columbia to-day. Some years ago the Dominion government made it known that no charters would be issued to railways which were intended to reach the seaboard through American territory, and would naturally make Canadian trade the foundation upon which foreign claims should be built. The people of Skagway have given us an example of their appreciation of the benefits which they have derived from their connection with the Canadian Yukon by rail. Their town would disappear from the earth if it were not that the commerce of the Klondike passes through it, yet they express their appreciation of that fact by passing resolutions which, if acted upon, would have the effect of closing up the arteries through which flows their very commercial life blood.

The wonderful future that is in store for the northern portions of Canada's possessions and for British Columbia is becoming more apparent with every passing year, and it is imperative that steps should be taken at the earliest possible moment for the conservation of the great trade of this opulent country for the merchants, manufacturers, farmers and workmen of this country. The Dominion government has already expressed its appreciation of the fact by word and act that direct communication should be established by rail with the far north, and we hope to see the Federal and Provincial authorities acting in harmony ere long for the attainment of that desirable end.

THE TWELFTH.

The Orangemen had a very creditable celebration on the 12th, not only in Victoria, but, according to the dispatches from the East, in all parts of Canada. The resolutions which were passed here were all commendable and timely, but there was just one little paragraph in one of them with which we are not entirely in accord and which, we think, the facts do not justify. The portion of the resolution to which we refer reads as follows:

"We deplore and shall resist to the utmost of our power and influence the unpatriotic efforts of some political leaders in the province of Quebec to produce a race cleavage between the descendants of the Anglo-Saxons and Frenchmen, as we believe that men thus engaged are enemies of our country, and should speedily be relegated to political oblivion."

As a matter of fact from what we have gathered after a very diligent perusal of the daily papers of Canada for some years, we think there is no more tolerant province in the Dominion than Quebec. The public men of that province diligently attend to their own business and leave the politicians of the other divisions of the Dominion to attend to theirs. It is true certain public men of the baser sort have been unremitting in their efforts to create an impression that as a class the French-Canadians are disloyal to the Empire and would welcome an excuse to cast off the yoke which we all find so easy. It has been claimed—we do not know with what truth—that the Orange order is simply an organization for the propagation of Conservative political doctrines; at any rate, it is a fact that some of its chief men occupy prominent positions in that party, and it cannot be successfully denied that they owe their prominence in a large measure to their connection with the order. The gentleman whom we have principally in mind at the present time is Mr. Clarke Wallace, who made a most violent political oration at the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Ontario, and it is such occurrences as the one mentioned that have gained for the Orange Order the name of a political organization. We maintain that Mr. Wallace and certain Conservative papers of Ontario and the Montreal Star have done more to stir up racial strife between the provinces of the Dominion in one year than the French-Canadians have done in twenty. And, what is more, it is done purposely, because it is considered a means by which the Conservatives shall once more attain to power. Mr. Tarte may have been indiscreet in some of his after-dinner utterances in France, if we accept partisan translations of his remarks as accurate, but the Minister of Public Works is one of the most loyal of Canadians and loves his

country deeply, as indeed all French-Canadians do. If a man be a good Canadian he must necessarily also be a loyal Briton, for no one denies that all parts of the Empire are to remain as one for at least very many years, most of us believe and hope for all time. The province of Quebec, when it was put to the most severe test to which it is ever likely to be subjected, in 1896 voted for provincial autonomy when the most violent appeals to racial prejudice were made to it by the Conservatives to vote for the coercion of Manitoba on the celebrated school question. These are the reasons why we consider it unfair to accuse French-Canadians of a desire to perpetuate or accentuate the race cleavage which is alleged to exist in some of the provinces of the Dominion.

FARMING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The wealth of the mountains and of the waters of British Columbia has received a great deal of attention and has been held up as a tempting bait to those who were desirous of adding to their worldly possessions. We notice that in the report of the Board of Trade attention has been called to the prospects in store for that most independent being of all humanity, if he be up-to-date in his calling, the farmer. We have pointed out before an obvious fact—that this province is destined to be from its peculiar position as a producer of mineral and other wealth the finest portion of the continent for the agriculturist. The amount of farming land is limited and the possibilities of population in other walks of life unlimited; the husbandman must feed them all, and he will charge them high prices for doing it. It is gratifying to know that the farmers of British Columbia are beginning to realize what is in store for them, and are already taking advantage of their opportunities. It is not so many years, so it is said, since those who desired good butter had to secure the imported article. There is no necessity for that now, for the best butter that the mouth or stomach of man can desire may be procured from the farmers of Vancouver Island. If there is anything that the government can do to advance this important industry it should be done. Great advances have been made during the past few years in all parts of the world in scientific farming, and as it is manifestly impossible for many of our struggling agriculturists to take long journeys in the season when these new methods may be seen in operation, it is surely the duty of the Dominion and Provincial governments to do all in their power to bring in men who are capable of instructing the agriculturists and illustrating the advance of agricultural economics. The land in this province is difficult to clear and make ready for the plough. Inventions and contrivances for facilitating this necessary work might be encouraged, and in many ways the position of the farmer made more tolerable and attractive.

THE EMPIRE'S DEFENCE.

At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society in London recently the question of the cost of the defence of the Empire was discussed in an interesting and learned manner by some of the leading men of the country. Sir Charles Dilke opened the proceedings with a paper dealing with the "Defence Expenditure of the Empire," showing the part played by the colonies and dependencies in the general scheme of protection against the possibility of an attack from the outside. No fault was found with the attitude of Canada, of course, but it did not escape notice that we, as the chief self-governing colony of the Empire, contribute nothing to the navy, the right arm of defence. It was not even hinted that we should give of our abundance to this branch of the service to which we are so much indebted, as it is evidently recognized by Imperial public men that that is a matter which is entirely in the hands of the colonies which have absolute control over their own affairs. The part which New Zealand, Australia, Ceylon and Canada played in the war in South Africa was referred to, however, and it was pointed out that our contributions in that case far exceeded what we should have been compelled to pay if we had been under obligations to do our part as an integral part of the Empire. Sir Robert Giffen said if they compared the resources of some other parts of the Empire with those of the United Kingdom they might perhaps find that there was some discrepancy—that is, that some parts of the Empire contributed more than they ought, while other parts did not contribute so much in proportion. Treating it as a practical question, he could not altogether approve of the ventilation of that idea. It raised a very wide political question indeed. Some of the possessions which it affected were self-governing colonies like this country. They had been going on in a certain groove with their expenditure, and if this country suddenly came down upon them and said that they should contribute a part of the great expenditure which is incurred in defence of the country, and which is annually increasing, however theoretically right they might be, they would raise a political question of the greatest magnitude. Before any such question was raised there ought to be some great necessity pressing upon the United Kingdom, we ought to be feeling the burden of military and naval expenditure in a serious way, and it should be a matter of life and death before we called upon the possessions of the Empire to help in the

matter. From the tone of the press and of the public men of Canada we feel sure that Sir Robert expressed the feeling of the people of this country as regards the portion of his remarks bearing on our relations with the Empire. In case of necessity we can be depended on to do our duty, as the wave of patriotism that swept over the country at the time of the outbreak of the war in South Africa fully attests. We have testified to our loyalty by giving British goods a preference in our markets, and the time may be nearer than many of us imagine when we shall decide that we cannot accept of the protection of the navy of the Mother Country without a contribution of some kind towards the maintenance of the same. It is true that if Canada were not a part of the Empire the British navy would still have to be maintained in its present state of efficiency, but it is also true that if Canada were an independent country as a maritime nation she would have to maintain a navy of her own of considerable dimensions. The question then arises whether we can continue to accept of the gratuitous protection of the British navy and retain our self-respect as a virile young community.

YUKON OFFICIAL CONVICTED.

At last we may safely conclude that the heart of Sir Hibbert has been made glad. Dawson papers announce the fact that a government official has been found guilty of accepting a bribe, and although we have not been informed of the punishment meted out to the guilty one there is reason to believe that it will be commensurate with the heinousness of the offence of the culprit. The trap in which the offender was taken was laid by a government detective, and that itself proves that nothing is being left undone that is necessary to insure honesty and integrity in the conduct of public affairs in the far north. In one way the offence was a trivial one, the prosecutor swearing in the first instance that he had paid the dishonest official \$75, but under cross-examination he reduced the amount to \$15 and stuck to that amount. However, the proceedings serve to prove that in that remote part of the Dominion, as in every other, "the machinery of the law is in motion and that any official who uses his position for private gain does so at the risk of his personal liberty."

Full particulars are also to hand of the investigation into the charges made against Gold Commissioner E. C. Senkler by Mr. D. G. McTavish, who has since had to flee from the country to escape prosecution for criminal libel. Every facility was afforded the prosecution to press their charges, and as the inquiry was open to the public there can be no question of the impartiality of the "inquisitorial tribunal." The charge was fully in line with the style of complaint with which all readers of the speeches and resolutions of Sir Hibbert Tupper have become familiar. A gentleman named Fisher had been informed that a claim was open for location. He staked the claim and made application for record, but was refused by the clerk. After several unsuccessful applications he learned that the ground in question had been recorded by another applicant. This charge was pressed before the commission, and of course it was found that there was nothing in it, but it was made the foundation for innumerable stories of official crookedness and corruption which were quite as welcome to Sir Hibbert and those who were anxious to strike at the government through its officials as if they had already been proven. McTavish seems to have been the chief instrument for the dissemination of slanders, and he had prepared a formidable list which it was alleged would be investigated, and he had them all published in the Dawson News. This list found its way out of the country, as it was intended to, and was held up to the public eye in the East as a sample of the sort of government the Grits were giving the people of the Yukon Territory. When the light of a searching investigation was turned on these charges, however, it was found they were all based on hearsay evidence and were the natural outcome of disappointment at unfavorable decisions in cases of contested claims. It is not difficult to understand that in a mining country such as that of the Klondike where there are so many rushes for good locations during stampedes, there must necessarily be many with grievances of the character we have referred to, and these are no doubt responsible for the wild charges which have been made against men who are noted in the older parts of Canada for their probity and integrity. There are the best of reasons for believing that some at least of the scandal-mongers had an understanding with those whose chief business in life is to look for opportunities to discredit the present Dominion government, but they gave their case away when they resolved to blacken the character of Mr. Senkler. He is so well known from one end of Canada to the other as a man whose character is without blemish and whose reputation is above suspicion that the nature of the warfare that is being waged on the officials of the Yukon is beginning to be understood. No wonder the question has been asked, "If men like Ogilvie and Senkler are assailed, would it be possible to select officials from the whole of the population of Canada who would be proof against the darts of the slandered?" The remarks of

Judge Dugas on the subject are worthy of reproduction:

"As far as this incident is concerned, I will not say exactly all that I feel about it; it is not within my province, and it is better perhaps that I should not say anything about it, because I might go further than the position I occupy now would justify me in going; but at all events I may express regret that there are now so many people trying to take advantage of the fact that they are behind curtains and can throw dirt so easily and so injudiciously as is seen in this community. Why, it seems that nobody amongst the officials has any right here; they are not citizens here; if they act as citizens there are a certain number of spies; some are gentlemen, some are scoundrels of the lowest kind who go around and make it their duty or their office (whether they make money out of it or not I don't know) to spy on everybody else here and to try and find fault with everything they are doing, no matter how honest they may be, in order to make a fuss about it, and help around their name, believing it will help them, believing it will crush down those whom they accuse. That is dirty work, and the sooner it is stopped the better it will be. As to the intrusion in the public press proceedings, I have already warned the public press that they are always welcome to publish whatever, according to our laws, not the laws of any other country, can be published, and they are warned, and I have warned them as a judge sitting in the Territory, and I warn them as presiding over this investigation as commissioner, that they go no further than to publish just what is going on, what is, under our laws, fit for publication. They should refrain from making comments until the evidence, which will be brought in this case, shall have been examined. If there will be found under this commission, and it is the greatest injustice to a party who is under an accusation to publish what has been published in a couple of papers in this town. It was an untruth which was published the other day in the Nugget, and it was a great injustice to the parties concerned. If there are some parties who are guilty, they will be found under this commission; but, until they are found guilty, nobody, particularly such people as are connected with the public press, should publish such articles. They should have more experience than that; they should know better."

"FOOL BRITANNIA."

They takes their line, ar administrators, they takes it strite un' bold; They keeps it 'arf a mo' an' then they shales; They've a wunnerful cerpaecy fur swall'rin' whort they're told; More espechul if it appens ter be us. Ho it adds to ar rearn when folks see us 'climbin' down; When they 'ear ow we've bin diddled—that is fine! An' surges a poplar song whort 'as gorn a trife wrong. An' needs some alterations, does they sime; Fool, Britannia! Britannia's fooled agen; Brit-tons never, never 'ts it once in ten. Open door? We put ar foot darn; yor can't 'ear the loon roar. (Through the Chawwater of Egschobeggs) In 'is pride; Yet they've run up a partition whort 'ull block that open door. An' leave this lot a-shiverin' arside. Xuss, when Russia said, "Yon git!" then we told ar ships ter quit. An' we 'arf apologized fur bein' there, An' whort askin' cnd be finer fur ter give resp' in Chiker— Or more herbie ter miker a Briton swear: Fool, Britannia! As they was fooled afore; Britain's clever, clever min'isters fooled once more. An' who loves this precious Gov'mint? Well, there's Russia does no fear. So pident, so berleiv'n, an' so slack, Whort, with nerves an' whort with wobblin', it ain't took but 'arf a year. Ter put this country 'arf-a-centry back. But we're weary of this biz, an' we're sick of 'er we is, An' 'Fool, Britannia' ain't a treat ter sling. An' we wish'n' fur the time when the ole familly rhyme Will dare ter 'ave that ole familly ring: Rule, Britannia! Britannia rules the waves. Brit-tons never, never, never shall be slaves! Mistress—Bridget, I told you to get ham for luncheon, and you got steak. Bridget—"Shure, Oi niver eat ham!"

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FORGERS ARRESTED. (Associated Press.) Paris, July 13.—Information given the police by inhabitants of the Rue Cavautes led to the discovery of a manufactory of spurious Brazilian bank notes and the arrest of the six forgers, including Horace Urban Massard, son of the celebrated engraver of the same name, and grandson of Horace Vernet. A raid resulted in the astounding discovery of most perfect machines and engraved plates, and a correspondence which proved that the forgers had agreed to deliver 4,000,000 francs in bank notes before the end of August.

The A. B. C. Board of Officers. Lieut-Governors. Exhaustive of Co. Ye. W. A. W. Quade is v. worthy is v. C. Board of. The new posed of fit G. Cox, L. Grahame, A. Kirk, S. Mara, A. G. erson, E. G. Todd, while on it J. G. idge, B. G. Holland, D. McQuade, J. cross, C. F. The above Trade held Board of Joly de Lo. W. A. V. the chair, A. L. G. McQ. A. Maja, J. Beaumont. Graham, J. son, J. Jam. Warren, S. Seabrook, H. Gordon, D. Shallcross, grin, H. I. vey, F. C. G. A. Kir ton, Thom J. Scott at. After the port the and the plied. He "Mr. P. Victoria H that you interest in everything welfare a British a listening port that to and one open. "We've opened fid dian who perity of ploring the benefit fr what I fr that near there di sources. goods we together to know Columbia and deric new gold appear. I heard I shipped a trier am nearly tv while in quarter a much think the to you. of these factio nians to able pro dian sh think the Canadian sible of deric fe material every w "Now, pulp ind ing up, I Douglas for the spru have not there is do not, t whether taguous white sp "There want to attention many young m ing Can to beg vture ha als by means ing the means profit b us. W thesman from United pulp; w cords o \$3.50 in gone in and sav to the U leaves and the ed one leaves profit f mean t who w