The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1898.

PLACER MINES.

Through the kindness of the editors of a number of provincial contemproaries, the Colonist is able to present a series of articles in answer to the question: Is it desirable to amend the mining law of British Columbia so as to prohibit the ownership of placer claims by aliens?

Other expressions of opinion will doubtless come to hand later, and we shall be very glad to print them. We reserve comment until all our friends, who intend to discuss the question, have been heard from.

THE ST. LAWRENCE WATER ROUTE.

It is announced in a semi-official way that it is the intention of the federal government to so improve the canals, the harbor of Montreal, and the channel of the St. Lawrence, that the St. Lawrence will be the great grain route to Europe. We earnestly hope that this will prove true, and that a scheme will be submitted to parliament which the press of Canada, irrespective of party, can fully endorse. Anything that tends to the expansion of the commercial and financial importance of Montreal will be of incalculable benefit to the whole Dominion. The greatness of New York reacts upon the whole United States. It is a strong financial centre, from which radiate nerves of enterprise which make the whole country tingle with activity. So it will be in Canada if we can build up on the St. Lawrence a city greater than Montreal now is. Already British Columbia has felt the beneficial effects of having in Canada such centres as Montreal and Toronto. Almost daily we hear of what Montreal and Toronto capital is doing to develop our great resources. In proportion as these cities advance in wealth and importance, their ability to aid in the utilization of the immense resources of Canada will expand. Therefore we hold that all Canada is alike interested in the proposed improvement of the St. Lawrence route to the sea, and the whole country will watch with the keenest interest to see how the present ministry intends to deal with it. The people will stand by a prudent and broad policy, if carried into execution in a business-like way by men in whose honor and judgment they have confidence.

THE BAD BOY QUESTION.

The bad boy nuisance seems perennial in Victoria. The Colonist is very much opposed to such interferences with personal liberty as that implied in the proposed curfew by-law. The idea of clothing the police with power to stop young people on the street at night and demand their business, and to take them into custody if the explanation does not seem sufficient, is repugnant to the Colonist's idea of British liberty, and the right of parents or guardians to regulate their own family affairs. The curfew by-law is a confession of the impotence of the community to preserve both order and liberty at the same time. Nevertheless, we admit something must be done in Victoria to put down the bad boy nuisance.

We submit that the wisest way is to bring home to parents and guardians the fact that they are responsible for the mischief done by boys under their control. If this can be done, there will be proper restraint at home and much less mischief abroad.

It is a mistake to suppose, as some do, that boys who do malicious mischief are the sons of people in humble circumstances. The Colonist's information is quite the other way, and is to the effect that some of the worst boys in the city represent families who occupy good positions in the community.

Much in the way of abating this nuisance can be done in the schools. Boys ought to be taught the lessons of citizenship very early in life. They should be taught, when they are very little fellows, that they have their part to play even then in maintaining the institutions under which they live. Let no one say that this cannot be done. It has been done time and again. The child, who is old enough to learn his letters, is old enough to be given his first lessons in the fundamental principle of liberty under law, that he must so use his own rights as not to interfere with those of others. This great motto, which lies at the very foundation of British liberty, which is indeed the very epitome of the British Constitution, ought to find a place upon the walls of every schoolroom in the land, and every teacher should instruct his pupils that it was for this that the barons at Runymede compelled King John to sign the Magna Charta. They should be made to understand that no boy is worthy of the name of a Briton unless, while insisting upon his own rights, he respects those of others. We look to the schools, rather than to the police, for the abatement of the bad boy nuisance.

REDISTRIBUTION.

The Kootenaian discusses redistribution, and lays down the positive proposition that parliament has the right at any time between the taking of a decennial census to redistribute the representation of a province. Our contemporary is so very positive upon this point that we must ask for its authority for the opinion. It cannot be found in the B. N. A. act, nor be inferred from any provision of the act.

The Kootenaian seems to look with favor upon the proposition to deprive Victoria of a representative, for the reason, among others, that Victoria saw fit to elect two Conservative members at the last general election. We do not remember a more infamous proposition in politics than this. If the fact that a constituency saw fit to elect representatives in opposition to the party in power is to be regarded as a justification for an interference with their share of the membership of a province, we have come to the end of popular government; we have reached a stage of infamy which would bring a blush to the cheek of every true British subject when the name of Canada is mentioned. The amazing thing about this proposition is that it has emanated from highly influential circles in the Liberal ranks, and has not been repudiated in any quarter by that party. The Victoria Times is mute while this threat is made against the city. Possibly Senator Templeman thinks that Victoria deserves some condign punishment for having had the hardihood to reject him when he offered his distinguished services to the people on several occasions. If this is the case, and if this feeling is shared by the federal ministry, we have only to say that in making Mr. Templeman a senator they have already punished Victoria more than it deserves. The people have the sad reflection that whereas, if they had elected him, they could get rid of him, but now he is fastened upon them, and they cannot shake him off.

The Colonist desires again to enter its protest against the suggested injustice to Victoria, which it holds will be in direct violation of law, if it is attempted, and will stamp the government attempting it as the most arbitrary and brutal ministry ever in power in a British country. Will the Liberals of Victoria stand idly by while their city is despoiled?

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The United States, having resolved to take possession of the Philippines, the second volume of the history of the republic may be said to have been opened. Many writers foresaw that the time was not far distant when the American republic would look beyond the seas for new territory. It was hardly to be expected that a people, who in less than a century had extended not only their nominal dominion but all the accessories of a high civilization across this continent, would rest content upon the shore of the Pacific, while great fields lay open to them on the other side of the ocean. But while this is true, no one foresaw the steps by which the new departure would be brought about. Not a living man realized that, when the President resolved that the time had come to interfere in Cuba, he spoke the word that would lead to the setting up of the American flag upon one of the richest regions of the Orient, and introduce the nation into the arena of Old World politics. So true it is that the wisest cannot foresee the results of any step. We are reminded of the unexpected results which flowed from the Jubilee celebration of last year. The sons and daughters of the Empire came from afar to London to pay their tribute to the worth of the gracious lady, who for sixty years had worn the unsullied crown of this realm, and a wonderful and unexpected thing happened. The Empire for the first time realized its own grandeur, and the world stood amazed at the spectacle. The trend of history has been distinctly different since those eventful days, when "long leagues of men and welcome" greeted the Royal Woman, and the "far-called navies" melted away. The story is like a page from holy writ. So, too, in the case of the United States. In spite of all the fire-eaters demanded, the intervention of the United States in the affairs of Cuba was from humanitarian motives. The sinking of the Maine gave the impulse to duty, but the duty was there before. The reward of this humanitarian deed is an empire beyond the seas, which a year ago no one supposed would ever belong to the country.

But it is as true to-day, as it ever was, that "to whom much is given, from him much shall be required." The burden which the United States has assumed is not one to be treated lightly. It is one that will test the national strength in an unexpected manner. But it cannot be laid down. The English-speaking race may take up responsibilities, but it can never rid itself of them. Through some inscrutable law the burden of maintaining freedom and enlightenment has been cast upon our race. It was so in India; it was so in Africa; it will be so in the Orient. A strange thing in this connection is that almost every British newspaper foresaw from the outset that Spain would have to give up the Philippines to the United States. At a time when not a leading paper in the republic was prepared to commit itself to such a policy, across the whole of Canada there was a chorus of opinion practically unanimous in favor of such an outcome of the war. Never were the papers of Canada so liberally quoted in the United States as upon this question. The American people were almost stunned by the unexpected view of the case, and for a time they wavered in their intentions. It is curious to note that some of the leading opponents of expansion were of German origin. This was not due to any disloyalty of the German-Americans to their country. It simply signified that the German element of the population did not grasp the responsibility of the situation; the Germans do not possess the Anglo-Saxon instinct. But the latter won the day, as it will win always, and the irrevocable step has been taken. Henceforward there can be no more enmity between America and Britain. They are fellow workers in the cause of mankind.

Cascade City has its first newspaper, The Maple Leaf. Long may it remain unwithered. The first thought was to say long may it remain green, but on looking through its columns, nothing suggestive of greenness can be discovered.

THE MANITOBA FRUIT MARKET.

The Winnipeg Free Press complains that the Manitoba fruit market is neglected by everyone except the California producers. Professor Robertson, of the Agricultural Commission, has also directed attention to this matter. We find in the Free Press also copious extracts from Ontario papers on the subject. One great ground of complaint is that the fruit sent from Ontario is not well selected or carefully packed. This objection is too common in regard to Canadian shipments of agricultural produce. Producers seem to forget that the eye of the customer is the first to pass judgment upon any article offered for sale.

British Columbia has not yet been much considered in connection with the Manitoba fruit market, but in some lines this province is able to supply the very highest grades. The fruit market on the prairies is one that is worth looking after. It will grow from year to year. It is to be hoped that such British Columbia producers as cater for it will not make the error attributed to those of Ontario. Depend upon it, there is a profit in putting fruit up in the best possible shape.

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

The expression "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" has of late passed into disrepute, but it is full of truth. Nothing slips away from a people as readily as freedom. In some parts of the United States the substance of freedom has in many ways been lost, although its shadow remains. Those who are familiar with British ideas of individual liberty can have little idea, unless after personal observation, of the manner in which officials and a judiciary, controlled by politicians and corporations, have managed to filch first one and then another right from the people. Not long ago an experienced newspaper man in the United States, a man whose whole life had been spent in that country, and who is familiar with the conditions existing in every part of it, expressed his complete surprise at the idea of individual liberty which every British subject claims as his birthright. The courts of the United States choke freedom of speech in a manner which would not be tolerated in British countries for a single instant. The labor troubles, which have on more than one occasion led to bloodshed in that country, the great social problems which thinking men have said ought to lead the country refuse to enter upon a period of territorial expansion, are all due to this filching of the liberties of the people. Men distrust the courts, because they have learned that justice is not to be expected from them, because they know that political partizanship and corporation control have usurped the throne of justice. The strength of British freedom is to be found in "that fierce light which beats upon the throne," and upon every one else in official position, and while this light remains undimmed the Empire will remain

"A land where girt by friends or foes,
A man may speak the thing he will."

ONE GUARANTEE OF PEACE.

Each week brings a fresh batch of rumors of war, but we are told very little of the forces which are working for peace. One of these is the social condition of Europe. It is absolutely true that there is only one first-class power in Europe, whose government dare trust the people, and that, of course, is the United Kingdom. Of the powers of a lower grade, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden are doubtless safe from social troubles; but all the great continental powers are simply like so many volcanoes, which any day may break out in an eruption that will completely transform them. If we would seek the cause of this, we must go back many centuries. The sturdy British conception of the rights of men has no counterpart in Europe outside of the countries enumerated. It takes many generations to eradicate the taint of slavery from the blood, and it is not very long since the majority of the people of Continental Europe emerged from what was to all intents and purposes a condition of slavery. There are some conspicuous exceptions. For example, it is said that the people of the canton of Vaud, Switzerland, have never since historic times been enslaved. Caesar overran the country with his victorious legions, but never enslaved the people, and the feudal system never reached it with its debasing influences. The Basques of the Pyrenees are another race that have never been in slavery, and so generally is this admitted, that it is a saying in Spain that to be born a Basque is to be born a noble. A Basque will not uncover his head in the presence of the King of Spain. But with these and a few other exceptions, there is hardly a race in continental Europe, except those of Scandinavian and Dutch stock, that is not made up of the descendants of slaves for the most part. These people do not understand the rights of men as Britons and other historic races of free men do. Hence the denial of the right of free speech, press censorship, prosecutions for lese majeste, secret tribunals, the domination of the military element, as shown by murderers unpunished in Germany, and judicial outrages in France; hence also anarchism and nihilism, whose gospel is assassination.

A break-up of the conditions of society in continental Europe is inevitable. The long oppressed lower classes will one day rise and overthrow those who have held them in subjection. Only the strength of the military arm of the several governments keeps them down. War would weaken this and hasten the denouement, and every ruler and every chancellor in Europe knows this. The surest guarantee of peace is this knowledge. It is not fear of defeat in war that makes the Czar ask for a disarmament. It is what would be certain to come after war.

CONCERNING COLONIZATION.

What British Columbia needs more than anything else is population. The number of its inhabitants is increasing with great rapidity, but the majority of them are finding their way into the towns and cities. Our vast areas of fertile land adapted in the very way for agriculture and stock raising, remain largely undeveloped. Meanwhile we are sending abroad millions of dollars every year for farm produce that could just as well be produced in the province. How can this condition of things be remedied?

The Colonist does not favor assisted immigration as a general proposition. Exceptional cases occur when it may be warranted, and we think they have occurred in this province heretofore. But as a general proposition, it is better to be content with opening the country to settlement and then making its advantages known. In this way the province is likely to secure the best class of settlers. We are familiar with the working of the assisted immigration policy in several of the provinces and elsewhere, and think the general conclusion warranted that, in expending money to induce immigrants to take up farms, there is always a danger that many of those assisted are representatives of a class which does not do well in any country. The majority may be desirable settlers, who will persevere in their efforts to make themselves homes in a new country, but the cost, when it comes to be divided up among these, is rather more than what can very well be justified. We have in mind three cases, three efforts of this kind made in the East. Two of them were made in New Brunswick and one in the State of Maine. The first of the three was in Maine, and was the establishment of a Swedish colony in the celebrated county of Aroostook. It was a success. The settlers were selected under the direction of W. W. Thomas, at one time United States minister to Sweden, yet a very considerable portion of them only availed themselves of the assistance given them as a means of getting into the country, and strayed away to the cities. Enough remained to make a very excellent colony, which has been increased by new comers; but the experiment has not been repeated. The first experiment in New Brunswick was with a colony of Danes, selected under the direction of the Hon. Benjamin Stevenson, Surveyor-General. It also was a success, but the proportion of those who simply used the colonization scheme as a means of getting to America, was larger than in the Maine experiment, probably because a larger proportion of the immigrants were selected from the cities of Denmark. The second New Brunswick experiment was entrusted to an official of the Anchor Line Steamship Company, and was the establishment of a colony of people from Kincardineshire, Scotland. Owing to bad judgment shown in the selection of the site for the colony, the experiment seemed likely to be a disastrous failure, but Scotch perseverance made it a success, but in this case, as in others, a considerable portion of the colonists simply availed themselves of the opportunity of getting to America and did not remain upon the farms allotted to them. Looking at these fine settlemnts as they are to-day, it would not be said that even the great cost of each to the governments undertaking them has not been fully repaid, but it is noteworthy that the experiments have not been repeated. In both the New Brunswick cases, the colonies have, like that in Maine, been reinforced by immigrants who have come out at their own expense in consequence of the representations made to them by the first settlers. Doubtless the result of the experiments along the same lines in this province will have similar good results, but we are not inclined to faver any extensive scheme of assisted colonization. About all that the province ought to undertake is to ascertain definitely about specific localities, and devise some means of getting the information before possible settlers.

For example: Last summer a fine tract of land was surveyed on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. It lies between Barclay and Clayoquot sounds. It is admirably adapted to mixed farming and stock raising. It is readily reached by steamer. There is an excellent market close at hand for everything that can be grown, and as mining increases in the neighborhood, the market will rapidly be enlarged. There is perhaps no place in Canada where a colony of industrious people could do better than there. We are not sure how large an area of first-class land is available in that particular locality, but venture the guess that there is room for a hundred good farms. Possibly there may not be so much, but if the limit is fifty, the fact is worth making known. Some one in touch with the tide of emigration from Great Britain ought to be able to give definite information as to this exceptionally fine opportunity for a limited number or farmers to settle themselves in British Columbia, than which no other part of the world offers better chances for the sons of a farmer.

The latter point is one that ought to be kept prominently to the front. Among the questions which intending settlers of the agricultural class are apt to ask—the writer of this article speaking from personal experience can say that nine out of ten persons contemplating settlement in Canada ask this question—one of the first is: What chance is there for my family in case they do not wish to follow agriculture? Surely no other part of the Empire can offer as many inducements to settlers in this regard as British Columbia.

We mention this one locality, but there must be scores of others almost if not quite equal to this one in every respect. Our suggestion is that the government should charge itself with the duty of ascertaining what localities are specially desirable from the settlers' standpoint, and make the information public in some way, not only in Great Britain but in Eastern Canada.

THE SILVER-LEAD INDUSTRY.

The Rossland Miner prints an editorial on the silver-lead industry, which we reproduce elsewhere. The point treated is of extreme importance. It is perhaps premature to say that the Canadian commissioners will fail to secure the removal of the American duty on lead bullion, and it may be of very little use now to make any further representations to Ottawa on the subject, that is so far as they are likely to have any influence upon the negotiations no win progress. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues do not already understand the merits of the claim made on behalf of the industry, it will be hopeless to endeavor to enlighten them. It seems as if the wiser plan would be to await developments at the conference, and if these are unfavorable to our interests, to unite in a strong demand upon parliament for relief. It may not be the fault of any one in Canada, if the United States refuses to accede to the request for the abolition of the duty; but it will be the duty of the government forthwith to devise and of parliament to carry into effect a plan whereby this great industry may be relieved from the burdens which now handicap it.

The Province says that a short time ago an attempt was made "to shut off discussion of a matter vitally affecting the good government of the province," and that the Colonist was a party to it. The reference is of course to the connection of Messrs. Turner and Pooley with a mining company. Surely the Province does not mean to say that the Colonist attempted to shut off discussion of this matter. The Colonist discussed it fully, although daily threatened with proceedings on the part of the defendants to compel it to be silent. The Colonist urged the defendants to discuss the whole subject in their newspapers. It told them that there was no law which could prevent them from proclaiming their innocence and supporting their assertions with proof, and that no man's mouth could be closed in a British country by charging him with a criminal offence. Surely the Province has not forgotten this.

The Times says that the policy of the Conservative party is to stand still. Some one ought to give the Times lessons in the history of Canada. Most people are under the impression that since confederation Canada has made considerable progress. In 1867 Canada consisted of four provinces. Four new provinces and the vast Northwest Territories have been added, and by the Conservative party. The C. P. R. is a monument to the Conservative party. The present condition of the Canal system is another monument to the same party. But why go over the list? The history of Canadian progress for twenty-four out of thirty-one years is the history of the Conservative party.

It is now claimed that there is an active volcano somewhere up in the Atlin country. We can quite believe it. We are prepared to believe anything that is said about Atlin between now and next spring, that is to believe it temporarily. There is a class of people in the world who believe nothing and another class that believe everything. Of these two the latter have by far the most fun out of life, provided they do not act upon their belief. If you read a terrific story of how some tremendous fellow slew a half-dozen grizzly bears with no weapon but a jack-knife, there is a lot of fun in believing it if you can. It would not be wise, however, to tackle such a contract. The whole United States a few yars ago was greatly entertained by a timely story about some volcanoes to be seen from Mount Rainier. The story was timely in the sense that it was told at a time when no contradiction was possible. Dick Willoughby's phantom city was a positive delight to people who believed about it. The fellow who is all the time saying "I don't know about that," may be terribly wise, but he misses a heap of innocent enjoyment, just like over-wise children do who do not believe in Santa Claus.

The following is the Ottawa Citizen's description of Indian summer, and with a word or two of change would fit a fine winter's day in Victoria as well as if it was made for it:

When the sky dome is a close-hung oval of faded blue, and the earth seems to have that tired feeling; the shade trees stand out in bunches of dark, prickly spines against the raw red brick of the house; the mild, balmy air is fragrant with the incense of burning leaves; and you are surprized by a silence that you find is the absence of bird voices; when in the early afternoon the low-levelled sun scores the landscape with harsh, dark shadows and the balmy air takes on a tang of bitterness; when darkness shuts down and the stars glitter frostily while the earth seems to be surrounded with much space, brilliant with the radiance of a clear-cut moon.

A New York paper recently ascertained where the rulers of all the nations of the world spent their previous Sunday, and found that all of them attended religious service except the President of the United States and the President of France. In the case of the former the absence of a place of worship was doubtless accidental, for Mr. McKinley is not only a regular church-goer, but a professing Christian. It is doubtful if President Faure gives much attention to church matters. There was a time when the ruler of France was always called His Most Christian Majesty, "mais nous avons change tout cela."

The Oregonian says that the reason for taking Porto Rico is that it will help defend the Nicaraguan canal. The next step ought logically to be to construct the canal so that some use can be made of Porto Rico. How hard it is for our neighbors to realize what they have been doing. They took Porto Rico for the same reason that they speak English. They were born that way.

The statement is made upon what appears to be excellent authority that an understanding exists between Great Britain and the United States in regard to co-operation in maintaining the "open door" policy in the Orient, and that as a guarantee of this the trade of the Philippines will be thrown open to all the world, including the United States, on an equal basis. This does not mean that there will be free trade, but that a tariff will be provided for the islands which will be applicable to imports from the United States as well as from any other country.

The Colonist understands that offence has been taken by some of the naval people because the word "shellback" was applied to some bluejackets. Certainly no offence was meant. We do not approve of the use of slang terms in regard to any person or thing, but it is fair to mention that William Clark Russell in one of his novels uses the word "shellback" in a complimentary sense, so that it is hardly a term of opprobium.

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A lady living in a northern County town writes that for seventeen years she was troubled with salt rheum. She took doctors' treatments and used many lotions without any permanent relief. Reading of the cures made by Dr. Agnew's Ointment, she decided to try it. The first application allayed the irritation and she continued using it—the disease rapidly disappeared and now for two years there has been no sign of a return of it.

The baby of another lady living on Pacific Ave. in Toronto, was terribly afflicted with scall-head and eczema—she tried washes prescribed by her physician, and soaps advertised for such purposes, but the disease remained—Dr. Agnew's Ointment was her good friend; half a box cured the baby and cured herself of troublesome piles which had been the bane of her life since baby's birth.

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