

The Colonist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1896.

A GOOD OPENING.

We are glad to see that the Council of the British Columbia Board of Trade are directing their attention to the Yukon country. That Northern land is a region of great possibilities. It has vast mineral resources and its agricultural capabilities are not to be despised. It is bound to be the home of an industrious and a prosperous population. A very considerable number of enterprising men have gone to that country in search of gold. They are certain to be followed by thousands of others. For a long time the inhabitants of the valley of the Yukon and of the valleys of its tributaries will have to depend upon the outside world for nearly everything that they need. And it must be remembered that they will be in a position to pay well and promptly for whatever they get. Who is to supply this new and growing community with the necessities and the luxuries of life? The trade is now chiefly in the hands of the Americans. Are they to continue to monopolize it? The country, it is true, appears to be difficult of access, but it is said by those who know it that a route to the valley of gold can be opened through British territory at a comparatively small expense. Is not the trade of that valley, present and prospective, worth making an effort to secure? We believe it is. The Provincial Government would do no more than might be reasonably expected of it if it took measures to find out which of the routes spoken of is the best one, and after that point has been decided upon if it gave such aid as may be required to open that route.

The Council says, in their report of the 6th of the present month: "It appears to us that a short route at the head of Lynn Canal, at Skagawa Bay, which is accessible by sea-going vessels, then following the White Pass to the navigable waters of the Yukon, is a feasible one. The distance over this route is said to be over thirty miles." The Council at their last meeting, taking it for granted that the route by Lynn Canal is the one that will be selected, ask the Government for a subsidy of \$2,500 a year for five years in aid of a steamship line which will run between British Columbia ports by Lynn Canal to the southern terminus of the proposed route to the gold-fields of the Yukon. The trade of this short route will be sure to grow and the Province will in a very short time be reimbursed for any expense that it may incur in fostering that trade. It seems to us that this is an enterprise which it would pay the Dominion to assist liberally, for it would in the shape of greatly increased customs duties receive a considerable and an immediate return for its outlay. We trust that the governments, both of the Dominion and the Province, will do what lies in their power to open up the Yukon region to British trade and to foster that trade when it is once established. The prospect is at this moment that it will not need a great deal of assistance and that it will in a very short time be self-sustaining.

CULPABLY IGNORANT.

At a dinner given by the Toronto Young Men's Liberal Club a little more than a week ago, Mr. L. H. Davies made a speech. It was a telling and a vigorous speech, as that gentleman's speeches usually are. But in the course of his remarks Mr. Davies did himself a very grave injustice. He is known to be a very intelligent man, and a man who has always his wits about him. His desire for political knowledge may with perfect truth be said to be insatiable, and he is well known to neglect no opportunity of adding to his store of political information, particularly when there is any chance of that information being put to any practical use. Yet this wide-awake politician, this indefatigable seeker after knowledge, this public man who has been for many years in the thick of the political fight, would have the young Liberals of Toronto believe that as regards the Manitoba school question he is as great a dolt and numskull as ever an unfortunate constituency sent to Parliament to represent them. See what he says of himself, we quote from the Toronto Globe's report of his speech. Discussing the Manitoba school question, he said: "The courts say that the Parliament which took those rights away has the power to give them back. The Privy Council says that the rights having once been given cannot be withdrawn. The question is, certain wrongs exist. Who is to remedy them? I come from two thousand miles away. I do not know the people. I do not know to what extent the people want separate schools. I do not know definitely what they want; and yet you come to me and ask me to pass a law when I absolutely know nothing about the people."

This was a very singular confession for an able and an active-minded public man to make with respect to a question which has been discussed in Parliament, in the press, on the platform, and in the courts of law, hotly and continuously for three or four years! Mr. Davies could not have realized what this confession, or rather profession of dense and inex-

usable ignorance, implies, or he would have bitten his tongue through rather than make it. Mr. Davies has a good opinion of himself, and he has many and valid reasons for estimating himself highly, but if his hearers and the people of the Dominion were to take him at his word they would set him down as the very opposite of what he knows himself to be. Mr. Davies is not thick-headed or dull-witted; he is not the man to be satisfied to live in ignorance of the true inwardness of a question of great public importance. He makes a very great mistake in sacrificing his reputation for public-spirit and intelligence at the shrine of Grit expediency.

WELL SPOKEN OF.

A speech which Mr. Vernon, the Agent General for British Columbia, delivered before an English Board of Trade lately, in which he insisted on the wisdom of using British capital to build up British communities, has greatly pleased the Montreal Star. This is how that paper comments on the Agent-General's remarks in a leading article:—

After dwelling before this "home" audience on the undoubted loyalty of the colonies, he held that in the face of the enormous extent of our trade, it is our manifest duty to maintain the Empire in all its integrity and strength, and to develop our resources. In the past, a large amount of surplus British capital has been diverted into foreign countries," he said. "If that money, or a portion of it, had been put into our colonies, the population of the colonies would have been doubled, and our power to resist any outside force would have been doubled also." If trade were the whole of international life, there would be considerable to be said in favor of leaving it free to follow any channels it might choose. But for the British Empire trade is not the whole duty of a people. This very trade must be protected; and such protection implies control of the sea and the stability of the Empire. Hence it is the duty of the Empire to strengthen communities which, in turn, will contribute strength to the Empire. This is but common sense. It is not merely a question of what foreign countries may do in the time of peace with tariffs and the like. Canada itself is in no position to shoot out the lip at foreign countries in this respect. It is rather a question of national growth. Let us suppose that by reason of any commercial or financial assistance given to Canada, we had been able to create five millions of new people on our prairies, making the Dominion ten millions strong. Would not this strengthen the hold of the British Empire on the northern half of this continent? Would not, indeed, such a step be practical national politics?

This is the meaning of the suggestive speech of the agent for British Columbia. And this kind of talk is becoming more popular every day on the home market. Britain is apparently just waking up to the reality and value of Canadian loyalty. We have, happily, lifted the loyalty cry out of politics; and it has gained immeasurably in the respect always vouchsafed to sincerity, in the divorce. The movement toward British unity never showed more signs of actual fruition than it does to-day. The policy which proposes to spend British gold to open up friendly markets in Africa will not bank at facing some expense to better the markets and add stability to the position of communities already established and already friendly.

It will be found by and by that Canada is a better place in which to invest British money than Egypt or the Argentine Republic. The resources of Canada are greater than many of the countries of which much is heard in Great Britain, and in which British money is freely spent. The industrious and law-abiding people of Canada, too, are more worthy of confidence, more willing and more able to pay their debts, than many of the foreigners whom British capitalists have hitherto been in the habit of trusting.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

The people of Manitoba who talk most logically on the school question are those who propose to make the schools entirely secular. In a community made up of people holding different religious beliefs there seems to us to be no middle way. The public schools, to whose maintenance all are required to contribute, must be either purely secular or they must be denominational—the state must either teach everybody's religion or nobody's religion. If the state decides to teach religion in the schools the question immediately arises, whose religion shall it teach? One denomination considers that it has as good a right to have its religion taught in the public schools as any other denomination. In Manitoba under the present system religion is taught in the schools. Those who favor that system say that what is taught in those schools is that part of the Christian religion which is common to all denominations; but the Roman Catholics say that the religious teaching and the religious exercises are Protestant. What is to be done? The Roman Catholics have a perfect right to their opinion. They say to the Protestant majority, "You teach your religion in the schools which we help to support; why do you not allow us to have our own schools in which we can teach our own religion?" Then the Methodists chime in and say, "We don't approve of the religious teaching prescribed by the legislature for the schools; let us have our own schools and we can teach in them the religion in which we believe." The Church of England is strong in some districts and its members might naturally say, "If religion is to be taught in the government schools, why not let us teach our children the tenets

of our church in the way that church approves?" It can easily be understood where religious teaching forms part of the curriculum of the public schools every denomination has the right to demand that the teaching shall be such as it approves.

Where the teaching is purely secular there are none of these difficulties to meet. Mr. Joseph Martin saw this, and the school law that he drew up was a purely secular one. When religious teaching was introduced he declared that the law which compelled the Catholics to support schools of the religious teaching of which they did not approve, was tyrannical, and he was right. Why then did not those who believe in having religion taught in the schools of Manitoba freely consent to extend to Roman Catholics the privilege of having taught in schools of their own the religion in which they believe? This would have been fair and reasonable. In short, the majority should have made their schools altogether secular or they should have allowed them to be denominational.

SENATORIAL GOOD FAITH.

The United States Senate committee on foreign relations, we are told, have decided to report favorably on Senator Pettigrew's bill for the amendment of the law regulating "the seal fisheries." "The main feature of the Pettigrew bill is a provision for permitting the President to have all the seals, males and females, on the Pribiloff Islands killed in case other governments interested will not agree to a modus vivendi for the better protection of the seals while the matter of permanent protection is under consideration by an international commission, for which the bill makes permanent provision."

The United States Senate has become a very peculiar body if it ordains the complete extirpation of the fur seals shortly after an elaborate agreement has been made with Great Britain for the preservation of seal life. If after the decision of the Behring Sea arbitrators had said, "We will try this plan of preserving the seals, but if it does not prove as we consider effective we will kill every seal that lands on United States territory," what would be thought of him by sane men and by honest citizens?

The Senators who compose the committee on foreign relations must have very peculiar notions with respect to covenant-keeping and good faith when they would entertain Senator Pettigrew's proposal for a single moment. It might be supposed that men of common sense and common honesty would set down Pettigrew as either a shameless rogue or a hopeless crank, and send him off with a flea in his ear. But Senators nowadays have peculiar notions and there is no knowing how they may act under any circumstances. Some of them, too, are as credulous as so many swashes. Who would suppose that men of experience and intelligence would listen patiently and intelligently to the "expert" who told them exactly how many seals there are in Behring sea at a given time. He might as well tell them that he has the skill to count the number of herrings there is in a shoal and give the actual tale of the fish drunks that frequent the coast and harbors of the Northern Pacific. Sealers who have been in the Behring Sea every year for the last ten or twelve years or so do not appear to be at all sure that there are fewer seals in that sea now than there were say ten years ago. Some experienced men say that the seals have diminished somewhat, but they will not venture to say to what extent, and others declare that they can perceive no difference in their numbers. All of them are ready to say that the man who declares that a few years ago there were so many millions of seals in Behring's Sea and that now there are only so many thousands, must be a humbug. It is not possible, they say, that he could have obtained the knowledge that he claims to possess. Yet the grave and reverend seigneurs of the United States Senate swallow greedily every assertion he makes.

A ROUNDABOUT WAY.

It is to be hoped that satisfactory mail service will soon be established with Alaska and the Northern parts of this Province. The present arrangements are most inconvenient, and are no doubt a cause of loss to those who, in this city and other parts of the Province, do business with the Northern settlements. It does seem singular that a steamship from the North with mail matter on board for Victoria should leave this port for Port Townsend without delivering it. It would be bad enough if the steamer passed this city on her way to Port Townsend without delivering her mails, but to call here and remain here for some little time without landing the British Columbia mail seems to be one of the most elaborate ways of how not to do it that the mind of a Barnacle has ever conceived. It is to be hoped that in future British Columbia may be able to get its mail matter from Alaska, Cassiar and other Northern points without such circumnavigation and such unnecessary loss of time. We are glad to see that the Council of the Board of Trade have given their attention to this matter, for it is one peculiarly within their province.

BAD REPORTING.

The Times quotes a passage from Hon. L. H. Davies' Toronto speech which it says that the editor of this paper "has been exceedingly careful to overlook." If the editor of the Times knew as much about education in Prince Edward Island as a man conversant with the history of the provinces of this Dominion ought to know, he would also have been exceedingly careful to overlook that passage. The reporter must have misunderstood Mr. Davies, for he makes that gentleman claim for himself an honor that belongs to Prince Edward Island's greatest reformer, the Hon. George Coles. The reporter makes Mr. Davies say that "twenty years ago I had the honor of introducing a bill for the adoption of the national system of schools in Prince Edward Island." The national system of schools was established in that Island when Mr. Davies was a boy going to school, at least forty years ago. That system was in successful operation many years before Mr. Davies entered public life. It was free and unsectarian. What Mr. Davies did, and did manfully, was to resist the introduction of the denominational element into that system. In this he was aided by many of the leading Conservatives of the Province. The bill that Mr. Davies alludes to must have been a bill to amend the law which established the national system. It is greatly to be regretted that the passage of Mr. Davies' speech which the Times quotes is so unhappily worded. We are very sure that Mr. Davies did not wish to convey to his hearers the idea expressed in the passage which the Times quotes.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

There is a great deal of rash writing on this side of the Atlantic about the appreciation of gold and the demonetization of silver. People who know very little about these matters write and talk about them with the utmost confidence, but those who have studied them carefully are moderate in their assertions and very far indeed from being too positive in their statements. It will surprise a good many who hear now that the fall in prices of late years is without doubt to be attributed to the appreciation of gold, to learn that there are many intelligent men who have paid a great deal of attention to the subject who say that it is exceedingly doubtful whether gold has appreciated in the slightest degree. There are, they say, many causes which contribute to the fall in prices of several commodities, such as an excessive supply, labor-saving machinery, the introduction of steam and electricity as motive powers, etc. There are, besides, some things which have not fallen in price—the rent of houses and the wages of labor, for instance. The price of domestic animals, too, has not, it is said, fallen. If the appreciation or depreciation of gold affects prices it would affect the prices of everything that is bought and sold, rented and hired. Economists have drawn up comprehensive tables showing the prices of many of the necessities of life, of luxuries and of labor, for a long series of years. This was what the St. Paul Pioneer Press says in a late issue about the supposed effects of the appreciation of gold:

It is asked, whether the tables prepared by Goebler, Lauerbach and others are true or false. These tables purport to show, and may be accepted as showing, that there has been a general fall in the prices of commodities since 1873. The same is true of the tables, but was not so marked until after that time. But the assertion that this fall in prices was caused by the demonetization of silver does not rest on a shadow of proof. It is a mere supposition—a theory. We don't believe that Robert Giffen ever made the statement attributed to him that gold had appreciated 20 per cent. in the fifteen years after 1873. If he did it was a mere matter of theory or opinion, unsupported by any proof, resting probably on the fall of prices in that period. But the fall of prices proves nothing as to its cause. We have irrefragable evidence that it was not due to the appreciation of gold, and resulting from the demonetization of silver. For there is not a single article in the whole list included in Lauerbach's or other tables, the price of which has not been shown to have resulted from the decreased cost of production, through improved machinery, cheapened transportation and other causes. But amidst this general decline of prices there is one thing—the principal agent in production and the chief element of its cost—which has not fallen in price. This is labor. Instead of falling, the wages of labor have steadily advanced through the whole period of a marked decline in the prices of all commodities created by labor. If it was the appreciation of gold which caused this decline in prices, labor would have been the first to feel it.

One of the causes, and indeed the chief cause, of the so-called demonetization of silver is so simple that a child can understand it. In 1873 and thereabout the silver in a dollar was worth more than a dollar in gold. When men could get more for silver as a commodity than they could for silver as coin, they naturally refused to part with their silver dollars for less than their intrinsic worth. Consequently silver coin became scarce. In these days, when the silver in a dollar piece is worth a great deal less than a dollar gold, the holders of silver coin have no object in hoarding them up or in putting them into the melting-pot.

We are glad to see that people on this side of the Atlantic are beginning to

BAKE A BATCH OF BISCUITS. With one quart of flour, two rounded teaspoons of baking powder, and one teaspoonful of salt into a bowl; add three teaspoonfuls of COTTOLINE and rub together until thoroughly mixed; then add sufficient milk to make a soft dough; knead slightly, roll out about half an inch thick, and cut with a small biscuit cutter. Place a little space in a greased pan, and bake in a quick oven for fifteen or twenty minutes. These biscuits should be a delicate brown top and bottom, light on the sides, and snowy white when broken open. The secret of success in this recipe, as in others, is to use but two-thirds as much Cottolene as you used to use of lard. Cottolene will make the biscuit light, delicious, wholesome. Better than any biscuit you ever made before. Try it. Be sure and get genuine Cottolene. Sold everywhere in tins with trade-marks. "Cottolene" and "steer's head in cotton-plant wreath" on every tin. THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Wellington and Ann Sts., MONTREAL.

Abion Iron Works Co., LIMITED. Engineers... Iron Founders. Boiler Makers. Marine and Land Engines, Boilers, Etc. Fish Canning and Mining Machinery. Hydraulic Giants, Pipes and Sinking Pumps for Mines. French Ranges, Stoves, Grates, Etc. SOLE AGENTS FOR Henry K. Worthington's Steam Pumps. Ingersoll Rock Drill Co.'s Steam Rock Drills. No. 6 CHATHAM STREET, VICTORIA, B. C. No. 7 STORE STREET. P. O. Drawer 12. Telephone 31. 8627-14

LEA AND PERMINS' OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE OF Lea & Perrins IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER of every Bottle of the ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE. Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors, Worcester; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Oilmen generally. RETAIL EVERYWHERE. Agents—M. DOUGLAS & Co. and URQUHART & Co., Montreal.

Did You Ever Know. That "earliest loaves of bread were made round like a ball. In the twelfth century twenty kinds of loaves were known, among them the Pope's Loaf, the Court Loaf, the Knight's Loaf, the Varlet's Loaf, and others according to their elegance and excellence." Snow Flake Flour makes the "Peers' Loaf," and for pastry it takes the cake. \$1.10 per sack. See our large display of Naval Oranges, only 25c. per dozen. Rolled Oats, 10 lbs. for 25c. Fresh Eggs, 20c.; 2 doz. for 35c. Soda Crackers, 3 lb. box, 20c. Codfish—Whole, strips, bricks and Shredded, 10c. per lb. Dixie H. Ross & Co. talk a great deal more reasonably about the money question than they did a year or two ago. Wild theories about the appreciation of gold, the free coinage of silver and the power of governments to create money are being exploded, and common sense is asserting its power in this matter of the currency as it is in many other matters of public interest. BRITAIN AND TURKEY. LONDON, Feb. 22.—Replying to a request asking him to attend a meeting of people in sympathy with the Armenians, Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, has written a letter blaming Powers for slaying Great Britain's hand when she was on the eve, he says, of taking action in the premises. Continuing, Mr. Stanley remarks: "But if we try to discover what particular power is blameable, we shall probably find that we are to blame for an act, seemingly having no relation to Armenia, yet which could be proved to have been the cause of our impotence. Had we settled with Venezuela, Secretary Olney would not have sent the dispatch which tempted the Marquis of Salisbury to reply with a thesis on Monroism, which induced President Cleveland's menacing message and paralyzed our intentions toward the Sultan. The government would probably have dared the resentment of the European powers and have coerced the Sultan, had not the miserable Venezuelan squabble intruded so inopportunistly and revealed to us the deep hatred of the Americans. Then followed the Jamestown raid, which revealed the extraordinary ambitions of Germany, and compelled us to be still more wary and prudent." Mr. Stanley's letter continues by pointing out the jealousy which prevented the concert of the powers, and concludes: "To speak of the atrocities would entail dealing with foreign affairs, which had better be left to the diplomats for the present." The schooner Louis Olsen, Captain Daley, sailed on her coast sealing cruise yesterday morning.

OUR OTTAWA

Proposed National S... cated by an Infla... tion—Trade

Important News Fr... Second Readin... medial

From Our Own Co... OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—members from all part... viewed Hon. Mr. Fos... to urge a grant to t... tarium for the treatm... tives, of which Mr. G... the promoter.

The trade returns fo... gratifying increase. T... mented by about th... which a million dolla... of Canada. The duty o... \$563,000.

The banking and co... had a hard fight of... corporate the Equita... pany. The organizati... railway employes. Th... ment opposed the bill... lines of the Iron Hill... The measure was refer... ment for the promoter... them.

T. G. Shaughnessy, of the Canadian Pacific, Allan, of the Allan li... view with Sir Mackenz... Charles Tupper this aft... details of the propos... vice were fully discuss... issuing advertisements... ders.

David McKee, late m... men for Cape Breton... called to the Senate.

The important news... Winnipeg to-day that... had been partially... negotiations with Arch... and Premier Greenwa... discussed in the lobb... It is conceded that i... thing if this question... on terms fair and ho... sides. The Crisis read... a vote even worse than... natives. Three pro... Rouges sought an int... government to-day with... promise.

It was decided this a... discussion of the seco... remedial bill commu... March 3.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.—Pacific people deny th... want to sell twelve mil... government; but in poli... asserted to be true.

The government has... make any change in th... this session, owing to p... ferent bodies of trade.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell... to-day attending the fur... Hart Massey, the well k... manufacturer.

NEWS OF THE I...

WINNIPEG, Feb. 21.—Donald A. Smith left for after spending five day... His private car was a... Great Northern train, a... returning by St. Paul a... While in St. Paul he wi... James J. Hill, presiden... Northern railway. Sir... say nothing to a report... rumors that he was her... the Greenway governm... of settling the school q... been closed for hours... Governor, Premier Gr... bishop Langview and o... people interested in th... the vested question.

Hon. Mr. Greenway w... cent as to the result o... It is generally believ... no progress towards a... made, though it is said... authorities expressed th... to go so far as to make... lar if this would be sa... minority.

Mr. Hugh J. Macdon... after an interview wi... Smith, declared that he... had nothing to do wi... for Winnipeg at the nex... Done had mentioned... asked him if he intend... certainly did not in th... to do so. Being asked a... ties of his standing fo... aside from any statu... with Sir Donald, Mr. S... he could not conceive... to happen that would i... next politics. "What... the object of Sir Donal... enter asked. "Judging... pearances, I should say... tion. I thought there... at first, but the seco... opened my eyes. It seem... ble that the persons p... thing together unless... thing in the wind. Wh... has accomplished anyth... matter." He has, of cou... anything to me on the... "It is said Sir Donald... in the interests of th... sion of the Duluth & W... an air line to Winnipeg.

MONTREAL, Feb. 22.—(C... is a political crisis and... erament has been sittin... three days. Hon. Mr. N... of public works, says he... certain things do not ta... Hon. Mr. Pelletier and... they will resign if they... had its inception over... assistance to a short li... Mr. Nantel's friends ass... leave the ministry unles... give way. Others state... will be appointed sherif... of Montreal.

Mrs. Hurd, mother o... Horne, wife of the presi... R., died at her son-in-... here to-day, aged 90. G... caused her death.

Rudolph Bros., mercha...