The Colonist.

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M'KINLEY'S INAUGURAL.

The inaugural address of President M'Kinley is not calculated to inspire much confidence in his administration. There is a lack of definiteness about it that is in sharp contrast with the aggressive utterances of his predecessor. The first question dealt with is the currency. He admits the imperative necessity for a revision of the financial system, but has only vague suggestions as to what ought to be done, except that he will appoint a commission to investigate the whole subject if he has power to do so. International bimetallism comes in for the usual reference as to its expediency. Until this is obtained he believes the parity of the gold and silver coinage should be maintained by every resource at the command of the nation. The difference between his position and that of his predecessor on this question consists in the fact that Cleveland boldly recommended congress to retire the greenbacks and treasury notes and substitute for them a bank currency.

The next point discussed is the relation of revenue to expenditure, and the new President declares that "the severest economy must be observed," a declaration in striking contrast to the chipper saying, "This is a billion dollar country," which found so much acceptance when Harrison was President, and congress, under the false stimulus of the McKinley tariff, was spending money like water. He pleads for more revenue and declares that in levying the necessary duties on imports the protective principle should be kept in mind. The reference to reciprocity is of a perfunctory kind. He favors reciprocity only so far as it permits the introduction into the United States of articles which cannot be produced there.

In his discussion of the business condition of the country he takes care to say that it will take time to restore prosperity. This part of the message is pervaded by a hopeless tone, which is the more striking when the rosy promises made during the presidential campaign are recalled. Perhaps this is one of the best features of the address, for it shows the president to be thoroughly alive to the tremendous difficulties presented by the industrial situation.

There are declarations in favor of equal rights, which seem a little out of place from the head of a republic, the corner stone of which is equality, but as they lead up to a plea to strengthen the enjoyment of "free and fair elections," the enactment of the celebrated "Force Bill," for the control of the Southern States looms up once more above the political horizon. A paragraph condemns lynching; another declares that trusts must be suppressed; the immigration laws are mentioned and legislation is asked to secure a "better, safer and higher citizenship," as well as the banishment of illiteracy; civil service reform is endorsed and a plea is made for a restoration of the American merchant marine.

The reference to foreign policy favors strict non-interference with the affairs of foreign governments. We quote:

It will be our aim to pursue a firm and dignified foreign policy, which shall be just, impartial, ever watchful of our national honor and always insisting upon the enforcement of the lawful rights of American citizens everywhere. Our diplomacy should seek nothing more and accept nothing less than is due us. We want no wars of conquest; we must avoid the temptation of territorial aggression. War should never be entered upon until every agency of peace has failed; peace is preferable to war in almost every contingency. Arbitration is the true method of settlement of international as well as local or individual differences.

Referring to the arbitration treaty with Great Britain, the President, after speaking of a concurrent resolution passed by congress in 1890 favoring the settlement of international disputes by arbitration, said:

The latter resolution was accepted as the basis of negotiations with us by the British House of Commons in 1893, and upon our invitation a treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain was signed at Washington and transmitted to the senate for its ratification in January last. Since this treaty is clearly the result of our own initiative, since it has been recognized as the leading feature of our foreign policy, throughout our entire national history—the adjustment of difficulties by judicial methods rather than by force of arms—and since it presents to the world the glorious example of reason and peace, not passion and war, controlling the relations between two of the greatest nations of the world, an example certain to be followed by others, I respectfully urge the early action of the Senate thereon, not merely as a matter of policy, but as a duty to mankind. The importance and moral influence of the ratification of such a treaty can hardly be overestimated in the cause of advancing civilization. It may well engage the best thought of the statesmen and people of every country, and I cannot but consider it fortunate that it was reserved for the United States to have the leadership in so grand a work.

The address concluded with a notice that a special session of congress will be called for March 15 and with general congratulations upon the manifestations of good will and the absence of sectional differences, throughout the nation.

THE CRETAN SITUATION.

The situation in Crete has reached a stage where the concert of the powers will have very little influence, where, indeed, it becomes practically inoperative. As long as international disputes are confined to diplomats and ministers, such agreements as have been entered into between the leading powers of Europe are effective. No European leader has any desire to precipitate a crisis that will disturb the existing political status. It is for this reason that there was unanimity as to the necessity of holding Greece in check. The bombardment of the Grecian position, which called forth so strong an expression of indignation, was only intended to prevent the Greek commander in Crete from going so far that hostilities would be inevitable. No doubt whatever can exist that the desire of all the Courts in Europe, even that of Greece, is to prevent the peace from being broken, if that is possible. But the situation has got beyond the control of the Courts. The Grecian people are aroused, and the people of Great Britain, France and Italy are in sympathy with them. This renders diplomatic understandings of little value. The King of Greece realizes the situation very fully. He may agree for himself to accept such a solution of the Cretan question as will prevent war; but the moment he accepts it he will lose the right to speak for the people of Greece, his tenure of the throne will at once cease, and the populace under a new leader will precipitate the crisis which he by his acceptance would endeavor to avoid.

Until the actual crisis comes, that is until war is openly declared between Greece and Turkey, we may expect the British government, in common with other European governments, to take a strong position of protest; but when that hour comes, and it appears inevitable that the sword will be drawn, the understanding between the powers will be at an end and each nation will be free to take the course which seems wisest and best. In that event Greece will not lack for something far stronger than sympathy. Meanwhile it is only just to the British ministry to keep in mind that its duty is to prevent a European war if it can be done without the sacrifice of the nation's honor, and that this obligation may compel temporarily a course of action which may not seem in exact keeping with the traditional British love of freedom.

TRADE WITH THE YUKON.

It is said on excellent authority that fully a quarter of a million dollars' worth of goods from the Sound ports went into the Canadian portion of the Yukon valley, and that a much larger quantity will go this year. Explorations have demonstrated that the best gold mines in the Yukon country are in Canadian territory and hence the number of miners there and the consumption of goods will rapidly increase. American goods going in do not pay any duty. This is a wrong that should be rectified, even when it is viewed from the narrow standpoint of revenue; but when it is understood that if the duties were collected nearly the whole of the present large trade, and of the still larger trade to be developed, would come to the merchants of British Columbia instead of going to their rivals on the Sound, the necessity for having a customs officer on the scene becomes apparent.

What is needed, unquestionably, is a railway from tide water or from the head of navigation on some suitable river to Lake Teslin or some other suitable point on the Upper Yukon waters, whence steamboat communication can be had with the immense river system, along which the gold bearing gravels are found. We are not going to make an argument for any particular route, for perhaps not enough is yet known to warrant any one in doing that; but what we want to mention is that, pending railway construction, it is highly desirable that the Canadian portion of the trail from Dyea should be put in first-class shape. This would greatly reduce the charges on freight, and serve as a stimulus to business. What is needed seems to be:

1st. The appointment of a customs officer to see that the Canadian Yukon is not supplied with American goods which have not paid duty.

2nd. That the trail most in use should be improved.

3rd. That a railway should be built in to the Yukon waters at the earliest possible day, and by the best available route.

Of course these matters properly come within the purview of the Dominion Government, but there should be strong representations made from this Province on the subject. It would not be amiss for the legislasure to pass a resolution dealing with the first two points.

AN HONORABLE LIFE ENDED.

After more than seventy-four years of active and useful life Albert Norton Richards has gone to rest. Nearly half a century has passed since his admission to the bar of Ontario, and in that long period he has held many trusts, both public and private, and his record is that of one who discharged every duty with faithfulness and ability. The number of his friends was limited only by the circle of his acquaintances and thousands who did not have the pleasure of knowing him personally had learned to regard him with the respect due to a man of ability and sterling probity. During his whole career he was active in politics, but this activity never lost him the esteem of those with whom he came in contact. His death removes a familiar figure from public life in British Columbia.

THE NUMBER OF THE STARS.

In speaking of the attributes of Jehovah, an ancient poet spoke of Him as one "who counteth the number of the stars and calleth them by their names." To most of us this seems like a mere figure of speech, for we have been led to believe that the stars are innumerable, that is to say that the stellar universe is unlimited, and if this is the case, even an infinite Being could not count them. Who has not be appalled at the mere suggestion of an infinite universe of stars? The thought that for all eternity one might travel on the wings of light itself and not reach the limit of the star-strewn space, is one before which the most far-reaching imagination stands paralyzed. Sir John Herschel was the first to suggest that this conception of the heavens was wrong. He believed that he could discern a limit to the starry space. It is true that, as telescopes have been improved and especially since photographic astronomy has been perfected, the limit has been pushed much further back than Herschel supposed it might be found; nevertheless modern astronomy is inclined to accept the suggestion of a limited universe as correct. It seems to be logically demonstrable. The position and motions of the stars are due to laws of matter, and human intelligence is unable to conceive of laws applying to a limitless universe. The argument for this position may be thus briefly stated: The law of gravity, or whatever it may be that maintains an orderly universe, depends upon the relation of the stars to each other; but if in every direction there is an infinite number of stellar bodies, it would follow that at each and every point in the universe the force of gravity would be identically the same. But without variations in the force of gravity at different points, order would be impossible and chaos would be the condition of all things. There would be just as much force pulling stones up into the air as there would be holding them down to the ground. Form, solidity, in fact every known attribute of matter would become impossible if the force of gravity did not vary at different points. What seems thus demonstrable logically seems to be supported by observation.

Sir John Herschel's suggestion was that the Milky Way is the Universe, to put the matter in popular language, and that the other stars, including the sun and its attendant planets, are simply parts of that vast group. In other words, when we look up into the heavens at night and see the golden star-dust extending across the zenith we are observing in a general sort of way all there is of the stars. The dark part of the heavens bordering this tract is starless, for, although as we look upward we see stars in it, these are really members of the great group, but appear distinct from it, only because they are nearer to us. For illustration take the case of a long, narrow orchard. If an observer standing at one end looks sideways through the rows of tree trunks he will see isolated trunks near him, and outside of them an open space; but directly before him the trunks will form a complete barrier to his vision, if the rows of trees are very long. So with the stars; when we look at the Milky Way we are, as it were, looking lengthwise of the universe, but when we look in other directions we are looking towards the sides of the group, and only see the stars nearest us and the void space beyond.

If these conclusions are correct, it follows that the stellar universe has form and dimensions, and that the stars are not innummerable, although the number may be beyond our power of reckoning. Herschel went so far as to suggest what the shape was and his diagram was very much like the letter Y, the position of the sun, and of course of the earth, being in one of the arms, near the angle. If asked what is beyond the borders of the universe, all that the astronomer can answer is "emptiness." A limitless empty space is as impossible of comprehension as an infinite universe of stars, but one or the other must exist and logic and observation point to the former as the more probable.

ADVERTISING THE PROVINCE.

In an interview published in the COLONIST yesterday stress was laid upon the importance of making the mineral wealth and development of the Province known in Australia, where there are hundreds of people with some means who would be glad to come to British Columbia if they only knew anything about it. We are informed that in the cities of Perth and Adelaide there are hundred of prospectors who are very anxious to learn about new fields. As yet hardly anything has been made known there about our Province. The gentlemen who were interviewed by the COLONIST said that they had only seen a single reference in a West Australia paper to our gold fields. Probably the article from the London Times, which we reprinted yesterday will do more than every thing else than has ever been said or done to make the mineral wealth of British Columbia known to the people of the Antipodes. This matter seems to be one that might well receive very early consideration.

SHORTLY before his retirement President Cleveland issued a proclamation creating a forest reserve in the state of Washington. The area includes, as we understand it, all the promising mineral lands in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and Okanogan counties. An effort was made to nullify this proclamation through an act of congress, but adjournment prevented the passage of the measure. The effect of this proclamation is, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "to annul all inchoate rights held by anyone within the limits of the reservation." This will put a stop to all mining development in the most promising portion of the state, except on properties actually entered at the United States land office, and naturally there is a very great deal of anxiety among mining men there on the subject.

SHALL the construction of toll roads by private individuals in mining districts be permitted? The question is not very easy to answer off hand. Most people will answer in the negative at once. Toll roads are objectionable, but then, perhaps, better a toll road than no road. The difficulty arises when it comes to making new roads at government expense. If toll roads are permitted in one locality, it will be a source of friction for the government to build public highways in other localities. If it is desirable to allow the construction of toll roads, and these roads become a permanent public necessity, the Province will have to buy them and make them free.

NOT long ago the COLONIST referred to the portion of Ontario lying between Lakes Huron and Superior on its south and James' Bay on the north, as being of undoubted value and as likely some day to be opened by a new transcontinental railway. The subject is receiving considerable attention in Ontario, and the Monetary Times seems to regard the settlement of this vast area, which contains 140,000 square miles, as deserving of immediate attention. Large portions of the area, it thinks, will be found suitable for grain-growing, and still larger parts for mixed farming, while the wealth of minerals and timber is very great.

IN a very learned Eastern exchange we lately read an original editorial on the burning of Norfolk. In a Hawaiian paper just received appears the same editorial; but the Hawaiian editor duly credits it to another Eastern journal than the one referred to above. Now, as the Hawaiian journal is of earlier date than the very learned Eastern exchange aforesaid, the inference seems to be that the v. l. e. e. aforesaid has been doing some able-bodied plagiarism.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN is to write the account of the Carson prize fight for a New York paper. When the telegraphic editor is done with John L.'s story it will be more unrecognizable than the editor would have been if he had stood before John for fifteen minutes, when that muscular son of Boston was in his prime.

THE withdrawal of Hugh John Macdonald from the Dominion arena to take the leadership of the Manitoba Conservatives, and the reported intention of Sir Hibbert Tupper to take the same course in Nova Scotia, are notable events in politics and will be interpreted by different people in different ways.

THE Honolulu Commercial Advertiser wants the Hawaiian government to send a representative to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, who, our island contemporary neatly says, "presides, rather than rules, over the simplest form of democratic government in the world."

THE Hawaiian annexationists will be disappointed when they read President McKinley's inaugural and find in it not a single word as to the union of those islands with the United States, but instead a protest against the acquisition of any more territory.

THE W. C. T. U. of British Columbia is about to petition the legislature to grant the franchise to women. We do not think that they will meet with a very great deal of success; but their campaign will be an interesting one while it lasts.

THE Rossland Record of the 2nd inst., reports the people of that city as very much incensed at the prospect of any delay in the incorporation measure. They fretted without good cause, which shows the folly of borrowing trouble.

THE esteemed Columbian growls because the session proceeds so slowly. Nevertheless it is a fact that the members are very busy and that work is being pushed forward very satisfactorily.

A WEEK ago we were formally assured by the Kaiser that Germany had nothing at stake in the Cretan question. Now we are told that it is German influence which is likely to precipitate war.

THE Calgary Herald, referring to the British naval estimates of £21,838,000, says it costs that much to maintain the marines. Our contemporary should tell that to them.

THE Vernon News discusses the claims of this Province on the Dominion with vigor and ability. Every paper in the Province should take the matter up and press it home.

CURIOUS, is it not, that a revolt on an island should jeopardize the peace both of the Old and New World? Crete and Cuba may yet set the world in flame.

THE Rossland Miner has begun a war on the Companies Act. It believes that if the law passes great injury will be done to mining in this Province.

FOR a paper that is fairly and squarely on the fence commend us to the Mail and Empire as to the Crow's Nest Pass railway.

TRAIL now has two papers, the Trail Creek Miner being the name of the newcomer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

CONCERNING WATER RIGHTS.

In recommending the conversation of those water-powers, we do not wish it to be understood we would have the government adopt such a policy as retaining and operating them themselves for the benefit of the people, as we realize that this would hardly be practicable, but rather that in granting the several or any of the different franchises sought, certain restrictions be imposed, whereby the province will not only derive a revenue, but as well a hard and fast monopoly may not be conveyed to the said individuals or corporations, whereby extortionate rates may be exacted from those who, in the near future, may be confidently expected to require the service of such power.—Midway Advance.

THE COMPANIES ACT.

We desire to warn the legislature of this province before it is too late that the new Companies act is a serious menace to our prosperity and will result in a loss of revenue to the government. If it passes the Dominion government will be forced to adopt some simple measure for the incorporation of joint stock companies and anybody who wanted to incorporate a company would do so under the Dominion law. There is no sense in making Ottawa the centre of the Kootenay mining industry. Let it stay in our province.—Rossland Miner.

WATER RIGHTS IN KOOTENAY.

From the very large number of applications for charters of every conceivable sort now before the local legislature it is evident that there are some people who thoroughly believe in the future greatness of the Kootenay country. The applications for water rights are exceedingly numerous, and if granted would result in the corralling by private parties of almost every available stream in the country. Fortunately the people are being aroused to the importance of reserving natural privileges for the benefit of the public. The awakening has come none too soon. Many valuable franchises have already been given away to greedy charter mongers. It is high time an effort should be made to conserve what remains.—Chilliwack Progress.

OUR CLAIMS ON THE DOMINION.

Our yearly contribution to the Dominion treasury is already assuming large proportions. From the single customs office at Nelson there was collected for the twelve months ending with January of this year over $218,000. When the Kettle river, Boundary creek, Osoyoos and Similkameen districts are tapped by a railway correspondingly large amounts will be collected in these sections. By giving aid to the construction of the Coast road the Dominion government would only be making a sound business investment.—Vernon News.

THE ROSSLAND LABOR MARKET.

We have only to emphasize what has already been said, if a man has not the means to keep himself going long enough to find suitable employment and his fare back, in case he is unsuccessful, he is better off not to come to Kootenay as a rule, or at least not to bring with him those dependent upon him.—Rosslander.

"Now," said the good citizen as he assisted Mr. Lushforth to arise from the sidewalk, "you see what whisky does." "Whishky had nossin' to do with it," retorted Mr. Lushforth. "Who ever heard of whishky freezin' and' trippin' a man up?"—Indianapolis Journal.

He (dejectedly)—And don't you think that you could ever learn to love me? She (thoughtfully)—Well, I might— He (excitedly)—Oh, Helen! She (still thoughtfully)—But I don't think it will be worth while.—Somerville Journal.

Caligraphs

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Caligraphs for Sale At the following prices:

$65, $75, $85, $125, $135.

T. N. Hibben & Co.

VICTORIA • COLLEGE

BEACON HILL PARK.

Re-Opens Monday, January 11

For Boarding or Day Prospectus apply PRINCIPAL J. W. CHURCH, M.A. ja5-daw

VALUABLE • FARM • PROPERTY FOR SALE.

Tenders addressed to the undersigned will be received up to the 20th day of March, 1897, for the purchase of Sunnyside Farm, consisting of 1,300 acres more or less, about 300 acres of which are under cultivation. The said farm lies on the west side of the Fraser river, about thirty miles from the town of Quesnelle, Cariboo district, and is at the door of the Cariboo gold mines market. The farm is well supplied with water for irrigation purposes. In connection with it and forming part thereof, is offered 100 acres of meadow land, situate about fifteen miles west of the main body of the farm in Chilcotin.

On the said farm are about 600 cattle of all ages, and about 80 horses, besides a full equipment of the latest farming machinery, including mowers, self-binder, thresher, etc., etc., all of which are to be sold therewith. Good dwelling houses, outhouses, stables, etc., are on the premises.

The title is Crown Grant.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned.

D. MURPHY, 47 Langley St., Victoria. Solicitor for the Owners. fg21

NOTICE is hereby given that 60 days after date we intend making application to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Land and Works for permission to purchase the following described lands, situated on the West Arm of Moses Inlet, about one mile from Rivers Inlet, more or less, Coast District, commencing at a post planted in the south shore of the West Arm, about one-half mile from its junction with Moses Inlet and marked "R. Chambers and A. McNeill's N.E. corner"; thence south 40 chains; thence west 40 chains; thence north 40 chains more or less to shore of West Arm; thence following the shore line east to the point of commencement and containing 160 acres more or less.

Dated February 9th, 1897.

R. CHAMBERS, A. MCNEILL. fe24

TAKE THE CHALLENGE.

German Socialists Reply Defiantly to the Emperor's Declaration of War Against Them.

Kaiser William Is Fully Determined to Root Socialism to the Last Trace.

BERLIN, March 6.—Throughout the week the latest anti-socialist speech of the Emperor, at the Brandenburg banquet, has echoed and re-echoed all over Germany. It appears that the speech was much more violent than officially reported. His Majesty really said that socialism must be out-rooted to the last trace, and he described socialism as "That pest which infests our whole nation." He further referred to his grandfather's (William I) co-workers, Bismarck and Von Moltke, as "mere tools of his august will," and concluded with saying: "I shall be glad to know that everyone's hand is in mine, that of the noble and that of the serf."

The Socialist press replied to the challenge. The Vorwaerts in a defiant article says: "German socialism will know how to defeat projected attempts hidden under the cloud of loyalty and patriotism to undermine the sacred rights of the people. Down with the revolution from above." The Vorwaerts adds that the centennary celebrations are to be made the occasion for a fresh persecution of socialism, the liberty of the press and the election franchise. In another issue the Vorwaerts furnishes historical proof in William I's own letters, that William I was the tool of Bismark and Von Moltke instead of they being his, and says: "He was the pushed one and not the pusher."

The correspondent of the Associated Press learns that the Emperor is fully determined to act up to his words and up-root socialism. Unfortunately, government circles are divided as to how the aim can be accomplished. The Imperial chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, is backed up by Dr. von Boetticke, minister of the interior, and Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, minister for foreign affairs, against attempting special anti-social legislation in the reichstag or to restrict the present liberty of the press or the election franchise. On the other hand, the Prussian minister of the interior, Freiherr von Der Recke, von Der Horst and Dr. Miquel, the minister of finance, support the Emperor in his conviction that repressive measures of utmost severity are needed to neutralize the socialist agitation. Prince Hohenlohe's views are reflected by the Cologne Gazette, which urges that the existing means will suffice to keep socialism under. The leading Liberal newspapers express themselves similarly. Prince Bismarck, however, in the Hamburger Nachrichten, recommends new anti-social laws, and says: "If the present cabinet is too limited to undertake to carry out the imperial will, it ought to be replaced by more courageous men."

The Prussian minister for the interior has resolved to take one step against socialism. He intends to dismiss from office any university professor, or state school officer or teacher persistently advocating socialistic measures or views. This was decided upon at the cabinet council held on Wednesday, at which the Emperor was present. Prof. Adolf Wagner, of the Berlin university, with a score of other professors, are thereby threatened.

The acme of politeness was reached by a mining superintendent who posted a placard reading: "Please do not fall down the shaft."—Melbourne Times.