

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1898.

OUTFITTING IN VICTORIA.

As time passes the superiority of Victoria as an outfitting point over any city of the United States is being more strongly demonstrated. In his interview, printed in the Colonist on Sunday, Mr. Lee Stanley, of Rochester, N. Y., says the saving by buying goods in Victoria, as compared with Seattle, is equal to 40 per cent. When to this we add the duty of 30 per cent. average, the contrast is still greater and tells more in favor of this city. Examine for a moment what this means. A man goes to Seattle and expends \$500 in buying an outfit. When he gets to the Canadian frontier he will have to pay duty, which will probably reach \$150; that is, his outfit will cost him when he reaches Canadian territory \$650, not taking freight and other charges of transportation into account. Mr. Stanley tells the public that if the man, instead of buying in Seattle, had come to Victoria he could have bought a similar outfit for \$300, which would thus save him \$350 on the cost, a sum that would pay the cost of transporting 350 pounds from Victoria to Dawson City.

A gentleman who lately visited Seattle says that an argument in very common use there is, that as Victoria merchants have to buy their goods in the United States, it stands to reason that the United States merchants can sell them at least as cheaply. If the fact were as stated, the argument would be irrefutable; but the fact is not as stated. Some of the hams and bacon, some of the beans and some of the rubber goods sold to Yukoners are bought in the United States, and it is conceded that Seattle merchants can sell articles so bought quite as cheaply as Victoria merchants; but, farther than this, no one can truthfully go. Moreover, when it comes to the payment of duties, everyone knows that duties come less when paid upon large lots, invoiced at wholesale prices than on small lots invoiced at retail prices. That is, if a man going to the Yukon buys American pork and beans in Seattle, they will cost him more when he pays the duty on them at the Canadian frontier than precisely similar goods would cost him if bought in Victoria. The difference would not be great, but it would be in favor of the purchase in Victoria. On other articles, and notably on woollen goods, Seattle merchants cannot hope to compete with Victoria. The Post-Intelligencer's Alaska News Syndicate knew this perfectly well, and so came over to this city and bought their blankets here.

The experience of those persons who deal with Victoria merchants is of the most satisfactory kind. Seattle knows that what trade it is securing is got under false pretences and can never be got again. The people of that city know perfectly well that when the miners who outfit there come to the Canadian frontier and find themselves compelled to pay duty, they will be awakened to the fact that they have been grossly deceived, and will never return there for goods. They know also that after the present year Canadian houses will supply the Yukon trade with goods kept in stock on the scene of operations. They therefore do not care by what means the intending miners are deceived, so long as they are deceived. We are not finding any fault with the merchants who sell the goods. If a man should come to Victoria to buy goods to take into the State of Utah, we suppose none of our merchants would refuse to sell to him or feel under any obligation to tell him that he would have to pay duty on his purchases. Our complaint is not even against those who are responsible for advertising Seattle to the world as an outfitting point, except in so far as they have deliberately falsified the facts in order to deceive the people.

While speaking of this question, we may ask how it comes about if it is more advantageous to outfit in Seattle for the Yukon than to outfit for the same place here, that no one outfits there for the Cassiar, the Omineca or Cariboo. The conditions are precisely similar. The same law as to duties apply to the places named that applies to the Yukon. The same goods are purchased to be taken to the one place as to the other. Yet no one purchases a pound of goods outside of British Columbia to take to those places. Why, then, should any one go outside of British Columbia to buy goods to take to the Yukon? We recommend this question to those who are seeking to learn the truth about the matter. Miners have been outfitting in British Columbia cities for the Canadian gold mines every year for nearly forty years. Is it not reasonable to suppose that they know what they are about? Is it not safe to credit them with ordinary good sense? If it was better to buy goods in Seattle, would they not long ago have discovered it? United States citizens have bought goods in Victoria time and time again to take into the mines, precisely the same kind of goods that are now being bought to take into the Yukon. Will anyone be so insane as to say that these people do not know what they are about and that all through these years they have been throwing away their money? Do we not all know that many Americans come directly from Seattle to buy goods to take into the mines? Do not the great United States commercial companies buy in Victoria the goods which they expect to sell in the Canadian Yukon?

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

There is really more danger of difficulty arising between the United States and Spain now than there has been at any period since the rebellion in the island began. This is not because the condition of things on the island is more urgent than heretofore, but because President McKinley is an uncertain quantity and may at any time revise his policy of non-interference. It is plain to the most superficial observer that unless something can be done to withdraw public attention from the utter failure of the Republican party to redeem its pledges, made before the election of 1896, nothing can save it from ignominious defeat at the next presidential contest. President McKinley has been in office not quite a year and the Dingley tariff has been in operation for even a shorter period; but there has been ample time to demonstrate, first, that the return of the Republicans to power was not sufficient to restore confidence in financial and commercial circles, and second, that the new tariff, framed ostensibly to prevent the recurrence of deficits, will completely fail to do so. It is now conceded by the Republican leaders that Mr. McKinley's term is in all probability likely to be characterized by a succession of deficits. It is this fact which has caused the great outcry in regard to the pension list. At last the Republican party has come to realize that the limit of the tax-paying ability of the people has been reached, that is so far as customs duties are concerned.

President McKinley's presidential career seems likely to end in disastrous failure unless something new can be devised. The people are fast growing disgusted with the republican party, and some new means must be discovered of coaxing them back to their allegiance. It cannot be done by any promises in regard to the tariff. It cannot be done by any more nonsense in regard to McKinley and prosperity being political twins. It cannot be done by legislation on the currency question, for McKinley is committed to a line of action, which he knows perfectly well will alienate more votes than it will attract. The question is not whether his views on finance are sound or otherwise. They are exceedingly unpopular with the great mass of the people, and that is the chief point for his political managers to consider.

President McKinley is not a great enough man to be willing to face defeat for himself and his party rather than commit the nation to a war with Spain. A soldier and a very brave one, he knows the horrors of war and shrinks from them. He is lacking, however, in the sort of courage necessary that will enable him to deal with the political emergency which has arisen. He has not the courage to say to his political managers that they must take with him the consequences of having promised what they cannot perform, and he will easily be induced to give sanction to a line of policy towards Spain which will restore the prestige of his party by appealing to the patriotism of the people.

There is no doubt that war with Spain would be very popular in the United States. Canadians must to a very great extent sympathize with their neighbors in their indignation over the cruelties perpetrated by the Spanish authorities in Cuba. We can sympathize also with the desire to see something like free government set up on that island. We also can very well understand why the people of the United States should desire to possess the island, although it is fair to say that they do not admit to be at all influenced by it in their hostility to Spain. Moreover the United States has a very decent navy, and the people feel about it much as a boy does when he gets a new axe. They want to try it on something at the earliest possible day. For these reasons, and for others that need not be specified, there is no doubt that if the President should send a message to congress recommending the despatch of an ultimatum to Madrid couched in terms that would be at once rejected, and should follow it up by recommending a declaration of war, his popularity would be at white heat. The temptation to take such a course would be great to any man, and may easily prove irresistible to one of Mr. McKinley's temperament.

The war party in the United States is very active, and is made up of many elements. It embraces firebrands like Morgan of Alabama and Lodge of Massachusetts, young naval and military men anxious for promotion, contractors, seeking to make fortunes out of supplying the forces, budding politicians hopeful of new opportunities, and a great mass of people who have been taught at school that the mission of the United States is to whip all creation at the first convenient opportunity. These elements would combine to make McKinley the most popular president since Grant the moment he inaugurated hostilities with Spain, while a successful outcome of the war would secure for him and his political associates a long lease of power. The younger members of the Republican party have not forgotten that it was a war that gave that organization its long lease of power, with the unlimited opportunities of acquiring wealth and influence resulting from it.

We are doing our best to advise the city and bring you trade. Now advertise and let people know where to buy and what to buy.

THE NEW REGULATIONS.

The new regulations in regard to mining in the Northwest contain one clause that will meet with the hearty endorsement of the people of British Columbia. It is that requiring miners and persons employing miners to take out a miner's certificate. The Colonist believes that it is entitled to the credit of having made this suggestion and also of suggesting that these certificates shall be put on sale in the British Columbia cities. At that time we said it would be a master stroke, and now that it has been made we have no disposition to withhold the warmest expression of approval. This new regulation will make it almost compulsory upon persons going North to call at either this city or Vancouver to obtain their licenses and must completely revolutionize travel. Its effect upon the outfitting trade will be almost equally great. We anticipate that this regulation will cause a profound sensation in the United States cities. When the Colonist first proposed it, the Post-Intelligencer declared it an infamous suggestion, said that the Canadian government would not entertain it for a moment, and declared that if it were adopted the United States would at once impose a license upon everyone crossing the so-called Alaskan strip. However much inclined certain unreasonable people might be to recommend such a course, there is not the slightest reason to suppose it will be taken.

The alteration in the size of mining claims will be generally satisfactory, and the change in the reservation is undoubtedly a very great improvement, although we are not prepared to concede the advisability of any reservation whatever. The provision for the appointment of mining recorders is a very good one, and the dredging leases seem reasonable. The royalty is to stand at ten per cent. all round. We adhere to the views already expressed in this paper that a ten per cent. royalty is too high, although admitting that the excessive cost of administering the Yukon warrants a higher royalty than could be otherwise justified.

On the whole we feel that the government is to be congratulated upon its attempt to deal with what is a subject of no little difficulty. All that we contend for has not been granted, but some very important features of the demands of Victoria, as expressed in the press and at public meetings, have been met.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

The address of Mayor Redfern to the new city council is marked by a good deal of plain common sense. It is evidently his Worship's desire to make a record during the present year that will be satisfactory to the taxpayers. We feel very sure that the people will be with him in any effort he may make to secure a reasonable settlement of the bridge-disaster cases that cannot be construed into an admission by the city of legal responsibilities which do not rest upon it. In a matter of this kind undue haste is not desirable; but we think that it is hardly chargeable against the city authorities that they have been over-anxious to get these cases disposed of. At the best they can hardly be settled before the second anniversary of the unhappy accident, and this, everyone will admit, is long enough to keep the question open, if it can be closed on reasonable terms. But the terms must be reasonable. The taxpayers are willing to pay what is a proper compensation to the bereaved and the injured, but they will not bear the council out in a settlement upon an extravagant basis.

The street question is one that bids fair to be with us for a long time to come. We are not all surprised at the almost hopeless tone in which the Mayor speaks of it. He made an effort last year to accomplish something, and the way in which it was received was not calculated to inspire confidence as to the outcome of any new plans, which he may submit. The condition of Government street is such that the property-owners will be compelled in self-protection to do something in the direction of improvement at an early day. They may make up their minds that, if the business of this city grows in consequence of the development of the Yukon and other mines and Government street is not put in better shape, the retail centre will shift entirely to some other part of the city. We agree with his Worship in thinking that the adoption of a local improvement by-law, which will permit of streets being improved at the cost of the abutting properties, will be a step in the right direction.

In regard to the extension of sewers, if this can be done by the imposition of a rental upon the properties served, we think no objection will be raised. No one, who knows the convenience of sewer connection will hesitate for a moment about paying a rental equal to the interest on the cost of laying a sewer in front of his premises.

The only other matter referred to in the address calling for special reference, is that relating to an increase in the number of the police. Such an increase seems to be absolutely necessary in view of the large number of people likely to pass through the city during the present year.

Waterproof mackinaws with or without hood. B. Williams & Co.

NOT AS A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

Rev. J. C. Speer is quite wrong in thinking that the Colonist wished him to act as a public prosecutor. All that this paper did was to give him credit for sincerity in his championship of reform in the morals of Victoria, and to suggest that he should place the information, of which he claimed to be possessed, in the hands of the police commissioners. If he will do this, and that body will not act upon the information, and he will furnish the Colonist with the facts, he will find this paper not backward in insisting that the commissioners shall do their duty in the premises.

The Colonist has the fullest sympathy with any effort to promote morality and to prevent the social evil from flouting itself in the face of decency. It is not so exotic as to suppose the evil can be eradicated by any crusade that can be set on foot. It has its doubts as to the desirability of any steps that will lead to the scattering of houses of ill-repute throughout the city. In Seattle a well-meant effort was made to suppress what was known as Whitechapel. The effort was successful, but the result was that houses of ill-fame were opened on or close to the principal thoroughfares, which state of things became such a scandal and a nuisance that orders were given the police to "hiv" them again in a part of the city where they would not be offensive to decently disposed people. In St. John, N.B., similar results followed from a similar course of action.

Mr. Speer and those, who like him desire to see action taken along the lines so ably advocated by him, ought to remember that social reform is a severely practical question. They ought to remember that neither men nor women can be made moral by legislation or police interference. It is possible, however, to restrict the harm likely to result from evils which cannot be suppressed; but this is a practical matter and cannot be accomplished by sermons or editorials. Some one must take the responsibility of action. It is, indeed, a very obnoxious and painful responsibility. If Mr. Speer undertakes it, we will tell him frankly that he will find many people, whose sympathies are loudly with him as long as he confines himself to words only, inclined to hold back and permit him to bear the burden alone. At least, if this is not his experience, he will have a happier lot than has fallen to most people who have undertaken to carry the banner of social reform.

Yet he can hardly hold his hand now that he has begun, and we do not believe he has the least desire to do so; but speaking from experience in more than one movement of this kind, we tell him that he may preach and the papers may print until Doomsday, but unless someone sets the machinery of the law in motion to accomplish something within the range of practicability, all the labor will be in vain. We repeat that we do not ask the reverend gentleman to act as a public prosecutor. The law provides a prosecutor. We do not ask that anyone shall prosecute anyone. We simply say that we agree with him as to the scandalously conspicuous manner in which a certain element of the population is allowed to flaunt itself before the eyes of the people, thereby familiarizing young boys and young girls with vice in its most attractive form. He says he has much information that calls for action. We ask him to place this information in the hands of the police commissioners.

SOAP SUDS IN POLITICS.

"Yo' opens yo' mouf; yo' fills yo' mouf full; yo' shets yo' mouf and yo' aint got noffin." This was the way in which an individual, whose ancestors came from Africa, described whipped cream. The description suits the political provender which the Opposition press is serving up to the British Columbia public. They had a spoonful or two of something, which they thought was *creme de la creme*, though every one else knew it was only dirty soapuds, and they have kept whipping it with indefatigable perseverance day after day, week after week, month after month. The Victoria Times whipped it; the Inland Sentinel whipped it; the Nelson Tribune whipped it; the Columbian whipped it, and now the News-Advertiser in its slow and ponderous fashion is whipping it. The moment the process stops the frothy mass collapses. While the whipping is in progress the bubbles pile up to quite an imposing height, and as the whippers see their own faces reflected in the myriads of little watery mirrors, they think their images represent the mass of the people turning towards them for guidance.

The labors of the News-Advertiser in this connection remind one of the waltzing of an elephant—ponderous and not very easily followed. It is devoting very much ink to the elucidation of imaginary problems, which the more agile Inland Sentinel could dispose of in a paragraph and the verbose Times would cover with two or three groups of "language." Some time, when the Klondyke rush is over, it may be interesting to give the dimension of the News-Advertiser's arguments. We say dimension, because, like a line, they have only one. They are length without breadth. They are coming out in a series, reminding one of those toy Pharaoh's serpents,

which twist out a few links at a time and then break off. There is no visible reason why they should not, like Tenyson's brook, go on forever. They chatter, chatter as they go to join the brimming river of political rubbish that has flowed and will forever flow from the reservoir wherein are gathered jealousy, disappointment and self-sufficiency. There is nothing in all this world quite equal to the exhibition of the latter quality which our contemporaries give in the series in question. We go back to the circus, with its waltzing elephant, for a fitting comparison. The News-Advertiser jumped into the ring, and addressing the audience said in substance: "Here we are, Beholdus. We are about to smash the government. We will do it in a series of articles. Sir Oracle is about to speak. Let all lesser canines keep silence." Then the performance began, and at the end of each act our contemporary bows, throws itself a bouquet and pauses to be admired. Funny? No one says hereafter that the News-Advertiser is not a humorous paper. There is nothing funnier than the perforations, so to speak, of its daily opposition screeds.

Meanwhile the government appears to be doing business at the old stand with its customary regularity. To be pelted with bubbles is not an especially annoying experience. The public shows distinct signs of growing weary of the opposition's performance. Sensible men, who have not allowed themselves to be blinded by jealousy or lust of office, are realizing the absolute hollowness of the whole opposition case, and there is not the slightest reason to doubt that if a vote were taken in the province to-day the government would be sustained by the strongest majority any government has had in the last twenty years.

When the Times knows a little more than it does now, if that ever happens, it will realize in what haste it has been to write itself down an ignoramus by expressing the opinion that the Colonist's article entitled "No One's Mouth Closed," in Sunday's issue is a contempt of court. It may interest our contemporaries and some others, perhaps, to be told that the courts have no more right to rule what a newspaper shall or shall not say about a criminal case than they have to dictate to a paper as to how it shall comment upon any other news of the day. We do not say that while a case is actually on trial before a jury, the presiding judge has no discretion to punish the publication of anything which may prevent the proper administration of justice. We believe he has such a right and that he ought to exercise it when necessary. But we totally deny that there is any power in the British Empire that has the right to say to a newspaper editor that he shall not comment upon a criminal case, or anything else that can happen, except a case actually on trial. This, let it be understood, is a free country, and is not ruled by absolute judges any more than by an absolute sovereign. While making this statement of the law, the Colonist wishes to add that the article referred to was not a comment upon the libel cases. It was a comment upon a very cheap performance by some people in connection with the libel cases.

VICTORIA people will welcome the City of Kingston back to her route. The managers of the Seattle steamship service ought to understand that the greatest dissatisfaction exists here at the interruptions to which it is subject. At present there seems to be no help for it; but if business develops so as to warrant a new line being put on, no one need feel surprised if the business community shows a disposition to favor the new comers. The people here are not disposed to complain unreasonably; but the delays in the arrivals of mails, passengers and freight during the last week or two have been exasperating in the highest degree, and in some cases have meant very serious losses.

The language of the British government in regard to China has the right ring about it. China shall be kept open to the commerce of the world even at the cost of war. But there will be no war, and China will be open to the world. The voice of Britain is, as it ought to be, for freedom. We believe the language used, though strong, will secure peace.

THE COLONIST informs the Post-Intelligencer that it printed the exact facts about the Sticksen route, for the reason that it always prints the exact facts about any subject, when they can be ascertained. It printed the exact facts about the Post-Intelligencer Alaska News Syndicate and its purchases in Victoria.

Although the new mining regulations were given out yesterday at Ottawa, the Seattle papers have not yet printed them. The reason is that they do not want miners to learn that they must take out licenses, and for these must come to British Columbia cities.

The sudden death of ex-Mayor Templeton, of Vancouver, was a great shock to everyone in Victoria, who knew him either by name or reputation. It is very sad that a useful citizen should have been cut off in the midst of an active and promising career.

The Times has the unhappy satisfaction of having said the most insulting things ever penned about the courts of this province.

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Some people feel after the elections? You will feel the same when you find that you have been throwing your money away by not taking advantage of our offerings. Although "there are others," these are the most striking this week.

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Mustard and Spice Sardines - 5c
Flour—Same prices as last week
Fine Creamery Butter - 25c lb
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NEW RULES FOR

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Length of Locations Hundred and Fifty for Discovery

Royalty of Ten Per Cent Above Twenty-Five Dollars.

From Our Own Correspondent
OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—The Yukon mining regulations have been decided upon further than the third within eight months. In the Sifton started the country ruling on mining in Yukon. The ruling was that the chief features of the new law were: Reduction of claim length; reduction of royalty from \$100 to \$15 yearly; reduction of royalty of 10 per cent. on output of \$500, and of 20 per cent. on output of \$1000. From end to end of the mining regulations were as ruinous and impracticable. Then Mr. Sifton began to retreat, and after his return to the coast it was announced that a large reduction would be made in the royalty proposed. The new regulations, it was said, would be a recognition of "miners' matter of registration at the license system is adopted. Under the new regulations licenses will be issued for a definite time for individuals, companies, and the fee for will be \$15 with an annual \$15. Claims will be 250 feet and the government will re-allocate block of ten claims in five mile sections for \$1000 mile. Claims producing over \$20 will pay a royalty of 10 per cent. on output of \$500, and of 20 per cent. on output of \$1000. The miners, if more than five may elect their own recorder their claims with him, pending registration within three months.

The Times' special despatch says that certain of the provisions are:

"Every miner and employer will require to take out a certificate the fee for which will be \$50 or \$100, according to the amount of the capital. The miner's license will be valid for one year, and the timber necessary for mining will be made for obtaining certificates at a number of towns, such as Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Victoria.

"The general size of mine will be 250 feet, and discoveries 500 feet. Every alternate block shall be reserved by the government. Subsequent mining licenses will be issued in five mile sections of \$100 per annum and the royalty.

"Provisions are made to speculation in claims by the claim open to entry which has worked a certain number of days. Reasonable cause is shown, and a record shall not be made for more than one claim to any one locality."

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL

An Effort for Relief of Mrs. S. The New Military Equipment

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—Mr. Gault new member for Temiscouata, the address in the Commons.

The cabinet was in session discussing Mrs. Sternaman's papers will go to the Governor tomorrow. Mr. German for the prisoner, had a three hour conference with the ministers this morning.

Deputy Surgeon General C. Halifax, has arrived here to arrange the militia department for the facture of the Oliver accoutrements the militia.

Lieut. Thorp, A. D. C. to error-General, has been promoted captain and command of a company in the Rifle Brigade.

General manager Hayes and general manager Wainwright, of T. R., were engaged all afternoon with Messrs. Blair and Schrieber, general freight agent Harris of the discussing arrangements for the fusion of the Government railway real and terminal facilities.

Although it will be spring but Drummond county road is taking Mr. Blair wants to settle the debt of the Grand Trunk as soon as possible.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC BISHOPS

A Joint Pastoral Declaring Their School Question.

MONTREAL, Jan. 17.—(Special) bishops of Toronto, Hamilton and have issued a joint pastoral instructing their people to acquiesce in the decision of the supreme court in preserving their constitutional rights. At Montreal a ston the encyclical was read comment.

Small Pox Over.

MONTREAL, Jan. 17.—(Special) Irvine hospital closed to-day had 24 cases of small-pox since being fatal.

Toronto's City Engineer

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—(Special) Engineer Keating has resigned a position with the street railway.