

HIGHLY REASSURING.**Important Announcements by the Minister of Justice.****Island Railway to be Built and the Mainland Railway Belt Opened to Settlement.****The Dry Dock, Kootenay Bill and Other Important Subjects Considered.**

As we go to press a deputation of the Board of Trade, composed of President, Rithet, Vice President, Finlayson, Secretary Baker, J. H. Todd, Thomas Earle, Robert Ward, M. T. Johnston, Joshua Davies, J. H. Turner and H. F. Heisterman, have just returned from an interview with Sir Alexander Campbell, the Federal Minister of Justice, now on a visit to this Province and representing the Dominion Government. After courteously receiving these gentlemen and attentively listening to their representation on important subjects in which this province is deeply interested, Sir Alexander replied to the several questions, *seriatim*, substantially as follows:

On the subject of Appropriations he said gentlemen must not be impatient about the expenditure being carried into effect, as appropriations only dated from the first of July and that the sums would be expended in due course.

ISLAND RAILWAY.

That the Dominion Government would secure the construction of the Island Railway and that alterations had been made in the agreement, which had been taken to Nanaimo by Mr. Trutch for Mr. Dunsmuir's information. He saw no reason why the work could not be commenced almost immediately.

DRY DOCK.

There had been misapprehension on this subject. The accounts of expenditure submitted to the Dominion government only extended to June, 1882, whereas the work was carried on for several months after June. The Dominion government had decided to build the dock as a Dominion government work and recommended his colleagues to recoup the province for the expenditure after June, 1882.

RAILWAY LANDS.

The Railway line had been shifted from the northern to the southern route and the delay that had occurred in opening the lands to settlement had arisen out of the fact that the Dominion government were unaware which were surveyed lands; but he saw no obstacle in the opening of surveyed lands to actual settlers at \$1 an acre. Unsurveyed lands would have to be surveyed before sale. Offices would have to be opened for the sale of lands and returns were being prepared by the local government showing which lands were unsurveyed.

QUARANTINE

Selection had been made of Albert Head as a site for the quarantine hospital, and he had telegraphed to Ottawa recommending the appointment of a quarantine officer.

IMMIGRATION.

As the result of an interview with Mr. Baker, M. P., he had telegraphed his colleagues at Ottawa, recommending the immediate appointment of an immigration agent.

KOOTENAY BILL.

Sir Alexander Campbell said that he had been interviewed by Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Blasdell at San Francisco, and by Mr. Wright at Victoria. He (Sir Alexander) had suggested to these gentlemen the insertion of a clause in the bill by which they would not be allowed to go nearer than twenty miles of the boundary line in the shipment of their ores. This suggestion was satisfactory to the promoters, and the matter need not be delayed at all for legislation. The company might proceed with their expenditures with the certainty of the bill being allowed.

An amendment making it obligatory on the company to use the C. P. R. lines might be passed by the local legislature next session.

OTHER MATTERS.

Important changes in postal regulations, the appointment of a City Postmaster for Victoria, harbor improvements, the establishment of fish hatcheries and other important subjects were discussed, after which the deputation took leave of the distinguished statesman, expressing themselves as highly pleased with the interview and sanguine of good results from the assurances of the Minister of Justice.

A PRACTICAL EMPRESS. The printing art that is, the type-setting part of it—has an attraction to most people who gain an insight from observation into its mysteries. Some of the most distinguished men this country has produced, were practical printers, and many ladies of wealth have become type-setters solely because of the fascination surrounding the occupation. Of late years, women compositors, who pursue the occupation for a living, are numerous in all parts of the United States. To an intelligent mind this branch of the trade is a school, rich in knowledge from which it can gather treasures not always to be found in books. Indeed, there have been eminent men, graduates from the composing room who never had the advantage of a single term of schooling. When we consider these facts we are prepared to hear that the dashing Empress of Austria, who is proficient in horsemanship and field sports, is having a printing office erected in her palace, and intends to learn the printing business. The Empress is given to verse writing, and will, so soon as she has made sufficient advancement in her new vocation, set up her own poems in type and personally superintend their issuance from the press. The announcement has its novelty, but to the initiated is not at all surprising, only so far as it relates that the eccentricities of female royalty should lead it to the adoption of a mechanical pursuit.