

EXPENDITURES IN KOOTENAY.

Much has been said about an alleged disproportion of receipts from West Kootenay to expenditures, and the chief ground of complaint against the provincial government from that section of the Province, indeed we may say it is the chief of all the grounds of complaint, is based upon this imaginary discrepancy. We have taken the trouble to ascertain the actual facts of the case, and these show that so far from the province having been niggardly with West Kootenay, its treatment of that district has been liberal in the extreme. During the five years ending June 30, 1896, the provincial expenditure in West Kootenay reached the very respectable sum of \$1,027,871, while the total contributions of the district to the provincial revenue during the same period amounted to \$391,498. These amounts are set up as follows:

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts include All sources except lands and railways, Land sales, and Railways. Expenditures include Railway grant, Interest, Salaries, Works and buildings, Roads, streets and bridges, Hospitals, Education, and Surveys.

If we add to these expenditures the excess of interest paid on the railway subsidy over the receipts from the railways, \$62,719, we find that during the last five years the Province has paid on current account \$866,109 on account of West Kootenay against \$376,808 receipts; that is to say, of the total amount received in the five years mentioned from West Kootenay only \$13,029 has been available for the general expenses of the provincial government as distinguished from local expenses, or a trifle over \$2,000 a year. It may be that this showing affords just ground for complaint, but we fail to see that West Kootenay is entitled to make it.

We do not wish to overlook the fact that in 1895-96 the revenue from West Kootenay greatly exceeded the expenditures there, but it will be seen by reference to the above statement of expenditures in detail that there has been no necessary relation between receipts and expenditures of this district in any one year more than there has been between those of any other district. Receipts fluctuate and so do expenditures, the former depending upon circumstances which can never be accurately foreseen, the latter upon what seem to be the most urgent necessities of the district at the time the estimates are made up. When the estimates for 1895-96 were made up, that is in the early part of 1895, no one anticipated that the receipts from West Kootenay would increase as they have done or that the influx of population would create a demand for larger expenditures.

The above showing completely disproves the case which the Opposition press has been laboring for the past few months to make out, and cuts away all ground for the assertion that West Kootenay is being discriminated against or has been paying far more into the provincial treasury than has been expended there.

LAND TITLES IN ROSSLAND.

The claims of the squatters in the town of Rossland are to be brought before the legislature by petition. The question involved is the cause of much discussion in the town and ought to be settled in some way at the earliest possible day, for as long as it is in abeyance improvements and building operations will be generally retarded. The petition circulated for signatures represents that all the land occupied in Rossland, except the original townsite, known as lot 339, group I, West Kootenay, is claimed by the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway Company, but the right of the railway to all the lands except that south of the original townsite is claimed by other parties. The Paris Belle Gold Mining Company insists that its mineral claim is excepted from the grant to the railway; the owners of the Derby mineral claim take the same position in regard to the land within the limits of their claim, and Charles Dundee claims 320 acres north and northwest of the original townsite under a pre-emption filed in 1894, which was before the grant to the railway. These three parcels of land are the best adapted for building site in any of the vicinity of the original townsite and probably three-fourths of the population reside on them. The claims of the Paris Belle and the railway are in litigation, and Dundee proposes to test his claim by a suit, but the petitioners think it will take two years to determine the

legal questions involved and say the delay will be intolerable. They therefore want an act passed to provide for a board of commissioners to fix a price for the land and give a title to purchasers, the money when paid to be held for the benefit of the parties entitled to it.

On the face of it the proposition seems a very reasonable one. The railway company has prepared an agreement which is intended to meet the case, but objection is made to it on the ground that it really holds the company to nothing. All that the company agrees to is to convey the title thereto as the first part (the company) by its Crown grant. If this is all that the company is bound to do by the agreement, it certainly will have an advantage over the purchasers. It will satisfy its part of the agreement by giving such title as it has. If that title is only a colorable one the company does not agree to refund the purchase money. The Rossland Miner, which has not been disposed especially to favor the squatters, admits that the meaning of the agreement needs elucidation. We have no desire to prejudge the matter or to unduly interfere in a matter especially affecting Rossland, but it appears as if the proposition of the squatters as set out in their petition is wholly equitable. It certainly is of great importance to a large number of people that titles to land in the growing town should be placed beyond question as soon as possible.

THE WOMAN IN THE CASE.

Cherces la femme, say the French. Nothing is truer than that one of the most powerful agencies in shaping the destinies of men and nations has been woman's caprice. To-day the civilized world is watching with breathless interest the events transpiring in Crete. These have followed hard upon the Armenian atrocities, and these in their turn divided attention with the Anglo-Egyptian expedition up the Nile. Together they form a part, but only a small one, of a conflict which is centuries old and which may form one of the epoch-making incidents of the Twentieth century. Indeed it is not impossible that before the century dawns Islam and Christianity may confront each other in an Armageddon. Does the French proverb hold good in respect to some light upon this question, although we must go back many years to get it.

The story of Hagar and Ishmael is familiar to most people even in these days, when it is not considered essential to study Bible history. Read as one reads other stories, it is evident that Abraham dearly loved his bondwoman and her splendid son. Accustomed as we are to hear Isaac praised for his wisdom and goodness, we are apt to forget that Hagar's son it was foretold that he "should stand in the presence of his brethren," that is, that he should be, as we sometimes say to-day, a man among men. We are told that when Abraham learned that Hagar's son was not the child of promise he cried unto God and said, "O, that Ishmael my son might live before Thee," and the promise was given that the lad should be the father of a great nation. But Sarah's caprice was stronger than Abraham's love, and there came a day when the patriarch in great sorrow said good-bye to Hagar and the boy as they set out alone into the wilderness. "That day was sown the seed of strife, whose belated fruits the world is plucking to-day."

It is not necessary to speak about the wars between the descendants of Sarah and those of Hagar in early historic times. We may, indeed, pass over without comment the twenty centuries, more or less, which intervened between the expulsion of the bondwoman and that epoch-making event at Bethlehem, when to one of the daughters of Isaac's race was born a Son, to whose influence modern civilization owes its existence and whose name later there was born to a daughter of the race of Ishmael a son, whose name was "writ large" across the Old World, from where the land of the chryseus, thenceforth looks out towards the rising sun to the bleak Western coast of Africa. These two great leaders of mankind pursued courses radically opposed to each other in essential features. The one inculcated by precept and example a gospel of love. The other appealed to the passions which sway the children of the "wild man," that it was foretold Hagar's son would be, "Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves," said the gentle Nazarene to those whom he had commissioned for the greatest work of conquest ever undertaken by men. Far different was the spirit of the followers of the prophet of Mecca. An old chronicler tells us that when Akbar reached the Atlantic coast of Africa at the head of his conquering legions, and found his way barred by the ocean, he rode his horse into the waves, and as the rays of the setting sun shone upon his burnished armor, raised his sword to heaven in protest, exclaiming in bitterness of soul, "O, God, if Thou hadst not set this sea in my path, I would not have drawn rein until I had encircled the globe and put to death all who dared deny that Thou only art God."

So it appears that this historic antagonism, which began forty centuries ago in Abraham's household is not only between two branches of a family, or even simply between two great systems of religion, but between two great principles of human action. What the ultimate outcome will be there can be little doubt, but when it will be reached, or after what vicissitudes, no one can forecast.

It is impossible in an article of this nature to do more than indicate a line of thought upon this attractive theme. Those who care to follow it out will find that it will repay them well. It is not suggested that the Creteans are descendants of Isaac or the Turks sprung from Ishmael. It is not strictly germane to the question whether, as has been claimed, the Anglo-Turonic races are descendants of Isaac through the Ten Tribes that went into captivity and never returned. There is probably no reason to suppose the former proposition to have any value, and the evidence on the latter is of concern chiefly to the curious in such matters; but it lends a new interest to the events which are crowding thick and fast upon each other to-day to know the origin of the strife, and to find how closely very ancient and very modern history are knit together. We have searched for the woman in the Eastern question, and have found her in Abraham's household on the plains of Gerar four thousand years ago.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

We like the Farmers' Institute bill very much. It ought to prove a useful piece of legislation. Our chief criticism of it is that the membership fee has been placed too low. A dollar is a small enough fee. The writer of this article prepared the law now in force in New Brunswick for the formation of agricultural societies. By that the membership is fixed at a minimum of \$0 and the minimum subscription list at \$80, except when the Department of Agriculture shall recommend otherwise, as in the case of poor districts. Upwards of sixty societies organized under this law. Of course the farming communities are older and more densely populated there than here.

An interesting feature of the act is the provision for co-operative organizations, and it will have been noted that these authorize the formation of associations to make loans to farmers. We think that this is a new departure in Canada. Much interest will attach to its operation in this line in Europe where, by the basal idea is that the united credit of a community is stronger than the credit of individuals. It is essential to the success of such a plan that very close supervision should be exercised by the association over the manner in which money borrowed from it is used. It is here that the danger of failure lies. Our people are impatient, as a rule, of what they regard as the interference of others in their affairs. But the proposed law will give British Columbia farmers an opportunity to try an interesting experiment, and one that, if it is successful, will result in a great deal of good.

The Alaska News, printed at Juneau, does not look very kindly upon the proposal to build a railway from the Stickeen to Lake Teslin. It says that "last year at least 1,000 miners outfitting in Juneau for the Yukon, and that each of them spent for equipment at least \$100, or \$100,000 in all, not including their expenses in that town. If the proposed road is built, the News says, most of this trade will be done in Victoria and other British Columbia ports, for "no one would pack a ton or two of supplies float down a more or less dangerous river, if he could ship his goods by water and rail to his destination and travel with ease and comfort." The News goes on to say: "The same would be true of miners returning in the fall. They could leave Circle City the middle of September or perhaps as late as October on a steamer running to Lake Teslin and be able to get out before winter overtook them. Not one out of a hundred of those miners would ever see Juneau." The Juneau paper is, of course, very clear what it can do to head off this danger to the trade of the town. It thinks the Chilkoot route via the Donlin Strait is practically as good as the Stickeen-Teslin route, and calls upon Congress to do something to meet the emergency.

The Montreal Witness says "an injudicious case has attacked the East" in regard to British Columbia gold mines. It speaks of the floating of mining stock by companies not owning the semblance of a mine, and for about half a column severely condemns such transactions. This is all very well; but the Witness would do better if it were more specific. Why does it not name the companies of the class referred to? It will find the British Columbia papers ready to back it up in a campaign against the promoters of sham companies; but more general allegations do little good except in so far as they may serve to put people on their guard.

REPRESENTATIVE REBO, of the Missouri legislature, is a genius in his line. He has moved for a committee of five to go to the Fitzsimmons-Corbett prize fight to report to the house as to the expediency of legalizing prize fights in Missouri. It is charitable to assume that Mr. Rebo is a gentleman of a humorous turn.

Dr. Murray, the distinguished English scholar, who is at work upon a great dictionary, sends a letter to the London News asking people to spell "dispatch" with an "i" and not with an "e." He says the form which he prefers has the sanction of three hundred years of usage, "despatch" being a very recent and unsavory innovation. All the dictionaries give both spellings, favored by Dr. Murray; but the two more recent American works "The Century" and "The Standard," dictionaries incline to "despatch." If the derivation of the word is followed, the "i" ought to be used, for it comes from the Latin, the first syllable being simply the old Latin privative. On the other hand, if we get the word through the French, the "e" would be right, for the French say "depecher" in the same sense as we use the verb form of the word under consideration. Dr. Murray's recommendation is likely to be followed.

THE COLONIST having spoken approvingly of the mayor's suggestion that this year June 24 should be celebrated instead of May 24, a gentleman was good enough to say in the columns of a contemporary that June 20 was not Coronation day. No one having ever intimated that it was, we were somewhat at a loss to account for the statement. It would have been more to the point if the gentleman had mentioned that June 20 will this year fall on a Sunday, and that it will be necessary therefore to fix on another day for the holiday. Victoria became Queen on June 20, and that day is often spoken of as Ascension Day, although perhaps improperly, for it is not the anniversary of the day when Her Majesty ascended the throne for the first time, which was on June 28, when she was crowned. She began her reign on June 20. She was proclaimed queen on June 21. How would the latter day do for the holiday? It would fall on Monday.

Dr. Selwyn has been heard from again. He has stated that he has been entirely misrepresented and misunderstood as to the remarks he made at the Mining Association meeting in Montreal on Thursday last. As a matter of fact, he says he did not state that British Columbia was not a mining country. What he did state was that Canada as a whole was not a mining country. That statement was made exclusive of British Columbia. In 1885 Dr. Selwyn strongly advised all mining speculators to go to the Rocky Mountains, as there he believed were the greatest mines that could be developed for the reason that its own natural instincts run that way—Vanouver World.

THE BELLEVILLE INTELLIGENCER rises to remark that "Canada is not a poor man's land for Uncle Sam's hobbied boots." Sir Mackenzie Bowell's paper is, physically, quaint and metaphysically correct.—Montreal Gazette.

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DR. SELWYN'S VIEWS. The newspapers need not get so awfully cross because Dr. Selwyn established the rule of "supply the supply," excepting which is necessary to prove it.—Calgary Herald.

AN ANIMATED VIEW OF THE FINANCES. We plug up the bung-hole, and there is a big airflow at the other end.—Vanouver Mail.

BY WAY OF VARIETY. The Siddy Young Thing—What is that proverb about there being no marrying in Heaven? The Chronic Bachelor—'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.'—Indiana Journal.

Mr. Mann (meeting former servant)—Ah, Mary, I suppose you are getting better now? Mary—Yes, Mr. Mann, I'm working for nothing now. I'm married.—Boston Transcript.

When Mr. Bickers went home the other afternoon there was a visitor in the parlor. "Who is it?" "John," said Mrs. Bickers to her husband, "let me introduce you to Mr. Holliday, an old beau of mine." "Glad to meet you, Mr. Holliday," replied Mr. Bickers, cordially. "Please accept my sincere congratulations."—Punch.

The Widow—What you here, John? Shade of Departed Husband—Yes. And so, false, fickle creature, you have married again! "Yes; but how under the sun did you find it out?" I thought marriages were made in heaven."—Truth.

Doctor—Well, how do you feel to-day? Mrs. Brown—Oh, doctor, I feel like a new woman! Doctor—Ha! Has the trouble really gone to your head?—New York Sunday Journal.

Waiter—Sorry, sir, but we had no more quail on toast today. Customer—That's too bad. Well, have you anything else that is just as good? Waiter—Ach, ja! Gesser. Ve haf tripe, vienerust, pigs feet, frankfurter and cabbage and saurkraut.—Chicago-Times Herald.

Sympathizing Friend—Where were the remains of your late husband interred? The Widow (sadly)—These were no remains; he—he—met a bear.—Sketch.

Toronto, Feb. 17.—The Montreal correspondent of the Mail and Empire attributes the closing down of two big milling concerns in the Northwest, the Ogilvie milling and the Lake of the Woods milling companies, to the uncertainty regarding the tariff. Robert Meagher, of the Lake of the Woods company, says the elevators of his company were closed because it cannot afford to keep them open with the present light deliveries.

The Nova Scotia gold mines, as far as they have reported, produced \$483,093 in 1896. The output of twenty mines is included in this amount. Several have not sent in returns, and the Industrial Advocate estimates the total output at about half a million dollars.

The Hawaiian Gazette is a strong advocate of the annexation of the island republic to the United States. It is animated by hope and fear—hope of a sugar bounty and fear of the loss of reciprocity.

The President of the Farmers Alliance is named Thrift. In hoc signo vinces.

Oh, Baby! An advertisement for baby products featuring an illustration of a baby and text describing various baby items like American Rolled Oats, Fresh Eggs, and Fresh California Butter.

Dixie. H. Ross & Co.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

OPPOSED TO AN EXPORT DUTY. There is no doubt that the mining industry, though it has grown by leaps and bounds in the past four years, is not yet out loose from American smelters. Were such action to be taken, either voluntarily or involuntarily, it would result in a marked increase in smelting charges, at least to the mine, and a corresponding loss to the miner.—Rossland Miner.

EASY TO RETALIATE. If congress honors the hoglike lumbermen who want a protective duty of \$2 a thousand, it will be no trouble to get the axe and pulp wood passing from Canada to the United States. The government is already armed with the power, as the clause of the tariff law providing for such an export duty was only suspended, not repealed.—Mail and Empire.

MINERS' LICENCES. It has rightly been considered a hardship that farmers, carpenters or other laborers working for a mining company should be required to take out a licence, while other workers at similar occupations for railway companies, or other business concerns, are exempt from the tax.—Verdon News.

PROVINCIAL PARTY LINES. New dividing lines now in provincial politics may have some advantages, but will have also its drawbacks, and it is a question whether the time has yet arrived to introduce the new order of things.—The Rosslander.

NOT A DOOR MAT. The Belleville Intelligencer rises to remark that "Canada is not a poor man's land for Uncle Sam's hobbied boots." Sir Mackenzie Bowell's paper is, physically, quaint and metaphysically correct.—Montreal Gazette.

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CASTORIA For Infants and Children. An advertisement for Castoria medicine featuring an illustration of a baby and text describing its benefits for children.

NEWS OF THE PRO

Remarkable Result of a Westminster Board. Wants Roads. Fortunes in Their Minds the Setting of the Sun.

VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, Feb. 18.—Much notice has been caused in Vancouver by the non-arrival of Canadian newspapers, due to the siding of the C.P.R. at point Winnipeg. Ordinary mail matter as usual by the Soo link. Again Detective Haywood has distinguished himself, in company with the arrest in New Westminster of two or more members of the Creighton gang, both wanted by the police here and in the State of Oregon. Detective Haywood came on the Fraser river, the feeling being that a boat carrying a detective in pursuit in a second which overtook him, the man further resistance. The second boat seized a boat carrying a detective in pursuit in a second which overtook him, the man further resistance. The second boat seized a boat carrying a detective in pursuit in a second which overtook him, the man further resistance.

On the Golden Eagle mine, the tunnel is now in 86 feet. A supposition that at 67 feet the gang was at the same time of the Creighton gang, who are safely locked up, which practice an end to Vancouver's recent calamity.

The changing men do not rely on involuntary task of brush-clearing, and were yesterday managed to make a safe escape, though pursued for some distance by Officer North. The men were arrested in New Westminster and returned to the Bruce-Creighton gang, he reminded by the police magistrates of the necessity of staying in jail \$25 from the stores of Messrs. McKeefely. The men have counsel and will fight hard for their respective positions.

The South Vancouver district has not met for more than a year. A meeting of the district was held at some point in Sooke, but Messrs. Beyer has contended there is no municipality in the district, and council's books are in Vancouver, where also the men have their residence, it is an advisable step to have a meeting of the district.

The two contending parties are that they are legally and other. The result of the meeting will be a decision which either will give there is quite an impassable barrier. Meanwhile the affairs of Vancouver also remain in the hands of the municipal council, which is a Municipal Classes Act of last year. The winners of dog awards at county dog and poultry show held at the Agricultural Hall, which prizes given to successful poultry raisers, those showing dogs, and second prizes only given to exhibitors of private dogs. Most of those who visit the show are from the city, and the balance of the show is a balance of the city's exhibition.

The Phillharmonie Society's will realize for the Vancouver Musical Association a net sum of \$180. Ex-City accountant Tetter has been respected by the city, as a result of the salary made at a council meeting in 1894, but not by a two-thirds of those present. Mr. Justice held that a month's notice was necessary in writing under the act, as this was duly given, Mr. Tetter subsequently held office for two years and accepted reduction of salary for an additional year. Mr. E. P. Dunlop, who was the plaintiff and City Clerk, held the city in this test case, and the decision of the court was in favor of the plaintiff, who had been dependent on Tetter's salary.

Perry A. Jenks left for Kamloops on Monday. In connection with a case in which he was a party, he had been held in custody at Kamloops. The unhappy man had died down in the city, and the decision of the court was in favor of the plaintiff, who had been dependent on Tetter's salary.

Toronto, Feb. 19.—Judge Pease has returned from San Juan county, where he has been holding a court. The judge fixed the date of the execution of Straub, the Blakely island murder, for Friday, March 26. Straub heard his doom pronounced with great calmness, and seems to have hopes that something will yet turn up to save his neck from the gallows. Straub is under sentence of death for the killing of Lauterman on Blakely island about two years ago. The killing was a most cold-blooded and brutal affair, and public indignation ran so high at the time that Straub narrowly escaped being lynched. He was rescued in the nick of time by marines from a revenue cutter and conveyed in the cutter's steam launch to New Whatcom as a place of safety. Straub was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged. The case was appealed to the Supreme court, where the decision of the lower court was affirmed. Straub's execution will be the first in the history of San Juan.

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