

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1898.

MAYOR REDFERN.

We congratulate Mr. Redfern on his re-election. He has been very painstaking in the past and will doubtless be the same in the future. His office has not been much of a sinecure, and will be still less this year. Without any disparagement to his opponent, it may be said that the people of Victoria will feel quite pleased at the result of yesterday's voting. We may all feel very sure that whatever Mayor Redfern can do during his term of office to advance the city's interests, as he understands them, will be done.

THE STICKEEN ROUTE.

There is no manner of doubt as to the Stickeen route being the best by which to reach the Yukon either by summer or winter. It is available for travel now and it will continue available hereafter. But there are some things to be done. So far as the winter road is concerned, we understand that the provincial and federal governments will unite in any expenditure necessary to make a good sleigh road. Hon. Mr. Sifton proposes to ask for a large vote of money to enable him to construct a wagon road, at the earliest possible date, from Telegraph Creek to Teslin lake. Whether the provincial government will be asked to bear a portion of the expense we are not informed. If it is, the legislature will, we think, be willing to make a reasonable appropriation. The road will be built in British Columbia and will serve to develop a portion of the province that promises very well for the future.

Another thing remains to be attended to, namely, the improvement of the present trail, so as to make it serviceable pending the construction of the wagon road. This will call for an outlay of not more than \$10,000, to be spent in bridges and corduroying. Our information, and we have been at a good deal of pains to learn the facts of the case, is that such an outlay would provide a very satisfactory pack trail from the river to the lake, that could be used by any number of animals.

If these outlays are made, we will have, during the winter a first rate snow road; after the snow has gone off, a good pack trail over the frozen trail for perhaps a month or more; after this breaks up, a good pack trail; and before summer is over, a good wagon road. A railway will follow in the course of a very short time. We draw attention to the fact that the expenditures recommended are to provide for public roads. No one will have any right to collect tolls upon them. By means of them a great quantity of freight can be taken into the Yukon before next winter, and this is one of the matters to be kept in mind.

The supply of the Yukon will always be from the headwaters, by way of routes from the head of Lynn Canal, from the Taku or the Stickeen. A great advantage of the latter is that it lies through a gold-bearing country, and it is not liable to interruption by storms. From the point where it strikes the Yukon waters, navigation is perfectly safe. Not very much is to be expected in the way of traffic up the Yukon from St. Michael's. The shortness of the period of navigation, taken in connection with the length of the journey, will prevent this route from competing with the others when once they are opened.

In view of these considerations we urge upon the Dominion and local governments to lose no time in putting the Stickeen-Teslin trail in first-class condition. Our representatives in parliament may have already pressed this matter upon the consideration of the ministry. If they have not done so we are sure they will on being reminded of its urgent importance. We believe that the ministers themselves realize that early steps are necessary, but it will do no harm to let them know how very pressing the case is. Work ought to be begun at once in getting out timber for the bridges and the corduroy.

SUGGESTIONS TO FARMERS.

The present year promises to be the best in the history of British Columbia agriculture, so far as prices are concerned, and we learn that the farmers generally are preparing to take advantage of it. The market now opening is one that is not likely to be overstocked, so there is no fear of disappointment. If any large number of people winter in the Yukon another season, and the chances are that they will, there will be a great demand in the fall for evaporated fruits and vegetables. We suggest that it would be good business policy to prepare in advance for this trade. Perhaps some of the Farmers' Leagues may find themselves in a position to take the matter up. Our suggestion is that they should put themselves in communication with some one who will erect the necessary evaporating plant and contract to deliver at as early dates as possible fruits and vegetables to the capacity of the plant. This will secure the man who puts up the factory all the raw material he will need, and the farmers a certain market for what they may raise.

There will be a demand for butter also. There is now a much greater demand than local dairies can supply, and the additional amount needed will be enormous.

There is no reason why there should be any limit to the product of British Columbia dairies, provided the quality is good and the butter is properly packed. For the Northern trade it would be well to pack it in hermetically sealed cans. They are easily carried, can be made in all sizes, and the butter keeps better than in any other way.

During the fall there will certainly be a great demand for fat cattle. There are not nearly enough cattle raised here for domestic consumption, and if, as the result of the Yukon rush, there are a hundred thousand more mouths to be fed we will have something very much like a beef famine. We suggest that it would be wise for every farmer to stall feed a few animals next fall, and for that purpose to plant a considerable area to turnips or other roots. The possible output of the ranges is limited. It can be increased only according to fixed laws of nature, and cannot possibly keep pace with the expanding demand. The above remarks, so far as they apply, have even a more important bearing upon the raising of hogs, for the demand for hams and bacon is likely to continue very active.

It is also worth while to make preparations for a very active poultry market. At the latter end of the season of 1898 a great deal of poultry will be taken North alive, and killed there and marketed frozen. In order to secure this trade our farmers must raise enough to make it an object to buy here instead of going elsewhere. Dealers will not take the trouble to go out into a district on the chance of being able to pick up a few turkeys here and there. It will not pay them to do so.

The above matters can be advantageously dealt with by the Farmers' Leagues which this year will have a signal opportunity of demonstrating their usefulness. We do not profess to have more than touched upon the skirts of this important subject, which means more to the province even than its mines. These will be exploited, but if they are owned chiefly by strangers and the people who work them are fed chiefly upon the product of foreign farms our province will profit comparatively little.

A NEW GOVERNMENT STEAMER NEEDED.

A second government steamer is very much needed in British Columbia waters. The Quadra has very much more to do than she can possibly attend to, and when, as at present, she is undergoing repairs, there is no vessel at the call of the department. The new boat need not be as large as the Quadra, and ought to be constructed especially for the buoy and lighthouse work. This would leave the present steamer available for patrol service, for which she is admirably adapted.

British Columbia has more than 600 miles of coast line, and it is wholly unprotected against smuggling. The only protection our extensive fisheries receive is that afforded by an occasional flying visit from the Quadra. The interests of the isolated towns and villages along the coast require that a steamer should visit them occasionally, for the maintenance of law and order. The government steamer is almost the only means of keeping such places in touch with civilization. In view of the very rapid development of navigation on this coast, it is imperative that there should be a second vessel at the disposal of the officers of the marine department.

This matter has been agitated for several years, but there has always been some excuse for delaying action. We submit that there has been enough of that and urge respectfully, but very earnestly, upon the department of marine to ask parliament for an appropriation to pay for a steamer for the buoy and lighthouse service.

HON. G. B. MARTIN.

The parliament building is about completed, and this beautiful and commodious structure stands as a monument to the foresight and good judgment of the ministry, which is responsible for it. During the past year hundreds of strangers from the United States visited the building, and upon learning what the building will cost the province, when everything is done, were loud in their expressions of surprise that so much could be obtained for so comparatively small a sum. The invariable comment was that the head of the department, having the matter in charge, must be a gentleman of unimpeachable honor and good business sense. In the discussion of public affairs in this province this has been lost sight of altogether, and yet the fact remains and will stand forever to his credit that an expenditure of over three-quarters of a million dollars was made by the Lands and Works department under the supervision of the Hon. G. B. Martin, upon this one building alone, and that not one word, not even a breath of scandal has risen concerning it. We are so accustomed in this country to have our public men act honestly that a matter of this kind is not likely to attract attention unless brought to notice by the comments of visitors. And yet it ought not to be overlooked. The Hon. G. B. Martin has been subjected to the grossest assaults by the opposition press. His word has been called in question; his business capacity has been the subject of sneers, yet the fact remains that he has handled this large outlay without scandal and without extravagance.

We are not defending Mr. Martin's personal reputation for honesty. No one has ever insinuated that he would corruptly or in any way improperly fit by any public contract. Our point is that in the conduct of this large contract no one has derived any undue advantage or anything more than a fair and legitimate business profit. If Mr. Martin were not fit to be head of his department, as is so persistently asserted in the opposition press, is it not reasonable to suppose that some one would not have got the better of the government, that some scandal would have arisen, that there would not be in connection with this matter something upon which the opposition could base an attack? We are not making any other claim for Mr. Martin in this behalf than that he has acted throughout as any honorable and competent departmental chief would act. We do not say that there are not other men in the house who would have done equally well. Our sole point is that he did well, that he did all that could be expected of him, and that as the head of his department he turns the building over to the province without a taint of scandal or extravagance attaching to its construction. No one could have done more, and we are glad to be able to pay this tribute to the honorable gentleman.

One other matter is worthy of observation. Mr. Martin has been at the head of the administration of public lands during several eventful years. The opportunities for making money have been many. Many men have made plenty of it. But it has yet to be said, and it never can be truthfully said, that Mr. Martin has profited to the extent of a single dollar by virtue of his position in regard to the public lands outside of his salary, or that any of his friends has derived the slightest advantage from the fact that he was at the head of the department, and, by virtue of his office, clothed with very large discretionary powers. This is only as it should be, and Mr. Martin is not entitled to any special credit for being honest. He is, however, deserving of recognition for having been so able to deal with the hundreds of matters coming under his cognizance that in no case has any one been able to obtain an undue advantage. It is one thing to be unwilling to do a dishonest act. We admit that the great majority of public men are entitled to have this said of them. It is another thing to be able to administer a great public department that no one shall be able to obtain any undue advantage of the public.

We mention these matters, because Mr. Martin has been the subject of much irresponsible criticism of the vaguest possible kind, and because we think it only right, when the head of a department has such a record, that the fact should be made known. It reflects credit not only upon him, but upon the province which he has so faithfully served.

A DISHONORABLE NEWSPAPER.

It is the duty of a newspaper to deal honestly by those who look to it for information. Most people have no other source of information and hence if they are deceived by the paper, to which they look for guidance, they are very unfortunate. During the past season, the Post-Intelligencer, of Seattle, published very exaggerated statements in regard to the amount of goods which could be taken into the Yukon without payment of duty. The amount was stated at \$100 worth, 1,000 weight and at other figures, if we remember correctly, instead of 100 pounds in weight. Thousands of people were deceived by this and went North believing that substantially their whole outfit would be admitted into Canada duty free. This was bad enough, but it might be excused in a way by attributing the wrong statements to a series of clerical errors. It would be rather an extraordinary series, but a poor excuse is proverbially better than none. Lately, as everyone knows in Victoria, even the 100-pound exemption has been abolished, and all that a miner can take in is such broken packages of food as are actually in use, or, as has been said, about what a picnic party would be allowed to bring into the country. This is precisely the same arrangement as exists between the United States and Canada in regard to parties going into the United States. If a number of individuals cross the border from Canada carrying with them what they may require to eat on that day, the custom house officers will not make any charge. If they have anything more the officers will collect duty. So rigorously is this rule enforced that cases can be cited where an unbroken basket of fruit, such as would be carried in the hand, has been held for duty, even though the owner was taking it along simply to eat on the journey. It seems absurd to push a rule so far, but it is within the law, and no just complaint can be made if we apply the same rule to persons coming into Canada, and it is as a matter of fact applied all along the frontier. An exception has been made at Lake Tagish, but this has been done away with and the rule will apply there also.

Now this is a very important matter to persons buying goods in Seattle to take North. It means that they must pay duties on everything. One would have supposed that the Post-Intelligencer would have informed its readers of the change in the regulation, but not so. We have not ourselves observed, and others who have kept track of the matter say that they have failed to observe that in that paper any reference whatever to the abolition of the exemption. We submit that if the Post-Intelligencer were an honorable paper it would have advised its readers that the regulation, upon which it laid so much stress, has been abrogated. Its omission to do so, is execrable from a news standpoint, for any decent newspaper ought to be willing to print the news even if it tells against its editorial representations. It is execrable from the standpoint of a newspaper's duty to the public, for it is calculated and intended to deceive.

We notice in the Toronto Globe an article more than a column in length, setting forth the advantages of the route to the Klondyke that starts from Ashcroft. We are surprised that the Globe does not inform itself as to facts before lending its advocacy to anything of this kind. It speaks of the old Telegraph trail as still being available and conveys the impression that this trail was cut through to Teslin lake. This is not the case. The trail never was cut through to Teslin lake or even to Telegraph Creek on the Stickeen. There is a good trail from Telegraph Creek to Teslin lake, but between Telegraph Creek and the end of the old Telegraph trail, or say Hazelton on the Skeena, there is a long distance over which there is no trail now available, and the telegraph company never cut one. There is a distance of over two hundred miles here, where there is no trail at all. One was cut in the old Cassiar days, but it has since grown up. The Colonist has advocated its re-opening as soon as possible; but until this has been done, it is wrong to persuade people to seek to reach the Klondyke by this route. The Colonist has not the least desire to say anything that will prevent people from going North through Central British Columbia. It believes that if those who undertake such a journey would not be in too great a hurry and would prospect as they go along, they might very likely find ground worth working long before they reached the Stickeen. This, however, is purely a matter of opinion; but there is no question about the inadvisability of trying to get to the Yukon waters by such a route with enough provisions to last through a season. We do not say that a man cannot get through; but we insist that he cannot do so now, or until the trail is cut out, with a pack train, and without a pack train it would be hopeless to try to carry enough food for such an enterprise. There is no use in deceiving people about this matter, and the Globe should correct its representations. We repeat that this is not a question of opinion, but one of fact, and the facts can be learned by any one who chooses to ask people who know.

Mr. TAPPAN ADNEY, special correspondent of Harper's Weekly, wrote to that paper in regard to the conduct of the Canadian customs officers at Tagish lake last fall as follows: "The Canadians are handling the customs here with much judgment in contrast to that of our own government at Dyea and Skagway. The officers have full discretion and are using it—inflicting no hardship on those who have come through with money all gone, which is almost every one." This is a deserved compliment, but hereafter the officers will apply the law strictly.

The Boundary Creek Times emits a loud and long roar about the way the mail service to that important section is mismanaged. We make an extract from it and add our protest. An irregular mail service to such a locality is utterly without justification. The Post Office Inspector ought to give the subject his immediate attention.

The Seattle Times thinks that the C. P. R. may have to send its passengers into the Yukon by way of the Skagway. Our esteemed contemporary ought to read up on its geography. We cannot understand the hostility of the Seattle people to the Stickeen-Teslin route. Within a month that will be the only thing they will talk about.

We think every one in British Columbia will agree with the Rosland Miner in what it says about the importance of having the railway to Boundary constructed so as to bring the trade of that district to Canadian cities. For ourselves we may say that we have every hope that such an arrangement will be made.

The New York Sun wishes to be informed as to where the United States would be now without its navy. Can the Sun enlighten the world in respect to anything which the navy has enabled the United States to do or kept any other nation from doing?

The News-Advertiser has reached the conclusion that the way of the transgressor is hard whether for an individual or a government. As no one connected with our contemporary has ever been in a government, it is to be presumed that it speaks from individual experience. Therefore we advise it to mend its ways with promptness.

The News-Advertiser ventures to predict that no candidate who supports Hon. Mr. Turner can save his deposit in Vancouver. We are not in the business of prophesying, but if we were, we would predict that no candidate who opposes the present local government can be elected in Vancouver this year.

The Youth's Companion wants pensioners of the United States, who are well-to-do, to resign their pensions. That is one of the things that no pensioner does. The old guard dies but never surrenders.

The Puget Sound press are not agreed upon the superiority of ice-locomotives over reindeer as a means of conveying unnecessary "relief" to the Klondyke. There is this to be said, that locomotives are more indigestible than reindeer.

The Nanaimo Review says that all the charges it has made against the government have been specific. That is news to the Colonist, and we read the Review always with interest.

AND now it is said that the piper that played—before Moses, but at Dargai—is a German. Last week he was an Irishman. He was a British soldier, and that's all we care to know.

The Oregonian, after a review of the history of the world since Waterloo, concludes that Great Britain will fight at any time to the bitter end rather than see her trade destroyed.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Compassionate Stranger—Young fellow, you'd better go into the house, or you'll catch cold, playing out here in the storm. Then you'll have to call the doctor. Catch cold, (overhearing the remark)—You'd better mind your own business! I pay the doctor regularly, and my boy may be sick as much as he pleases.

"I bought this currant cake here yesterday, and there were four dead flies in it," said Birdie McGinnis, putting the cake on the counter.

"I am very sorry, miss, but if you will return the four flies I will give you four currants instead," replied the affable confectioner.

"Is your town booming out there in the mining district, Slick?"

"I should say so. It's more wonderful than magic. It pitched my tent in a hole in the ground one evening and when I waked up I was in the cellar of a union depot."

Parson (to young man entering pool-room)—My dear boy, I'm exceedingly sorry to see you on the downward path.

Young Man (who holds winning ticket)—Oh, that's all right about the downward path, but I'm going in the opposite direction.

Guest (in restaurant)—What does the cook use in cutting these chops?

Waiter—I believe he used an ax, sir.

Guest—Well, go and ask him to lend it to me for an hour, will you?

He—Miss Dimples is rather vain, is she not?

She—Yain! Well, I should remark! Why, that girl actually wears out a mirror every three weeks looking at herself.

"Yes," said the man, whose narratives are almost invariably interesting, "I had some curious experiences in that mining country. One day I met two children with the dirtiest faces I ever beheld."

"Poor things?"

"That's what I thought. I said to them, 'Children, why don't you wash your faces?' and one of them answered, 'We can't, we've been playin' on papa's best claim, and he's liable to lose money if anybody touches us but him.'—Washington Star.

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THE STATE OF

Ex-Premier Crispi D. the Masses Ignore of the Past

He impresses Upon the Sicily the Advantages of National Unity

PALERMO, Jan. 14.—A given here last night in premier Crispi, who is birth, in connection with anniversary of the Sicilian Signor Crispi made an impromptu speech, which led the audience to enthusiasm. He asked would if she returned to auto audience shouted an emphatic "Yes." The Signor fervently declared his unity is life. Our existence would be unendurable if the playthings of the world. Surrounding military governments with shores of Africa in the hands of a man who has strongly for the Alps and the two seas would for our defence, which demands salience.

Continuing, Signor Crispi the fact that though unity established it had as yet failed to produce the desired fruit. "A has been raised," he said, "guards both moral and intellectual we are still at the beginning of the road. Nor is that the full. The same conflict of men, the fleet of ideas, has taken place. Nothing is lasting changes have been as many of the realm."

"Consequently no tradition formed, and both political administration are wanting in the code which is civilized countries the governments of today are the past. In the union the government remains years after the proclamation of the hands of the revolution, and thus the country was accomplished. Italy the masses have been with hatred for the past and patriotism. This dastardly aduced indifference and inner middle classes and apprehensions common—no national look could."

AND RUDIN
Recent Premier and Formal
Citation.

PALM 13.—The Princesses of the Crown and Princes of Italy arrived yesterday in connection with 50th anniversary of the Sicilian revolution. A message cordially awaited their arrival they received an ovation.

Rudin also arrived. He was in respectful silence, which marked contrast with the reception that was given to ex-Crispi on Monday. The Prince of Naples brot prime minister and Signor Crispi on the grand stand that erected for the unveiling of the monument in commemoration of the revolution. The pair so introduced, avoid shaking hands. The form of the two political opponents created a favorable impression Crispi and the Marquis Rudin at the right and left respective Crown Princess at the banquet given to-night. The visiting have been very enthusiastic reception.

HORRORS IN THIBET
Description of the Experiences of Artist Recently Under Torture

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The Daily Telegraph in a description of the experiences of Henry Savage Land, artist, writer and traveler, who escaped death at the hands of the Thibetans, when endeavoring to reach Lassa, the capital of Thibet, says: "His valuable diary, maps, papers, including interesting photographs, were only interrupted by Land himself was under torture of these represents the scene of his native companion, to a tree, and slashed and bruised circle of hideous beings dancing jeering at him."

"Another photograph, taken rescue, shows two unrecognized all the hair burned off their skin lacerated, and in place eyes, two ghastly slits. Mr. Land's eye."

"The Thibetans repeatedly harrassed so close to the eyes of the slaves, without touching their shriveled and withered faces."

"Mr. Land was rescued with food and water, by a party of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Larkin and Singh Pat, nephew of the Rajah of Assam, who had heard from a white man was doomed to be in the interior of Thibet."

"Mr. Land had almost lost son. After three hours he gained consciousness to say where he was, and he had heard from a photograph taken of the savages or terror of the avenging whites."

"It is not probable that Mr. will ever be well enough to return."

"Old, yet ever new, and simple as a child," sings the poet, in words might well apply to Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The most efficient medicine ever offered to suffering humanity. Nothing but superior merit keeps it at the front.