The Colonist.

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PROSPERITY AMONG AMERICAN FARMERS.

Secretary Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a report respecting the results of the year's agricultural operations. It is one remarkable for the high degree of prosperity it indicates among the farmers. From it we learn that the yield of cereals has broken all records. This is mainly due, we are told, to the garnering of a truly remarkable crop of corn, but is also due to bountiful yields of wheat, oats and barley. Hay, potatoes, tobacco, rice and sugar crops have been under rather than over the average; but this has been more than compensated for by the excellent prices that have ruled.

The value of the whole of the crops referred to, including dairy products, for 1905 has been $3,355,000,000, as compared with $3,306,953,000 for 1904, or nearly $50,000,000 of an increase. To these have been added the value of the cotton crop, and $500,000,000 as the product of the "humble hen." So that the total valuation of the crop product for 1905 is given at $6,415,000,000, an excess of 4 per cent. over 1904, of 8 per cent. over 1903, and 36 per cent. over 1899. The secretary in his report brings out the fact that the total exports of agricultural products in 16 years have amounted to $12,000,000,000, or enough to buy out all the railways of the country at their own valuation, and this the result simply of the surplus of products for which there was no demand at home. The Northwestern states for the first time are showing large savings, and the value of land is increasing visibly by leaps and bounds. Bradstreet's says that as the result of an enquiry the secretary finds that the farms of the country have increased 33.5 per cent. in five years, as against a gain of only 25 per cent. in the preceding decade. The west and south, of course, show the largest gains in value per acre. The cotton farms have increased in value $460,000,000, so that it might be said that during the past five years the cotton plantations have had six crops, one of them a permanent investment promising to pay a good return year by year. Hay and grain farms snow an increase of $2,000,000,000; livestock farms a still larger gain; dairy farms, $369,000,000; tobacco farms, $54,000,000; rice farms, $3,300,000; fruit farms, $87,000,000, and vegetable farms, $113,000,000. The secretary summarizes this all by saying that the country's farms have increased $3,500,000 per day in value every day in the past five years.

Similar conditions exist in Canada, and the result of enquiry on similar lines would probably show even greater gains in this country, much greater, we should say. The important fact, however, in connection with the foregoing is the effect it will have, and is having, upon Canada. The available lands in the United States, leaving irrigated tracts out of the question, have been taken up and exploited. The holders of lands in the Western states, and to some extent in the Pacific coast states, are selling out to the eastern farmers at largely enhanced values, and are now looking to Canada as a place for investment. This accounts for the rush of immigration of which we spoke yesterday, the limits to which it is hard to set. The only danger ahead to Canada is the Americanizing of the Northwest, the portion of the Dominion to which must ultimately, on account of population, be shifted the centre of political gravity.

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

There has been considerable correspondence going on between the Colonial Secretary's office and the governments of the various self-governing colonies with reference to the holding of the next colonial conference. The last was held in 1902, and it has been proposed to hold another in 1906. The replies received by Lord Lyttleton were of a mixed character and to some extent embarrassing. He suggested not only that the title Imperial Council should be substituted for Colonial Conference, but that a permanent commission of enquiry should be established to assist the council, very much on the lines advocated by Sir Frederick Pollock. Several of the colonial governments have notified their agreement with the suggestions of His Majesty's government, but in a number of instances a complete answer has not been received.

In view of circumstances which have transpired in connection with the visit of Sir Frederick Pollock, the answer of Canada to Lord Lyttleton's proposal is rather significant. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at least we assume that the correspondence was carried on in the name of the Prime Minister, suggested that the conference should be styled the Imperial Conference instead of the Imperial Council, and promised to give full consideration to the proposal to appoint a permanent commission, at the same time expressing doubt as to its usefulness. Natal, Cape Colony and Australia sent replies favorable to the proposal, while New Zealand's answer was delayed owing to the holding of the elections. Newfoundland expressed the opinion that the present method of calling the conference was the best that could be devised. The London Times thinks that the answer of Newfoundland is the least satisfactory of the lot, although its comments on the reply of Canada indicate that it is not as satisfactory as it might be.

It would appear that, reading between the lines, the visit of Sir Frederick Pollock was more or less inspired, and an incident in connection with it is worthy of mention. It will be remembered that when Sir Frederick reached Victoria, which was the last place touched before returning to the East, that his programme was a definite one, and evidenced no change of base from that of the first interview he gave out upon his arrival in Canada. He had in the meantime visited all the principal cities from ocean to ocean and came in contact with a great many representative men. We called attention to it at the time, and it is quite significant that the next occasion on which Sir Frederick gave utterance to his views was at Montreal. There he spoke for the first time of a change of view. He stated, in effect, that after a visit from one end of Canada to the other he had come to the conclusion that an imperial council on the lines he had advocated was not practicable for the present, or that it was premature, although he still held to the feasibility and desirability of an Imperial department of intelligence. Now that we have the purport of Sir Wilfrid's reply to Lord Lyttleton's proposal we can supply reasons for Sir Frederick's change of heart.

Sir Frederick went straight from Victoria and interviewed members of the government, presumably Sir Wilfrid himself so that in speaking at Montreal he evidently echoed the impressions he had received at the Canadian capital. The London Times, in referring to the Canadian reply to Lord Lyttleton's despatch, says:

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a leader of a party which is to a very large extent dependent on the votes of French-Canadians. Now, thoroughly loyal as the French-Canadians are, and contented with existing conditions of the Empire, they are inclined to be a little suspicious of any changes towards closer union of the Empire.

"It is conceivable that the proposal may be misrepresented as being a change in the direction of a diminution of their autonomy of military contributions. When they realize that neither of these dangers is to be apprehended in the least degree as a consequence of these proposals they will no doubt be prepared to come into line with the great body of opinion in Canada and the Empire."

In the meantime it has been definitely ascertained that the proposed conference will be postponed until 1907. There may have been, as is alleged, reasons for this on account of the inability of all the colonies to be represented, but, whether or not, the turn of events in Great Britain makes it very desirable that there should have been a postponement. A change of government has taken place and there will be a general election held, and the new government will be busy with Parliament and the rearrangement of policy consequent upon the result of the election. In 1907 the country will have settled down to the routine of politics, the government will have had time to consider fully the questions to be brought forward for discussion, and the Imperialists, whether we consider them as Chamberlainites, or as fiscal reformers, or as advocates simply of a greater degree of Imperial unity, will have had an opportunity to continue their campaign of educating public sentiment.

THE RAILWAY'S REPLY TO COAST MERCHANTS.

The official reply of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to the complaints made by the boards of trade of the British Columbia coast cities, and filed with the railway commission, has been published. From the railway point of view it cannot but be regarded as very strong and very complete. As presented by the memorandum in question, "the complainants base their complaint upon a comparison of the rates upon all classes of commodities from Vancouver to interior points in British Columbia and Alberta, with rates on similar classes of traffic from Winnipeg to points in Alberta and British Columbia, and allege that owing to the great disparity in the mileage, the rates from Vancouver to the said points should be lower than, or should at least be equal to, the rates from Winnipeg.

"This so-called discrimination the complainants allege destroys the natural advantages which the coast cities possess from their geographical position, and the complainants endeavor to establish the unreasonableness of the rates upon the Canadian Pacific Railway by comparison with the rates charged for similar distances in American territory."

In dealing with the subject of the complaints the railway company divides its reply into several heads, and replies seriatim as to: (1) The natural geographical advantage of the coast cities in serving interior points of British Columbia and Alberta; (2) the cost of operating the Pacific section as compared with the prairie sections of the railway; (3) the comparative conditions of traffic east and west; (4) a comparison of rates with those of American lines in similar territory; (5) the situation as affected by ocean haulage; (6) the rights of other towns for consideration. Upon all these points the company's reply is clear and unequivocal. The layman, not familiar with the intricacy of rate matters, however, will find some difficulty in following closely the arguments based on rate classifications, and coming to certain definite conclusions. For this reason, the decision of the railway commission will be looked forward to with a large degree of interest, and the pity is that that body does not include in its personnel a practical traffic expert, capable of approaching the subject with a professional knowledge of facts and conditions which enter into the dispute.

Taking the matters dealt with in the C. P. R. reply in their order:

(1) It is denied that the coast cities have any natural geographical relation to the markets of the interior and Alberta, except the natural products of the Pacific slope, or commodities manufactured in that district; for example, such commodities as dried or canned fruits, canned salmon, lumber and shingles, sugar, etc., or in respect of commodities which, in the natural course of trade, are transported via Vancouver to points in British Columbia and Alberta, for instance, traffic from the Orient, such as teas, rice, sago, silks and other products of the East. It cannot be held to exist in relation to products which it is necessary to ship from the East to Vancouver and Victoria past Winnipeg, Calgary and Nelson and then haul back again. The company's reply affirms that in such natural products as British Columbia has to sell and those which it imports from the Orient the coast cities have already a lower rate to interior and Alberta points than the eastern cities, and it furnishes comparative tables to prove it. For instance, on canned fruit and salmon the rate is made up by adding the through rate to Winnipeg to the local rate from Winnipeg to Calgary, or $1.42 per 100 lbs., whereas the rate from Vancouver to Calgary on similar goods is 91c.

(2) The cost of hauling cars over the mountains is said to be double that of hauling them on the prairie, and figures have been submitted to the railway commission showing details of cost in each case.

(3) Owing to conditions of traffic as they exist at the present time, large numbers of empty cars have to be hauled to the coast in order to accommodate eastbound traffic, which proportionately increases the cost of mountain haulage.

(4) With respect to conditions on the American side in corresponding territory, it is pointed out that the rates from Seattle do not permit the merchants there to do business within 100 miles west of Spokane, except in certain commodities which originate on the coast; and it is further stated that the rates on American lines from the coast eastward are higher than on the C. P. R. to corresponding territory; and the reply emphasizes the fact that this is true in face of the fact that the population is 180,000 (last census) and in Washington and Oregon over 1,250,000, a circumstance greatly affecting the volume of traffic.

(5) In referring to this matter in a previous issue, we suggested that what was probably a strong factor in the situation was a discrimination in favor of eastern manufacturers over ocean traffic to Vancouver, and incidentally in favor of the C. P. R.'s own business. In goods imported to Vancouver and Victoria via the Horn in sailing vessels and the Blue Funnel line of steamers, the C. P. R. loses not only the ocean freight, but the long haul across the continent. This class of goods includes iron and iron manufactures, glass, cement, whiskey, woolens, etc., etc. The reply of the C. P. R. confirms the suspicion we had formed. It refers to the detriment occasioned to eastern manufacturers, who are feeling the competition. This is altogether the weakest point in the defence. The coast cities should be permitted to have the advantage which their position on the ocean affords them. In other words, that there should be no artificial impediment to trade following its natural channels. The eastern manufacturer has the tariff and long distance to protect him, and the goods coming by way of the Horn should be dealt with in the C. P. R. tariffs as originating on the Pacific Coast, the same as goods coming from the Orient. British Columbia willingly submits to a protective tariff, which weighs more heavily on it than on any other part of Canada, in the general interests of Confederation.

(6) The strongest phase of the C. P. R. case is in reference to the rights of other towns for consideration. Edmonton, Calgary, Nelson, Revelstoke and other points are clamoring for terminal rates. They naturally ask, if the complaints of the coast boards of trade are well founded, why they should not get rates having relation to their distance from supply centres, as well as Vancouver and Victoria, and become distributing centres for certain areas on equal terms. Supposing their demands are acceded to, what effect will it have on our wholesale trade in the interior? Might not that follow as a logical solution of the issues raised? Would we be better or worse off as a consequence?

SHOULD BE ABOVE SUSPICION.

Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, postmaster-general, is calling down criticism on his head, on account of his still appearing in court, notwithstanding his position in the government. It is understood that it was one of the stipulations made by Mr. Aylesworth, before accepting a portfolio, that he should not be debarred from carrying on his professional work in court. Sir Wm. Mulock retired from his position as postmaster-general on account of the strain of work, and accepted in preference a judgeship. It is possible that Mr. Aylesworth's capacity for work is so much greater that he can fill Sir William's shoes and at the same carry on his private practice. Nevertheless there are some persons who are sceptical on that score. It is evident, too, that his conceptions of the duty which he owes to the state are not so lofty as to cause him to sacrifice any private interests while looking after public affairs. There are objections of an ethical character to a member of the Dominion government practicing before judges who owe their position to it, or who may be looking for promotion or extra judicial employment. The Toronto World remarks that judges, like Caesar's wife, should be above and beyond suspicion, and as a member of the government Mr. Aylesworth should protect them from it.

A PERPLEXING SITUATION.

Hon. Walter Scott, premier of Saskatchewan, is between the devil and the deep sea. Archbishop Langevin blames Mr. Haultain for establishing the present system of schools in the new provinces, by which a great many of the rights and privileges of the Catholics have been taken away. After enumerating the defects of the system for which Mr. Haultain is responsible, the venerable Archbishop remarks:

"In view of these facts, how could Catholics give reason to their conscience and vote in favor of Haultain and of candidates who recognize him as their chief and leader, whom they are bound to obey? THE CATHOLICS SHOULD THEN UNITE AND VOTE FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE ACTUAL SYSTEM OF SEPARATE SCHOOLS. * * *

"Now is the time to show that we are a factor in political affairs. Let us unite and cast our VOTE FOR THE LEADERS WHO FAVOR SEPARATE SCHOOLS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS."

The foregoing statements are explicit enough to leave no doubt in the mind of any person as to their meaning. Hon. Walter Scott is pledged to support the school system established by Mr. Haultain, but denounced by Archbishop Langevin as having deprived Catholics of many rights. This system has been held up by the Liberals as as nearly perfect as possible, and devoid of the objections to separate schools in other provinces.

Yet the Archbishop asks the Catholic electors to vote for the Liberal leader because he is in favor of "the actual system of public schools," and not the existing system, which he regards as neither fish, flesh nor good red herring. If Mr. Scott repudiates the support of His Grace at this juncture he will offend a large element of the electorate. If he accepts the support of His Grace on the grounds alleged he will have committed himself to a programme of "actual system of separate schools" as desired by the hierarchy, and must stultify his own position and that of his party on the school question.

Considering Scott's pronounced attitude in favor of the present system, which Archbishop Langevin condemns, there is an evident misunderstanding as to the terms of the bargain somewhere. Probably His Grace did not understand that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier handed over the new provinces to him that there were to be premiers in charge who had any other views than his own on the subject. There may be serious trouble about the delivery of the goods.

The thing that is most clear about the Archbishop's letter is that the hierarchy is not satisfied with the school system of the new provinces, and that it affords several grievances. This brings the situation back to the point of a prediction the Colonist made at the outset. We held that the educational ordinances of the Northwest Territories embodied latently all the powers granted in the Act of 1875, which, however, could be, and were, as a matter of fact, exercised at the will of the Northwest Assembly. Under the educational clauses of the Autonomy Acts these latent powers in respect to separate schools referred to become part of the constitution, which the educational minority can claim as a right, irrespective of the views of the government or the provincial legislature.

It is manifestly clear from the tone of the pastoral emanating from St. Boniface that it is not proposed to be satisfied with the system as it is at present in the new provinces, and that one of the first moves to be made will be a demand for the "actual system of separate schools" provided for in the Northwest Act of 1875. This, whether it be in accord with public sentiment or not, the new provinces will be bound to grant to the full extent of the rights and privileges of the Catholic minority at that time. It will be demanded, not as a privilege or as a favor from the majority, but as a constitutional right affirmed by the Dominion parliament in the year of our Lord 1905.

AN OUTSTANDING EVIL.

A short time ago we called attention to the evils of adulteration, which are exceedingly prevalent. There is nothing that we eat or drink or wear or take as medicine that is not subject to adulteration of some kind. If Tennyson could truthfully refer to it in his time as the great sin of the age, in what category can we place it at the present time in order to institute a fair comparison with twenty-five or fifty years ago?

The Department of Inland Revenue has announced that in the matter of spices and condiments action will be taken to lessen the evil, from which we conclude that it is the intention to enforce the law with greater vigor than formerly. But spices and condiments are the least important of the fields in which reform should take place. In the opinion of many food authorities spices and condiments, however pure, are an evil in themselves; but if only from the standpoint of commercial morality it is well that they should, good or bad, be what they claim to be.

Since the articles in the Colonist appeared, similar expressions of opinion have been observed elsewhere, and the war against adulteration and mischievous admixture of whatever kind is becoming general. As a consequence of an aroused public sentiment action will doubtless be taken by the authorities at Ottawa, and if the present laws and machinery for their enforcement are not sufficient it is hoped that they will be provided at the next session of parliament.

The Ottawa Free Press, which is taking a prominent part in the agitation, the other day pointed out the serious results following from the use of of wood alcohol as a substitute for the customary liquor. Within the past few weeks, it says, there have been reports from Manitoba, Western Ontario and elsewhere of strong men who have died from the effects of drinking, pointing to the theory that methylated spirits, and not ordinary whiskey, were responsible. An inquest in any of these cases would probably have resulted in a verdict of death from drinking "bad whiskey." All liquors in the sense of over indulgence are "bad," but the physical effects are quite different. The Quebec Chronicle, in commenting upon the Free Press article, observes that "of all the different adulterations, however, that of liquor has been the most common and most extensively practiced; has been, in fact, made a regular trade of, so that drummers visit the country hotels and city saloons with drugs for sale, intending to change liquor, commonly known as whiskey, into gin, brandy, Scotch whiskey and wine at the choice of the purchaser. It is not too much to say that a great part of the immoderate drinking, and of the crimes induced thereby, has been due to the effect of these medicated drinks, rather than to the alcohol contained in them, and that it has been their fatal influence which has, more than anything else, enthralled the confirmed drunkard and dulled his moral senses."

Wood alcohol, owing to its cheapness, offers a peculiar temptation to unscrupulous dealers to make money by using it as an adulterant. It is a poison, the use of which, medical authorities inform us, leads often to total blindness and in some cases death. In outlying places there are possibilities of it becoming a serious menace to life.

"Under the license system," the Free Press says, "the community is a partner in the liquor business, and should see to the health of the people in this respect quite as much as in the matter of sanitation.

"The time is not ripe for prohibition. The social conscience still requires much educaton, but there is no one who does not see the necessity of keeping the food and drink of the people pure and healthy.

"Men who knowingly sell impure food and poisonous liquor are no better than sandbaggers and assassins, and should be treated as such and should be severely punished."

With these conclusions we heartily agree. But the adulteration of liquor, bad as it is, is not more serious, indeed not nearly so serious, as other forms of commercial adulteration. The use of alcoholic beverages can be dispensed with wholly, and, many think, with advantage, but the necessaries of life cannot. Adulteration is a form of fraud, and should, whether the adulteration be harmful or not, be punishable like the crime of obtaining money under false pretences. The public have no protection in the matter of goods put up in packages or bottles. They must take the label at its word. The label is the manufacturer speaking, and if he sells chicory for coffee or colored "apple jack" for strawberries, he should be placed in the same category with other swindlers. And there is still the more serious practice of using preservatives in food stuffs and other injurious substitutes, which is adding physical injury to fraud. Stringent measures alone will remedy the evil. Every man who adulterates should be liable to criminal prosecution and a term in penitentiary.

AN EXPLICIT DENIAL.

The ruling habit is strong in life as well as in death. The Times is resuming its tactics which recently brought it into such disgrace. On Wednesday it stated that at a secret meeting of the Conservative Association it was decided to nominate a Conservative for the approaching mayoralty election, and particulars were circumstantially alleged to give a semblance of reality to the statement. After a good deal of discussion, in which the opposition was said to be in a hopeless minority, it was stated that Alderman Goodacre was the choice of the meeting. Notwithstanding a denial from Mr. McPhillips, president of the association, the Times again asserts that although nothing officially was done, the matter was informally debated and acted upon. We are in a position to state that neither officially nor informally was the question of the mayoralty or municipal elections discussed at the meeting of the Conservative executive referred to. It did not come up in any form and was not considered. The object of the Times in this is quite apparent. It is to introduce party lines into the coming campaign and throw the responsibility of such a course upon the executive of the Conservative Association.

AMERICANS IN THE WEST.

The Montreal Star discusses the above subject, which is a live and an important one. It is somewhat in line with the remarks made in another column with respect to the views expressed respecting the position the Rev. Dr. McLaren has taken about the immigration of foreigners from Central and Southern Europe, except that we have an entirely different class of people to deal with, and an entirely different set of conditions to consider. In one case, we have men and women who represent the highest intelligence of the American nation, and who belong to the same race and share the same privileges of free and representative institutions, allied in spirit and form, with our own. They represent an addition to our population in every way desirable, a people of enterprise, ambition, practical to the finger points, who are familiar with and have had to work out problems similar to ours, and people, too, as a rule, with considerable means to start life with. The only consideration which their coming in numbers involves is of a political nature: What effect will it have on the political future of the northwest? That they will exercise an influence is undoubted. Will that influence be of such a character as to materially alter the complexion of Northwest political thought and affect the relations, political, commercial and otherwise, between Canada and the United States? That is a serious question, and not so easy to answer, because we cannot predict with safety as to the future. On the other side of the line the political economists evidently think it will. A specil agent of the American department of commerce and labor has recently visited the Canadian West to study the situation there, and he reports that for years to come "the dominating influence in the Canadian Northwest as relates to markets, and possibly public affairs, will be that of settlers from the United States."

This the Star thinks, is an exaggerated view of the situation. It is one nevertheless which should be kept closely in mind. Of whatever nature the effect will be it is bound to increase from the increase of interest manifested in Canadian affairs in the United States, and the acceleration of the movement of emigration hitherward.

The New York Evening Sun summarizes the movement as follows: "The American exodus began in 1898 with a total of 12,000 for the year; the maximum was reached in 1903, when 49,473 Americans, mostly farmers, invaded the Canadian Northwest. In 1904 the number declined to 45,000, and for this year the estimate is 33,000." To this it adds that the permission to bring household goods, animals and agricultural implements in free has led to the transfer already of property to the value of ten million dollars. Now it remains for these settlers will fail to become naturalized and so secure the right to assist in their own government.

Naturally the existence of a large American population there is attracting the attention of the American manufacturers and wholesalers. These people are accustomed to American goods, in the same way as English people are accustomed to English goods, and prefer them for a time at least. The existence of such a large element of Americans cannot but be favorable to a greater degree of reciprocity in order to facilitate the buying of their own goods. The exceptional situation of the northwest is in itself favorable to the cultivation of views of reciprocal trade. Will that element be eventually large enough to turn the tide in Canada in that direction? Immigration, much as we encourage it, is also creating new and difficult problems for us.

The Montreal Star arrives at a conclusion which seems to be a proper one, and one that is in harmony with the views of the great majority of Canadians. It is this: While Canadians will be very willing to discuss reciprocity with their neighbors at any time, and while there are undoubtedly changes in the two opposing tariffs which might be made to our mutual advantage, the Canadian manufacturer will be as eager to keep the growing market of the west as the American manufacturer is to get it. The Eastern Canadian has made some serious sacrifices in the past to equip the West and has fairly earned his share in the advantages which will come to the entire nation by its present development. No tariff should be written or maintained which will cripple the West or hinder its growth, but what a national tariff can do to turn the profits of Canadian development into Canadian pockets, it will be entirely proper and patriotic for it to do.

HONEST FOODSTUFF.

We are very glad to know that the campaign against the adulteration of food is taking practical shape. In Vancouver the officers of the Inland Revenue Department are moving and there is likely to be a crusade generally. The law is that the manufacturer, if his goods are not pure, must label them "compound," or indicate the true nature of the contents in some other definite way. It is stated that when the officers go into the shops to buy a special brand of canned goods it is handed over smilingly with a "thank you" for the proffered coin; but that as soon as it is explained that the goods are for analysis the buyers are informed that the article is not pure and contains so and so. This is significant if true, and is evidence that adulterated food is being sold with the knowledge of the fact. It is possible to pursue the policy of honest trade marks and pure goods to the point at which fraud can only be perpetrated at the grave risk of the manufacturer and vendor. The public will hail the day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by correspondents.]

BUGABOO IRON MINES.

Sir—It was with much satisfaction that I read in your good paper that the Bugaboo iron mines on the Gordon river had been sold. Not since the finding of coal on the Island has so valuable a move been made towards the solid building up of the Island. What the opening up of these enormous bodies of iron ore means to this Island will be a revelation to many. No company need hesitate to build big up-to-date works. Nature has been lavish; everything required by them lies within easy radius for the production of the best iron and steel. Nor need they fear that those immense deposits will give out in generations, for besides the Bugaboo mines there is the Newton properties, Bairds and others, and within four miles of salt water are the mines owned and crown-granted by the Young brothers; they have spent over six thousand dollars in opening up their properties; they have thousands of tons of iron ore in sight, and their assays give the highest tests. The mines are not the only valuable assets on the Gordon and San Juan rivers. The timber, comprising spruce, cedar, fir, etc., are the best; nothing better can be found on the Island. We will see in a short time giant strides towards prosperity if these works are built on this Island.

A WELL-WISHER FOR THE ISLAND.

AN UNFORTUNATE INSTRUCTOR.

St. John Sun.

A writer in the London Morning Post, whose article on the treaty making power in Canada is reprinted by the Halifax Herald, informs the British reader that most Canadians desire the creation of a foreign office at Ottawa. In support of this contention he tells the old story of the Ashburton and Alaska treaties, making blunders in each narrative. The Halifax Herald contradicts this writer's interpretation of Canadian public opinion, and corrects the statement that the Ashburton treaty "forever shut off the Dominion from a suitable port on the Atlantic." It seems to the Herald that a writer who undertakes to enlighten the British people on such matters should not "ignore the existence of two such ports as Halifax and St. John."

It might be further remarked that a writer who endeavors to throw light on these treaties and who discusses questions of geography and history should know that "Ashburton compromise"—as he calls it—was not concerned with any question of sea ports. The area in dispute was not on the seaboard, and if Britain had obtained all she claimed, Canada would have had neither more nor less ports on the Atlantic than she has now.

And now Premier McBride has been guilty, while in Montreal, of calling upon Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, the president of the C. P. R. He is also about to commit the unpardonable sin of going to New York and Boston. We shall have John Oliver demanding a royal commission when the house sits in order to find out what was the details of the conversation between the premier and the president, and why he went beyond the confines of Canada. A premier who cannot go away from home without arousing horrible suspicion at every turn he makes should be summarily evicted from office and the confidence of the people. He should remember that the Liberals have a private detective service and it is evidently on his track.

The Montreal Witness is one of the oldest papers in Canada and has always had the reputation of being eminently respectable. It has just celebrated its diamond jubilee and has been receiving the congratulations of its readers from all parts of Canada. What the Globe under the direction of the Hon. George Brown formerly was to the Scotch residents of Upper Canada, the Witness has been and still is, to a large extent, to the Old Country element in the lower provinces, and especially to the Scottish Presbyterians.

Lever's Y-Z (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap Powder is better than other powders, as it is both soap and disinfectant. 34

CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. Ground and family desire to return their most grateful thanks to their many friends for the admirable manner in which the arrangements of her late son Victor's funeral was conducted, and also for the attendance of the military band and the different lodges represented.

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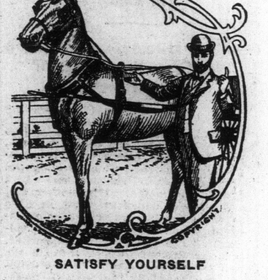

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NOTICE is hereby given that sixty days after date, I intend to apply to the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described land: Commencing at a post planted (and marked A. E. P., N. E. C. P.) at the Northwest corner of Kitwangar Reserve (Indian), on the left bank of the Skeena River, adjoining post marked J. R. Line, thence West 80 chains, thence South 40 chains, thence East 80 chains, thence North 40 chains, to point of commencement.

(Signed) ALFRED E. PRICE.
Dated 8th December, 1905. d9

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