

POLITICAL RUMORS.

Several of our contemporaries have discussed the probability of Mr. E. V. Bodwell, of Victoria, and Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., of Vancouver, becoming candidates in the Opposition interest at the next general election. One paper has stated that Mr. Bodwell would assume the position of leader of the party. We are aware that strong pressure is being brought to bear upon both gentlemen to induce them to enter the field, and the opponents of the provincial government in Victoria especially are anxious that Mr. Bodwell should become a candidate. But apart from the statements of our contemporaries are, to say the least, premature. Mr. Semlin is leader of the Opposition party, having been appointed to the position at a caucus of the Opposition members of the legislature after the defeat of Mr. Beaven. This is the only constitutional method of selection. If Mr. Bodwell becomes a candidate, as we sincerely hope he will, his candidature will have the support of Mr. Semlin and the opposition party generally. There will be no unseemly rivalry for the leadership. The opposition party will be united.

THE LAKE BENNETT AFFAIR.

Not much reliance should be placed in the recent alarming reports from Lake Bennett. There is a want of explicitness about the report concerning the appropriation of land by the American commissioner that leads one to suspect that someone has been misinformed or that a mistake has been made somewhere. It may be said with considerable certainty that the United States commissioner has either not done what he is said to have done, or that if he has done so it has been under a very extraordinary misapprehension. In the first place he has no power to acquire new territory for the United States; in the second place he is under the direct orders and instructions of his superiors at Washington and has very little left to his discretion; in the third place if he has committed the rash act alleged it is in direct antagonism to recent American policy in this matter. It cannot be doubted that if he did it he did it entirely upon his own responsibility, and not upon specific or even general instructions from Washington. And if so he will have to explain to the American government why he committed the indiscretion and endangered the harmonious relations that exist between that government and the Dominion authorities—not, it will readily be granted, a pleasant task. One may be pardoned for expressing decided scepticism in regard to such a report until further evidence is forthcoming. Something has no doubt happened of an untoward nature; but the question is: Did the United States commissioner in his official capacity countenance the alleged violation? On the evidence at present available we do not believe he did, and until that evidence is considerably strengthened we shall continue to hold the same opinion.

IN CANADA'S INTERESTS.

Every harsh and unjust criticism of the Americans; every inflammatory article launched at the people or the institutions of the United States by Canadian newspapers; every discourteous or contemptuous speech delivered by responsible or irresponsible orators and directed against that people and country is so much disservice to Canada. The Dominion has nothing to lose, but very much to gain by maintaining towards the American people an attitude of dignified courtesy and kindly feeling. It is in the power of the Americans to annoy Canada in many ways; in an infinitely greater number of ways than Canada can annoy the United States. Conversely it is in the power of the Americans to do Canada many pleasant services and to make it well worth our while to dwell in amity and neighborly relations with them. Canadians might do well to remember that displays of peevish and meaningless ill-nature towards the Americans are very harmful to their own country. Not the slightest good is done by newspaper smartness, printed or pictorial, at the expense of our neighbors south of the international boundary. Those Americans who cherish a spirit of hostility towards Canada, and the British empire have that hostility inflamed and confirmed by those remarks and cartoons; and in the aggregate that hostility is not to be held in contempt. It is strong enough to paralyze the hands of those Americans who rise above such pettiness, and who wish to maintain the good understanding which happily obtains now between the two countries. This aggregate and not very reasonable hostility can influence even the American cabinet; if the hostile faculty be sufficiently strong to action by senseless diatribes and bombastic mouthings from across the border. We hope that no will be so stupid as to imagine that in counselling Canadians to be courteous and kindly in their utterances concerning the Americans we advocate the cringing deferential attitude of a flunkey; or of a feeble man towards a strong one. Not at all. When the United States betrays any signs of a desire to put right and justice to one side and invoke might and self-interest in dealing with Canada it will be time enough to speak out in a manner that will leave no room for doubt as to our determination to maintain at all hazards the dignity and the integrity of the country. But the United States is dealing very handsomely with Canada at the present time in regard to the Klondike; it really could not do more or display greater cordiality and willingness to oblige. In view of these facts every

newspaper which and every speaker who rails against the Americans for the sake of a rally and because it is their hobby to please the readers or their hearers, is simply proclaiming itself or himself an enemy of Canada.

THE RELIEF EXPEDITION.

It may be said with safety now that the understanding in regard to Yukon matters which exists between the Canadian and American governments is a satisfactory one. The outcome of the negotiations which took place at Washington between Hon. Mr. Sifton, Canadian minister of the interior, and the American government has been all that could be desired. One may go further—it has been eminently to the advantage of Canada. The whole question of the Yukon trade has been and is receiving the most careful attention on the part of the Canadian government, and up to the present date not a single mistake has been made by the Dominion authorities. The people of Canada, on the contrary, have every reason to be proud of their representatives, who have exhibited throughout these intricate and delicate negotiations a rare sagacity and diplomacy. The difficulties have been great. As everyone knows Canadian material en route to the Klondike by the coast must pass through American territory on one part of the journey. It was, therefore, absolutely essential that the most friendly relations should be maintained with the American government in entering upon the negotiations. Happily, the United States government met the approaches of the Canadian representatives in a large, broad spirit, which rendered the discussion of the matters between them at once pleasant and brief. The American government have shown what may be fairly described as alacrity in acceding to the suggestions and wishes of the Canadian government; they established Dyea and Skagway as sub-ports upon a telegram from Ottawa; they have made further arrangements there in accordance with our requests from Ottawa; they have raised no objection to Canadian police officers and supplies going over American territory during the season, although the formality of asking permission was omitted by the Canadians; they have unhesitatingly rejected the request of the American Pacific coast cities to close the sub-ports of Dyea and Skagway and to take up a hostile and discriminating attitude towards Canada. To be brief, the American government all through this affair has maintained an attitude of persistent good nature and courteous compliance with every reasonable request.

The relief expedition to Dawson was conceived, of course, upon the first alarming reports, which have since been proved entirely false. The latest advices show that orders countermanding those issued for the purchase of supplies are likely to be sent out, the United States government having been assured that no relief is necessary. But reviewing the case quietly in the face of all the events of the past few weeks, one must admit that although Canadian pride was somewhat hurt at the first suggestion of relief from the States, there was no need for any such feeling. The vote passed by the American government was the result of a very laudable feeling of sympathy for the supposed-to-be starving miners, and the spontaneous expression of that benevolence which has ever been a characteristic of the American people. It is believed by those best able to judge that all the provisions that can be got over the passes and distributed from Lake Bennett to Fort Selkirk will be required by the people coming out at the end of this winter. It was only natural that the American authorities should wish to send in provisions for their

THE WEDDING RING.

Death lurks in every place in this "vale of tears." There is no happiness, no joy, no success, no sorrow, no failure that may not secretly him, cloaked fast by Great Britain is too much for the stomach of any nation on earth. Even our neighbors south of the line don't want to go any further with Great Britain than they can recover by a swift backward step.

Enormous purchases of goods for the Klondike are now being made in Eastern Canada, consequent upon the definite announcement that the full duty will be collected upon all outfits not purchased in Canada. The eastern merchants are now reaping the benefits of the decisive policy of the Dominion government, which has enabled everyone to understand beyond peradventure just what the conditions are. Victoria and the other British Columbia cities will experience the first "comber" of the coming tide within a few weeks.

EARL LI'S DISPATCH TOO LATE.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The following dispatch from Li Hung Chang was received to-day by the Chinese minister to the United States: "Be pleased to convey to His Excellency the President of the United States the distinguished consideration of Li Hung Chang, and say to him that Li Hung Chang would be pleased if he graciously would appoint as minister to China Col. Frederick D. Grant, son of the soldier statesman, to whom Li Hung Chang was most devoted." Before the delivery of this dispatch President McKinley had perfected arrangements by which ex-Senator Conger was nominated as minister, and he will be confirmed.

Provincial News.

VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, Jan. 13.—J. J. Lang in the African Review gives a very interesting account of British Columbia mines. He says he has inspected 100 properties and finally purchased a promising claim. What Mr. Lang says of this claim is very interesting. He speaks of "cross cutting the property at different levels and assaying every ten feet. The width and value of the vein was always maintained and assays from \$2 to \$92 were obtained. The African Review heads the article "A Promising Bonanza," but does not mention the name of the mine, which is known to be the Dorothy Morton claim on Phillips Arm. Mr. Lang says that his ten claims at Phillips Arm are equal to 400 claims in South Africa, and he further astonishes those who accept the interview by stating that all the government required a miner to do was to put \$100 worth of work on each claim every year and pay an annual tax of \$5. In Africa a man must be rich to get a license, and in this country they are only one quarter the size of B. C. mines.

COVICHAN.

Covichan, Jan. 13.—The preliminary hearing of the charge against an Indian named Sonyer, of the Quamichan ranch, for the attempted murder of Mr. F. H. Jones, the Westholme storekeeper, on the 16th December last, adjourned from the 6th instant, was concluded at 10 o'clock here yesterday before Messrs. De Musgrave and H. O. Wellburn, J. P. Mr. Powell appeared for the crown and Mr. H. D. Helmecken, Q.C., for the accused, who was committed to take his trial at Nanaimo at the next competent court, after a long hearing of several hours.

ROSSLAND.

Roseland, Jan. 15.—The Wallingford group, on Record mountain, has been sold to an English syndicate for \$75,000. It is reported to-day that Mr. C. H. Mackintosh is endeavoring to purchase the Poorman and Evening Star mines. The prospects of this camp are exceedingly bright at present. Everyone is excited over the way English capital is pouring into Roseland.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

No trace can be found of the missing men, Grant and Johnson, and their canoe, and it will probably remain a mystery as to how the accident happened. Capt. Grant leaves a widow and several children, and that will be the end of that little matter. In fact any display of the cloaked fist by Great Britain is too much for the stomach of any nation on earth. Even our neighbors south of the line don't want to go any further with Great Britain than they can recover by a swift backward step.

PORT SIMPSON.

The weather so far has been anything but cold, and we have had no snow at all to speak of. On Christmas and New Year's eve the village was beautifully decorated and illuminated, it being on these special occasions an old custom of the citizens here to decorate their residences without and within and to place a dozen or more lighted candles, or a lamp in each window, while the decorated verandahs are adorned with Chinese lanterns. The "midnight singers," who made their rounds on Christmas eve, included two parties; that of the "Band of Workers" and the Salvation Army. The former party, singing within the H. B. Co.'s yard and throughout the village; while the Salvationists favored the white people.

JUMPED THE TRACK.

A telephone message received from Esquimalt shortly before 4 o'clock this afternoon states that one of the electric cars had jumped the track and that one of the passengers, Mr. Munro, purser of the steamer, 7888, had his leg broken. The car jumped right across the road striking the bank on the opposite side to the track. The accident occurred near Admiral's road.

of electing officers and naming the society. The meeting was a good one, presided over by one and between 30 and 40 members were present. It was proposed and carried that the name of the society be the Caledonian Society, and the following officers were elected: Chief R. F. Anderson; past chief, R. M. Macfarlane; vice-chief, A. Hamilton; secretary, W. W. Forrester; treasurer, J. B. Vert. The Rev. A. E. Vert was in the chair and took an active interest in the affairs of the meeting. It is hoped that all good Scotchmen will rally round the society, and with their help make it a strong and robust one.

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

On New Year's eve the white Sunday school children were entertained from 6:30 till 10 p.m. at the hospital by Mrs. and Dr. Bolton. The program was well rendered. The following day a Christmas party was given by the Salvation Army in their barracks. The room was very prettily decorated with colored tissue paper and evergreens, while two large ornamental trees stood at each side of the dais. The proceedings were commenced at 4:30 p.m. by the playing of the S. A. band, and before distributing the presents a few remarks were made by the pastor, which were most amusing and applauded was the presenting of a candy heart to our S. M. and government agent, while Mr. George Ridge received a handsome bunch of fire-crackers. The meeting dispersed at 6:30, after singing the doxology.

STEARER TEES.

A very exciting game of football was played here on New Year's day between the Maple Leaf and Rose Island teams, the latter winning by one goal.

STEAMER TEES.

The steamer Tees, on her way south, called in here and landed Captain Smith and Mr. D. Burton, who will take the H. B. Co.'s steamer Caledonia to Victoria as soon as she is repaired.

NELSON.

Nelson, Jan. 9.—The first carload of ore shipped from the Republic mine arrived at the Hall Mines smelter yesterday. D. Sutherland, one of the owners of the mine, followed the shipment, being anxious to see the smelter returns.

PROVINCIAL MINERALOGIST.

Mr. D. J. MacDonald, the newly appointed inspector of metalliferous mines, arrived in the camp this morning. He will make a thorough examination of the principal working mines, before proceeding to Nelson and Slovan districts.

THE LE ROI.

English, one of the principal stockholders of the Le Roi, gave out to-day that the deal with the British America Corporation for the mine is off. An option was given by the Le Roi people when in London several weeks ago. The option lapsed nearly a month, in order to allow Mr. Whitaker Wright an opportunity to receive reports. At their last meeting, the directors of the Le Roi wired to London, and received a reply to the effect that the British America Corporation did not desire to buy.

THE LE ROI.

The Le Roi is now shipping 200 tons daily to its Northport smelter. The ore shipments for the week were: Le Roi, 1,350 tons; Centre Star, 15 tons; Iron Peak, 65 tons; War Eagle, 20 tons. Total, 1,470 tons.

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Every day a train load of Le Roi ore is taken to Northport to the smelter. This is roasted, and as soon as the smelter blows in, which it will be in a few days, the work of smelting it will be commenced.

JAMES PAUL.

James Paul, the lad who tried to kill himself with a pistol because his mother reproved him, is fast recovering, and it is now expected that he will be out in a few days.

THE CUSTOMS HOUSE.

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given in the drill hall, and a collection was taken up for the hospital. The Indian miners took part during Christmas week, the principal being that of an old chief. The procession headed by Nelson's band, must have been over 200 yards in length, for when it went across Tsimsian bridge to Rose Island the bridge was crowded from one end to the other.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Thursday evening, the 20th ult., a concert was given in the public school room by Rev. Mr. Stephenson and Mrs. Stephenson and some of their friends. The programme was well rendered. The following day a Christmas party was given by the Salvation Army in their barracks. The room was very prettily decorated with colored tissue paper and evergreens, while two large ornamental trees stood at each side of the dais. The proceedings were commenced at 4:30 p.m. by the playing of the S. A. band, and before distributing the presents a few remarks were made by the pastor, which were most amusing and applauded was the presenting of a candy heart to our S. M. and government agent, while Mr. George Ridge received a handsome bunch of fire-crackers. The meeting dispersed at 6:30, after singing the doxology.

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IS GOOD NEWS FOR

Yukon Miners Are

Out a Miners' Convention. Canadian Times.

Can Obtain Same at Vancouver—Summary of to the Regul

Reserved Claims in Government Take of Ten Per

Ottawa, Jan. 17.—(S)

announced has decided regulations governing plan Yukon. The following changes:

Every miner and employer will require to take out a license—the fee for which case of a company it will according to the amount stock.

A miner's license will right to the miner to file the timber necessary for Provision will be made miners' certificates at all towns, such as St. Toronto, Winnipeg, and Victoria.

The general size of the 250 feet, and discovery.

Every alternate ten reserved by the government.

Subsequent mining used in five mile sections \$100 per annum and 25.

The fee for recording mining claims will be Any number of miles five, more than 100 m fee of a mining record a recorder, who will within three months to and fees to the nearest.

A royalty of ten per cent the government officer the purpose, but exemption on the annual mining claim up to \$25 that do not produce in year will not be liable provisions are made to pay in claims by throwing entry which has not been claim number of days, cause is shown, and record shall not be less one claim to any locality.

There are other provisions the public interest the same time afforded facilities for mining wealth of the Yukon.

No decision will be Stannan case to-day for the cabinet again.

The interior department the first reliable map, trict, with the official as adopted by parliament.

Representatives of Ottawa boards of trade boards throughout the coming session of parliament these points: (1) Abolition; (2) Equitable; (3) A national as

NO FEARS OF Seminoles are Quiet Troops are

Washington, Jan. at Chicago, has tele department that his commanding officer brings the response the ger of an Indian up authorities, Gen. Bro same report, so he st to the cavalry to pro Governor Barnes, reported to Secretary Indian Agent Wes I.T., wired that Nelson He compliments the good behaviour und stances.

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