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VOLUME III.

With this issue THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL enters upon its third year of publication. We begin the new year as we began the last, with the resolution of doing our best to promote the commercial welfare of the Province of British Columbia. Looking back over the past we see but little to regret, and in no instance do we feel constrained to recall one expression of opinion relating to any important matter discussed in these columns. Our opinions have at various times undergone slight changes, but only in the direction of stronger conviction in the reforms we advocated. That we have fulfilled our mission is borne out by the fact that notwithstanding the general stagnation of trade during the year, we have received the hearty and liberal support of the commercial community. We are thankful that in the main our policy has been endorsed by men of influence and standing in the Province. THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL begins the new year of its existence with the firm determination of maintaining our position as one of the leading exponents of commercial progress in the Dominion of Canada.

THE CANADA WESTERN.

In some quarters there appears to be an impression that because THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL has deemed it to be its duty to suggest several questions to and to make certain remarks concerning the Canada Western Railway, it is opposed to the enterprise. On the contrary, so far from being opposed to it the project itself has had no warmer advocacy than it has had in these columns, but as a friend and as a friend only—desiring that the undertaking should not prove abortive we have pointed out, wherein, in our opinion, greater satisfaction could be afforded all parties concerned and if that were possible the hands of the promoters strengthened. This is why and why only our course has been that to which exception has been taken.

CONCERNING TENDERS.

In spite of the fact that they had advertised for tenders for the collection of the city taxes and were bound to award the contract to the lowest properly qualified tenderer, the members of the city council seem to have been afraid to do what was their manifest duty. They should, on opening the tenders, have been prepared

to vote on them man fashion, instead of which they acted in the most unheard of manner in connection with such matters, the result being that the objects of tendering were altogether lost sight of, and the highest offer was accepted. Besides, instead of voting, they ballotted, as if afraid of their action. Was this a business proceeding, and can it on any grounds be justified? The parties to it will have to explain themselves and the sooner the better, the opinion in many quarters being that they had made up their minds before hand and only wanted some way of getting round a difficulty which they fully recognized.

THE VANCOUVER ELECTION.

It has not been announced whether or not Mayor Haslam would accept the nomination which has been tendered him by the Nanaimo miners for the coming election for the political district of Vancouver. It seems to us that no matter who the candidate may be who comes out under their auspices, no time should be lost in putting forward and emphasizing his claims, as already a vigorous canvass is being made by a gentleman, whom the miners as a body would regard as the one who, of all others, has the least possible claim on their sympathy and support. Moreover, as the paid employee and political representative of one of the provincial monopolies he would appear to be in no sense the man who should be returned as a member of the Dominion Parliament.

COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

Last year, at the thirty-second annual meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, British Columbia had a representative in the person of Mr. Robert Ward, while other parts of Canada and some of the other colonies, including New South Wales, in the person of its premier, Sir George Dibbs, were heard from. Then matters of Imperial trade importance were discussed, and upon several topics a by no means unimportant deliverance was made from this province. The thirty third annual meeting of the Association comes off in London on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd instant. Among the topics on the order paper is the following resolution adopted by the Dominion Parliament: "That if and when, the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admits Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom upon more favorable terms than it accords to the products of foreign countries, the Parliament of Canada will be prepared to accord corresponding advantages by a substantial reduction in the duties which it imposes upon British manufactured goods."

This resolution is given special prominence by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce which, in reference to it, sets forth "that inasmuch as in the opinion of this meeting the future prosperity of British commerce must increasingly depend on our commercial relations with our colonies . . . we hereby urge upon the Government the necessity of taking Canada's invitation

into their immediate and most serious consideration." No doubt Sir Charles Tupper will take occasion to be present and supplement the resolution and recommendation which is also endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce of Middlesborough; but we trust his "boy" will not presume to obtrude himself, lest he might—as he frequently does—put his foot in it and do more harm than good. We should be glad to hear of the Premier attending, as there are other problems to come forward in whose ultimate solution we are materially interested. Among these are landlords' preferential claims for rent, the bankruptcy law and the decimal system.

OUR MINERAL RESOURCES.

Handel's Museum having stated that Russia is the only source of supply for platinum Matheson & Grant, of London, Eng., have written the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, that such is not the case, they having a sample of the article from mines in British Columbia, which are in full operation, and from which a considerable quantity has been sold in London during the last two years, as much as 1,000 to 1,500 ozs. having been annually produced since 1886, all from placer mining. It is added, "from the present hydraulic mining the production, it is anticipated, will be considerably increased." This incident shows the advisability of the utmost possible publicity being given to the resources of the Province, of which but few even of our own people have any adequate idea. In connection with this matter, we are pleased to notice that the Provincial Government have undertaken to collect and compile all the information that has been obtained by the long series of exploratory and zoological surveys made under the auspices of the Dominion Government as well as by the expeditions commissioned by the Province, and all possible information that has been secured and is obtainable from private sources.

The work is one of no small magnitude but, as Surveyor General Kains has announced in his recommendation, it will, with the aid of a map and other reliable data with which it is proposed to supplement it, clearly set forth all the natural production of each district. The task has been entrusted to Mr. A. L. Poudrier, who has in the past conducted a number of important provincial surveys. The plan proposed according to the semi-official announcement is "to take up first the various districts and to describe them as to topography, timber, and so on. The watersheds, rivers, and basins will be shown at the various locations of minerals. The minerals will afterwards be treated in a separate chapter, they being classified under gold, silver, coal, etc., with particulars as to where they are found, and references as to the districts of which general information is given."

No doubt the volume or volumes will form a work of considerable magnitude and will cost a large sum to produce, although even that will be comparatively small as compared with what it might have been were it not possible for the province to take advantage of what has been done under the auspices of the Dominion Geological survey by such men as Messrs.