

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1894. PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING. BY THE COLONIST PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED LIABILITY.

TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST. PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY. For Year (Postage Free to any part of Canada) \$10.00.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST. For Year (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States) \$3.00.

ADVERTISING RATES: REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING as distinguished from everything of a transient character.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING—Per line solid nonpareil—First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS—Ten cents a line solid nonpareil, each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than \$2.

HAWAIIAN DOCUMENTS. WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The President transmitted to-day to Congress some confidential Hawaiian correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The President transmitted to-day to Congress some confidential Hawaiian correspondence. Minister Willis under date of January 6 reports the resignation of Vice President Hahoh and the election of C. Wilder to the vacancy.

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—Minister Thurston said: "When I left Honolulu a week ago last Saturday Minister Willis was still a persona grata, and I can add that there never was any time at the present rate of desertion to make even a shabby showing of royalty."

G. N. & C. P. RAILWAYS.

SEATTLE, Jan. 20.—The rumored Great Northern-Canadian Pacific traffic arrangement was the only question of interest in railroad offices yesterday in this city.

What adds color to this conclusion is the recent breaking off of negotiations between the Canadian Pacific and the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern, whereby the former road was to reach this city by the Lake Shore tracks.

PROFIT SHARING.

St. Louis, Jan. 18.—The employes of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company are in good spirits to-day. This concern is conducted on the profit-sharing plan, and for the past ten years the workmen have received annual dividends.

Mexican Marauders.

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 20.—It is rumored to-night that a fight took place to-day between the Government troops and insurgents at San Andres, 15 leagues from Chihuahua and the insurgents were victorious.

FRIENDS OF THE DISTRESSED

Annual Meeting of the British Columbia Benevolent Society—The President's Report.

The Condition of Victoria's Unemployed—An Appeal to the Charitable.

The annual general meeting of the B. C. Benevolent Society was held Monday afternoon at the Pioneer hall, Broad street, the following gentlemen being in attendance:

President Burnes, report for the year 1893, which was adopted as read, was as follows:

"The British Columbia Benevolent Society has now entered on its twenty-third year, and I have once more the pleasure of meeting you at our annual meeting."

"As you will see by the financial statement of the secretary-treasurer, the amount expended for relief for the year 1893 is \$1,759.42, being \$524.27 in excess of the previous year; the subscriptions and donations have amounted to \$1,177.00, including \$150 received from Mr. May or Beaven and the cooperation of Mr. W. H. Bell, William Stephens, George Doughty, L. Dickenson, D. H. Ross, Alexander Wilson, B. Egge, G. H. Brown, G. E. Munro and Joseph Wilson.

Storm on the West Coast—An Indian Story of Shipwreck.

Here For Orders—The "Mischief" Safe—The "Lost" Norway.

By the arrival of the steamer Mystery from Clayoquot yesterday morning the first intimation was received of the destruction wrought by last week's severe gales.

Considering the very large amount of work that has required attention in inquiring into the numerous cases and listening to applicants for relief—each with a more or less long and sad story to tell—these expenses have been as light as it was possible to make them.

"The number of distressed people, principally unemployed men seeking work, who have applied to the secretary at his office during the last week or two alone, have embraced in their ranks painters, plasterers, clerks, laborers and one druggist. Very many of these people appear to have come to Victoria seeking a livelihood, from either the American side of the Sound country or the Mainland of British Columbia.

"I am of the opinion that it has become absolutely necessary that the attention of the Government should be directed to the subject, as, once before, we shall be without the means to cope with it."

"The Secretary-Treasurer's cash report was also read and adopted as follows:

Balance from 1892, \$1,005.03. Cash donations and other receipts, 1,177.00. Late on deposit acct. Green, Worlock & Co., 83.80.

Profit on Sons of Erin picnic, 2.00. Share of profit combined bank concert, 14.25. For G. Hayward, of Public Schools, 7.50. Dominion Savings Bank, interest to 30th June, 1893, 21.67.

TOTAL, \$2,784.05. EXPENDITURE: Relief for January, \$143.70. February, 291.72. March, 218.90. April, 70.00. May, 161.75. June, 161.75. July, 84.75. August, 125.25. September, 125.25. October, 125.25. November, 125.25. December, 125.25.

Expenses Account: Cash, F. Sylvester, audit for 1892, \$10.00. Postage reports and circulars, stationery, etc., 20.00. Printing and advertising, 20.00. Expresses and labor, 20.00. On distribution of school children's gifts, 20.00. Secretary's salary for 1893, 789.05. Balance down, 789.05.

Cash on hand, \$20.50. Green, Worlock & Co. (on deposit), 225.00. Green, Worlock & Co. (current acct.), 214.28. In Savings Bank, 200.44. Total, \$769.63. His Lordship the Bishop of Columbia expressed his great pleasure in meeting the officers of the society and his full and hearty sympathy with its aims and objects.

Having been connected for some years with the charity organizations of Southampton, England, many of whose rules were very similar to those of the British Columbia Benevolent Society, the Bishop was in a position to give the latter much good advice, and he assured the officers that they would have the hearty sympathy of the Anglican clergy, while he himself would at all times be happy to confer with the society's committee, so that by working together greater good might be done without their being any waste of effort by conflict in its direction.

Messrs. Munroe Miller, F. H. Worlock, Alexander Wilson, G. H. Brown, Herbert Cuthbert and the president also spoke briefly, and it was decided, on the motion of Mr. F. H. Worlock, seconded by Mr. B. Egge, that the secretary be requested to ask the Mayor and Council by letter, asking for their assistance in getting over the hard times.

It was also decided that a committee meeting should be held at a near date for the purpose of appointing a committee to wait upon the Government with the object of representing to them the situation.

The following officers were then elected for the current year: President—T. J. Burnes (re-elected). Vice-President—Captain J. D. Warren. Secretary-Treasurer—W. H. Mason (re-elected).

Relief Committee—The Bishop of Columbia, F. H. Worlock, J. F. Bell, William Stephens, George Doughty, L. Dickenson, D. H. Ross, Alexander Wilson, B. Egge, G. H. Brown, G. E. Munro and Joseph Wilson.

Votes of thanks to the retiring officers and to the Pioneer Society for the use of the hall terminated the day's proceedings.

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

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It contains some rather interesting matter relative to the attempted agitation on the mainland last summer, opening and taking its title from correspondence between the Premier and the Agent-General respecting the wild assertions of the Vancouver meeting.

The most important document comprised in this return is the report of a committee of the executive council of the province, sent to Ottawa in consequence of a request for information with respect to the complaint of the mainland petition.

The report proceeds: "The committee of council have had under consideration a communication from the Deputy Minister of Justice to the Hon. the Attorney-General, dated 17th July, 1893, enclosing copy of a petition purporting to be signed by F. Fillan, E. W. Griffiths, and 1,024 others, praying that His Excellency the Governor-General might be pleased to refer to the legislature of last session, entitled 'An act to provide for the erection and new buildings for the accommodation of the provincial legislature and the public departments, and submitting a series of statements in support of the prayer of such petition.'

The report of the Hon. the Attorney-General, in whom the matter was referred, remarks that, whilst under the British North America Act, 1867, in each province the legislature has the exclusive right of legislation, amongst other things, upon the subject of (a) the amendment of the constitution, except as regards the office of Lieutenant-Governor, (b) the borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province, and (c) local works and undertakings, and the complaint of the petitioners is to matters coming under one or other of the exclusive subjects of jurisdiction just mentioned, yet that the attention of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council should be drawn to the facts hereinafter stated:

"As to so much of the petition as alleges that the estimates submitted to the legislature at its last session show an estimated expenditure of \$1,276,000 as against an estimated revenue of \$1,060,000, thus showing a deficit of \$216,000 to be made up from borrowed money in order to carry on the ordinary work of the country, the Minister remarks that the quotation is a misreading and untruthful, as implying that the sum of \$216,000 is to be made up from money to be borrowed for that purpose—the fact, on the contrary, being that in the year 1891 it was decided by the legislature to undertake the work of public utility throughout the province, and the money was borrowed accordingly, and had been only partially expended at the time of the voting of the estimates alluded to, when there remained in the treasury the sum of nearly \$500,000, and the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of which the said \$1,000,000 was raised, the estimated expenditure was in excess of the estimated revenue, the surplus to be taken out of the balance of the loan so remaining in the treasury; that the total estimated expenditure was not \$1,276,000, as alleged in the petition, but was \$1,277,157, of which \$1,000,000 was for the purpose of government and maintenance, and the works of development, amounting to \$1,011,000, as alleged in the petition, the sum of \$266,157 was voted for the purposes of education, exclusive of school buildings, the sum of \$129,500 for buildings, schools, etc., the sum of \$500,000 for surveys throughout the province, the sum of \$215,500 for roads, bridges and wharves, and \$88,498 for miscellaneous expenditures."

"That the finances of the province are in a sound and healthy condition, its inscribed stock ranking third amongst colonial securities, the Dominion of Canada being first, the Colony of Ceylon second, and the Province of British Columbia third; that the province has recently become the highway of a profitable trade, which has sprung up between Canada and the Australian and the Orient, and that Victoria, the capital of the province, is the first port of call in the province for vessels engaged in that trade; that the buildings for the use of the public offices and legislature of the province erected in the very early colonial days under British Columbia, have been replaced from the rest of the world, have now become fitted for the purposes of the province, and are moreover in a very dilapidated condition, and that in view of the necessity which exists for new public buildings, the legislature at its last session resolved to expend the sum of \$600,000 in the erection of a suitable structure. The inference from the petition, apparently, is that more than \$600,000 is to be expended in the work, whereas the intention of the act is to limit the expenditure within that amount."

"As to so much of the petition as asserts that the legislative assembly is and has been for years non-representative of the people of the province, the Minister observes that, with certain additions to the number of members, the basis of representation is the same as that which existed at the time of confederation, when the white population of the island of Vancouver largely exceeded that of the mainland. The number of members being then 25 for the entire province, was apportioned, notwithstanding the inequality in population, by giving 13 to the mainland and 12 to the island, and the same ratio has been kept up ever since."

"The last decennial census showed that the mainland had a total population of 61,406, and the island of 38,767, and acting on this basis the government concluded to bring down a bill for redistributing the seats in the legislative assembly, but upon analyzing the census returns, and deducting the Chinese and Indians, who are not voters, it appeared that the white population on Vancouver Island was still in excess of that of the mainland of British Columbia."

The correspondence upon this subject of the census returns, and which correspondence took place during the Session of the last Legislature, already published, are given, and the report proceeds as follows: "That since the date of the last communication sent out, the census schedules in the department at Ottawa have been scrutinized, and, as a result, instead of placing the white population of Vancouver Island at 28,269, and of the Mainland at 28,045, as shown by the department of Agriculture, the white population appears to be distributed as between the mainland and island as follows, viz:—

"On the mainland, 37,293, and on Vancouver Island 27,997."

It will thus readily be seen that unless the government were prepared at the time of the session of the legislature to accept as a basis of its promised redistribution measure a population of whites upon Vancouver Island in excess of those upon the mainland, it was not in a position, in view of the information received from the department of Agriculture, to introduce the redistribution measure at that time, and that, consequently, if the census returns were to be a generally feature in framing the bill, nothing else could be reasonably done than to postpone the measure, which was accordingly done.

"As to so much of the petition as states that the province is divided into eighteen constituencies, with a total registered vote of 15,560, and that of these voters 12,601 are registered in seven constituencies, which elect sixteen members, and the remaining 2,959 voters are registered in eleven constituencies, which elect seventeen members, the Minister remarks that the number of registered voters in any particular constituency is not by any means an accurate indication of the number of persons who are eligible for the franchise in such constituency, inasmuch as no scrutiny has hitherto been made of the claims of persons applying to be registered as voters, and in some constituencies a party and indifference in the registration of voters has been the rule, whilst in other constituencies a determined and persistent effort has been made to place names upon the register of voters. The Minister moreover remarks that population naturally flows to the cities, which in point of population largely outnumber the outlying districts, including those districts where the principal industries of the country, such as farming, mining, lumbering, are carried on. That it has always been the policy of this province to accord the outlying districts just representation, and it is noteworthy that the real complaint of the petitioners seems to be that the cities are not accorded all, or nearly all, of the representation. That as to so much of the petition as asserts that the mainland has an area of 366,300 square miles, whereas Vancouver Island embraces 16,002 square miles only; that the mainland produces therefore the greater need of expenditure upon works of development, and that the said mainland portion contributes over two-thirds of the total revenue collected within the province, the Minister observes that the principle has always been recognized by successive legislatures, that on account of its larger area, the mainland has greater expenditure upon works of development, and that, notwithstanding such principle, even in years when the revenue of the island did not equal that of Vancouver Island, larger expenditures in works of development were made upon the mainland than upon Vancouver Island, and ever since Confederation the proportionate expenditure for such works upon the mainland has been its share, and that, notwithstanding such principle, the expenditure would have been in excess of what would have been its share, in proportion to population, and to the contribution of the mainland toward the revenue."

"The increase of population upon the mainland has been of modern growth, but the increase upon the island has been in the past so at present, the appropriations for works of development largely exceed either its quota of population, or its contribution towards the revenue, as a consideration of the Public Accounts for the last fiscal year abundantly shows. For instance, the grant for roads, streets and bridges upon the mainland was \$159,500, and upon Vancouver Island was \$58,000. For buildings and schools, the mainland grant was \$81,300, and upon Vancouver Island \$18,900. For surveys, the mainland estimate was \$48,000, and the island \$2,000. Upon education, the mainland grant was \$101,826, and upon Vancouver Island was \$73,521. Upon hospitals and asylums, the mainland grant was \$41,550, and the island \$16,300—showing total grants under these heads, upon the mainland, \$432,270, and upon Vancouver Island, \$164,420."

"Taking the census returns of 98,173, as the entire population of the province, the total appropriations, under the above headings, for the mainland and island (\$596,980), if equally apportioned on the per capita basis, would give \$8.08 per head, which, according to the distribution of population as between the mainland and island (mainland, 61,406; island, 38,767) would entitle the mainland to \$373,348 and the island to \$223,342, instead of the existing division of \$432,270 upon the mainland and \$164,420 upon the island. But if the expenditures are to be divided according to the population, other than Indians and Chinese (Indians especially, and Chinese, contribute but little towards provincial revenue), the advantage given to the mainland is made still more apparent. The last amended estimate gives 37,293 as the mainland white population, and 27,997 as the island white population. This would give, out of the total appropriation of \$596,980, a per capita allowance of \$9.14, or \$340,558 to the mainland and \$255,832 to the island, and assuming with the petition that the people of the mainland now contribute two-thirds of the revenue, it is shown that the island by no means receives one-third of the appropriations granted by the legislature for works of development."

"As to so much of the petition as asserts that at the last general election seven constituencies registering 12,691 voters (of which the mainland registers 11,560, and the island actually polled) returned only four members as supporters of the government, while eleven small constituencies having 2,959 voters returned sixteen government supporters, and that one of the four government supporters elected by a large constituency having resigned before the meeting of the House, his place was supplied by an opponent of the government, the Minister draws attention to the fact that, of opponents to the government, at the last general election, there were only five returned to the legislature; the remaining members were returned either as supporters of the government, or as independent of either the government or its opponents; that the member to fill the vacant seat alluded to was not elected as an opponent, and that the number of votes actually polled at the general election for candidates avowedly supporting the government was equal to the number of votes polled for both opponents and independents combined. The Minister further remarks that three of the five members returned in opposition to the government were from the city of Victoria, their constituency returns four members, the fourth candidate returned being a government supporter. The highest vote polled in that constituency by the three members returned in opposition to the government was that of the senior member, who received 1,226 votes, the fourth or junior member receiving 851 votes; the other members in opposition to the government were returned, one as the junior member for Yx and the other as the junior member for Nanaimo district, the one receiving 396 votes, and the other 157 votes. The vote of the country was therefore overwhelmingly in favor of the government and those who were pledged to deal with the government or opponents of its supporters or opponents."

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VALUABLE BELIGNS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 22.—Valuable relics, carefully guarded for hundreds of years in the Vatican, and lent by the Pope for exhibition at the World's Fair, will not be returned to Rome under a guard of government officers in a naval vessel, as was stipulated when the Pope gave his consent to their removal, but are to remain in the country indefinitely.

The committee, concurring in the report of the Honourable the Attorney-General, recommended that copies of this minute (if approved) be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State, and the Minister of Justice, for their information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council."

VALUABLE BELIGNS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 22.—Valuable relics, carefully guarded for hundreds of years in the Vatican, and lent by the Pope for exhibition at the World's Fair, will not be returned to Rome under a guard of government officers in a naval vessel, as was stipulated when the Pope gave his consent to their removal, but are to remain in the country indefinitely.

The committee, concurring in the report of the Honourable the Attorney-General, recommended that copies of this minute (if approved) be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State, and the Minister of Justice, for their information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council."

BELGIANS IN AFRICA.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 22.—A dispatch to the Ambassadors Belge from the Congo Free State says that the German authorities in East Africa are partly responsible for the recent attack on Kasongo, by Arabs, in which Captain Ponthier was killed. Ruma, the Arab leader, the dispatch adds, recruited his force at Ujiji, under the eye of the Germans, who did nothing to prevent him from obtaining as many men as he could. The reports of the severe slaughter during the battle have been confirmed, though the advantage of the contest remains with the Belgians.

ANOTHER COAL DEAL.

HALIFAX, Jan. 20.—(Special)—The probabilities are that another big mine in Nova Scotia will soon pass into the hands of a New York syndicate. An agreement was entered into to-day by G. Metz, representing a number of New Yorkers, and the owners of the Beaver Mining Company's mine at Sheet Harbor, for the sale of the mine to a syndicate for \$75,000. The agreement, however, is conditional. Should Mr. Metz find that within nine months the mine is not as represented the deal is off.

WANTED IN ENGLAND.

BUENOS AYRES, Jan. 22.—The Argentine Times says that Jabez Spenser Balfour, who is wanted in England for the part he took in bringing about the collapse of the Liberator Building Society and several other