

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1897.

## AN AUTHORITATIVE DENIAL.

Statements have repeatedly appeared in the provincial press lately to the effect that the Hon. Mr. Turner is contemplating a reorganization of the ministry. We have on several occasions denied this, but without effect. The object of these statements is to create the impression that the government is divided against itself, and therefore weaken it in the constituencies. It is a time-worn trick in the older provinces and counts for little, but in British Columbia, where there are so many men who are new to politics, and especially British Columbia politics, that a repeated allegation of this character, unless formally denied, is apt to obtain more or less credence.

We therefore state, on the authority of the Premier, the Hon. J. H. Turner, that he has not contemplated a reorganization of the ministry, and is not now contemplating it; that the utmost harmony and confidence prevails between the several members of the government, and that there is not, nor has there ever been, the slightest basis of any kind whatever for the statement referred to. We hope this authoritative announcement will settle the matter once and for all. The *Colonist* does not propose to refer to it again.

## GOOD RESULTS ALREADY.

Already most excellent results have flowed from the intelligent effort made by the business men of Victoria to advertise this city as an outfitting point. Every mail brings series of inquiries, and many come by telegraph. They come from all parts of the United States, and nearly all of them show that they were clothed by either the widely circulated "Yukon Gold Fields" pamphlet or the advertisements signed by the president of the board of trade, which have been printed in many Eastern papers. It has never been our fortune to see results follow so quickly from advertising. Of course much is due to the fact that the work was done promptly. When Eastern people began to realize what the Klondike discoveries meant they learned at the same time that "The Yukon Gold Fields are in Canada." This is the advertising sheet. These words have, during the last few weeks, started hundreds of thousands of people in the face all over the North American continent. Scarcely secondary to this is the important announcement that Victoria is the place to outfit, and that dealers here know what prospectors want and how to pack it. This excellent result has been due to the fact that a few Victoria business men made up their minds to advertise themselves and their city. It only took a few days' work and a little money from each to make this splendid start.

One of the effects of what has been done has been the collection of a lot of correspondence which is well worthy of being examined by those who subscribed to the advertising fund. The letters are in the hands of the Secretary of the Board of Trade, who is acting as secretary of the advertising committee. They contain much that is valuable, and as more will be received the collection is likely to possess a very great deal of utility to the business community. Do persons who have not subscribed to the fund, and who were not asked to do so simply because the committee stopped collecting for the time being when \$1,000 had been raised, we may say that their subscriptions in any amount they may choose to give will be received at any time by the Secretary of the Board of Trade. That gentleman has asked the *Colonist* to receive any subscriptions for him from persons who may find it more convenient to leave their money in this office. This we will gladly do. Subscribers to the fund will not only be helping in a good work, but they will have the liberty of examining all the letters of inquiry that are received from time to time.

More money is needed. All that has been subscribed has not yet been expended, but it is practically all appropriated. Almost immediately more money will be needed, and at the beginning of the year, the advantage of Victoria as an outfitting point ought to be impressed upon the public everywhere, so as to catch the spring trade. Probably those who have already subscribed will have to put their hands in their pockets again, but we know that they will do so willingly. The committee ought to have from \$1,500 to \$2,000 in hand to use during the winter. When we mention that in one day twelve strangers inquired at the *Colonist* office and three letters were received from Chicago, all about outfitting for the Yukon, the inquiries and the letters being stated to be due to the circulation of the "Yukon Gold Fields" pamphlet, it will be seen how quickly advertising sells. Every day the *Colonist* gets inquiries from various quarters. The questions are as varied as the questioners. So it is in many other places in town, for we suppose there is no man so busy that he cannot find time to answer a prospective Yukoner.

We repeat that good work, the very best kind of work, judging from results, has been done already, but we have only got fairly under way. Victoria as a starting point for the Yukon will get a

good send-off shortly in United States and British illustrated papers. This will do a great deal of good. We tell the business men of Victoria that the ball is at their feet, and they can drive it through the goal of prosperity if they determine to do so.

## THE PURCHASE OF YUKON GOLD.

We are glad to see that the Dominion government contemplates purchasing gold from miners in the Yukon, but do not think much of the suggestion that they shall be paid at their discretion in United States paper money. Indeed we desire to enter the most emphatic kind of protest against any such recognition of United States miners and United States cities as outfitting points. The Yukon gold fields are in Canada. Let them be dealt with as Canadian. The proper way in which to pay for such gold is by drafts in Canadian cities. Do not let our own government discredit Canadian money by using United States money in Canada to buy Canadian gold. The point is made that to attempt to purchase the gold and at the same time to collect a royalty is absurd, because no man will sell his gold if he knows a royalty will be collected on it, but will prefer to smuggle it out of the country. This would be true in case of a very heavy royalty, but not if the percentage exacted was reasonable. Probably it will cost miners from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent. to get their gold out of the country, unless they carry it on their persons. They would doubtless willingly pay double the amount in royalty if they received in exchange for their gold drafts as good as gold the world over. We believe the purchase of gold and a reasonable royalty would work well together.

## THE POST-INTELLIGENCER AND VICTORIA MERCHANTS.

When a newspaper sets out to tell an untruth, we suppose no fault can be found with it for doing an artistic job. Therefore, when we read in the *Post-Intelligencer* that Victoria merchants buy in Seattle everything they sell to outitters, we suppose that we ought not to feel any particular degree of ill-temper. But there is an old saying that "liars ought to have long memories," and the *Seattle* paper has furnished new proof of its truth. Last week this champion falsifier told its readers that all that outfitting could get here were rusty goods that had been long on the shelves of provincial stores. This week these rusty goods have been transformed into American products, fresh from the wholesale houses of Seattle. Will our genteel contemporary please try again?

It is an old saying in Seattle that the *Post-Intelligencer* will box the compass on any proposition which the ingenuity of man can suggest, if only given time enough; and it does not want much time either. There is no aspect of any conceivable question that the *Post-Intelligencer* has not advocated and opined, doing both with an owl-like speed. In this it is trick for shielding its ignorance of everything but the ward politics of its city. Some morning its readers will actually stumble across the truth about the outfitting business in its columns.

Victoria merchants will see the sort of opposition that they have to meet. In the end the tactics of the *Post-Intelligencer* will fail. President Lincoln used to say some persons could fool the public for some time, but no one could fool all the people always. So our *Seattle* contemporary will find, and so the *Seattle* business men will find. They may succeed in deceiving a goodly number of people this fall, but the truth will out during the winter, and they will have to take the consequences in the spring. Victoria has nothing to say against fair commercial rivalry; but it has a right to resent the tactics of cheap clothing peddlars when employed against it by reputable business houses and a presumably reputable newspaper.

The pretence is still being made in *Seattle* that duties will not be collected on American goods going into the Yukon. This, of course, hurts the man who is deceived by it, like that unfortunate Scouler, whose story we told yesterday, and who lost over \$300 by believing such rubbish. In the long run it will hurt the business men who make such representations. The statement that goods cost more here than in *Seattle* is a simple untruth, which may deceive a purchaser once, but will not do so a second time. The deceiving of Canadian goods and Canadian business houses is a mean piece of business, wholly unworthy of a city like *Seattle*, and especially when directed against *Victoria*, whose people have always had so kindly a feeling towards her.

## A COOL PROPOSITION.

The San Francisco Mining and Scientific Press is a tolerably cool customer. Realizing that in the development of the great Yukon gold fields the merchants of the Coast cities of the United States will have no share after this autumn, the Press suggests that a free mining zone shall be established in the Yukon into which goods shall be admitted from both the United States and Canada duty free. Speaking in a general sort of way, about ten times as much of the auriferous portion of the Yukon valley is in Canada as is in Alaska. We do not think this is at all an exaggeration. Forty-Mile and Sixty-Mile creeks head in Alaska, and there are rich diggings

upon them. The whole of the Tanana, a very large tributary of the Yukon, is in Alaska, and it may be found to be auriferous. There may be west of the 141st meridian auriferous streams which enter the Yukon from the north. Owing to the flatness of the country generally in Central Alaska, that is along the Yukon valley, the prospect of rich diggings being found over a very large area is not good; but we think that undoubtedly there is some exceedingly rich ground there. On the other hand the Yukon east of the 141st meridian has very many tributaries, some of them large and all more or less gold-bearing. There is indeed reason to expect that over the whole region between the meridian in question and the Mackenzie valley, and as far north as the Arctic circle, gold either in placers or in quartz may be found in great quantities. To suggest that Canada should make this region of nearly a quarter of a million square miles free to goods from the United States in exchange for similar privileges to Canadian goods in an area that does not probably exceed 20,000 square miles, seems like a very absurd thing.

The Press gives as one reason for such an arrangement that Canada cannot get into her territories without crossing United States territory, and vice versa. On this point the Press is about as far wrong as it can very well be. Canada need not be at all indebted to the United States for a right of way into the Yukon, as we have shown over and over again, and while at present the United States must look to Canada for a right of way into the Yukon for the greater part of the year, it is by no means uncertain that a fairly good way may not be found as far as the headwaters of the Tanana, by going up the valley of the Copper river, which is wholly in Alaska. Such generosity as the Press exhibits in this matter is truly refreshing.

The Vancouver World's information as to routes into the Yukon has not improved. It says that they are really not proven and cannot be accurately laid down on maps. What utter nonsense. They cannot of course be laid down with the accuracy of city streets, but they can be indicated with a very close approximation on maps. Dawson's reports, with Ogilvie's drawings, make the matter clear enough for all practical purposes.

The *Times* asks: "Where is Turner, and what is he doing at this momentous time?" We believe that at the momentous time referred to, which presumably was the hour at which the *Times* was issued, Mr. Turner was in his office attending to public business.

The *Times* objects to the remarks of Mr. Earle, M.P., at the meeting held on Wednesday night. It is proper to say that Mr. Earle was not discussing the regulations, but simply giving his reasons why he agreed to a postponement of the meeting.

The San Francisco Call undertakes to threaten Canada on account of the mining regulations. We respectfully advise the Call to mind its own business. It will take very little to give rise to a demand for the closing of the Yukon to aliens.

The *Seattle Times* still hugs the delusion that Canadian goods will not be allowed to pass the United States customs house officers at Dyea without paying duty. Capt. Irving, who ought to know, says they are allowed to pass.

We shall not answer the insulting personalities which the *Times* directs against the provincial ministers. They come with a bad grace from a newspaper that is so thin-skinned as to threaten libel suits when it is driven into a corner.

SECRETARY SHERMAN, of the United States cabinet, is in such a condition, mentally and physically, that his complete collapse is daily expected. Some of his recent dispatches indicate as much.

## BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"What we ought to have," sighed the proprietor of the jewelry establishment, "is some absolute novelty to attract attention."

"What's the matter with a line of divorce rings?" asked the astute and up to date manager.—Chicago Journal.

Frank—Some genius in Birmingham has invented a buttonless shirt.

Bill—Why, that's old. I've worn them ever since my wife learned to ride a bike.—*Wichita*.

"It's a lucky thing for some of the old composers that they didn't live long," said the German critic.

"I don't see why. They are more appreciated now than when they wrote."

"Yes, but they'd be punished for less majestic sure. They have been using some of the Emperor's musical ideas."—Washington Star.

"Of the class of office-seekers," says the Llanriggaville Sage, "I observe there are two kinds, the appointed, and the disappointed."—Philadelphia North American.

"It seems to be a case of genuine attachment," said the young woman. "She has just jilted him yet."

"No," replied Miss Cayenne. "She heartily dislikes the girl that is going to give the engagement ring to next."—Washington Star.

"I have made all the arrangements for your divorce," said the lawyer. "Shall I secure it at once?"

"No," replied the sensational actress, after some reflection. "My press agent is on his vacation."—Washington Star.

Editor—That is a most ridiculous blunder you made, Jaggerston, in old Boldman's obituary. You say: "He leaves an only widow." Reporter—Well, what's wrong with that? Most of the millionaires who've died seem to have left more than one.—Puck.

## IS YOUR NAME IN IT.

The List of Unclaimed Balances Held by the Chartered Banks of the Dominion of Canada.

A List That May Have More Interest to You Than the Ordinary Run of Blue Book Tables.

A blue book of 248 pages gives the list of unclaimed balances in the banks of Canada. It is a book that contains in its long tables the foundation of many a romance if we could only find out why the several amounts lie unclaimed. Thus, forty-five years ago A. B. Dow, of Quebec, deposited \$100 in the Bank of British North America, and has left it there ever since. John Ross, of Montreal, did the same thing with \$400 fifty years ago. Four men, named Stewart, of Manlocky, near Inverness, Scotland, put over \$10,000 in this bank in 1838, and have not called for a dollar of it since. For eleven years the Bank of Toronto has held \$1,068 of Janet Miller's money. She used to live in Mining, George Veitch, of West Montreal, left \$378.82 in the Traders' Bank, when he died eight years ago and no one has called for it. Barbara Forman made a deposit of \$2,028 in the Bank of B. N. A. in 1850, and that is the last time she ever heard of her. When the late Judge Gray left St. John, N.B., for Victoria, he omitted to draw out a little balance of \$1.95 which has been standing in his name for thirty-one years. Twenty-three years ago W. Beak, of Victoria, had a balance to his credit in the Bank of B. N. A. of \$1,320.77, and it stands there yet. For some mysterious reason the Victoria Board of Education have neglected to draw \$6.50 from the same bank since May 25, 1871. Leon Mar left \$200 in this bank on October 14, 1878, and took a deposit receipt. A note to the table says that he is supposed to have been drowned. For sixteen years the bank has held \$10 belonging to the representatives of Malcolm McNeil, of Nicola valley. It is over eight years since W. T. Spredborough, of Burrard Inlet left \$2,000 in this bank, and he has never drawn a dollar of it or asked any questions about it; neither has S. H. F. Rowlinson, who lived in Victoria, paid any attention to his \$800 that has been there since 1891. A Seattle man named J. A. McCaul had \$181 to his credit nine years ago and has it yet. George S. Partridge, of Victoria, has not felt the need of any part of the \$500 that he left in this very excellent institution. Quinton H. King, of H. M. P., Partridge, has served his apprenticeship in the bank, and has never drawn a dollar of it or asked any questions about it; neither has S. H. F. Rowlinson, who lived in Victoria, paid any attention to his \$800 that has been there since 1891. A Seattle man named J. A. McCaul had \$181 to his credit nine years ago and has it yet. George S. Partridge, of Victoria, has not felt the need of any part of the \$500 that he left in this very excellent institution. Quinton H. King, of H. M. P., Partridge, has served his apprenticeship in the bank, and has never drawn a dollar of it or asked any questions about it; neither has S. H. F. Rowlinson, who lived in Victoria, paid any attention to his \$800 that has been there since 1891. A Seattle man named J. A. 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