

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1897.

FARMERS AND THE HOME MARKET.

The farmers of the Coast are not at present supplying the Coast cities with those articles which can be produced on British Columbia farms as cheaply and as good as anywhere in the world.

These are practical, business questions and they admit of a business answer. It is folly to attempt to avoid them. The farmers have to face them every year, and they will have to face them when it comes to competing for the supply of the larger markets to be afforded by the mining sections and by the construction of railways, which we are likely to see soon begun in this province.

WHICH IS IT?

The Columbian has opened another package of the ammunition against the local government, "not of the sort that kills." This is a worn-out job lot at which the opposition hammered last session in a vain attempt to create an explosion.

It is estimated that the spruce that will be used for the manufacture of paper pulp in the United States this year will be the equivalent of 25,000,000 feet of logs.

Our information in regard to the probable sale of the Spokane & Northern is that Mr. Corbin has been asked to name a price for the road and has the matter under advisement.

between admitting that the estimates were not intelligently framed or that the government ignored the principles of responsible government. We are not driven to make any such choice, for the estimates were intelligently framed and the principles of responsible government were respected, but under the facts as they appear upon the records of the legislature we have a right to ask our contemporary whether it prefers to be considered ignorant or malicious. Of course it is possible that it may be both.

The Toronto Globe has been giving some attention to the immediate outlook for the Trail Creek district, and accepts the statement that thirteen mines are now in a position to ship, and that forty others may become shippers during the present year.

The proceedings at last night's meeting of the Provincial Board of Health were of very great interest. Nothing comes much more closely home to the health of communities. They are especially important in the new towns, which are apt to become very unhealthy during the summer unless proper safeguards are taken.

The suggestion of the mayor that Victoria should postpone its annual holiday this year until June 30th, the sixtieth anniversary of her majesty's accession to the throne, has several things to recommend it. In the first place Victoria would hardly like to be the only Canadian capital not to celebrate that day, which will be observed all over the empire.

The decision of the court in the case of the Consolidated Railway Company vs. the Corporation of the City of Victoria, which we print to-day, is one of very great importance, because while it stands it appears to settle the question of the city's liability for damages arising out of the Point Elliot bridge disaster.

The by-elections for the local legislature in New Brunswick show a marked disposition on the part of the people of that province to keep dominion politics out of local affairs. As a matter of fact local politics are little else than a matter of good business management, and it is difficult to see what good can come of running them on dominion lines in any province.

Not a single Northwest paper outside of Calgary has straightly commended Greenway's suggestion. The reason underlying the Calgary papers' approval is given with blushing modesty by the Tribune.

The people of Victoria have hardly yet recovered themselves in regard to the Indian famine relief fund and in consequence subscriptions are not coming in very rapidly. There have been some very handsome subscriptions and a number that are equally liberal in a comparative sense.

The City Council seem very much interested in the matter of street improvement. The citizens will cordially support any well-considered plan. Victoria needs better business streets about as much as anything else.

By the way, the suggestion that too many hacks are allowed to stand on Government street ought not to be lost sight of. The hackmen are entitled to consideration, but so also are the general public.

The Nanaimo Mail has issued a daily edition which presents a very creditable appearance.

The following announcement from the Toronto Globe in regard to the Crow's Nest Pass railway and the coal lands is of interest: "The Dominion government, if it undertakes to build the road, will also control the coal mines which the railroad will develop."

An armed conflict has occurred between Frenchmen and Brazilians on the borders of French Guiana. There is an open boundary question there, which arises from the fact that to some explorers and map-makers greatly confused the names of rivers, so that it is next to impossible to tell what was meant in the treaties made a hundred years ago.

Every little contribution to the Indian famine fund will count. Two cents will keep a man from starvation a day, and the British government says. Hence \$7.30 will keep him for a year.

The present winter has been remarkably in Eastern Canada for the small snowfall. Traffic was on wheels in Montreal during nearly the whole of January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

There is no reason to believe that in the long run, the agricultural interests will be benefited by the present movement, but also the greatest, when viewed from the amount of capital invested in it; the gross value of its annual product of the revenue which the provincial government derives from it; the number of people engaged in or supported by it or the relative importance which it bears to the general commerce and affairs of the province.—News-Advertiser.

The object of the government in removing the quarantine was to encourage immigration from the United States. A great many desirable immigrants have been hindered from coming to Canada by the quarantine which affords an absolute bar against bringing their cattle with them.

The legislative obstacles which restrict our commerce with outside countries so far as the tariff is concerned, have not been removed. But there are many tariff obstructions over which we have no jurisdiction, and which will restrict many of our industries.

The Halifax Board of Trade wants the International Convention to meet in Montreal. The government is resisting about fifty suggestions for increasing the public debt to one for curtailment of the expenditure.

In Privy Council cases there is but one opinion expressed, and necessarily the committee must decide beforehand what this shall be. It might not be a less trouble than the bench would give enables them to give now.—Toronto Star.

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"You have an iron constitution, haven't you, Fudge?" "Well, I started out with one, but the world has worn me so roughly that I found it necessary to substitute brass."—Chicago Record.

"I expect to see some very rich ledges uncovered in Cariboo within the next twelve months; the development of the quartz property has not progressed sufficiently as yet to disclose the true nature of the ledges. The surfaces of the leads are uncertain in their nature, owing to the shifting of the upper strata in primitive ages. They will, according to Dr. G. M. Dawson, be found more regular as depth increases. The matter of reduction of the ore can now be carried on to some extent in Barkerville, where the government formerly erected a chlorination plant for test purposes, to which a recent addition of a cyanide plant has been made, it having been demonstrated that the cyanide process works perfectly on Cariboo ore."—Victoria Colonist.

"Are you waiting? Are you waiting?" "Yes, I'm waiting." "For what?" "For a little while longer."—Chicago Tribune.

"What a distinguished-looking man!" "Yes, but I saw him in my own kitchen."—Cincinnati Plain Dealer.

GOLDEN DAYS TO COME.

With Modern Methods of Mining and Railway Communication, Williams Creek Will Boom.

Gold Commissioner Brown Tells of the Needs and Progress of the District That is His Home.

Gold Commissioner John Brown, of Barkerville, has been so long identified with the administration of the mining laws in Cariboo as to seem almost part of the famous old district himself, spending a ten days' vacation in Victoria, where he has many, many friends.

"Cariboo," he said last evening, "is to-day in a more flourishing condition than it ever was before, as regards mining development. On my way out from Barkerville I passed no fewer than fifty teams bound inward with hydraulic mining, other mining apparatus and supplies. The journey is made from Ashcroft, our nearest railway point, by sledges at this season of the year, in four days. The snow at Barkerville is at present about 25 miles from the coast, and has been one of the mildest winters we have ever experienced; on my journey out the snowline was passed at a point about 25 miles from the coast. And in one sense, a sum contributed by, for instance, twenty different persons, is of more value than if the same sum were given in one direction, because indicating a wider area of sympathy."

"I am well aware that in some respects the time is not favorable for financial benevolence, and that claims are numerous; but I feel confident that the people of British Columbia will not be backward in doing what can be done. Especially I hope that it will be recognized that while large donations, if they only 50 cents, or even 25 cents, are too small to be offered, and in one sense, a sum contributed by, for instance, twenty different persons, is of more value than if the same sum were given in one direction, because indicating a wider area of sympathy."

"Of the present works in progress, the Gold Range Company are making good progress in continuing their tunnel. Mr. Laird, on Willow river, after running a tunnel in 600 feet on the river level to the bedrock, has sunk into a bedrock 110 feet and is now running back to tap the chief channel, the depth of which has been ascertained from the boring machine; he is now half way back and expects to get in this month. The Slough creek company are also persevering with their work, but owing to the boring machine, he is now half way through. The South Wales company, on Lightning creek, are working steadily and taking out very good pay."

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