

The Colonist.

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only fairly but liberally. Of course there are some irreconcilables whom the Government, do what it may, cannot satisfy, but we are very sure that the reasonable and intelligent men of the mining region are now convinced that they will suffer no injustice at the hands of the men in power. Intelligent men, it may be remarked, are always more easily dealt with than self-opinionated, self-satisfied politicians who do not know enough to realize how little they know. The well-informed miners and mine-owners know how the mining industry is treated by the Government of the States of the Union, and they are frank enough to admit that the mining laws of British Columbia are, from the miners' point of view, more liberal than the laws of the United States; and we have no doubt that when the new assessment law goes into operation they will be ready to make the same admission with regard to taxes on mines in British Columbia.

The recalcitrant miners and others who love kicking and who think it patriotic to kick should bear in mind that they will necessarily require a great deal at the hands of the Government. If the Government neglects to supply their most pressing wants and to accede to their reasonable requirements they will kick, and with good reason. But how can the Government be expected to open up their country and do what may reasonably be required of them to aid in the development of its resources if they cannot get money enough to do their work. If the Government get a good revenue from Kootenay it may be expected to spend liberally in Kootenay, but if its inhabitants protest against a reasonable scheme of taxation and declare that the Government should rather bonus the mines than tax them, how can the Government give them the accommodation and the conveniences they are continually requiring? If mining is successful in Kootenay it can well afford to place in the hands of the Government money enough to enable them to maintain the different services generously. If mining is not successful their system of taxation to contribute largely to the provincial revenue. What could be fairer than this to all concerned?

NOT A RELIGIOUS QUESTION.

Mr. Laurier, it seems, has been at great pains to lead the people of the Dominion to believe that he is wholly independent, as a leader of a political party we presume, of the Catholic church. Was it necessary for him to do this? The question which he was discussing at the time is not necessarily a religious question. There need be no more religion in it than there is in an ordinary action for trespass or to recover a debt. And this, we contend, is the way in which the Manitoba school question should be regarded by Canadians of all denominations.

The denominational minority in Manitoba complain that they have been deprived by the Legislature of the Province of certain rights and privileges in the matter of education which are secured to them by the constitution. They have taken proceedings to regain those rights and privileges. The Parliament of the Dominion is, in their case, the court of last resort. The question to be decided by that court is not a religious one. It is, "Is the law on the side of the minority?" Religion has, properly speaking, no more to do with the consideration of this question than it has to do with the consideration of any other business question submitted for decision to honest and conscientious men.

It seems to us that the man who permits his religious or rather denominational partialities or prejudices to influence his judgment in the slightest degree in coming to a decision on this question should be suspicious of the soundness of his own judgment and of his ability to decide upon it fairly. A man who would begin to work out a mathematical problem on what he considers religious principles, would be regarded a fit candidate for a lunatic asylum, and in considering the bearing of the Manitoba Act and the British North America Act on the complaint of the Manitoba minority, are religious principles at all more applicable than in working out a problem in algebra? The study of both questions requires a clear head and undivided attention on the part of the student. Anything that diverts his attention from his work or clouds his judgment, no matter by what name it may be called, is a hindrance to him and an obstacle in the way of his arriving at a logical conclusion. And there is nothing that we know of so apt to prevent a man's arriving at just conclusions on a subject than his suffering his mind while he is considering it to be diverted to the consideration of what some may consider its religious aspect.

There has always from the beginning been a tendency to import religious feeling into controversies connected with this Manitoba school question. This tendency has become of late very conspicuous. Father Lacombe, a very worthy priest, who has in times past done our Canada good service, wrote what we consider a very injudicious letter to the Hon. Mr. Laurier. That letter was a private letter not intended for publication. If Mr. Laurier had locked the letter up after he had read it, or burned it, it could not have had any effect on the public mind one way or the other.

But the letter was translated into English, and by some means found its way into the newspapers. Liberal newspapers are using this letter for political purposes. There is not a word in it that really bears on the question now before Parliament. It contains no help to the man, whatever his religious predilections may be, who wants to come to an intelligent and an impartial conclusion on the subject, but it is used by Grit journalists and Grit politicians to create a prejudice against the Government side of the question and to influence Protestant opinion in Mr. Laurier's favor. To those who believe that "all is fair in politics," this use of Father Lacombe's letter will be regarded as meritorious, but those who desire to see the question settled according to the dictates of justice and reason must deeply deplore the introduction into its consideration of religious prejudices of the strongest kind.

PRODIGIOUS!!

What bloodthirsty neighbors we have! They are burning for revenge for insults offered and injuries done them nearly a century ago. One would think that wrath nursed so long would have caught cold and died long before this, the end of the Nineteenth Century. But such is not the case. Here is a war whoop uttered on paper by one of them in St. Louis only the other day: "But are we to conclude that what England has done with us we are incapable of doing with England? The burning and sacking of our national capital by the troops of General Ross early in the century are still unavenged. Not until we pick camp in London will that deep insult be wiped out. The only questions are those of transfer and terminal facilities. Give us the necessary transports and ocean convoy and we can land 1,000,000 men on English shores within six months. Once there the results would not be such as to justify a new edition of Macaulay's heroic verse describing the ruin of the Spanish Armada, which might catch the reddening gleam from Gaunt's embattled pile, and Skidrow's fire might rouse to war the burghers of Carlisle. But there would be others. Not until Gen. Miles had passed his blood-stained sword before the walls of Westminster would the fires of our patriot blood begin to cool."

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Millions in Prospect in Old Cariboo—The Marvellous Discoveries at Trail Creek.

Mining operations in British Columbia during 1895 are dealt with in very complete and interesting detail in the annual report of the Minister of Mines, presented to the legislature yesterday. The general reports are prefaced by a valuable table giving as completely as figures can the particulars of the gold mining operations—with a foot note stating that without authentic and complete returns respecting silver, lead, copper, iron, etc., similar statistics for those metals cannot be given.

Gold mining engaged the attention of, on the average, 1,000 white men and 979 Chinese and Japanese, besides those engaged in Trail Creek division, the new gold fields of the province, but for which unfortunately no gold returns were sent in. The output of the others was, by districts, as follows: Cariboo, \$282,400; West Kootenay, \$10,520; Lillooet, \$40,663; Yale, \$237,311; a total of \$636,844 of the yellow metal, exclusive of the Trail Creek division as previously mentioned. Of this total all came from placers except \$185,000 from the quartz mines at Fairview and Camp McKinney. Even without Trail Creek the returns for 1895 are the largest since 1877, new methods having brought about a revival of the industry in temporarily abandoned fields. Since the beginning, in 1868, \$55,000,000 in gold has been taken from the fields of this province. Appended to the gold statistics is a list of the mineral claims recorded in the Cariboo, West Kootenay, and Lillooet divisions, and lead in the ore from Kootenay was estimated at \$2,175,000.

Gold Commissioner Thomas Fletcher thus reports on the Alberni district, of particular interest to Victorians because of its contiguity and the prospect it affords of adding another important industry to those of this rich island of Vancouver: "McLaughlin Range, China Creek and Cowichan-Alberni Road—One hundred and forty-one mineral claims recorded. Active development work is going on in the Mineral Creek group, exposing several veins of free gold, the most noted being the Franklin and Granite Creeks. Thirty-eight mineral claims recorded. The Star of the West group of mines is the most noted, the work done exposing several veins of quartz, averaging \$25 per ton on test. Coleman and Chesnut Creeks (Alberni-Cowichan)—Twenty-seven mineral claims recorded. Work exposes masses of crushed quartz, mixed with cement; low grades; average mill test, \$8 per ton; on deep water the Copper Island and the Star of the West—Fourteen mineral claims reported. Work done exposes several rich veins with a high percentage of gold. Active development now going on; also on deep water. Sechart Channel, Barclay Sound—Eleven mineral claims recorded. Large bodies of iron have been discovered; also quartz carrying gold in paying quantities; on deep water. In other parts of the district there are 32 mineral claims recorded, on Sprout Lake and Cans Creek, on the opposite side of Alberni Canal from China Creek, showing that the gold range extends in that direction. Mr. Sutton's exhaustive report on Alberni district, already published, is appended.

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DOMINION ARTILLERY.

At the annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association at Ottawa last week, Lieut.-Col. Prior delivered an interesting address as President. He said he had occasion last year in his opening remarks to express regret for the small representation of members of the Dominion Artillery Association at the meeting held, however, that this was unnecessary to do and complimented Lieut.-Col. Cole on having so many officers present from his command. The affairs of the association were in a satisfactory condition, it was continuing to do good work and in this was ably assisted by the Ontario Artillery Association, which was, he considered, entitled to very great credit for the efforts it put forth. He drew attention to the fact that the secretary, which he said constituted a good resume of the association's work since its inception. He hoped that it would be found possible this year to send a detachment to the maneuvers to compete with the members of the National Artillery Association of Great Britain. Owing to the fact that there were not forty members in British Columbia in his twenty-first annual mining report, notes that "the bright anticipations so often indulged in in previous reports upon the district appear to be on the eve of speedy realization. The season has been a happy one, and about the prosperity, and although such activity in mining operations must be attributed mainly to the introduction of outside capital, yet evidences are not wanting to show that in the near future many of the enterprises now opening out must become contributors to the world's gold yield, rather than absorbers of capital." Quartz mining, he notes, may be said to be in its infancy, but he adds: "Mr. S. J. Marsh, who has had some experience in the treatment of Cariboo ores, and whose views thereon may be found in last year's report, secured a bond on the Blisk and Blisk and about the same time obtained a lease of the government reduction works, has, I understand, made arrangements to erect a cyanide plant at Barkerville, which will be in operation next spring. A pleasing contrast presents itself upon turning from the apparent apathy in quartz mining to our far-famed placer mines, the future output of which we felt warranted in saying will exceed the millions produced, which rendered the district famous in the past. "Hydraulic mining is now assuming proportions in the district. Not as carried on in the early days, with the use of canvas hose with small pipe and blower, with perhaps two-inch nozzle and one hundred feet of pressure, but upon a more extensive scale, similar to the works elsewhere described as being in operation at the Cariboo and Horsefly mines. There are now about thirty leases of hydraulic ground held on the Quenselle river, where two years ago there were but five. Recounting a visit to the works of the Cariboo hydraulic company, after describing the "eighteen miles of ditch, upon which a small steamer might run," he says: "Mr. Hobson informs me that it will take two years yet to get fairly opened out, after which he says he will be disappointed if the output does not amount to one million dollars annually! A visit to this mine will well repay anyone interested in hydraulic mining. The Horsefly mine, under the same management, is in some respects even more interesting to old miners who have not had the advantage of witnessing operations carried on by the more modern and scientific principles." Mr. Bowron notes encouraging prospects for creek diggings, and for river dredging, now beginning to assume definite shape. LILLOOET. Gold Commissioner F. Soues, after

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP LEAGUE.

Representatives from most of the Christian Endeavor Societies, Epworth Leagues and temperance organizations in the city met last evening in the First Presbyterian schoolroom, when it was decided to form an association to be known as the Christian Citizenship League of Victoria. The objects of the new organization are, briefly, to make Christian principles operative in public affairs; to prevent by personal effort the nomination or election of corrupt candidates and the enactment of corrupt laws in the City, Province or Dominion; to secure fidelity on the part of officers entrusted with the execution of the laws; to exterminate the saloon; and to purify and elevate the elective franchise. A constitution was submitted and adopted, and a second meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, the 25th instant, for the election of officers.

The U. S. Gov't Reports show Royal Baking Powder superior to all others.

quoting Dr. Dawson's observation that "From the point of view of the gold miner the Fraser may be regarded as a gigantic ground sluice," adds: "Undoubtedly it is, and it is a ground sluice that has never been 'cleaned up,' and in addition, the forces of erosion and denudation, the latter to an enormous extent, have been ceaselessly adding to the golden deposit. I know personally of bars on the Fraser that have been worked every winter and early spring, on the same spots, for the past thirty years, as a rule by the Indians and Chinese, with the primitive rocker and pan. This in itself I think is conclusive evidence that the supply is renewed annually. White miners have in many places, to my knowledge, tried wing-damming in well known rich places, notably Big Bar, spent much money and time; exposed to the extreme cold, with the total result of a sudden rise of the river washing everything away in one night. There is a limit to human perseverance, and the golden treasures of the Fraser and its tributaries will never be obtained by wing-damming. Hydraulic mining and dredging at present are attracting a very great amount of attention. The experience of gold in enormous quantities in the bed of the Fraser river is beyond dispute. The difficulties in the way, as I have endeavored to show, of obtaining that submerged gold are also great. Of the various forms of dredgers and their equally varied claims to merit, I cannot speak, but I think it will be admitted that only the most powerfully constructed machines in every way need attempt the task. EAST KOOTENAY. Gold Commissioner J. F. Armstrong says: "Mineral claims have this year, for the first time, become productive in reality. A large quantity of ore is now awaiting the opening of navigation for shipment to smelters. The demand for means of transportation has resulted in the commencement of the construction of two new steamers and the enlargement of a third to ply on the Kootenay river. There has been a large increase in the number of prospectors in the southern part of the district. Development work has not kept pace with the prospecting, but it is expected the successful working of some of our mines will attract capital, and that next year will show an improvement in this branch of mining. Further on I give particulars of the development of the principal mines in the district. Coal mining has made no progress during the year. Coal is here in enormous quantities, but it must remain unused until the coal fields are reached by railways. The principal beds are in the Crow's Nest Pass, but a promising seam has lately been discovered on the St. Mary's river. The oil fields in the southeastern corner of the district remain undeveloped. I heard that oil indications have been found outside the territory which was previously known to be oil-bearing. TRAIL CREEK. Gold Commissioner N. Fitzstubs gives valuable data as to the operations in each of the several divisions of West Kootenay, but space prevents notice of them at present, except Trail Creek, upon which the reports he presents are particularly timely because they bear upon a matter now before the legislature. He gives the following from Mr. H. C. Jackson: "During the year 1895 the Trail Creek mining division has experienced a most wonderful development. As evidence of this the following facts may be recited: Two thousand mineral claims were recorded at Rossland, making a total of 2,200 live mineral claims in the division on the 31st instant. The population of Rossland and surroundings a year ago was about 300, now it is estimated at possibly 3,000. The value of the ore produced in the subdivision in 1894 was about \$125,000, in 1895 it exceeded \$1,000,000, while in 1896 it is estimated that it will be from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The railways operating in the subdivision in 1894 were the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway and the Columbia & Kootenay railway. Now, at Trail, a narrow gauge railroad is in course of construction for the purpose of connecting that town with the mines at and near Rossland. "A smelter, of a daily capacity of 250 tons, is now completed at Trail, and expects to 'blow in' about the 1st of February, 1896. The War Eagle and the Centre Star companies have announced their intentions of erecting smelters of their own at or near Rossland, which will together have a capacity greatly in excess of that already built at Trail. It is almost certain that two more railroads will be built into Rossland during the coming year—the Red Mountain road, from Northport, Wash., may be one, and another (the Spokane & Northern), and a branch of the C.P.R. from Robson. About forty miners were employed in the shipping mines of Rossland in the winter of 1894-5. About 500 men are now at work in the same localities. During 1874 no properties were being worked except the Le Roi, War Eagle, Josie, Nickel Plate and O. K., all situated within a short distance of the town, except the last named, which is about one and one-half miles west. Throughout 1895, and at the present time, dozens of mines are employing men, ten or fifteen of which can ship ore, if they so desire. These mines lie in all directions from Rossland, and some of them across the Columbia river. Properties outside the immediate vicinity of Rossland are probably employing 200 men at the time." "I am indebted," adds Mr. Fitzstubs, "to the courtesy of Mr. E. H. Wedekind, the superintendent of the Trail smelter, for the subjoined particulars: The British Columbia Smelting and Refining Company decided to build its works at Trail Creek landing on account of its natural advantages. The works were commenced about October 10th, and will be completed about March 1st, 1896. The object of the company's operations is to treat the ores of Red Mountain camp and the surrounding country. The capacity of the works, when completed, will be about 300 tons per diem. The works consist of a sampling mill, ore bins necessary to contain a daily output and reserve capacity of about 2,500 tons." Mrs. Phillip Vigelius, a resident of Quadra street in this city, died very suddenly last evening under circumstances which will necessitate a post mortem examination and inquest, both of which have been ordered for this morning by Dr. Crompton, the district coroner. The deceased was a native of County Limerick, Ireland, and had made Victoria her home for about five years, having at the present time five married daughters also resident in the city. Last evening Mrs. Vigelius and one of her daughters paid several calls to downtown friends, returning home shortly after 9 o'clock, when the mother retired. It was discovered not long after that she had passed away. The cause of death is believed to be heart failure, but it cannot be definitely determined until the report of the post mortem doctor is received.

A YEAR'S MINING WORK

Official Reports Show Bright Anticipations Now About to Be Realized.

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Gold Commissioner Thomas Fletcher thus reports on the Alberni district, of particular interest to Victorians because of its contiguity and the prospect it affords of adding another important industry to those of this rich island of Vancouver: "McLaughlin Range, China Creek and Cowichan-Alberni Road—One hundred and forty-one mineral claims recorded. Active development work is going on in the Mineral Creek group, exposing several veins of free gold, the most noted being the Franklin and Granite Creeks. Thirty-eight mineral claims recorded. The Star of the West group of mines is the most noted, the work done exposing several veins of quartz, averaging \$25 per ton on test. Coleman and Chesnut Creeks (Alberni-Cowichan)—Twenty-seven mineral claims recorded. Work exposes masses of crushed quartz, mixed with cement; low grades; average mill test, \$8 per ton; on deep water the Copper Island and the Star of the West—Fourteen mineral claims reported. Work done exposes several rich veins with a high percentage of gold. Active development now going on; also on deep water. Sechart Channel, Barclay Sound—Eleven mineral claims recorded. Large bodies of iron have been discovered; also quartz carrying gold in paying quantities; on deep water. In other parts of the district there are 32 mineral claims recorded, on Sprout Lake and Cans Creek, on the opposite side of Alberni Canal from China Creek, showing that the gold range extends in that direction. Mr. Sutton's exhaustive report on Alberni district, already published, is appended.

DOMINION ARTILLERY.

At the annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association at Ottawa last week, Lieut.-Col. Prior delivered an interesting address as President. He said he had occasion last year in his opening remarks to express regret for the small representation of members of the Dominion Artillery Association at the meeting held, however, that this was unnecessary to do and complimented Lieut.-Col. Cole on having so many officers present from his command. The affairs of the association were in a satisfactory condition, it was continuing to do good work and in this was ably assisted by the Ontario Artillery Association, which was, he considered, entitled to very great credit for the efforts it put forth. He drew attention to the fact that the secretary, which he said constituted a good resume of the association's work since its inception. He hoped that it would be found possible this year to send a detachment to the maneuvers to compete with the members of the National Artillery Association of Great Britain. Owing to the fact that there were not forty members in British Columbia in his twenty-first annual mining report, notes that "the bright anticipations so often indulged in in previous reports upon the district appear to be on the eve of speedy realization. The season has been a happy one, and about the prosperity, and although such activity in mining operations must be attributed mainly to the introduction of outside capital, yet evidences are not wanting to show that in the near future many of the enterprises now opening out must become contributors to the world's gold yield, rather than absorbers of capital." Quartz mining, he notes, may be said to be in its infancy, but he adds: "Mr. S. J. Marsh, who has had some experience in the treatment of Cariboo ores, and whose views thereon may be found in last year's report, secured a bond on the Blisk and Blisk and about the same time obtained a lease of the government reduction works, has, I understand, made arrangements to erect a cyanide plant at Barkerville, which will be in operation next spring. A pleasing contrast presents itself upon turning from the apparent apathy in quartz mining to our far-famed placer mines, the future output of which we felt warranted in saying will exceed the millions produced, which rendered the district famous in the past. "Hydraulic mining is now assuming proportions in the district. Not as carried on in the early days, with the use of canvas hose with small pipe and blower, with perhaps two-inch nozzle and one hundred feet of pressure, but upon a more extensive scale, similar to the works elsewhere described as being in operation at the Cariboo and Horsefly mines. There are now about thirty leases of hydraulic ground held on the Quenselle river, where two years ago there were but five. Recounting a visit to the works of the Cariboo hydraulic company, after describing the "eighteen miles of ditch, upon which a small steamer might run," he says: "Mr. Hobson informs me that it will take two years yet to get fairly opened out, after which he says he will be disappointed if the output does not amount to one million dollars annually! A visit to this mine will well repay anyone interested in hydraulic mining. The Horsefly mine, under the same management, is in some respects even more interesting to old miners who have not had the advantage of witnessing operations carried on by the more modern and scientific principles." Mr. Bowron notes encouraging prospects for creek diggings, and for river dredging, now beginning to assume definite shape. LILLOOET. Gold Commissioner F. Soues, after

TAX ON MINING OUTPUT

Mr. J. C. Eaton Thinks Three Dollars Not Sufficient Allowance For Working.