

The Colonist.

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W. H. KILBY.

THE DAILY COLONIST.

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VANCOUVER.

Branch Office of The Colonist, 627 Hastings

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WAYS—NOT MOUNTED ON WOOD.

READY IF NEED BE.

Does Great Britain propose to call a

halt to Russia in the Far East?

Yesterday's dispatch will bear such

an interpretation. The way things are

shaping in China they look as though

if action of some kind is not taken

soon it will be everlasting too late.

To think of war with Russia is a very

serious matter; but between such an

issue and the maintenance of the national

honor no true Briton will hesitate

for a single instant. While the collision,

if it comes, may be tremendous, we are

as yet unable to discover in what point

the British Empire is vulnerable to an

attack from Russia. At the same time

we should be sorry to see a war precipi-

tated. Of this however, we may feel

certain, namely that if blows must be

exchanged, the result will be that the

Anglo-Saxon will get his feet firmly

planted as last on the eastern coast of

Asia and be ready to continue his

world-encircling western march.

THE CRISIS AT HAND.

The governments of the United States

and Spain stand fairly at issue on the

question of the responsibility for the

loss of the Maine. The reports of the

two courts of inquiry are diametrically

opposed to each other, and neither gov-

ernment seems disposed to yield in the

slightest degree. Diplomacy has vast

resources, but one can hardly see how

it can discover any way out of this dead-

lock. If the United States' report was

accepted by Spain, that country's respo-

nsibility in the premises would be un-

questionable, and all that would remain

to be done would be to discover how

that responsibility can be discharged.

But Spain refuses to admit that any

guilt rests, even indirectly, upon her

shoulders, and consequently cannot con-

sent to discuss the subject of indemnity

upon any terms whatever.

It does not follow that war must arise

out of this, for the two nations might,

if they so desired, allow the matter to

rest. The question must always re-

main an open one. The report of the

United States officers is only a matter

of opinion at the best. We are not in

possession of the text of the report, but

the very nature of the affair precludes

the possibility of the decision being any-

thing more than a conclusion reached

from available facts. Whether the facts

warrant it must always in a certain de-

gree be open to suspicion and if the

feeling of the people of the United

States could be eliminated from the case,

the two governments might agree to

let the matter remain an unsettled prob-

lem. But we do not expect that the

people of that country will acquiesce

in any such course. We do not believe

the people of Great Britain would do so,

if they were similarly situated. There

is likely to be an outburst of public in-

dignation, which will find expression in

Congress and compel the President to

assent to a declaration of war, if it is

not otherwise precipitated.

But even if the United States proves

to be capable of restraining itself in

this crisis, the effect will be that little

avail for the determination of the Presi-

dent to intervene in the affairs of Cuba

will lead to hostilities, unless, indeed,

Spain is ready to do what there is not

the least reason to expect she will do.

Up to now not a single word has been ut-

tered in the Spanish kingdom, as far as

is known, favourable to giving up Cuba,

and this being the case, it seems to mat-

ter very little what shall be the cause

for the beginning of hostilities. Our

own view of the case is that the Presi-

dent, feeling that war must come and

being unwilling to precipitate it upon a

question of evidence, is preparing to

take such a step in regard to Cuba as

will bring affairs to an issue without

delay. He will assert the right of the

United States to act in the name of hu-

manity, allowing the Maine incident to

drop out of sight; Spain will resist and

war will follow.

THE RAILWAY MUST BE BUILT.

We shall greatly regret the result if the Senate postpones the carrying out of the contract for the Stikine-Teslin railway. As we have already said, the details of the contract might be open to criticism, but the emergency is so great and so much will be lost if the railway is not built at once that we were prepared to accept the proposition as the best that could be obtained.

It is said that Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann will go on with the construction of the railway, in which event the Coast cities and Canada as a whole will not suffer from the course which the Senate seems likely to take. If this is not the case, then it is the duty of the federal and provincial governments to take steps to have the road built without a day's unnecessary delay.

More than ever it is necessary to have a railway across this piece of country. We may expect a rush north soon in comparison with which everything so far will sink into insignificance. The railway must be built.

AN OFFICE PROSTITUTED.

The extremely interesting letter from Bert Collyer, which we print this morning, discloses a very extraordinary state of things at Skagway, where the United States customs officer is acting hand in glove with a customs broker, greatly to the detriment of persons having Canadian outifts. If our correspondent did not explicitly say that Collector Ivey, who has control of the district, had given the Skagway broker the proper instructions, we would not have supposed that the latter would have the hardihood to take such a course as he has. We are not prepared to think that his conduct will be endorsed at Washington, and until it is, do not feel like commenting upon the case any more than is necessary to call attention to what at present appears to be simply a vexatious piece of business on the part of the subordinate official, who is unfortunately a long distance from his superiors.

CATHERINE DE MEDICI.

The Huguenot movement in France, which in one way or another has had as profound an effect upon the history of Europe as any other influence, though religious in its inception, was in later days chiefly political, and to understand it properly and to judge correctly of the character of those who either led or opposed it, we must bear this fact in mind. When, therefore, we attempt to form an estimate of Catherine de Medici, at whose instigation the terrible massacre of St. Bartholomew was perpetrated, we must keep in mind that she was not a religious enthusiast, who believed she was doing the work of God by extirpating heretics, but a cruel, conscienceless woman, to whom no means were too wicked, so that they served her political purposes.

The Huguenots were French Calvinist Protestants. Their code of morals was strict and their manner of life, as a rule, of the highest order. To understand properly not only this great breach in the ranks of the Roman Catholic church but also the Reformation in Germany led by Luther, the political condition of Europe must be taken into account. The last of the crusade came to a close in 1272, and witnessed the shattering of the feudal system, which for centuries had been the dominant factor of European governments. During the next two centuries in France and Germany there was scarcely a semblance of popular liberty, in striking contrast to the conditions existing in the Italian republics. The great religious movement of the fifteenth century was as much a revolt against the absolute rule of the Kings as against the Papal authority. In France it took a decidedly republican turn, which is not surprising when we remember that in that country there were many descendants of the Romans, who were undoubtedly the greatest self-governing race of antiquity. The nobility of France saw in the Huguenot movement an opportunity to extend their own power and curb that of the sovereign, so that we find them espousing the cause of the Reformation, as they are sometimes called, in such great numbers that, as one writer says, while only one-thirtieth part of the populace were Huguenots, one-third of the noblesse adopted that faith.

It was not long before the supporters of the new religion found themselves called upon to take up arms in defence of their rights of worshiping according to the dictates of their own consciences, and in a very short time they were in the thick of the fight between the factions that were contending for the throne of France. The King of that country was Henry II, who is memorable in the history of our own country because it was during his reign that Calais was taken from the English and thus the last remnant of the domain England on the continent of Europe was lost. Henry's wife was the woman, whose name is at the head of this article. She was descended from the celebrated Florentine family of Medici, which was illustrious for more than two centuries and, among other distinguished representatives, numbered Pope Leo X, during whose pontificate the Reformation of Luther began—he was a man of more than ordinary aggressiveness—Pope Clement VII, who occupied the papal chair when Henry VIII was king of England, and Pope Leo, who died in 1605. When only thirteen years of age Catherine was married to the Duke of Orleans, son of Francis I of France, and afterwards Henry II. She was a woman of remarkable ability, but apparently utterly without conscience. Her husband died when she was forty years of age, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

Francis II. It seems inconceivable, but is undoubtedly true that this human mother, having tasted power during the reign of her husband, became so infatuated with it that she purposely instigated her sons to do manner of vices in order to unfit them for the task of governing, hoping thereby to retain power in her own hands. Her eldest son, who married Mary Queen of Scots, survived that union only two years, and his accession to the throne a little more than one. On his death his brother, Charles IX, succeeded to the crown, being then ten years of age. His mother was made regent during his minority and thus achieved her ambition to rule France. She attempted to do it with a rod of iron. The Duke of Lorraine, head of the family of Guise, sought to overthrow her, and she to strengthen her position granted concessions to the Huguenots, who flocked to her standard and did splendid service on her behalf. As a proof of her gratitude to them she caused her daughter to marry Henry of Navarre at that time the head of the Huguenot party. But this only masked her real designs. The Huguenots had aided her in making her own power secure from the rivalry of the Guises, but they themselves, by reason of their intense love of personal freedom, were obstacles to her ambition to establish in France an absolute sovereignty.

Charles IX had been declared of age, but his mind, infected by excesses, was unable to cope with the keen, remorseless intellect of his mother. When the brave Huguenot leader, Admiral Coligny, was shot down from the windows of the palace, doubtless by order of Catherine, the King rushed to his bedside and, embracing him, promised to avenge the dastardly deed. Two days later we find him acceding to the demands of his mother and ordering the tragedy of St. Bartholomew, which was inaugurated by the murder of Coligny, whose body was hurled from the palace windows to the mob, who kicked and mutilated it beyond the semblance of humanity. It is not necessary to give details of the massacre which followed, the King standing at a window and nearly 20,000 Huguenots were slain on that day and during the following weeks in Paris and the provinces. Unquestionably religious frenzy on the part of the adherents of the Queen added to the terror of the occasion; but there is no doubt that its cause lay in the determination of Catherine to crush at one blow, if she could, the great movement for political liberty then in progress in France. That the extinction of religious liberty would have followed if the slaughter had been as complete as she hoped, was an incident of the tragedy rather than the cause of it.

Catherine survived this dreadful day seventeen years, and was engaged in all manner of intrigues and excesses. There is no manner of doubt that she was responsible for the death of her youngest son. She died at the age of seventy, having outlived her influence and was taken to the grave unmourned and unburied by even a single one of her associates. Her character stands out in the strongest contrast that that matchless flower of the pagan world, Hypatia, whose career was sketched in these columns last Sunday. There has been a great disposition to lay the responsibility of Catherine's monstrous life upon the shoulders of the Roman Catholic church, but we think unjustly. She was the incarnation of medieval cruelty and wickedness, coming some what late upon the scene, but in time to win for herself the reputation of being the worst woman in history.

Speaking of the appropriations for public work, the Inland Sentinel says: "A large amount on the eve of a public election is significant. So we think. It would likewise be significant at any time. It signifies that the government appreciates the needs of the province. We are to understand the Sentinel to object to the amount because there is an election to be held this year?"

The death of L. B. Hamlin on the Klondike from freezing is sad news indeed. Only a few days ago the Colonist printed his report on the Hootalinqua, and last week his instructions formed the subject of an inquiry in the legislature. In him the province loses an efficient officer.

What a rush there will be to the country around Lake Teslin if the discoveries on the Walsh and Salmon rivers prove as rich as reported. Not only will that part of the Yukon valley be filled with prospectors, but all the region to the southeast will be swarmed over by men in search of gold. The Stikine will be alive with traffic.

We are glad to see the Toronto World making a protest against the growing practice of magnifying the dangers attendant on navigation in northern coast waters. Of course the sea has its perils everywhere; but it is unfair to charge on Father Neptune the disasters due to reckless ship owners and incompetent masters.

The decision of the joint committee of the United States senate and house of representatives, to extend to Canadians the same rights in the mines of Alaska as are granted by Canada to citizens of the United States in the mines in the Yukon, is a friendly act gracefully done, and doubly welcome because it indicates the dawn of a period of better relations between the two countries.

The latest division of the Ontario legislature is as follows: Liberals 40, Conservatives 43, Patrons 1. This would seem to render Mr. Hedy's government safe for the present, but another such victory and he will be undone.

Nine dollars to the pan! That's pretty good gravel even for the Golden North. This is the record of Swedish Gulch.

We hope the plans for a provincial exhibition at New Westminster next fall will be taken in hand early by those responsible for their success and that hearty co-operation will be extended from all parts of the Province. A good representative exhibition of British Columbia products of all kinds would be very valuable in view of the growing importance of the trade with the mining districts.

Referring again to the case of Craemer, mentioned in yesterday's Colonist as one having a local interest, we may state that the governor of the State of Washington, at almost the last moment, commuted the death penalty to imprisonment for life. This is one of the most extraordinary cases in the annals of criminal jurisprudence, and there is some reason to believe that evidence against the accused was worked up for political purposes.

During the last three years Spain has sent 200,000 soldiers to Cuba and has spent \$280,000,000 in a vain attempt to suppress the rebellion. This is the second Cuban revolt in thirty years. The former began in 1895 and lasted until 1872. It is said that 13,000 rebels fell in battle and that 43,000 were executed. What the "butcher's bill" for the present rebellion is can hardly be calculated, but it reaches to tens of thousands. Surely it is time to ring down the curtain of this awful tragedy.

The highest court in the State of New York has decided that where a minor buys a bicycle on the installment plan he may take it back at any time and recover his money, and that the vendor cannot make any claim for damages done to the wheel. The principle upon which the case goes is that minors must be protected by the courts, and the same rule would probably hold good in Canada.

The latest advice from Dawson City indicates that the output of gold is likely to be very large. There is no longer the least room for doubt as to the greatness and permanency of the Yukon gold fields, while each batch of news received extends the limits of the known auriferous territory.

Where did the Inland Sentinel get its information about six thousand men waiting in Victoria and Vancouver for a chance to go north. If a certain ambitious young man is counting his prospective votes by the same process as he enumerates these waiting pilgrims, he will be badly astray in his calculations when the general elections are over.

The Grand Forks Miner is much impressed by the fact that the British Columbia legislature, largely Conservative, has chosen a Liberal for speaker. The explanation is that the British Columbia legislature, as such, is neither Liberal nor Conservative.

The Boston Herald thinks it great nonsense for Canada and the United States to put heavy duties on each other's bituminous coal. We are very sure that British Columbia would not raise the least objection to seeing free trade in coal inaugurated between the two countries.

Mr. Hamilton Smith says that the Stikine river is closed seven months each year by ice. Mr. J. C. Calbraith, who has lived nearly a quarter of a century at Telegraph Creek, says the river closes in the latter part of November and opens between April 20 and May 1st. Which of them ought to know best.

We are in receipt of two letters in regard to the proposed Farmers' Institute in the Victoria district. The matter will be investigated before the letters are published. We think this is the proper course to take; because our correspondents do not care to have the letters appear over their own signatures.

The gratifying news comes from Wrangell that the trail up the Stikine is open and that hundreds of people are on their way up. Thus is demonstrated the possibility of winter travel on the river in normal seasons.

The report that Japan has asked Russia to abandon Port Arthur is very probable. We may feel very sure that the Marquis Ito will not permit China to be sat upon too hardly by the great northern power.

The Charlton bill to compel the employees of the British Columbia morning papers to work on Sunday has been defeated.

Mr. Frank H. Eaton presents some extremely interesting figures concerning the cost of education in British Columbia. They will open the eyes of many people.

That relief expedition, which was intended for Klondike, might be switched off to Cuba.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Miss Willison—How is it, Colonel, that you have no medals? All the other officers in your regiment have lots of them. Colonel Copeton—Well, you see, I do belong to any bicycle club, and never made a century run in my life.—Chicago News.

"Yes," said the man with the heavy gold watch chain, "he didn't get along in life."

"To what do you attribute the difference in your careers?" "He wasted his time building castles in the air, while I went ahead and planned maps of boom towns."—Washington Star.

"Woman," remarked the extra halpin, "don't keep secret anything she is told."

"Begging your pardon," returned the mirror, "but she does not confide elsewhere than which I tell her."—Minneapolis Journal.

"What do you consider the greatest mistake of your life?" asked the chairman of the committee of women that was looking into the conditions existing in the penitentiary.

"Giving up good cash to a poor lawyer," bitterly replied the convict, who had just been "sent down."—Chicago Post.

Willing to Experiment—He—Do you believe that germs can be transmitted by kissing? She—I don't know; but I'm very fond of scientific experiments.—Detroit Free Press.

Those Girls—"Young Mr. Tizzen called on me last week," said Maud. "Did he?" replied Mamie. "He told me he was going to reserve all disagreeable duties for Lent."—Washington Star.

Not So Very Quiet—Mrs. A.—I think your husband is a very quiet dresser. Mrs. B.—I'm not. You might change your opinion if you heard him looking for his clothes some mornings.—Browning, King & Co's Monthly.

The Age of Candour.—The age of candour is now come. "Believe me, sir," exclaimed the fortune hunter, ardently, "I was drawn to you from the moment we first met. Be, oh, be my father-in-law!" "Really," faltered the millionaire, casting his eyes slowly down, "you must ask my daughter."—Detroit Journal.

Wary Searcher (looking for board)—I hope, madam, you do not object to children?

Boarding House Keeper—Oh, not in the least; I have nine myself.

Wary Searcher (looking for board)—Um—If I decide to take the rooms I will send you a postal card. Good day.—Tit-Bits.

Perry Pattotic—I wonder how one of them fellers that has a steady job and works every day feels?

Wayworn Watson—You better not let your thinker run on them ideas. First thing you know you may go wrong.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"No," said Adam, as Eve made the first attempt at reconciliation after the fall, "you needn't try to get on the right side of me again."

He instinctively clutched at the region of his floating rib!—New York Press.

"Yes," that, is a pretty good bicycle joke, but—

"Well, what?"

It has made quite a number of century runs.—Philadelphia North American.

"What is a figure of speech, Uncle George?"

"Well, it is a 90-pound young man asking a 200-pound girl to fly with him."—Chicago Record.

Tuffton—If you ever call me a liar again I'll shoot you like a dog.

Bluffton—You will, eh? By the way, how does a dog shoot?—Chicago News.

Another Question—"He has a bright future ahead of him."

"But do you think he'll ever catch up with it?"—Fuck.

AFTER LIFE'S FITFUL FEVER.

The Remains of the Late Jas. Hutchison Are With Sorrow Consigned to Their Last Resting Place.

The funeral of the late James Hutchison who died at Toronto, Ont., over a week ago, took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence, 38 Victoria Crescent. An impressive burial service was conducted in St. Andrew's church with music specially arranged for the occasion. Rev. W. Leslie Clay, assisted by Rev. D. MacRae, performed the last sad rites, and Mr. Herbert A. Tiedemann, of Chicago, accompanied by Mr. J. G. Burnett at the organ sang with much feeling "The Sands of Time are Sinking." The choir rendered "Jesu, my happy Home" and "Asleep in Jesus." The organ music was Processional, Beethoven's "March Funebre," recessional, Handel's "Dead March in Saul." A number of beautiful floral wreaths, expressive of the