THE COAL MINES DISASTER.

The character and extent of the disaster which has befallen the workers in the coal mines in the neighboring territory of Alberta is as yet unknown. There is grave reason to fear, however, that another awful calamity must be added to the all too long list of catastrophes in connection with western coal mines.

It is extremely improbable that volcanic forces or fires had anything to do with the disaster. That report was perhaps the first natural hasty conclusion of those who were without warning confronted with the result of the awful convulsion of nature. It was simply a case of an overwhelming mass of rock and earth sliding down the moutnain side and burying everything in its path. There is no hope, apparently, of anything that breathed the breath of life being rescued from beneath that tremendous avalanche of earth. The tunnels of the mines are sealed and converted into tombs.

The sympathies of a continent will be aroused on behalf of the dependents of the dead. All that can be done to relieve the distress of the sufferers will be done by the governments of Canada, federal and provincial. That is all it is possible for man to do. The rest must be left to Time.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CONFEDERATION.

Now we are told that from the point of view of the mere materialist British Columbia would have been vastly better off to-day if she had not joined the Canadian federation. We should have had better means of transportation. The railway systems of the south were anxious to get a foothold here, and would have been at our service but for the tyrannical attitude of the C. P. R., which desired to maintain for itself a complete monopoly of the country.

If these things are true, the question is, who is responsible for them? Why should the mere fact of British Columbia becoming a portion of the Dominion have altered for the worse our transportation relations with the United States railway systems? Is it not a fact that one of he srongest companies operating on the American side of the line has been trying for years to gain access to this country and that every obstacle possible has been put in its way by successive governments of this province? The excuse for this hostility was that the Great Northern desired to come in here and garner the wealth of the country for the benefit of foreign concerns and alien peoples.

The newspaper that is to-day bewailing these conditions has invariably supported the governments which maintained them, and it endeavors at the eleventh hour to place the entire responsibility for the situation upon the terms of union or upon the manner in which the terms of union have been interpreted. It complains of the manner in which the tariff affects us, and yet day in and day out it pleads for higher duties and greater restrictions. Its position is so utterly illogical, so thoroughly inconsistent, that if it were not for its apparent belief in the universality of its knowledge and the infallibility of its judgment it would at once perceive the foolishness of its arguments. The Colonist's opinion is that protection is such a good thing, such a perfect remedy for the ills that afflict commercial and industrial life, the more we get of it the better for the country in general, or any section of it, no matter what our geographical position may be.

If the contention of our contemporary in regard to economic matters are founded upon reason, common sense and the facts of experience, improved relations between British Columbia and the United States instead of federation with Canada would have been a grievous calamity for this province. Americans would have swarmed over here like an army of ants and picked us to the bones, leaving nothing but a rattling skeleton behind. If restriction is such a good thing, obviously we cannot have too much of it. But we are afraid there must be limits to the circle within which isolation is profitable to a people. If there are not it would obviously be a good policy for the world to divide itself up into the smallest sections practicable and hermetically seal itself within impenetrable tariff walls. The world is not doing that. Every nation in it is endeavoring to extend its boundaries. That fact proves that trade is profitable and desirable. The disturbing factor in the situation is that politicians in many countries are frying to upset natural conditions and gather to themselves advantages they would not possess under ordinary circumstances.

It appears to us that the present government of Canada has struck the happy mean upon this abstrue matter. The circumstances of the country seem to prove this. There is not a more prosperous people in the world. An increase of taxation such as is advocated by the Conservative party would assuredly extract more dollars out of the pockets of the people of British Columbia and transfer them to the national treasury or to the wallets of the wholesale dealers and manufacturers of the East. There is no gainsaying that self-evident fact. Neither is there any use in attempting to deny that such a course would seriously affect the vital commercial forces of British Columbia. It is all very well to indulge in nebulous statements and expound extravagant theories, but "facts are chiels that winna dang." They are all the more stubborn when supported by experience. The discontent of British Columbia with the terms of union was created by the adoption of the National Policy, with its unreasonable restrictions upon trade. The dissatisfaction under the Mackenzie regime was not because of alleged excessive contributions to the federal treasury, but on account of the deliberate manner in which it was proposed to construct the connecting link of confederation, the Canadian Pacific Railway. The credit of Canada was not as high then as it is to-day. The line was being pushed through as a government work. In the light of experience perhaps it would have been better to have taken a few years longer and retained the principle of government ownership.

DOING GOOD WORK.

Victoria merchants and Victoria people in all lines of business, politics alone excepted, have been too much in the habit of sitting down and waiting for things to happen or for trade to come their way. They are said to have lost something by this superior attitude. While sitting in placidity and contentment the aggressive business men of Vancouver and other rising centres are reported to have occasionally got in ahead of them. We know nothing of these things ourselves, of course, but we have met people who asserted that they were so.

Our Chamber of Commerce is young and is endowed with the aggressiveness and enterprise of youth. By and bye, perhaps, climate and surroundings will exercise the usual effect, the Chamber will lapse into slumberous languor and sweet content, believing that whatever is is right and seemly. But in the meantime the spirit which delights in doing things dominates this new body. It cannot rest until it has accomplished something for the resuscitation and reanimation of the body that has brought Victoria thus far on the journey of commercial and industrial life and appears disposed now to regard its duty as at end. But as eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, in these days of fierce competition eternal activity is practically the source of commercial life.

The Chamber of Commerce has accomplished one commendable purpose already, although it may be said but to have entered upon its career. It has brought a large portion of the wholesale and retail business men and manufacturers of the city together and apparently permanently united them for a common purpose. The strong plank of the programme of this body at the present time is to impress the consuming portion of the community with the merits of local products. At the same time producers are being advised of the necessity of placing their goods upon the market in attractive form and at rates which will admit of effective competition with the productions of other places. We have heard it asserted that dealers here give California and Oregon fruit preference over the native article, which in many cases is allowed to rot upon the trees, although it must be much more wholesome and palatable than that which is picked green and brought to unnatural maturity. Such a state of affairs must be the result of lack of cooperation or a suitable medium of communication between producer and consumer. The Chamber of Commerce purposes to put an end to such conditions. It is endeavoring to convince the people of Vancouver Island that home products are the best. There is little reason to doubt that its efforts to divert the streams of trade into legitimate channels will be successful if enthusiasm and persistency are as potent as ever.

As an indispensable auxiliary to this work of advertising and pushing home industries it is intended to establish a permanent exhibition of local manufactures. This is a very ambitious project, and without very cordial support from the community can scarcely be expected to be successful. The idea is to make the proposed institution a sort of school for the propagation of local patriotism. Then school children will be invited to visit the factories and observe for themselves the processes by which the perfect articles are prepared.

Mr. J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, informs us that a sale of 300 head of pure bred Shorthorns, Herefords, Aberdeen, Angus, Galloways, Holstein, Friesians and Ayrshires is to take place at the spring show of pure bred cattle at Calgary on May 13th and 14th, under the auspices of the Territorial Pure Bred Cattle Breeders' Association. This will be a grand opportunity for our breeders to supply themselves with acclimatized range and other bulls. It is announced that all animals purchased will be delivered for $2 per head to purchaser's nearest railway station in the Territories west of Moose Jaw, and to points in British Columbia and east of Moose Jaw at proportionate cost. Mr. Anderson will be pleased to furnish any further information in his power.

* * *

Sir Oliver Mowat: I hope that when another century has been added to the age of Canada it may still be Canada, and that its second century shall, like the first, be celebrated by Canadians, unabsorbed, numerous, prosperous, powerful, and at peace. For myself, I prefer to die in that hope rather than to die President of the United States.

COMMUNICATIONS.

GRAHAM ISLAND RESERVE.

To the Editor:—Graham island, one of the Queen Charlotte group, is one of the most valuable portions of British Columbia. It contains some of the best timber in the world. It has extensive deposits of coal and there are indications of petroleum. Some of the coal is in the hands of private owners. There is a good deal of land fit for cultivation. The climate is very much better than that of the Mainland in the same latitude. The island is said to be well mineralized. A person on being told these facts would naturally ask why some development is not in progress there and why the white population consists of two missionaries and two other families. On nearly every other part of the coast there are signs of progress and on the Alaskan islands a very great deal is being done. Graham island remains, however, in a state of nature; no prospectors go there; no one thinks it worth while to examine into its great timber resources. The explanation is to be found in the Gazette. On February 7th, 1901, the government published a notice declaring that the crown lands on the island were reserved until further notice, and from that day to this they have continued under reserve. It was understood at the time that this reserve was put on with the view of keeping the public off the lands so that they could be given as a bonus to some people who want to build a railway from the coast to some coal mines owned by them in the interior.

I would very much like to prospect the island for petroleum. In fact I came here for that purpose, only to learn after getting here that the island is reserved. I find by reference to the law that I am not stopped from prospecting for coal or petroleum on the island by the reserve, but I can do so only under such regulations and restrictions as the government see fit to impose. As an old time resident of British Columbia I would like to know why I have not the same right to look for petroleum on Graham island as I have on Vancouver island. Why is it that I have to ask permission to go there and develop the resources of this part of the province? Why must I be content to put up with different treatment there to what would be extended to me if I went somewhere else? In whose interest has this difference been established, and what have such persons done to have it established? Is it true, as I have heard it said, that certain parties had sufficient influence with the government in 1901 to get this reserve put on to leave them free to work out their plan to get a gift of the island in consideration that they will build a railway on it to develop the property after it is given to them? If this is the case, I submit that the offer should be open to public competition.

PROSPECTOR.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor:—In your interesting reference of yesterday to the Columbia & Western railway land grant you quote some persons as having expressed views, which, to say the least, are novel. One of the ideas advanced is to the effect that if the Lieutenant-Governor refuses his assent to bill No. 16, Col. Prior can go to the country upon it, after having secured supply. It is certainly a very extraordinary suggestion that a Premier can appeal to the people against the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor. If the latter refuses to assent to the bill and Col. Prior does not feel able to assume the responsibility of such refusal, the only thing for him to do is to resign and permit His Honor to find, if he can, a minister who will do so. It is inconceivable under our institutions that a minister shall go on advising the crown after the latter has refused to accept his advice upon a grave public question. If the Lieutenant-Governor sees fit to place himself in opposition to the wishes of the legislature and refuse to assent to a bill which his ministers have carried through the House, there is absolutely only one of two courses open to the ministry, namely, either to yield to his wishes and justify his action to the House, or to tender their resignations. I know it is alleged by some that the Lieutenant-Governor is an integral part of the legislative machinery, and may assent to or dissent from bills without consulting his advisers, but there is no warrant for such a contention, which, if correct, would entirely annul the fundamental maxim of our system of government, "The King can do no wrong."

The Lieutenant-Governor cannot carry on the affairs of this province without ministers, and if he cannot find ministers who will accept the responsibility of his acts and justify them to the legislature, he must either yield his opinions or resign his office. When a bill deals with a matter of Federal or Imperial interests the Lieutenant-Governor may reserve it for the consideration of the Governor-General, and I do not say that such a reservation would call for the resignation of the ministry, for he is a Federal officer and as such responsible to a certain extent to the Federal authority. Hence the reservation by Lieut.-Governor Dewdney of the anti-Mongolian bill did not call for the resignation of Mr. Turner. But where a measure comes undoubtedly within the purview of the local House and is brought down by his ministers, a refusal to assent to it is such an act that the ministers must either withdraw from their position or resign. It is inconceivable that the Lieut.-Governor would grant his First Minister a dissolution on such a question.

You also quote some people as saying that cases are cited during the reign of Queen Victoria when the sovereign refused to assent to bills against the advice of her ministry, and yet the latter retained office. I think such persons will find it exceedingly difficult to say what these cases were. The last case that I have been able to find where the assent of the crown was withheld from a ministerial measure in England was during the reign of Queen Anne, when the principles of parliamentary government and ministerial responsibility were not well settled.

CONSTITUTION.

C. H. McIsaac, of Portland, is expected in this city in a short time. He is coming here to interview the British Columbia government with respect to preparing a complete exhibit and taking part in the Lewis and Clark Centennial exhibition to be held at Portland.

HOSPITAL BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING

DIRECTORS DISCUSS IMPORTANT MATTER

Prepared to Take Over Isolation Hospital, If It Does Not Interfere With Progress of the Jubilee.

The special meeting of the board of directors of the Royal Jubilee hospital which was held for the purpose of discussing the question of the board taking the isolation hospital off the hands of the city, was well attended last night. There were present at the meeting Messrs. R. S. Day, chairman; J. Davies, Alex. Wilson, Wm. Humphreys, Thos. Shotbolt, Jas. Forman, E. A. Lewis, Dr. Hasell and Secretary Elworthy.

The chairman called the meeting to order sharp on 8 o'clock and the business was entered into immediately. This consisted of the report submitted by Mr. Davies, of the house committee, at the previous general meeting, and which has already been published.

Nearly every clause in this report was approved of by the members. After a short discussion it was decided that the directors should take over the isolation hospital, if it was found not detrimental to the Jubilee.

There was a long discussion on the clause referring to the fees to be charged to patients. The clause, which read as follows, was changed: "That as to fees, none could be charged, as treatment in the isolation hospital was for the protection of the public; and no charge should be made." It was thought by a number of the members that no one should be charged for treatment excepting those who desired special wards and their own nurses, and these should be charged accordingly. The following was then approved: "That as to the fees, none shall be charged for treatment in the public wards of the isolation hospital."

It was decided that the city be asked to undertake the following:

(a) Alter and repair the present buildings to meet the requirements of the directors, especially does this refer to the administration building.

(b) Build additional cottages if found necessary.

(c) To provide better and more suitable heating facilities.

(d) To provide a septic tank system or sewerage sufficient for both institutions. It was decided that the resident medical officer and staff of the Jubilee hospital should under no circumstances enter the isolation hospital premises except when nurses are detailed there for duty, in which cases the usual precautionary measures be taken before returning to the Jubilee.

The board was requested by the city council to make a per diem rate. This rate for 1902 was $4.55 per patient; the board thought that they could run the hospital at the rate of $3.50 per patient. It was moved by Mr. Forman and seconded by Mr. Lewis that the board make the rate $3.50 per patient per day for one year, and that the board reserve the right to change this rate at the expiration of this time. It is thought by the board that they could at least save the city $2,000 a year if they had the management of this hospital.

The clause, which read that the resident medical officer and staff of the Jubilee hospital should under no circumstances enter the isolation hospital premises except when nurses are detailed there on duty, in which cases the usual precautionary measures be taken before returning to the Jubilee, was discussed at length and finally approved.

Dr. Hasell stated that in his opinion if they wished to retain the reputation of ranking among the first surgical hospitals on the coast, they should have nothing whatever to do with infectious diseases.

The clause referring to the providing of nurses for the isolation hospital and lodgement, etc., was put aside for future discussion. It was decided that the secretary write to the city council and request the Mayor and aldermen to meet the board at an early date to discuss the question.

A communication was received from the Women's Auxiliary asking if the board could meet the auxiliary at 4.30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon next. The meeting then adjourned.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

Reports of Secretary and Visitor Were Submitted—General Business.

The secretary of the Women's Auxiliary, Provincial Jubilee hospital, presented the following report at a meeting of the organization held yesterday afternoon:

Madame President, Ladies:—The routine work of this society continues with unabated interest, though there is little beyond this to report. The work undertaken during Lent, comprising pillow cases, pneumonia jackets, towels and night dresses, was duly accomplished, and at Easter kind remembrances were sent to the hospital in the shape of flowers, pot plants, and fruits by Mrs. W. W. B. McInnes, Mrs. Rocke Robertson, Mrs. Robin Dunsmuir, Major Dupont, and Mr. Francis and the Daughters of Pity. The Sunday concerts promoted by the latter society are giving great pleasure to the patients and staff, and the response in aid of these from musical friends has been most generous and unanimous. A donation from Dr. Duncan, of Ymir, of another $25 on the part of his daughter, Jeannette, has been received towards our fund for the children's ward, and acknowledged with thanks. Your patronage and interest is asked towards the proposed entertainments to be given by the Daughters of Pity at the Victoria theatre, May 26th, 27th and 30th, towards the furnishing of the children's ward. Contributions of flowers will be gratefully received at the hospital on Wednesday, the 29th, or early on Thursday morning.

B. H. HASELL.

The report of the visitor was as follows:

Madame President and Ladies:—We visited the hospital, as requested, on Thursday last, and found everything going on as usual. The patients were all as comfortable as it was possible to be under the circumstances, and everything was clean and neat. Miss McDonald asked for eight dozen table naqkins and four dozen dolls, which are very much needed.

Respectfully submitted,
H. STADTHAGEN.
MARGARET J. TENNENT.

These reports were adopted. It was decided that in view of the date of the next meeting falling on celebration week it be postponed until June.

Bills amounting to $225 were ordered paid, a balance of $75 being left until the current year fees are paid off. Members are reminded that these are now due. The secretary was instructed to thank the board for their invitation to meet a special committee and to appoint the same for Tuesday, May 5th, at 4.30 p.m., at the board of trade room.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

Centennial Methodist Sunday School Anniversary Will Be Appropriately Observed.

Next Sunday the anniversary services of the Centennial Methodist Sunday school will be held. The morning and evening services will be conducted by Rev. R. N. Powell, and instead of the usual afternoon exercises an open session will be held. In the auditorium of the church a platform will be erected on which the children and teachers of the school will be massed at the three services of the day. Special music will be rendered in the morning, afternoon and evening, the choir of the church being assisted by the Sunday school orchestra. The afternoon session promises to be most interesting. Besides the special recitations, the reports of the officers and usual programme, prizes will be awarded the scholars who have during the year shown the most diligence. The quarterly certificates for the best study lesson and for the most regular attendance will be distributed and medals inscribed on one side with the full text of the Lord's Prayer, and on the other with a crown and a cross, will be awarded those who have brought their Bibles to school most regularly. A feature will be the presentation of a British flag to the class attaining the highest average in answering Bibilcal questions. The class winning this honor will be distinguishable by the flag which will mark its place on the platform.

In the evening the musical programme will be more extensive than usual, it is needless to say appropriate to the occasion. Parents and friends are especially invited to attend Sunday's services.

H. G. Ross and W. A. Anderson, of Vancouver, and M. C. Robertson, of Mor[illegible] Island, are at the Balmoral.

DAN GROSVENOR SAYS:

"Pe-ru-na is an Excellent Spring Catarrh Remedy—I am as Well as Ever."

HON. DAN. A. GROSVENOR, OF THE FAMOUS OHIO FAMILY.

Hon. Dan. A. Grosvenor, Deputy Auditor for the War Department, in a letter written from Washington, D. C., says:

"Allow me to express my gratitude to you for the benefit derived from one bottle of Peruna. One week has brought wonderful changes and I am now as well as ever. Besides being one of the very best spring tonics it is an excellent catarrh remedy."—DAN. A. GROSVENOR.

In a recent letter he says:

"I consider Peruna really more meritorious than I did when I wrote you last. I receive numerous letters from acquaintances all over the country asking me if my certificate is genuine. I invariably answer, yes."—Dan. A. Grosvenor.

A County Commissioner's Letter.

Hon. John Williams, County Commissioner, of 517 West Second street, Duluth, Minn., says the following in regard to Peruna:

"As a remedy for catarrh I can cheerfully recommend Peruna. I know what it is to suffer from that terrible disease and I feel that it is my duty to speak a good word for the tonic that brought me immediate relief. Peruna cured me of a bad case of catarrh and I know it will cure any other sufferer from that disease."—John Williams.

A Congressman's Letter.

Hon. H. W. Ogden, Congressman from Louisiana, in a letter written at Washington, D. C., says the following of Peruna, the national catarrh remedy:

"I can conscientiously recommend your Peruna as a fine tonic and all around good medicine to those who are in need of a catarrh remedy. It has been commended to me by people who have used it, as a remedy particularly effective in the cure of catarrh. For those who need a good catarrh medicine I know of nothing better."

W. E. Griffith, Concan, Texas, writes:

"I suffered with chronic catarrh for many years. I took Peruna and it completely cured me. I think Peruna is the best medicine in the world for catarrh. My general health is much improved by its use, as I am much stronger than I have been for years."—W. E. Griffith.

A Congressman's Letter.

Congressman H. Bowen, Ruskin, Tazewell county, Va., writes:

"I can cheerfully recommend your valuable remedy. Peruna, to any one who is suffering with catarrh, and who is in need of a permanent and effective cure."—H. Bowen.

Mr. Fred. D. Scott, Larue, Ohio, Right Guard of Hiram Foot Ball Team, writes:

"As a specific for lung trouble I place Peruna at the head. I have used it myself for colds and catarrh of the bowels and it is a splendid remedy. It restores vitality, increases bodily strength and makes a sick person well in a short time. I give Peruna my hearty indorsement."—Fred. D. Scott.

Gen. Ira C. Abbott, 906 M street, N. W., Washington, D. C., writes:

"I am fully convinced that your remedy is an excellent tonic. Many of my friends have used it with the most beneficial results for coughs, colds and catarrhal trouble."—Ira C. Abbott.

Mrs. Elmer Fleming, orator of Reservoir Council No. 168, Northwestern Legion of Honor, of Minneapolis, Minn., writes from 2335 Polk street, NE.:

Mrs. Elmer Fleming, Minneapolis, Minn.

"I have been troubled all my life with catarrh in my head. I took Peruna for about three months, and now think I am permanently cured. I believe that for catarrh in all its forms Peruna is the medicine of the age. It cures when all other remedies fail. I can heartily recommend Peruna as a catarrh remedy."—Mrs. Elmer Fleming

Treat Catarrh in Spring.

The spring is the time to treat catarrh. Cold, wet winter weather often retards a cure of catarrh. If a course of Peruna is taken during the early spring months the cure will be prompt and permanent. There can be no failures if Peruna is taken intelligently during the favorable weather of spring.

As a systemic catarrh remedy Peruna eradicates catarrh from the system wherever it may be located. It cures catarrh of the stomach or bowels with the same certainty as catarrh of the head.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

LIKE IT.

PROCEEDINGS O[illegible] THE LEGI[illegible]

A NUMBER OF PRIV[illegible] BILLS DIS[illegible]

The Ministry Carefully Av[illegible] Up Any Government Me[illegible] Yesterday's Sitti[illegible]

Yesterday afternoon's sit[illegible] House was one almost a[illegible] void of interest apart from [illegible] made from the opposition s[illegible] government incidental wi[illegible] tions under discussion. It [illegible] ly evident at the start that [illegible] ment was going to leave no [illegible] barrassment. In consequen[illegible] ernment measures were care[illegible] over and the non-content[illegible] reached where private mem[illegible] fight out the merits of the [illegible] their respective charges. T[illegible] it was quite apparent, had [illegible] stage of knowing that he w[illegible] carious position, and one i[illegible] had as much to fear from [illegible] friends as from his foes.

Prayers were read by R[illegible] Scott.

Petitions.

John Oliver presented a pe[illegible] Henry Harper, J. A. Blair, [illegible] gren and others, property own[illegible] rey district, Delta riding and [illegible] ster district, respecting cattle [illegible] line of New Westminster Sou[illegible] way.

It was laid on the table.

First Readings.

The following bills were [illegible] by Mr. McPhillips, read a first [illegible] ordered to be read a second ti[illegible] row: "An Act to amend the [illegible] Act,'" "An Act to amend [illegible] panies Winding Up Act, 18[illegible] "An Act to amend the 'Wate[illegible] Consolidated Act, 1897.'"

Deadman's Island.

Mr. Gilmour moved "That [illegible] of the House be granted for a [illegible] lease drafted by the govern[illegible] signed by Mr. Theo. Ludgate."

R. McBride, in speaking to t[illegible] tion, said that the House and [illegible] try were entitled to know wha[illegible] reason the government took su[illegible] tradictory course in regard to t[illegible]

A. E. McPhillips said that [illegible] prised him was that the go[illegible] should have dealt with prope[illegible] was still sub judice, and make [illegible] the land before it was known [illegible] the government had a right to [illegible] it or not. It was a question of [illegible] terest than for the people of V[illegible] city alone. He called attentio[illegible] fact that there had been a chan[illegible] counsel in the case. There mu[illegible] have been some very good re[illegible] rious matter t[illegible]