

A SLANDERER REBUKED.

Why does the News-Advertiser feel called upon to say that "the people of British Columbia, at the present time are staggering under all the financial burdens which they can carry?" The proposition comes strangely from a paper that has been understood to advocate a policy of government construction of great railways. If we recall correctly the contention of our contemporary in regard to the railway policy, it was that no mere two millions or so should be given in bonuses, but that the government should plunge in to the extent of many millions more and build a railway to compete with the C.P.R. If this was not what the News-Advertiser wanted, it had no policy at all on this subject.

The people of British Columbia are not staggering under financial burdens, and it is a highly unpatriotic thing for any paper to represent that they are. This is a wholly unjustifiable attitude for any paper to take in regard to a province to which the attention of the whole world is being directed. It is the language of an enemy within the gates, and justice to our province, which has been so grossly and gratuitously maligned in a fit of political bitterness, compels us to brand the statement of the Vancouver paper as a gross slander of the worst kind. We have no words capable of expressing the regret we feel that so unwarranted a statement should be given currency by one of the leading papers of British Columbia.

There is no special reason to find fault with the News-Advertiser for exhibiting its political spleen against a government which not very long ago it would have gladly supported. No one has any objection to make to the caddishness with which it treats its contemporaries. But it is our duty to the public to see that warfare against the name and credit of the province does not go unrebuked. We state in the most emphatic manner possible that the people of British Columbia are not staggering under financial burdens, but that on the contrary the financial position of this province is very favorable. The taxes are paid promptly and are not felt to be burdensome, and there is throughout the whole province a feeling of buoyancy and hopefulness which is as far from justifying the News-Advertiser's statement as can well be imagined. If the people of British Columbia are staggered at anything, it is the marvellous character of the future that is opening before them.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The repeal of the British Trade and Navigation laws nearly half a century ago created profound dissatisfaction in the North American colonies. To the people of the provinces there seemed no longer to be any advantage in the colonial relation. They had no greater rights in regard to the trade of the Mother Country than foreigners. They seemed to have been utterly cast off by the land to which they had been proud to own allegiance. This dissatisfaction took quite an acute form in several localities, and memorials favoring annexation to the United States were signed by some men, who afterwards became very conspicuous in their attachment to British institutions. Prominent among these was the late Sir Alexander Gait; but others almost equally well known could be mentioned. It was accordingly felt that something ought to be done to meet the demands which were springing up from all parts of what is now Canada. The result was the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States, which took effect in 1854, and was for a period of ten years.

The effect of this treaty upon the commercial interests of British North America was very stimulating. There is nothing more eloquent in the way of evidence than the trade returns of the next few years, which show that business between the two countries increased by leaps and bounds. While the proportionate expansion of trade was greatest on the British North American side, the actual increase was quite as great on the side of the United States. There is not the slightest doubt that the treaty was an excellent thing for both countries. It would have been still more valuable if the war of secession had not broken out in 1861, and it was the feeling engendered by this war that prevented the renewal of the treaty. The United States was embittered towards Canada as well as against Great Britain and would not hear to the continuation of any relations which seemed advantageous to a country, which had been the refuge for many prominent Confederate leaders and to some extent the base of intrigues on behalf of the South. So the treaty came to an end; but its good effect did not die with it, for commercial relations were at that time begun, which have continued to this day, greatly to the advantage of both parties.

When James G. Blaine propounded his reciprocity scheme, he did not propose to include Canada. His object was to build up a great commercial fabric in which Great Britain would have no share. He sought to weld together into a commercial union and political al-

liance all America, except such parts of it as belong to the British Empire. History will acknowledge the pan-American congress and the scheme submitted to it to have been a statesmanlike conception. It failed; probably it was destined to failure; but it is true that President Harrison contributed to its failure, and doubtless was influenced so to do through jealousy of Mr. Blaine. Canada not being included in his scheme, American public opinion in considering reciprocity has always taken it for granted that he was opposed to any reciprocal arrangements with the Dominion. There is no evidence that he was so opposed. What he aimed at was something in which reciprocity with Canada would have had no part.

It is somewhat singular that the suggestion from Washington as to the desirability of such a treaty with Canada comes close upon the heels of the declaration of Great Britain's intention to cultivate closer relations commercially with her colonies. This seems to indicate that our neighbors realize at last that they have more to lose by longer withholding reciprocity than they have been willing to admit. Indeed, their claim hitherto has been that they wanted nothing from Canada, and they have taken no little pleasure in boasting how they were able to keep the Dominion dancing attendance on them for commercial favors. While both political parties in Canada were equally desirous of entering into a fair reciprocity treaty and have given unmistakable evidence thereof, there is no doubt that the Liberal party, by its extreme stand on the question, has encouraged the belief throughout the United States that the longer such an arrangement was postponed the better bargain could be driven with us. They believe that reciprocity was our commercial salvation and that if it was not granted, the people of Canada would become eager for annexation. The imperial movement has opened their eyes, and the American people are never influenced by any sense of national dignity from turning the sharpest kind of a corner in their international affairs. They have no desire to lose their trade with Canada. They need Canada quite as much as Canada needs them, and they will not hesitate to let the fact be known.

That reciprocity would be a good thing for both countries if established on equitable lines will not be disputed. It need in no way interfere with the development of closer trade relations with the Mother Country. If it would, we for our own part would have nothing to do with it. We welcome the news that our neighbors are beginning to realize that the subject is of great importance and hope for good results.

THE GOLDEN NORTH.

Charles G. Yale writes to the San Francisco Examiner that the Klondike mines may be worked out in three years, if sufficient labor is employed, and that they will yield fully \$70,000,000. He thinks, however, that this is only the beginning of gold mining in the Yukon valley. Mr. Yale is statistician of the Golden North for the Examiner. What he says may therefore be taken as well worthy of great consideration.

Mr. Yale believes that very rich placers will be found in Alaska. In fact such are known to exist, or rather placers that would be called rich, if situated anywhere else; but they were abandoned under the rush into the Klondike began. Under conditions that have heretofore existed in the Yukon valley, the working of any but exceptionally rich claims was out of the question. With wages at \$15 a day placers yielding \$10 to \$12 to the man could not be worked profitably. When through the instrumentality of better means of communication, food becomes cheaper, as it will certainly do next year, wages will drop to something like reasonable figures, and it will pay to work deposits now lying idle. In view of these considerations it is evident that if no more rich discoveries are made there will be a great increase in Yukon mining, and the industry will be a permanent one. There is no doubt whatever of the existence of an enormous area carrying gold in sufficient quantity to make its mining profitable, if wages are brought down to reasonable figures.

It would require considerable credulity to believe that the only very rich ground in the vast region drained by the Yukon is that on the Klondike, and we are not at all surprised that Mr. Yale looks with confidence for the discovery of deposits in Alaska quite as rich as any that have been found in Canada. Practically nothing is known of the great tributaries of the Yukon which join it west of the 141st meridian, such as the Porcupine, the Tanana and the Koyukuk. The same is true to an even greater extent of many other large rivers rising in the Alaskan mountain ranges and entering the sea at different points along its long coast line. In fact it may be said that of the \$31,000 square miles supposed to be included in Alaska, practically nothing at all is known about four-fifths. There certainly does not seem to be any reason to think that rich gold deposits will not be found when the country has been thoroughly prospected. Improvement in transportation facilities will facilitate the prospecting problem.

In regard to the Canadian Yukon there are certain facts which enable us

to form better ideas of what the future has in store than we can about Alaska. The Canadian portion of the great river system, lying further south than the Alaskan portion, is more accessible and the explorations of Dr. Dawson and others have placed the world in possession of a great deal of information respecting it. From whatever parts of this vast area reports have been received the surferous region is only limited by the extent of the investigations made. Thus we heard the other day from what seemed competent authority that the whole region traversed by the Dalton trail abounds in good placers. It will be remembered that one miner who came out by this trail reported that he found many deposits, which would repay working if food was available at reasonable prices. Many reports of discoveries around Lake Bennett have come to hand, and although some of them may relate to the same finds, there seems good evidence that the head of this fork of the Yukon will yield a large quantity of gold. That the bars of the Hootalinqua carry gold and that the streams flowing into Teelin lake also do so seems very clear. This is not merely a surmise, for gold has actually been taken out of them. The Big Salmon river, which enters the Lewis river below the Hootalinqua, has been proved to be auriferous. The same is true of the Pelly and its tributaries, the Stewart and its tributaries, and in fact, in a general way, of all the streams draining an area that may be estimated at 175,000 square miles.

The available data as to the quartz deposits are few, perhaps for the reason that no one has yet given much attention to this side of the question. The inference from the existence of quartz from mines is good, but gold deposits do not seem to be governed by any fixed laws, they have yet to be discovered. It seems probable that in seeking to determine the source of the placer gold some considerations must be taken into account, which differ somewhat from those existing further South. There is a consensus of opinion that glacial action has been the cause of the formation of the placers, and it seems to be inferable from the known facts of geology, that the agencies which followed the erosive action of the glaciers, that is the action of running water and the weathering of the rocks, have had a longer time to do their work in southern latitudes than at the north. We would look therefore to discover the source of the placers at a less remote distance from them than we would in Southern British Columbia or California. The action of prolonged cold alternating with hot summers and extending over an indefinitely long series of years, would be likely to produce results not to be expected in lower latitudes. Moreover it is to be remembered that the glacial theory is only a theory after all, and hence that when we seek to account for placers by attributing them to the wearing away of gold-bearing rocks by the action of ice, we are dealing with a speculative subject entirely. There seems, however, to be no reason for supposing the rule that lode mining will follow placer mining is not to be applicable to the Yukon valley.

These questions have an important bearing upon the future of the Yukon, and must be taken into account by all persons contemplating the solution of the transportation problem. The Dominion government must take them into account. Transportation companies and merchants must also do so; for if the Yukon is to be a permanent gold producer much more extensive preparations must be made than will be called for if the period of mining development will only extend over a few years. We think the evidence is wholly in favor of the permanency of the mining industry in the Golden North.

The foregoing article was written before the delivery of Mr. Ogilvie's instructive lecture on the Yukon. He discussed the questions treated above, and his views as to the extent and permanency of the gold mines fully bear out what is said above. He also gives some new evidence as to the existence of gold bearing quartz; but for particulars we refer to the report of his lecture, which we print this morning.

THE SONGHEES RESERVE.

The position taken by the Dominion government in regard to the Songhees reserve is that the Indians are the wards of Canada, and that their reserves are held in trust, with a reversion to the province after the death of the last Indian. It is claimed that this trust must be discharged in the same manner as any other, and that the government would have no more right to give up one piece of land and take another than a private trustee would have. It is said that this relationship extends far enough to make the province the reversioner of any funds that may be derived from the sale of the lands. The provincial government, while not conceding the full contention of the Dominion authorities as to the nature of the trust, claim that even if that contention is correct, the provision in the Indian Act, whereby the reduction of reservations is authorized in case the number of Indians is greatly decreased, applies to the Songhees reserve, and that the Dominion can therefore with perfect equity recast the reserve in question so as to make it more appropriate to the present condition of the Indians. As yet

the Dominion authorities have not seen their way to assent to this view. This is the crux of the whole matter. The question remains open, because Hon. Mr. Turner is not willing to surrender what he thinks are the just claims of the province, and Hon. Mr. Sifton is not willing to yield what he thinks are the legal rights of the Indians. We are not advised as to the probability of an early agreement being reached.

THE POWER OF TAMMANY.

The amount of patronage at the disposal of the mayor of Greater New York is equal to the enormous sum of \$33,000,000 a year. It is far greater than the patronage at the disposal of the government of Canada. We think it may be said to be more even than the mistakes of the East should be repeated in the West. At Regina they know nothing of Dominion parties, and the British Columbians would be well advised if they preserved a similar singleness of eye for provincial questions.

We have not asked "Premier Turner" what reply he has to make to the Nelson Tribune's question, but feel safe in assuring our contemporary that he does not claim any benefits as likely to result "from the introduction of the Manitoba school question into provincial politics." We venture further to say that Mr. Turner has not the most remote intention of introducing the Manitoba school question into provincial politics.

The name of Mr. William Templeman has been mentioned in connection with the senatorship becoming vacant by the appointment of Senator Molnes to the lieutenant-governorship. The appointment of Mr. Templeman to such a place would have been an appropriate recognition of his services as a journalist to his party.

Hon. Mr. Sifton seems to have been much impressed by the arguments addressed to him here in regard to mining licenses in the Yukon, as our Vancouver correspondent reports him as saying that he thought the government would favorably consider the suggestion.

The departure of Mr. Noss, Japanese consul, from Vancouver, for Chicago, his new field of work, removes from British Columbia an excellent official, who during his residence here has made many friends and displayed a remarkably intelligent appreciation of the relations between Canada and Japan.

That Halifax man who saw Andree's balloon has a remarkable imagination. It would be interesting to know how he accounts for Andree being aloft three and a half months after he started with a balloon which was not expected to keep aloft for more than twenty days.

The Times says that the Colonist's statement of the facts in regard to the Songhees reserve is ex parte and wants all the facts. If our contemporary will point out in what respect our statement is deficient we will endeavor to supply the omission.

There were elections in several states of the Union this week, and the results do not appear to possess any material significance. Large Democratic claims are reported from Ohio, which is about the only notable thing about them.

What has become of those extremely interesting people who were so anxious last spring to darken the sun on the Coast with smoke from smelters? They did not seem to find the sucker fishing real good.

The Manitoba Free Press takes the right view of the case when it says the route between the Stickeen river and Lake Teelin must be covered by a railway as early as possible next year.

It is noteworthy that the population of Greater New York, which chose a mayor the other day, is almost as great as that of the entire thirteen colonies, which formed the original United States.

The state of things in regard to one phase of the municipal regulations of Nelson, disclosed in our special dispatches, is highly discreditable to those responsible for it.

The Post-Intelligencer discusses "Who Lost New York." The principal thing to be taken into account, it seems to us, is that Tammany won it.

The Oregonian very wisely concludes that the so-called independence movement in Canada will not get much support.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Lamoch-Waiter, two eggs, please; boil them four minutes.
Water—All right sir. Be ready in half a second.—Boston Traveller.
"In all the groceries now you can buy self-rising flour."
"Is there any place where we can get a self-rising cook?"—Chicago Record.
Crimsonbeak—Here's one strange thing I've noticed.
Yeast—And what is that?
Why, a boy is christened with water and afterward takes to wine, while a ship is christened with wine and afterward takes to water.—Yonkers Statesman.
He was young but ardent. "I wish I were the glove that presses your lovely hand," he said to the charming maid. She handed at him with a bewitching smile. "Aren't you enough of a kid as it is?" she softly asked.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.
"Hopkins has quit telling funny stories."
"Any special reason?"
"Yes. He says whenever he tells one he has to listen to several poorer ones from the other man."—Detroit Free Press.

believe a correspondent is entitled to the credit of the suggestion, which has since been taken up favorably by all the people of Victoria and, we think, of Vancouver also.

The Montreal Star thinks that the action of the British Columbia Liberals snacks of comic opera, and, after reviewing the situation, says: "But no matter what success the efforts to identify the Federal and Provincial parties has had in Eastern Canada, it constitutes no reason why the mistakes of the East should be repeated in the West. At Regina they know nothing of Dominion parties, and the British Columbians would be well advised if they preserved a similar singleness of eye for provincial questions."

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