

The Colonist.

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THE UNITED STATES WAKING UP.

Senator Morgan, of the United States committee on foreign relations, has drawn the attention of the American people to the fact that their interests in China are likely to be put in peril by the action of Germany and Russia. Every body else saw this long ago; but, with all their alleged shrewdness, it seems to require something like a thunderbolt to make United States politicians realize that they have any interests abroad to be protected.

Great Britain, Japan and the United States have an identical concern in the Orient. Great Britain's interest is that there shall be a fair field and no favor for the commerce of the world. Japan's interest is that she shall not be completely overhauled by European powers, which would soon reduce her to the position of a dependency. The United States wants the Oriental field open to the enterprise of its people. In the end these three interests are one, and will be best served by united action, between the three powers.

If the three nations act in concert they will be able to prevent anything being accomplished that will be prejudicial to them, and may be able to avert difficulty of any kind. We do not think that Germany will go very far in her pretensions. She is not in a position to do so. She dare not weaken herself in Europe by undertaking to oppose the suggested triple alliance. She is hardly able to undertake extensive operations against China alone. She has never yet engaged in operations beyond sea, and has neither the experience nor the men necessary for such work. Moreover, her domestic conditions are not such as warrant her in taking the risk of embroiling the country in a war so foreign to German instincts in its objects and the manner in which it would have to be carried on.

Russia, on the other hand, can undertake the occupation of Corea and Northern China with some chance of success, and some such step seems the logical consequence of her recent Oriental policy. Yet the Siberian railway is not nearly finished, so that the transport of troops from Europe would be attended with enormous risk, expense and delay. It would have to be by land, for the sea would be closed to her in the event of war with Great Britain or Japan. At the same time we can see no explanation of the course attributed to the Czar's government, if it is not a further than it now has gone. We are at a great disadvantage at this distance from the scene of operations in attempting to form any opinion, for the reason that it is next to impossible to learn the facts. There seems, however, to be ground for believing that Russia contemplates a coup of some kind, and that Great Britain and Japan will unite in opposing it.

turn. Of course the senator does not represent the administration. He is a Democrat. At the same time what he says will meet with a response from the people, and the administration will have to heed it. The contemplated annexation of Hawaii will be of no service, if China is to pass under the control of such powers as Germany and Russia, which would proceed forthwith to erect around it a wall more difficult to penetrate than that which grew up during the long centuries of exclusiveness which lately closed. It will be a somewhat remarkable thing if difficulties in the Orient should be the cause of a rapprochement between the two great English speaking nations.

WHY SUCH DELAY?

Every day the Colonist is besieged with inquiries as to what steps the Canadian government is taking to secure a removal of the obstructions thrown by the custom house officer at Dyea in the way of the entry of Canadian goods into the Yukon. We are told that arrangements have been made whereby United States goods may be carried through the Canadian Yukon under a system that will be convenient to miners destined for points in Alaska. These arrangements are such as the Colonist has advocated and are perfectly fair. But it is a very much one-sided sort of reciprocity that grants this concession to people from the United States and leaves the transit of Canadian goods substantially blocked at Dyea.

We have not been disposed to find fault with the government in the premises, for we have recognized that it takes time to bring even the simplest arrangement into operation; but patience ceases after a certain time to be a virtue and we think the time has come in this instance.

The people of Victoria, who were led to expect much by Hon. Mr. Sifton, and without regard to party lines gave him the fullest credit for his efforts to acquire knowledge of the situation, are beginning to think that their interests are being sacrificed, and not only their interests, but those of the rest of the province. They cannot understand why it was possible for the United States to obtain a concession from Canada without a corresponding favor being obtained for Canadians. This is a matter that calls for immediate explanation. Victoria has asked that an arrangement similar to that made for the carriage of United States goods down the Yukon shall be made for the carriage of Canadian goods across the little strip at the head of Lynn Canal in the possession of the United States. The time to get such a concession from the United States was when the United States was obtaining the favor referred to from Canada. If it was not obtained, the person having the negotiations in charge made a singular mess of the business. If it was obtained, why has the fact been kept secret?

We would not like to be forced to the conclusion that the reason why the recommendations of Victoria receive so little attention is that the city did not see fit to elect Liberals at the last election; but if that view of the case obtains credence the government will have only itself to blame. We have not observed that the Times, whose manager has been recognized by his party in a conspicuous way, although thrice rejected by the people, has anything to say either in explanation of the government's delay or in advocacy of immediate action. If our Liberal representatives in the House of Commons have made themselves heard on this question they have managed to keep the fact a pretty close secret; and it would not be like them to do that if they had done anything worth telling.

We have throughout this whole matter carefully avoided anything having the least resemblance to party politics, and do not wish to introduce party politics into it now; but the time seems to have come when it is necessary to bring home to those who have charge of this question that there is a political side to it.

THE SEALING AWARD.

The Times is badly cornered over the sealing award. It is between the devil and the deep sea. Like everyone else in Victoria, it does not think the award sufficiently large in amount; but it is trying to make the sealers believe that somebody to do something that will secure some further amount from some quarter. We again ask it why it does not join the Colonist in demanding that the sealers who the commission ought to have awarded them, but did not? Somebody is going to lose a quarter of a million dollars or so in order that this dispute with the United States may be amicably settled. We can see no reason why the whole loss should fall upon the sealers, but believe the country should bear it. Individually, the sealers cannot make claims against the United States. They must look to their own government. That the award of the commission will be repudiated by the Canadian government we do not imagine for a single moment. Neither does the Times. So far as the international aspect of the case goes, it is ended. If it were not, then we might as well say farewell to arbitration. The Canadian government will take the sum when it is paid over by the United States, and proceed to settle with the sealers.

When that time comes it will be perfectly proper for the sealers to submit to the Canadian government their claims as presented to the commission, and ask that they be recognized in full. All that the commissioners have decided is as to the amount which the United States government can be properly asked to pay the Canadian government. They have not said how much each sealer ought to receive and we submit that when the settlement of this matter comes up it will be quite within the right of the sealers to insist upon the actual amount of loss sustained by them being paid, and if the amount paid by the United States is not sufficient, then that the Dominion shall make up the deficiency.

We again ask the Times to say if it is opposed to this view of the case. By the grace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the manager of the Times will have an opportunity of trying the claims of the sealers to full justice from his place in the senate. It would be very interesting, therefore, if he would let them and the public generally know through his paper if he proposes to take such a course, or if not, what course he will take. By so doing he would enable those who agree with his view of the matter to strengthen his hands, and those who think his ideas not quite what they ought to be, to make suggestions as to the line he should take.

Reciprocity negotiations have been resumed between the United States commissioner and Sir Julian Pauncefote. It is very interesting to note in this connection that some of the leading economists in the United States say that their fiscal system is about to break down. The McKinley tariff failed to produce sufficient revenue. The Denno cratic tariff met the same fate, and now the Dingley tariff seems fated to be futile in the end. It is claimed that the next presidential election will be run strictly upon the lines of free trade and protection, and that free trade will win. Hitherto the old soldier vote has been strongly protective, but the fact that \$141,000,000 (not \$164,000,000, as the Colonist said the other day) goes in pensions is largely responsible for the deficits. The pensioners must get their money, and as it will be proposed to raise it by an income tax, they will stand by the party advocating it. High protection and a huge surplus in the treasury are the two mainstays of the protectionist in the first instance. Then in their turn the pensioners rendered high protection necessary in order to secure a revenue. Then the pensions cause deficits, which no tariff can overcome. The next step will be for the pensioners to cause an abandonment of protection and a resort to direct taxation in the shape of an income tax. This is the war of secession still a dominant factor in United States politics. All this has a very great deal of interest to Canada, in view of the resumption of reciprocity negotiations. It may be mentioned that there has always been a strong party in the New England States favorable to reciprocity with us. The Southern States never took much interest in the matter, and the Western States, being mostly settled by farmers, were easily persuaded that they ought to let their influence towards keeping out Canadian products. Canada will be glad to make a fair trade with her neighbors, but there must be no discrimination against Great Britain.

A SHANGHAI despatch of yesterday announces that the British fleet has anchored at Port Hamilton and that the Japanese fleet has also rendezvoused there. Port Hamilton is an island at the southern extremity of Corea. A despatch of the 26th inst., which did not reach Victoria in consequence of the interruption of telegraphic communication, said that seventeen British warships were off Chemulpo, Corea, and had compelled the king to replace Mr. Brown at the head of the customs department, from which position he was ousted not long ago at the alleged instigation of Russia. It was added that thirty Japanese warships were in close proximity to the British fleet and would co-operate with the latter in a demonstration. Things look as if John Bull had made up his mind to take a hand in the Oriental game.

The dark and mysterious insinuations of the evening paper as to the sealers would be the better for some explanation. Does our contemporary propose that the Canadian government shall repudiate the award? If it does not, why does it persist in insinuating that the sealers have yet to be heard from, and that the matter is not yet settled. We do not suppose that what it says will have any influence one way or the other, but it would be very much wiser if, instead of endeavoring to convince the sealers that the award may be set aside, it would join the Colonist in demanding that the Dominion government shall take into consideration their claims to compensation either in the way of interest or an allowance to cover legal expenses.

We quote from the Roseland Miner the concluding paragraph of a long article on the Boundary railway which indicates how the wind blows in a certain section of Kootenay.

THE CANTHRA MILLIONS.

The Postmaster-General Sole Trustee of His Son's Great Fortune. Toronto, Dec. 29.—(Special)—The will of the late Mr. Cantwra Murray has been admitted to probate. The exact amount of the estate is \$2,805,908.40 and the legacy to Cantwra Mulock, the eleven year old son of the deceased, is \$250,000. The Ontario government will receive from estate duty \$138,048. Of the estate \$2,571,250 is personal and \$184,628 real estate. Hon. Wm. Mulock is sole trustee.

An Atlantic Hurricane. London, Dec. 23.—The Norwegian bark President, Capt. Olsen, which arrived at Eastham December 26, from Ship Harbor, N.S., reports having encountered a hurricane from the 14th to the 16th of December, when about 200 miles west of the coast of Ireland. Most of her deck load was lost.

A strong demand is being made in the United States for the publication of the pension list. Although thirty-two years have elapsed since the conclusion of the war, \$164,000,000 is being paid out in pensions every year, and nearly a quarter of a million claims remain to be passed upon. The statement is freely made that the list is stuffed full of fraud, and it is claimed that its publication would enable this to be detected. It is a startling thing that after a third of a century of peace the war of secession should cost the United States annually very considerably more than it costs France to keep up her vast army. It seems likely that before the last evening, the pension list before the United States will have paid on account of them \$5,000,000,000, or one thousand times as much as it would have cost to have purchased the freedom of the slaves.

This caution given by the Colonist to the Times last evening, in regard to the legal effect of the publication of matters calculated to aggravate a libel, was given in good faith, and with the hope that the somewhat fresh person, who is responsible for the vagaries of our contemporary's editorial matter, would keep from getting himself into needless trouble. It does not appear to have been appreciated, which shows that when certain people are concerned it is always a waste of kindness to tender sensible advice.

This is how it is done in Japan. The editor of the Tohoku Shinbun, published in Niigata, was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and ten yen fine, and the publisher to one month's imprisonment and five yen fine on Friday last at the local court, on a charge of libelling government officials. Certain publications in Victoria, which might be supposed to be interested in the above, will discover in it another reason for hostility to the Japanese.

The announcement that Hon. Mr. Dewdney has gone to Wrangell in the interest of the Klondyke Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation will be welcome news to Victorians, as it shows that this corporation is actively in the field. Victoria has the credit of being the pioneer city in respect to this route. The York party went in last fall to get ready for the spring's rush, and now this company is getting ready for winter transportation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

NO TWO OF THE KIND. We are surprised that the Canadian Gazette can be so very unreasonable. Speaking of the proposed commercial treaty, it says: "It is not to do to appoint a mere politician to the head of it, but a keen, active man of business." In fact, another Professor Robertson says of the colony: "The large as the Dominion, could produce two Professor Robertsons!—Winnipeg Free Press."

THE BOUNDARY RAILWAY. The Y. V. & E. people are solely responsible for the absence of a railway in the Boundary country to-day. But for their chattering and obstruction methods British Columbia would now be enjoying the benefits of the expenditure of \$8,000,000 for every mile of the line from Robson to Pentiction. And the worst of it is that their blockading methods continue as a curse on the prosperity of Southern British Columbia. The information from Victoria to the effect that Mr. Mann is endeavoring to secure a portion of the \$4,000,000 subsidy, in order to again blockade the Columbia and Western, shows plainly that they are at their old tricks again. It is, however, fairly safe to presume that this time the administration at Victoria will not be hoodwinked by the sophistries of Dr. Mann or anyone else representing either the V. V. & E. or the C.P.R.—Roseland Miner.

AS TO MR. KELLIE. Politically Mr. Kellie is as unstable as water. He has made no permanent impression. The opposition should leave him severely alone.—Kootenayan.

THE CALAMITY HOWLERS.

It seems that the securing of a charter to build a railway into Yukon by the Y. V. & E. is an offence nearly criminal in its character. "Charter Monger" has an exceptionally savage tongue, and may have his spite on his nose, but the average mind of self-control will probably investigate before he begins jumping on his hat, as a preliminary to a life and death struggle with some imaginary enemy.—Grand Forks Miner.

THE COUNTRY CAN STAND IT.

There is no doubt that a new era of prosperity is about to dawn on the inter-colonial.—St. John Telegraph.

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SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

He Explains in Winnipeg the Features of His Klondyke Company. WINNIPEG, Dec. 27.—Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., having been asked here "What is the feeling in England as to Yukon and Canadian mining matters generally?" replied that the greatest possible interest is shown not only in England but all over Europe in the Klondyke. Lake of the Woods, British Columbia and Nova Scotia mines. Financial and mining circles all over the world are looking into our resources, with the result that a very large number of persons and a great deal of capital will come into Canada next spring and will consequently give a still greater impetus to the country's general prosperity. Sir Charles's principal company, the Klondyke Mining, Trading & Transportation Co., with headquarters in London, and of which he is the London chairman, and the Hon. Edgar Dewdney the provincial chairman, are instituting an expedition which will be accompanied by eighty teams of pack animals and three trains of dogs. It will be in charge of Hon. Edgar Dewdney, ex-minister of the interior of Canada and ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and will be accompanied by Mr. Caldwell Ashworth, of London, a director of the corporation. The expedition will proceed to Fort Wrangell on its own splendid ocean steamer the "Amur," or by some other suitable vessel, leaving Victoria about the 15th of February. As Wrangell is the London steamer and the Hon. Edgar Dewdney the provincial chairman, are instituting an expedition which will be accompanied by eighty teams of pack animals and three trains of dogs. It will be in charge of Hon. Edgar Dewdney, ex-minister of the interior of Canada and ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and will be accompanied by Mr. Caldwell Ashworth, of London, a director of the corporation. The expedition will proceed to Fort Wrangell on its own splendid ocean steamer the "Amur," or by some other suitable vessel, leaving Victoria about the 15th of February. As Wrangell is the London steamer and the Hon. Edgar Dewdney the provincial chairman, are instituting an expedition which will be accompanied by eighty teams of pack animals and three trains of dogs. It will be in charge of Hon. Edgar Dewdney, ex-minister of the interior of Canada and ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, and will be accompanied by Mr. Caldwell Ashworth, of London, a director of the corporation. The expedition will proceed to Fort Wrangell on its own splendid ocean steamer the "Amur," or by some other suitable vessel, leaving Victoria about the 15th of February.

The plan of the corporation is to provide shelter and good substantial food for the party accompanying the expedition from the day they leave Victoria until they reach their destination. The price of the ticket covering the accommodations above mentioned is \$500, one-half of which must be paid into the Bank of Montreal at Victoria at the time of signing the contract for transportation, the balance to be paid before the sailing of the steamer from Victoria.

As the number of persons by this route will be limited, applications should be made at once, and to secure a ticket, each applicant must, with his application forward a Post Office order for \$20.00 payable to the Bank of Montreal at Victoria. The Corporation reserves the right to select members of the expedition and will return all payments made to unsuccessful applicants.

SPECIAL RATES ON EXCESS BAGGAGE. The provisions included in the 400 pounds of personal baggage can be purchased from the Company before leaving Victoria. The Corporation will, at a later date, be prepared to transport passengers in their own ocean and river steamboats to the Klondyke, Yukon and Teslin Lake waters. The Corporation is agent for Shackland & Co's specially constructed Klondyke Peterborough canoes.

ADDRESS: The Klondyke Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation, 30 Broad St., VICTORIA, B.C. This corporation must be confused with a company of exactly the same name, having its headquarters in Spokane.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"Any spy features in the new paper?" "Well, the lady answered, "John had his mouth full of spies." "Good Argument: Yabaley—Mudge, what makes you laugh at your own stories?" "Mudge—Why shouldn't I? If they were not worth laughing at I would not tell them." "Not His Only Fault: Uncle Ezra—The paper says this candidate for the legislature has great personal magnetism." "Uncle Abner: Yes; and there's other changes in him, too." "Quite a Difference: "I saw a bonnet that just suited me, George. It was \$35." "But you did pay that infernal price for it, did you?" "No, no, George; I didn't. I had it charged at a Klondyke resort—Quick, give me a gun!" "Host—Great Scott! what's the matter?" "Uncle Abner: Yes; and there's other changes in him, too." "Quite a Difference: "I saw a bonnet that just suited me, George. It was \$35." "But you did pay that infernal price for it, did you?" "No, no, George; I didn't. I had it charged at a Klondyke resort—Quick, give me a gun!" 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