

VICTORIA AND THE KOOTENAY RAILWAYS.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Globe says that Victoria was opposed to the Crow's Nest Pass railway, preferring the Coast-Kootenay road to it. This is an entire misconception of the facts.

In the early part of the discussion there was some difference of opinion here as to the way in which the road ought to be built. Many persons favored the plan, which the Minister of Railways favored at first, namely, the construction of the line by the Government, but as time went on a decided change in public opinion was manifested.

The Trail Creek News devotes considerable space to a denunciation of the "Victoria capitalists" who are "advocating the throwing out of the Columbia & Western charter and giving it to the proposed Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern railroad."

We may, indeed, say that except, perhaps, in Kootenay itself, there is in no part of the Province such a general feeling of contentment as in the manner in which the Kootenay railway problem is likely to be solved as there is here.

OPPOSITION QUERIES.

If we are not mistaken the Wellington Enterprise owes its inspiration to the third party in the provincial legislature. As it was not so long ago that the third party was a loyal supporter of the provincial administration, it is somewhat singular that he should have taken up the gauntlet, which the old opposition standard bearers have as yet left unnoticed.

Whose fault was it, we would like to know, that there was no defence some three years ago to the appeal of the Victoria Lumber Co. from the judgment of Judge Harrison, whereby that company was ordered to pay the sum of \$75,000 in taxes? It was the fault of the Attorney-General, who has since acknowledged that he was too busy with the election to attend to the affairs of the Province.

and that so far from there having been no defence to the appeal, the Deputy Attorney-General appeared in court and argued against the appeal. If the Enterprise were familiar with provincial affairs it would know also that Mr. Eberts, after taking office, advised against accepting as conclusive the decision given in 1893 and that on his recommendation the Victoria Lumber Company was again assessed, that an appeal from that assessment was taken and the appellate court decided in favor of the assessment, thus overruling the former decision.

The second question relates to Koksilah vs. Regina. This is the quarry case, and as it is now before the courts, it is not a legitimate subject of newspaper controversy. When it has been finally disposed of the course taken by the Attorney-General and the result of the case may very properly be discussed.

Nothing of the kind ever will be found. There never was the least question that the Lieutenant-Governor acted in this matter independently of his advisers and as a Federal officer, the only question being as to whether for his action he had, directly or indirectly, Federal sanction. The Enterprise, in making this charge against the Attorney-General, has simply drawn upon its imagination.

THE INFLUENCE OF BRITAIN.

The assembling of the Flying Squadron eighteen months ago was somewhat spectacular, and certainly produced a very profound impression upon all civilized nations; but naval authorities concede that it was a small affair compared with the naval demonstration now being made in the Mediterranean.

In South Africa an interesting drama is being enacted. As most people know, the Transvaal is separated from the ocean by a narrow strip of land belonging to Portugal, on which is the port of Delagoa, the only really first class harbor along hundreds of miles of coast. The dispatches have announced that Great Britain is now in possession of Great Britain. Possibly the announcement is premature; but it is a fact, nevertheless, that a British squadron is de facto in possession of the coast in a few weeks.

It may be worth mentioning, for the benefit of a certain unreasonable critic, that Col. Prior, M.P., was not selected as a member of Mr. Laurier's staff for political reasons, but because of his prominence in Canadian militia affairs.

Germany, and lead him to become a little more ready to listen to reason than he has lately been.

We have likewise lately been treated to stories as to the tremendous growth of French influence in Abyssinia, and the statement has been made that when the Khartoum, if it ever does, it would be met by the soldiers of King Menelik co-operating with a French force from somewhere to the southeast. There were serious geographical objections to this programme; but geography never yet cut any figure with the average Anglophobe.

In view of what is transpiring in all parts of the world it is safe to say that the influence of Britain has heretofore been as widespread and potent as to-day. The British Empire is a silent but tremendous force working for peace everywhere, and its strength lies in its naval supremacy, which is not only unquestioned, but is beyond any possible questioning.

SIC TRANSIT.

For admirable but rather misdirected ingenuity commend us to the member of the Seattle Times staff, who discovered that a surveyor's transit went up on the steamer Portland to St. Michael's, Alaska, whence it is to be taken up the Yukon to a Canadian surveyor. To the ordinary mind there is nothing especially bellicose in a surveyor's transit. When properly constructed, as doubtless this particular transit is, it is rather a pretty piece of mechanism, but it has heretofore been regarded as being as mild as a sucking dove.

The Toronto Globe's Jubilee souvenir edition is a remarkably fine issue. Its illustrations are profuse and of a high class. British Columbia is very well represented. The descriptive matter is excellent. As a whole this number of the Globe is equal to anything in the way of a souvenir edition ever printed. The special portion assigned to Jubilee affairs contains twenty-eight pages.

CLAIMS OF OUR SEALERS.

The Victoria sealer who has been interviewed in regard to Mr. Leopold Bosowitz's statements in London, do not appear to agree with him. They take the position that if it is necessary for international reasons to so restrict their business as practically to destroy it, the British government is in duty bound to see that they are fully compensated for their loss.

There can no longer be any question as to the legal right of the Canadian sealers to pursue their avocation on a high sea. Neither is there any doubt that the Imperial government may take away this right, so far as that can be effected by restricting or absolutely prohibiting sealing to be done by vessels flying the British flag. But it is surely only fair if, for Imperial reasons, the business of Canadian sealers is to be sacrificed, they should be compensated for their losses. This claim is, at least, in harmony with the old-fashioned ideas of British fair play.

A REPORT reaches the COLONIST from Seattle to the effect that the Great Northern Railway, or more correctly speaking, a company of capitalists with James J. Hill at its head, contemplates the construction of a line of railway through Kootenay, Cariboo and Cassiar to the Yukon. We give the story for what it is worth, and with the qualification that it is undoubtedly very premature, although that such a line will be built in the not very remote future is highly probable.

The Selover smelter concern have agreed to erect a smelter in Seattle on being given a site and on a certain amount of stock being subscribed. This is a good deal less than \$150,000 of ad-out-and-out bonus.

He commanded the Wimbledon team on one occasion, has been President of the Dominion Artillery Association, and has always been recognized as a creditable representative of Canada's citizen soldiery. Since the critic in question declines to go to Col. Prior for lessons in politeness, he might with advantage take some lessons in that direction from Mr. Laurier, and cease to follow that gentleman to London with insults to a prominent member of his staff.

The suicide of Barney Barnato will have some effect upon the London financial market; but the time has gone by, we think, when his death will produce anything in the nature of a panic in the London market. The Barnato interest includes about one-fifth of the Rand stocks, and these will naturally slump on account of his reported death. He has able partners, however, who can carry along the enterprises in which he was interested, and there are other men concerned in holding up the London market.

The city lighting was the subject of a little talk at the meeting of the council on Monday night. It is worthy of a little more ventilating. There is a good deal of humming, for example, about that moonlight schedule. What the citizens want is that the streets shall be lighted no matter what the moon says. If on any night, when the moon is supposed to be on duty, clouds or fog make the streets dark, the lights should be turned on, and, by the way, there ought to be no reliance on corporation moonlight during the Jubilee holidays. Let the lights burn then all night, no matter what the moon does.

W. J. BRYAN, Democratic candidate for the United States presidency last year, has been lecturing in Toronto on bimetalism. He will not make many converts in Canada, for the people here have no reason to complain of the existing monetary system. But the cause that he champions is making headway in the United States steadily, one reason being that in the manufacturing centres of that country times are harder than they have been in a long while.

The Vernon News says a jail is needed at Vernon, and thinks that the reason given for not erecting one this year, that in view of the rapid development of the mining section it is not easy to say which is the most central point, is not a good one. It thinks Vernon will always be a central point. So it will; but there is a possibility that it may not be the best point in that part of the province for a jail.

St. JOHN, N.B., is doing what printer's ink can accomplish to make its splendid commercial position, its manifold business advantages and the great natural beauties of its surroundings known to the world. The New Brunswick Tourist Association, of which Ira Cornwall is secretary, is issuing some of the most attractive advertising literature of the season.

The plan adopted by the Dominion Parliament to confer upon the Governor-General-in-Council the right to put an export duty on ores will explain Mr. Laurier's telegram to Rossland in regard to a smelter. There will be no smelter erected at Northport to handle British Columbia ores with the prospect of a duty being imposed at any time.

The Revelstoke Herald proposes shortly to issue what it describes as "a beautifully illustrated book, descriptive of the mining and other resources of North Kootenay." Revelstoke is the natural distributing centre for the district referred to. The book will be as timely, as we know it will be interesting and valuable.

OSCAR WILDE is creating quite a sensation in England by his protest against the manner in which young children are treated in prison. He speaks of what came under his personal observation when in confinement, and certainly describes many things that are inexcusable.

The Methodist Conference of Ontario has entered its protest against horse races at county fairs, and yet this is alleged to be an age of progress. What would county fairs be without "an agricultural horse trot"? We would like to know.

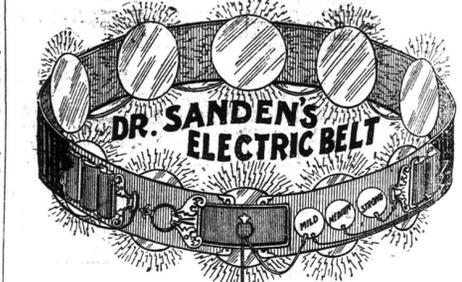
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Free-Trade-as-They land Not Expect

The Duke of Devonshire Deals With Fair Since Its

LONDON, June 16. papers comment on the Duke of Devonshire, the Canadian querel given on Saturday by the Chamberlain.

The Duke of Devonshire, the president of the Free-Trade League, said: "We believe that free trade is the wisest policy for the world. We are expected to do more than we have done, but we have not been realized, it is universal adoption. Yet the Chamberlain says that it is best should be the only the world. During we have learned that neither old nor opening to us by trade alone, and that the increasing for the support of relation we must find selves, and not the of expanding and ones."

Premier Laurier responds, said: "Canada is one of the poorest of nations, and its economy and legislation with imperial union there may have a past is closed forever dawned and alleged Canada by all. It is for closer union time may come when the conditions of citizenship are to be held in a day's time in a country to be awakened about astonishing beyond all contrast tariff legislation in question as to how seem to indicate the eye of some remarks that the remarks those a some of the ters showed signs sailing. The Morning Post Devonshire's speech that the leader question finds a resolution of the British Standard says Devonshire's caudor was little. The Daily News Laurier's tariff proposal in favor of British goods towards the rest of the world within the thinks it inexcusable Devonshire should have said that Mr. Laurier is a minister and that example of success. The Daily News by arguing the case for the German and British goods, and the Daily Chronicle says that the represents a good deal of service if we lead England will ever ring. We think it to denounce the and Belgium and far greater volume gain a slight advantage whose trade must the laws of nature, with American means."

MR. LAURIER. New York, Jun dispatch to the London says: "Mr. Canadian Premier somewhat dramatic schemes of imperialism, which very full just now, premier now bet with expressions of most natural. He should the balance trade in exchange success in colonial Devonshire's speech Saturday, followed lukewarm attention interpreted as one of the Imperial some move in the special customs up in connection with Chamberlain and may include duties ports as wheat, America, which is and Australian as of Mr. Chamberlain. It is at this time Mr. Laurier steps the Zollverein to asserts that prote the curse and bar the greatest post land and the Em says Mr. Laurier, you preference ad nothing in return to abandon the g trade, we desire free trade lead, most natural. H you and so hurt t ada as part of it. Asked as to the scheme of imper which the West fied, Mr. Laurier one country wld could be at wa United States, an States is a contin of a country w fully, but a crim need has Canada