

# THE BRITISH PACIFIC.

Contract Entered Into With British Capitalists to Build the Line.

A Representative of the Syndicate Now in Victoria Consulting the Charter Trustees.

Mr. Lafayette H. De Friese, of the firm of Steele, De Friese and Dickson, New York and London, Eng., arrived on Wednesday evening and is at the Driad. Mr. De Friese has made this special visit to Victoria for the purpose of consulting with Mr. R. P. Rithet and others having charge of British Pacific railway interests. He is the representative of a syndicate of financiers who have entered into a contract to provide the capital necessary to build the British Pacific, subject to the conditions of that contract being carried out by the present trustees or charter holders of the British Pacific. Mr. De Friese states that the scheme is looked upon favorably by the gentlemen whom he represents, and he is of opinion from the information he has gathered that it is a most necessary one for the Province. He was yesterday in consultation with Mr. Rithet, and will remain in Victoria until this evening, when he leaves for San Francisco, where he has business matters to attend to. It has been arranged for two other gentlemen interested in the London end of the project to also visit Victoria with Mr. De Friese, but this was found impossible at the present time. They, however, will journey later on to San Francisco and consult with Mr. Rithet, who leaves for that city next week, having already deferred going there in order to meet Mr. De Friese.

It is too early yet to announce all details of the contract entered into, but Mr. Rithet states that he is well satisfied with the condition of affairs, and believes that, aided by the assistance required from the city and province, actual construction on the British Pacific can begin early next year.

## THE CITY.

The Gold Hill Mining Co., of Spokane, capitalized at \$50,000, has been registered to do business in this province. Another new mining incorporation is the Otter Flat Gold and Platinum Mining Co., of Vancouver, of which S. K. Twigg, B. J. Cornish and A. B. Diodot are the trustees. It has a capital of \$200,000 in \$5 shares.

The first notice of a private bill to be sought at the approaching session of the provincial legislature appears in the Gazette of yesterday. The applicants, represented by Mr. W. H. Armstrong, ask for the passage of an act incorporating a company of home capitalists and at the same time empowering them to operate traction engines and cars on the Cariboo road and tributary highways. This is the first appearance, too, of the horseless carriage on the roads of this province.

An assault case brought by Lawrence Diodot against Captain Simpson came up in the provincial police court yesterday afternoon. The defendant pleaded guilty and Diodot's testimony was in effect that Captain Simpson had hit him once over the head with a walking stick. Captain Simpson gave as his excuse that Diodot kept coming round his house against his wishes and warning. The police magistrate imposed on the defendant the payment of the interpreter's fees, \$2.

THERE were ten police court cases yesterday the majority of them attributed to the Swedish partiality for whiskey. There were two plain drunks; three Indians found in possession of intoxicants and fined \$25 each; and two white men, George Hughes and Joe Coppi, who had to pay \$50 and costs each for supplying liquor to Indians. Johnny Seaweed, an Indian, was fined \$10 for knocking down his mother because she would not hand over Johnny's money to him when he wanted to go up town for a spree. A bicyclist who rode off No. 7 had caught riding on the sidewalk was fined \$5. Mrs. Henry Hancock was accused by a parent of selling cigarettes to his 10 year old boy in contravention of the minors protection act. She pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and costs.

TO DAY an application will be made before Mr. Justice Drake on behalf of R. E. Lemon, S. McDonald and others, asking for an injunction to restrain the Kaslo & Slocan Railway Company from running their branch line through lot 482, group 1, Kaslo district. The property in question comprises part of the town site of Sandon. The applicants state in their affidavit that they are the owners of the land in question, but that the railway company refuse to recognize their title; and, furthermore, the affidavit alleges that the railway company is not authorized by its charter to build the branch line complained of. Messrs. McPhillips, Wootton & Barnard appear for the application; Messrs. Eberts & Taylor for the Kaslo & Slocan railway.

A TACOMA dispatch of Wednesday states that the Northern Pacific Steamship Company has asked the United States government to cancel its contract with the company in regard to carrying deported Chinese to China. The rate allowed the company for carrying the Chinese is very low, and is not very profitable. The main reason why the company desires to be released from its contract is, however, on account of the recent order of the Treasury department that the steamship company leave all Chinese passengers at Port Townsend on its way to Victoria and return afterward to take them on their journey. This precaution is to be taken to prevent the Celestials from being taken ashore at Victoria by habeas corpus proceedings and released after the ship has left thereby defeating the attempt to return them.

FRANK MORRIS, a young sealer, yesterday added another to the record of gun accidents that has thus far marked the 1895 shooting season. He was looking for birds in the vicinity of Beaver lake, a companion named Macfarlane accompanying him, and had let go his right barrel into a flock of grouse. The left barrel was loaded, but this fact escaped his memory, and impatient at having missed his bird, Morris brought the gun down, striking the ground with the butt with an exclamation of vexation. The shock discharged the forgotten cartridge, and Morris recoiled with the charge in his neck and shoulder. Dr. Hall attended to his injuries as soon as he could be brought in to town, and no danger is anticipated. General complaint is made of shooting—originally careless at times—within the city

limits, and the police have been instructed to keep a sharp lookout for offenders of this character.

THE travelling dairy was at Comox yesterday, and the practical instruction given by Mr. Riddick and his assistant will no doubt be highly appreciated by the farmers of that fine agricultural district.

## WEDDING BELLS.

At the residence of Mr. John Trace, Yates street, on Wednesday, Mr. Eli Craigie was married to Miss Emily Jackson, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Solomon Cleaver. The bridemaid was Miss Grace Craigie, and Mr. George Church best man. Mr. and Mrs. Craigie were the recipients of a number of beautiful gifts from their friends.

Another wedding on Wednesday was that at the residence of Mrs. Knapp, the bride's mother, Fort street, when Mr. Ezra B. Nelson, of Tacoma, was united in marriage by Rev. W. Leslie Clay to Miss Jennie Louise Hughes. Miss Emma Hughes, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid, Mr. J. Frank supporting the groom. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson left on their honeymoon trip to Portland, before taking up their residence at Tacoma.

Yesterday morning, at St. Saviour's church, Rev. W. D. Barber united in marriage Mr. A. E. Wade and Miss E. Harris, daughter of Mr. Samuel Harris, Victoria West. The bride for some time past has acceptably filled the position of organist of the church, and the groom also has many valuable and precious metals. The rivers and lakes are very numerous, thus it is that so large a number of salmon are attracted there to spawn. Large numbers are caught and cured.

Gold mining is extensively carried on in the Fraser river at Boston Bar. Timber is also floated down the rivers, streams, etc., of the province. The plains and valleys are adapted to agriculture, as the soil is very fertile. The climate is also conducive to this productive industry as it is moist and warm. The Rocky Mountains stop the dry air from the Eastern provinces and keep the moisture from going there. The coast line is very broken, forming many harbors for ships. Some of these harbors are in autumn a forestry of masts of the sailing schooners which are engaged on the coast of British Columbia and in the Behring sea. Lumbering is carried on extensively on the coast, the country affording large quantities of timber. Chief among the kinds is the Douglas fir, which is a large proportion of all the timber in the province. It is very tough and strong and has a circumference of from 25 to 50 feet. A firm of loggers in the Comox district cut 508,000 feet of one acre. A very modest estimate would average 40,000 feet per acre. The red cedar is also found in large quantities and is very picturesque. Some specimens measure from 60 to 80 feet near the ground.

The Indians use it for their canoes, weave the fibres into mats and use the bark for the roofs of their houses. It is also used for dressed lumber, doors, frames, sashes, etc. Cedar posts and rails are in demand as they do not rot for years. Weymouth or white pine is found in the New Westminster district. The most recent statistics reveal an annual output of the mills of British Columbia at \$3,107,335 feet. In 1890 300,000,000 feet were exported from the North American coast to Australia. Out of this British Columbia sent only 1,000,000 feet. The centre of this industry is at Westminister, four-fifths of it being situated there. Vancouver island has eight mills with a cutting capacity of 224,000 feet daily. Lumber, the most valuable of the province, is 8,000,000,000 feet of such timber as is now cut in the province. The chief markets are China, Australia, Central and South America, and the Sandwich Islands.

For fishing, few countries have such a field as British Columbia. The bay, valleys for food and oil, swam in the bay and inlets of the province and the waters of the adjacent ocean. In this is a source of wealth which may be drawn upon for a number of years, and will give employment to an ever-increasing number of men and the revenue of the province. The most extensive business is that of catching and canning salmon. There are three principal kinds, namely, coho, sockeye and hook-nose. Those entering the Fraser river, the stream to its numerous tributaries, thence to the creeks, and deposit their spawn there. It is thus, while making their annual pilgrimages, they are caught, usually near the spawning grounds, and taken to the cannery. Customers need not think that it is not a cleanly process, as the owners take every precaution to have the salmon clean before being canned. The canned salmon is then ready for exportation to Great Britain.

The next important fish is the colchacan. It is about twice the size of a sardine and is very oily. They enter the Fraser about May and are caught in large quantities. They are found in the bay and inlets of the province, and are superior to cod liver or any other fish oil known. It is of a whitish color and about the consistency of this lard. It is considered a delicacy by the Indians, who catch large quantities every year. They begin running in the month of September, and about March 1, and there are millions in a good run. The Indians assemble and catch large quantities of them in what are called "fish traps." They are then placed in bins made of wood bolted together, and are boiled in water for about four hours. The fish is then strained through baskets into red cedar boxes of from 12 to 15 gallons. If the run is good each tribe will put up from about 20 to 30 boxes.

Herrings swarm in large quantities in the spring. They are smaller than the herring of Europe, but equal in quality. Halibut are found in large numbers, especially west of Queen Charlotte islands. Codfish are also found in considerable quantities, the chief varieties being the skiff (black cod), rock cod and red cod, which frequent the bays, inlets, etc., of the province. They are a good table fish and have a splendid flavor. Sturgeon, which are very good when eaten fresh, have been found weighing half a ton. Whales, seals, flounders and whiting are found in large numbers. Among the following shell fish are found, viz: prawn, clam, shrimp, cockle, mussel and oyster. Deep sea fishing has not yet been inaugurated on a large scale, though it is practicable. If the woods and waters of our province are so wealth producing, why may we not find our mines? There are metals which have been mined for years and others that have not been touched. The principal metals are gold, silver, iron, coal, lead, zinc, antimony and platinum. The first was first started on the Fraser in 1858. In about twenty years several million dollars' worth were extracted in coarse gold. About \$54,000,000 worth have been extracted. The chief gold mines are located in the Kootenay, mining districts, Kamloops, Kootenay, Cassiar, Omineca, Lardner, Roseland, and the Fraser. The Cariboo mines produced \$204,000 worth in 1892. In quartz mining a good deal has been done not far from the Cariboo district and is being carried on in other places.

Coal mining is chiefly confined to Vancouver island, although large deposits are found on the mainland, but are not mined. The chief coal mines of Vancouver island are Nanaimo, Comox and Wellington. The annual output is about 600,000 tons. A large quantity of this is exported to the United States. On Texada island, in the Gulf of Georgia, is some fine iron ore, which is smelted by an American company at Port Townsend. It is like most British Columbia ore, is magnetic, and is worked as a commercial undertaking.

One of the largest industries of British Columbia is sealing. The chief port is Victoria, about one half the schooners belonging to that place. The annual catch is about 70,000 skins. Most of these skins are sent to London to be sold there. The skin of a fur seal is worth from \$9 to \$12 and that of a hair seal from about 50 to 60 cents. The greatest demand is for the former.

Now we come to farming. The three kinds are mixed farming, stock raising and fruit-growing. Wheat will grow as well in the interior as in Manitoba, but is not good for making flour, as it does not harden, but keeps soft. Oats grow splendidly in the Northern part of the province. Fruit growing districts will be in Vancouver island, the North and South Thompson, Chilliwack, Spallumcheen and Okanagan. Peaches, apricots and grapes mature splendidly in the open air. There is a ludicrousness in the home grown article that is not found in the imported, and there is no reason why peaches should not be exported. On the Fraser river wheat has run as high as 65 bushels to the acre. Oats grow splendidly. Peas, apples and all stone fruits grow very well, and timothy averages four tons to the acre. The land, which is very rich, will continually improve under cultivation.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Its Geographical Position, Resources and Development as Described by a School Boy.

Master Grant's First-Prize Paper in the Recent Interscholar Competition.

The following is the essay on British Columbia written by Master Gordon Grant of the First Division of the North Ward school, which with that of Miss Violet Hardy, of the Central school, was adjudged to be entitled to first prize in the competition between the scholars of the public schools:—

British Columbia is the most westerly province of the Dominion of Canada and lies between the 49th and 60th parallels, 120th meridian and Rocky mountains on the east and the Pacific ocean on the west. It is about 750 miles long and 550 miles wide. The area is 383,000 square miles, and the population is 98,175. A province with such an extent and so much to show, if the surface be of any value whatever, be productive of great wealth. It has mountains on the sides of which grow immense trees which give rise to lumbering. The mountains have in them many valuable and precious metals. The rivers and lakes are very numerous, thus it is that so large a number of salmon are attracted there to spawn. Large numbers are caught and cured.

Gold mining is extensively carried on in the Fraser river at Boston Bar. Timber is also floated down the rivers, streams, etc., of the province. The plains and valleys are adapted to agriculture, as the soil is very fertile. The climate is also conducive to this productive industry as it is moist and warm. The Rocky Mountains stop the dry air from the Eastern provinces and keep the moisture from going there. The coast line is very broken, forming many harbors for ships. Some of these harbors are in autumn a forestry of masts of the sailing schooners which are engaged on the coast of British Columbia and in the Behring sea. Lumbering is carried on extensively on the coast, the country affording large quantities of timber. Chief among the kinds is the Douglas fir, which is a large proportion of all the timber in the province. It is very tough and strong and has a circumference of from 25 to 50 feet. A firm of loggers in the Comox district cut 508,000 feet of one acre. A very modest estimate would average 40,000 feet per acre. The red cedar is also found in large quantities and is very picturesque. Some specimens measure from 60 to 80 feet near the ground.

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On Vancouver island, there is a population of about 1,400 engaged in farming, comprising one-third of the farming community of the province. The sections are mostly selected for the sake of their bottom land, as it is the easiest kind to clear. In the interior, the bunchgrass grows on the plains, making splendid pastures for sheep, cattle, horses, etc. Swine raising is also profitable. In British Columbia there is a lot of unsurveyed government land such as the Peace and Bulkley rivers, and the North Vancouver island tract. Experienced men have reported favorably upon them, but they are too remote to render them of much account at present. They are better situated, however, than Eastern Canada was at the time it was colonized.

Thus British Columbia with its situation and climate, unsurpassed and limitless resources by the development of which its population and prosperity will increase, is bound in the near future to be the greatest province of Canada, if not of the world.

GORDON GRANT,  
First Division, North Ward School.

## THE GOLDFIELDS CO.

TO THE EDITOR:—Hon. Mr. Turner's statement about the personnel of the Lillooet Fraser River Cariboo Goldfields Co. must have been unpleasant reading for those who have been so busily engaged in crying "stinking fish." But it requires something more than plain facts and direct statements to convince people who act with a malicious and not with an honest motive. It is quite unnecessary for me to discuss "A Native's" letter. It was already abundantly answered by Mr. Turner's statement before it was printed. I might just point out, however, that his contention that because the COLONIST recognizes the scheme fairly it is therefore paid for so doing, will also work the other way. The opposing counsel in this particular case may perhaps be paid, from the value of his argument he ought to go to a very cheap price.

There is little fault to find with the Saturday Review or any other English paper for simply criticizing any new scheme brought before the public of England. They are the ones who are furnishing the cash. It is not long ago, however, since I read a statement to the effect that the financial papers of London were not above their price, and who can tell whether this oft-quoted Saturday Review is not touting for a client—a rival firm of brokers? But a British Columbia paper or citizen should be the last source of opposition to any legitimate scheme for bringing capital to develop the mines or other resources of this province—any thought it or he may be a political opponent of some of the promoters. From the character of the names mentioned in Mr. Turner's statement I would gather that they are quite competent to take care of themselves in any transaction that they may enter into. The ravings of "the weakling" and the strictures of the stupid "Native" will be altogether wasted upon the old world financiers.

World it not have been the wiser course, Mr. Editor, for the writers of these unparliamentary attacks on the Goldfields Co. to have obtained information of the scheme from reliable sources, and not have taken their cue from a London paper, probably in the control of opposition stockbrokers? As I said in my first letter, for many years we have been endeavoring to attract British capital, and now that we are receiving some of it in sheer folly and stupidity for any paper to try and convince the British investor that he is going to a risky market. I notice that the claim is put forward that Mr. Bostock is not responsible for the articles in "the weakling." Everyone is aware that it is Mr. Bostock's paper, and if he starts a fire, furnishes the fuel to keep it going and gets burnt in the transaction, why pity him? He has, however, the opportunity of placing himself on record in the matter if he does not approve of his paper's course.

B. C. FIRST.

## THE TREASURY OF GOD.

TO THE EDITOR:—In reply to the letter from a "Well Wisher," which appeared in your issue of yesterday, asking for further information and details regarding the Society of the "Treasury of God," I shall be most obliged if you can find space in your columns for the enclosed rules of the English society of that name.

No steps have been taken to organize a similar society here until the proposed scheme has been brought under the consideration of the bishops and clergy of Victoria. To this end their presence has been solicited at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., when it is hoped to obtain their sanction and advice on the subject.

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BAKER,  
President of Local Council of Women of Victoria and Vancouver Island.

THREE MONTHS FOR NOTHING!

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THE PIONEER NEWSPAPER  
SETS THE PACE.

COMMENCING with this date THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST will be mailed to any address in Canada or the United States for \$1.50 per annum, and as an additional inducement to present subscribers to renew, and to introduce the paper to new readers, THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST will be mailed from now until December 31st, 1896, for the price of one year's subscription—\$1.50—payable invariably in advance.

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—THERE IS SOMETHING IN IT FOR EVERYBODY.—

The Ladies are not neglected, for Fashion Articles and Illustrations, which is going on in woman's world, and an Entertaining Story, form a part of its contents. It is in the highest sense a CLEAN AND INSTRUCTIVE FAMILY NEWSPAPER, and should be read by everyone in British Columbia.

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The above also includes the offer from date up to the 31st December, 1896. Cash in all cases must accompany orders.

ADDRESS—

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VICTORIA, B.C.

the practice advocated by the society, or who are desirous of doing so.

II. Bringing the subject before churches by the publication and distribution of suitable literature, and by means of sermons and lectures.

The society is managed by a mastership assisted by a council of laymen, secretary and treasurer, all of whom are appointed by the master annually at Easter. Applications for enrolment, etc. should be made to the honorary secretary, Mr. S. E. Gunyon, 7, Ickburgh road, Upper Clapton, N.E.

Cyprus methods of agriculture are of the most primitive description. The plow in use in Cyprus is just what Virgil describes. They haven't changed their implements of agriculture for 2,000 years. As for the threshing floors, they are precisely what they were in Palestine in the days of Araunah the Jebusite. Every village has one or more of these.