

THE GREATER BRITAIN EXHIBITION.

In yesterday's Colonist Mr. William Thompson was quoted in regard to the desirability of British Columbia being represented at the Greater Britain exhibition, to be held in London next year. It is understood that the provincial government hesitates about going to the necessary expenditure. If Hon. Mr. Semlin and his colleagues are under the impression that they can attend to the wants of British Columbia at this stage of its history without spending money freely, they will find themselves grievously mistaken. They must be prepared to expend money freely, and they will be very unwise if they shrink from incurring liabilities on that account. Mr. Turner had remained in power, the loan authorized by the last legislature would have been floated by this time, and there would have been no occasion to make a poor mouth every time anything was spoken of which called for a "small outlay." But the province has fallen upon another kind of day. We are to proceed with development in forma pauperis. This is just what we were led to expect from what Mr. Semlin and his friends used to say when in opposition. They were opposed then to everything calculated to open the country or attract the attention of settlers or capitalists, and there is no occasion for surprise that, now they are in power, they take the same view of things. They always were unable to appreciate that this is a province where millions must be spent, but from which millions can be drawn as the result of such expenditure judiciously made.

The proposed exhibition will be an excellent means of bringing the province under the notice of the world. Those who remember the Indian and Colonial exhibition, and had occasion to note its influence, will bear us out in saying that it produced a vast amount of good. For British Columbia to be unrepresented at the forthcoming gathering would be a very grave error. Doubtless the Dominion government will do something, but the province ought not to be left to depend upon its share of what can be accomplished in that way. British Columbia has special claims upon the attention of the world, and a special effort ought to be made to impress them upon the hosts of people who will attend the exhibition.

FOR THE SOUTH POLE.

Sir George Neaves' South Polar expedition is about ready to start for the scene of its labors, if it has not already started. It consists of a single back-sailed steamer, the *Albatross*, under the command of Captain Borchgrevink, an experienced Arctic navigator, who is of mixed Norwegian and English descent. The party will consist of 30 picked men, chiefly Englishmen and Norwegians. The object of the expedition is purely scientific, and the scientists are Englishmen. The expedition will go to Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, and thence will set south for Cape Adair, on what is supposed to be the Antarctic continent, where the scientific members of the expedition, with some assistants, will be left, the Southern Cross then coming north again to Hobart, to await the opening of southern navigation next year. During her absence, the party left at Cape Adair will explore the country. The ship herself is something out of the common. Her hull consists of solid oak, and is 11 feet thick. Her sides are 36 inches thick at their weakest point, and she is sheathed all over with American greenheart, as a sort of ice-skin. The propeller can be lifted out of the way of the ice, and in every way the Southern Cross seems about as well fitted for the work she is to do as can well be imagined. She carries vast quantities of stores.

As to the region to be explored, when we say that the supposed continent has an area of fully 8,000,000 square miles, or about the same as that of North America, the possibility of novel discoveries will be at once apparent. Captain Borchgrevink says that it is "unwise to say what might be found." He admits the possibility of the discovery of a new race of men, new animals and plants. So very little is known of what is called the Antarctic continent that no one can say if it is a continent. About all that can be told positively is that wherever ships have approached it a great ice barrier has been seen, but on the few points where landings have been effected, the rock formation seems to be substantially identical. From this a continuity of formation may be inferred, but it is an inference of the most naked "chance-ter." No one from the civilized world has ever penetrated beyond the barrier, or if he has, he has never returned to tell the tale. It may be added that in a direct line from Cape Adair to the South Pole the distance is 1,200 miles. Observations have shown that in Arctic regions the latitude of maximum cold is several hundred miles from the Pole. If the same rule holds good in the Antarctic, there may be a large habitable area within the ice barrier. From such evidence as the North Polar region affords, it would not be advisable to expect that such an area, if it exists, will be found to be very favorable to human life, as we understand living, but as mankind seems able to adapt itself to every possible climatic condition, there is no insuperable objection to the existence of a race of men hitherto unknown in the southern continent. The leader of the

expedition admits it to be possible, and says that the men of the Challenger expedition will not assert that it is not. The first word received will be as to the landing of the expedition, and if the weather is favorable, so that the ship can wait at Cape Adair, of the beginning of the explorations. We ought to know some time during the next six months if the expedition reaches its first objective point in safety, and what its prospects are. Then we will hear nothing for from ten to twelve months more.

THE ASHROFT TRAIL.

Colonist readers will recall how this paper protested against the attempt made to induce Intending Yukoners to follow the trail from Ashcroft to Telegraph Creek. We pointed out the enormous difficulties of the route, and gave proof of the most trustworthy kind of what we said. The experience of those who have used the trail, or tried to do so, more than justifies everything then said. The trail when the Yukon becomes more fully developed, the trail up the Bulkley valley will be employed as a means of getting stock into the country beyond a doubt. There may possibly be a railway by that route. But for the present and for all purposes the route via the Coast and the only one worth a moment's consideration. For the next few years, Ashcroft will have to depend upon such business as comes from the development of regions much nearer than Klondike, and the outlook is that it will itself be sufficient to make the town a very prosperous place. There is much excellent mining country within the borders of British Columbia, and very much further south than even Telegraph Creek. Cariboo itself gives promise of a return of the fame which once made its name synonymous with riches all the civilized world over.

ORIENTAL TRADE.

President Hill, of the Great Northern, made a speech at St. Paul a few days ago in which he devoted himself entirely to the future trade of the Pacific. Among other things he said: "If the present changes in the Orient bring about the opening of a new trade route to the Pacific ocean in the next twenty-five years that the world has ever seen in its history."

Speaking of the present trade, he said that every available foot of space in the Niippon and Kaisha steamers, which are out of Seattle was engaged last March for four months ahead solely for the carriage of cotton. He also mentioned having seen a cable from a Hongkong house asking a quotation on 500,000 barrels of flour. If this is the way trade is shipping itself at what is really only the beginning of its development, what may we not look for in the future? The facilities which Victoria offers or can secure for carrying on business with the Orient are very great, and it is reasonable to think that the city will get its fair share of what is going. What we need more than anything else at this time is better communication with the Mainland. There is no good reason why the C. P. R. trains should not run into this city without change. When this is the case Victoria may expect to become an important terminal point. There is no occasion for any local jealousy between this city and Vancouver on this point, for at the rate trans-Pacific commerce promises to develop there will be plenty of business for both places, even if they become each ten times as large as they now are.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Hitherto in British Columbia the civil service has not been considered a political organization. Men when appointed to positions on the permanent staff felt that they had secured places that could be regarded as fixed, and they have always endeavored to arrange their personal affairs accordingly. Most of them have secured homes and surrounded themselves with little comforts, which make their life enjoyable, but cannot very well be taken elsewhere. They are a rule attend to their duties well. They have had every incentive to do so. There has been no temptation to make hay while the sun shines. Hence honesty has marked the conduct of the whole service. Nothing is more valuable to a country than a frank, permanent staff of civil servants composed of men wholly indifferent to the success of one party or another, so far as their own tenure of office is concerned. We do not say that, because a man accepts a place in a public department, he thereby gives up his citizenship. Policy may dictate that civil servants ought to be deprived of their votes, but even when this is done, they cannot be deprived of their right to think and form preferences. Offensive partisanship may properly be punished by dismissal; but the mere exercise of the franchise or even the open expression of opinion ought not to be regarded as such. We think it can be fairly claimed that the civil service employees in British Columbia and the other provinces of Canada, as well as of the Dominion itself, whatever may be their personal predilections, are always loyal to the government of the day. They ought to be so, even though they may vote against government candidates. They are loyal in the sense that they do their duty as public officials as faithfully for one party as for another, and do not employ their official positions to the disadvantage of the party in power. It sometimes happens that the very nature of an official's duty necessitates his doing work for the party in power, but he ought not to be held responsible for this. The Semlin government is inaugurating a change in this respect. It has caused the members of the civil service to sign a declaration that they have no objection to expect, because they are in office today, that they will be in office tomorrow. Take the case of Miss Woolley,

stenographer to the Premier. This lady has filled that post for eight years. She has served at least three premiers. Of her efficiency there can be no manner of doubt. That she was a partisan, offensive or otherwise, would be an absurd suggestion. Yet she was dismissed without notice. She was used worse than a respectable housekeeper would use a Chinese servant. Fairly service lady-like demeanor, intelligence and industry count for nothing with this administration. She was simply told to go, as one might turn out a tramp or a trespasser. Unjust treatment of a girl by a magistrate once cost a government of Great Britain the seals of office, and if the people of British Columbia do not, on their first opportunity, express their condemnation of the unjust treatment of Miss Woolley, they deserve to have the civil service made the plaything of political parties.

The danger which lies in prostituting the civil service to political purposes is very great, and is likely to operate in various directions. Men who are appointed to official positions and know that they are likely to be turned adrift at any time, will have an eye always to the main chance. Personal interests will have the first place in their consideration, and the public welfare the second. We do not believe that the people of British Columbia desire to see such a change inaugurated, and that they will stamp with their disapproval the line of policy which Mr. Semlin has followed. All the best interests of the province have been marked by indecent haste, as though the members of the government feared to give the displaced officials reasonable notice, lest they might find themselves out before they had an opportunity to make new appointments.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

We congratulate the Times upon having at last undertaken to discuss the constitutional question involved in the dismissal of the late ministry, although we cannot add to this a compliment upon its grasp of the subject. It quotes extensively from Todd's "Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies." Before proceeding further, we may remind the Times of what it is doubtless ignorant, namely, that Dr. Todd's work, like a legal text book, its authority only as far as its dicta, and borne out by precedents. For the precedents we must go to the proceedings of parliament, and the observations of any writer, however learned, in regard to these precedents, are only of weight so far as they express the logical conclusion from the precedents themselves. Most of the writers on constitutional law take very broad views of the prerogative, but it must not be supposed that anyone is bound by their views, that their opinions have the force of law, or that they speak with any greater authority than can be supported by the application of the ordinary principles of logic to what they say.

With this observation as to the value of text book dissertations on constitutional law, let us see what Dr. Todd lays down in the quotations. It is simply this: That a governor may dismiss his ministers for causes that seem to him sufficient. As the Times expressly addresses its article to the Colonist, we may point out to it that there was no necessity to quote half a column from any writer to establish the point, for if it had turned to the Colonist of August 9, it would have found the following statement in the editorial announcing the dismissal of the ministry: "That the Lieutenant-Governor has power to call upon anyone at any time to take the position of chief adviser may be conceded." The Colonist has never receded from this position. It hopes it understands the British constitution too well to lose sight of the fundamental principle that no emergency can possibly arise, which neither the crown nor parliament can adequately meet. The right of dismissal must be vested in the crown or its representative, or we will cease to have a monarchical form of government. But this right of dismissal must be exercised "on grounds capable of being stated and defended to parliament." This is in accordance with constitutional practice as explained by Lord Brougham in his place in parliament many years ago, and recognized by Sir Robert Peel on the last occasion when a British ministry was dismissed. These two precedents settle the constitutional right of the sovereign. They concede the right of dismissal, but give the conditions upon which it may be exercised. There is no question upon this point, and this is all that the long citations from Todd establish. Applying this principle to Lieutenant-Governor McInnes' action we find that he gave his reasons for his act of dismissal, and the whole argument of the Colonist has been to show that these reasons were entirely insufficient. We have sought to show that, giving the full effect to everything stated by the Lieutenant-Governor in his letters, and without going outside of what he himself said upon the subject, failed to make out a case warranting the exercise of the prerogative of dismissal, and, therefore, that his conduct was utterly without warrant, unsupported by precedent, in violation of parliamentary usage, and arbitrary in the extreme.

Things look as though Great Britain would have to do some international police work at Crete. Is it going to be another case of Egypt again? The powers will stand back while Great Britain does the work of humanity. It may take as long to finish the job as it took on the Nile, and that seems likely to be for all time to come.

Kitchener is just about half way from the mouth of the Nile to its source, and he will probably find no difficulty in going the remainder of the distance. In regard to the alleged presence of Marchand and a small French force at Fashoda, it is worth mentioning that the French government, expressly denied any responsibility for the expedition, and that it was undertaken after Great Britain had given notice that she would not permit any interference with her plans in the Upper Nile valley. It is of the greatest importance to Egypt that the control of this part of the river should be in the hands of the same power which rules the Lower Nile, because it would be a very simple thing to so obstruct the river that the annual floods of the Nile which would reduce Egypt to the condition of a desert. We need feel no anxiety as to the future sovereignty of the Upper Nile. The Union Jack will be its emblem.

We print a letter written to the Klondike Nugget by Tappen Adner, special correspondent of Harper's Weekly. Mr. Adner has been on the Yukon for about a year and has had every opportunity of familiarizing himself with what is transpiring there. A fact that he represents such a periodical as Harper's Weekly lends much weight to what he says. It is more than his position is worth to identify himself with mere sensations, in which respect he stands on a similar footing to Mr. H. S. White, Reuter's correspondent. When Mr. Adner says that a parliamentary inquiry is called for, the public may feel sure that he does not speak with any malice towards the officers or with any desire to do an injury to Canada.

About twelve hundred men are encamped at Kotsche Sound waiting for a chance to get away. They went up there after gold. Somebody started the story that gold could be found in the Kovak river, which flows into the sound, and at once an expedition after expedition started for the alleged new Eldorado, Kotsche Sound is north of Cape Prince of Wales. To reach it it is necessary to traverse Behring sea and pass through Behring strait. Then a turn to the eastward brings the adventurer into the Sound. If there is any region in the whole world, that is no good, it is that around Kotsche Sound.

We quoted yesterday from the Edmonton Bulletin in regard to the alleged construction of the C. P. R. not to construct the Great West Pass railway any further than Kootenay lakes. It is fair to say to-day that the Winnipeg Free Press corrects the impression created by the Bulletin's article, and points out that it is an integral part of the bargain with the company that a steam ferry shall be maintained between the lake terminus and Nelson, until the railway can be completed to the latter point, and that the company has until December 31, 1900, to complete the line.

While the Liberal organs continue to assure the government and the public that there is nothing in the Yukon scandal, the British press is taking the matter up, and very grave assertions are made. For example, we find To-day, a weekly London periodical, declaring that "the police, land office, gold commissioner's office and mounted police are all corrupt." Against such a statement, made in such a quarter, the contradictions of little organettes like the Victoria Times are as useless as a pop-gun against an ironclad.

Mr. R. E. Gonnell, provincial librarian, has been dismissed from office. Mr. Gonnell was an exceptionally good officer and a very useful man in his position. Few men took greater interest in the work than he, and few were so able to render the public efficient service. Miss Woolley, of the Premier's department, a stenographer, also has been dismissed. This lady was exceptionally adapted for her work, and during her official career gained the high respect of every one having any transactions with the department.

It ought not to surprise any one that the American war department has found that negroes make excellent soldiers. If British experience counts for anything, it establishes that black men make capital to military purposes. There are a century of slavery would destroy their courage, but here again experience shows that slavery makes races amenable to discipline, and that with discipline good fighting material can be made out of almost everything.

Late Dawson papers speak of the great harm likely to follow from the action of Collector Iyer, of Alaska, who compelled the surrender of a gold thief, arrested on the American portion of the Yukon in a hot pursuit from Canadian territory. The custom hitherto has been for officers from one side of the boundary to follow criminals to the other side and make arrests, without ever thinking about such a formality as extradition, and the system has worked very well. If the slow process of extradition must be gone through with, there will be the mischief to mining matters. The Queen's conference might well take up this matter, and provide for a continuation of the very excellent plan that has been in operation hitherto. We suggest that an agreement be made, permitting officers of one country to follow criminals into the other country, and arrest them in such places as may be designated by the Governor-General and the President by proclamation.

Under the new postal arrangements you can send a letter to London for the same price as you can send one through the post to your next door neighbor. Trifling penny postage is an attractive proposition, but...

THE AWAKENING OF CHINA.

A very noteworthy concession has been granted by the Chinese Emperor to the Pekin Syndicate, Limited, of London. It confers upon the company the right to open and work coal and iron mines in the province of Shansi, and to construct all necessary railways, canals, and so on. The charter holds good for 90 years. The government reserves 25 per cent. of the net profits. This is admitted to be the most important concession ever granted by China to foreigners, the much talked of Belgian concession being hardly a concession at all, but simply an arrangement under which some Belgian capitalists act for the Chinese government. So unsatisfactory are the terms of the Belgian arrangement that nothing whatever has been done under it.

The province of Shansi lies in the interior and directly in the rear of Chihli, in which Pekin is situated. A narrow strip of the latter province separates it from Shantung, in which is situated Wei-hai-wei, lately become a British possession under lease. It will be recalled that when this lease was made, objection was taken that it did not give British capitalists any right to the rich mines of Shansi, and that hence it was of little value. Particular stress was laid in foreign papers upon the fact that the British government failed to acquire the right to construct railways into the interior, so as to reach this province. It seems, therefore, as if, as is usually the case, John Bull's ever-ready commercial instincts have supplemented his diplomacy.

Too great stress cannot be laid upon this new concession. It means the development of Northern China on a scale hitherto undreamed of. The United States consul at Tientsin declares it to be a step of very special importance. The bearing which this has upon Canada is hardly overestimated. Contemporary with the opening of China to industrial expansion will come a change in the diet of the people, and it is impossible to realize fully what this signifies. There are four hundred million people resident in China. If one-tenth of them should become consumers of wheat, it would mean a market for 200,000,000 bushels a year, which is about double the production of Canada for 1898. Where will this wheat come from? Not from the United States. That country has about reached the highest point in its production of this grain. There is no portion of Asia which can supply the demand. In the course of time, Siberia may become a great wheat producer, but that will be years hence. The best source of supply will be Canada, and fortunately Canada has a field ready for occupation. There are millions upon millions of acres of the finest wheat land on the globe awaiting settlement in the Northwest. The growing of this grain for China will people the prairie region with a thrifty and prosperous population; the handling of it will build up on the coast of British Columbia cities which will rival in importance the largest centres on the Atlantic shore of the continent. No one can measure the importance of this, and the best of it all is that we are likely to see the results within a very short time. It is not too soon for the Dominion government to take cognizance of what is going on in China, and shape the policy of the country accordingly.

During the cruel rule of the Khalifa, to whose power the Anglo-Egyptian force put the finishing touches at Omdurman, the sacrifice of life in the Sudan was awful. Whole tribes were exterminated by the bloodthirsty devils, so that areas once populated are now given over to wild beasts.

The checks have been issued to the sealers. There has certainly been no undignified haste in settling these claims, but we suppose the money will be the less welcome. The only ground for complaint is that, while the claims have not borne interest, many of the sealers have been paying it.

Our correspondent, "Barriester," makes an excellent suggestion in regard to appeals from the decision of the judge in the Yukon. Readers may remember that the Colonist last year suggested that the Yukon should be annexed to British Columbia for judicial purposes.

There was not half the bitterness between the Americans and Spaniards in the late war as there is between rival claimants to the same arising out of it, and the rival politicians who are endeavoring to make capital out of it.

DR. PRICE'S
CREAM
BAKING
POWDER
Awarded
Highest Honors, World's Fair
Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair

20 Cases
NEW FALL SUITS
Just to Hand
Wrt for Samples and self-measurement forms.
B. WILLIAMS & CO.
CLOTHIERS
Hatters and Outfitters, 97, 99 Johnson St. Victoria, B.C.

E. G. PRIOR & CO.
Limited Liability
Just received a carload of
PORTABLE FARM ENGINES
4 and 6 Horse Power
With iron wheels, not wooden ones, as shown in cut.
Manufactured by the Jas. Lefell & Co., Springfield, Ohio.
These engines are particularly well adapted for farm work, being simple sufficient for running small threshers, feed cutters, grinding mills, etc. The entire boiler is made of steel, and is of the class known as the Cornish Return Tubular Boiler, the safest and most economical boiler made. All kinds of fuel can be used in these boilers. The engine is simplicity itself, and is made of only the very best material.
We can refer as to their success to some of the best known farmers in B. C. who have bought them from us.
We also have some 3 H. P. upright engines by same makers. Call and inspect these engines at Victoria or Vancouver, or send for catalogues and prices.

Talk Is Cheap
We don't want to waste words on our goods. They are right in price and quality. What we want is to get our readers to visit us. Our goods will do the talking.
Bovril in 1 oz., 2 oz., 4 oz. B'Ves
Manioba Creamery Butter 25c lb
Also in small tins for Family Use.
Our Blend Tea - - 20c. lb.
Golden Blend Tea - - 40c. lb.
Morgan's Eastern Oysters - always Fresh and Reliable.
Dixie H. Ross & Co.
By permitting the ministers in the Semlin government to be returned to the house without opposition, the opposition have sacrificed nothing, but have either gained an advantage. When the language of the writs was announced, the Colonist took the position that the desirability of putting candidates in the field might properly be left to the people or the constituencies directly interested, and this was the course pursued by Mr. Turner and his friends. We say that it is an advantage to the opposition that the ministers have been returned by acclamation, because it avoids any judgment upon the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, and leaves the whole question to be fought out when the house meets.
The checks have been issued to the sealers. There has certainly been no undignified haste in settling these claims, but we suppose the money will be the less welcome. The only ground for complaint is that, while the claims have not borne interest, many of the sealers have been paying it.
Our correspondent, "Barriester," makes an excellent suggestion in regard to appeals from the decision of the judge in the Yukon. Readers may remember that the Colonist last year suggested that the Yukon should be annexed to British Columbia for judicial purposes.
There was not half the bitterness between the Americans and Spaniards in the late war as there is between rival claimants to the same arising out of it, and the rival politicians who are endeavoring to make capital out of it.
My heart is soft and tender as the heart of a turtle dove.
He heard his late innamorata warble:
And he knew she carried through her hat,
For when he told his love,
He found the best success made of marble.
The report of the state of the church from the synod at Montreal, formation of two new ones, and one in Nova Scotia.

LIBERAL APPROPRIATION GRANTS - TORIS ARRIVE
Proposed Division Between R-Ile the R
From Our Own Vancouver, Sept. 19. Governor of Victoria route to Australia. with the prosperity of expresses hope for Australian colonies. porters of an Anglo-S route a formal treaty. L. Ross, for br Chinaman, was to be for resisting arrest \$ A by-law for the e merous parcels of land purposes has been re will go before the p date. It is proposed on the purchase and recreation grounds. Ald. McGuigan at meeting protested Vancouver having to proposed inspection o leper station. WESTMINSTER TRION
At a meeting of the of the Vancouver bo evening, the chairman, stated that \$4,943 had the city of New W deal written at the appeal list as follows: scription list as follw chants and citizens of to contribute the amo respective names to the left of the sufflers, it understanding of this in the event of the im the sufferers having be for in the estimation committee, any balnc priated towards the co the fair, should it be a Mr. S. Oppenheimer lowing resolution: "F funds in aid of the stf disastrous fire in New lected by the Vancove be handed over to the of the city of New W applied by them to the by the fire, at their d manner and as long as necessary; and the ining shall be used to pr of the forthcoming ex Mr. Crapp, from N explained that the reli did not want the exhib funds mixed up, he did not come to Vanco mental way, but with a tion; they felt that it worth \$5,000 to the Westminister, in the first be worth quite that am supplies in time from Exhibition Committee spoke briefly. He said that 25,000 was a cons of the number of visito attract, and mentioned week received letters Vernon and Armstrong for large numbers of p served. The exhibition one, and never before in his success in the Canadian Pacific railwa rial rates from all qua tric car service could be adopted. After further discuss out that the original that the money collecte ed to the Westminer for distribution, and ac lowing resolution: "w adopted in place of th "That the president trade communicate wter heard of the propos consider favorably, at the immediate relief of what amount it can ap the fund the fund the auspices of the V trade."
YUKON PAID
Major Walsh Pele Government Col of Hin
Montreal, Sept. 20 Herald publishes an Major Walsh at Broo to the statements in port, presented to the lature on Saturday. T met Mr. Buley at La second trip to Dawson said he was going to be arrived at Dawson, tions of the Territo Walsh urged him not to his reason that par consideration a bill when Major Walsh ar pressed to find that he to the extent of \$32,000 lation was passed at ing the Yukon from Naturally the Major y action to remedy the affairs. The Major s straight facts of the e pared to stand by his raised by Mr. Buley of the fact that they w ances.
The report of the state of the church from the synod at Montreal formation of two new ones, and one in Nova Scotia.