

WILL COL. BAKER CONSENT?

The principals of the public schools of the city have within the last few days made two important requests of Col. Baker, minister of education. As we are given to understand, the matter is still under the consideration of the department. Whether this is the usual polite fiction by which any circumlocution office evades both refusal or acceptance, or whether it is a genuine desire to investigate more fully the subject, we cannot undertake to determine.

The requests are these: First, that the examination of pupils should be yearly, instead of half-yearly as at present; and second, that the schools should be graded into six grades instead of eight grades. The reasons advanced by the principals for these changes appear both weighty and reasonable. They aver that the half-yearly examinations induce a considerable amount of cramming work, to the detriment of good, solid work, and that if the yearly examination is instituted the eight-grade system should be reduced to six in order to enable a pupil to pass through the public schools in six years.

Let us examine these proposals: As it were to abandon the half-yearly and to substitute yearly examinations? To begin with, the half-yearly examination is a misnomer, as the two terms are unequal. The first portion of the year permits of five months' teaching, the latter portion of about three and a half months, owing to the fact that nearly the whole of the summer holidays takes place in the latter period of the year. Obviously, therefore, the two terms are unequal. The work to be done in one period must of necessity be less than in another period.

Next, the direct preparation for the examination takes up no inconsiderable period and the teacher is obliged to relinquish the steady, plodding groundwork for that of surface or coaching character. The chief object of our schools should not be to pass successful examinations, but should be that of practical education. The more time that can be devoted to actual solid work is so much gain to both teacher and pupil.

Then there is a considerable time wasted during and after the period of examination. It is simply impossible to retain the attention and concentrated effort of the pupil until he is aware of the result of the examination. He has just passed through. This waste of time has been repeatedly brought before the department by the Victoria board of trustees, resulting in some feeble measures to rectify it.

The second proposal naturally follows from the first. If yearly examinations are permitted, it naturally follows that under the present eight-grade system a pupil would be compelled to stay eight years in the public schools before he could enter the high school. This would be a grievance to many bright and promising pupils, and in order to obviate this objection the principals propose to reduce the grades to six, making a six-year course possible.

Thus a studious pupil could complete his studies in the public schools in six years, and presuming that he entered at the school-age of six, he could enter the high school at twelve, which is as young as is desirable. Further, more accurate grading can be done in the six one-year course than in the eight half-year course. The Times gives the proposed changes its hearty approval, believing that the principals are moving in this matter with the single purpose of promoting the highest interests of education.

A DISENTRALLED WORLD.

The World is brave, indeed. Regardless of the Colonel and the local government, it falls into Mr. Heinze, the partner of the Lieut.-Governor and the pet protegee of his ministers, with a heroism worthy of the cause. It is a comparatively easy matter to pitch into one's adversaries; but to expose friends, to oppose their schemes, and circumspect, if possible, a raid upon the public treasury by one's political leaders, requires the possession of a high order of moral bravery. But that is precisely the kind of heroism displayed by the World. Mr. Turner and his colleagues are Heinze men. They secured for that enterprising young American a railway charter, they gave him an enormous land grant; they voted him \$400,000 as a subsidy; and then, individually and collectively, and assisted by their very ready mouthpieces in Victoria, they tried to obtain similar concessions from the Dominion government. There never was any scheme in which the government took such a lively interest, such an evidently personal interest, as in the Penitentiary-Boundary section of Mr. Heinze's railway. They appeared to be more concerned than Heinze, the astute young man who stood behind the curtain and hypnotically directed their movements. Now, the World has been and is still a warm supporter of the men who did these things. Hereafter it would have followed the Premier, as the Highlanders said they would follow Sir Colin Campbell—to the devil, but it draws the line at this nefarious scheme.

They have the story in the east that a Victoria editor was swindled out of \$10,000 by a gold brick deal. As the deal involved the ownership of \$10,000 it was unnecessary to explain that the Times was not "in on it"; but the capitalist of the Colonist, who has been suspected of carrying a brick in his hat for several months, must speak for himself.

AROUSSED AT LAST.

We are deeply gratified to be informed that the provincial government has at last determined to take action in the matter of furnishing authentic information to the thousands of intending immigrants in Europe regarding British Columbia and its relations to the Klondyke gold fields. For a number of days past the Times has advocated this step, and it is particularly gratifying to see that its efforts have not been fruitless. The following announcement, which may be taken as an official utterance, was made by the Colonist this morning:

"We may inform the Times that the provincial government has taken steps to furnish the agent-general in London of British Columbia with data as to the new gold fields and how to get there." These "steps" ought to have been taken months ago. There was hardly a man in British Columbia who did not realize at the commencement of the Klondyke excitement that it meant a big thing for British Columbia. The Colonist itself was particularly enthusiastic over the expected benefits to the province. The Dominion government acted with the most commendable promptitude. In less than a week after the steamer Portland's arrival with the load of gold and the starting of the excitement, the federal authorities had issued Ogilvie's reports on the Yukon district with all the necessary data. In previous references to this matter we asked "Where is Turner?" and "Where is Vernon?" The Colonist says it might ask "Where is Laurier?" Well, it can, parrot-like, ask that question if it wants to; but it only acts foolishly in doing so. Laurier, or to speak more correctly, the members of the Laurier government, acted at once; they did not wait a week, or a month; they did not devote their entire attention to fustling the interests of private individuals who were looking Klondykewards. They were impressed with the importance of the occasion and took the proper steps at once. But Mr. Turner—well, Mr. Turner has "taken steps." Thanks, Mr. Turner. We take upon ourselves, on behalf of a long-suffering public, to express the universal joy that is felt at this unexpected evidence of vitality.

A Chinaman, when spoken to about raising the poll tax to \$500 the other day, said, "Pollee tax well good; no more Chayman allright; allee samee make plenty money; too many Chayman, no money; pollee tax well good."

WELCOME HOME.

The most prominent figure in our political world, the Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has returned to his native land after what may be properly termed a triumphal tour of Europe. Welcomed and feted everywhere, the most favored guest of the greatest nation on earth at a time when there were gathered together princes and potentates from every land, this brilliant French-Canadian, the beloved leader of the great Liberal party and the representative of the largest and most important colony in the Queen's dominions, started the empire compassed in a few weeks a feat of which the greatest statesman might well be proud. The denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties, the most important fiscal step that Great Britain has taken since the repeal of the corn laws, was the direct outcome of representations made to the imperial authorities by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Had his visit been fruitful of no other results, this one incident is enough to put the seal to his fame and place him on terms of equality with the statesmen of Europe. But he did more. He conveyed to our kinsmen across the water a message from the people of Canada. That message was one of love for Britain and her glorious institutions. The true feeling held by Canadians towards the Motherland has made manifest in a manner that had never been experienced before. The task has been attempted by others; but their expressions of loyalty came from the lip, not from the heart. It remained for Laurier to touch the match to the torch of patriotism, which is now illuminating the farthest parts of the British empire.

When absent from his native land for any length of time, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is entitled to and will always receive from the Canadian people a warm welcome on his return. But on this occasion the cordiality, the universality, and the spontaneity of the demonstration accorded him as he again steps on his native soil will be an event long to be remembered. And it is eminently proper that it should be so. Since the day Sir Wilfrid Laurier assumed the reins of office Canada's advance along the pathway of national importance has been steady and rapid. Under his guiding hand, Canada has reached a position that justifies every one of her sons in declaring, "I am proud to be a Canadian."

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from every part of the broad Dominion, a warm welcome will be extended to the premier, and heartfelt thanks expressed at his safe return.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS

Stamp Mill at the Tin Horn Mine, Fairview, Soon to Be in Operation.

The stamp mill for the Tin Horn is on the ground, and a force of men is engaged in putting it in place. The mill is of 20 stamp capacity, and I understand a splendid piece of machinery, having all the latest patents and improvements. It is expected the mill will break 75 tons in 24 hours. Judging by the rock they are taking out the Tin Horn and will soon declare a dividend.

Considerable development work is being done on several other properties in the Tin Horn vicinity, preparatory to bringing in stamp mills, and from all indications an era of prosperity is almost insured for Camp Fairview. The Sunday closing act is better observed here than in any town, city or camp I have yet visited in British Columbia. It requires some considerable unobscuring of the thirty soul, who on Saturday might be imbibing a man of middle age, bearing in his carriage and address unmistakable indications of luxury and great wealth.

"It is quite true that I gave my check for \$180,000 for 100,000 shares of the Golden Cache, has become the centre of attraction since he has been in Vancouver. He is a vigorous-looking man of middle age, bearing in his carriage and address unmistakable indications of luxury and great wealth. As Mr. Oldroyd was boarding the boat for Victoria he said: "It is quite true that I gave my check for \$180,000 for 100,000 shares of the Golden Cache. I now hold 200,000 shares—two-fifths interest—practically controlling the stock." "I of course think the mine a good one. I am not prepared to prophesy, but should my investment yield a profit I tell you we will pitch into it harder than ever." "I think this is a wonderful country, possessing vast mineral wealth, but the mines are not vigorously worked. People get hold of good properties, then sit down and wait. Why all you want is twenty paying mines now to produce enormous prosperity in British Columbia."

VANCOUVER.

A letter signed J. H. Rothschild, from London, England, positively announces that the syndicate of that name will erect a smelter in Vancouver this winter to cost \$250,000. Capacity, 250 tons a day.

Inspector Cunningham's crusade against California fruit is being carried on with vigor. This week 365 boxes of California apples and pears have been condemned.

Bathing in English Bay is almost impossible, owing to the smell of salmon offal and floating salmon heads. The matter has been called to the attention of the government.

News was received in this city yesterday of the death of Mrs. Miller, wife of Ernest Miller, of Rossland. Mr. and Mrs. Miller had been married but a short time. Mrs. Miller is the son of Postmaster Miller, of Vancouver.

The Whitealaw, heavily loaded, had deck and with an iron bridge, met the Harmer at the mouth of the narrows yesterday afternoon. On the part of Captain Radlin prevent a collision. The Whitealaw tried two hours to make the narrows without success. She finally got away later in the day.

Dr. Saunders, director of the Experimental Farms, was announced to start across the continent for Vancouver and Victoria with a large party, composed of members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which has just closed its meeting in Toronto. No doubt the distinguished visitors will receive a fitting welcome in British Columbia.

The Colonist winds up a short answer to an argument advanced by the Times with this sentence: "The truth of the matter is that the Times does not know what it is talking about." Now, this is the quibbles of logic, isn't it? When one is wanted in an argument one must retort, "You don't know naughtin'" or words to that effect. We feel completely crushed.

Special dispatches to the Times from Ottawa to-day tell of the completion of arrangements between Canada and the United States for the carrying of mails into the Yukon district. At the start a fortnightly service is provided and a monthly service during the winter. The energy displayed by the Dominion government in dealing with the requirements of the Yukon district cannot fail to command the admiration of everyone.

The business of the country is certainly in the hands of men who are capable of coping with any emergency that may arise.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Suicide of E. P. Stanley—A Golden Cache Sale—New Westminster Notes.

At the meeting of the W.C.T.U. resolved that as a society of Christian women, we deeply regret the open violation of the Christian Sabbath which has recently taken place, viz., the running of a line, and we desire to record a public protest, expressing a hope that such an event will not occur again.

FAIRVIEW.

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Considerable development work is being done on several other properties in the Tin Horn vicinity, preparatory to bringing in stamp mills, and from all indications an era of prosperity is almost insured for Camp Fairview. The Sunday closing act is better observed here than in any town, city or camp I have yet visited in British Columbia. It requires some considerable unobscuring of the thirty soul, who on Saturday might be imbibing a man of middle age, bearing in his carriage and address unmistakable indications of luxury and great wealth.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS

Came Down from Klondyke

The steamer Rithet left here yesterday morning with 80 hogs, Mr. Williams and wife, Mr. F. W. Howay and wife, Miss Wolfenden and Mr. H. Eickhoff were passengers.

Mr. L. Strickland, who was a resident in this city several years ago, and was in business with Mr. Port, is on the way to the Klondyke district.

The Transfer left here on Saturday morning, and took up some 200 Indians and about 25 canoes and boats. The Indians are returning to their reservations after spending the season in the fishing business on the Fraser.

Mr. W. Mathers was a passenger on the Transfer yesterday.

Mr. Thos. Forster, M.P.P., was in town yesterday.

A white man is now under arrest for shooting an Indian, whose wife claims she was his wife, and who claims she was the supposed culprit, the white man took the life into his own hands and emptied the contents of a shotgun into the witsah's back.

KAMLOOPS.

The purchase of the Lucky Strike and the bonding of the Josie, Champion, Bluebird and Neighbor claims by John Colbiedick have inspired fresh confidence in the future of Coal Hill camp. Active operations will be commenced on these properties at an early date and it will not be long before Kamloops has a shipping mine.

J. C. McLaren and Hugh McKinnon have bonded the Golden Eagle claim on Jamieson Creek to John Fenley of Fairview. Wash. The terms of the bond are that on the completion of a 50-foot tunnel a four-fifths undivided interest in the claim shall be desired to Fenley. Work is to be commenced by the 15th September next. Messrs. McLaren and McKinnon will retain an assignable one-third interest in the property, Fenley to bear all expenses in connection with the erection of machinery, etc. This is a very commendable method of getting a mining property developed, and one which might with advantage be followed by many who own promising claims which they cannot afford to work.

THE GOLDEN CACHE.

Mr. Arthur Noel, of the Golden Cache mine, spent a night in town this week on his way to the coast for a vacation. On his return Mr. Noel will occupy himself in developing some of his quartz properties in the Lillooet section. The mill will be started on the Golden Cache. It is now expected, on the 8th of next month. Of the reserves of the mine, Mr. Noel says, and no one is in a position to judge so well as he, that it will be a real prize. The mine will make a wonderful showing. A hundred tons of gold ore can be made in ponding out gold with a mortar, and further, the ledge is large and permanent. The Golden Cache is a wonderful mine. Mr. Noel has been in charge of the work ever since it was started and his work has been such as to cause the company to have full and entire confidence in his ability and integrity.—B. C. Mining Journal.

GOSSETT OF TRAIL.

Trail, Aug. 24.—Dr. Duncan, medical secretary for the provincial board of health, arrived yesterday from Nelson, where he has been conducting a sanitary inspection of that city. When he went to the hotel he was complaining of feeling ill, and was later compelled to go to the hospital, where he still remains, with every evidence of fever.

W. F. Keay, who has been stationed in the Fort Steele country for the customs department, has assumed charge of the office here, and has relieved Collector Gordon, who goes to Fort Steele.

Charles Cunningham, who has been doing newspaper work in Kaslo, came to-day.

The steamer Lytton came down from the north yesterday with some hares in tow.

Mr. Le Maistre, has just returned from Watloo, where a force of men is at work on the Bryan quarry. Fourteen assays taken in all kinds of material showed an average value of \$140.

Additional specimens of quartz were brought in from the Bruce mine yesterday. The free gold is visible in large quantities in almost all of them.

Hon. Colonel Baker, minister of mines and education, was in Trail to-day, and visited the site for the new school house. The bids were opened this morning and will be forwarded to Victoria for acceptance. The new structure will cost \$2,000, and will be similar in construction to the present building.

A SLUMP IN WHEAT.

A Big Drop Below the Dollar Mark Reported From Chicago.

Chicago, Aug. 27.—Wheat broke over the cent a bushel to-day. At opening 119 1/2 cts. wanted to unload, on weak sales. Liverpool showed a decline of over five cents a bushel. Everything on the floor was demoralized by the selling of wheat at 119 1/2 to 120 cts. compared with 120 1/2 to 121 1/2 cts. last week. A rally to 120 cts. followed on some buying by the bull clique. December wheat, which closed at 85 1/2 cts. and 86 cts. to-day, advanced to 86 1/2 cts., and recovered to 91 cts.

FIVE LUCKY

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Hood's Sarsaparilla. In the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. Hood's Pills easy to operate. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all blood diseases. It's astonishing how much patience some people have with themselves.