The Colonist.

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OUR CLAIMS ON THE DOMINION.

An article appeared in the Ottawa Citizen of the 16th inst., which calls for notice. It refers to the visit of Senator McInnes and his associates to ask for the construction of a railway from the Coast to Kootenay, and says that they "represent a movement which threatens danger." It then tells us that the government is committed to the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railroad, which will cost $8,000,000 and "is to be built so that the Northwest territory may secure the supply of the trade of the twenty thousand miners and others in the southeast part of British Columbia," and it seems astonished that any one should ask a railway "to enable British Columbia to participate in the supplying of the Kootenay mining region." Then it tells us that Mr. Foster four years ago, when prime minister, "informed parliament that the period of large subsidies to railways had about closed," and winds up its jeremiad by asking "Where do these British Columbia gentlemen imagine the money is to come from?" This sort of an article from a paper which was closely identified with Sir John Macdonald's policy of Canadian development discloses a reactionary tendency, that is, to say the least, a surprise. It will be noted that the Ottawa paper very frankly admits that the Crow's Nest Pass Railway is primarily, so far as trade matters are concerned, a work for the advantage of the Northwest Territories and Ontario, but this is as far as it goes. It is guilty of the phenomenal absurdity of supposing that any one will ask the Dominion government or that any government would ask parliament to spend $8,000,000 to construct a railway for the sake of serving 20,000 people, who have already the Canadian Pacific on the north and the American railways to the south, with a very excellent system of water communication between the different parts of the mining districts. If this were all there is to Southeast British Columbia every voice in this Province would be raised against the expenditure of $8,000,000 on the Crow's Nest Pass or any other railway, and no man would have the hardihood to petition for aid for a road from the Coast to Kootenay. In the first place the "twenty thousand miners and others" is a gross underestimate of the people whose trade the proposed road will secure to the Northwest and Ontario. In the two towns of Rossland and Trail there are half that many people already, and this is only one corner of Kootenay. Before the Crow's Nest Pass road can be built there will be more than 20,000 people in Rossland alone, and he would be a rash man who would attempt to limit the number of other progressive mining camps and towns which by that time will count their population by thousands. The trade which the proposed road is intended to divert from American to Canadian sources of supply is not simply that of 20,000 people, but that of a community which by the time the road is ready to do business is likely to contain, at the present rate of progress, more than 100,000 people.

But this is not the sole reason why the road ought to be built. A railway through the country from Lethbridge to, say, Grand Forks will open a mineralized country of remarkable promise, besides giving the smelters, now and to be erected in Kootenay, access to the coal lands, which is essential to their complete success. This branch of the subject has been gone over time and again and the only surprize is that the Citizen has seen fit to ignore all that has been said about it.

The considerations above mentioned place the request of the British Columbia delegation in a very different light from that in which the Ottawa paper regards it. We think that this is already very well understood by the ministers and it is hardly necessary to add anything further in regard to it. Yet it may be well to say for information of our contemporary and all others who take a similar view that a railway from the eastern border of British Columbia to the Coast along the general route favored by the delegation referred to, would open up a district of very great value from a mining standpoint and of much importance agriculturally. We are not now advocating the construction of such a line by the Dominion government, but are simply protesting against a misrepresentation of the merits of such a project.

What Mr. Foster may have said or may not have said four years ago hardly cuts very much of a figure now. He himself would be the first to repudiate the pretense that the course of the government, in view of the great mining development which this Province has seen since he made the declaration referred to, should be governed by what appeared at that time politic. Mr. Foster has shown his faith in Kootenay in a practical way, and we do not believe that he will be found protesting in parliament against any well-considered plan for the opening of the country by railways.

"Where do these gentlemen from British Columbia think the money is coming from?" We will answer the question for the gentlemen from British Columbia. They do not expect it to come out of the pockets of the people of Ontario, or of Quebec, or of the Maritime Provinces, or of the Northwest. Let the Government of Canada promise the aid necessary to open British Columbia by railways, and this Province will repay the money into the treasury almost as rapidly as it is advanced. We are now paying to the federal revenue hundreds of thousands of dollars annually more than we are receiving. Open the Province with railways. Give capitalists a chance to get at our mines of precious metals; settlers a chance to occupy our fertile valleys and cattle-raisers to utilize our splendid pasture lands, and the excess of our contributions will be counted by millions annually. The Citizen seems to have outlived the "splendid audacity" of the great leader of its party, who, if he were alive to-day, would be the first to recognize the glorious possibilities of the Pacific Province.

CO-OPERATIVE BANKS.

Hon. Mr. Turner will, we hope, find some opportunity of further explaining the operation of farmers' banks so that what he says may be fully reported and sent broadcast over the Province. This is a good deal to ask of so busy a man as the premier, but his business faculty of getting at the pith of a matter and his concise way of expressing himself render it very desirable that he should do so. His remarks yesterday were listened to with the closest attention, and the house shared with him in the regret that the pressure of other matters prevented him from going more deeply into the subject. Mr. Turner is admirably equipped to deal with a matter of this nature, and his explanation of the working of these institutions in Europe will do more than any other single agency to direct attention to the provision in the Farmers' Institute bill for the formation of co-operative banks.

The remarkable results which have attended similar institutions in Europe furnishes ground for hope that they may be equally successful here, although, as the Premier pointed out, the smaller population of this Province may militate against them in some measure. Mr. Turner referred to one objection that had been made to co-operative banking in this country—namely, that the standard of business morality is lower here than in Europe, but said that he did not believe the point was well taken. A more serious difficulty will be found in the comparatively unsettled character of the population. In Europe the people of a community belong to it in a sense that we cannot realize in this Western country, where people are gathered together from all the ends of the earth and are here to-day and away to-morrow, and are not tied to the land, so to speak. But even this can be overcome, although its existence will necessitate very much greater care and a closer supervision of these co-operative banks than may be necessary in Europe.

INCORPORATION OF NEW CITIES.

A bill was introduced by the Attorney-General yesterday to provide for the incorporation of Nelson, Rossland and Grand Forks. Nelson is to include Lot 95 Group 1 in the Kootenay district containing 372 acres. Rossland is to include Sections 34 and 35 and the north half of Sections 26 and 27 in Township IXa in Kootenay containing 1,920 acres. Grand Forks is to contain 1,057 acres, and is described at length by metes and bounds.

The qualification for Mayor is the ownership for three months previous to election of $1,000 worth of real estate in the city over and above encumbrance, or of a lease for at least a year of real property within the city worth $2,000, and the other qualifications required for voters. The qualifications of Aldermen are the same, except that the value of the realty or leasehold may be $500 or $1,000 respectively. Until the city is divided into Wards the Mayor and Aldermen shall be elected at large. Male British subjects, who are 21 years of age, have resided in the city three months previous to the election and are registered, may vote at the election. The cities are authorized to borrow money in 1897 for works of immediate necessity, the amount in the case of Rossland being fixed at $50,000, those in the case of the other cities being left blank for the present.

No municipal taxes shall be levied on mines, mining plants or the land covered by a mineral claim, but where the surface right on a mineral claim passes from the crown in fee simple it may be taxed as other real estate, except when actually used for mining purposes. The Act also authorizes taxes to be levied in 1897 as for a full year, confers the necessary powers in regard to licenses and brings the cities under the operation of the general municipal acts.

Provision is also made for the incorporation of other new towns and cities which may come into prominence during the present year. The Act is not a very long one, but it appears to cover all the necessary points. It will probably be passed expeditiously and be brought into operation at once, as the several towns named in it are very desirous of acting on its provisions at the earliest possible day.

THE Calgary Herald congratulates the people of that vicinity on the cut in C. P. R. rates on freight to British Columbia. Hay can now be shipped into Kootenay at a fair profit. Oats will be exceedingly profitable under the new schedule. On pork, poultry, potatoes, butter and cheese and general farm produce the rate from Calgary to Rossland is 95 cents per 100 pounds in carload lots and $1.20 on less than carload lots. The rate on grain, vegetables and millstuffs from Edmonton, McLeod and other points north and south of Calgary to Trail is 35 cents per 100 pounds. On pork, poultry, butter, eggs and produce of this class the rate from these points is $1.20 on carload lots and $1.35 on smaller lots. The Herald thinks these rates mean much to the farmers of Alberta.

THERE will be a Canadian section in connection with the Victorian Loan Exhibition to be held at the Crystal Palace, London, this year. In this section will be exhibited the products and resources of Canada, and Harrisson Watson, who is in charge, says he has only a limited supply of suitable objects at his disposal. The articles are only to be loaned, and the lender will be at no expense. Mr. Watson, whose address is Imperial Institute, London, S. W., would like to hear from those who may feel like helping to make the exhibit a success.

MR. BARNARD's letter in regard to water rights is based upon a misconstruction of what the COLONIST said. The reference was not to the franchise for laying pipes or stringing wires for supplying a town with water, light or power; but to the water right itself. We expressly used the words "the water franchise itself," meaning thereby the right to take the water of the stream.

THE New York Times has very little patience with the Senators who are opposing the arbitration treaty. It calls them "gory savages of the stone age," and says they are now "disgracing the country in the eyes of civilization." There is nothing quite so bad in the way of a legislator as a fire-eating United States Senator.

THE Vancouver World seems to have become reconciled to a postponement of aid from the Dominion to any railway in British Columbia except the Crow's Nest Pass. We are inclined to think that the last word has not yet been spoken on this question.

BRITISH COLUMBIA's contribution to the revenue is fifth among the provinces in amount, but is first among them per capita. It was over $10 per head in 1896. New Brunswick's contribution was a shade over $3 per head.

X-Rays

Of severest trial and test prove in regard to Hood's Sarsaparilla

1st, Greatest Merit

Secured by a peculiar Combination, Proportion and Process unknown to others—which naturally and actually produces

2d, Greatest Cures

Shown by thousands of honest, voluntary testimonials—which naturally and actually produce

3d, Greatest Sales

According to the statements of druggists all over the country. In these three points Hood's Sarsaparilla is peculiar to itself.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—It is the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Special Gold Medal and Diploma

...AWARDED...

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder,

...BY THE...

CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

In singling out Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder from all its competitors, and bestowing upon it a special Gold Medal, the California Midwinter Fair concurred in the verdict given by the World's Fair jury, which awarded both medal and diploma to Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder, declaring it superior to every other brand.

The victories won by it at all the great fairs, and its wonderful growth in popular favor, due to its purity, uniformity, wholesomeness, keeping qualities and excellence, have confirmed and emphasized it as

"THE FOREMOST BAKING POWDER IN ALL THE WORLD."

INTO BRITISH HANDS.

The Celebrated "Silver Bow" Property Acquired by a London Syndicate.

Short Rations but Not Starvation on the Yukon—Rich Ground Discovered.

Yukoners and Alaskan residents to the number of fifty or more were aboard the mail steamship City of Topeka on her return from the North, Wednesday. She berthed at the ocean dock at one, staying a little over an hour in port, during which time most of those aboard made the trip up town, only to return immediately, however, as not more than half a dozen remained here. The Yukoners, of whom there were only three, are the most recent arrivals from Circle City. They confirm the reports of the shortage of supplies at the several posts of the interior, but maintain that no fear of privation need be felt, for while there is no great abundance of provisions at any place none are so scantily supplied that suffering will ensue. A wise recommendation is that every man entering the Yukon this season should carry in every pound of provisions he can possibly take with him. Mr. Hewlings, one of the latest returned party, reports having seen Mr. James Macauley, of this city, at Clondyke. The latter had taken the first horses into Circle City that have ever reached there and was now reported to be doing well at Clondyke. Of the late mining news in the Far North brought by the Topeka, that of the sale by Lane and Hayward to Captain Williams, a representative of a London exploration company, of the Silver Bow property is the most interesting. In the mines a 30-stamp mill has been in service for some time. Mr. Duncan, the manager of the Treadwell, is concerned in the deal and believes that there will be nothing to surpass the property in Alaska, lying as it does only three miles from Juneau. The amount of capital moving in the sale was $500,000, and it is understood that the present owners intend expending considerable more in developing the miues. The Topeka reports that the grand jury was to convene at Sitka on Tuesday last for the setting of the trial of Birch and Shell, the two Alaskan desperadoes in prison on several counts of murder. Deputy Marshal Hale, who was shot in the abdomen while attempting to recapture the escaping convicts, continues to improve in health, while Bays, another of the victims, has almost completely recovered from the effects of a bullet wound in the leg.

In a letter to Mr. Stephen Jones, of this city, Albert E. McKay, of the new city of Dawson, on the Yukon, gives many interesting details of mining progress in those far northern parts. "We (W. E. Macdonald and myself) have left Mr. Ogilvie," he says, "and are now on our own hook, having invested in a placer diggings which, from a few hundred dollars will realize thousands.

"One of the best and richest diggings ever struck in America, the most extensive and valuable," the letter continues, "is situated on a creek now named Bonanza, which empties into the Clondac, or Klondyke, about two and a half miles up from the junction of the latter with the Yukon river. These mines were discovered during the latter part of August last, and four days later, notwithstanding that the Yukon river had to be poled 53 miles from Forty-Mile City, to reach the Bonanza, 103 claims were staked out.

"By this time (December 14, 1896) many of the miners have dumps of drift or gravel lying beside their cabins, awaiting the liquifying powers of the sun—who has temporarily deserted us—worth thousands of dollars. The prospects vary from 10c to $60 to the pan of dirt from the head of the creek to the mouth, while each of its branches is a veritable Eldorado of wealth.

"These diggings are indisputably in British territory—being about 53 miles from 'Forty Mile' they are situated some 50 miles east of the international boundary. They are conveniently situated, the nearest mine being only three miles from Dawson, a small town of three months growth, which can be reached by steamer. Provisions are not plentiful, flour cannot be obtained at all, and though the miner's have their year's supply, there will be a scarcity of 'grub' before spring."

Pompadour Jim and Fitz are both doing hard work for the great battle on March 17. Fitz's backers are confident that he will secure the verdict, and say that if the Australian lands but once, it will be all over but the shouting. Julian left Carson for San Francisco last evening, but will return on Wednesday. Corbett is not quite so loud in his talk, but tells the crowd to wait until the arrival of Brady, and then they will see some fun. He denies Sharkey's statement that Sharkey had a letter in his possession from him that would stamp him as a "fakir." James Kelly, of New York, is said to have placed $100,000 even on Fitz, while Corbett money is scarce.

OUT OF THE TOILS.

Physicians Failed Cure-Alls Failed—But the Great South American Kidney Cure, a Specific Remedy for a Specific Trouble, Cured Mrs. A. E. Young of Barnston, P. Q., Quickly and Permanently.

This is her testimony: "I was taken sick in January, 1893. I employed several of the best local physicians and was treated by them for kidney disease until the autumn of the same year without receiving much benefit. I then began using your South American Kidney Cure, and derived great benefit almost immediately. I feel now that I am now quite cured. I have taken no medicine for some length of time and have not had a return of the slightest symptom of the disease."

Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

If you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills or sick headache, biliousness or constipation, you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable, small and easy to take. Don't forget this.

THE RETAIL MARKET.

FLOUR—Ogilvie's (Hungarian) per bbl	$6.25
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	6.25
Victoria XXX	5.25
Lion	5.25
Portland roller	5.25
Salem	5.50
Snowflake	5.50
Premier	5.50
Three Star	5.50
Superfine	5.50
Hungarian (Armstrong)	5.25
XXXX "	5.25
Strong Bakers "	5.00
Graham, per 10 lbs	40
Wheat, per ton	35.00@40.00
Buckwheat, per 10 lbs	50
Oats, per ton	25.00@30.00
Barley, per ton	30.00@32.00
Middlings, per ton	22.00@25.00
Bran, per ton	17.00@18.00
Ground feed, per ton	25.00
" " California per ton	25.00@30.00
Corn, whole, per ton	26.00@28.00
" cracked, per ton	28.00@30.00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs	35
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs	45@50
Rolled oats, per lb	4
Potatoes, per lb	1¼
" sweet, per lb	4
Cabbages, per lb	2½@3
Hay, baled, per ton	13 00
Straw, per bale	50@75
Onions, per lb	5
Cheese, per lb	15@20
Eggs, Island, per doz	25
" imported, per doz	20
Butter, fresh, per lb	30
" Creamery, per lb	35
" Dairy, per lb	25
" Delta, per lb	35
" California, per sq	35
" " per roll	40
Honey (Chilliwack) per lb	25
Hams, American, per lb	16@18
" Canadian, "	16
" Boneless, "	15
" Glasgow beef, per lb	20
Bacon, American, per lb	16@18
" Rolled " "	14@16
" Long clear "	10
" Canadian "	14@16
Shoulders, hams, per lb	12½
Lard, per lb	12½
Golden Cottolene, per lb	12½
MEATS—Beef, per lb	5@12½
Sides, per lb	7½@8
Veal "	10@15
Mutton, "	5@12½
" " carcase, per lb	9
Pork, fresh, per lb	9@12½
Turkeys, per lb	20@25
" " (Eastern)	15
Geese, per lb	15@20
Chickens, each	50@75
Pigeons, per brace	50@60
Duck, Mallard, per brace	75@1 00
FRUITS—	
Eastern apples, per lb	5
Lemons, California, per doz	25@35
Bananas, per doz	35
Cranberries, Eastern, per lb	20
Oranges, Australian, per doz	40@50
" Navel, per doz	35@40
Japanese oranges, per box	40
FISH—Salmon, spring, per lb	10@12
Halibut, per lb	10@12
Rock Cod, per lb	8@10
Smoked Salmon, per lb	20
Herring, per lb	12@15
Kippered Herring, per lb	12½
Haddock, Finnan, per lb	12½
Bloaters, per lb	10
Eastern oysters, per tin	75

That the blood should perform its vital functions, it is absolutely necessary it should not only be pure but rich in life-giving elements. These results are best effected by the use of that well known standard blood-purifier, Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Subscribe for The Semi-Weekly Colonist.