

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1897.

To say that the year just closed has been an eventful one is to speak tritely. All years are eventful in this era. But 1897 has been eventful in a wide sense of the word. It has been surcharged with incidents of tremendous interest at the time of their occurrence and weighty with influence upon the future.

Naturally the first event of the year in the memory of British subjects will be the jubilee celebration. The echo of the festivities has passed away, but their effect will long remain. By them the Empire has been knit more closely together and the nations have received a needed demonstration of the vast power of Britain and her daughters.

The great political feature of the year in continental Europe was the development of what is called the concert of the powers. A great deal of ridicule was heaped upon the powers for their action in the difficulties arising out of the Cretan troubles and the subsequent collision between Greece and Turkey; but the impartial historian will admit that a very remarkable thing was achieved.

From this hurried and necessarily imperfect review of the history of the year, it will appear that 1897 has been memorable, not so much for what has actually been done as for the foundations for future action that have been laid. It has been a year of great significance rather than one of great deeds, one whose influence will be felt more during the next decade than during the transpiring of the incidents themselves.

Viewed from the standpoint of business 1897 is highly satisfactory. For the first time in a decade the dark cloud of depression that has been hanging over the civilized world shows signs everywhere of being lifted. There is activity all along the line and in no place more so than in Canada. Indeed this has been the banner year for the Dominion in more senses than one. We shall not on an occasion like the present make any criticism of the offer of preferential trade to Great Britain. That it was well meant we may concede; that it has done good we cheerfully admit. Hence it is immaterial to inquire now whether it was skillfully done. Unquestionably through it Canada received a prominence that was both novel and gratifying.

Our own province has shared in an exceptional manner in the bounties which 1897 had to bestow. Never did British Columbia stand so high in the estimation of the world as now; never did so many people look towards it as the object of their desires; never were its imperial possibilities so appreciated; never were its prospects so bright as on this first morning of 1898, and most of this came about in 1897. Last year will be a red letter one in the memory of the people of this province.

We can well recall how different were the feelings with which people took leave of 1896. Few blessings followed that twelve-month into history. It was a year of disappointments. Men had looked for a revival of times, but had looked in vain. There seemed no silver lining to the cloud of gloom. To-day we all feel better. The pulse of humanity beats faster, for hope is once more in the ascendant. So when we wish all our readers a Happy New Year, it is with a feeling approaching certainty that they will enjoy it. Magnificent prospects are before us. Let us thank God and take courage. If we build wisely and well upon the foundations that 1897 has laid, we will have cause to look back to it with feelings of the profoundest gratitude.

have been a great many of seemingly equal importance, all tending to establish the same fact, namely, that the future of that great continent will be chiefly in the hands of Great Britain, and that its emancipation and civilization are among the coming responsibilities of the Anglo-Saxon race.

In America the event of the year was the communication to the world of the story of Klondyke, which will rank in its effect with the discovery of gold in California. As the latter gave birth to the great Western Empire of the United States, so the former will give birth to a new and equally great Canadian Empire, where the genius of British institutions will be kept active in its best form. The tariff changes in Canada and the United States will have a far-reaching effect, and will probably lead in the course of a not very long time to a reversal of the fiscal conditions under which commerce has been conducted on this continent.

In South America the most notable events, regarded from this distant point of observation, are the disappearance of the Venezuelan controversy from public attention and the promise that the point in dispute will be settled in a manner quite satisfactory to the parties to it; also the appearance in a violent form of a royalist movement in Brazil. The year has, however, been an exceptionally placid one so far as that quarter of the globe has been concerned; although the two incidents just mentioned can hardly fail to greatly affect future developments there. British power will become more strongly entrenched than ever on the southern shore of the Caribbean sea, while the shape taken by events in Brazil has been such that European intervention in the affairs of that country is by no means a remote contingency.

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We apologize to the editor of the Times for having made a personal allusion to him. It was only made because the suggestion that gave rise to it was honestly intended for his persona conspicuously out above all others; but there

A GOOD IDEA.

Mr. H. L. Roberts, of Ashcroft, in a letter which we print to-day, makes a suggestion that is worth considering. He expects that there will be a large return of travel from the Yukon, and very justly says it is desirable to induce as much of this as possible to shape its course to interior British Columbia points. For this purpose a good trail southward from the Stickeen would be of great service. It would be the means of leading very many persons to work their way down into the good country lying between Cariboo and Cassiar, where there is undoubtedly much land fit for settlement, a great deal of grazing land and a large area containing precious metals.

We hope the government will see its way clear to doing something in the direction indicated. The Colonist has discouraged the idea of constructing a wagon road between the Fraser and Telegraph Creek, because the cost seemed out of all proportion to the expected results; but it has always favored such steps as would reopen the trail where it has grown up during the time it has been unused. If any miners care to try to make their way to the Yukon by such a route we shall not say a word to prevent them. We cannot advocate such a course, for we do not regard it as advisable; but we are heartily in sympathy with any plan which will lead to the settlement of the interior of the province, and that proposed would be very likely to do so.

It is very clear that a trail will be needed by the cattle men. For early shipments, much the better plan will be to send the animals down to the Coast and up to Telegraph Creek by water, from which point they can be slowly driven across to Teslin Lake; but no doubt, for the purposes of the fall market, it will be found profitable to drive them up all the way from the ranges. As many thousands of people will winter on the Yukon another year, the demand for beef will be great, and we may feel sure that some means will be devised to get it to them. This year we have all been taken more or less unawares; but if there had been any way of getting hay and other feed for horses along the Hootalinqua, there is little doubt that a sled road could have been kept open as far as the junction of that river with the Lewis. A former resident of New Brunswick, who has been over the country between Telegraph Creek and the Lake, was asked about the practicability of making a winter road there. He replied: "Give me a party of New Brunswick lumbermen and I will undertake to open a good sled road for horses in three weeks."

There will be an effort, and doubtless a successful one, to deal with the question of winter transportation on the Yukon next season, and this will mean that a great amount of beef, driven north during the summer and slaughtered at the Lake at the beginning of cold weather, will be sent into the mining camps. This will render a good trail from Hazelton to the Stickeen a very valuable thing. It follows also that men who go into the northern part of the province and look up chances to cut hay in places from which it can be got to the main highway of travel, will be certain of making a good deal of money.

The rather ambiguous statement in our Washington despatch regarding the conference between Hon. Mr. Sifton and Secretary Gage probably refers to the customs regulations at Dyea.

The Ogilvie Milling Company and the Christie Brown Company have each sent \$100 to Victoria as contributions to the local advertising fund.

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The announcement that the reduced rates on the Canadian Pacific are now to go into effect will be good news to the localities affected.

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KEEP your salt-cellar handy when you read news from the Orient these days.

The legislature is called for February 10th for the despatch of business.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

THE ROAD TO FAME. The parrot-like persistency with which certain interior papers re-echo the abuse hurled at the local government by the chief organ of the opposition on the coast is becoming exceedingly nauseating. It is a great country here to be developed, and attracting the attention of capital should be the chief aim and object of the British Columbia press. Instead of aiding our leading men in inducing the desired capital to open up our resources, we find week after week abuse and calumny heaped on the heads of the very men who are in a position to divert capital in our direction. If a public man shows his faith and interest in this province by interesting the capitalists of the old world in the great natural resources of the illimitable west, he is abused, and compared to a boodler or some other synonymous term culled from the political vocabulary of the United States. Of course there is one inducement to print these long, dreary editorials—they will be reprinted with due credit in the Victoria Times. Such recognition as this is, to say the least, very tempting. So far as moulding an antagonistic sentiment to the government the effect is quite the reverse.—Nelson Economist.

MR. TARTE'S LUCK. From present indications Mr. Tarte in the Langeier affair is likely to repeat his experience in the Grenier trial. He will not come out of the fight as prey or as useful when he went in, but he will down his opponents.—Montreal Gazette.

A RAILWAY COMMISSION. Recent occurrences in Ottawa have indicated the desirability of a railway commission in Canada. A complicated dispute between two companies is under consideration by cabinet ministers who are pressed by other business and without technical qualifications. Once in a while rough justice may be done, but there is uncertainty about that, and the process is so expensive and so deterrent to the ordinary citizen that only companies with considerable financial backing or interests can afford to go to the railway committee of the cabinet. There seems a need for a regular tribunal of railway experts. Perhaps that is open to objections, too, but hardly as many as the present system.—Ottawa Journal.

OUR MEMBERS PROTEST.

Victoria's representatives in the House of Commons have sent to the Minister of Customs the following telegraphic message:

"Hope you will not allow American government to send relief to Klondyke, as Canada is quite capable of taking care of her own possessions. If expedition allowed we must urge that their supplies be purchased in Canada or else duty charged on same."  
(Signed) E. G. PRIOR, THOS. EARLE.

We think this action will meet with the approval of the people of Victoria, who regard the proposed relief expedition as an exhibition of sensationalism, designed for the purpose of accentuating the false impression already sufficiently widespread, that the Yukon gold mines are in Alaska.

The men who are promoting this relief have no private information as to the needs of the miners, or as to the feasibility of their relief plans. They are the same people who have been advertising in every newspaper, every hotel, every railway office and in every other conceivable way that Klondyke is in Alaska, and that it is not necessary to pay duties on United States goods going there. Permit the American government to send in a relief expedition, and forthwith they will publish the fact to the world as additional proof that it is useless to go to Canadian cities to outfit for the Northwest.

The Canadian government will be in the highest degree culpable if it does not at once put an end to the farce now being played in the name of humanity by the advertising department of the United States government. Our self-respect as a people will be violated if we consent to any such proposition as has been made. The people of Canada have no money to throw away; but they will spend their last dollar before they will consent to appear before the world as unable to relieve a few people in distress.

In the light of the information that comes to us from the North, we think that any strictures upon the manner in which the affairs of the Mounted Police in the Yukon are being handled are at least premature.

An increase of nearly twenty millions in the foreign trade of Canada during the last five months is very encouraging. An era of prosperity seems to be at hand, and even now begun.

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It will be an unfortunate thing for the interests of British Columbia at the present time if war should break out in the Orient. We need money for the development of many things. The province needs it to aid railways and for other public works. Our mines need it. In fact every department of business would be seriously affected by anything that would put up the price of money. It is true that the price of all food products would go up likewise, but while this would be a very good thing for producers, it would be hard upon consumers, and these are in the very large majority in this province. Therefore, while in the long run it would be a good thing for us if Great Britain could have it out with her rivals once for all, it would come pretty hard on every interest that looks to London for money.

The Tacoma Ledger thinks that the Colonist's suggestion in regard to the coasting trade is one that might be worth taking up, but that the balance of advantage would be so much in favor of Canada that the Dominion ought to be prepared to make some additional concessions. We do not think so; but are glad to find our contemporary ready to look into the matter, which is now fairly before the public and will, we have no doubt, be one of the matters to be discussed if the reciprocity negotiations now in hand are carried through. We are quite satisfied that when the subject comes to be examined thoroughly it will appear that this country would give quite as much as it would get under such an arrangement.

Our information is that the law providing for the formation of farmers' leagues is proving very popular in all parts of the province. Our view of the subject was expressed at the time the legislation was introduced, and was to the effect that the measure would be found a very useful one. It contained within it the germ of co-operation, without which farming cannot be carried on with entire success in these days of close competition. The law is making friends for the government everywhere.

AND so that defiance was in contemplation of civil proceedings, not criminal prosecution for libel! A suit for damages for libel against a limited liability corporation would, in 99 cases out of 100, be like the extraction of blood from a turnip. The plaintiff could not collect his costs, much less his damages. We may remind these courageous people that according to every code of honor the challenged party has the choice of weapons.

The Columbian says the provincial government "has not dared risk a bye-election, which ought to have been held nearly a year ago to enable the sitting member to accept a promised and much-needed (in the public interests) appointment." As a contribution to current political history, this is unique.

MR. TARTE is after the operator who is responsible for the interruption of the Alberni telegraph line. This shows the advantage it is for ministers to read the Colonist. If they would all do so regularly, they would be healthier mentally, morally and politically.

EVERYONE will be glad to know that the very warlike story that came from the Orient yesterday is believed in London to be without foundation.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"Well, prisoner," said the judge, "if you have anything to say the court will hear you." "I'd rather be excused, your honor," replied the prisoner; "if I said what I'd like to say I'd be committed for contempt of court, and I've got trouble enough without that."

"About how many votes do you think your candidate will get?" inquired the New York politician's friend. "To tell you the truth, none of us have thought of that. We have been so busy trying to take the votes from one another that we haven't figured on who was going to get them."

"Papa," she said, as she put down the morning paper, "let us say no more about a college course."

"You do not care for one?" he returned, inquiringly.

"I do not," she replied; "I am at last satisfied that co-education is a failure. Think of it! Chaperons required at North-Western University! Why, I'd just as soon go to a girls' finishing school under such circumstances."

"Thus has the cause of higher education of women received a severe blow. Justice—Why did you steal the gentleman's purse?" Prisoner—I thought the change might do me good.

Smith—What's this 'trough of the sea' we read about? Jones—Oh, I guess that is what the ocean greyhounds drink out of. Skinner—What makes Colonel Puffington so successful as a conversationalist? Babel—He's so tactful—he gives the others lots of chance to talk.

Jones—My doctor advises me to ride a wheel an hour a day." Wheeler (contemptuously)—Only an hour a day? He must be a homeopath.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair, DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER MOST PERFECT MADE. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

900 DROPS CASTORIA Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS - CHILDREN Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. Fac Simile Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher NEW YORK. 16 months old 35 Doses - 35 CENTS EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF CHAS. H. FLETCHER IS ON THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA

Castoria is put up in one-ounce bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A.

Klondyke Outfits PRICE LISTS NOW READY B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS and HATTERS, 97 and 99 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C.

LARGE FRUIT FARM TO LET OR SELL. A large Fruit Farm, close to Harrison Lake. Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the property. 70 acres in fruit, of which about 30 acres are bearing (8 years old), also about 4 acres of small fruits. Good buildings. Excellent fishing and shooting.

There is 649 acres included in the property. No flood of any kind. This farm includes the only available townsite on the rail-way track for the Harrison Lake Mining District. Apply HOPE, GRAVELEY & CO., 536 Hastings Street, Vancouver.

LEA AND PERRINS' OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE OF Lea & Perrins IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER OF every Bottle of the ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE. Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors Worcester; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Ollmen generally. RETAIL EVERYWHERE. Agents—J. M. Douglas & Co and Urquhart & Co., Montreal.

R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd Wholesale Merchants Wharf St., Victoria, B.C. GROCERIES, WINES AND LIQUORS, KLONDYKE OUTFITTERS Agents for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's Direct Steamers to all Klondyke Points.

NEWS OF THE

Committee for Office of Liberals—Sir a Stayen

Bermuda a Market Dairy Products-F Importers-F

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—It is there will be such developments in political real press despatches ma enri Joly does not desir d will not be matters will boquette wa g a strenuous

all, ex-secretary of agriculture, writ mus that a large trading as flour, butter, cheese a done with New York, mig with advantage to Canada. The tron over the in Lafrance fire engine for the wa has at last been sett franc company entered \$3,570. The department the engine should have be \$4,200, and has filed a requiring it to pay double the difference between the would not pay the acco company matter matters the department.

A meeting of the cabinet devoted to routine matters. OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—Whe read this morning the artic oner regarding the Lyras Alberni telegraph service w needed in connection with wreck, he made things live partment. It was the first had heard of the matter and demanded a report. He that the operator was not but that the wire was b places. An endeavor will b to shield Mr. McLane's nom confession that he failed to port the alleged break w accepted as proof of his com

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Imports for the five mont November 30 show an increas 000; and exports an increas 127.

NICARAGUA CANA Engineering Party to Report Feasibility of its Construc

New York, Dec. 30.—A p prosecuting engineers who paying a number of capital ented in the construction of a aquan canal sailed on the ste, ance of the Panama line, to-d their arrival at Nicaragua, the vestigate as to the feasibility taking the completion of the will submit a report.

BUY IN VICTORIA The Lesson Being Taught to Th American Goods Into

Experience is a pretty roug and consequently it is a ve person who refuses to be guide experience of others. So an may have the least idea of dian customs officers do not e force the law on the bounda trails into the Yukon should ing from a couple of letters just been received, one from other from Lake Lindeman dressed to Messrs. S. Leiser this city.

Writing from Lake Lindem ember 9, C. M. Shaw state police met his party before th Tashig and collected duties clothing purchased in the Stat and his companions were also that they should have had all the bills passed through the o as to save trouble.

S. Belts and C. C. Lamb, on Creek on the Dyea trail, writ same firm to the effect that had the misfortune to lose the invoices of the goods purchas toria, and ask for duplicates them to get through the Can. The letter adds:

"If you can't convince p they have to pay duty just le to go through without and th convinced."

The honorary treasurer of Protestant Orphans' Home acknowledges the receipt, per Kent, of the following list of the admira's house tax Davies, \$1.75; C. B. McClin Mrs. M. W. Waitt, 2.17; R. 87 cents; W. T. Hardaker, 17 c Hardaker, 14 cents; Mrs. E. L. E. Pearson, \$1.04; Dr. Fraser, G. Blanchard, 31 cents; D. \$1.19; J. McGraw, 70 cents; an bury, \$1.43—or a total of \$18.8