The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3.

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 the communication to the world of the 1897 has been eventful in a wide sense of the world. It has been surcharged with incidents of tremendous interest at fornia. As the latter gave birth to the the time of their occurrence and weighty great Western Empire of the United with influence upon the future. Whether we look at home, over the Empire or to birth to a new and equally foreign lands the observation holds good. Europe has throbbed under the action of the great forces that have been at work. Asia has felt their thrill. Africa has responded to them. America has been moved by them. New factors have entered into political and commercial life. The opening steps of new departures made have been taken in more than one

the memory of British subjects will be events, regarded from this distant point the jubilee celebration. The echo of observation, are the disappearance of the festivities has passed away, but their the Venezuelan controversy from public effect will long remain. By them the attention and the promise that the point Empire has been knit more closely to- in dispute will be settled in a manner gether and the nations have received a quite satisfactory to the parties to it; needed demonstration of the vast also the appearance in a violent form of power of Britain and her daugh- a royalist movement in Brazil. The ters. It is hardly necessary to say that year has, however, been an exceptionthe history of the world will be ally placed one so far as that quarter of very different because of the gathering the globe has been concerned; although in honor of the diamond jubilee of Her the two incidents just mentioned can Gracious Majesty. We think it can be hardly fail to greatly affect future defairly claimed that this was, in its im- velopments there. British power will mediate and possible future influence, the greatest event of the year. The great political feature of the year

in continental Europe was the developheaped upon the powers for their action | contingency. 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. It was the belief of diplomats that a hostile shot fired anywhere in Europe would set the continent in a blaze. Last year established the fact that there is a force in Europe greater than any possible grouping of the powers for aggressive piring of the incidents themselves. purposes, namely, the concert of the powers for the preservation of the peace. A half century ago, the balance of power was the shibboleth of statesmen. The idea then was that the way to prevent war was to keep the nations divided so that none of them would feel strong enough to venture on a career of conquest. The later idea is to unite the nations as guardians of the peace. The first experiment along the latter line did not work very smoothly, but in the end it was successful. The result is that the peace of Europe rests upon a more secure basis than it has for years, so far as European issues are concerned.

Four incidents have contributed to keep Asia prominently before the attention of the world during 1897. These were: The famine in India, the bubonic plague, the fighting on the Northwest frontier, and lately the seizure by Germany of Kiao Chou and the events that have followed it. The famine and the plague, terrible though they were, have afforded proof of the excellent results that have followed from British rule in that part of the world. The starving millions were relieved and the plaguestricken districts purified, not indeed without some friction, but even that have been centered on canada, may be like a cold-water douche to the and the Dominion may be fairly said to Quixotic relief scheme advocated so zealonly went to show how completely Great Britain has India in hand. The uprising on the frontier, while it has cost many valuable lives, was a blessing in disguise to British rule in India, for it will greatly strengthen the Northwestern frontier the only danger point to our dominion in the East. The prestige of British arms has been enchanced in a quarter where it will count for much. Only a passing reference need be made to the recent events in China. They are fresh in the memory of all newspaper readers. Yet a word of comment may be written. So far as can be ment may be written. So iar as can be tion of the world as now; never did so The mistake, which Mr. Sifton very nat-capital in our direction. If a public men scene of activity and antagonism between the great powers of Europe seems about to be transferred from that continent to perial possibilities so appreciated; never entertained by some of our neighbors, Asia. Heavy clouds appear to be gathering in the Orient, and they may at any time break in a storm that will shake splendid promise is due to what has omits to reckon upon the dynamic force from the political vocabulary of the United States. Of course there is one the world. There is no way of measuring the immense possibility of the events now shaping themselves on the western ple of this province.

Come about in 1897. Last year will be a of a resolution of congress. If he would inducement to print these long, dreary stop to think he would remember how the atrocities in Armenia yielded before due credit in the Victoria Times. Such the world. There is no way of measurnow shaping themselves on the western ple of this province. shore of the greatest of the oceans. In China there is a vast horde of people in the feelings with which people took Cuba was checked by the same inexpena semi-lethargic condition. What may leave of 1896. Few blessings followed sive procedure. If so much could be result if they are aroused into action by European influence is beyond the power of imagination. The year just passed looked for a revival of times, but had ished from the Yukon by the same seems likely to be memorable, if for no looked in vain. There seemed no silver means? We remember how Hannibal other reason than that it witnessed the lining to the cloud of gloom. To-day we beginning of a new order of things in the all feel better. The pulse of humanity and why cannot Secretary Gage thaw most populous portion of the world.

means sluggish. Here it has been a case of Great Britain first and the rest nowhere. In the Nile valley, in the Niger Britain has been steadily advancing, upon the foundations that 1897 has laid, valley, but we take very little stock in out technical qualifications. Once in a The year has witnessed the passing of we will have cause to look back to it the spectacular proposition under conwhile rough justice may be done, but Kruger as a political factor. He still with feelings of the profoundest gratiholds the chief office in the Transvaal, tude.

with feelings of the profoundest gratipage from a comic opera. It is like one
to the ordinary citizen that only comholds the chief office in the Transval, tude.

page from a comic opera. It is like one to the ordinary citizen that only companies with considerable financial backfrom Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., or Said than a name and that the Union Jack Times for having made a personal alluonce Dark Continent. There has been the suggestion that gave rise to it was Christmas supplements representing to objections, too, but hardly as many no one event in Africa that stands con- honestly intended for his persona Santa Claus with his flying reindeer and as the present system.—Ottawa Jours picuously out above all others; but there benefit.

have been a great many of seemingly equal importance, all tending to estabish 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 story of Klondyke, which will rank in its effect with the discovery of gold in Cali-States, so the former will give 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 not a very long time to a reversal of the fiscal conditions under which commerce has been conducted on this con-

Naturally the first event of the year in In South America the most notable 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 ment of what is called the concert of the European intervention in the affairs of powers. A great deal of ridicule was that country is by no means a remote

From this hurried and necessarily imit will appear that 1897 has been memor- the Yukon another year, the demand able, not so much for what has actually for beef will be great, and we may feel been done as for the foundations for sure that some means will be devised to the next decade than during the trans- along the Hootalinqua, there is least premature.

depression that has been hanging over who has been over the country between the civilized world shows signs every- Telegraph Creek and the Lake, was where of being lifted. There is activity asked about the practicability of making The rather ambiguous statement in so than in Canada. Indeed this has me a party of New Brunswick lumber- conference between Hon. Mr. Sifton and been the banner year for the Dominion men and I will undertake to open a good Secretary Gage probably refers to the in more senses than one. We shall not sled road for horses in three weeks." on an occasion like the present make There will be an effort, and doubtless a any criticism of the offer of preferential successful one, to deal with the question trade to Great Britain. That it was well of winter transportation on the Yukon meant we may concede; that it has done next season, and this will mean that a good we cheerfully admit. Hence it is great amount of beef, driven north durimmaterial to inquire now whether it ing the summer and slaughtered at the was skillfully done. Unquestionably through it Canada received a prominence will be sent into the mining camps. This will render a good trail from Hazlethat was both novel and gratifying. On the heels of this came the great gold dis-the heels of this came the great gold dis-coveries on the Yukon and those in into the northern part of the province Western Ontario, to which were added and look up chances to cut hay in places the increasing production of Kootenay. As though this were not enough, there of making a good deal of money. came a bountiful harvest with prices at figures that secured the farmers a hand- MR. SIFTON ONsome reward for their labors. The condented era of expansion and prosperity. States Treasury and endorsed so heartily Without essaying the roll of prophet, we by the United States Secretary of War. think one may say that, judging from will flow in and that our domain will all over its vast area be the scene of new

activity and growing national life. Our own province has shared in an especial manner in the bounties which 1897 had to bestow. Never did British ject of their desires; never were its im-

a year of disappointments. Men had why cannot the rigors of winter be ban-Turning to Africa, we find that the ascendant. So when we wish all our of congress? There is enough of it, cer- zette. march of events there has been by no readers a Happy New Year, it is with a tainly, to thaw out anything, and it is feeling approaching certainty that they hot enough sometimes. will enjoy it. Magnificent prospects are before us. Let us thank God and take courage anything like a bona fide effort pute between two companies is under region, in South Africa the power of courage. If we build wisely and well to alleviate real suffering in the Yukon consideration by cabinet ministers who Britain has been steadily advancing. upon the foundations that 1897 has laid, valley, but we take very little stock in

must be supreme in that portion of the sion to him. It was only made because who has been looking over a lot of railway experts. Perhaps that is open once Dark Continent. There has been the suggestion that gave rise to it was Christmas supplements representing

A GOOD IDEA.

Mr. H. L. Roberts, of Ashcroft, in a letter which we print to-day, makes a sugexpects that there will be a large return sage: tide of travel from the Yukon, and very ustly says it is desirable to induce as much of this as possible to shape its course to interior British Columbia allowed we must urge that their supplies points. For this purpose a good trail be purchased in Canada or else duty 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 metals.

way clear to doing something in the gold mines are in Alaska. seemed out of all proportion to the expected results; but it has always favored such steps as would reopen the trail by such a route we shall not say a word pathy with any plan which will lead to the settlement of the interior of the for the Northwest. province, and that proposed would be very likely to do so. It is very clear that a trail will be

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 perfect review of the history of the year, many thousands of people will winter on little doubt that a sled road Viewed from the standpoint of busi- could have been kept open as far as the ness 1897 is highly satisfactory. For the junction of that river with the Lewis. first time in a decade the dark cloud of A former resident of New Brunswick, from which it can be got to the

KLONDYKE RELIEF.

highway of travel, will be certain

sequence has been that the eyes of the Hon. Mr. Sifton's visit to Washington world have been centered on Canada, may be like a cold-water douche to the read news from the Orient these days. have entered upon a new and unprece- ously by the Secretary of the United In view of the fact that the scheme rethe events of the past year, Canada's day quires a very long sea-voyage for the has begun and that hereafter she will be more widely and favorably known than ever before, that population and wealth will flow in and that the company will sall the many was not also obtained. Mr. will flow in and that one surprise that the endorsement of the Secretary of the chief organ of the opposition on the coast is becoming exceedingly nauseating. Sifton, with a refinement of cruelty es- There is a great country here to be develsentially Canadian in its character, has oped, and attracting the attention of capital should be the chief aim and objection, first, that no relief is needed, and next, that if it is, what stead of aiding our leading men in instead of aiding our leading men in inreason is there to suppose that the ducing the desired capital to open up our United States can get goods in where the resources, we find week after week abuse Columbia stand so high in the estima- Canadian government has so far failed. and calumny heaped on the heads of the many people look towards it as the ob- urally makes, is that he omits to take shows his faith and interest in this prointo consideration the settled conviction vince by interesting the capitalists of were its prospects so bright as on this that they can accomplish things that are abused, and compared to a booder or first morning of 1898, and most of this impossible to the rest of the world. He some other synonymous term culled come about in 1897. Last year will be a of a resolution of congress. If he would We can well recall how different were such a resolution, and how bloodshed in recognition as this is, to say the least that twelve month into history. It was done with the Sultan and with Spain, looked for a revival of times, but had ished from the Yukon by the same Rumpit montes aceto,

beats faster, for hope is once more in the out the snows of the passes by the breath will down his opponents.—Montreal Ga-

heavily laden sleigh.

OUR MEMBERS PROTEST.

Victoria's representatives in the Hous of Commons have sent to the Minister of gestion that is worth considering. He Customs the following telegraphic mes-"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

(Signed)

THOS. EARLE.

the approval of the people of Victoria, dition as an exhibition of sensational-

The men who are promoting this relief direction indicated. The Colonist has have no private information as to the wagon road between the Fraser and Telegraph Creek, because the cost plans. They are the same people who have been advertising in every newspaper, every hotel, every railway office and in every other conwhere it has grown up during the time ceivable way that Klondyke is in Alaska, it has been unused. If any miners care and that it is not necessary to pay to try to make their way to the Yukon duties on United States goods going there. Permit the American governto prevent them. We cannot advocate ment to send in a relief expedition, and such a course, for we do not regard it as forthwith they will publish the fact to advisable; but we are heartily in symuseless to go to Canadian cities to outfit

The Canadian government will be in the highest degree culpable if it does not at once put an end to the farce now beneeded by the cattle men. For early ing played in the name of humanity by the advertising department of the been made. The people of Canada have consent to appear before the world as within it the germ of co-operation, withunable to relieve a few people in dis-

In the light of the information that future action that have been laid. It get it to them. This year we have all comes to us from the North, we think has been a year of great significence been taken more or less unawares; but that any strictures upon the manner in rather than one of great deeds, one if there had been any way of getting which the affairs of the Mounted Police whose influence will be felt more during hay and other feed for horses in the Yukon are being handled are at

> 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.

all along the line and in no place more a winter road there. He replied: "Give our Washington despatch regarding the weapons. customs regulations at Dyea.

> Christie Brown Company have each sent member to accept a promised and much-Victoria advertising fund.

It is said that the German Lloyds'has

booked 30,000 passengers from Germany for the Yukon. The rest of the world is vet to hear from. Tur announcement that the reduced rates on the Canadian Pacific are now to

go into effect will be good news to the localities affected. THE COLONIST will not be issued next

Sunday morning; but there will be an issue on Monday morning instead. KEEP your salt-cellar handy when you

THE legislature is called for February

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

THE ROAD TO FAME. The parrot-like persistency with which very men who are in a position to divert the old world in the great natural resources of the illimitable vest, he is very tempting. So far as moulding an antagonistic sentiment to the government the effect is quite the reverse.-Nelson MR. TARTE'S LUCK.

From present indications Mr. Tarte in the Langelier affair is likely to repeat his experience in the Grenier trial. He will not come out of the Grenier trial. will not come out of the fight as pretty or as useful as when he went in, but he

A RAILWAY COMMISSION. Recent occurrences in Ottawa have in-We should be sorry to see Canada disdicated the desirability of a railway commission in Canada. A complicated disare pressed by other business and with-

IT will be an unfortunate thing for the nterests 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 produ-We think this action will meet with cers, it would be hard upon consumers, and these are in the very large majority who regard the proposed relief expe- in this province. Therefore, while in the long run it would be a good thing fit for settlement, a great deal of grazing ism, designed for the purpose of accentu- for us if Great Britain could have it land and a large area containing precious ating the false impression already out with her rivals once for all, it would sufficiently widespread, that the Yukon 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' United States government. Our self- leagues is proving very popular in all respect as a people will be violated if we parts of the province. Our view of the consent to any such proposition as has subject was expressed at the time the legislation was introduced, and was to no money to throw away; but they will the effect that the measure would be spend their last dollar before they will found a very useful one. It contained out 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

THE Columbian says the provincial government "has not dared risk a byeelection, which ought to have been held THE Ogilvie Milling Company and the nearly a year ago to enable the sitting \$100 to Victoria as contributions to the 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 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 f court, and I've got trouble enough with ut 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 contact that." ured 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,

nquiringly.
"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 or with the state of the state o Thus has the cause of higher education

of women received a severe blow.

Justice—Why did you steal this 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 Puffing-ton so successful as a conversationalist? Babel—He's so taciturn—gives the others

badel—He's so tacturn—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.

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NEWS OF THE

Competition for Office bec Liberals-Sir a Staver

Bermuda a Market Dairy Products-F

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—It i ther there will be such velopments in political

real press despatches m enri Joly does not desir d will not b hoquette wa

nall, ex-secretary of agriculture, wri muda that a large trade in as flour, butter, cheese a done with New York, mig with advantage to Canada The trouble over the in with advantage to Canada
The trouble over the im
Lafrance fire engine for th
wa has at last been sett
france company entered
\$3,570. The department
the engine should have be
\$4,200, and has fined the
requiring it to pay double
the difference between the
The city got wind of the c
would not pay the acco
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the department.

would not pay the acco company made matters the department.

A meeting of the cabine devoted to routine matters. OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—Whe read this morning the articles on the cabine at the constant regarding the break Alberni telegraph service we needed in connection with the wreck, he made things live partment. It was the first had heard of the matter and demanded a report. He with the operator was not but that the operator was not but that the wire was being the confession that he failed to port the alleged breaks accepted as proof of his compartment of packages and pring in Canada through the will go into effect on Januar tofore all such packages have to the fifty-seven offices knochange offices," throughout the confession was to the confession of the cabine confession with the confession was to the capital cap

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Union and Wellington. Th
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Imports for the five mont

nearest port or sub-port.
Imports for the five mont
November 30 show an increase
000: and exports an increase of NICARAGUA CANA

Engineering Party to Report Feasibility of Its Construc prospecting engineers who panying a number of capit ested in the construction of t aguan canal sailed on the sterance, of the Panama line, to-di 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 Ti American Goods Into the

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 that dian customs officers do not s force the law on the bounda trails into the Yukon should t 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 cember 9, C. M. Shaw states police met his party before the Tagish and collected duties clothing purchased in the Stat and his companions were also that they should have had all t

ing bills passed through the c as to save trouble. as to save trouble.

S. Beltz and C. C. Lamb, nor Creek on the Dyea trail, writ same firm to the effect that had the misfortune to lose the invoices of the goods purchase toria and ask for duplicates them to get through the Cans The letter adds:

"If you can't convince re-

"If you can't convince pothey have to pay duty just let og through without and the

THE honorary treasurer of Protestant Ochans' Home Protestant Orphans' Home acknowledges the receipt, per Kent, of the following addition of the admiral's house tax Davies, \$1.75; C. B. McClus Mrs. M. W. Waitt, \$2.17; R. 87 cents; W. T. Hardaker, 17 ce Hardaker, 14 cents; Mrs. E. Lo E. Pearson, \$1.04; Dr. Fraser, G. Blanchard, 31 cents; D. \$1.19; J. McCiraw, 70 cents; an bury, \$1.43-or a total of \$13.8