

FRASER RELIEF ABUSES.

On Wednesday the Vancouver World had another of those moments of frankness which sometimes prove so annoying to its political masters and so inconvenient to itself afterwards. It then spoke as follows: "In connection with the distribution of relief by the government to the settlers in the Lower Fraser valley who were damaged by the high waters of last June, considerable has leaked out of a character to warrant the belief that the good intentions of the administration were taken advantage of by many to magnify their losses, in order to lay in quantities of supplies greater than they ever had before. The system adopted was grossly abused. Many deserving cases were ignored, while those who did not suffer to any great extent, but who were possessed of a superabundance of gill and lacking in shame were accorded a hearing as well as liberal assistance. The government should inquire into all the facts connected with the distribution, publish the names of those who met with loss and those to whom relief was given, as well as the persons now seeking for public assistance. The generous manner in which Col. Baker acted led some to suppose that the government should not only give them seed, food, etc. but actually money ad lib. Deserving cases should not be questioned, but those who are pleading for further relief should be asked to prepare their claim and have its accuracy vouchsafed for by responsible parties. If this step is not taken the abuses are liable to continue." We suppose the World will in a day or two come forward with the declaration that it was not finding fault with the government, but with the avidity of those who took the "relief" which they did not need. In the meantime its remarks will be taken by the public as a pretty severe reflection on the stupidity and incompetence of those who directed the distribution. They will also be taken as an evidence that the government had something else in relief in view, as otherwise more care would have been exercised in confining the aid given to cases of necessity. It would be interesting to know just how much of the "generosity" and its abuse were due to the fact that the election was "dangerously near."

SUGAR TRUST PROFITS.

The Post-Intelligencer shows very clearly how favorable to the sugar trust is the senate tariff bill. Ostensibly the only "protection" given the refiners is the 12 1/2 cents per hundred pounds differential duty on the refined article, but in addition to this the 40 per cent. ad valorem on both raw and refined has to be reckoned with, and this the Post-Intelligencer shows to work out as follows: "The value of raw sugar is always calculated upon the amount of saccharine matter it contains, the difference in variety of the plant, and also in soil, climate, etc., producing a variety of grades. If raw sugar is found upon analysis to contain, say 88 per cent. of saccharine matter, it will require 113.63 pounds of raw sugar to make 100 pounds of refined. Though the price of raw sugar has greatly varied the last few months, we will assume its dutiable price to be \$2.60 per hundred, and that of refined \$3.20. The value therefore of 113.63 pounds, the amount of raw sugar required of the grade spoken of to make 100 pounds of refined, will be worth \$2.94. The difference between these prices, or 36 cents, is the profit for refining. Upon this the trust gets a protection through the 40 per cent. ad valorem of 14 1/2 per hundred of refined sugar. The entire protection, therefore, given to the trust is the 14 1/2 hidden in the ad valorem duty, the 12 1/2 differential, and the .10 imposed on sugar imported from countries paying a bounty—a total of .37 per hundred on refined sugar. As the profit on refining, according to the prices assumed for raw and refined sugar, is .36 per hundred, the trust will be enabled through this Democratic tariff reform bill to add more than 100 per cent. to the gross profits of refining, and, as this protective duty is not subjected to any change by way of expensing, it will add to the net profit of refining something like 300 or 400 per cent." In consideration for this immense advantage the sugar trust could well afford to distribute among senators the article which in vulgar political parlance has come to be known as "sugar." Their action was on a parallel with that of our own sugar barons, who "came down handsomely" in aid of the Conservative campaign fund at the elections, in the full belief that their contributions would prove a most profitable investment. The trust in the States and the barons in Canada alike paraphrase a Scriptural injunction in this way: Cast thy "sugar" on the political waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.

MINISTER BAKER CONTRADICTIONS.

Judging from the letter of Minister Baker, which appears in another column, the latest well-meant attempt of the Vancouver World to straighten things up for its political masters, has no greater chance of success than many of its former efforts in the same line. The organ said the generosity of the government had been imposed upon, and that many people along the Fraser had thus propped up to which they were not entitled, and of which they were not in need. This was a serious reflection on the government's method of carrying on the relief work. Minister Baker as the actual director of the work coming spe-

cially under condemnation. The honorable gentleman now comes forward with the assertion that the World's report is contrary to the facts, and he gives reasons in detail for its non-acceptance. Herein lies an opening for a controversy, if any other journal other than the World were concerned. But there is not much prospect of the Vancouver organ standing to its guns; it will be more likely to meekly accept its chastisement, declare that it was mistaken and heap an extra amount of fulsome flattery on the heads of the ministers by way of atoning for its "moment of weakness." Seems to us the World should save itself and its masters much trouble if it would only submit such articles to them for their approval before publication.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

The Toronto Globe has made a valuable contribution to the discussion on Australian trade in the form of an exhaustive report by Mr. Carter Troop, who visited Australasia and carefully investigated the whole subject. The matter is discussed from a commercial standpoint entirely. Shorn of all sentiment the question is one that will bear investigation, and in many lines Mr. Troop holds out encouragement to Canadian manufacturers and merchants. In the matter of fish, in which product British Columbia is more directly concerned, Mr. Troop writes: "With respect to fish, I have to report that to insure a large demand shipments should be so timed as to arrive in Australia one month before the beginning of the Lenten season. The demand at other seasons of the year is intermittent and cannot be relied upon. The fishing industry has been much neglected in Australia—the result, in part, I apprehend, of the cheapness and abundance of fresh meat, but chiefly owing to the fact that the waters are at a much higher temperature than in our districts, and accordingly the fish are inclined to be soft, and without much flavor. The snapper is said to be the most valuable of all the Australian fishes, and is abundant, but a rapid decomposition is a marked feature. I understand, of most of the fish caught in the southern seas. The supply of fresh water fish is exceedingly limited. For these reasons Canada finds in Australia a ready market for the unsurpassable fish which she has in such wealth and profusion. But the greatest care must be exercised to ship only the very best, and in the most attractive form. For mackerel, shad and our lake fish, packed in brine like salmon, and done up in small firkins or kegs, Canadians will find in Australia a wide market. The fish must be properly packed, else the trade will drop, as it did when tried 20 years ago. Fresh kippered and red herrings, haddock and cod are all popular fish, but must be of excellent quality. The experimental shipments of frozen salmon have proved successful, and if properly and judiciously handled by dealers should become one of the chief features of the trade. Against canned salmon there is a slight prejudice on account of one or two cases of poisoning which have occurred. The prejudice can be removed only by the most scrupulous care being constantly exercised on the part of the shippers. The poisoning is the result of careless soldering, or the use of injurious materials to expedite the process of soldering. Apart from this the canned salmon is considered a choice article of diet, some people preferring it to the frozen salmon."

Among the other products which British Columbia could supply are slate for roofing purposes, furniture, and "knocked-down" condition. The lumber of our provinces has obtained a hold in Australia and the demand for it is steadily increasing. In this line there is a field for the enterprise of our sawmill owners. Mr. Troop says: "In New South Wales the timber trees of hard woods pre-eminently, both in variety and in the area covered by the forests, the soft woods being limited to the brush forests of the coast districts. The Morton bay, or colonial, pine, which is best used for joinery, is not so abundant as it is in the United States and New Zealand. Scandinavia and the United States come next in order, and then follows the Canadian Dominion, which exports to Australia about 6,000,000 feet per annum. Other things being equal, the Australians are more ready to import from Canada than from the republic of Scandinavia. It should not be difficult, therefore, to increase greatly the amount of our exports in this important business. The shingles of British Columbia, for instance, are the best that can be obtained anywhere."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"General" Coxy had a narrow escape from a rough handling by some of his enraged dupes. It would have paid the gentlemen better to have mobbed Coxy at the start of the army.

A Montreal Star's cable from London says British exports to Canada during July declined 40 per cent., the heaviest declines being in cottons, woollens, silks and iron. The imports from Canada are stationary. This enormous falling off in the volume of our trade with the mother land occurred during the first month under Foster's new tariff.

While American senators are congratulating themselves on having gained a little material profit to themselves, and at the same time thwarted the national will in the interest of the sugar trust, the house of lords throws out the evi-

dent tenants bill passed by the commons. Serious injustice is perpetrated and the risk of throwing Ireland into a state of restlessness is coolly taken, all in the interests of a few grasping landlords. "Upper houses" are supposed to be a check on hasty legislation, but it is plain that private interests are a check on the upper houses.

FRASER VALLEY RELIEF.

To the Editor: In your article yesterday I saw the extraordinary statements copied from the World commenting on the abuses said to have been committed in distributing government relief to the sufferers from the floods in the Fraser river valley. The reports are entirely contrary to fact. In no case did I give money relief or hold out any hope that it would be given; on the contrary, I distinctly informed the applicants that it would not be given. When food was supplied, it was always on the recommendation of well known and responsible people of the locality. There may be some isolated instances of deserving cases having been overlooked, but I am quite sure that they are exceptional.

There were cases of farmers in good circumstances but who could not get seed in time to sow their crops after the water subsided, and they asked for, and obtained seed on the condition that they afterwards paid the government for it. The same thing was done in some cases with fodder for horses which were carrying. The farmers could not get their money for their hay, and therefore bought it from the government transporter.

Now that the lands which were flooded are green with crops through the instrumentality of the government, it is assistance with seed, it is easy to minimize the damage caused by the water, but it must be remembered that without such assistance there would be no crops at the present time, and consequently no winter supply of food.

JAMES BAKER.

Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Aug. 18.

COOKERY IN SCHOOLS.

To the Editor:—By all means let us have cookery taught to our girls. Some may think that the school syllabus is rather extensive as it is, but it is quite obvious surely to every thoughtful parent in case and beyond what this, that some little modicum of existing anatomical, physiological and botanical lecturing might fairly give place to practical chemistry, a knowledge of which is the true and lasting foundation of necessary house knowledge.

SEWERS.

To the Editor:—Now there is a prospect of employment for the people who have been long without the means of employment, why not adopt the principle of our neighbors over the Sound, that is, let the contractors give the work to our unemployed citizens. The money comes from the taxes, etc., levied on the people. It is by a vote from the voters that these loans and debentures have been raised. These foreign wanderers should not be countenanced by the contractors or Victorians, any more than the Chinese. By the mayor and aldermen watching the interests of the people who reside here and help to bear the burden of the taxation, so as to let their duty to do, and to discriminate between bona fide citizens laborers and aliens, who are constantly on the qui vive through their agents to rush into cities to the disadvantage of those residents who have their homes and families to provide for in these hard times.

A BIG RUSSIAN DREDGER.

Can Raise Six Hundred Tons of Clay Per Hour. A power twin-screw hopper dredger, recently constructed for the Russian government, is described in the Railway Review, July 21. It has a hopper capacity for 700 tons of dredgings and a bucket-dumping capacity to raise six hundred tons of hard clay per hour. In addition to the usual endless chain of steel buckets for filling its own hopper and barges alongside when required, a powerful centrifugal pump is provided for discharging the dredged material on shore. Powerful mixing appliances are also fitted on board for breaking up the clay and mixing it with water before going into the centrifugal pump, at the rate of about 50 tons per minute. Auxiliary pumps are provided for assisting the clay and sand along the shoots to fill the hopper or the mixer. The buckets are capable of cutting the vessel's own way in banks and shoals to 36 feet depth of water, and can be varied in speed from ten to twenty buckets per minute. The buckets loader is adapted to recoil from the buckets come in contact with rock or large boulders. Friction appliances are also provided to prevent damage to the machinery. The dredger is fitted with independent engines, each of which drives its own propeller and also the dredging and mud-pumping gear independently. There are also steam starting-gear, and steering gear, repeating telegraphs, electric lighting, and steam apparatus for the cold weather in Russia, and comfortable cabins for officers and crew, well lighted and ventilated. A derrick crane is fitted on board for removing large stones, lifting anchors and changing buckets, etc.

WELLMAN'S FAILURE.

He Tells Why He Did Not Reach the North Pole. Tromsøe, Aug. 16.—Walter Wellman, with the crew of the crushed steamer Ragnvald-Jari, arrived here yesterday by the fishing yacht Bernotte, Captain Jansen, from North Spitzbergen. All the members of the party are well.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW.

The Condition of Affairs on Wall Street—Returning Confidence. New York, Aug. 11.—The movements of the market for the week just ending undoubtedly indicate an improvement in the situation. For some time past it has been fluctuating alternately under the influence of hope and fear; but now its undertone is gradually broadening and strengthening, and there is a marked tendency to discount a generally clarified financial atmosphere. It looks as though we had seen the worst of everything and that the pendulum is at last going to swing the other way. Outside of all the important tariff question, the corn crop has again been the greatest factor in the market for the past few days. The "bears" have been actively engaged in pounding the Grangers, basing their action on the prospect of reduced dividends on these securities, as a result of the prospective crop shortage. Their efforts to bring out long stock, however, have not been particularly successful, and they find it difficult to cover their contracts without bidding up the market. The damage is almost exclusively confined to three states— Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas—and in these states it almost proximates a calamity, and is probably not exaggerated; but in the other states the crop will be a fair average to a large one, owing to the increased acreage under the plow, and the wheat crop of last year, and the comparatively good price for corn. The crop in those states will largely offset the shortage caused by drought—probably more than now expected. The estimated yield is about seventy millions more bushels than last year, and the comparative good price for corn. The crop in those states will largely offset the shortage caused by drought—probably more than now expected. The estimated yield is about seventy millions more bushels than last year, and the comparative good price for corn.

CESARIO'S EXECUTION.

An Immense Crowd of Fashionably Dressed People Watch It. Lyons, Aug. 17.—An immense throng watched the execution of Santo Cesario, although it took place before five o'clock in the morning. The windows in the vicinity were crowded with ladies fashionably dressed. The roof tops and every place of vantage were thronged. Fabulous prices were paid for places in windows overlooking the spot selected for the execution. This was an open space at the junction of the Rue Smith and the Rue Courcouron, with the prison on one side, the gendarmes' barracks on the other and a large wall on the third. While the Rue Smith was barricaded about seventy meters from where the guillotine was erected. This barricade was guarded by a squad of cuirassiers, and another detachment was stationed in the Rue Courcouron. Four hundred men of the Ninety-eighth Regiment of line, in addition to five hundred police and gendarmes, formed a cordon around the place of execution. All accounts from those near the assassin at the last moment agree as to Cesario dying in abject terror.

CABLE NEWS.

Cholera in England—The Dread Disease Spreading in Austria. London, Aug. 17.—A death from cholera has occurred at Battersea, on the Surrey side of the Thames. A Vienna dispatch to the Times reports 253 new cases of cholera and 161 deaths in Vienna during Wednesday and Thursday, and 54 cases and 28 deaths in Bakuvi. While the troops belonging to the Craoac garrison were marching through Silesia and Galicia to take part in the artillery manoeuvres eight soldiers were attacked with cholera at Bielitz and two at Oswied. The populace is greatly excited, fearing that the troops will spread the disease.

INDIAN LANDSLIDES.

Villages Swept Away by the Irresistible Rush. Heera Bai writes in the Tacoma Ledger: A letter has just reached me from Simla (the summer residence of the viceroy and other high officials of India), giving a sad account of a landslide in the Kulo valley (a territory in the interior of the Himalayas). The letter was written on the 16th of June, and as Kulo is several days' journey from the nearest telegraphic communication, the catastrophe must have happened shortly after our floods in the northwest and British Columbia. No doubt it was caused by an unusually early burst of the monsoons after severe hot weather. The rains had been continuous and heavy, which caused many landslides, and this terrible one in Kulo, when the side of the mountain slid down, and the combined hill streams rushed suddenly on forty feet and deluged the beautiful valley, carrying away villages, cattle and the unfortunate inhabitants. The first report estimated the loss of human life at 300, but later and more authentic news reduced the number to under 200, many of the villagers having been rescued from that water grave. The Kulo valley is large and fertile, producing an immense quantity of sub-tropical fruits. The hill tribes (principally Hindoos) live in little hamlets containing a few huts. These are dotted about in valleys or on hill-sides, in terraces, where they cultivate wheat, Indian corn and other cereals, which, with dairy produce and hay grown on the steep hill sides, forms their principal means of subsistence; but lately, the government having encouraged the growing of fruit trees among the natives by giving them the fruit grafts from their nurseries in Soharanpore and other botanical gardens, a new industry has sprung up and the cultivation of fruit trees has increased rapidly, and in no part of the hills more successfully than in Kulo. Our finest pears, apples, guavas and apricots come from that favored locality, now ruined by this unprecedented deluge.

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to be carried in the boats to Walden island, which was reached on July 22. We waited a fortnight for open water, and on August 4 determined to push through the ice. The attempt, which was a most dangerous one, was successful, and four boats reached Low island on August 8, where we sighted the Bernotte. Eventually we hired her to convey our party to Tromsøe. We sailed from Low island on August 8 and reached Dare's island on August 8. There we took on Professor Owen, the geologist, and Hyalali, the runner and sportsman from the university of Christiania, and the stores which they were guarding for us. Though we were unable to get as far north as we hoped to get in 1894, because of the loss of our steamer and the bad nature of the season, I am determined to try the Spitzbergen route again in 1895.

CENSAIO'S EXECUTION.

An Immense Crowd of Fashionably Dressed People Watch It. Lyons, Aug. 17.—An immense throng watched the execution of Santo Cesario, although it took place before five o'clock in the morning. The windows in the vicinity were crowded with ladies fashionably dressed. The roof tops and every place of vantage were thronged. Fabulous prices were paid for places in windows overlooking the spot selected for the execution. This was an open space at the junction of the Rue Smith and the Rue Courcouron, with the prison on one side, the gendarmes' barracks on the other and a large wall on the third. While the Rue Smith was barricaded about seventy meters from where the guillotine was erected. This barricade was guarded by a squad of cuirassiers, and another detachment was stationed in the Rue Courcouron. Four hundred men of the Ninety-eighth Regiment of line, in addition to five hundred police and gendarmes, formed a cordon around the place of execution. All accounts from those near the assassin at the last moment agree as to Cesario dying in abject terror.

CABLE NEWS.

Cholera in England—The Dread Disease Spreading in Austria. London, Aug. 17.—A death from cholera has occurred at Battersea, on the Surrey side of the Thames. A Vienna dispatch to the Times reports 253 new cases of cholera and 161 deaths in Vienna during Wednesday and Thursday, and 54 cases and 28 deaths in Bakuvi. While the troops belonging to the Craoac garrison were marching through Silesia and Galicia to take part in the artillery manoeuvres eight soldiers were attacked with cholera at Bielitz and two at Oswied. The populace is greatly excited, fearing that the troops will spread the disease.

INDIAN LANDSLIDES.

Villages Swept Away by the Irresistible Rush. Heera Bai writes in the Tacoma Ledger: A letter has just reached me from Simla (the summer residence of the viceroy and other high officials of India), giving a sad account of a landslide in the Kulo valley (a territory in the interior of the Himalayas). The letter was written on the 16th of June, and as Kulo is several days' journey from the nearest telegraphic communication, the catastrophe must have happened shortly after our floods in the northwest and British Columbia. No doubt it was caused by an unusually early burst of the monsoons after severe hot weather. The rains had been continuous and heavy, which caused many landslides, and this terrible one in Kulo, when the side of the mountain slid down, and the combined hill streams rushed suddenly on forty feet and deluged the beautiful valley, carrying away villages, cattle and the unfortunate inhabitants. The first report estimated the loss of human life at 300, but later and more authentic news reduced the number to under 200, many of the villagers having been rescued from that water grave. The Kulo valley is large and fertile, producing an immense quantity of sub-tropical fruits. The hill tribes (principally Hindoos) live in little hamlets containing a few huts. These are dotted about in valleys or on hill-sides, in terraces, where they cultivate wheat, Indian corn and other cereals, which, with dairy produce and hay grown on the steep hill sides, forms their principal means of subsistence; but lately, the government having encouraged the growing of fruit trees among the natives by giving them the fruit grafts from their nurseries in Soharanpore and other botanical gardens, a new industry has sprung up and the cultivation of fruit trees has increased rapidly, and in no part of the hills more successfully than in Kulo. Our finest pears, apples, guavas and apricots come from that favored locality, now ruined by this unprecedented deluge.

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