The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-FOURT YEAR — VICTORIA B. C TUESDAY JANUARY 20. 1903. — VOLUME LXVII

Boundless Enthusiasm

New Era Opens for the Mining Industry in British Columbia.

Another Step Taken Towards Organization of Great Provincial Association.

Will Promote Interests of All Engaged in the Exportation of Minerals.

Boundless enthusiasm characterized the proceedings at the session of the representatives of the mining men of the province in the Board of Trade rooms yesterday evening, when a further step was taken in the formation of an organization to be known as the British Columbia Mining association,, which will embrace in its membership representatives of every phase of the industry throughout the length and breadth of the province. The hall was packed with an assemblage thoroughly representative of the large interests of the province and there was not a dissenting voice to the proposal to proceed with the consummation of the project with all possible expedition, and it was the unanimous opinion that as the result of the movement a new era has dawned upon British Columbia, which will shortly witness a tremendous impetus along the pathway which will lead her to a position in which she will be recognized as the greatest and richest mining country on earth. Much progress was made toward the end which is sought to be attained, a very important report being submitted from the committee on preliminary organization.

J. B. Hobson presided. On the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and adopted, reports of committees were taken up.

The provisional committee's report was as follows:

Gentlemen,—Your provisional executive committee appointed yesterday for the purpose of drafting preamble and resolutions, together with a call for a general convention to be issued to all persons directly or indirectly interested in the promotion of the welfare of the mining industry in the province, beg to submit for your approval the following letter which it is proposed to send out through the mails on the lines suggested:

The committee further recommend that a full report of the proceedings to date be printed and enclosed with the above letter. It is also proposed to address special letters to the mine managers and owners, the executives of the labor unions and associations, the Mayors of corporations and Boards of Trade throughout the province.

A. L. BELYEA,
(Chairman.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir,—The conditions surrounding the mining industry of British Columbia, the principal industry of the province, have become so burdensome that mining operations have ceased to yield a profit to investors, and capital has ceased to flow into the country. Efforts have been made by certain classes in the community, sometimes on behalf of practical miners, sometimes on behalf of the mine-owners, and sometimes by delegation from municipalities to secure relief from the parliament of Canada and from the legislature of this province. All such efforts have heretofore failed, partly owing to the imperfect knowledge of our difficulties possessed by our legislators, and partly owing to the lack of united organization fairly representative of all persons interested in the mining industry. With a view to overcoming such obstacles, and securing for the mining industry the support which it deserves, it is proposed to form a large and representative Association of miners, mine-owners, merchants, bankers, farmers and professional men, and all other persons who may be directly or indirectly interested in the mining industry. By this means, and apparently only by this means, can we secure relief for the industry and such favorable legislation as will restore confidence in foreign capitalists. If we can make our mining industry prosperous, every other industry in the province will naturally and necessarily share in such prosperity. The present depression of nearly all such other industries is the natural and necessary result of the depression in mining.

The proposed Association is not an untried experiment. Some years ago the miners and mine-owners of California found themselves hampered as we are now, with a lot of unjust legislative conditions. A few individuals met together to discuss the situation and devise a remedy, and they started the California Miners' Association for the purpose. The idea was grasped immediately by the working miners, the mine-owners, the merchants, farmers and others, and the result was that within a very short time the Association succeeded in obtaining all the remedial legislation they required and the mining industry of the State increased by leaps and bounds, and brought prosperity to all other industries also. Fortunately we have in our midst a gentleman, Mr. J. B. Hobson, manager of the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Co., who was one of the originators of the California Mining Association, and he will lend all the assistance he can to make a similar success of the British Columbia Mining Association.

A preliminary meeting was held in Victoria on January 14th, when a committee was appointed to draw up a report to be presented to a public meeting on the following day. On January 15th, a large and representative public meeting was held at the Board of Trade building in Victoria, attended by numbers of working miners, mine managers, merchants, members of the Legislature, professional men and others, who realized that the welfare of the mining industry means the welfare of the province. The chairman, Mr. Hobson, explained fully the objects and aims of the new Association. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and it was realized that at length a means had been found which would ensure an uplifting of the mining industry from its present depression to a position of prosperous expansion.

The meeting recognized that owing to the spontaneous nature of the new scheme, no opportunity had been afforded to secure the co-operation of the people throughout the province, and it was decided to call a general convention, to be held in Victoria on February 25th, when delegates from all districts would be able to attend and formulate a permanent organization.

Copies of the minutes of the meetings and of the committee's report, and the minutes of the meeting on January 16th, are enclosed, which will explain exactly what has been effected up to date.

All that remains to be done is to secure representative delegates from the various cities and districts of the province for the purpose of attending the convention at Victoria on February 25th.

The successful organization of the British Columbia Mining Association will ensure better conditions for the mining industry and thereby restore confidence in the magnificent mineral resources of this province.

The first thing to be done in each city and district is to call a meeting as promptly as possible of all persons interested in mining, and especially of the practical working miners, mine-owners, merchants, farmers and others whose business prosperity is affected directly or indirectly by the prosperity of the mining industry, and let each man sign the membership roll. Each community is entitled to send one delegate for every 20 members, or one delegate in the case of a community of less than 20 members. The chairman of each meeting will promptly send in the names of all members to the undersigned. The delegates' credentials will consist merely of a letter signed by the chairman and secretary of each local branch, certifying the number of members enrolled in the city or district, and the names of the delegates appointed.

The constitution and by-laws of the new Association will be settled at the convention on February 25th.

N. B.—Please regard this new Association as one which concerns you personally, and do all in your power to make it a success, for its success means your own prosperity.

H. MORTIMER LAMB,
Provincial Secretary.

The reading of the report was the signal for loud applause. Mr. Belyea, who submitted the report, said it was desired that the convention should be thoroughly representative of the whole province. He wished to express the thanks of the committee to the very able assistance which had been rendered by Mr. A. C. Galt, of Rossland, in the preparation of the report.

The report was received and adopted.

Capt. Thompson thought that in view of the great amount of territory to be covered, it would be best to appoint an organizer at once, and he suggested the name of Mr. Brownlee in connection with that task.

Mr. Galt pointed out that the executive committee had in hand the matter of the organization of the convention, and that great task could only be accomplished by united effort on the part of all the members of the committee. It would be utterly impossible for a single individual to do the work. The suggestion of the formation of such an organization as was proposed was hardly a new idea. The mining men of Rossland, where he came from, had for

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Delegates To Ottawa

Provincial Ministers and Officials to Confer With Dominion Cabinet.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Will Meet Provincial Premiers January 27.

Hon. Messrs. Prior and Eberts, accompanied by R. E. Gosnell, provincial statistician, and J. P. Babcock, superintendent of fisheries, will leave for Ottawa tonight to confer with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues on several important matters affecting the mutual relations of the Dominion and the province.

The conference will likely discuss, among other subjects, the following:

Chinese and Japanese immigration.

The right of the province to a greater share of the revenues arising out of the Chinese Immigration Act.

The fisheries.

The encouragement of shipbuilding on the British Columbia Coast.

Readjustment of the lumber tariff, in the interests of the local industry.

Financial relations of the province of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada.

Co-operation of the Dominion with the province in the matter of railway development in British Columbia.

The settlement of the Songhees Indian Reserve.

Readjustment of boundaries of Indian reserves in British Columbia.

The right of the province to administer the minerals under Indian reserves.

The right of the province to the foreshores, and the minerals under the same.

The salaries of judges.

Amendment of the Naturalization Act, to prevent fraudulent naturalization of aliens.

Claims for compensation in connection with smallpox quarantine along the International boundary line, and several other matters of minor import.

The Premier received a telegram yesterday informing him that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had arranged to meet the premiers of the different provinces at Ottawa on January 27, and inviting him to be present. Col. Prior will avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to advocate the claims of British Columbia, and will doubtless secure the co-operation and support of his brother premiers, who will all have somewhat similar requests to press upon the Dominion Government by lending them his sympathy and aid in return for their good offices.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The United States Treasury department yesterday received a certified copy of the act, approved yesterday, placing coal on the free list. Instructions were immediately telegraphed to collectors of customs throughout the country directing them to put the act into effect. The despatch reads: "Admit all coal imported on or after the 15th inst. free of duty under the act of the 15th inst. Copy by mail."

Four columns of troops have left Fez for Taza. The Sultan's brother commands one of them, and the war minister, Gen. Menebhi, is in command of another.

ORIENTAL LABOR.

Japan Angry Against Greater Britain—B. C. as a Warning.

London, Jan. 16.—Japanese advices show deep indignation of Japan at the attitude of the British colonies towards the Japanese. The Anglo-Japanese Gazette says: "The Japanese will not forget this attempted exclusion of their fellow-countrymen. It is based on the very principles for practising which Japan incurred 40 years ago the wrath of Europe and America. When the Japanese tried to exclude Occidentals they were compelled at the point of the bayonet to open their ports." Regarding the proposed introduction of Chinese in South African mines under the patronage of the British government, English journals point to the experience of British Columbia as evidence of the danger of the step. They say the effect of Chinese labor is wholly bad, for it reduces wages to such an extent that white labor rises in revolt.

ARMY SNOBS.

London Daily Express Says They Try to Boycott Colonials.

Montreal, Jan. 16.—The Star's London cable says: "The London Daily Express attempts a sensation today by a disclosure of efforts of British army officers to boycott colonials who have been granted commissions. The paper says that Hon. Mr. Brodrick, secretary for war and Lord Roberts have already taken prompt steps to check this snobbishness. Adjutant-General Kelly-Kenny has passed a memorandum commanding officers to stop black-balling colonials as unity and a good understanding with colonials is damaged by such unwarrantable conduct towards good deserving men. Nevertheless the Express alleges that fresh cases have arisen where colonials have been practically driven from the service by cleverly applied ostracism. As a consequence, colonial officers are leaving the British army for such outside forces as the Egyptian army, West Indian regiments and King's African Rifles. The Express refrains from publishing names.

To Open The Island

Public Meeting on Friday to Press For Island Railway.

Is Called by the Mayor in Response to a Petition.

Argument as to the Necessity of the Road's Immediate Construction.

Complying with the request of a number of citizens, Mayor-elect McCandless will call a mass meeting of the people of Victoria, to be held in the City Hall on Friday evening next, for the purpose of discussing the matter of the necessity of the construction of a railway to the Northern end of Vancouver Island.

Mr. McCandless was yesterday presented with the following petition, and immediately acquiesced in the request setting the date of the meeting for Friday evening next, at 8 o'clock:

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 16, 1903.

To His Worship Mayor McCandless:

The undersigned voters of the city of Victoria respectfully request that you will call a public meeting of the citizens of Victoria at the City Hall, at the earliest convenient date, to consider what steps can be taken towards securing railway construction on Vancouver Island, and especially of a line to some suitable point at or near the Northern end of the island.

L. G. McQuade, C. F. Todd, G. J. Pitts, C. H. Lugrin, G. H. Burns, Simon Leiser, Percy Wollaston, Jr., Henry Saunders, G. B. Marvin, A. B. Fraser, Sr., W. F. Fraser & Co., Ltd., G. Hartnagle, Jno. Irving, R. Seabrook, C. S. Baxter.

The meeting will be addressed by prominent speakers, and plans discussed for calling, in a forcible manner, the attention of the Federal Government to the necessity of assisting the construction of a railway which will make accessible the magnificent natural resources of Vancouver Island. It is intended that petitions shall be circulated all over the Island for signature, and afterwards forwarded to each of the representatives of the Island in the local and Federal Houses.

A similar movement to that which is now on foot was undertaken some years ago. Meetings were held and largely-signed petitions forwarded to Ottawa, but no direct beneficial results were accomplished, owing to a lack of persistency on the part of those who initiated the movement. It is now considered that the time is propitious for reviving interest in the agitation for a railway to the North end of the Island, and that success will soon crown the efforts which are being put forth. The petition referred to was circulated in March, 1900, and was as follows:

To His Excellency the Governor-General in Council:

The petition of the undersigned residents and voters of the Electoral District of ——, in the Province of British Columbia, humbly showeth:

That Vancouver Island, British Columbia, has an area of nearly 18,000 square miles, and is rich in mineral resources, timber and land adapted for settlement, but its development is retarded by the lack of proper facilities of communication.

That it is proposed to construct a railway from Wellington, the present terminus of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway, to Harde Bay, or some other suitable point at or near the Neorthern extremity of Vancouver Island.

That the length of the proposed railway would be approximately two hundred miles and with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway would provide a continuous line of railway from one end of the Island to the other, from which by a system of short branch lines every point on either coast of the Island could be readily reached.

The mining operations are being carried on at many points on the Island, but are much handicapped for want of railway communication, but the progress in metalliferous mining already attained is greater than what had been accomplished in the Trail mining division of Kootenay five years ago, and in the opinion of your petitioners, if the proposed railway were built, the mining industry on the Island and its colonization would be rapidly promoted.

That statistics show that the residents of British Columbia pay an average of nearly $20 per capita into the revenue of Canada. Hence the colonization of the Island would be of great benefit to the Dominion from a financial point of view.

That the proposed railway would be able to make connections over the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway, and by way of railway ferries or fast passenger boats, with the Canadian Pacific and the United States railways, and by means of fast steamers with points in Northern British Columbia and Alaska, and would thus become a very important factor in the traffic to and from the Northern gold fields, and would also afford a connection between Victoria and Vancouver Island generally, and also the City of Vancouver (by means of railway ferry) with any line that may be constructed to the Pacific Coast through Northern British Columbia.

Your petitioners therefore pray that a subsidy may be granted to aid in the construction of the proposed railway. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

As indicating the argument which can be advanced that there is great and pressing need of the immediate construction of a railway to the North end of the Island, the Colonist is requested by those who are responsible for the arranging of the meeting in the City hall on Friday evening next, to publish the views of a gentleman who on January 5 last prepared the following splendid presentation of the case in favor of the project:

"I notice that it is proposed to inaugurate a campaign to promote railway construction upon Vancouver Island. The question is one that, above all others, should enlist the energies of the citizens of Victoria. It is agreed that the Island is rich in resources; it is certain that the Pacific Coast terminii of future trans-Canadian railways will be in the North, and that the final port of call for Oriental liners will be at the Northwest point of this Island. If Victoria is to realize upon her possible advantages in respect to these facts, her citizens must, as a first step, promote the construction of Island railways.

"So obvious a truth needs no argument to support it, yet we are likely to underestimate the probable profit of a successful effort in the direction indicated. We have settled down into the conviction that our future depends upon our becoming the terminus of a transcontinental railway. To be such would, of course, greatly advance our interest, but it is not necessary to them. It is not the only possible factor in our future growth, and it certainly is not the one most surely within our reach. The best conditions for a city are doubtless location upon the sea Coast, with adjacent territory of great productiveness, served by railways that give good connections with transcontinental systems. If you add to these the elements that make a city a desirable place of residence, you have all the factors necessary to prosperity. To a city thus circumstanced, that lives up to its privileges, the location of the carshops, or the head offices of transportation companies, is a matter of relatively little importance. And, moreover, the location of these will depend much more upon the business and the natural advantages that a city has to offer a company than upon any question of subsidy.

"At all events, a community should first avail itself of what it is within its own power to acquire. Victoria should act upon this principle. It canot itself afford, and it ought not to expect the province to furnish the means, to pay enough to induce a transcontinental road to make its terminus here if the natural interests of the road would suffer thereby. We ought to be able to see, for instance, and if the Canadian Northern finds it to be to its advantage for business reasons to make this its ocean terminus, it will do so; otherwise it will not. Let us, therefore, turn to those factors which we have, ourselves, the power to affect.

"We can promote the extension of our Island railway facilities and thus bring within easy reach of Victoria every settlement, present and prospective, on the Island, and establish direct connection with existing and future transcontinental systems.

"Trade originating on the Island passes our doors every day because of our defective means of transportation. Alberni, for instance, is removed from us two days' journey, and Quatsino is to us as if it were beyond the sea. Fertile valleys and growing mining camps within 100 miles are of no more use to us for business than settlements in Ontario. There is enough natural wealth adjacent to Victoria to make this city an industrial and commercial cen-

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On Canadian Railway Lines

London Papers Devoting More Space to Discussion of Dominion.

Increasing Assurance That the Wheat Fields Can Supply Needs of Britain.

Montreal, Jan. 17.—A London cable says: The Morning Post devotes three columns today with a map representing the prosperity of Canada, especially in the new transcontinental railways. The editorial urges the importance of the lines in the general interests of the empire, especially in view of the reduction in cost of transport of wheat to the seaboard, thus increasing Britain's assurance that Canada is able to satisfy the entire British wheat needs.

The Saturday Review today discussing the Canada Transcontinental railway, assumes that the line will be built independent of Government assistance, in the form of either a land grant or a subsidy, and says "this is a striking evidence of Canada's industrial progress."

The C. P. R. traffic earnings for the week ending January 14, were $743,000, and for the same week last year $627,000.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 17.—(Special.)—J Sheld, locomotive foreman of the Canadian Pacific, has been appointed master mechanic of the Canadian Northern. Mr. Warner, city freight agent of the C. P. R. has also resigned to take a like position on the Canadian Northern.

The trial of John Potein, charged with the murder of John Prothero, of Snake island, Winnipeg, on December 22 last, was begun at Selkirk today.

JOHN REDMOND IS HOPEFUL

Believes Measure to Settle Ireland's Land Trouble Will Be Passed.

London, Jan. 17.—John Redmond, M. P., the Irish leader responding to a national address presented to him at Edinburgh tonight, said he believed that friends of Ireland would soon see a measure become law which would heal the wounds of centuries, and give the Irish people a chance of living in peace and prosperity on their own soil. If the chance of settling the Irish land question was lost by the rejection of the measure, concluded Mr. Redmond, there would be an overwhelming justification for such a strong, menacing, and dangerous public movement in Ireland as he would be sorry to see.

Mr. Redmond added that he hoped that the spirit of conciliation shown at the Dublin land conference would be reproduced in the House of Commons, and if so, all of the political parties might commence the work of appeasement and justice in Ireland. Hitherto the Irish Nationalists had been fighting landlordism, and not the landlords, who they wished would remain to take a part in the government of the country. Mr. Redmond further said that the demand on the treasury for the carrying out of the voluntary purchase scheme was not unreasonable. The deficit would disappear in ten years by the reduction in the cost of governing Ireland. Laying aside the questions of what was due to the landlords and of the debt due to Ireland, it would be a profitable investment to settle the land question, which had baffled the best English statesmen, had been a source of poverty, misery and bloodshed, and had caused the immigration of millions of Irishmen, who took into the United States and cherished there an undying hatred for the Union Jack. The speaker did not believe that the settlement of the land question would end the Home Rule question, but he did not hesitate to say that it would be the removal of the last obstacle. In conclusion, Mr. Redmond said: If this chance is lost through perverse stupidity, the losers will be the landlords on the one side, and those desiring to maintain the connection between England and Ireland, on the other. The Irish people were ready to accept the situation in the event of the acceptance or refusal of the pending proposition.

C. P. R. OFFICIALS.

Report of Changes in Division Superintendents.

Montreal, Jan. 16.—(Special)—Rumors are afloat in officials quarters that a change of considerable importance is to take place shortly among the general superintendents of the Pacific and Western divisions of the C. P. R. General Superintendent Marpole of the Pacific division, who is now in the city, is said to be making arrangements to have his division transferred. General Superintendent Leonard of the Western division at Winnipeg, it is understood, is to go to Vancouver as general superintendent of the Pacific division, and Superintendent Barr is slated for position of general superintendent of the Western division to succeed General Superintendent Leonard.

Scarcity Of Coal

President Mitchell Says Miners Are Doing What They Can.

But That Companies Fail to Supply Sufficient Cars at Collieries.

Representative of Company Contradicts This Statement and Demands Proof.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 17.—President John Mitchell, of the Miners' union, before leaving for Indianapolis, to attend the national convention of his organization and subsequently the national wage convention of the soft coal operators and mine workers, delivered today what he believed was his farewell address to the coal strike commission. The Scranton Coal company, which also operates the collieries of the Elk Hill Coal & Iron company, closed its case during the session, and was followed by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway company. It was while the latter company was examining witnesses that the hour for adjournment for the week arrived, and Mr. Mitchell arose and asked to be permitted to make a few remarks. All the attorneys representing the different interests before the commission crowded around the leader of the miners as he prefaced his remarks by stating that it would likely be the last session of the investigation he would be able to attend. He explained why he is called West, and said:

"I wish to take this occasion to express my satisfaction, and that of the miners, whom I represent, for the manner in which the investigation is being conducted. I feel confident that by the thoroughness of the inquiry it will result in much good. There has been a large part of the commission taken up by the presentation of evidence to show lawlessness in the coal fields, or that lawlessness existed to a large extent during the latter part of the strike. Personally I bear no ill-will to those who came here, bear no personal malice to those who worked, and in stating what I am saying, I am trying to separate myself as far as possible from the special interests I represent. The non-union man who was brought here was brought here for the same purpose he was put in the mines. He was put in the mines for the purpose of destroying the efforts of the man who went on strike. He was brought here under the pretext of getting an advance in wages, he was decoyed by a plea made that an effort would be made by those who had the case in charge to secure for him an increase in wages. He came here, paid by the companies, hotel bills paid by them, and our men who went around to see them say money was furnished to them to enjoy themselves while they were here. He came here, and in not a single instance did those who represent him attempt to show that it was intended to increase his earnings. The non-union man was used, betrayed by those who proposed to take care of his interests before the commission. I want to say too, as to the matter of lawlessness, that there is no man associated with this investigation who would condemn lawlessness stronger than I would. If I did not do it because I was opposed to lawlessness, I would do it because it militates against the success of a strike, and against an advancement of the organization. I do not believe lawlessness ever won a strike. I do not believe lawlessness, to a very large degree deters men from working. I believe lawlessness under all circumstances will militate against the men who go on strike, as I have said many times, I have an abiding faith in the United States people. I believe that when they understand a cause to be right, they will support it, and without the support of the people no great movement can succeed. That is true of a strike if the people of the country are not in sympathy with it, it must fail, and I am sure the sympathy of the people will never be with those who violate the law. There is one other question that I feel it is my duty to speak of. As the commission is no doubt aware, several days ago I addressed a communication to all anthracite mine workers, urging them to co-operate with the management of the mines in increasing the output of mines, for the purpose of relieving the terrible suffering due to the coal famine. Since my communication was received by them I have heard from a large number of our local unions, and in nearly every instance the miners tell me the production of coal cannot be increased through any effort of theirs; that in most cases the companies are failing to furnish them with as many cars as they would load. In other words, the regular turn of cars will not amount to as much as the men are accustomed and willing to load; so that they cannot increase the output of the mines. There may be, in some few cases, and in those cases they have agreed to do so."

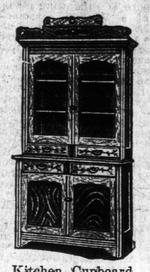
Major Everett Warren, of Scranton, who represents several coal companies before the commission, interrupted Mr. Mitchell and requested him to bring proof of the assertions just made. The companies, he said, had information to the contrary, and they would show that the men do not, and are not willing to load as many cars as they can be furnished with.

In reply to this, Mr. Mitchell said: "I am not attempting, of course, to testify as a witness in the matter. I am giving the sources of my information in each case. I do not say this for the purpose of placing responsibility on anybody else. The fact of the matter is, my information would indicate it is impossible to move more coal. The miners tell me the tracks are conjested with loaded cars of coal at the mines. We do not want to, and will not cause trouble at the mines, but will do all we can to prevent it, but I want the commission to understand that the men who have been idle all this time are getting impatient. They are writing every day asking if something cannot be done to secure them work in the mines. They are charged, of course, with being criminals.

"It is alleged they left their jobs and all that, but if they are going to have a term of peace for some years in the anthracite fields, it seems to me they ought to stop fighting now, and that any desire to punish the men by the companies ought to cease. We are willing and anxious to get along in harmony with those in the coal fields, and will do all we can to establish good relationship with them, and we hope the operators will meet us half way in doing that.

Montreal, Jan. 17.—(Special.)—Forty Manitoba farmers are to be sent to England this winter to talk up the advantages of Manitoba and Canada generally.

DOMESTIC FURNITURE



Kitchen Cupboard, Antique Finish, 4ft. 4in. wide, $12.00.

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A Calendar of 1903 containing many POINTERS that every lady will appreciate, mailed free for the asking.

WEILER BROS.

Furnishers to the People

VICTORIA, B. C.

DUTY ON COAL.

Montreal, Jan. 16.—Prominent Montrealers favor Canada's removing the duty on bituminous coal. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy said that it would save the C. P. R. $400,000 per year, and at the same time he did not believe Nova Scotia miners could lose a dollar. Looking at the question in its broadest light, sir Thomas did not think that as a company they had any right to pick and choose such items of the tariff as would be to their own advantage. They were bound to consider the question as bearing upon the Dominion and its industries. Proprietors of Nova Scotia mines and manufacturers were better able to judge of effect than he was, but he still believed it would open a large new field for Nova Scotian coal. Mr. F. D. Monk believed the duty should be removed at least for the present.

A PRAISEWORTHY WORK.

Many people in Victoria are probably not aware that there is a highly commendable and praiseworthy work being conducted in this city, but so quietly and earnestly have Mr. Clark and two or others, including Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, been working, that few have heard anything about it. Mr. Clark opened the doors of the old Harmony hall as a night school two weeks ago, to the boys of this city, whose education has been neglected through having to leave school early to go to work, and for other reasons. The first night 24 boys put in an appearance, and the attendance has since increased to 30, and Mr. Clark feels sure that the roll will be doubled in a very short time. Each boy pays 25 cents to help supply pens, ink, paper, and a few of the most necessary articles. The subjects which are taken up are practical arithmetic, writing and spelling. The tuition is of the best, but that goes without saying as Miss Cameron's record as a teacher does not need looking over by Victorians.

These classes are held every night from 7 to 8:30. Saturday night is set aside for recreation, the boys amusing themselves in the hall. Of course an institution of this kind needs help, and is very worthy of aid, both by donations in cash and the services of those who are willing to devote their time as teachers. It is the intention to form a club, and have reading rooms where the scholars and others can pass an evening profitably.

NATIVE SONS ANNUAL BALL

Will Be Held In Assembly Rooms Friday, February 13

The third annual ball of the Native Sons of British Columbia Post No. 1, will be held on Friday, February 13—St. Valentine's Eve. The committees having charge of the event are sparing no effort to make it one of the most notable in the social history of the city. The decorations will be on an elaborate scale, which promises to eclipse in originality of design and artistic effect everything heretofore attempted. The supper will be the choicest and most dainty ever set before the guests of the society, for the lavish hospitality of the Native Sons has passed into a by-word. The Native Sons have the undisputed name of always providing the best music of any ball held in the city, and this year they have instructed Bandmaster Flint to supply an orchestra of ten pieces, and great care will be taken to have the latest hits in the way of popular dance music on the programme. When the programme has been finally arranged, a copy will appear in the Colonist, so that the many patrons of "the ball of the year" may know what is in store for them. Special attention will be paid to the checking of cloaks, etc.

The officers and committees of the ball are: Chairman, Jos. E. Wilson; secretary, Arthur E. Haynes; treasurer, Samuel Sea, jr.

Supper Committee—Chas. F. Gardiner, Jos. E. Wilson, W. A. Lawson, A. E. Todd, Carl Pendray, Geo. Gardiner and H. G. Dalby.

Decoration Committee—Thos. Watson, J. P. Hibben, J. A. McTavish, M. A. Wylde, Fred. Adams and the general committee.

Music and Printing Committee—Jas. Fletcher, Phil R. Smith and M. A. Wylde.

Invitation Committee—H. G. Barnard and W. H. Langley.

SUGAR CONVENTION.

Russia Does Not Agree With British View.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 17.—Russia has replied to the British note of November 31 on the subject of the sugar convention. She reiterates the views expressed in previous notes, and says she considers the British contentions to be attempts to interfere in her domestic legislation, and repudiates the idea that another state may in its own interest press for a change in Russian international legislation, or in the event of Russia not agreeing to its proposal, that it shall penalize Russia's product without violating existing commercial treaties. The note declares that Russia can in no eventuality give her adhesion to the Brussels agreement and concludes: "As Great Britain declines arbitration, and as the penalty clause cannot be applied to Russian sugar until the international commission declares the Russian system to be a bounty system, any further exchange of views before the commission settles the positions would not be productive of results."

Vienna, Jan. 17.—A bill ratifying the Brussels sugar convention was referred to a committee, and the House rose at 6 o'clock this evening.

Labelle Will Hang

Last Appeal of Counsel For Yukon Murderers Respite Has Failed.

Cabinet After Consideration Decide That New Trial Should Be Refused.

Vancouver to Apply to Ottawa to Secure Foreshore of False Creek.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Jan. 16.—The last appeal to save Edouard Labelle from the hangman's noose was made today by Messrs. Wilson and Lenfird, M. P., of Montreal, and it failed. Labelle and his partner in crime, Fournier, will expiate their terrible offence next Tuesday, at Dawson. The counsel saw the Prime Minister this afternoon on the latter's return from Quebec, and contended that their client did not have a fair trial. They asked that the prerogative of mercy be exercised in Labelle's favor, and if that could not be done, that a new trial be ordered, and that in the meantime the prisoner be respited for two months. In support of a new trial, counsel quoted the outcome of the Sternaman case, the second trial of which resulted in acquital, although at the first trial Sternaman was found guilty of murdering her husband and was sentenced to death. Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the deputation that he would consult the Chief Justice, and later on apprise them of the decision of the cabinet ministers. It seems they went very fully into the matter again and came to the conclusion that there was nothing to justify a new trial. Accordingly the law will take its course.

One of the ministers stated today that he understood J. Pierpont Morgan would visit Ottawa during the session of parliament.

Application will be made next session for an act to enable the city of Vancouver to purchase or expropriate rights, if any, of any and all riparian or littoral proprietors in or on the foreshore of False creek, and to settle the manner in which such expropriation shall take place, and the means of arriving at compensation to be paid and for all necessary and usual rights, powers and privileges for carrying out the foregoing objects, and to obtain the benefit of the grant from the crown dated the 6th day of July, 1901.

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTIE.

Celebration of His Silver Jubilee at Portland.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, Portland, on Wednesday morning there was high pontifical mass on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Most Rev. Alexander Christie, Archbishop of Oregon. Every pew in the cathedral was occupied by a reverent congregation, including people from other denominations, and even chairs placed in the aisles were utilized. The gorgeous altar with its multitude of lights and sacred emblems, and priests clad in the splendid robes of their office, formed a picture that will not soon be forgotten. Archbishop Christie was celebrant, and the other officers of the pontifical mass were: Assistant priest, Very Rev. Prior Thomas, O. S. B.; assistant deacons, Rev. A. Hillebrand and Rev. Thomas J. Neate, S. J.; deacon, Very Rev. M. A. Quinlan, C. S. C.; subdeacon, Rev. L. Przybylski; master of ceremonies, Rev. J. M. Nally, D. D.; assistant master of ceremonies, Rev. J. F. Waters; archiepiscopal cross-bearer, Rev. E. P. Murphy; cross-bearer, Rev. W. A. Daly; mitre-bearer, Rev. Theodore J. Baum; candle-bearer, Rev. D. P. Curley; book-bearer, Rev. J. A. Levesque.

In the afternoon the Archbishop and invited guests attended a banquet at the Columbia University, where the Archbishop was the guest of honor. He was presented with a purse containing about $1,000 in gold from the clergy of Oregon as a mark of their affection for him. A public reception was tendered the Archbishop in the evening.

The reception was made the occasion for presenting the Archbishop with a check for $1,100 from the Catholics of Portland. Hon. John M. Gearin made the presentation in a well-worded address and amid much whole-hearted applause. The Archbishop responded to the gift with a pleasant speech of thanks, and after the programme was finished nearly every one in the hall came forward to grasp his reverence by the hand and to wish him prosperity for the next 25 years of his ministry.

MISER'S FORTUNE.

Daughter Making Claim for Her Share.

Toronto, Jan. 16.—(Special)—A writ has been issued on behalf of Mrs. Esther Wertheimer, of San Francisco, against the National Trust Company, to have it declared that plaintiff is the only lawful next of kin of the late Eli Hyman, or Henry Davis, or Henry Goliuski, the beggar, who died recently in the hospital here, leaving an estate valued at $65,000. Plaintiff claims two-thirds of the estate on the ground that she is the daughter of Hyman by his first wife, who died and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in 1868.