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VICTORIA, TUESDAY, AUG. 2, 1892.

THE QUARANTINE ENDED.

We are scarcely disposed to say that "after all is over" the business associations between Victoria and the city of Vancouver will resume their usual relations, for that can hardly be. There will necessarily remain some feeling of—to put it no stronger—restraint in the relationships—social and commercial—of the two communities, for the one—there is no need to disguise the fact—thinks that the other was premature in putting on the quarantine; and the other is of opinion that the one has made too much of what it is disposed to regard as merely a measure of self-defence. In a matter of this kind we, as a commercial newspaper aiming to speak on behalf of a greater territory than that which is represented within the limits of Victoria, or indeed of the island of Vancouver, cannot look at the subject from a sectional point of view. We think, however, that it was a mistake into which the sister city fell to close its doors against Victoria, inasmuch as its action served as a pretext which the rival ports upon the American side availed themselves to endeavor to cripple British Columbia trade generally. They never lose sight of any opportunities that present themselves, and hence the greater need for the greatest discretion on our part.

We are not disposed—although some people have done so—to allege that Vancouver has shut us out in order to capture our trade, for we are convinced that the figures will show that she has been a loser possibly in much the same proportion as ourselves. The reasons are plain. A considerable amount of Vancouver's Sound trade—freight and passenger—passes through Victoria. When she blackballed us she blackballed herself. Travel to the coast on the C. P. R. suffered when it became known that the smallpox was abroad. It was impossible to have disguised the fact that smallpox had been brought to Vancouver by the Chinamen and, had as must have been the impression created by this fact, it must have been intended when it became known that because of the prevalence of smallpox Vancouver had been obliged to shut her doors against Victoria. The opinion created everywhere as to the condition of the coast cities of British Columbia could not, on this account, fail to have been most damaging. What wonder then that trade should have been materially affected?

It is not likely that this province will soon be visited by an outbreak such as the present, which on both sides the Gulf we

are glad to have ample reason to hope is fast becoming exhausted. The visitation and its attendant incidents have taught a number of lessons. They have shown that the quarantine system of Canada is grievously defective, for, were not this the case, in view of the facts, it would not have been possible for the authorities at Ottawa to have declared officially that the quarantine officer at Albert Head had fully carried out the law in his treatment of plague stricken vessels and their infected passengers. They have demonstrated that sanitary law and practice as they obtain here are by no means equal either to ordinary or special requirements. From many large cities—especially seaports—smallpox is seldom absent in a more or less modified form. Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster have been taught this by dearly bought experience and now have some idea of what the circumstances of the case require. What we are anxious about, now that all is over, or pretty near over, is that as early as possible there shall be a resumption of the somewhat rudely interrupted relations between the cities, which further litigation could not fail to retard.

COLONIAL IGNOREMENT.

It has been observed very appropriately that although the congress of chambers of commerce recently held in London was attended by representatives of ninety boards of trade and chambers of commerce, half of them in the United Kingdom, their proceedings were comparatively ignored by the metropolitan press, just as if the matters under consideration were of little or no importance. It is true the British elections were on, but, despite this, there is only too much reason to conclude that the people "at home" still fail to realize the importance of relations with the colonies which are really such important portions of the Empire. Ireland was the principal topic discussed by the election speakers and the papers; but what is Ireland in comparison with the colonies all over the world that are, and might be still more so, such towers of strength to the United Kingdom? If the people at home and their journals set such light store by us, there are those who entertain far more exalted ideas on this subject, and this it may be well for the British people to remember unless they are prepared to have a repetition of that disgruntlement which lost New England to the Empire.

SEAL SKIN COMBINE.

Although the cry has been raised, and is being constantly persisted in, that the seals are disappearing, the interest appears to be sufficiently important to warrant an attempt to form a joint stock company with ten million dollars of capital, whose object is to protect the interests of those engaged in handling, curing and disposing of the skins. It has been announced, and the story has been confirmed, that Messrs. G. C. Treadwell & Co., a well known Eastern American house, are promoters of the contemplated combine, which will be organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey. As is well known, the principal and primary

shipping point for the sealskins taken in the North Pacific ocean is Victoria, whence having been salted and packed, it has been the practice to ship the bulk of them in the Fall to London, England, by the speediest possible route, the contracts for delivery specifying in view of the market fluctuations that they shall arrive at their destination within a particular time.

Heretofore the dyeing of the fur has been done exclusively in London, where alone, it was claimed, the secret was known. As now understood, it is the intention of the proposed company to treat the skins at Albany, N. Y., where the eminent firm of Treadwell & Co. have their headquarters. There is no duty on raw skins going into the United States, but there is a duty of 25 or 30 per cent. on the manufactured article. Thus, if Albany, instead of London, were to be made the headquarters for curing and dyeing, the saving to the sealers in freight alone would be very considerable. The question is, however, can the dyeing and dressing be done as well there as in London, which has hitherto had the monopoly? In the event of this being possible, Victoria would undoubtedly become the great fur emporium, her market, and not that of London, regulating values, since both the London and Albany dealers would be competitors for the catch, their rivalry serving not only to strengthen values, but to give them a permanency that would be eminently desirable.

The fluctuations have in the past been productive of considerable losses. Last year the Victoria banks advanced the sealers as high as \$20 per skin, although owing to the number taken, the price in London on their arrival did not reach that figure. This year it is certain that the take will be small owing to the police vigilance exercised in Behring's Sea, and, therefore, there is no wonder that such well known concerns as those of H. Ward, N. J. Bishopric, F. L. Ridgeway and W. B. Tims should have formed the proposed association with almost unlimited financial backing. Their action, moreover, demonstrates that despite all the statements that have been made there is yet a big thing in seals, and also despite the strong American official statements which have been made that they are almost extinct and that there can be nothing in them.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EXHIBIT.

"We are very well satisfied to have on the authority of Prof. Saunders, who is at present in the Province, the assurance that at the forthcoming World's Fair British Columbia will have a good exhibition of natural resources—particularly minerals, lumber, fruit and the products of the farm. There will, he says, be no difficulty in this Province getting all the space wanted, while her lumber will have a conspicuous place in all things Canadian. Not only will it be prominent in the exhibits of the Provincial section and in the Dominion trophy at the entrance, but Island and Mainland timber will be largely used in the construction of the Canadian building—not the place of exhibition, but a sort of general headquarters for Canadians, who are invited and expected to make it their rendezvous.