

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

The spirit of expansion has taken possession of the province if the feelings of the members of the Legislature are any indication of the sentiments of the people. In the budget speech delivered yesterday the Finance Minister informed the House that it is proposed to expend in the neighborhood of half a million dollars more than the estimated revenue, and scarcely a syllable was heard in protest. There is a general feeling that British Columbia is entering upon a new era and that the government should do all in its power by spending money freely for development purposes to speed us along the road to greater prosperity. The same tendency is noticeable over the whole Dominion; there is a spirit of national exhilaration in the air, our growing time has arrived and we are about to vie with our neighbors to the south in the expansion business.

But there were other elements entering into the conditions which produced the peculiar state of affairs which we have referred to above as being present in the House. The party which in the ordinary course of events under our system would have formed Her Majesty's loyal opposition has almost entirely disappeared, owing to the infusion of a new and radical element into our political system, while the one from which the government has been formed and by which it is supported, was made out of the fragments of the old combinations. That also has produced a feeling that as a province we are beginning a new existence; that our bark is starting afresh on the voyage of life and that no discordant note should be heard in the chorus of "Von Voyage!"

We infer from his remarks that these were the feelings which possessed the mind or the heart of the member for New Westminster when he intimated to the House that he had on the whole no fault to find with the estimated expenditure or with the method by which the funds were to be obtained to meet our provincial obligations. The member for North Nanaimo was the only other member of the opposition who spoke on the budget. He also agreed that all the proposed expenditures were justifiable, but he took exception to the means by which it is proposed to raise the funds. Some of the members appear to take Mr. McInnes too seriously. They might have known from his political orations during the late campaign what his attitude would be in the House towards all coal barons and monopolists. But, notwithstanding his radical notions and his extreme views on almost every question weaken his influence, there is no denying that this young man is possessed of great fluency of speech, that he has a pleasing voice and debating talent of a high order, and that if he gathers wisdom with advancing years and more extended experience and becomes less extreme in his views he will be willing to admit that reforms are easier of attainment by gradual than by revolutionary methods. If it be true that it is proposed to increase the cost of coal or that it has already been advanced in price, as intimated in the House by the member for North Nanaimo yesterday, we are simply furnished with another illustration of the fact that ultimately the consumer pays all taxes. In a quasi-monopoly like coal mining there is no way of overcoming this except by government regulation or by such action as was taken by the Dominion government when it acquired about fifty thousand acres of the coal lands given by the provincial government to the charterholders of the Crow's Nest Pass railway and fixed a maximum price per ton on the output from the remainder. In the case of the Vancouver Island mines it is not enjoining to think that there will be no increase in cost to foreign buyers, as the price of coal in California is regulated by competition from outside sources. It is possible that the coal companies may contend the increase has been made necessary by the demand for higher wages by the miners and that the tax had nothing to do with it at all. As far as the New Vancouver Coal Company is concerned, the shareholders are not acquiring wealth rapidly from large dividends, as the statements published after the stated meetings show.

The proprietors of metalliferous mines are not in a position to shift the tax. In their case it becomes an actual impost on the output, and in view of all that has been done by the province to provide railroads and other facilities to assist in the development of such properties it will be generally conceded that \$31,000 is a very small sum indeed to be contributed by those who are deriving the chief benefit from the great source of wealth of British Columbia. The government is of the opinion that at the present time they are not paying their share of the taxes and it is going to see if something cannot be done to remedy that state of affairs.

EMPERESS HAS FLED.

So far the dispatches from the East have not been such as to inspire the minds of readers of newspapers with confidence in the veracity of the enterprising correspondent. It would not be fair to be too censorious of the work of the newsgathering agencies, for in this case they have had exceptional difficulties to contend with. They have had to rely for the most part on stories brought out by Chinese messengers, and, as we

know in this country, the average Mongolian is not imbued with a peculiarly high sense of the power of truth. He is singularly diplomatic in his methods and is governed largely by a sense of expediency. When the great nations of the world were unable to get at the truth as to the real state of affairs in the capital of the Chinese empire, it is not to be wondered at that it was a matter of considerable difficulty for the newspapers to obtain reliable information for their readers. The news has arrived from several quarters that the allied troops have arrived at Peking, and as at the rate of progress at which they were known to be proceeding they were due there some days ago, we think it may be taken for granted that this information is correct and that the foreigners in Peking, as many as are left of them, are now out of range of the murderous weapons of the Boxers and the Chinese soldiers of the Empress. The sovereign is said to have fled from the face of the advancing armies, but so many tales have been told of depositions and suicides and murders and of who is responsible for the riots and outbreaks, which have for the most part been contradicted since, it is possible that that may also be without foundation. The Empress is not easily abashed or dismayed, or she would never have been on the throne. If she has fled as reported the government, or whatever stands for such in China, has departed with her, consequently the chief city must be completely at the mercy and in the power of the foreign armies. Negotiations will probably now be opened for a settlement and for compensation for the loss of life and property that has been sustained by the various nations. Possibly the allies may have to take some further part in the suppression of the insurrection. It is not easy to understand the peculiar Chinese ways or to divine the forces and undercurrents that are at work in shaping the policy of that incomprehensible people. The general opinion is that when the word is given by the Empress and her accessories little more will be heard of the Boxers for the time being; but they will be on hand again when their presence is considered necessary, perhaps under another name.

Now the board is nearly ready for the great game between the powers of Europe, with the United States as referee. The latter professes to be without interest in the contest save as to the preservation of the integrity of the various spheres of influence. Great Britain and Japan are practically of the same mind, so there is little doubt but the whole matter will be disposed of by peaceful negotiations.

BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBORS.

An exchange remarks in a tone of sadness that Germany and the United States have completed a reciprocity treaty, but that owing to her policy it is impossible for Great Britain to enter into such a trade arrangement with any country. It is a particularly noticeable fact that very few of the American and Canadian protectionist journals lose an opportunity of calling attention to the remarkable expansion of the business of the United States under a protectionist policy, it may be forgetting, but more likely purposely ignoring, the fact that it is hardly fair to institute comparisons between Great Britain, with its small amount of territory, and the United States, with nearly a whole continent, and a very fertile continent, given over to the exploitation of its inhabitants. We may not like to be told, we who look upon the United Kingdom as destined to remain for all time at the head of the national procession in all things, that in the nature of the case the day must come when she must take her place towards the rear; but it is true. A nation of forty millions cooped in a small island which permits of but limited expansion must in the end take second place to a country with double the population and territory capable of supporting with ease five times as many people. But when we take the trade of the country per head of the population we find that the records do not show such a falling off as our friends of the protectionist school would have us believe. From the year 1895 to 1899 the returns show that the trade of the United States increased \$9.17 per head of the population and that of Great Britain \$23.34. It is such figures as these that make the merchants and manufacturers of the United Kingdom sceptical as to the advantages of protection. In spite of the competition of the United States and Germany the trade returns show a steady, we might almost say a marvellous, growth, all things considered. At regularly recurring intervals a great furor is made because some American firms succeed in selling a few locomotives or some such implements in competition with the British manufacturers, and predictions are freely made that at last the tide has turned and the era of Britain's decadence has dawned. But a few isolated orders by no means indicate the permanent diversion of the current of trade, for after the rush is over we find that the same old conditions are prevailing. The Germans are admittedly making great strides in the shipbuilding line and are now putting in the water the fastest vessels in the world; but that is because the British and the Americans have wisely concluded that the limit of speed with comfort to passengers has been reached with the present methods of propulsion. Vessels like the Oceanic are said to fulfil the highest ideals of ocean travel at the present time, and

speed must for the present be subordinated to the comfort and convenience of those who journey to and fro upon the earth. But the genius of the British inventor is not by any means a thing of the past, and the fact that he has placed at the service of the British navy a vessel capable of steaming more than thirty-seven knots an hour must be accepted as a guarantee that before long the steam turbine will be available for the peaceful pursuits of commerce as well as for the dreadful art of war, and then the vessels of the Clyde and the Tyne will again take their places at the head of the procession without shaking out the teeth of their passengers by excessive vibration.

Another fact that must not be overlooked is that the British Isles are not the British Empire. While relatively the increase in the trade of the Old World part of the Empire may not be as great as that of the vigorous young nation to the south of us, we must remember that the business of Canada is literally increasing by leaps and bounds, and that per head of this population it is already more than twice that of our active competitors to the south. Australian trade is also growing marvellously, and when the federation of that favored part of our possessions is completed it is confidently expected that the increase in wealth will be even more marked. It is thus that the British Empire proper is being built, and if the trade of the Canadian, Australian and South African confederations be computed a few years hence it will probably be found that the trade of Great Britain still dominates the commercial world just as markedly as of yore.

THE OLD LANDMARKS.

One of the most interesting letters which has been sent out from London to the American papers for some time is from the pen of Mr. Isaac N. Ford, and relates to the disappearance of old buildings which have for many years been associated with the names of distinguished men whose works will probably endure as long as the English language. Venerable edifices are disappearing one after another, and even the old house in which Punch has dwelt so long, and in which so many rich things have been written and such a goodly number of great-hearted and richly-endowed intellectual men have enjoyed each others' discourse, even old-fashioned Punch is to put on gaudy modern attire and renew his youth. It is said none but Englishmen thoroughly enjoy London's great comic journal, but there was one associated with Punch whom every lover of literature reads and reveres. At any rate we are sorry for those who don't, for they know not what they are losing. We refer to William Makepeace Thackeray, in memory of whom all who admire the great master will drop a tear when they hear of the modernization of many of the old institutions which have been for many years associated with his name. Few of the worshippers at the shrine of Thackeray or Dickens have ever seen the places which they made famous, but their regret at their disappearance will be none the less acute on that account.

When a boy (or girl) has exhausted the treasures of the literature contained in the school-book which has revealed to him the possibilities of written language and begins to explore the bookcase for new fields of literary pleasure, it is not unnatural to suppose that he is for the time being attracted by alluring titles. To him there is no magic in the name of the author. The suggestive title is his sole guide to the mines he is in search of, and who could expect simple Penderis, or David Copperfield, or Guy Mannerling to make such an impression on his young mind as a work the very name of which suggests hair-breadth escapes and daring adventures of the most marvellous description? But the day comes when these things fall upon him and he begins to think books are a good deal of a bore after all, until in a moment of abstraction he carelessly scans the pages of the despised, dry-looking volumes he had so long regarded with disdain, and the scales fall from his eyes. Even yet he does not observe the subtle difference between Copperfield and Penderis; he is too much absorbed in the fate of the living men and women created by the pens of the masters to take note of the remarks of the critics that the one is a melodramatic burlesque and the other a heartless cynic. In time our youth begins to notice the distinguishing characteristics of the two writers, but his love for them is not diminished at the discovery. He notes the genius of Dickens in the art of descriptive writing; how, for instance, the very names of his characters portray their chief peculiarities. Take chattering Jingle, or garrulous Sam Weller, or irresponsible Harold Skimpole, or Sampson and Sally Brass, or Dick Swiveller, or, in fact, almost any of the characters in the books which boys and men, we firmly believe, will pore over as long as the language endures—could the names which their author bestowed on them be more fitting? The haunts of Pickwick and the Wellers, and of Becky Sharp, and of Penderis, and of George Warrington and his brilliant Irish journalistic friends, we are told, are disappearing. Bleak House is in ruins, too, but the pens of Dickens and Thackeray have reared in their memory monuments which shall be renewed for many generations, if not for all time.

Works of fiction edify and instruct; they repeat, they rearrange, they clarify the lessons of life.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Thronged With Tourists

London Full of Canadians and Americans Over to Visit the Exposition.

Carrying Capacity of Trans-Atlantic Steamers Taxed to the Utmost.

(Associated Press.) London, Aug. 18.—Socially the week has been dull. There is little of interest for the smart set in the metropolis. The city is still filled with Americans and Canadians who for the most part are going to and returning from the Paris exposition. Hotels and the better grade of lodging houses are doing a thriving business and the reflex of Parisian travel is filling the coffers of the publicans even if the merchant classes are less fortunate in thriving by the wayside.

The transportation question has provided of considerable interest during the past week, the booking for trans-Atlantic steamers being much heavier than had been expected, and in many instances in excess of the capacity of the lines. A great many returning American tourists are said to have taken return passage by the lines to Montreal. However, the tide of American travel is still strong towards London. Many residents of the other side of the Atlantic are recuperating in England. Coaching is the delight of most of the Americans.

Senator Chauncey M. Depew sails on the American line steamer New York today. He has been in consultation with British financiers who are interested in the ability of the United States to make loans to Europe. The Senator said: "The sudden development of our industries and the immense accumulation of money growing out of the fact that Europe is paying \$600,000,000 annually for American products, has not only brought the bank rate and call loan up one and two points, but the Western banks are now buying paper in the East because there is no demand for money. The fact that half the British war loan, all of it that had been offered, has been taken in the United States demonstrates the condition which have made New York one of the financial centres of the world. If this continues, and I have no doubt it will, New York will soon be a dangerous rival of London in financing the government enterprises of the world. It is an impossibility that the New York stock exchange will actively deal in many foreign stocks and bonds. The United States, with 8,000 miles of ocean, from European governmental complications will take a militant part in the rivalries, jealousies and wars of Europe. These very miseries, the wars, make the United States every year stronger as a financial factor and will, I believe, make New York the financial centre of the world. Up to two years ago European cabinets took no interest in American diplomacy and finance. America was regarded as a granary in times of poor harvests on this side and as a dumping ground for surplus population. Now no cabinet in Europe makes a move without considering what is the position of the United States in the matter."

JUDGE CREATES A SENSATION.

(Associated Press.) Honolulu, Aug. 11, via San Francisco, Aug. 18.—United States Judge M. M. Estee has arrived here and opened his court, and one of his first acts was to make an order seizing a court room for his own use, the local authorities not having provided him with one. The order created a great sensation among the legal fraternity. It has raised a point whether the United States or territory of Hawaii is owner of public buildings there. The matter will have to be decided at Washington.

POPULATION OF NEW YORK.

(Associated Press.) Washington, Aug. 18.—The population of Greater New York, as indicated by the count just completed at the census office, is 3,437,902. This includes the population of the boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx previously announced, and those of Brooklyn, Richmond and Queens. An approximate estimate of the increase since 1890 shows it to have been 37.9 per cent.

WANT SARAFOW ARRESTED.

(Associated Press.) London, Aug. 18.—The Roumanian government, according to a special from Vienna, has addressed a sharp note, amounting almost to an ultimatum, to Bulgaria demanding the arrest of Sarafow, president of the revolutionary committee at Sofia, and the suppression of that organization.

EX-PRESIDENT DEAD.

Caracas, Venezuela, Aug. 18.—Former President Ignacio Andrade, who was deposed from the presidency and succeeded by Cipriano Castro, the present incumbent, is dead.

BRYAN'S TOUR.

(Associated Press.) Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 18.—Mr. Bryan will devote the greatest part of next week to speech-making in Nebraska and ansas.

ELANDS RIVER GARRISON

Has Been Relieved by Kitchener—Dewet's Escape.

Capetown, Aug. 17.—Lord Kitchener, after a forced march, has relieved Col. Hoare and the British garrison at Elands River.

London, Aug. 17.—The war office has received a dispatch from Lord Roberts expressing a fear that Gen. Dewet has eluded his pursuers. Lord Roberts says he imagines that Dewet's escape is due to his breaking up his forces into small bodies.

Austin & Robertson, proprietors of the Montreal Wholesale Paper Manufacturing Co., made a voluntary assignment yesterday. Liabilities, \$100,000; assets, including paper mill at Rockford, Mich., estimated at \$100,000.

SHOCKING FATALITY.

Farmer Killed in a Threshing Machine—Died From Heart Failure—Entries for the Toronto Exhibition.

Jarvis, Ont., Aug. 18.—While engaged in threshing yesterday Nathaniel Parsons, a farmer, slipped into the cylinder of a threshing machine and was instantly killed.

Windsor, Aug. 18.—While talking and laughing on Thursday night Mrs. Ellen Sinnott, aged 65 years, fell suddenly to the floor and died instantly from heart failure.

North Sydney, C.B., Aug. 18.—Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier were accorded a warm welcome by 3,000 citizens here yesterday.

Hamilton, Ont., Aug. 18.—Willie Dunnett, a boy of 13, is in a critical condition and may not recover from a gunshot wound in the neck. Dunnett was out fishing with another companion named Stewart Easter, who had a rifle, and in firing at an object in the water missed him aim, when the discharge entered Dunnett's neck.

Toronto, Aug. 18.—The attendance of visitors at Toronto exhibition, which opens on August 28th, promises to exceed that of any previous year. The entries in all departments, especially in live stock, are the largest in its history. The caretaker of the Church of Ascension last night discovered that burglars had broken into the edifice and carried off the communion service and sacramental wine, besides smashing the locks on every door of the building.

Windsor, Aug. 18.—The Conservatives of Windsor will hold a rally on September 15th. Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. G. E. Foster and Premier Hugh John Macdonald will speak.

Kingston, Ont., Aug. 18.—At a meeting of the Ontario health authorities here yesterday a paper was read by Dr. Cassidy, of Toronto, on tuberculosis and its cure. Dr. Osler, of Baltimore, Md., thought that eating raw eggs and sleeping in a room with the windows open would cure the disease.

Quebec, Aug. 18.—Sir Chas. Tupper, Sir Louis Davies, W. S. Fielding and A. G. Blair were passengers on the Parisian, which arrived to-day. The Beaver liner Lake Superior, with the returning members of the Bisley team, arrived here this morning.

THE ELECTION ACT.

Ottawa, Aug. 18.—This morning the Conservative papers speak of a flaw in the Dominion Election Act passed last session which will compel the use of the 1890 list in Manitoba in case a Dominion election is called this fall, but it is pointed out at the justice department that the 1890 lists hold good there because of the action of the local legislature in not having new lists prepared till after the amendments they passed last spring, which take effect on the first of January next.

It is worth pointing out that the people of Manitoba will count their votes even if they are a few months old, which is vastly superior to the grave-yard list employed in 1896 by the late government.

Another Race War

Liberty City, Georgia, the Scene of Trouble Between Whites and Negroes.

Women and Children Are Being Sent Away From the Town.

Jessup, Ga., Aug. 18.—Liberty City, two stations below Jessup, in the remote southeastern portion of the state, is being patrolled by hundreds of armed men, two troops of cavalry, the Liberty Independents and Liberty guards, while men are sending away their women and children to escape troubles that are expected to break out afresh to-night after twelve hours' cessation.

It is another race conflict growing out of the killing of a white man by negroes in a section where blacks outnumbered the whites 3 to 1, and as usual the effect on the ignorant, both white and negro, is fearful.

PROCEEDS TO DAWSON.

Governor-General's Party En Route Overland—A Slight Misunderstanding.

Special correspondence to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer from Skagway, under date of August 12th, says:

Lord Minto, Governor-General of Canada, and party arrived here on Friday, and proceeded the same day by train to White Horse, where they took a steamer for Dawson. The White Pass & Yukon railroad extended the courtesy of a special train and a special steamer for the party. President S. H. Graves, of Chicago, who is also here for a month's visit, accompanied the party to Dawson. United States troops stationed in Skagway were reviewed by the Governor-General. His Excellency was called upon by officers of the army and Canadian and American officials of the port.

"Considerable feeling spread through the town as the result of a misunderstanding as to the rules of the road. The Quadra, which brought the Governor-General, did not fly the American flag at the fore on entering port, and certain persons knowing that ships of some classes observe such a courtesy expected it of the Quadra. However, rules of the road do not require it under the circumstances. Some had interpreted the absence of the flag to be a silent expression that Skagway, being in disputed territory, was considered a British port, and feeling was freely expressed. C. E. Wynn-Johnson, a Britisher, manager of the Moore wharf here, took steps to have the British flag run up in salute of the Quadra, without an American flag superimposed. Hamilton Johnson, a customs inspector on the wharf, refused to permit the manager to do as he wished, and his action was very favorably commented on in the port."

Losses at Elands River

Twelve Men Were Killed and Fifty Wounded in Fight With Boers.

Ten Invalided Canadians Arrived at Quebec on the Parisian To-Day.

London, Aug. 18.—Lord Roberts reports that Col. Hoare was besieged at Elands River and has just been relieved by Kitchener, lost 12 men killed and 50 wounded, including Lieut.-Col. de Lisle.

New York, Aug. 18.—A dispatch printed here this afternoon, under date of Delagoa Bay, August 18th, says: "Gen. Dewet has turned on the British, defeating them and capturing 4,000 men, according to Boer reports here."

Quebec, Aug. 18.—Steamer Parisian, with ten invalided Canadians from Africa on board, including Private McLean Ginger of Vancouver, who was attached to the African police commanded by Col. Plumer and who assisted in the relief of Mafeking, and Private Geo. Watson, also of Vancouver, attached to Kitchener's Horse, both victims of enteric fever, arrived at Quebec at 8 o'clock this morning and were accorded a warm welcome by the citizens of the ancient capital. They speak in high terms of the hospital treatment in Africa and their reception in England. The invalids leave for their homes this evening.

Gold From Wreck Bay

A Shipment of \$1,400 Received on the Steamer Willapa This Morning.

Description of Method Employed to Extract Treasure From the Sands.

From the placer mines at Wreck Bay another substantial consignment of gold was received on the steamer Willapa this morning. The shipment amounts to \$1,400, and represents about a month's work done on the beach. This result, when the crude and totally inadequate appliances for extracting it from the sands are considered, speaks much for the richness of the beach. There is but one small machine at work on the beach, and the stream of water used is so small that not even a shovel of dirt can be washed at a time. The sand is thrown into a trough by slow degrees and carried down over a 12-inch plate, charged with mercury. The latter is set beneath a wire netting, which receives all the coarse dirt and allows only the gold and finer sand to pass through. Sometimes when damming the stream the gold can be picked up quite readily. Then, again, it very frequently accumulates in a manner that when the water is closed off, gold to the value of perhaps seven or eight dollars can be gathered up with a brush. But all this crude work will continue until the new flume now building has been completed in a few weeks. New appliances of a more modern design and of a greater capacity will be introduced. The gold machines will have 20-inch mercury plates and, instead of there being one, there will be a stratum of coarse gravel, that has no gold in it and beneath this again and extending to bedrock is a second layer of pay dirt.

Great excitement prevails on the Coast over the discoveries, and as special finds are made the interest is increased. On Thursday last there was special cause for jubilation. Workmen in sea beach an hour washed out of the sand \$50 worth of gold, establishing a record, which was the talk of the Coast as far down as the steamer had gone.

The Willapa had as passengers on her return to Victoria Col. J. A. Hayes, W. A. Dickey, James Thomson and wife, A. Dickey, Rev. E. J. Newton, Miss Smith, Rev. Ellison, E. J. Baird, Rev. Miss Walton and J. J. Baird. Rev. Mr. Ellison has been down at Port San Juan where he is erecting a shingle mill.

The Willapa in coming up the Straits this morning passed a schooner becalmed and drifting about.

Statistics which have just been compiled show that of the 302,000 totally blind persons in Europe 192,000 are natives of Russia, and this means that out of every 500 subjects of the Czar there is one who is deprived of sight. In no other country do we find this terrible affliction by any means so widespread. In Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy and Spain there is only one blind person in every 1,000 inhabitants. Russian oculists and physicians say that the reason why so many of their countrymen are blind and so many others have defective eyesight is because insufficient attention is paid throughout the country to the ordinary laws of hygiene, and they maintain that Russians will continue to suffer in this way as long as they keep themselves and their homes in unhealthy condition.

The preliminary contests in the Paris international exhibition of fire apparatus came off yesterday at Vincennes, some 5,000 firemen, representing many nationalities, participating. The United States representatives, Chief George C. Hale, of Kansas City, and the men of the Kansas City fire brigade, caused a great wonderment by their quick harnessing and running, together with their methods of life-saving. They received an ovation, and by common consent were assigned first place.

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