

DON'TS FOR WHIST PLAYERS.

Don't ask "What's trumps?"
 Don't find fault with your partner.
 Don't forget that you have a partner.
 Don't exult or chuckle when you win.
 Don't bang winning cards on the table.
 Don't fail to study the best authorities.
 Don't look the picture of despair when you lose.

Don't hold your cards so they can be seen by others.

Don't say, "That's the best card" or "You can't take that."

Don't play with players inferior to yourself if you can help it.

Don't fail to keep your attention on the table instead of your hand.

Don't hesitate in playing. Your uncertainty conveys information to your opponents.—San Francisco Chronicle.

GASTRIC JUICE.

Paris killed last year 11,862 old horses for roasts and soups.

The best edible frogs dressed for table at Paris come from Alsace packed in large baskets.

In economical cookery flavor soups and gravies with vinegar instead of sherry. Very little difference will be detected.

Meat boiled quickly is always hard and tasteless, and it should be remembered that a very large quantity of water takes the goodness out of the meat.

A new way to serve raw oysters is in tall handled tumblers. A dressing of pepper and salt, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce goes with them, and they are picked out with the long oyster fork.

Sir John Thompson on Mr. Mara's urgent representations has decided to ask the house to provide for the appointment of a judge in the Kootenay district.



ROYAL COMMISSION.

THE following Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain matters concerning the Nakusp and Slocan Railway is published for general information.

By Command,

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
 Deputy Provincial Secretary.

REPORT.

To the Honourable Edgar Deudney, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia:

We, the undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Commission of the twentieth day of April, 1894, to inquire into certain matters therein mentioned, concerning the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company, have the honor to report that the manner in which that inquiry has been made, and the evidence taken therein, will appear by the record of the proceedings of the Commission, which we have the honour to submit herewith.

It will be seen from the notes of evidence that, though full notice was given of the time and place of sitting, and also, in our opinion, a sufficient intimation that the reasonable expenses of witnesses would be recouped to them through the Commissioners, no one has thought

fit to appear in support of the accusations.

The only person from whom we have received any assistance in this direction has been the Hon. Robert Beaven, M.P.P., who, though not responsible for making the charges, brought forward some facts upon which he suggested the absentee accusers might have relied.

These were, first: Irregularity in acting upon the Statute of 1893 before it had actually been brought into force, which could only be done by an Order in Council.

But this seems, though an irregularity, to be quite inadequate to support the charge of corruption against the Minister. The Statute of 1893 was brought into operation by an Order in Council almost immediately afterwards. The whole transaction has been confirmed and ratified by the Statute of 1894, and the irregularity, so far from demonstrating that the Minister was then the agent of the Company, points distinctly in the opposite direction, since it would have been the first care and duty of such an agent to see that everything was in order.

And secondly: Mr. Beaven pointed out that, in the opinion of many persons, the undertaking which the Statute of 1894 imposed upon the Government, in lieu of that under the Statute of the former year, was so manifestly disadvantageous that it was to be inferred that it could only have been introduced and supported through corrupt motives, though it must be added that he did not make such a charge.

It does not follow, of course, that a bad bargain must be a corrupt bargain. An honest Minister, with no motive or desire except to serve his Province, might make a mistake. We do not wish to suggest for a moment that any such mistake has occurred in the matter into which we have been inquiring. On the contrary, we think that under the evidence adduced, and the arguments addressed to us, only one conclusion is open to us, and that is that the arrangement for the construction of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, which was ratified by the Act of 1894, is more advantageous to the Province than the arrangement contemplated by the Act of 1893, and we have had no difficulty in arriving at that conclusion. But, however that may be, on the issues more directly submitted to us by the Commission, there is, we think, no room for doubt, and we find as follows, that is to say:—

Firstly: That the Honourable the Premier of the Province, in advising the guarantee mentioned in the said Commission, did not work for the Company, but worked for the Province;

Secondly: That the statement made by the Honourable Member for Nanaimo District, in his place in the Legislative Assembly, that it appeared that the Honourable the Leader of the Government had been working for the Company and not for the Province, is not true;

Thirdly: That no corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced Your Honour's Ministers in the advice tendered by them to Your Honour in relation to the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company;

Fourthly: That no one of Your Honour's Ministers has had, or has, any interest, directly or indirectly, in

(a) The Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company, or

(b) In the Construction Company by which such railway is being built; or

(c) In any contract by or with either of the said Companies, either in furnishing materials or supplies, or in any way whatsoever.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated on the 15th day of May, A.D. 1894.

MATT. B. REGGIE,
 GEO. W. BURBIDGE, } Commissioners.

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