

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1899.

## A CRISIS REACHED.

Payne mining stock fell \$1.10 per share in Montreal during the last eight days. We do not know if the end of the decline is in sight. What has taken place already represents a depreciation in the value of that property at \$1,100,000. The decline has been general in all mining stocks, and the aggregate loss in this respect suffered by investors in this province during the present month can only be estimated in millions of dollars. This is the direct visible loss. It does not take account of what has been lost through the stoppage of all negotiations for the sale of mining properties, the interruption of business and the enforced idleness of workmen. It takes no account of the great and incalculable injury done to the province by the distrust excited in the world of capital. The great drop in Payne stock serves, however, to bring the gravity of the situation home with special force, because its effect will be felt severely in Montreal, the financial centre of the Dominion, and a quarter to which, until this pernicious eight-hour law came into force, the province could look with confidence when seeking investors.

Only a few months ago the prospects of mining in this province were very bright indeed. The proverbial timidity of capital had been overcome. Every English paper that spoke of the matter at all treated the mineral wealth of British Columbia as demonstrated. People in touch with the London money market were unanimous in the opinion that hereafter we might look with confidence to an inflow of much needed capital. The moneyed men of Eastern Canada were satisfied with their British Columbia investments and were ready to respond to fresh calls. To-day these conditions are reversed and a long time must elapse before they can be again rendered satisfactory.

The responsibility rests upon the Senatorial ministry, upon the whole ministry and not upon one minister more than any other. This ministry has dealt blow after blow at the industries of this province. Every line of business suffers from its blighting touch. We do not wish to indulge in the language of exaggeration, for that would defeat our purpose, which is to draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the very grave conditions, which the policy pursued by his advisers has precipitated. He is about to leave Victoria to be absent for some time in the Northern country. Before he leaves we wish to submit for his consideration if it is not his duty to call upon his chief adviser, Mr. Semlin, for a full statement of the effect of this eight-hour law upon business, and if he does not receive assurances, as we are satisfied he will not, that the interruption of work and consequent great depreciation in the value of property are only temporary, that it is his duty to the province to call the legislature together at the earliest possible day. Such action on his part would not necessarily mean an expression of want of confidence in his advisers, although they have certainly forfeited the confidence of every one else. The Lieutenant-Governor is in possession of the journals of the legislature. From these he can learn the circumstances under which this eight-hour law was passed. He will learn that the provision was not in the bill originally submitted to the house, but was an amendment moved in committee without notice to any person interested and without any petition asking for it. If there can be such a thing as clandestine legislation this is an instance of it. If the Lieutenant-Governor chooses to make the inquiry he will learn that many government supporters regard the measure as a grave mistake, and that it would be impossible, with the knowledge now possessed, to get such a law through the house.

It is not necessary to tell the Lieutenant-Governor that he is not a mere puppet to be moved by his ministers when and how they like. He knows that he has the power which we ask him to exercise, that is to call upon his advisers for an explanation of the results of the legislation to which he assented at their request, and if he is not satisfied with the explanation given to insist that his advisers shall consult the legislature. The present is one of those crises when the utility of the prerogative vested in the Lieutenant-Governor can be demonstrated. We do not suggest that he should dismiss his advisers, for we are as strongly opposed to-day as ever to the assumption by the representative of the crown of powers which constitutionally ought, except in rare instances, to be exercised only by the representatives of the people. What we say is this: The Lieutenant-Governor should either call upon his advisers for a statement of the effect of the eight-hour law which will have a tendency to relieve the rapidly waning confidence of the public in the chief industry of the province, such statement to be published for the benefit of all concerned, or require his advisers to call the legislature together without delay, for the purpose of dealing with this important question.

## MAJOR HALDER'S VIEWS.

Whether the views expressed by Major Halder in yesterday's Colonist commend themselves to the approval of the people of British Columbia, there can be no doubt that they are worthy of the greatest consideration. Any country is very likely to think its own way of doing things the best; but when the co-operation of foreign capital is asked for the development of local resources, it be-

comes necessary to get the views of those who have the ear of investors. Major Halder's views have a double weight. In the first place they are those of a man who has enjoyed exceptional facilities of forming opinions on mining questions, and in the next place he represents the greatest news agency in the world, and his mission to this Coast is to report upon the condition of mining as he finds it. His reports will reflect his ideas necessarily. They would be of little value if they did not, for what he is expected to give is not news only, but an expert opinion. His letters will be read by millions of people, whose interest we are all very desirous of exciting in our mineral resources. It is of the greatest importance that the people of British Columbia should know in advance how he regards the matter, so that if he is in error he may be set right, and if he is correct in his judgment the necessary changes may be made.

Major Halder said among other things that our mining laws are antiquated. This is not a pleasant sort of criticism, but it means nothing more than that from his point of view, the province has not kept pace with the experience of other mining communities. We think it will be freely conceded that there has not been in the last twenty years much effort to examine the mining laws in the light cast upon them by the experience of other countries. There was really no great necessity for such an examination. While more or less mining was carried on, until within a comparatively short time, British Columbia made no claim to be considered among the choice fields for investment. When this claim was not made, there was no reason to concern ourselves with the laws in force elsewhere, or the conditions which capital found in other countries. But we are on a different ground now. We have shown to the world that there are opportunities for investment here. It is wise, therefore, to inquire what are the conditions prevailing in places which are competitors with us in the investment market, and if they are more favorable to investors than those existing here, and if they have the prestige attaching to great success, to shape our laws accordingly. Major Halder's letters seem likely to disturb the self-complacency of the province, but possibly a little shock in this direction may prove very healthy.

## AN OPEN QUESTION.

A Seattle paper says there is fear that Great Britain intends to demand further concessions in regard to the Alaskan boundary. The great mistake of our United States contemporaries in dealing with this subject is to lose sight of the fact that the question is an open one. Their own government admits this. If it were not an open question it is impossible for an instant that the Washington government would discuss arbitration, or assent to the establishment of any kind of a modus vivendi? As long as the question is open, it is absurd to talk of concessions being made by either party, except simply for temporary convenience, and these will bind neither power in the final settlement. For example, the fact that Canada has tacitly assented to the occupation of Sitka by the United States officials does not entitle the British commissioners from setting up a claim to that point, nor does the hoisting of the British flag at any point on the White Pass or anywhere else along the possible frontier estop the United States from claiming territory beyond it. If our friends across the border would charge their memories with the fact that the whole boundary question is open as far as both nations are concerned, they would not be in such a fever all the time for fear their government, in the exercise of a spirit of neighborliness, may make no objection to the exercise by Canada of temporary authority at certain disputed points pending the final determination of the boundary. It will be time enough to talk about concessions when an understanding has been arrived at as to what the treaty of 1825 means.

## STANLEY PARK.

The action of Mr. Justice Martin in continuing the injunction against Mr. Ludgate must be understood as an indication that, in his opinion, the contention made on behalf of the province is tenable under the evidence as far as it has been presented, and consequently that the Dominion government has shown no title to Deaunan's Island. If this view is upheld on the hearing, it will follow that the Dominion government has no title to Stanley Park, and if so that the lease granted to the city of Vancouver is null and void. This point was expressly taken at the interview between the Vancouver delegates and the government, that is presuming the authorized version of that interview printed in the Vancouver Province to be correct. Mr. Woodward, the chairman of the delegation, is reported to have stated the case as follows:

If Mr. Ludgate's lease from the Dominion government is null and void then the title to Stanley Park, being an order-in-council from the Dominion government in 1887, is null and void, and the position of the citizens of Vancouver find them in a simple way that they are without a park, without a recreation ground, without a public drive, and the reservoir erected at such an enormous expense to secure the city from the overflow of water in the event of emergency is no longer the property of the city, nor is the pipe line on the city's property, according to Mr. Cotton's theory and the action taken by the provincial government. If the province owns the park and if Mr. Cotton's view of putting up at public auction the rights to Stanley Park will have to repurchase the rights she has already so dearly bought to secure to the city the water supply.

To this statement of the matter no exception appears to have been taken, both Mr. Martin and Mr. Cotton appearing to think the case to be governed by the provisions in the Public Lands Act re-

lating to leases. These authorize the granting of leases of crown lands for the following purposes: For cutting hay. For stone quarries and fishing stations. For personal occupation and cultivation.

For general purposes for a term not exceeding ten years. The last paragraph applies to land within the limits of any corporate city. As a seven years' lease would not meet the requirements of the people of Vancouver, this section would not help them to a satisfactory title to the Park. A lease granted under this provision is not a subject of public competition, but may be granted by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council upon such conditions as may be deemed advisable. We find nothing in the law authorizing, much less requiring, the government to put up at public auction leases for park land, but indeed for any purpose except for cutting timber. If this reading of the law is correct, then Mr. Cotton is quite astray when he intimated to the delegation that Stanley Park and the ground on which the reservoir stands must under certain circumstances be put up to competition to the highest bidder; and Mr. Martin was equally wrong in suggesting that Vancouver "might find itself with a fine fire-trail along the water cut off from it." If the authorized version of what transpired at the interview between the Vancouver delegation and the government is correct, we have another instance afforded of the hap-hazard way in which the present advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor deal with legal questions.

Before proceeding to set out what we submit is Vancouver's remedy in the premises, we may point out that in the act incorporating the city the Government Military Reserve is spoken of. This is in the second section where the boundaries of the municipality are described. The closing phrases of this section are as follows:

"Thence along the shore across the mouth of False Creek and along the shore line of lot number 185 in said New Westminster district and the government military reserve to the First Narrows; thence along the shore line of Burrard Inlet to the place of beginning."

We express no opinion as to the effect of this legislative recognition of the existence of a government military reserve. It is not germane to the proposition now under consideration, which is as to how Vancouver can secure a title to Stanley Park if the ownership is vested in the province.

In 1881, which was five years before Vancouver was incorporated, an act was passed reading as follows: "It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to grant and convey any public park or pleasure ground set apart or reserved out of any crown lands of this province for the recreation and enjoyment of the public to any city or town or corporation of any city or town and to preserve the same for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public; and any such corporation to whom such grant or conveyance shall be made shall have power to hold the lands thereby conveyed upon the trusts and for the purposes aforesaid."

This was the law of the province at the time Vancouver was incorporated and we submit applies to the city of Vancouver as fully as it does to Victoria, although the former city has its special act of incorporation. The section last above quoted now forms a part of the Municipal Clauses Act, but we do not think this limits the scope of its general language, which applies to any city. It is under this law that Victoria holds Beacon Hill Park, and if Stanley Park belongs to the province, we submit that no reason exists why it should not be handed over to Vancouver.

If the view of the law above taken is correct and Stanley Park is crown land, then the government has full authority to set it apart and reserve it as a park and issue a grant forthwith to the municipal council of Vancouver. It is not necessary to inquire how this would affect the city's right to those portions of the park which are leased for commercial purposes. At first sight we all incline to the opinion that they would have to be exempted from the grants, but we suppose this is not material. The title to the site of the reservoir would not be affected, because the erection of a reservoir is not inconsistent with the user of the property under the terms of the law. The Colonist recommends the city council of Vancouver and the government of the province to examine into the above suggestions. If its view of the law is correct and the province has not, intentionally or otherwise, divested itself of its title, Stanley Park may be made as fully the property of Vancouver as Beacon Hill Park is of Victoria.

## BUSINESS SUFFERS.

It is probably quite correct to say that for the first time in its history the business affairs of the people of this province are suffering from the result of unwise legislation. Ordinarily it makes very little difference to the merchant, as a merchant, what laws the legislature may pass. Ninety-nine per cent. of legislation, as a rule, does not directly affect trade. A conspicuous exception is furnished by the eight-hour law. The Colonist learns on excellent authority that since the effects of this law began to be felt there has been a marked falling off in collections from merchants in the localities directly affected, and in their orders for further supplies. The reason of this is plain enough. When men are out of work they cannot buy goods and pay for them. That tells the whole story.

The effect of the stealthy passage of this meddlesome legislation is like a frost upon a half-ripened wheat crop. No one can tell the amount of damage that has been done, for the harvest has

not yet been gathered. The prospects of business in this province were exceptionally bright when the government, but this blight upon it. Every member of the cabinet is equally responsible for this law. There is no use in any one setting up the Attorney-General as a scape-goat. His colleagues are as deep in the mud as he is in the mire. They are even more culpable than he, because they have been long enough in the province to understand something about the conditions of mining, and have not even the poor excuse that they were simply ignorant of what they were doing.

It has already been shown in the Colonist that about a score of companies, intending to invest in mining in this province, have been prevented from doing business by the arbitrary refusal of the government to grant them miner's certificates. How much loss this means to the merchants of Victoria and Vancouver, we have no means of ascertaining, but it must be very large. Certainly a score of companies engaged in mining would consume large quantities of goods. Their trade would represent the demands of a large number of wage-earners. Twenty mining companies would have pay-rolls aggregating many thousands of dollars monthly, and their disbursements in other ways would be large. This has all been prevented by the mere whim of the government. We note a disposition among the friends of the government to cast the responsibility for this upon Mr. Martin, but no such excuse can be accepted. His colleagues must either heartily approve of what he originated, or be too weak to revolt against his dictation, and in either case they are undeserving of public confidence.

The business interests of British Columbia demand that the combination of reckless demagoguery and political incapacity, now essaying the role of a cabinet, should be got rid of in the speediest manner possible.

## A TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

A wave of temperance sentiment is sweeping over Europe. It has royal sanction from King Humbert of Italy, who is a total abstainer; it has a staunch advocate in William of Germany, who while not going as far as his royal brother of Italy, teaches extreme moderation both by precept and example; the young Queen of Holland lends the influence of her gentle example to the reform. Perhaps it is in France that the movement is the strongest. The more thoughtful classes in that country are becoming alarmed at the progress of intemperance. Formerly it used to be the boast of the French people that, though they drank often, they did not drink much, and they especially prided themselves upon the claim that they were a more sober people than either the British or the Germans. Recent statistics show the contrary. The Belgians are the first on the list in the consumption of alcohol, with France second, Germany third and Great Britain fourth. It is interesting to note that Canada occupies the lowest place on the list, the consumption of alcoholic beverages being smaller per capita in the Dominion than in any other civilized country. It is not only the amount of intoxicants consumed in France that causes alarm, but the quality of the liquor drunk and the prevalence of intemperance among women. The favorite drink is absinthe, and its mental effect upon its victims is even worse than the physical. One French physician has declared that if the habit is not checked the people will become a nation of madmen. It is frightful to think of children begotten of absinthe-besotted parents beginning in early life to use this soul-destroying liquor. In Normandy, once the home of the very flower of the French race, so addicted have the peasantry become to intemperance, that the average working hours are not more than five out of the twenty-four, and most of the small earnings of the people are spent in the drinking houses, which are so numerous throughout rural France that they are in the whole country in the proportion of one to every thirty people. Hitherto it has been the favorite claim of the opponents of total abstinence that in France, though every one drinks, drunken people are few in number. This was attributed to the custom of drinking only at meals; but even this has been carried to such an extent that one French writer says that while the people are not often drunk in public, the people are almost all in a "fuddled condition of mind" the greater part of the time. Recently the habit of drinking at bars without eating is growing, especially among the devotees of absinthe, and it is accentuating the evil.

It is very clear that not in France alone but in all civilized countries there must be a great change in the habits of the people or disaster will surely result from the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants. The mischief that is being wrought by this practice is no longer denied. Seventy years ago, when the total abstinence movement was in its infancy, it was almost as much as a man's position in society was worth in any part of Europe to declare himself favorable to it. But the world has grown wiser in this respect as in many others, and the names of many of the foremost men of the time will be found on the list of those who either do not drink intoxicants at all or extreme moderation. The notion that the best type of hospitality is not possible without the use of alcoholic drinks is rapidly being exploded. It is true that many persons, who are themselves abstainers, continue to provide wines and other spirituous liquors for the use of guests, but the number of men in prominent positions, socially and otherwise, who abstain from their use is

steadily increasing. In Canada, as might be expected from a country standing lowest in the consumption of intoxicating liquors, there are many communities where the use of wine at all public or semi-public functions has been abandoned in deference to popular opinion on the subject. An interesting sign of the times was the very rapid growth of the non-treating movement started in Chicago a short time ago. All temperance reformers long ago recognized that the great danger to the community and the individual is not the use of alcoholic drinks at regular meals, but in the treating habit, which alone enables the saloon to flourish. The movement, which has begun in Europe, aims at the reduction in the number of drinking places, and in the education of the people to the dangers of excess. It is not, strictly speaking, a total abstinence movement; it is not a prohibition movement. Its object is to show the evils resulting from the habit of frequent drinking, and to lessen the temptation to indulge in it by reducing the number of places where it can be practiced.

## PASSING COMMENT.

The Globe takes the sensible view that the views of a gentleman like Major Halder as to the effect of our mining laws upon investors ought not to be treated lightly.

The Fernie Free Press looks forward very hopefully to the early opening of the Spokane market to Crow's Nest Pass coal. This will be brought about when the Bellington railway is open for traffic. Spokane's coal supply at present is poor and costly.

The Trail Creek News thinks it "simply ridiculous" that a man who wants a liquor license has to go all the way to Cascade City for it. We are living in a day of ridiculous administration.

The Wellington Enterprise and the Nanaimo Review join in the request that sportsmen will allow the pheasants another year's immunity from their guns. This is a capital suggestion. The pheasants are thriving, and they ought to be given a fair chance. By and by there will be plenty of them for every one.

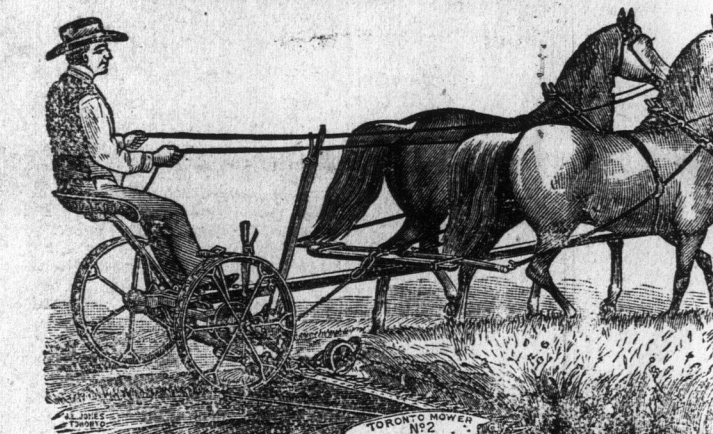
The Nelson Miner informs the Colonist that the city in which it is published would just as soon think of levelling its mountains as of doing away with thunder storms. It can have them as often as it likes so far as Victoria is concerned. Thunderstorms are like the gout—very entertaining when other people have them.

The Times thinks it necessary to discuss editorially the alleged action of the E. & N. railway company in carrying the Hobbs case to the Privy Council, and winds up its observations with this sapient sentence: "The law will not allow contracts to be violated because some one has blundered in drawing them; if it did, what would be the use of making contracts?" What would be the use indeed? Also what would be the use of courts if suitors are to be attacked by the newspapers because they resort to them for the purpose of ascertaining what their contracts are? Mr. Hobbs says his contract was for a certain thing; the railway company say it was for something else. One court held that the railway's understanding of the matter is correct; another that Mr. Hobbs has the right idea about it. If the company say to court, what right has any newspaper to get the opinion of a third and the highest may look out at a beautiful landscape and grandeur that there is in it. Another one will look out at the same scene and see nothing. The man who is perfectly well and vigorous enjoys life to the full. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery makes people well. There isn't anything else about it—it is the most natural thing in the world. It simply puts the digestive organs, the stomach, the liver, the bowels, in perfect order, and thereby makes the blood pure and rich. All diseases live and thrive on impure blood. Keep a stream of pure, rich, red blood flowing into a diseased spot, and the disease will not stay. A man lives on rich, pure blood, and disease dies on it. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery makes people pure, rich blood. Send 50 cents in one-cent stamps to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., and receive Dr. Pierce's 1008-page "Common Sense Medical Adviser," profusely illustrated.

The things that people see are inside of the same old outside. No two people see the same things exactly alike. One woman may look out at a beautiful landscape and grandeur that there is in it. Another one will look out at the same scene and see nothing. The man who is perfectly well and vigorous enjoys life to the full. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery makes people well. There isn't anything else about it—it is the most natural thing in the world. It simply puts the digestive organs, the stomach, the liver, the bowels, in perfect order, and thereby makes the blood pure and rich. All diseases live and thrive on impure blood. Keep a stream of pure, rich, red blood flowing into a diseased spot, and the disease will not stay. A man lives on rich, pure blood, and disease dies on it. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery makes people pure, rich blood. Send 50 cents in one-cent stamps to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., and receive Dr. Pierce's 1008-page "Common Sense Medical Adviser," profusely illustrated.

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**Atlin S**  
**Miners Wait Supplies**  
**Jumpers Enc**  
**Refusal of Hy**  
**Work-G**

Atlin City, June 2 two weeks ago, which private conveyance, I endeavored to describe possible some of the which have arisen in and which over large bearing creeks have condition of utter-  
The lapse of time has aggravated these conditions hundreds of men are time, and have been ing some official de- claims. The enta claims are owing in t mix-up caused by the pursued by the minin office here last year introduction of the last session, which re- the validity of a that had been staked pectors; and thirdly at jumping of claim as a result of this un- title, original staker All these claims known to the govern five months ago, as a vision made at the legislature for a jud- court to proceed to the disputes as to claim titles thereto, but no up to the present in- step has been taken the members of the judge has not yet as- any certainty as to w- pected, though it is he will be hoping to may arrive from Ben- from now.  
Most of the mine- them, are illing av- suming the supplies th- so dearly to bring in- they were depending going till such time their claims should a purchase from supp- this intolerable angr- of the part of the auth- in the aggregate of t- a day in "grab" st- along out the hearts of selves, who now see b- hardish occasionally authorities, which I h- describe. Not a few of supplies, and the- makes a shift for sol- sulte destitution. T- creek and the flats at- ing, from Atlin like present a veritable s- stakes. The whole c- them. Claims with- been staked and rec- ers, till the aggrega- four corners of some- make up a very prec- the cubic measurement foot stove-wood. Pat- seem to be the case- ture of the claim a- inal staker indicates a- For instance, I notic- "Los Angeles," and- ers seem to have a- around a tempting m- are clustered and t- ropes, wires and str- amazing manner.  
The claim-jumper- all other mining camp- is looked upon as a p- odious to associate w- ed with no particula- stales forth boldly, and makes no pretence business he is about- put it this way: "Well, present on the claim; inal staker may have ground, and perhaps he- list of July I'll put in- if there is no one the ground. If anyone- ter claim he can have- thing goes on. The p- in the recorder's offic- whenever one is ask- questions whatever, s- typed one: "Are you- The answer to this que- always in the affirma- is taken, then the s- another dispute is ad- that the judge will b- if he ever arrives he- Of course, occasion- meets a difficulty. T- instance, a man came on Willow creek and b- stakes on ground wh- ready located. The o- pended to be in the vic- the stranger what he w- ing this claim, of con- jumper. Well, before- to look me up, and he was a big, husky com- corner mixed off, and- to come was saved th- least one case.  
It seems to me utte- ble that the record off- issued upon the s- ground, without th- s- abate these outrages, laying up of trouble a- and the officials know- it. Yet the gold com- that he is powerless