

The Colonist.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25.

A FORWARD POLICY.

We notice a disposition on the part of the Eastern press to cry out against anything resembling what may be called a forward policy on the part of the Dominion government. This is not confined to the Conservative press alone, but is participated in almost equally by the Liberal papers. If the former only pleaded for a policy of inaction, it might be said that the motive was a political one; but when representative papers of both parties do so, the inference is that the Eastern people, so far as their newspapers represent them, do not favor such a policy as the true interests of the Dominion demand. We do not advocate extravagance. We will plead as earnestly as any one for the careful husbanding of the resources of the country. We have no desire to see the burden of debt needlessly increased or the rate of taxation enlarged. But you cannot make an omelet without breaking the eggs, and a country cannot adopt a forward policy without going to some expense. The thing to watch is that the expenditure is judicious. If by the judicious expenditure of money now we can add a million or more to the population of the Dominion in the next decade, and that it can be done so, we think, beyond any reasonable doubt, false notions of economy ought not to cause the government to hold its hand.

We plead for a forward policy. We regard with satisfaction anything that can be done to develop trade between Canada and Europe. We will hail with even greater pleasure anything that will tend to develop commerce with Asia and Australia. We will regard with supreme satisfaction anything that will lead to the rapid increase of the population, the colonization of our vast domain, the development of our incalculable riches. In these views we are sure all the people on the Coast share. Probably it would not be easy to find many persons in any part of the Dominion who would dissent from them; but, judging from the tone of the Eastern papers, the Eastern idea is narrow. Eastern people as a rule do not grasp the possibilities of their country; their views of Canada are circumscribed.

Commenting upon the refusal of the Supreme Court of Canada to entertain the appeal in the Coal Mines Regulations case, the News-Advertiser says: "To allow that an act of the legislature could be made the subject of judicial decision or reversal, as though it were an ordinary subject of legal controversy, was in our opinion to trench upon the prerogatives and power of the legislature." This is the view which our contemporary says it expressed when the provincial court gave its decision. We venture to say that when the decision of the court is published, our contemporary will find that the reason for it is something very different to that upon which it plumes itself as suggesting in advance.

Our contemporary's own statement of the grounds of the decision do not warrant what it now claims. We quote from the telegraphic synopsis in its Ottawa despatch of the 19th inst. The despatch says the case came up "upon a motion to quash the appeal for want of jurisdiction, on the ground that the opinion or decision of the court below is not a final judgment susceptible of appeal under the Supreme Court Act, as it arises out of a reference by the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia as to the constitutionality of the British Columbia statute by which Chinamen are forbidden to be employed underground." This motion the Supreme Court of Canada decided in favor of the respondents in appeal, and the decision does not in the most remote way touch the point made by the News-Advertiser. It would be strange, indeed, if the Supreme Court of Canada or any other tribunal should hold that an act of the legislature could not "be made the subject of judicial decision or reversal." The books are full of cases where such acts have been so dealt with. The first instance which occurs to us is that of the Hamilton Railway bond case, where the Supreme Court held that an act of a provincial legislature chartering a company to build a railway from a point within Canada to a point outside of Canada was unconstitutional, and therefore could be set aside as unconstitutional. The right of the legislatures of New Brunswick and Manitoba to pass non-sectarian school laws, the legality of certain acts both of the provincial legislatures and the parliament of Canada to pass laws restricting the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and numerous other questions of doubtful constitutionality, have been the subject of judicial decision and in some cases, of reversal, if that is the correct word to apply to a judgment declaring an act unconstitutional. The prerogatives and powers of the legislature are exercised on the understanding that all its legislative acts are subject to review by the courts on the ground of constitutionality. Herein there is a great difference between the conditions existing in Canada and those arising in Great Britain or in any of the colonies, whose legislatures do not derive their authority from an act of parliament, and this difference is due to the fact that the respective powers of the parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures are the creation of a statute, and it is a recognized principle of jurisprudence that all statutes are subject to construction by the courts. Hence, whether in any case the local legislatures have exceeded their powers or parliament has trespassed upon their rights must be determined by the courts.

THE COMING HOST.

Thos. Cook & Son, the world-famous excursion agents, say that 100,000 is a conservative estimate of the number of people who will leave Great Britain alone for the Yukon next season. It is not unreasonable to suppose that as many people at least will go from the United States. Most persons will consider these figures as very conservative. They appear to be so, when we reflect that in eight months half a million people left the United Kingdom and the continent for Johannesburg. If we put the number of possible intending immigrants into the Yukon at 200,000 we have a host that will choke every avenue of transportation, and make an unprecedented demand upon the supply of food products. It is very probable that a large proportion of these people will not come to British Columbia, but even if only half of them do, we will have a problem of tremendous magnitude to deal with. The rush will begin early in the new year, will last all summer, and in the fall there will be the return rush. We all talk most now about catching the trade of those who are going in; but it is quite as important to devise plans to secure the trade of those who come out, and of even greater importance to discover some means of retaining in the province the thousands who will not be able to reach their goal. If present arrangements are carried out an English steamship syndicate will land between two thousand and three thousand people in Victoria some time in January. Some of them will go forward to points nearer the gold fields; but it will be extraneous to many of them do not remain here. We mention these matters in order that all concerned may be ready for the coming business. Very much will depend upon the man-

ner in which the people of Victoria are able to handle the first rush. If this is satisfactorily managed, it will mean much to our city. These people will write their first letters from this city. Their impressions will determine the line of travel to be adopted by tens of thousands. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

CHINESE SCORE A VICTORY.

Judge Hanford, of the United States District Court, rendered a decision on Thursday, in Seattle, in regard to Chinese immigration, that will, if sustained by the Supreme court of the United States, largely annul the Chinese exclusion act. Three Chinamen were arrested at Port Townsend for illegally entering the United States, and they applied for their discharge on the ground that they were the children of Chinese merchants residing in the country. The law provides that the wives and children of such merchants have the right to come in. The United States District Attorney took the point that to entitle such persons to enter they must have a certificate from the government of China to the effect that they were so related to a merchant residing in the United States. Judge Hanford held that this was an unreasonable contention, and that such certificates are not necessary. Our Seattle contemporaries seem to think that this is a great victory for the Chinese. The Post-Intelligencer says it means the introduction of slavery into the United States. The Seattle Times contents itself with saying that the decision is very far-reaching. The opinion of our contemporaries seems to be that there will be a rapid increase in the number of wives and children of Chinese merchants, which does not seem improbable, for we have good poetic authority for thinking that "For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the Heathen Chinese is peculiar."

THE POINT INVOLVED.

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upon the construction of the British North America Act. The Supreme Court of British Columbia did not require an act of the legislature to authorize it to make an act of the legislature "the subject of judicial decision or reversal." This power is vested in the court in the very nature of things. Neither is there any question as to the right of the legislature to authorize the government to submit to the court constitutional questions, the regulation of procedure in the courts being within the jurisdiction of the local legislatures. No question has been raised, nor do we think any can be, as to the constitutionality of the Act of 1891, under which the coal mine regulation was submitted to the Supreme court of this province. The real question seems to be this: The Supreme Court of Canada will only entertain an appeal from a final judgment, and there could be none in a proceeding taken under the Act of 1891. It is true that the Act of 1891 says, "the opinion of the court shall be deemed a judgment of the court, and an appeal shall lie therefrom as in the case of a judgment in an action"; but such a provision would be void, for the reason that the court takes its jurisdiction from an act of the Canadian parliament, and it cannot be enlarged or restricted by the local legislatures. This is all that has been decided by the court at Ottawa.

SOME GOOD SUGGESTIONS.

The Daily Times make the point that the name of Victoria is not closely enough identified with the name of Klondyke in the East and Europe. This is very true, and one of the objects of the citizens' advertising committee ought to be to remedy the deficiency. We think it will not be difficult to discover ways of doing so. It further suggests that if we could present in a single statement the fact that Victoria merchants are experienced and trustworthy in the matter of outfitting, that duties will be saved by buying goods here, that prices are as favorable here as anywhere, and that a license must be obtained before prospecting, which license can be obtained here, we would present a bill of fare that would attract the greater part of the rush to our city.

There is another strong point, which must not be overlooked, and it was brought to the attention of the COLONIST by a gentleman, who on more than one occasion, has given this paper a good hint of how best to fight the battles of Victoria—and we only wish that more people would emulate his example in this particular. The suggestion is that emphasis should be laid upon the fact that Victoria is a city where families can live in the greatest comfort. Those of us who have lived in the East, whether in Canada or the United States, do not need to be told that, taking the year all round, we have the finest climate here by comparison, and that families can have all the advantages they require. We all know that there is no better place to live in than here in our city of the bright sunshine and sea breezes. People in the East do not realize this. To them it seems as though Victoria were a long way off, and that it must necessarily be a sort of banishment to be obliged to come here. It would be well to let it be widely known that men who contemplate going into the Yukon or engaging in prospecting in this province, can bring their families to this city and feel sure that they will enjoy every advantage they need. This is pre-eminently a place to live in. Sir Leonard Tilley once said: "I know America pretty well and something about Europe; but there is nothing to be compared to Victoria as a place to reside in." The encomiums passed upon our city by the British Association, as a residence point, were of the highest kind. This feature of Victoria ought to be widely advertised. We know that if we can once get people to bring their families here, while they themselves are in the mining country, we can count upon them as permanent residents. This suggestion is worth a great deal of careful consideration.

GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY.

An interesting story comes from London, being printed in the Consular Journal. It is to the effect that the Prince of Wales, the Marquis of Salisbury and another prominent member of the Cabinet are to visit Italy at a very early day, and that shortly thereafter the fleets of Italy and Great Britain will meet together in review. The Consular Journal adds: "Moreover, we have authority for stating that there are events of a much more important character in preparation which it would be a breach of confidence to forecast." This statement will give rise to a good many surmises. That there should be some outward and visible sign of the excellent understanding between Great Britain and Italy is not a matter of surprise. Such an understanding is of the greatest importance, for it means the control of the Mediterranean against any possible combination. A meeting of the British and Italian fleets would be a practical demonstration of the fact that this control is a very real thing and not only a naval fiction. The Italian fleet consists of six first-class and two second-class battleships, four coast defence ships, seventy cruisers of all classes and one hundred

and fifty-one torpedo craft. This is nearly equal to in battleships and several times as formidable in other craft, as the Russian Black Sea fleet, which is all the navy of that power to be taken into account in connection with operations in the Mediterranean. With the control of Gibraltar and Malta, Great Britain with her present squadron is an easy match for any possible combination in that sea, and with the co-operation of the Italian fleet it would be a case of "Eclipse first and the rest nowhere."

What the "much more important" event foreshadowed by the Journal may be, we are at a loss to surmise, unless it means that an offensive and defensive alliance between the two nations is to be formed, after which Italy will cut loose from the triple alliance. There are reasons why such a step on the part of Italy would be a wise one. Her association with Austria and Germany has been an expensive partnership. It has necessitated the maintenance of an army out of all proportion to the wealth of the country. The Italian force actually under arms is somewhat over 250,000 men. There is in addition a force of nearly six hundred thousand men, who are absent from the colors on what is called "unlimited leave." These men are liable to be summoned to join the colors at any moment. The militia is organized, and includes over two and a half millions of men. In all the Italian army at the latest returns consisted of 3,435,507 men. This entails an annual expenditure of 23,000,000 lire or \$40,000,000. This is a tremendous burden for a population of 28,000,000 people, a very large proportion of whom are in a condition little removed from poverty. If by reason of an alliance with Great Britain, this burden could be cut down, it would be possible for the Italian government to lighten taxes, and unless something of this sort is done, it is not easy to forecast the future of the country. The people are very restless, for they feel that they are burdened beyond their capacity to maintain a connection with Germany, which does them no very good. Moreover, it seems evident that Austria is verging on a collapse, and if that comes about, Italy would desire to cut loose from Germany under any circumstances.

The statement is made that the last of the Wisconsin pine forests has been contracted for. This means that the great Wisconsin lumber firms must either go out of business or transfer the scene of their operations to the Pacific Coast, that is, practically speaking, to the state of Washington. These firms will come to the West to manufacture lumber for the Middle States, and possibly for the extreme Eastern States. Washington is the only great timber reserve in the United States of its class. There is a good deal of timber remaining in some parts of the South, but for building material the whole of that great country must look to the state of Washington as the only reliable source of supply. This does not mean that Washington will furnish all or nearly all the timber used in building operations by 70,000,000 people, but that the draft upon our city of the bright sunshine and sea breezes. People in the East do not realize this. To them it seems as though Victoria were a long way off, and that it must necessarily be a sort of banishment to be obliged to come here. It would be well to let it be widely known that men who contemplate going into the Yukon or engaging in prospecting in this province, can bring their families to this city and feel sure that they will enjoy every advantage they need. This is pre-eminently a place to live in. Sir Leonard Tilley once said: "I know America pretty well and something about Europe; but there is nothing to be compared to Victoria as a place to reside in." The encomiums passed upon our city by the British Association, as a residence point, were of the highest kind. This feature of Victoria ought to be widely advertised. We know that if we can once get people to bring their families here, while they themselves are in the mining country, we can count upon them as permanent residents. This suggestion is worth a great deal of careful consideration.

BISMARCK says that the Monroe doctrine is "an uncommon insolence." He does not refer to the original doctrine, which was reasonable enough. That doctrine was that the United States would regard as an unfriendly act any attempt on the part of any European to interfere with the independence of any country on the American continent. This was not exactly the language used by President Monroe, but it conveys his meaning. He took this position on the suggestion of Canning, then British premier, who stood ready to back him up in it. The modern doctrine is that the United States is the arbiter of all things on this continent when the interests of any European nation and those of any American nation come in conflict. This claim is one that the other nations of the world will concede is not supportable. What is quite as much to the point is the fact that the other nations of America have taken occasion to say more or less directly that they do not admit the right of the Washington government as claimed.

The Nelson Tribune says that any candidate who will accept the platform to be drafted by the committee appointed at the Westminster convention will be entitled to the support of the Liberal party. We suppose this is the first case on record where a political party, or a combination of people calling themselves such, was willing to accept whatever platform a committee might dictate. We venture to say that the Liberals of British Columbia will not do so.

The Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick at the St. John banquet to the Hon. Minister of Railways said: "You are at the present time united to take all you can get and ask for more. To use a homely phrase, you are united to have your share from the cow of prosperity until the source is exhausted and the cow goes dry." The point of

the observation, like those of Captain Jack Bunsby's observation, "lie in the application of it." The banquet was a non-partisan one. They fight political battles tooth and nail down by the Atlantic; but when it comes to clamoring for public works they are all brothers.

The Post-Intelligencer says that next season there will be fifty thousand people in Alaska and the Canadian Yukon, "all relying upon Seattle as the basis of supplies." We do not think the estimate of people excessive; but the statement that they will rely upon Seattle as a basis of supply is rubbish. Most of those in Alaska may do so. It is no part of our business to interfere in the rivalry between the cities of the United States for this trade. But to pretend that the people in the Canadian Yukon will look to Seattle for their supplies is absurd. Wherever may be the base of supply, the question of transportation is going to be a very serious one. How can 60,000 people and at least 500,000 tons of freight be got into the country? Not via St. Michael's.

The intelligent telegrapher has been getting in his work. Rudyard Kipling wrote in regard to the loyalty of Newfoundland that "it was not necessary for a white man to explain that he is loyal." The telegrapher wired that "it was not necessary for Sir William Whiteway to explain, etc." But a Southern California genius saw this, and went several times better. The Sunday cable two weeks ago said "The French balloon d'essai (trial balloon) in regard to Great Britain, etc." The ingenious telegrapher proceeded to make sense of this as follows: "The great French balloonist, Mons. D'Essal says in regard to Great Britain, etc."

A THOUSAND people are said to be encamped along the Yukon below Circle City. Most of these people left Seattle in July. It will be next July before they can resume their journey up the river. In the meantime they will have no news from any one and no one will have news from them. Many of them are utterly unfit for a winter in the Far North. Many of them are ill-supplied with provisions. The question of shelter is a serious one. We fear that when the story of the winter on the lower Yukon is told it will be a tragic one.

For some time the Hon. J. H. Turner, minister of agriculture, has been in communication with the department of agriculture at Ottawa with a view to obtaining the services of Prof. Robertson and one or more of his assistants to deliver a series of lectures on, and make practical experiments in, dairying for the benefit of the farmers of this province. A very satisfactory reply has at last been received and arrangements are being made at Ottawa for a lecturing staff to be sent to British Columbia as soon as possible.

The New York Evening Post sees that the United States will lose a large part of its Canadian supply trade, and says that the deficiency cannot be made up from other countries, for the reason that the Dingley tariff is "making foreigners mad." This was one of the arguments in favor of that tariff. It was thought to be a most clever thing to get all countries angry with the United States on tariff questions. A Republican doctrine is that which hurts other countries must help the United States.

There is a growing sentiment against permitting our mines to be absorbed by foreigners. People are slowly and very unwillingly coming to the conclusion that it is time to treat foreigners as they treat us. There is no disposition to discriminate against foreigners who are now in the country, for they came here in good faith, and faith must be kept with them; but it would take very little to create a demand that for the future Canadian gold mines should be reserved for British subjects.

That extraordinary paper, the British Columbia Review, of London, begs to remind the COLONIST that Bonanza creek is not in British Columbia. This is its reply to our correction of its statement that the best way to get into the Yukon was by the overland route via Calgary. The Review should either change its name or take a course in geography.

The COLONIST is requested by one of its oldest subscribers to send a copy of one of its issues to the editor of the South African Rhodesian Times, and to make it plain to him that the Klondyke is in Canada. We comply: THE KLONDYKE IS IN CANADA.

On the principle of giving credit to whom credit is due, the COLONIST takes occasion to say that Mr. Elworthy, secretary of the Board of Trade, is doing excellent service to Victoria by his painstaking and intelligent handling of the many phases of his duties to which the Yukon gold excitement has given rise. The Victoria Times in very cordial terms accepts the COLONIST's suggestion to join hands in an effort to advance the city's interests in this crisis. We shall refer at another time to some of the points that it urges for consideration. GREAT BRITAIN cannot accept the proposal of the United States bimetallics, but will be a sort of sister to them.

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NEWS OF THE... Thanksgiving Day Located on Many Pr Ontario Salutes a Province—Still Mail Se

(From Our Own Ottawa, Oct. 21.—) All fixing Thanksgiving 25 is not yet passed being urged on all hands weeks earlier, and no assumption that Canada ligation to follow the States in this matter. Dr. Borden and M sent the government of the Drummond to-morrow. It is said that Judge place on the bench occupy, is to be appointed governor of the North The Globe under Westward Movement very complimentary bial, taking for the test and Mr. Peters' remonance. It says that the tant when British C number Ontario in p in view of complete arisen in connection mail service, it is a government is disposed their propositions for service for the coming

MANITOBA AND Grain Exchange Def Motion—An Outcom Conven WINNIPEG, Oct. grain exchange year resolution introduced nan, that in order to bines the Canadian Pa many arbitrage their which prohibit farme loading direct on cars was voted down by 28. The news of the de A. Stewart, civil eng ers division of the C here to-day with gra has been prominent tion in the West since his permanent reside The Golden Coin near Rat Portage, good figure to Mr. R England. Mr. Ric mining convention of The Archbishop of covering fast, and is walk around.

DENOUNCES SKA An American Mount Very Positive in NANAIMO, Oct. 21 steamer Willamette, rived at Departure from the North, but at several ports on passengers were tran of Topeka. No news was brought down The only passengers J. Entrikin and w from the hills from West member of the famou climbing party which Mount St. Elias by P party last September denunciation of the says the man who this trail to a fell placed in an issue

KNAPP'S RO Its Constructor Hazard a Half and Ter TORONTO, Oct. 21, roller boat was given results. The boat revolutions successful moorings in the dock the contractor, on the asked that the boat of Knapp and but less the boat were pr into the bay. Mr. sure or accepted, was to be settled any more rolling. people were watchi

ST. LAWRENCE The Water So Low Have to Disch Que QUEBEC, Oct. steamer Lake Sup line, due here yet for Liverpool, ran ag in mid-channel. Th not dangerous. The water at the Lawrence, has fallen hours, and from the are visible which h seventeen years. Steamers will here load cargoes here of the channel to M IRISH LEA Mr. Devlin of Ottawa placing

KINGSTON, Oct. Canadian Freeman, published here, has make the following: B. Deane, ex-M.P. lin, has never cont an Irish consti The idea never ente he ever interfered Healy. He has b free from Irish poli Mr. Devlin would r c. meet North R legislature is al "rumor."