The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1897.

THE TRADE OF THE YUKON.

Every business man in Victoria feels the necessity of at once taking all necessary steps to secure for this city its due share of the trade of the Canadian Yukon. That an effort will be made at once to prevent the cities of the United States from holding the lion's share of this business is now certain. The fact will be prominently advertised all over the East that the Yukon is Canadian territory and that Victoria is the best possible place at which to outfit for that country. This is the first thing to be done.

The second is to secure the immediate appointment of one of more customs house officers on the passes. We confess to be utterly unable to comprehend the delay of the Dominion government in this matter. It has already cost the government many times the salaries that would have to be paid and the merchants of Canada and British Columbia in particular a vast amount of trade. We hope the effort of the Board of Trade to have this appointment made without a day's delay will produce the result so much desired.

A third question is that of a route into the country. The British Yukon company has already its trail open from Skagway Bay to the summit of White Pass and pack trains are now able to go through by this to Tagish Lake. This route is in some respects the best that can be suggested. The only objection to it is that its terminus is in territory over which the United States now exercises jurisdiction. The route from Telegraph Creek on the Stickeen to Lake Teslin involves a longer overland journey, but has the advantage of being an all British route. At present the course taken by the trail is somewhat roundabout; but the government is expecting at any day to be put in possession of a report as to a more direct line. If this is favorable, the government is prepared to open the trail and, if the appropriation made at the last session is not sufficient, to spend what is necessary and trust to the legislature to sanction the outlay. As the Dominion government has Mr. St. Cyr, C.E., on the same ground, and as Sir Wilfrid Laurier has promised that the Dominion government will do what it can to supply the needed connections, it will probably not be necessary in any event for the Provincial government to exceed last session's appropriation; but if it is, we are sure that public opinion will support them in doing so.

Whatever is done must be done at one. We have active rivals. They know the trade and it is already largely under their control. But the country is Canadian territory, and Canadians ought to have the business developed there. Success in the efforts now begun means millions to Victoria.

The Seattle papers are full of accounts of the wonderful placers of the Klondyke, and they speak of the trade of the country as something which that city has now and will keep for all time to come. Will the people of Victoria permit this? The answer rests largely with themselves. If they make a bold stroke now they can secure their share of it. Hundreds of people will come from Eastern Canada bound for the Yukon. Shall they go to Seattle to outfit, or shall they spend their money here?

MR. MAXWELL, M.P.

Mr. Maxwell, M.P., does himself entirely too much honor. He said in Vancouver the other night that his chief critic in railway matters had been the COLONIST, and the fact that he was condemned by the COLONIST was the best recommendation of his course. What Mr. Maxwell, M.P., means by saying that the COLONIST was his chief critic is that this paper is the only one that thought him worthy of even passing notice. Without reference to our files, we are unable to speak with positiveness, but to the best of our recollection there was only one reference to Mr. Maxwell, M.P., on the subject referred to, and that could hardly be called a criticism. Does Mr. Maxwell, M.P., remember the story of the man who boasted that the Duke of Wellington once spoke to him? If he does, he will remember that, on examination, it was ascertained that all the Duke said to him was: "Get out of my way."

But Mr. Maxwell, M. P., is still more severe upon the COLONIST. He says it is Mr. Heinze's organ. This will be news to Mr. Heinze. This is not new to the COLONIST. We have yet to hear of a man in British Columbia, who was expending large sums of money in the country, or a public interest in British Columbia that is of any great provincial benefit, in connection with which some sore-headed obstructionist has not set up a cry that the COLONIST was his or its organ. According to these people the COLONIST is the organ of the Canadian Pacific, the Columbia & Western, the E. & N. Railway, the Provincial government, the Cassiar Central, the British Pacific, the dreadful Dunsmuirs, the rapacious Rithet, the horrid Heinze, the terrible Turner—in fact of everything and everybody that is willing to spend a dollar in opening in the country and making the Province worth living in. Indeed, according to our obstructionist critics, the COLONIST comes pretty near to being the organ of enlightened and public opinion on every subject under heaven, and we are sufficiently shamefaced to plead guilty.

This article will make Mr. Maxwell, M.P., very happy. He has managed once more to get a little notice from the COLONIST. We do not begrudge it to him. We have never been unwilling to flatter his vanity; but a very diligent inspection of Hansard has failed to disclose even an excuse, not to say a reason, for paying the least attention to him. This is his misfortune; not his fault, and we supplement nature by giving him a little of the notoriety he is aching for.

KLONDYKE IS IN CANADA.

The San Francisco Call, referring to the riches of the Klondyke, calls it "a veritable boom for Alaska." There is not a line in its article to indicate that the Klondyke is in Canadian territory.

The Tacoma Ledger speaks of the Klondyke as "Alaska's Golden Sands," says there is probably more of just such ground in Alaska and claims that the State of Washington will necessarily be the source of supply for merchandize of all descriptions.

The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, while not so rash as to claim that the great discoveries are in Alaska, carefully avoid saying that they are in Canada, and claim for their city and state the paramount right to the whole of the great trade to be developed.

The Portland Oregonian treats the Klondyke as though it were in United States territory and insists that Portland can and will control its business.

The San Francisco Chronicle treats the future prospects of the Yukon and carefully avoids mentioning that the great gold fields are in Canada.

So it is with all the United States papers. They either claim the Klondyke as being in Alaska, or conceal the fact that it is in Canada. The result is the same in any case, for the impression is created that, the mines being in United States territory, the proper place to buy supplies is in United States cities and the proper way to get there is by United States steamers. It is time that this sort of thing was counteracted. The people of the East, who are bound for the Yukon, must be taught that the great gold fields are on undeveloped Canadian soil, that the best places to buy goods are in Canadian cities and that the best way to get there is by Canadian steamers.

When the Dominion government awakens sufficiently to the importance of this trade to put custom-house officers in the passes and establish a port of entry on, say, Tagish Lake, the fact that the gold fields are Canadian will be forcibly demonstrated. We believe this will be very shortly done.

In the meantime, everything ought to be done that can be done to bring the Yukon business to Victoria. The C. P. N. Company have been alive to the opportunity, and the splendid steamer Islander is to go at once on the route.

THE CASSIAR RAILWAY AID BILL.

The Trail Creek Miner has "figured it out" that the area "alienated" by the Cassiar Central railway bill is 9,486,489 acres. The Miner gives, as its authority for the alienation proposition, the Hon. D. W. Higgins. There are some points on which Mr. Higgins is doubtless very good authority, but when it comes to statute law, the best possible authority is the statute book, and if the Miner will take that, it will find itself utterly unable to spell out of its provisions authority for stating that by the Cassiar railway aid act a single square foot of land is alienated for one minute.

The Cassiar Central railway has until July 1, 1899, to begin work of construction, and if it does not begin work by that time any selection it may make in the meantime will be utterly void after that. The company is entitled to 700,000 acres, that is, to a lease of that area for thirty-five years. It must select such land within five years from the passage of the act. The area within which the selection must be made is, practically speaking, 10,000,000 acres. The Miner figures it out at something less, and perhaps it is right; but that is quite immaterial, because the company will not get a lease for more than 700,000 acres.

The provision that the company has five years in which to make its selection only means that it shall not make any selection after five years, not that it has the whole 10,000,000 acres under reserve for the five years. There is not a line in the act reserving the 10,000,000 acres, and the crown cannot be divested of its prerogative right to grant lands except by express legislative enactment. But in order to remove all doubts on this point, the act expressly says:

"Notwithstanding the foregoing sections (that is those providing for the selection and lease of the land) free miners shall be entitled to enter upon said lands, prospect and explore for minerals and locate and record claims thereon according to the mining laws now in force in the province."

There may be plainer words in which this can be stated, so that neither Mr. Higgins nor the Miner will fail to grasp its meaning; but we do not know what they are. If any free miner wants to mine in the district, within which the Cassiar Central Railway Company must select its lands, he can, until the company has made its selection, go upon the land as freely and acquire rights there as freely as in any other part of British Columbia. If any one wants to go up there and pre-empt land for farming purposes he may do so. In fact, any one can do anything in that part of British Columbia that he can do in any other part of British Columbia, until such time, within five years from the close of the last session of the legislature, as the Cassiar Central Railway Company shall select 700,000 acres in blocks four miles square. We hope this makes the matter clear.

WHAT IS IT?

Several weeks ago two men in the employ of the Electric Light Company said they saw in the early morning a balloon-shaped light rising slowly in the eastern sky. They are men of good repute, and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that they did not tell the truth. On July 10 two men saw a similar object at Rivers Inlet. Their story was printed in the COLONIST on Sunday. They are men whose word would be taken on any other subject whatever. On July 12 the inmates of the Old Men's Home at Kamloops saw a similar object. It was within sight for more than two hours, and disappeared in a southwesterly direction. It moved with a fluttering motion and gave out streaks of light. The Inland Sentinel is responsible for this story, which must be accepted as true, unless some reason can be assigned for disbelieving it, and we are unable to suggest any, for the Sentinel would hardly print such a thing if it were false. The date of the appearance of the story in the Sentinel was such that it was impossible for any one connected with it, or any one in Kamloops to have heard of the COLONIST story. In view of these three accounts, and the utter impossibility of any collusion between the narrators, to what conclusion must we come? It is, in fact, hardly possible to come to any, for the dates are too indefinite. The motion of the object and its course are entirely too slow to be those of a celestial visitor. It must have a terrestrial origin. Is this a second visit of the great bird with the eye of fire, which the Bella Coola legends tell us sat upon the mountains before the Great Winter came?

THE PANAMA CANAL.

A great deal of interest attaches to the report, which comes from Paris, to the effect that a great combination of capitalists has been formed to complete the Panama Canal at the cost of $100,000,000. It is alleged that the endorsement of their plans by the British, French and United States governments is expected, and that the Rothschilds are financing the affair. One hardly knows what to say about a proposition of this kind. There is not much doubt that the Panama Canal will be completed. Work is steadily progressing, and there is every probability that the work can be done for the sum stated. In point of fact it is altogether probable that the Panama Canal can be completed in a shorter time and for less money than the proposed Nicaragua waterway. There is nothing intrinsically improbable, therefore, in the formation of a strong syndicate to carry the project through.

A very large amount of money has been invested in Panama canal shares, which for a long time have sold at not much more than a nominal figure. The completion of the work would send them up in price and millions of money could be made out of them. As the canal would probably pay big dividends it would be a profitable venture to complete it, for the rise in the value of shares would give a syndicate, if it controlled them, nearly enough money to finish the work. By this we mean that, supposing any strong combination of financiers to have acquired the greater part of the outstanding canal shares, they could, by undertaking to finish the canal, sell the shares to the public for nearly all the money that would be needed. There is, therefore, a speculative incentive for the plan proposed.

As is well known, the plan of a strong party in the United States is to have the Nicaragua canal controlled by the government of that country exclusively. The government has on several occasions taken the same position; but it is yet premature to say that the country is committed to such a policy. Certainly the country is not yet committed to the construction of the canal at the public expense, and has no jurisdiction in Nicaragua any way. It might be possible for Great Britain and France to secure the co-operation of the United States for a joint control of the canal, and here we have a political incentive for the proposed arrangement.

For the above reasons, while it would be premature to accept the report as correct, it would be absurd to hasten to discredit it altogether. Except so far as securing the co-operation of the three governments, there is nothing that a strong financial combination could not readily overcome.

THE Times has discovered a great variety of changes that are about to be made in the Provincial government. Signs of impending upheaval are not apparent in government circles. We would advise no one to pack his gripsack and come to Victoria in the hope of finding a vacant chair at the executive board awaiting him. At present all the members of the executive appear to be quite comfortable, and if any of them are contemplating resignation, they are keeping it to themselves most successfully.

A SAN FRANCISCO dispatch says that the United States warships Monterey and Monadnock will not be sent to Hawaii. The suggestion that they should be, could only have emanated from some one who knows nothing of the situation. The vessels named are fit for coast defense only. To send them out to fight Japan on the high seas would be to doom them to certain destruction, and the absurdity of detailing them to defend the coast of Japan and leave that of the Pacific States bare ought to be evident even to the compiler of sensational news telegrams.

WE hardly understand the principle upon which the city council acts in appointing a special committee to report on the recommendations of the Sanitary Inspector and Building Inspector. As these recommendations have no effect until sanctioned by the council, we can see how each individual member of that body might and perhaps ought to examine the condemned structures for himself; but to delegate the right of examination to a committee and to accept the committee's judgment in preference to that of the officers especially employed to attend to such matters does not seem quite logical.

THE news that Turkey has agreed to accept the mandate of the powers and settle with Greece is not surprising. It was Great Britain that stepped in at the outset and said that Thessaly must be given back to Greece. Germany took the contrary view, but the rest of the powers sided with Great Britain. So the matter stood for some time. Then came the Jubilee naval review, which an Austrian admiral said was "worth more for peace than a dozen diplomatic notes." Since that time Germany has been more yielding and has finally given way altogether.

THE Wellington Enterprise would like to see a Labor Bureau established in this Province, and thinks that $5,000 would pay the bill. The object of the Bureau would be to collect and circulate information about the condition of labor, i.e. the earnings of laborers, the cost of living, etc. We are not sure that a permanent Bureau of this kind is needed, but are quite prepared to admit that the collection of such statistics once in, say, five years, would be valuable. It would be well if the Enterprise would give its views on the subject in greater detail.

THE Inland Sentinel says the COLONIST is very wicked in saying that the policy of the Opposition is "anything to get office," and adds the rather discouraging though true information that there are not nearly enough offices to go round. The Sentinel is not as ingenuous as it would like to be thought, for it knows perfectly well that we meant the policy of the would-be leaders, not of the rank and file. The rank and file of the Opposition have no policy. They are simply "agin' the government."

SOME bright genius in Washington, D.C., has found out that the discoveries on the Klondyke may cause serious international complications between the United States and Great Britain. What nonsense shall we hear next? The Klondyke is as undoubtedly in Canada as Washington is in the United States. Some way or other, the very last thing that an Eastern newspaper man thinks of doing, when writing on the Northwest, is to look at a map.

GOVERNOR MACKINTOSH, of the Northwest Territories, has been telling people how to spell Klondyke. He knows no more about it than anyone else. There is no such word as Klondyke, anyway. There is an Indian word Thron-duich, which means "plenty of fish," and this has been twisted into the word which Ogilvie spells Klondak, and others Klondyke.

LAURIER is going to France. He may be able to do something towards persuading the French that John Bull is not quite a monster. It will be a novelty for Paris to hear a speech in French, his native language, from the Premier of the greatest British Colony.

THE Nelson Economist is a new 12-page weekly, issued at Nelson, B.C. It makes an excellent beginning.

Old Fogy and Short-Sighted Merchants.

The manufacturers of Diamond Dyes receive letter orders every day from country places for Diamond Dyes. Ladies say their village storekeeper has been talked into buying one of the very inferior makes put up to outwardly imitate the world-famed Diamond Dyes. They have tried these dyes and the result was failure and loss of goods.

These country storekeepers (many of them) will not put in a stock of Diamond Dyes until they get rid of their poor goods. This means loss of trade to the short-sighted dealer. Diamond Dyes are certainly the favorites in country, town and city, and all live merchants sell them.

Any lady in the country who cannot obtain Diamond Dyes from her dealer can write to Wells & Richardson Co., Montreal, for the color required, stating whether it is to dye wool, cotton or silk, and the dyes will be sent by mail.

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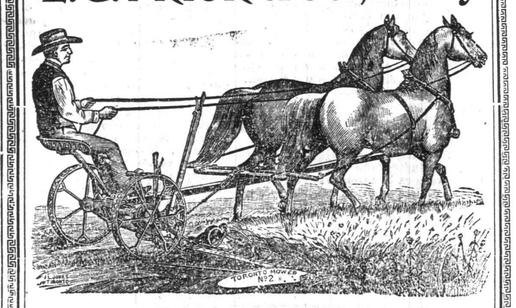

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VICTORIA, VANCOUVER AND KAMLOOPS.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

AMBITIOUS SANDON.

Sandon's property owners would seem to have decided by a very large majority in favor of incorporation, and with a pay-roll from the surrounding mines as she will have next year, it would seem to be a step in the right direction.—Denver Ledge.

RICH MEN COMING.

We have unimpeachable authority for the statement that during the present year this province will be visited by representatives of many leading financial houses of Great Britain, all with a view of obtaining profitable investment in mines. Therefore, we may assume that the hesitancy of moneyed men to come to our assistance has been completely overcome.—Nelson Economist.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

Both the Dominion and the Provincial governments should be alive to the responsibilities and advantages which this new Eldorado should bring to the people within their respective administrations.—News-Advertiser.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

The crops throughout the district are in a most promising condition—far more so than could have been expected a few weeks ago—and there is now no doubt that the wheat yield will be a large one this year. From all points of the Okanagan and Spallumcheen valleys come reports of splendid fields of grain, and everywhere the farmers appear to be well satisfied with the situation. This was by no means true during the early part of the summer, when, through lack of rain, the grain crop stood in serious danger of being an almost total failure, and the prospects looked anything but bright. The prosperity of the city and district is, of course, in a very large degree dependant upon the success of the farmers, and a feeling of very general relief has been experienced since the growth-producing rains set in and wrought such a pleasing change in the aspect of the wheat fields.

Judging from the present outlook the yield of cereals in this district will be considerably more than double that of last year. Other field and garden crops are also looking extremely well, and both in quantity and quality the vegetable output is likely to run largely over that of previous years, as in many sections a much larger acreage has been put under crop than ever before. Fruit of all kinds is also doing very well, and, taking it all round, the outlook for the farmer is very encouraging this season.—Vernon News.

THE KOOTENAY PAPERS.

Judged by its papers, the Kootenay country—east, west and south—is progressing at a very satisfactory rate. This may be said with regard to the Kootenay press as a whole, which is decidedly creditable to the country.—Columbian.

MAILS IN THE KOOTENAY.

With the present inadequate and indefinite mail service with which the Kootenays are now provided, one has the same feeling of uncertainty when he mails a letter that he has when he drops a nickel in the slot machine—perhaps he hits it and perhaps he don't. It is a case of luck if your letter does not remain in the post office three or four days.—Trail Creek News.

STILL THEY GROW.

It was recorded last week that the output of the Trail Creek district for the previous week was the largest in its history. That statement is no longer correct. The shipments for the week just past amounted to 2,432 tons—an increase of more than 500 tons over the previous week.—Trail Creek Miner.

The proper way to build health is to make the blood rich and pure by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, the one true blood purifier.