

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1897.

THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO IT.

The Colonist will not go to the Van-couver World when it feels the necessity for lessons either in sense or courtesy. Neither will it be deterred from agitat-ing for what it believes are the rights of the Province and for the advancement of its most pressing interests for fear of in-curring the displeasure of its Mainland contemporary. In passing, we may say further, that the exhibitions of personal animus displayed by the World in con-nection with the proposed railway into the Boundary Creek country indicate that personal rather than public consid-erations influence its course.

The World asks the Colonist to tell it how the Dominion government can pro-vide for the construction of the Pentic-ton-Boundary railway without a vote of parliament. Can the World be as ignorant as it pretends to be? Does the World not know that the terms on which the Canadian Pa-cific was built were settled without par-liamentary sanction, subject, of course, to subsequent ratification? It would be possible to find scores of precedents in which the government has incurred ob-ligations in cases of emergency sub-ject to parliamentary approval, and the first case has yet to be cited where such approval has been withheld. A govern-ment must take some responsibility on the strength of its possessing the confi-dence of a parliamentary majority. If nothing was ever done by the British or Canadian governments, against which no one could object that parliamentary sanction had not been obtained, the record of statesmanlike achievements would be much shorter and less bril-liant than it is. We repeat, that if the Dominion government wishes to do so, it can find a way to co-operate with the local government and secure the im-mediate construction of the railway in question. Mr. Hewitt Bestock, M.P., in an interview in this paper, takes the same position.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR SILVER.

The important announcement is made that representatives of France and the United States have submitted to the Marquis of Salisbury a proposition for the summoning of an international monetary conference, with the object of remonetizing silver, and that the British Premier has promised to take the matter into consideration. The dis-patch adds that the directors of the Bank of England have signified their willingness to hold a part of the reserves in silver, and that there is a likelihood of the reopening of the India mints to the free coinage of the white metal. This news is of extreme importance. We are unable to think of anything of a business of greater importance. If the plans contemplated can be carried into effect the revival of business all the world over will be unprecedented.

The series of events which in 1873 culminated in the demonetization of silver, will prove, when analyzed in the clear light of history, one of the most interest-ing chapters in the record of this inter-esting century. What is meant by the demonetization of silver is that in the countries of Europe known as the Latin Union, i.e. the leading continental coun-tries, except Russia and some of the minor states, and the United States per-mitted silver and gold to be coined in-discriminately as money at, approxi-mately, the ratio of 16 to 1. That is to say, 16 ounces of silver coined were worth as much as 1 ounce of gold. For reasons which we shall not stop to give just now, and perhaps it would not be possible to give the true reasons, first one and then another country closed its mints to silver, except for subsidiary coins, the last country to do so being, as we remember, the United States. Up to this time silver was in point of fact worth slightly higher than the legal ratio, the consequence being that not much of it was taken to the mints of European countries and the United States. What was not absorbed in the arts was not more than sufficient to supply the demand of India and the Orient. The consequence was that sil-ver varied from \$1.24 to \$1.26 per ounce. As soon as the policy of demonetization took effect the price of the metal began to fall. It has fluctuated between 60 and 65 cents an ounce for a year or two, that is, it is worth not half as much as it was in 1873.

Coincident with this fall in the price of silver there has been a fall in the price of most commodities. It is not true, as many of the advocates of bimetalism allege, that silver and wheat have dropped *pari passu*; but the fall in the price of farm products and farming lands has kept pace with the inclination of sil-ver so closely that it is impossible not to be impressed with the idea that there is some necessary connection between them.

The closing of the Indian mints a few years ago was the last blow which the white metal received, and taken in con-nection with the repeal of the purchas-ing clause in what was known as the Sherman-law in the United States, reduced silver from the position of a precious metal to that of a mere com-modity. Consequently silver coins have a value that is largely artificial. Thus a Mexican dollar contains more silver

than a United States dollar, but it is only worth 47 cents in the United States, the reason being that United States silver dollars are legal tender over the whole Union, while the moment a Mexican or any other foreign coin crosses the boundary of the United States it becomes so much bullion.

We in British Columbia take United States silver currency for its face value; but if a man should take a hundred United States silver dollars and melt them up in a crucible, the lump of metal would only be worth about \$46, and there is no way by which he could get it back into coins again. In other words, the United States government takes 46 cents worth of silver, puts the Mint stamp on it, and it must be taken anywhere within the country in pay-ment of debts as \$1.00. There is nothing dishonest about this. Twenty Canadian silver half dollars, melted into a lump, would not be worth \$10. Neither would four British crowns, melted into a lump, be worth a sovereign.

India, the Orient, Mexico, Central America and South America do busi-ness on a silver basis. In most of these countries the conditions are not such that it would be possible to use a paper currency, and the sums dealt with are as a rule so small that a gold coinage is out of the question. By far the greater portion of the world's population does business on a silver basis, and the coun-tries to which this observation applies are steadily becoming more important factors in commerce. There is little doubt that it is to this fact that the ability of Argentina and other silver-using countries to take away from Canada and the United States the supply of the European markets with farm produce, is due.

The restoration of silver to its ancient monetary position would work an indus-trial revolution the world over. Its effect in this Province, where such vast silver ore are to be found would be most profound. In short, from whatever point of view the question is regarded the views above referred to is of absorbing interest.

A SUGGESTION IN AQUATICS.

In the James Bay Athletic Club, Victo-ria has an organization that is a credit to the city. A broom crowns the flag staff on the Club House and trophies of prowess of the Club's representative oarsmen are on public exhibition. It is time that the champions of the North-west were given a chance to measure oars against competitors in a wider field. If there is to be a regatta at Lachine or elsewhere in the East this year, at which representative crews will be pres-ent, the James Bay club ought to be in the field, and, if the boys do as well as we believe they will, next year ought to see them at Henley. We believe there would be no difficulty at all in raising the necessary funds to send a four-oared crew East this year, if there is to be any meeting of sufficient importance to make it worth while for them to go. People would freely subscribe for such a purpose, because it would be really an excellent thing in many ways for Vic-toria to be represented in the Eastern regattas.

We suggest to the Club that it might very well take this matter up and, if anything can be done in the way of send-ing a crew East, the cooperation of some of the members of the business community be invited. We are satis-fied that it will be freely extended. Meanwhile, though a little tardy in do-ing so, the Colonist would like to con-vey to the oarsmen, who so splendidly upheld the honors of the Club at Port-land, a brief acknowledgement of their capital work. They made every Vic-torian feel proud.

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

We find in the Canadian Trade Re-view some interesting statements in re-gard to trade with Australia. The Re-view's article is suggested by an an-nouncement that the United States gov-ernment made a trial shipment of sixty tons of butter to Australia by the War-rimoon on her last voyage, and it tells us that not a pound of Canadian butter and only 410 boxes of Canadian cheese were sent to the Island Continent in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897. The Review thinks the lack of freight space in the Australian steamers militates against the development of more than one line of trade—a statement that contrasts strongly enough with what we used to be told when the line to Australia was proposed. Then it used to be prophe-sied that the steamers would have no-thing to carry. The Review says:

Hope from British Columbia are being tested in Australia and there are hopes of their being able to compete with the Tasmanian hop which is now the favorite there. Canadian malt should also find a market; for the climate of Australia is not suited to malting and the article is imported, the best coming from Eng-land. Before a quantity could be shipped experiments would have to be made as to how it could be safely carried. Eng-lish hops come over in iron tanks, but these would be too expensive in the Northwest, and Canadian malt is sent in double bags, but it is said occasionally to slack in transit. Experiment only would determine whether malt could be carried safely in close cotton bags from Canada, and failing this, whether it could be shipped in tallow casks which would find a good market on arrival. Thus there would be no cost for pack-ages. The market is large enough and prices are sufficiently high to warrant experimenting in methods for safe con-veyance. The Review urges the manufacturers

of Canada to study and cultivate the Australian market, which it says is both stable and sympathetic. Similar advice may profitably be given to Canadian dairymen. No one line of industry is of greater benefit to a community than dairying, for it practically takes nothing out of the country; that is, a country can go on indefinitely yielding dairy products without becoming exhausted, for butter and cheese are little more than atmospheric products. The soil fur-nishes the foothold for the plants on which dairy animals are fed. Ninety per cent. and more of what goes to make up butter and cheese comes out of the inexhaustible atmosphere. As illustra-tion of what can be done in the matter of dairy products from a small area, it may be added that the little kingdom of Denmark, which is about as large as Vancouver Island, ships to Great Britain alone about \$80,000,000 worth a year. British Columbia could readily supply Australia with all it needs of these articles.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

The Toronto Globe is waging vigorous warfare against the subsidizing of railway companies in which nothing is invested by the promoters. With that the Col-onist is wholly in sympathy. It is high time that an end was put to the practice of giving to a needy of adventurers a rail-way franchise and subsidy and permit-ting them to speculate upon it. British Columbia has been very free from this sort of thing; but plenty of examples of it can be found elsewhere in the Dominion. This is not, however, any reason why aid should not be granted to deserving British Columbia projects, although it is usually advanced in Eastern papers, when they discuss applications of this character from this province.

We are unable to agree with those who think the Dominion has done all it ought to in aid of railways. It is too late now to discuss the wisdom of such a policy. There will come a time when a halt must be called, but not while this great west-ern country remains to be developed or until this province has received its due share of consideration. At the same time we must heartily endorse the position that no projects should hereafter re-ceive a dollar of government aid unless it can be demonstrated that they are needed to enable the latent resources of the country to be exploited and that the promoters themselves are prepared to find a reasonable proportion of the cost. We are opposed unalterably to the incorporation and subsidizing of com-panies merely as speculative proposi-tions. By this we do not mean that in every case the promoters of a railway company in asking for incorpora-tion should show that they are them-selves in a position to build the railway. Cases can easily be suggested; in fact, the history of railway building all the world over is full of them, where impor-tant lines would never have been begun, or would have been delayed, if the legis-lature granting the franchises had in-stisted upon the money being in sight be-fore sanctioning them. There is a happy medium between a close-fisted policy and a reckless one, and this legis-lature and governments ought to endeavor to hit in the granting of charters and subsidies. The day may come when parliament may properly say that enough has been done in aid of railways; but not until more development roads have been provided. In a vast country like Northwestern Canada and British Col-umbia railways are what highways are to the more densely populated East, and the governments must help the con-struction of them.

The Sanitary Inspector and the Build-ing Inspector have united in a recom-mendation to the city council in regard to certain buildings, which ought to be pulled down. The Colonist is not in-formed as to what the buildings are, but it is told that recommendations of this character, made on previous occasions, have come to naught by reason of influ-ences which the owners have been able to bring to bear upon the city council. This is not right; or, if it is right, the city should secure the services of inspec-tors who will not make recommendations so unreasonable that the council will not act upon them. Presumably no member of the city council would be in-duced by considerations as to the per-sonal convenience of individual property owners to disregard meritorious recom-mendations made by responsible offi-cials; and so the public will have to wait, in case the recommendations now made are not acted upon, that the offi-cers in question really do not know what ought to be done, and will expect to see these replaced by others who will re-commend things that really are neces-sary. It is one of the strange facts in human experience, and the evidence of it is to be found in the proceedings of every city council on earth, that to elect a man an alderman is to make him an expert in every department of science and industry.

The Monetary Times says there are no stocks of British Columbia hops now in Toronto, and that dealers there say they would gladly give 15 cents a pound for all that would be forthcoming. The Times directs the attention of our provincial hop growers to the market open-ing for them in Japan. At present the principal Japanese drink is saka, of which about 5,000,000 barrels are con-sumed annually. The domestic beer

product was 100,000 barrels last year, and is rapidly increasing. It is thought that it will shortly take the place of saka in public esteem. A very large market is likely to be created in Japan for Canadian barley. Hitherto the barley used in the Japanese breweries has been the German two-rowed barley; but the popular taste prefers beer made from the four-rowed or six-rowed, such as Canada produces in perfection.

An incident has occurred in Nanaimo that is worth passing notice. A city by-law required seers and clairvoyants to pay a license fee of \$50 every six months. Against this the Spiritualists' Associa-tion of the city protested, two grounds being alleged. One was that the license fee tends "to hinder and retard the progress of spiritualism"; the other, that Spiritualists should have the same privi-leges as other religious bodies. The City Council, complied with the prayer of the petition, and the progress of spiritualism is a religion, whose progress ought not to be hindered or retarded. Spiritualism has certainly advanced many stages, since the Fox sisters began their exhibi-tions of table-rapping, to receive such recognition from a city council.

The republican newspapers in the West are endeavoring to weaken the effect of Bryan's campaign by ridiculing the man. This is the last argument of a party that seems defeat in the air. Bryan's financial remedies may be more mischievous than the disease they are intended to cure; but there is no deny-ing the force and influence of the man who propounds them. To-day he has a larger personal following than any man in the United States, and he stands a first class chance of becoming a leader in a new revolution, which will shake the country to its centre. We do not mean an armed revolution; but one in economic policy. To belittle Bryan is like making a jest of the crest of a com-ing tidal wave.

SOME of our exchanges think that the increase of population in Kootenay is an unanswerable argument for a redistribu-tion of seats in the provincial legislature. Suppose Cariboo fills up next year, must we have another redistribution? If when the Cassiar Central is built there is a rush of miners there, must the seats be redistributed? Will the development of the mines in the Big Bend necessitate a redistribution, the certain progress of the Boundary Creek country another, and the almost equally certain advance of the North Coast and the Islands an-other? We are not belittling the claims of Kootenay, but only asking if the ad-vocates of redistribution are prepared to follow their argument to its legitimate conclusion.

COMMENTING upon Judge Drake's de-cision that the law prohibiting the em-ployment of Chinese underground is in-operative, because no penalty is provid-ed, the Nanaimo Review says the de-cision "would not stand for one moment in the way of a strong, straight govern-ment." What extraordinary doctrine is this? When did it come about that a government has a right to override the decision of the courts? While this de-cision stands, it must be respected. We have no more information on the point than anyone else, but assume that all questions under the Act will remain in abeyance until the constitutional point has been settled.

The story that Spain and Japan have joined hands, so as to be ready to meet the United States in case that country decides to interfere in Hawaii or Cuba may be true. If those two countries, however, will take a little friendly ad-vice, they will let Uncle Sam severely alone. They could bother him a good deal at the start, but in the end they would get a tremendous thrashing. At the same time, the prospect of having to confront such an alliance may make some of our jingo neighbors realize what a dangerous game they are playing when they meddle with matters that are none of their business.

The Evening Times has piped up its courage sufficiently to say that to de-mand the beginning of the Penticton-Boundary railway this year is like cry-ing for the moon. Well, if the Liberal government listens to the Liberal pa-pers in this province, the road will not be begun this year, nor next year unless certain individuals can make some money out of the subsidy. We decline as yet to believe that on this subject the Liberal papers in this province repre-sent the Ottawa ministry—or anything else except their own disappointments.

RUSSIAN critics growl over the demon-strations of the imperial greatness of the British Empire, and the prophets of disaster are getting in their work. A man need not be very old to remember at least half a dozen occasions, when these prophecies were made with as great vigor as now; but somehow the Empire keeps growing and is greater to-day than ever.

Day after day the Mail and Empire tells its readers that everything done in any of the other provinces by the Dom-inion government is done at the expense of Ontario. We protest on behalf of British Columbia that, so far as this Province is concerned, this allegation is without foundation.

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Dixie H. Ross & Co.

THERE seems to be a genuine prospect of cheaper bicycles, and in this case cheapness will not mean inferiority. An opinion prevails among those who are close to the manufacturers that, since the bicycle has passed the fad period, the makers will consult the pockets of their customers more closely than they have been doing. Plain, serviceable wheels will be sold at moderate prices and more ornamental kinds will be more costly. With the passing of the bicycle fad, the fixed prices will also pass.

The Spokesman-Review always speaks of Kootenay as "the North country," and yet it probably knows that the real "North country" in a mining sense, lies as far north of Kootenay as Kootenay is North of New Mexico. What is a more remarkable fact is that there is a series of sunnier and argenterious lodges and gold bearing gravels for the whole 12,000 miles.

CARLETON, ex-secretary of the United States treasury, has been treating the people of the United States to a terrible jeremiad. According to him the coun-try is in an appalling state. If things are as bad as he says they are, the repub-lic is already within a reasonable dis-tance of social revolution.

SHERMAN'S RU

Made the Text of Uncon-Comment as to Unit-Diplomacy.

British Government O-Breach of Etiquette a-Continue Negotia

LONDON, July 15.—The e-payers gnash their teeth of reply of Secretary Sherma-istry in the seal contro-journals issue sensation-ling such lines as "Twisti-Tail Again," and "Ameri-England." Most papers of situation editorially.

The St. James' Gazette publication is a furor of the situation is the United States considers language safe. But it is after some affront, more or we may some day find we to them, and then might-tion of the gravest peril great nations involved in dispute. It affects Can-Wilford Laurier will be ab-Salisbury of the deplorable duced on public opinion i-that everyone in America our recent surrender to States."

The Globe in a slashing "Yankee Insolence," says of Cleveland are revived ordinary and insulting di-Mr. Sherman permitted to into the papers. Waiving the question, which forth for naturalists, the astor Mr. Sherman is a defiance usages of diplomacy, but of ordinary civility. En-ble glad to see that Lord so far as the patrons of th-are concerned, treated th-though it had never been-ward a step further and-Julian Pauncefote to int-McKinley that Her Maj-ment declines to receiv-coached in such languag-only reply to the news by-Hay his passports, his ac-endorsed by the complet-the nation."

The Daily Graphic, in the Behring Sea correspo-"Our experience of the-manners of American dip-unnecessary to regard S-man's explosion as not un-wise to embitter the n-answering Secretary Sher-to his indiscretion."

While among the gener-the tone of Secretary Sh-to Ambassador Hay. Behring Sea seal regula-resented, the correspond-icated Press is in a posit-whatever criticism the B-ment have to make on th-of the communication to in any way affected un-negotiations which Colom-conducting. A conference in Washington during th-which the United States, Russia and Japan will be Since the presentation of man's note to Lord Salisb-Hay has had repeat with His Lordship, all o-been of a most friendly may also be taken for-Canada does not oppose Sir Louis Davies, Canadi-marine, in an interview spondent of the Associated said: "We regard the la-the United States as enti-ty to the negotiations bet-ements, and in view of peoples should not be rea-

The Pall Mall Gaze-Sherman's tone is not w-but the nationalist feature the publication of the di-

The Westminster Ga-Mr. Sherman's "some-rough" and says "Seal into American politics, symptom that seals sh-provide the new govern-means for a demonstra-land. The McKinley g-inevitable disappoint the goes in the matter of sil necessary to clear itself suspicions by striking a tude in the matter of se-

MORE OF THE

WASHINGTON, July 15 of remonstrance from man to Ambassador Ha-tion to the British gov-pect to the sealing co-are several interesting-tion to those already p-tary Sherman, after c-known statistician, shov-in the catch, says:

"Lord Salisbury attri-falling off in Behring Se-weather prevailing, but his authority. I am n-reports to that effect, who commanded the A-fleet in Behring Sea in-ports: "The weather was not materially diffe-reas."

"The point when sea-profitable season was ha-during the last year. I-forms us that the res-many owners of sealing-vessels are bankrupt, that the condition of th-the government of the U-already come to pass, extinction of the seal al-view written by the S-the efforts made by Sec-Olney to secure a dis-pute. Continuing, man says:

"The manner in wh-government has disch-