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TALES OF THE TOWN.

THE continual flow into British Columbia, and consequently into Canada, of the Chinese, gives rise to the reflection, that this class of immigration may, before our people are thoroughly aware of the fact, reach proportions positively alarming. I do not refer so much to the diseases that these leprous scavengers may bring into our midst as to the danger of their entering into direct and injurious competition with the white man who eats bread by the sweat of his brow and who has brought his family here from the far-off east to carve out a competence. The Chinaman has learned to starve himself in his overburdened land, and he will subsist on fifteen cents a day in order to carry back to his own country a few hundred dollars, on which amount he can live in opulence.

The effect of all this can only be to bring the white laboring-man to the verge of starvation, and give aliens, whose very influence is pernicious, a monopoly of the profits accruing from our mines, forests, rivers and gardens. I fully realize that any attempt at securing legislation which would exclude the Chinese would necessarily jeopardize a large and constantly growing commerce with a foreign country, but I believe this matter must attract the attention of our political economists sooner or later, and really, it seems now that the sooner the better.

I have received the following from a correspondent, and as the information herein contained may be of interest to others I take this means of bringing it before the public:

"Among the old fur traders I knew was a Mr. Roderick McLeod. Born near Inverness, Scotland, at an early age he entered the employ of the Northwest Fur Company, and after the amalgamation, that of the Hudson's Bay Company, which he served for many years in the Northwest Territories, more especially in the Mackenzie River basin. He rose to be a chief

trader or officer in charge of a fort, and from that he became chief factor, or officer in charge of a district. In those days all the chief traders and chief factors were partners in the profits of the company along with the shareholders and the directors, and they generally left the service pretty well fixed for their old age.

"One thing I remember Mr. McLeod told me I think ought to be investigated. He said the Indians, away up the Liard River, used to bring with them quantities of gold when they visited the Hudson's Bay forts on the Mackenzie River. He said the Hudson's Bay officers all believed the gold country was away up the Liard River, but they could not find out anything definite, as the Indians up there would not allow white men to enter the country. Mr. McLeod was up in the Mackenzie country in the twenties, thirties and forties. This story I have told to old miners, and they believe the gold matrix of this country should be somewhere between the Yukon and Liard rivers.

"It is easy enough to find out. If a party is made up for the Liard, they need to go to Edmonton, on the Saskatchewan, from thence cross over the country to the Athabasca river, about 100 miles north of Edmonton, float down the Athabasca and the Mackenzie rivers, until they reach the Liard, in latitude 63 north. They can ascend the Liard without any fear of the savages. I recommend the party taking Peterboro canoes with them, as they can be bought cheap at Victoria, are light for portaging and will be handy on the great lakes and rivers in the north, as they are sail boats. The climate is delightful in the summer time and the trip would be a very pleasant one, with any amount of game to live on."

Something rather in the way of a novelty, I am told, will occur in this city during the present month. It will be the celebration of a wooden wed-

ding, at which the guests will be welcomed under a bower of lattice work, covered with an exuberant growth of fine shavings. A wooden chrysanthemum with a white card attached will be presented to each guest. The card will bear the name the recipient is to be known by during the evening. Among those present will be the Prince and Princess of Wales, Christopher Columbus and wife, Oscar Wilde and wife, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Goldwin Smith and wife, and so on through the list of notabilities. The festivities will be opened with the Lancers, in which all these distinguished persons will take part. Then each couple will be summoned before the Prince of Wales and presented with a wooden emblem of their calling, including such musical instruments as toy drums, mouth organs, horns, whistles, etc. Each couple receiving musical instruments will then be ordered to compete for a prize. A cake walk will conclude the novel entertainment. Refreshments will be served on a service of wooden plates, wooden forks, spoons, coffee cups, scoops, etc. The preparations for this event are already under way.

The New York Sunday Mercury asks "what shall we do with engaged people?" I know that in certain quarters in Victoria there is a growing inclination to assassinate them, but as that would not be in strict conformity with the law, I give the letter of Jesse C. Jay, an esteemed correspondent:

"I fear that our once happy home is no more; not that bankruptcy or smallpox or typhus has broken out in our neighborhood, only between us and the — street house we have two engaged couples. Now the parlors must be given up entirely to them. When everybody was friends, and nobody lovers, we had jolly times enough, but that has been changed. The lovers must pass every moment of their spare time together. They steal quietly out from every social gathering and hide in dark corners and unfrequented hall-

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