Weekly Colonist

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BURDENED NATIONS.

The natural result of the preparations for war which almost every country in Europe has been for some time making is that they are running deeply into debt. War is in these days most expensive. Modern weapons cost a great deal of money and millions of men maintained in idleness are a heavy burden on the producing part of the populations. The very heavy expenditure on war material and navies and armies cannot all be made out ordinary revenue. Although taxes have been raised ten per cent. debts must be incurred. The Great Powers are therefore all borrowing. Russia has just effected a large loan in France. The money was easily raised. In fact a great deal more was subscribed than was required. Hungary wants money and, like Russia, has already issued a conversion loan. Spain finds herself short of funds and is making preparations for a raid on the money market. Italy must strain her credit to obtain the means of keeping herself abreast of the times as a fighting power. France cannot complete her army organization without contracting another loan. Expenditure keeps on increasing and it must be met in some way. The budgets of the countries we have named have increased from five to fifteen per cent. in the face of the increased taxation of ten per cent. What is the end of it all going to be? Thinking men in Europe are becoming anxious. To maintain the kind of peace that now exists in Europe is almost as expensive as war was in days gone by. If war comes the expenditure will be, for a time at any rate, increased. Can the peoples of Europe bear the increased burdens, or will they be willing to carry them if they are able to stagger under them? They have been wonderfully patient. But the patience of a people under a Government that has at its command two or three millions of armed and disciplined men is apt to be misunderstood. Millions may submit because they they see that resistance is hopeless, and millions more may not have spirit enough left even to protest against being ground down by taxes in order that kings and their ministers may carry out their own ambitious schemes. But piling up debt in this way and increasing taxes cannot go on forever. A crash must come sooner or later, and then the nations will see what fools they were to goad each other on to bankruptcy. The Liverpool *Mercury*, commenting upon the financial condition of the Great Powers, says: "The great war may be in the distance, or it may take place next year, but in any case the English public will do well in hesitating to subscribe to any of these new loans. So long as money is forthcoming borrowing will continue, until either war comes, with its inevitable crash, or credit collapses through the utter inability of the continent to carry the enormous debt it has laid upon itself." We on this side of the Atlantic may consider ourselves exceedingly fortunate that we do not live in a country whose Government is straining every effort to keep pace with its neighbors in preparations for war, and whose people must deprive themselves of the comforts and even the necessaries of life to support in idleness immense bodies of able-bodied men, who would be used to crush them if they made the slightest attempt to relieve themselves of the burdens that are bowing them to the earth.

A SILENT MAN.

Very few know anything about General Harrison except that he is an honest, high-principled man. It is somewhat singular that in a campaign in which the most disgusting slanders were raised and circulated about the private life of one of the candidates, not one word was said about the domestic relations of the other, that was not to his credit. Mr. Harrison was singularly fortunate, or his conduct in every relation of life must have been so conspicuously blameless that even the political scandal monger must have been convinced that any foul story raised about him would instantly and generally be discredited and would redound to the injury of the party in whose supposed interests it was invented. There is another alternative, which is that the Democrats are too high-minded and too manly to attempt to gain a political advantage by repeating the lies told by cast-off servants or giving currency to the malicious gossip of ill-natured and spiteful neighbors. This may be giving the Democratic Party more credit than it deserves, but account for it as we may, the fact forces itself upon the notice of the world that while President Cleveland and his wife were annoyed by slanders that would be regarded as shameful in any respectable neighborhood, General Harrison and his family were not tormented by the scandal-mongers of any party. Since his election General Harrison has shown that he possesses a virtue which is to the public man of incalculable value. He knows how to hold his tongue. He has been placed on the rack by the journalistic interviewer, and ambitious politicians have attempted to obtain information from him as to his intentions in a hundred insidious and ingenious ways, but the President-elect has not spoken unadvisedly with his lips once. He has not been entrapped into making a single admission that may be embarrassing to him in the future or into encouraging any hope that an exacting and persistent office-seeker may entertain. He has not treated his questioners rudely or brusquely. He has taken up the role of Gruff and Grum. He gives polite answers to their enquiries but they are so framed that the most ingenious of them cannot extract from them a single particle of the information he is in search of. General Harrison is more than a match for the most dexterous and persistent interviewer, and Talleyrand himself might envy his skill in devising diplomatic phrases which sound well yet mean nothing. If he possesses the other qualifications of a practical statesman in anything like the same degree that he does the virtue of silence, he will be one of the ablest administrators that ever filled the presidential chair.

BRAVELY DONE.

As might have been anticipated, Hayti has been compelled to give up the American vessel which its government had seized, and to promise to pay damages to the amount of $350,000, which is many times the worth of the vessel. The trial was exceedingly short and the arguments used were few, but very weighty. They were called "The Yantic" and "The Galena." It does not appear that the officer appointed by the United States Government to settle the case, Admiral Luce, went very deeply into its merits. It can hardly be said, indeed, that he instituted any enquiry at all. The proceedings were exceedingly simple. Early in the morning of Thursday, the 20th of December, Rear Admiral Luce entered the harbor of Port au Prince. He anchored his ship, the Yantic, within a cable's length of the detained vessel, the "Haytian Republic." He ran a hawser from the stern of his ship to the captured blockade runner. While this was being done he sent his gig, containing Commander Heyerman and Flag Lieutenant Meigs, ashore to communicate with the American Minister, Mr. Thomson. These officers, accompanied by the Minister, proceeded to the President's palace and demanded the delivery of the Haytian Republic to the United States naval commander. President Legitime was politely told that if the steamer was not delivered before sunset the United States ships of war would take her by force, and if resistance were offered the Rear Admiral would shell the city. The officers went on to demand the payment of an indemnity of $350,000 to the owners of the ship which the Haytian naval officers were so rash as to capture; and when they had in the most approved diplomatic fashion requested the President of the Republic of Hayti to salute the flag of the Government which had proposed such moderate terms, the mission of the officers was completed. To show the people that he was in earnest, and that if his terms were not complied with, the citizens of Port-au-Prince might look out for squalls, the Admiral sent boats out to the vessels in the harbor telling them to get out of the range of the guns, and the foreign consuls were notified that hostilities might be commenced at any moment. President Legitime and his cabinet, finding that they were not in a position to refuse the modest demands of the United States Admiral, immediately decided to give up the ship with as little delay as possible, and in order to get clear of such unpleasant visitors as these war ships to promise him all that he asked. The Haytian gunboat Dessalines ran the stars and stripes to her fore-mast head and fired a salute of twenty-one guns, which the Galena, according to the rules of national etiquette made and provided, returned in due form. Then the gallant Admiral with his consort and his prize, feeling proudly conscious of having performed his duty, sailed away over the bounding wave. It perhaps would not be high treason just to hint that if Great Britain, or France, or Italy, or Spain or any other nation that has ironclads and disciplined soldiers and rifled cannon at its disposal had captured a blockade runner the United States would have demanded its return in a less peremptory fashion, and would have left the indemnity, if indemnity ought to be paid, to be settled by a tribunal having some claim to be considered impartial. But the sister Republic was black, it was weak, it was torn by internal strife and was in no position to defend its rights, and therefore the United States might make what demands she saw fit and could enforce them, whether they were just or unjust. The United States, compared with Hayti, has a giant's strength and in this instance she used it like a giant. This is the way of the world. There is not, after all, such a difference between the nineteenth century and the third century—between the civilized man and the savage.

NOT SETTLED.

It appears that the Manitoba crossing question is as far as ever from being settled. The Canadian Pacific Company refuse to accept the decision of the Supreme Court as final, or as indeed in any way authoritative. They are still bound to uphold what they consider their rights. This is what the Ottawa correspondent of the *Empire*, who is perhaps as well-informed as any journalist at the capital, says on the subject:—

The decision must be taken to mean that railways can be chartered and authorized by the Provincial Legislatures even though they cross the C. P. R. Grand Trunk, Intercolonial or other Dominion roads, but it does not settle whether the crossing can be legally made, for it may well be that the work may be projected under provincial auspices, but fail of the requisite authority when it comes to the point of crossing. Possibly, at that point then the Dominion Act prevails which declares that the railway so projected is one for the general advantage of Canada. This question being left open, I learn on the best authority that the C. P. R. Company will litigate it in the suits which have already been commenced in Manitoba, and will not rest until the decision of the highest tribunal of the realm has been obtained. The suits in question being to secure a perpetual injunction restraining the Red River road from crossing the C. P. R. The matter has, therefore, now arrived at the stage when it becomes a subject for private litigation, and one in which no constitutional questions of very great moment are involved.

It is to be regretted that the judges did not give their reasons for the conclusions at which they arrived. If the grounds of their opinion were known it would be seen that it was not open to any such construction as the *Empire's* correspondent has put upon it. The value of a charter given by a provincial legislature cannot depend upon such quibbling and hair-splitting as we see in the above extract. Such a charter as is described above would be worse than no charter at all, for under it when a railway was commenced and a large expenditure incurred, the management of some railway built for the general advantage could, by refusing to permit it to cross its tracks, make all that had been done utterly valueless. It is quite clear that if a Provincial charter is legal the crossing can be legally made. We will be greatly surprised if the Manitoba courts will grant the company the injunction it seeks, or if the highest tribunal in the land will permit a railway company by a quirk to retain privileges and powers which it gave up and was paid for.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Assistant Secretary of the Imperial Institute has been instructed to proceed to the Australian and American colonies to explain to the different governments the scope of its operations and to endeavor to obtain all available advice and opinions as to the method of proceeding for preparing and maintaining up to date collections of economic and industrial products of the several colonies so as to be thoroughly representative in their character. These collections are to be ready by the time the Institute buildings are completed. One of the objects of the projectors of the Institute is to provide a place in which the products of the whole Empire can be seen. The visitor, as he proceeds through the building, will be able to form a correct estimate of the capabilities and resources of all the dependencies of Great Britain. They will be so arranged that no part of the Empire will be overlooked. The Institute is also intended to be a place of resort for visitors from every part of the Queen's Dominions. It is to be provided with reading rooms furnished with all the colonial and Indian newspapers and periodicals, and there will be attendants and officials whose duty it will be to make the visitors comfortable and to aid them in obtaining the information they want. It is to be hoped that the Assistant Secretary will obtain the active and hearty co-operation of the authorities in the different provinces. In helping him to make his collections they will be doing their respective countries a most valuable service. It is only reasonable to suppose that when once the Institute is in operation every one who wants information respecting any colony, or any section of a colony, will go there to obtain it. If it is equipped as well as it ought to be, and as it no doubt will be, the ignorance of the colonies in Great Britain about which such complaints have been made will be in a very great extent dispelled. A visit to the Institute will be as effectual in getting a knowledge of any particular field of emigration as a journey to the place itself, and the time and expense saved will be very great. It is to be hoped that the Imperial Institute will be worthy of the epoch which it is intended to commemorate—the jubilee year of Queen Victoria's reign.

THE BOSTON BATTLE.

The last municipal election in Boston is the subject of a good deal of discussion, and the cause of not a little ill-feeling. The issue was, unfortunately, a denominational one. The objection made by the Catholics to a class-book of history used in the public schools, was the immediate cause of the difficulty. The Catholics said that their religion was misrepresented in the book and that it ought not to be used, and it consequently was removed from the list of authorized text-books. This roused the indignation of a number of Protestants, who, whether rightly or wrongly, considered the school system of the State in danger. The contest became one of Protestant against Catholic, and when once the denominational feeling was excited, very little attention was paid to the question on which the issue was raised. "The schools are in danger," was the cry, and the upholders of the secular system came out strongly in its support. The result was the election of a Protestant mayor and of a number of Protestant members of the school board. Although the Protestant ticket was elected, the Catholics are not without representation on the board of trustees. It now consists of 16 Protestants and eight Catholics. A peculiar feature in this election was the prominent part taken in it by the women of both denominations. It is said that no fewer than 19,000 women voted, and although party spirit ran high, every woman voter was treated at the polling booths and on the streets with the utmost courtesy. It is to be hoped that when the excitement subsides the question of the school-books will be decided wisely and justly. In schools supported by taxes paid by the whole community, respect should be paid to the feelings of persons of all denominations. No Protestant would like his child to be compelled to read a book which contained what he considered misrepresentations of the beliefs and practices of his religion, neither would the Catholic parent be satisfied if a book were placed by the public teacher in the hands of his child which, in his estimation, gave a false account of the tenets of his faith, or noticed things which he holds sacred in the language of reproach and disrespect. It would be better to discontinue the teaching of history altogether in public schools than to make its study a matter of contention. The truth is that history, properly so called, is a study for men and women, and not for children. All that can be expected of a young person is to get fixed in his memory a bare outline of the history of the nation to which he belongs and perhaps that of the nations of antiquity. Prominent facts and a few dates are all that he is fit to master. There are in all history so much misrepresentation, so many false views, so much that is mere theory colored by the prejudices and the feelings of the historian, that it is more than most men can do to distinguish the false from the true, the impartial narration of facts from the highly colored account of past events that partake more of the nature of romance than of history, properly so-called. The passion that so many educationists have in these days for making prodigies of boys and girls, of stuffing their memories with matters that their minds are not fitted to digest, is doing young people a vast amount of harm. It is really astonishing to see how many people there are who mistake lesson learning for education. In this matter of history, for instance, it is quite possible for a clever boy or girl to read half a dozen text books of history half a dozen times over and write any number of examination papers on them into the bargain, and yet be innocent of any real knowledge of history, and of the lessons which history is designed to teach. Five-sixths of the pupils forget nearly all the history they learned in school in two or three years after they have left it, and the other sixth find, to their surprise, that they have to get rid of nearly all their preconceptions before they can begin to study history rationally. The Boston battle of the schools will be beneficial if it leads both parties to estimate the teaching of history in schools at its true value, and if it teaches men of all denominations the much-needed lessons of toleration and moderation.

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYE.

The present unfortunate difficulty at the Wellington mines will no doubt set people thinking and talking about the relations that ought to exist between the workingmen and their employers. A great deal of foolish talk about capital and labor is indulged in by unthinking people and much that is not only foolish but mischievous by scheming agitators, who imagine that they have something to gain by creating jealousy and discord between the two classes. There is no reason why there should be hard feeling between the men who employ labor and the men who labor. They are necessary to each other, and the interests of both would be promoted by their mutually cultivating a spirit of fairness and friendliness. One class has what the other wants, and there is no greater reason why they should regard each other with distrust and suspicion than that there should be unfriendliness between any other classes who have dealings with each other in the community. The laborer has a commodity to sell—his work; the employer wants to buy that commodity. It is necessary that both parties when they come to deal should be perfectly free. The workman should be at liberty to dispose of his labor to the best advantage, and the employer should be free to make as good a bargain as he can. The workman should be free to work or not, as he sees fit, and the employer should be free, from dictation as to what men he shall employ and what wages he shall give. This is the rule between all other classes of dealers. The grocer cannot compel any one to take his goods at any price he may choose to ask, nor can the man who wants groceries force the grocer to take for his commodities whatever it may suit him to offer. Both grocer and consumer are left to make the best bargain they can. If they cannot agree there is no harm done. And so it is with all other classes of dealers. The man who has his labor and his skill to dispose of is in the same position. He can ask what he likes for his labor, and he can work or be idle as it pleases him. Of course the law requires him to keep any bargain he makes, but outside of the engagements he enters into of his own free will he is as free as air. And it is right that he should be so. No man should have the power to compel his fellow man to work for him at any wages it may please him to give. The workingman is free to make rules for his own guidance and to enter into combinations with his fellow workingmen to further their common interests.

But if the workingman has his rights, so has the employer, and the workingman has no better claim to infringe upon the employer's rights than the employer to deprive him of his. One of the undoubted rights of the employer is, to conduct his business in the way that he believes is best for his own interests. His workmen have no more right to dictate to him what he shall do or shall not do than he has to meddle in the workingmen's private affairs. This respect for each other's rights is at the bottom of any arrangement that is made between the employer and the employed. As long as each keeps within his own right, matters will go on smoothly, but as soon as one encroaches on the rights of the other trouble is sure to ensue. If the workman wants higher pay than he has been receiving, he has a right to ask it, but the employer is at perfect liberty to grant or to refuse his request. In the same way the employer if he is not satisfied with the conduct of the workman is at liberty to discharge him, and if the workman is not pleased with the conduct of the employer he has the power to leave his employ.

One would think that there would be no difficulty in obtaining from both classes a full and ready recognition of the liberty of each to do what he considers best for his own interests, and that the spirit of fairplay would prevent each from attempting to dictate to the other. But every day's experience shows us that there is scarcely anything more difficult than satisfactorily to adjust the relations between employers and workmen. Many men are not content with equal rights. Feeling that they have power, they are not satisfied unless they are permitted to use it for their own advantage without any regard to the rights of others. Unreasonable demands are being continually made, and slight misunderstandings are aggravated by persons interested in breeding strife, until they become serious quarrels, and are followed by consequences disastrous to all concerned. Unhappily, when feeling is once excited between an employer and his workmen moderate counsels are seldom listened to. The man among the workmen who advises his companions to keep cool and to try to settle the matter peaceably without proceeding to extremities, is reproached as wanting pluck and as not being true to his class. After one or two attempts to bring the men to reason, he gives up the attempt in despair and goes with the crowd. Hundreds of men are thus carried away against their better judgment. Excitable and impetuous men at the beginning of any labor movement have by far too much influence, an influence altogether disproportionate to their numbers and to their ability. This shows the necessity, as soon as any difficulty arises of giving capable and impartial men power to negotiate and settle. By far the greater number of disputes between employers and the workmen could be easily and quickly settled if they were at the beginning placed in the hands of arbitrators who would see justice done to both parties. These arbitrations have worked well in other countries, why could they not be effective here? The interests of the workingmen would be safe in the hands of arbitrators of their own selection. The hot-headed and scheming agitators can do nothing but mischief.

THE LOCK-OUT.

The *Times* notices the lock-out at the Wellington mines with the unfairness and the dishonesty which have unfortunately become its leading characteristics. It admits it knows nothing whatever about the grievances which have caused the miners to command Mr. Dunsmuir's attendance at Wellington on pain of suffering the loss and inconvenience consequent upon a strike, yet it continues in a peculiarly mean way to insinuate that Mr. Dunsmuir is in the wrong. It says: "We hope for Mr. Dunsmuir's good name future development will show that he was justified in refusing to treat with the men, and that what now appears a tyrannical exercise of power may be justified by facts as yet withheld from the public." The solicitude for Mr. Dunsmuir's good name expressed in this extract everyone knows to be the most transparent hypocrisy, for the principal object of the *Times* has for many a day been to filch from that gentleman his good name. To prefer an accusation under the guise of a "hope" that it is not true is an old trick of men who are willing to wound and yet afraid to strike. But the *Times* is not content with the condemnation of the man it has been for months so industrious in libelling and misrepresenting. It says further that Mr. Dunsmuir's refusal to meet his miners is "a bad feature of the lock-out." Our contemporary's disingenuousness deceives no one. It was bound to condemn Mr. Dunsmuir whether he is right or wrong and it has done so as far as it dare. The *Times* has not a word to say about the conduct of the miners. It does not blame these men in the mildest way for sending a peremptory message enforced by a threat to Mr. Dunsmuir. It says nothing about their not stating their grievances to the manager of the mines, That gentleman is Mr. Dunsmuir's representative there, and if they have any grievance to complain of he was on the spot to hear what they had to say, and to communicate, if necessary, with his principal. For some reason, best known to the editor and his inspirers, they, although wholly ignorant of the merits of the case, contrive to condemn Mr. Dunsmuir, while they give what encouragement they can to the men, who evidently expect Mr. Dunsmuir to be at their beck and call.

The men, and those who egged them on to the course they took, have no reason to complain. Mr. Dunsmuir took them at their word, or rather, he anticipated their decision. The miners' meeting resolved that if Mr. Dunsmuir did not go to Wellington and settle their grievances before Monday, the 7th, they would cease work on that day. Mr. Dunsmuir did not intend to obey that order. He knew of no grievances to settle, and he closed the mines at once. There was no tyranny in this. He sent them word where he was to be found and if they had any grievance that urgently required settlement they could have either stated their case to Mr. Bryden at the mines or sent a deputation to Victoria to confer with Mr. Dunsmuir. But they chose to do neither the one nor the other, yet the *Times* does its very best to convey the impression that Mr. Dunsmuir was in the wrong.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.

The result of the elections in the province of Quebec might easily have been foreseen. The Government of the day is always strong in that province. A very large proportion of the electors of Quebec dearly love to be on the winning side. The temptation of being represented by a member of the Government and the head of a department is too strong to be resisted by many of the counties, no matter what their previous condition as to party politics may have been. Megantic was before Col. Rhodes was sent to tempt it regarded as a sure seat for the Conservatives. It had at the last election sent a Conservative and an anti-Reillite to the provincial Assembly. But, Mr. Mercier knew its weakness and calculated upon it, and the result proves that he understood the true inwardness of the constituency. The Opposition papers say that money was freely used to procure the return of the Government candidate and that he held out the hope of Government favors to the country. This is probably true, but unhappily the use of money at elections is not confined to one province or one party in this Dominion. The results of the election trials show that neither party has much to reproach the other with in this respect. It is the old story of the pot calling the kettle black. The truth is that corruption at elections has become disgracefully common in Canada, and the time has come for honest men of all parties to set their faces against it, annd to try to have a law passed which will make it dangerous for any one, either principal or agent, to attempt to bribe a voter. The sentence passed upon Mr James McShane was a righteous one, and there are many such as he in the different provinces. The example that has been made of him may have a deterrent effect. But impunity has made many electioneering workers bold. They do their bad and demoralizing work with hardly an attempt at concealment. It is high time for the credit of Canada that a stop was put to this bribery business. It is disheartening so see the newspapers after each election reproach their several opponents with using unlawful means to secure the return of the successful candidate. And the worst of it is that there is by far too much truth in the greater number of the accusations. A rigid law rigidly enforced has put an end to corrupt practices at elections in Great Britain, and a similar law carried out in the same way would have a like effect in Canada. If the electioneering agent in Megantic knew that if he was found out in trying to bribe an elector he would be sure of being punished by a term in the penitentiary, he would most likely refuse to run the risk. We believe that if elections were honestly conducted it would make little or no difference in the relative strength of parties in Parliament. But, no matter what the result might be, men who have any regard for the good name of Canada and for the purity of its representation, should do their utmost to have our election laws so amended that eclectoral corruption would be almost, if not altogether impossible.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

According to the report of Mr. David T. Day, the geologist in charge of the mines and minerals department of the Government, the mineral products of the United States are a very considerable source of wealth to its inhabitants. The total value of the metallic products during the year 1887 was $250,419,283, made up as follows: Pig iron, $121,925,800; silver, $53,441,300; gold, $33,400,000; copper, $21,052,440; lead, $14,463,000; zinc, $4,782,300; quicksilver, $1,429,000; nickel, $133,000; aluminum, contained in alloy, $74,905; antimony, $15,500; platinum, $1,838;. The value of the non-metalic mineral production was $285,864,942, the principal of which were: Butuminous coal, $98,004,656; Pennsylvania anthracite, $84,551,181; building stone, $25,000,000; lime, $23,375,000; petroleum, $18,856,666; natural gas, $15,838,500; cement, $5,186,877; salt, $4,093,846; limestone for iron flux, $3,226,200; South Carolina phosphate rock, $1,836,818, zinc-white, $1,440,000; mineral waters, $1,261,473; borax, $550,000; gypsum, $425,000; magnanese ore, $333,844; mineral paints, $310,000; pyrites, $210,000; flint, $185,000; mica, $142,250, corundum, $108,000; sulphur, $100,000. precious stones, $88,600, gold quartz, souvenirs, jewellry, etc., $75,000; bromine, $61,717; chrome iron ore, $40,000; graphite, $34,000. Including metals, mineral substances and estimated value of unspecified mineral products, the total value of the products for the year was $542,284,225. The report is a volume of over 800 pages, the perusal of which would be particularly interesting to those who make mineral matters a study.

The Toronto *Empire* celebrates its first anniversary by issuing a magnificent number of twenty pages, containing all the news of the day and much valuable statistical and other information, besides a large quantity of matter, original and selected, interesting to all classes of readers. In reviewing its first year's work, our young and vigorous contemporary says: "The *Empire* had come to stay, and after a year of such progress as no journal in Canada ever before made, the management is able to announce to those who assisted in its establishment that their confidence has not been misplaced, that its success is not only assured but it stands to-day as the great Canadian daily, practically without a rival amongst the morning papers of the Dominion." The management speak confidently of its prospects. We trust that the hopes and expectations of all who are interested in its prosperity will be more than realized. They have given the Dominion a splendid newspaper and they deserve to succeed.

The *Empire* shows that the trade of the Dominion for the year ending the 30th of June, 1888, has been healthy and vigorous. The imports for the year were $110,894,630, and the exports $90,203,000. Compared with the returns of the preceding year the exports show an increase of some $700,000 and there has been a slight falling off in the imports. The aggregate trade of Canada for last year was $201,097,630. The amount of duties collected was $22,206,641. This is a fairly good showing. The exports of the year 1887-88 are classified as follows:

Produce of the mine	$ 4,339,488
Produce of the fisheries	7,871,105
Produce of the forest	22,880,201
Animals and their products	25,220,980
Agricultural products	20,325,435
Manufactures	4,616,053
Miscellaneous articles	897,303
Total	$87,101,144
Coin and bullion	$ 17,534
Estimated short returned at inland ports	3,084,322
Grand total	$90,203,000

The winter in the East has been uncommonly mild but unusually unpleasant. The first cold snap, which was pretty sharp, was succeeded by a thaw. The weather grew milder but not more pleasant. There were rain and sleet overhead and mud and slush under foot. Complaints of the change were general. Eastern Canadians greatly prefer clear frosty weather, even with the thermometer a few degrees below zero, to chilling winds and moisture which are bad for the health and depressing to the spirits. In Great Britain the winter, so far, has been unusually mild. The flowers in the gardens in many parts of the island kept in bloom during nearly the whole month of December, and the weather on the whole appears to have been quite enjoyable. But neither in Eastern Canada nor the Mother Country has there been such a succession of glorious days as British Columbia has been favored with and which still continue. Here we have had the merest hint of winter. There has been just enough frost to make a fire comfortable in the evenings. The days have been sunny and the nights clear and calm. There have been no cold winds to counteract the effects of the bright unclouded sun and there has been very little rain indeed. It is no exaggeration to say that the weather all through December and January, as far as it has gone, has been simply perfect. It is difficult to imagine a climate more pleasant and at the same time more invigorating than that of Victoria since what in other provinces is called "the winter," has set in. There has been no winter here.

It is reported that the ship Snow and Burgess, now at Departure Bay, is seeking a charter elsewhere, owing to the same cause.

PROGRESS OF KAMLOOPS FROM 1884 TO 1888.

[Communicated.]

In answer to numerous inquiries, a few facts relative to the progress of Kamloops from 1884 to 1888 would no doubt prove of interest to many of your readers. A great deal has been written from time to time about the situation of Kamloops and its capabilities as a business centre. In each case graphic descriptions have been given of its position and environments. We will, therefore, not occupy space in repeating what has been already said. We will speak of Kamloops as we found it in 1884, and what we see around us as it is now. Your readers will then be in a position to form their own conclusions as to whether or not there is cause to say that a wonderful improvement has taken place, and they may see to whose influence the most credit is due for the progress it has made. In June, 1884, there were two hotels—the Cosmopolitan, late Thomas Spellman, proprietor, and the Dominion, Mr. Ed. Connall, proprietor—four general stores, Mr. J. A. Mara and the Hudson's Bay Co., Mr. J. Ogden Graham, manager. The other two were Chinese stores—Ah Loy and Hop Lee. Mr. J. A. Mara kept a general store, in which were offered for sale all the lines mentionable, from a needle to a threshing machine. The Hudson's Bay Co. store was then situated about a quarter of a mile below the town. At that time the town contained five families, its industries being one general blacksmith shop, one cabinet maker, upholsterer and undertaker, one carpenter shop, one saddler and harness shop, two butcher shops, with the prospect of a shoemaker shop. The most important industry at that time and is now, the Lhuswap Milling Co., under the management of Mr. James McIntosh, giving employment to about 25 men. The estimated lumber capacity was then about 4,000 feet per day, the grist about 15 barrels. A small planer was attached, from which a limited amount of dressed lumber was procured. Attention was also given to pork-packing. Although for a number of years this company maintained their business without profit, the manager was sanguine that the day would come when their pluck and enterprise would receive its reward, and it did. Since then new machinery has replaced the old, new planers have been laid on, and the force increased, yet it has been found impossible to supply the demand.

The site on which the C. P. R. station is located is known as the new town. On our first visit potatoes were growing on the "Peterson Ranche," negotiations were about completed for its purchase by a company of gentlemen, of which Mr. J. A. Mara was the representative. At the completion of Major Rogers' labors in town, the railway line was found to have been laid through the main thoroughfare, and through this Peterson Ranche. Thenceforward the stream of immigration set in. Mr. Hagan, of the *Inland Sentinel*, made his appearance on the scene and the first number of that journal was published some time in August, 1884. Mr. J. A. Mara, on behalf of his company, offered the directors of the C. P. R. a plot of ground in their townsite, containing some sixty acres, as an inducement for that company to establish a station, workshops, etc., which was eventually accepted. During this time Mr. Cambie, C. E., had erected a fine dwelling house a little to the east of the proposed railway depot. It had by this time become generally known that Kamloops was to be made one of the many stations of the C. P. R. A steady increase of population was the result. There was an urgent demand for house room. Hotels were strained to their utmost. A building industry sprang up and caused a demand for lumber. Mr. W. R. McGaw started to build. The Colonial Hotel was got under way. The Kamloops Hotel followed. The Arlington Hotel sprang up next. J. B. Scuitto & Co. laid the foundation for their bakery. Kerr & Clarke, McGregor & Smith were up and doing. The McCartney Bros' drug store was in sight. Dr. S. J. Tunstall added to his residence and office. C. P. Miller & Co. started a tin shop. Mr. W. W. Spinks, barrister, laid the foundation of his residence and office. Mr. Park commenced the Park block. Smith, the shoemaker, built a residence and shop, and a number of Chinese buildings were erected at the end of 1884.

The spring of 1885 brought more new life. Four steam boats began plying between Savona's Ferry and Eagle Pass, making Kamloops the main centre. Business just boomed. Mr. Graham, Manager of the Hudson Bay Co.'s business, emerged from his seclusion and removed his store to the business portion of the town, and participated in the large transit traffic of that summer. Excavations were commenced for the erection of the C. P. R. buildings. Since then there has been a perpetual increase in business structures and residences, and consequently in population. To-day we number among our business concerns and industries the following: J. A. Mara, Esq., M. P., and James McIntosh, Esq., J. A. Mara, Esq., since 1884, has doubled the size of his store, and has added three commodious warehouses to the two of that year. James McIntyre, Esq., manager of the Shuswap Milling Co., supplies milling material and breadstuff. The Waterworks Company, of which he is at the head, have pipes laid through the streets. Their source being from a reservoir filled by pumps from the mill. Hydrants for fire protection are placed along the streets together with taps, for the benefit of the general public. Hotels and residences pay a reasonable monthly rate for their supply.

The Hudson's Bay Co's. store contains a large stock of dry goods and groceries, with the monopoly of the wholesale liquor trade.

Mr. W. R. Magaw also has a well stocked store of a general line. He has also commodious warehouses for the reception of his goods. In addition to these Mr. Magaw has a finely equipped harness-shop, under the management of Mr. C. E. Davison.

Mr. R. E. Smith devotes himself to the sales of ladies' fineries.

Scuitto & Co., in connection with their bakery, carries a miscellaneous stock of varied goods.

Mr. J. Campbell, men's furnishing goods.

Dr. Clarke & Co., druggist and chemistry. It is said that doctors never take their own pills, but Dr. Clarke has no compunction in compounding his own prescriptions. The Kamloops Pharmacy, carried on by Mr. W. E. McCartney, an experienced and practical dispenser and compounder of drugs.

Mr. James Vair, plumber and tinsmith, carries a large stock of stoves and tinware, having a monopoly in this line he does a flourishing business. Mr. E. G. Prior's hardware store, managed by Mr. Morton, carries an immense stock. Mr. Thomas Roadley, the pioneer saddler and harness maker, has added a warehouse to his premises and keeps an assorted stock of stoves. Mr. J. E. Saucier, watchmaker and jeweller, displays as fine a stock as can be seen in any city. Mr. Vick, watchmaker, confines himself to the renovating of damaged watches. Mr. P. S. Renier, merchant tailor. Mr. Sinclair, in connection with his neatly arranged confectionery store, devotes his spare time to cleaning and repairing clothing. Mr. G. F. Raven, wagon maker and blacksmith. Mr. W. H. Smith, wagon maker. Mr. G. Rankin, blacksmith shop, are Knights of St. Crispin. John F. Smith, who for the last four or five years has exercised himself to reduce the sale of slop work. Mr. L. Quinn followed closely in his wake and reduced the price of custom work, hence he still "holds the fort." Mr. D. McQuarrie, of Yale, joined the fraternity in the early part of this year. Mr. Alex. McLean, late of Toronto, signed the roll of the craft in July last as an active member, and has since been turning out a substantial class of work. The ladies support three dressmaking establishments—Mrs. Gavin, Mrs. Clyde, and the Misses Brown, all first-class dress and mantle-makers. Mrs. Morton keeps a beautiful assortment of ladies' goods, Messrs. Gordon Bros, cabinet makers', upholsterers' and undertakers' stock is complete. Mr. M. Gordon informed us that the undertaking is merely a title to their business, as he could easily take an extended tour between each death. Mr. J. S. Smith, bakery, grocery and provisions. Mr. J. L. Brown, general store and men's furnishings, grocery and provisions. Mr. Brown also maintains an artist gallery, from which some fine photos have been produced. Mr. F. H. Robson & Lee, solely groceries, provisions and feed; Mr. Bentley, books and stationeries; Mr. N. Sylvester, soda water factory; Hill Bros., carpenters and contractors, whose mechanical abilities are recorded in a number of the fine buildings of which Kamloops boasts; Ross & McGilvory, carpenters and contractors; Messrs. McGregor & Son, likewise Mr. W. Simmons, are of the same profession; Messrs. Davis & Son, C. Lambert and C. Bacon represent the painting industry; Messrs. Archebold and F. A. McIntosh are each contracting firms for plastering and bricklaying; Mr. Scenck's tonsorial parlor is the model of neatness, as is that of Mr. Ed. Lebanc; Mr. Frank Crottie owns a finely-equipped livery stable; Mr. Thomas Hornby runs a feed store and general delivery wagon depot; Mr. Hugh McLeod is in the same business; two legal lights shine in our midst and clear away any cloud that may arise among the citizens, Messrs. W. W. Spinks and W. Cochrane, barristers; S. J. Tunstall, M. D., has for the last four years cheated the graveyard by his skill and successful practice; later on Dr. Clark cast his lot among us, but devotes the most of his time to the dispensing of drugs, Dr. Tunstall having the appointment as the C. P. R. Division physician. Dr. Furrer who has proved himself an acquisition to the city. The bunch-grass beef of which British Columbia boasts is supplied by Messrs. Hull & Trounce and James Woodland. Speaking of beef brings us to the Dominion Hotel, Mrs. P. Nelson, proprietress. This hotel, under the management of Mr. Alex Matheson, is thorough in all its appointments and ranks among the first on the mainland. The Cosmopolitan follows suit. Each of these maintain for the convenience of commercial travellers commodious sample rooms. The Colonial Hotel and the Kamloops Hotel are each well conducted houses. Mr. N. Sylvester, the Senate Oyster Saloon, supplies those who fail to keep hotel hours. Mr. John O'Brien confines himself to the dispensing of the choicest brands of wines liquors and cigars. The Arlington hotel and the C.P.R. hotel and the C.P.R. dining hall are all well known to the traveling public. The Grand Pacific hotel is kept by Squire Jones. These hotels are all fitted up with billiard and pool tables.

The religious zeal of the people shows itself in fine church buildings. The Roman Catholic church occupies an elevated position with its towering steeple. The Presbyterian body, through the indefatigable Rev. Mr. Chisholm, have erected a fine edifice. The Methodist church and parsonage are also completed. Workmen are now engaged in the erection of the Episcopal church. The one in which divine service has been held for the past four years is no longer in keeping with the progress of the town. Education has not been neglected. The public school roll calls for some 70 children, requiring the attention of two teachers.

The school of the Sisters of St. Ann has been recently opened here and now numbers some twenty young lady pupils. The branch of the Bank of British Columbia, Mr. Lee R. Barnes, agent, is a boon to the business men of the town. The Inland hospital, Dr. Furrer, attending physician, has also the service of a trained and practical nurse. Since the appointment of F. Hussy, Esq., as Government agent, these buildings have presented quite an animated appearance. The streets have also received his attention, marked improvements are visible on every side. He is no doubt the right man in the right place.

The Masonic Temple, recently completed, is a fine building. The Oddfellows have a neatly equipped lodge room on the second floor of the *Inland Sentinel* building. A temperance lodge, a well organized Caledonian society, a Pioneer society, a fire brigade and a proficient brass band under the leadership of Mr. Bornjeat, are all flourishing organizations.

The business enumerated comprise as follows: eight general stores, two grocery stores, one clothier, one dry goods, three tailors, three dressmakers, one milliner, four shoe makers, two watchmakers, one photographic gallery, two architects and C.E., one confectionary, two bakeries, two barbers, two blacksmith shops, two wagon maker's shops, one tinsmith and plumber, two drug stores, three physicians, one hardware, four carpenters and contractors, three plasterers, three painters, one saw and planing mill, two lawyers, two butcher shops, two restaurants, two livery stables and feed stores, seven hotels and one saloon. Four churches, two schools, one hospital, one bank, and one newspaper establishment.

It must be borne in mind that there has never been any attempt to boom Kamloops. Its growth has been gradual and sure. We often hear comments on the improvements around us, followed with the remark, "I don't see what is at the back of it, or what is to keep it up." The fact is, being one of the C. P. R. main stations and its peculiar situation makes Kamloops the natural distributing centre from which the surrounding country must draw its supplies. Its health-giving climate is another important factor in its prosperity. Notwithstanding that it is the repository