Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1888.

THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

From time to time while the Fisheries Commission has been in session various reports were circulated as to the doings of the commissioners. These nearly all prophesied that an agreement was impossible and that even if an arrangement was had it would be unsatisfactory to Canada. We warned the public at the time against placing any faith in these rumors, which, by the way, were republished freely in a local sheet. We felt that they were being circulated by those who were only too anxious that the negotiations should fall through, and expressed the belief that Joseph Chamberlain, and more especially Sir Charles Tupper, would never be parties to any treaty which was calculated to give the United States an undue advantage over Canada. That we were right the telegrams disclose. A treaty has been signed on a basis satisfactory to both parties and its provisions will soon be made public. Meantime we are informed that upon the opening of Parliament on Thursday next the treaty will be laid before the House, and as soon as it reaches England it will be placed before the Commons. It is further said that our Commissioners "have agreed to give American vessels trading privileges, only asking in return that they shall pay a license for the privilege. This license to be a tonnage tax, which is to be abolished whenever Canadian fish are admitted free into the United States. To this extent only does Commercial Reciprocity figure in the settlement." This may be mere conjecture, and until the full text of the treaty is known comment is unnecessary. There is little doubt that the Behring's Sea seizures did not occupy the attention of the Commission to any considerable extent. Secretary Bayard has already acknowledged the illegality of the United States authorities' action and there only now remains the question of damages. A ticklish matter has been amicably settled, and two friendly neighbors shake hands over what looked to be a wide gulf. Sir Charles Tupper returns to Ottawa with added lustre and has conclusively proved his wide statesmanship and his ability to cope with the best diplomats of the Southern Republic.

THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS ACT.

Mr. Higgins' bill to amend "The Legal Professions Act, 1884," was laid before the house in printed form yesterday. It provides for the admission to practice in the courts of the province of barristers and solicitors who have been duly called and admitted to practice as such in any of Her Majesty's courts in England or Ireland, or in any of the superior courts in any of Her Majesty's colonies or provinces of Canada wherein the common law is the law of the land, "provided the inn of court, law society or other authority having power to call or admit, by which such person was called or admitted as aforesaid, extends the same privilege to barristers and solicitors from British Columbia; or provided such person shall have resided in this province for twelve months in all previously to his call or admission, and shall before the commencement of such twelve months have entered his name on the books of the society; but no person shall be called or admitted under the authority of this section unless he shall have passed satisfactorily, before the benchers or some persons to be appointed by them, an examination concerning his knowledge of the statute law of Canada and of this province, and of the practice of the courts of this province, and shall have produced a certificate from a judge of a superior court of the country in which he was called to the bar, to the effect that the applicant was called to the bar or admitted to practice as such barrister or solicitor in such court and that he is in good standing and repute; nor unless he shall have paid to the society the fees required by section 35 of this act in respect of a person called under this section, and shall have given, previous to his call, two months' notice in the British Columbia *Gazette* and in one newspaper published in the province of his intention to apply for call to the bar." It will be seen from the foregoing that unless the inn of court, law society or other authority by which the applicant was called or admitted to practice extends the same right (that is, to practice after giving two months' notice of intention thereof) the applicant will be compelled to give twelve months' notice before admission. A similar rule exists in Ontario. The bill further guards against the admission of improper persons by requiring applicants to furnish a certificate of good character from a judge of the superior court of the country where he was admitted to practice. The present act requires twelve months' continuous residence by a person who wishes to be admitted to practice as a barrister or solicitor.

THE AUSTRO-GERMAN TREATY.

In October, 1879, a secret treaty of alliance was agreed upon and signed between the plenipotentiaries of Germany and Austro-Hungary. The fact of the existence of such a treaty has long been known, but its precise terms have only officially been made public within a short time. The following is a synopsis of the terms of this remarkable document:

Article first stipulates that, should either of the two countries, contrary to the hope and wish of the contracting parties, be attacked by Russia, each is pledged to assist the other with its entire military force, and only to conclude peace upon such terms as both agree to accept.

Article second provides that should either country be attacked by any other power the other pledges itself not to support the aggressor, but to maintain an attitude of neutrality. Should Russia assist the aggressor, however, article one comes into force, and war operations will then be carried on in common, and terms of peace be conjointly arranged.

Article three sets forth that the treaty, being of a peaceful character, shall, in order to prevent misinterpretation, be kept secret, or be communicated to a third power under the consent of the contracting parties. Both parties express the hope, in view of the intentions announced by the czar at the meeting with the Emperor William in September, 1879, at Alexandrowo, that the Russian military preparations may not prove to be in reality menacing to either of them, and may give no cause for them to adopt similar measures. Should this hope, however, contrary to expectation, prove erroneous, both parties recognize it to be their loyal duty to acquaint Emperor Alexander that an attack upon one country will be regarded as an attack upon both.

The preamble of the treaty states that, "considering that the cohesion of the two empires will the more easily secure their own safety, while it can threaten no one, and at the same time is well adapted to consolidate the peace of Europe on the basis of the Berlin treaty, the two emperors, while giving a mutual and solemn promise never to impart an aggressive tendency in any direction to their purely defensive agreement, resolved to conclude an alliance, and appointed as their plenipotentiaries Androssy and Prince Henry of Reuss."

During 1887 the accession of Italy was secured, and the double alliance became a triple alliance, as is understood, substantially on the same terms. There were for a time negotiations pending with a view to securing the accession of Great Britain to the league, but it is understood that this has not been effected.

TEACH MINERALOGY.

British Columbia is essentially a mineral country. This is its leading characteristic. Its great mountain ranges have concealed within them vast stores of the precious metals which only need to be discovered to enrich the finder. What is being done in our public schools to teach the rising generation the science of mineralogy? Nothing. In a land where this, above all, should be a familiar subject to our youth it is completely ignored for branches which might well be dispensed with in its favor. In the Eastern provinces, where the necessity for its culture is not so apparent as here, it is no unusal thing to see on a Saturday a troop of schoolboys, under the guidance of a scientist, hammer in hand, walking through the country side examining the rocks and learning of their composition. Specimens are brought home, each one picking up such as comes within his reach, and in a short time a cabinet is formed for the schoolroom which is daily added to. These become a legacy for future generations. Why cannot such a course be adopted in this province where in addition to the boys' contributions, every mining camp, every miner, would gladly send specimens. It is understood the city board of School Trustees will interview the Government at an early day upon various matters connected with the service. They should not fail to deal with the matter in question. A thoroughly capable teacher should be secured and this practical branch added to the *curriculum* of the High School, at least. Then when our young men traverse the Island or Mainland in their holiday vacations, in quest of sport, or on business bent, they will look carefully into the mineral formations and perhaps may be the instruments of much good in the future development of the Province. They will not be traversing a *terra incognita*—every rock and stone will be as familiar to them as the written page. In time assaying could be taught and its processes brought home to the mind of the pupil. We earnestly urge upon those who have a duty to perform in the matter to do it at once and so bestow upon British Columbia a great ultimate good, whose value we cannot even now conjecture. Apart from the practical side of the question there is the sentimental. The thoughtful student will learn in his communings with the wondrous world of nature to praise even more devoutedly that great Architect who has fashioned it, to see in its formation the Divine idea which gave it birth, to find

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brook,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

LONDON AND ITS PEOPLE.

The poet laureate's words applied to the world—"Every moment dies a man, every moment one is born"—are not more striking than the fact that in London, the proud capital of the British empire, there averages a birth to every four minutes and a death to every six minutes of time. These figures are indeed slightly within the truth. In London within a week it is not unusual to register 3,000 births, or within a year 150,000. London is in many respects the greatest city of the earth and of history. The population of the city and suburbs was in 1881, 4,764,312, and is now fully 5,000,000. This is more than twice the population of Paris, the next largest city in the world. It is probably greater than that of the Dominion of Canada, and more than the total population of either of a number of the independent nations. We have spoken of the enormous number of births in London, yet it is stated on high authority that more than one-third of the entire population of the city were born outside its limits. It had at the last census 250,000 people of Irish descent; 155,000 of Scotch descent, and 200,000 of foreign origin, including 40,000 Jews. Though a very old city, dating from the time when the Roman empire was almost universal, the growth of London has been mainly during the present century. Six hundred years ago it had 80,000 people; in 1700, about 500,000; in 1800 864,035. So that the metropolis and suburbs have increased in population sixfold within the past eighty-seven years. So long ago as the reign of Queen Elizabeth the growing population of London was thought a source of danger to the kingdom, and measures were taken to check it. This reads strangely in the light of its more recent development. In contemplating the prospects of the future all calculation is at fault. Only this is known that the growth of the great city was never more rapid than during the decade last past. The vast city has stood secure from foreign invasion while all the great capitals of Europe have been visited by hostile armies. It has been exempt for a long time from earthquake shocks and other overwhelming calamities. It is to-day one of the healthiest cities in the world. It is incomparably the wealthiest city in the world, a foremost centre of intellectual activity and the centre of a political system whose rule extends to every quarter of the globe. This pre-eminence is the more remarkable when we consider its inland position, on a comparatively small river. In fact the London of to-day is one of the wonders of the world, and seems likely to be, except from some unforseen calamity, increasingly great, populous, wealthy and pre-eminent.

OUR Washington correspondent's comments on the Fisheries Commission, will prove interesting, even though since writing us, an amicable arrangement has been reached.

THE YUKON MINES.

A Valuable Report Submitted to the Board of Trade.

The Yukon Region and its Possibilities—Proposed Route to the New Mines—Valuable Suggestions—Table of Distances.

The committee appointed by the board of trade at its last meeting to report on matters relating to the Yukon region, have drafted a lengthy report and table of distances from various points. It is intended to submit this to the provincial and Dominion parliaments, together with various recommendations. The committee state that from Capt. Wm. Moore they have obtained much valuable information concerning the upper Yukon region. As the report contains a large amount of interesting matter, the greater portion of it, together with the distance table, is reproduced. The report states:

"It is represented that the Upper Yukon, of which river several thousand miles of navigable water flow through British territory, is rich in gold deposits, and that during last year some 350 miners were engaged in those parts, and found profitable diggings, and as high as $140 was taken to the hand in a single day. Gold bearing quartz has also been found. The region also abounds with fur bearing animals. From the information afforded the conclusion is, that a large and valuable mining region exists, and which in the near future will attract an important mining population. The existing means of getting to that region are attended with great expense and absolute hardship and deter all but hardy adventurers and explorers from attempting to reach it. It appears, however, from maps and notes which have been laid before the committee that a short route has been discovered which, if opened up by the construction of a trail, would make it possible to reach that region in the short time of about six days after leaving Victoria.

"The route is described briefly as follows:—At the head of Lynn Canal (in Alaskan Territory) there is a bay, named Skagna Bay, which is accessible to seagoing vessels of the largest size, and is perfectly protected from winds, and besides having good anchorage, affords excellent facilities for the erection of wharves. From that bay to navigable water on Takoum Lake or Windy Arm, which is part of the Upper Yukon river, the distance by land is only, it is said, about 47 miles, 17 miles of which are in Alaska and the remainder (30 miles) in British Columbia. Arrived at Takoun Lake or Windy Arm the vast Yukon river is navigable (with the exception of White Horse and Canyon) to its mouth in Behring's sea for river steamers of large tonnage.

"The land route referred to crosses a range of mountains through a pass, the altitude of which is 2,400 feet above the level of the sea, or 1,200 feet less than that of Chilcoot Pass, which is the only other known practicable pass. It thus appears that only a distance of 47 miles has to be traversed by land to reach the navigable waters of the Upper Yukon river, and when this route has been opened it will be possible to reach those regions in about six days from Victoria; four days being occupied by steamer to Skagna Bay and two days in land travel, and a country of vast possibilities to the miner and trader will then be within easy reach.

"It is stated that the government of the United States will, at an early date, construct a trail through the portion of the route in their territory—that is, from Skagna Bay to the summit of White Pass—a distance of about 17 miles. The remainder of the route, 30 miles, as before mentioned, traverses British Columbia, and the committee therefore recommend that the local government should be urged to consider the matter herein submitted, and to adopt means for continuing the trail from the point of termination in Alaska, to Takoun River or Windy Arm, thus securing a trail over the entire distance of 47 miles. Inasmuch as such a trail would also open a way into the Northwest Territory (also a rich mining region) the local government would no doubt obtain the co-operation of the Dominion government in a work which would be beneficial to both governments.

"Another matter also deserving consideration is: At present Canadian goods destined for the Upper Yukon in British Columbia and Northwest Territory, pass through United States territory, and are in consequence subject to the duties of that country, the effect of which is that that region is entirely supplied with goods from the United States, and practically the country as a source of revenue, or as an outlet for Canadian trade, is valueless to the Dominion. The Dominion government should therefore endeavor to arrange with the government of the United States a scheme by which goods purchased in Canada could be passed through Alaskan territory, in bond, and probably the system which was adopted and is now in force in relation to the Stickeen river and Cassiar might be applied at Skagna Bay."

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

From Juneau City to the Mission	95	Miles
" Mission to Head of Salt Water	25	"
" " " Boundary	35	"
" " " Head of Lake Lindermann	44	"
" " " Head of Lake Bennett	49	"
" " " Foot of Lake Bennett	75	"
" " " Takish House	96	"
" " " Head of Marsh Lake	100	"
" " " Foot of Marsh Lake	116	"
" " " H'd of Miles Canyon	143	"
" " " H'd of Lake Labarge	176	"
" " " Ft. of Lake Labarge	326	"
" " " Hootlenika River	240	"
" " " Big Salmon River	274	"
" " " Little Salmon River	311	"
" " " Rink Rapids	371	"
" " " Chilcat House	471	"
" " " Pelly River	437	"
" Pelly River to Stuart River (R. F.)	120	"
" Stuart River to Forty Mile Creek	120	"

THE CHINA MAIL BOATS.

TO THE EDITOR:—We cannot account for the actions of some people, nor by what means they gain notoriety. Some attain this end by ways that others would deprecate, and I fear the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company is rapidly acquiring an unenviable distinction by the supercilious and discourteous manner in which they conduct their business.

On the 9th and 12th January (more than a month ago) I wrote to the company a recapitulation of my letters of the 30th December last, requesting to be informed the probable date of the next departure of the S.S. Abyssinia, and whether the company would be willing to convey me back to Yokohama upon the same terms as they brought me out. I cannot obtain a reply; and therefore beg you will allow me to publicly recommend the C. P. S. S. Co. to send their employes to any east coast ocean shipping office to learn the usual politeness of office routine, before their present ignorant management effectually establishes a preference for the San Francisco route.

I read Mr. Caine's letter in your issue of the 7th January complaining of the gross treatment he and other passengers received from the Canadian Pacific S. S. Co. Such a suicidal policy on the part of this company is much to be regretted by those who, like myself, are anxious to support a quicker communication with China, Japan and England.

J. MUSGROVE.

San Francisco, Cal., 13th Feb., 1888.

CARIBOO'S QUARTZ WEALTH.

TO THE EDITOR:—That there is a vast amount of wealth hidden in the quartz ledges of Old Cariboo no practical miner, whose opinion is worth a moment's consideration, doubts. How best to develop that wealth is the problem that has long occupied the thoughts of our worthy, patient and plodding pioneers. Alluvial diggings can frequently be opened and worked with almost no capital. The miner needs only his spade, pick and gold pan and the requisite energy and muscle, and if "luck" favors him he may dig out and wash up a handsome fortune in a few months. Not so in quartz mining. The gravel miner has had the advantage of the work done during unnumbered geological epochs by the disintegrating action of ice, water and possibly volcanic fires. The rock miner has to begin where these agencies have ceased to act—he must supply by skill and art the work done by these resistless powers of nature—he must blast and crush, he must roast and pulverize, and by the most delicate manipulation he must catch the precious metal as it is loosened from the bonds in which primeval fires and frosts had incarcerated it. This requires the use of costly machinery and unstinted capital—the latter a commodity very scarce now among the few still remaining of the hardy heroes who, in the golden days of the sixties, added some fifty millions to the positive wealth of the world.

How is the needed capital to be secured? We have had two quartz booms within a period of ten years, and both have left the district "flatter" than it was before. During the first there was too much "wildcat" speculation and the end came when the bubble burst from inflation. The second boom—though it hardly deserves that appellation—gave us hopes of more substantial and more lasting benefits; but it, too, alas! is dying from an overdose of "expert." Foreign capital is a chary maid and cannot be wooed by the aid of experts alone. Neither apparently will the most rigidly honest assays suffice to bring it in. We are still too far from our base of supplies. Freight is still too high, notwithstanding the construction of the C. P. R. That great work has not as yet afforded Cariboo any very appreciable benefits. We still need—*and we must have*—a railway into the heart of the mining district; and the company or the government that will prove that boon will do more for the solid prosperity of the province than half a dozen dry docks or Island railways, good as they unquestionably are. *The Cariboo railway ought now to be under construction*; and it probably would have been had our representatives been wise at the proper time. There should be no more dallying with a subject of supreme importance. Mining can no more flourish now-a-days without the aid of railway facilities than can the farmer or the manufacturer. Let then our legislature apply itself with earnestness and unanimity to the task of supplying us with these facilities, and success will assuredly crown its efforts. A province with such splendid, limitless natural resources *must* prosper; but unfortunate divisions now may postpone that prosperity for a generation. Give us them—and give us speedily the Cariboo railway.

Another scheme that has much (much I should say everything) to commend it, is now being agitated. Petitions are in course of signature, and are meeting with an all but unanimous support, asking the government to establish a custom stamp mill, smelter and chlorinating works in the district. A certain sum of money was appropriated last session for the encouragement of quartz mining. All of this, I believe, has not been claimed. No better disposition could be made of what remains, or of even a larger sum, than in combination with the proper one of the petition. There is very little doubt that such a mill and plant run, as it is proposed, in connection with the assay office of the district, would yield a fair interest at least on the capital invested; for it would enable every man who could use a drill to take out his few tons or his many tons of rock and have its full percentage of gold or of silver extracted by the most thorough and approved methods. With such a mill in full blast there would be no need to *coax* outside capital to come in and multiply itself. Capital would accumulate here in the hands of those who best deserve to own and would best know how to use it.

It is admitted by those best acquainted with our history that to Old Cariboo the province owes its first start in life, so to speak; and any measure that will bring to the district renewed prosperity must inevitably give renewed life to the province. Self-interest then, to say nothing of gratitude, should induce the province to cordially support any wise measures designed to reinvigorate our one industry (mining) and establish it on a solid and permanent basis. And confessedly the two measures I have mentioned are admirably calculated to do this.

It may be asked: Is there any proof, apart from mere assays, that the quartz ledges of Cariboo contain gold in paying quantities? As an answer to this question allow me to give the results of various milling tests made by Mr. J. B. Nason at his stamp mill, Richfield. I have obtained the figures from Mr. Nason himself, who, by the way, makes no pretensions to being an "expert" in such matters, but, as every one here knows, is a shrewd, ingenious and experienced practical miner. It is to be noted that in all of the following tests the gold obtained was only such as could be saved by the free milling process, and that a large amount was undoubtedly lost with the sulphurets. This loss in the case of a test made for the Island Mountain company, in San Francisco, proved to be as high as $63 per ton.

Sedoux Ledge, Island Mountain; 1 ton, $21; 3 tons, $20 per ton.

Wright's Ledge, Island Mountain; 5 tons refuse from rocker (the detached gold having been rocked out) $55 for the five tons.

John's Ledge, Island Mountain; 1 ton, $21; ditto, a second test, 2 tons, $19.75 per ton.

Steadman Ledge, Williams Creek; 40 tons, $325.

Pomeroy Lode, Persevetance Company; 7 tons, $45 per ton.

Pokett Ledge, Lowhee; 3 tons, $27.50 per ton.

Proserpine Location, 700 pounds burnt rock, $15.75.

Hixon Creek; 1 ton, $35.

Island Mountain Company's Location; 3,000 lbs., $19.75.

Let me add in conclusion that Mr. Nason is now moving his mill on to the Pomeroy lode, and that it is expected to be ready for crushing rock in about ten days, when some specially cheering developments are confidently anticipated.

HUGH WATT, M. D.

Barkerville, Feb., 1888.

TURNER, BEETON & CO. VS. KING.

Between Joshua Davies (claimant), and Turner, Beeton & Co., execution creditors.

This is an interpleader issue directed in an action of Turner & Co. *vs.* King, in which the plaintiff had recovered a judgment, dated 6th January last. By the B. C. ordinance 1887 c. this action being brought on short notice is to be deemed an action for the benefit of King's creditors generally, and the plaintiff's judgment will enure accordingly. When the sheriff attempted to seize the stock in the defendant's shop he was met by the claimant, alleging that the whole had by bill of sale of the 2nd January been sold to him for valuable consideration for his own benefit. And to try the validity of this bill of sale this issue was directed.

The circumstances so far as are material were as follows: On the 27th December King being indebted to Ward & Co. on two promissory notes just maturing for $200 and $330, respectively, (one a renewal) which Ward absolutely refused to renew any further, applied for assistance to his banker, Mr. Green, with whom he was already overdrawn to the extent of $2,765.92. Green refused to allow any further overdraft; pressed rather that it should be diminished, or paid off, rather than increased; and after some conversation in which King informed him that his solicitor had advised an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, which Green said would be of no use, Green finally told him to go and see Mr. E. M. Johnson, a commission and financial agent, and arrange with him what was the best course to adopt. King accordingly endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to see Johnson on that day. On the next day, 28th January, Green commenced an action against King for the $2,765.92, and on the same day Mr. Strouss, another creditor of King's, commenced his action for $3,684.06. It is not clear what interviews took place on that or the following days between King, Green, Strouss and Johnson. However, on Saturday, 31st January, Strouss and Johnson came together to Mr. Davies (the claimant), and introducing the subject of the sale, proposed that he should purchase the whole of King's stock-in-trade for $8,000; alleging it to be worth $15,000; to which Davies replied that he was ready to purchase if the terms were sufficiently advantageous. King was not then present, but in the afternoon of Saturday Davies, in company with King and Johnson went and made a cursory examination of the contents of the store, remaining ten minutes or a quarter of an hour; and deferred giving any answer for a day or two. The value of the stock, he was then informed by King, was between $14,000 and $15,000.

The incidents of the following Monday, the 2d January, were narrated in a dramatic manner in court. By all the rest of the city, probably, the day was kept a strict holiday, but for Davies, Strouss, E M Johnson and King it was a very busy day indeed. It will be enough to state that Davies, having announced his readiness to buy from King, a bill of sale was, after many hours' discussion, at last agreed upon, drawn up and executed but that boon will do more for the solid prosperity of the province than half a dozen dry docks or Island railways, good as they unquestionably are. *The Cariboo railway ought now to be under construction*; and it probably would have been had our representatives been wise at the proper time. There should be no more dallying with a subject of supreme importance. Mining can no more flourish now-a-days without the aid of railway facilities than can the farmer or the manufacturer. Let then our legislature apply itself with earnestness and unanimity to the task of supplying us with these facilities, and success will assuredly crown its efforts. A province with such splendid, limitless natural resources *must* prosper; but unfortunate divisions now may postpone that prosperity for a generation. Give us them—and give us speedily the Cariboo railway.

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This is an interpleader issue directed in an action of Turner & Co. *vs.* King, in which the plaintiff had recovered a judgment, dated 6th January last. By the B. C. ordinance 1887 c. this action being brought on short notice is to be deemed an action for the benefit of King's creditors generally, and the plaintiff's judgment will enure accordingly. When the sheriff attempted to seize the stock in the defendant's shop he was met by the claimant, alleging that the whole had by bill of sale of the 2nd January been sold to him for valuable consideration for his own benefit. And to try the validity of this bill of sale this issue was directed.

The circumstances so far as are material were as follows: On the 27th December King being indebted to Ward & Co. on two promissory notes just maturing for $200 and $330, respectively, (one a renewal) which Ward absolutely refused to renew any further, applied for assistance to his banker, Mr. Green, with whom he was already overdrawn to the extent of $2,765.92. Green refused to allow any further overdraft; pressed rather that it should be diminished, or paid off, rather than increased; and after some conversation in which King informed him that his solicitor had advised an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, which Green said would be of no use, Green finally told him to go and see Mr. E. M. Johnson, a commission and financial agent, and arrange with him what was the best course to adopt. King accordingly endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to see Johnson on that day. On the next day, 28th January, Green commenced an action against King for the $2,765.92, and on the same day Mr. Strouss, another creditor of King's, commenced his action for $3,684.06. It is not clear what interviews took place on that or the following days between King, Green, Strouss and Johnson. However, on Saturday, 31st January, Strouss and Johnson came together to Mr. Davies (the claimant), and introducing the subject of the sale, proposed that he should purchase the whole of King's stock-in-trade for $8,000; alleging it to be worth $15,000; to which Davies replied that he was ready to purchase if the terms were sufficiently advantageous. King was not then present, but in the afternoon of Saturday Davies, in company with King and Johnson went and made a cursory examination of the contents of the store, remaining ten minutes or a quarter of an hour; and deferred giving any answer for a day or two. The value of the stock, he was then informed by King, was between $14,000 and $15,000.

The incidents of the following Monday, the 2d January, were narrated in a dramatic manner in court. By all the rest of the city, probably, the day was kept a strict holiday, but for Davies, Strouss, E M Johnson and King it was a very busy day indeed. It will be enough to state that Davies, having announced his readiness to buy from King, a bill of sale was, after many hours' discussion, at last agreed upon, drawn up and executed but that boon will do more for the solid prosperity of the province than half a dozen dry docks or Island railways, good as they unquestionably are. *The Cariboo railway ought now to be under construction*; and it probably would have been had our representatives been wise at the proper time. There should be no more dallying with a subject of supreme importance. Mining can no more flourish now-a-days without the aid of railway facilities than can the farmer or the manufacturer. Let then our legislature apply itself with earnestness and unanimity to the task of supplying us with these facilities, and success will assuredly crown its efforts. A province with such splendid, limitless natural resources *must* prosper; but unfortunate divisions now may postpone that prosperity for a generation. Give us them—and give us speedily the Cariboo railway.

Another scheme that has much (much I should say everything) to commend it, is now being agitated. Petitions are in course of signature, and are meeting with an all but unanimous support, asking the government to establish a custom stamp mill, smelter and chlorinating works in the district. A certain sum of money was appropriated last session for the encouragement of quartz mining. All of this, I believe, has not been claimed. No better disposition could be made of what remains, or of even a larger sum, than in combination with the proper one of the petition. There is very little doubt that such a mill and plant run, as it is proposed, in connection with the assay office of the district, would yield a fair interest at least on the capital invested; for it would enable every man who could use a drill to take out his few tons or his many tons of rock and have its full percentage of gold or of silver extracted by the most thorough and approved methods. With such a mill in full blast there would be no need to *coax* outside capital to come in and multiply itself. Capital would accumulate here in the hands of those who best deserve to own and would best know how to use it.

It is admitted by those best acquainted with our history that to Old Cariboo the province owes its first start in life, so to speak; and any measure that will bring to the district renewed prosperity must inevitably give renewed life to the province. Self-interest then, to say nothing of gratitude, should induce the province to cordially support any wise measures designed to reinvigorate our one industry (mining) and establish it on a solid and permanent basis. And confessedly the two measures I have mentioned are admirably calculated to do this.

It may be asked: Is there any proof, apart from mere assays, that the quartz ledges of Cariboo contain gold in paying quantities? As an answer to this question allow me to give the results of various milling tests made by Mr. J. B. Nason at his stamp mill, Richfield. I have obtained the figures from Mr. Nason himself, who, by the way, makes no pretensions to being an "expert" in such matters, but, as every one here knows, is a shrewd, ingenious and experienced practical miner. It is to be noted that in all of the following tests the gold obtained was only such as could be saved by the free milling process, and that a large amount was undoubtedly lost with the sulphurets. This loss in the case of a test made for the Island Mountain company, in San Francisco, proved to be as high as $63 per ton.

Sedoux Ledge, Island Mountain; 1 ton, $21; 3 tons, $20 per ton.

Wright's Ledge, Island Mountain; 5 tons refuse from rocker (the detached gold having been rocked out) $55 for the five tons.

John's Ledge, Island Mountain; 1 ton, $21; ditto, a second test, 2 tons, $19.75 per ton.

Steadman Ledge, Williams Creek; 40 tons, $325.

Pomeroy Lode, Persevetance Company; 7 tons, $45 per ton.

Pokett Ledge, Lowhee; 3 tons, $27.50 per ton.

Proserpine Location, 700 pounds burnt rock, $15.75.

Hixon Creek; 1 ton, $35.

Island Mountain Company's Location; 3,000 lbs., $19.75.

Let me add in conclusion that Mr. Nason is now moving his mill on to the Pomeroy lode, and that it is expected to be ready for crushing rock in about ten days, when some specially cheering developments are confidently anticipated.

HUGH WATT, M. D.

Barkerville, Feb., 1888.