

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1898.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting is called by the mayor, to be held to-day at 4 p.m. in the city hall, to take into consideration the best steps for the relief of the sufferers from the fire in Westminster. So worthy an object will doubtless call out a strong representative gathering. The need for assistance is very great.

The people of Victoria feel deeply for their neighbors, and the handsome manner in which unsolicited subscriptions have been sent in to the Colonist office yesterday shows that the expression of sympathy is taking a practical form.

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The list of subscriptions printed elsewhere in to-day's paper shows that the citizens of Victoria are responding to a demand for help. This list was opened solely to give those persons an opportunity to subscribe who desired to do so immediately, and not to anticipate anything which might be done in other directions.

The list will remain open, and anyone who desires to send his or her subscription to this office will probably get it into the hands of those who need it as soon as by any means that can be devised. We wish to remit the first instalment to New Westminster to-day, and therefore if any readers intend to contribute through the Colonist, we hope they will send in their names and amounts early this morning, so that the telegraphed remittance may be as large as possible.

NEW WESTMINSTER'S LOSS.

The fire which swept the principal part of the beautiful city of New Westminster out of existence is undoubtedly the most serious calamity that has ever befallen a city in Canada, in proportion to its size. Perhaps it would be impossible to find a record of one more disastrous anywhere, that is relatively speaking. The actual loss is very large, although it has been only too often exceeded, but the proportion which the value of the property destroyed, bears to what is left the number of homeless people, compared with those who have homes left them, the extinction of the business community and other elements, all combine to make an almost unprecedented misfortune.

That the spoken and practical sympathy of the people of Canada will go out to the sufferers, and that warm-hearted friends elsewhere will join in forward assistance, goes without saying. It is in such times as these that the noble teachings of Christianity show their splendid influence.

There were many sad scenes during the progress of the fire, and many deeds of heroism. Everyone will commend the courage with which the people have faced the appalling disaster, as has been shown in the determination of the Exhibition directors to go on with that enterprise.

While we cannot hope that the fine structures, which were the ornament of New Westminster, will be replaced at an early day, we fully believe that there will arise upon the ashes of the ruined city another even more prosperous. It is not too soon to give the people a word of caution. Let them not be in too great haste to rebuild expensively. On this rock more than one city has been erected.

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In the Vancouver Province of yesterday appeared an editorial, which is a little the most brutal thing that ever appeared in a newspaper. It glazes over the destruction of New Westminster, because it sees in the destruction of the city a prospect for Vancouver to gain in importance and population. We refuse to believe that in this the Province voices the sentiments of the people of the city, which is dishonored by being the place where it is published. That we do not mis-state the statements of the Province, will be seen from these expressions, taken from the article in question: "It can probably be said that the fire determines the fate of New Westminster. Its dreams of greatness have been scattered to the wandering winds of heaven."

It is inevitable that the population should rapidly decrease, and that most of those who formerly claimed New Westminster as their home should now locate in Vancouver or some other equally advantageous point.

New Westminster is a city of yesterday, and so on. Such remarks addressed to a suffering people are in the last degree shameful.

NO INVESTIGATION.

If the Manitoba Free Press speaks with authority, Commissioner Ogilvie has not been instructed to make any investigation into the charges of wrongdoing that have been made against the government officials at Dawson.

have been made with the utmost despatch, and the publicity given to them is co-extensive with the region over which the English language is spoken. The nature of the charges is sufficiently serious, that they are well founded they are a disgrace, not only to Canada, but to the whole British people, for the boast has been that in all British countries the law was administered honestly and that all men had equal rights under it. If what is said of the conduct of officials at Dawson is true the mining laws have not been honestly administered and all people have not had equal rights under them. And yet we are told by a paper, which is understood to speak for Mr. Sifton, that there is to be no investigation. The reason given is that the officers deny that anything is wrong. We suppose every horse thief, who was ever sent to the penitentiary, denied his guilt when charged with it. If Mr. Sifton only proposes to investigate the conduct of those officials who plead guilty he will not have to investigate anything. What need has he to investigate whether a man has committed a wrong, when he himself says that he has? If there is to be no investigation simply because the people, who ought to have seen that there was no scandal, say there was none, a premium will be put upon official dishonesty of all descriptions. Making every due allowance for the prejudice of aliens, for disappointments and for exaggerations; admitting the correctness of the saying that "one story's always good until another's told," there is indisputable evidence of wrong and injustice on the part of some of the Dawson officials. Where the surface indications are so plain, there can be little doubt of what would be found if an investigation were pushed to bed rock. But we are told that nothing is to be investigated. When this word reaches Dawson, the rumor already in circulation there, that ministers dare not order a public investigation because they themselves would not come out of it with clean hands, will obtain ten-fold greater credence than it receives now. We have declined to give publicity to rumors of this nature, because such allegations are easily made, and when the minister is several thousand miles away, are difficult for him to answer; but it is right that Mr. Sifton should be told that such reports are in circulation, for perhaps their existence will spur him up to doing what the interests of the mining community have been powerless to persuade him to do, at least so far as the public knows. If he has not instructed Commissioner Ogilvie to probe the Yukon scandals to the bottom, he ought to send a messenger after him as fast as steam can carry him, with instructions already in effect. Of course the charges will be ventilated in parliament, but it will be impossible then to get evidence from Dawson. Possibly Mr. Sifton will think himself lucky if he gets off with a non-suit.

A LESSON FOR VICTORIA.

Inadequate water supply seems to have been the cause of the destruction of New Westminster. Is there not a lesson for Victoria? We think there is. The other day it was pointed out that on a certain part of the city where the buildings are close together, there is ample water. On this we express no opinion; but no one can tell how a fire is going to act. New Westminster caught fire in several places at once. When a fire once gets headway it jumps over wide spaces. In the great fire at John N.E. the flames jumped over hundreds of yards, in one case fully a mile, so that a very efficient fire department with abundance of water was powerless, and nearly \$400,000 worth of property was destroyed in a few hours. Once let a fire get headway and there is no telling what it will do. So-called fire-proof buildings do not differ from those of ordinary construction. The lesson was taught by the Seattle fire, by the Vancouver fire and by every big fire. The great object in providing fire protection is not to outguess a conflagration, for that is next to impossible, but to check the fire at the beginning. A fire in one house is not very different to a fire in two or three adjoining houses and more than twice as difficult, and if a third takes fire, especially if it is a little distance from the others, the difficulty enormously increases. Four buildings on fire at once anywhere between Cook street and the water front would supply the beginning of a disastrous conflagration. It is against such a beginning that we must guard, and this cannot be done unless there is plenty of water available, a department ready for immediate work, and those parts of the city where the buildings are close together, fire-proofed.

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a question is about to come up before sending anyone to Quebec. British Columbia is a long way off, and we all know that questions have already arisen and others are certain to arise, directly touching our most important interests, yet we are not represented in Quebec. The neglect which has led to this condition of things is inexcusable. The Dominion government is very culpable in not seeing that someone was summoned to Quebec to act in the capacity of an adviser to the commission in matters specially touching the province. We are not represented on the commission, except in the most indirect way. It is true that the British members of that body do not nominally represent any one part of Canada more than the other, but it is likewise true that none of them has any special knowledge of the requirements of the Northwest Coast. The experience of the last year in connection with the Yukon does not encourage us to expect much from the members of the present cabinet. If the interests of this province are to be properly served at Quebec as they were in regard to the Yukon, we will fare very badly indeed. The proper course for the government to have taken was to have placed itself in correspondence with the provincial authorities and the representative commercial bodies of the western cities, so as to have reached some conclusion which would have indicated the nature of what is equitable and necessary, so far as this province goes, in any fair settlement of the various questions immediately touching it. Those who know him best are by no means reassured that British Columbia interests are likely largely to be left in the hands of Sir Louis Davies. There is a general fear that the province will be sacrificed. But this responsibility of the federal authorities does not in any way lessen that of the provincial government. We do not believe that the new ministers fully appreciate the seriousness of the situation. If they did, it is inconceivable that they would display so much indifference. They are certainly very remote in their duties. They know how the business men feel about the matter, but this does not appear to influence them in the slightest degree. They have declined to move so far, and it will soon be too late to do anything. The most the people of the province can do now is to hope that between the federal and the provincial stools, their interests will not come to the ground.

A GREAT BLAST.

Six Tons of Powder Exploded on Videen's Work Below Brooklyn, Displacing Much Rock. What is said to be the largest blast ever set off in British Columbia, was exploded Monday last week on the construction line between Brooklyn and Robson, and consisted of 200 kegs of black powder, each of which weighed 25 pounds. Cases are on record where 100 or 200 kegs were set off, but as far as known Monday's blast broke the record. The blast was exploded on Videen's contract, some five stations of which had been sub-let to J. Nelson & Co., men of wide experience. The blast displaced 25 pounds. Cases are on record where 100 or 200 kegs were set off, but as far as known Monday's blast broke the record.

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being weighted with debt and interest, they are unable to compete with perfectly solvent houses and new concerns started with cheaper capital. Does the Times take its readers for idiots that it thinks it can make believe that if there is anything wrong at Dawson it is because some Conservatives hold public positions there? It is not often that intelligent readers are asked to swallow words such as our contemporary article of last evening on "Those Yukon Slanders."

HE IS WELL SATISFIED.

Dr. John Duncan, of this city, who last fall secured an interest in one of the richest creeks on Eldorado creek and also in a Bonanza creek claim, reached the City of Quebec yesterday afternoon, having come up the river on the Columbia. Dr. Duncan was much impressed with the country and makes the prediction that it will be a good mining camp for twenty-five years or even longer. He travelled over the whole country in a range of fifty miles from Dawson.

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unpleasantness of finding the remains of H. Goodfellow, the old trapper who died in the shack at the Klondike. The body had apparently been dead for 30 days, and the remains were duly interred by the party. The trail was opened from Douglas for about 130 miles to a point on Canoe river, 48 miles from the junction with the Columbia. The point to which the trail was opened is within five miles of what is known as the big jam at Canoe river, and at a point where the Indian trail breaks off to Tete Jaune cache, and there is a good one, and horses carrying from 200 to 250 pounds of pack can easily pass over it. The only danger lies in crossing one or two of the rivers in high water, the volume and swiftness of the current sometimes carrying horses and pack. The government should take steps to throw trail bridges over these streams. The cost would not be great, as the channels are narrow, and there is abundance of timber at hand. One of the party, Fred Owens, went on from the trail to Tete Jaune cache, and his return reported that he had met a government survey party who were surveying a route in the lower inlet of the Klondike. He also met a party from Kamloops. From the information he was able to obtain, the routes from Edmonton and Kamloops are very unattractive. The trail from Edmonton is 480 miles in length, through a quantity of muskeg country, while the route from Kamloops is 250 miles in length, and is over very rough and precipitous country. From Donald the distance is only 180 miles, and the road is so good that there is not a hill to cross, and the steepest portion of the trail is the rise from the bed of the blueriver to the summit of the ridge, within five miles of Donald. Over 80 horses have gone over the trail this season with parties bound for the Peace river country. Frank Faldham, of Canal Flat, and his mate, and a pack train of 16 horses, their destination being Parsnip river. They took scythes in with them, intending to cut sufficient hay for provisions for their horses in winter, and their intention is to stop two years.

THE PLEBISCITE.

Sir—The plea of the Anglo-Saxon that the abuse of a thing is no argument against its use, is, as a general proposition, sound. Like many other general propositions, however, it needs modification when brought down to particulars. Dynamite is useful but it is liable to mis-use that its manufacture and storage in cities, and its transportation on vessels carrying passengers are prohibited. And so with scores of other things. There comes in another consideration which modifies the general rule and that is liability to abuse. Prussic acid and strychnine are useful but they are so liable to abuse that their sale is forbidden except under a physician's order. It is strongly liable to abuse. I feel sure that Anglo-Saxon will answer yes. He will probably admit that it is peculiarly liable to abuse on account of our unhappy social customs. Now, what shall be done with a thing which is so dangerous to property, life, morals and human happiness? If Anglo-Saxon can devise a better way than prohibition, all good men will thank him. Suppose all low saloons were abolished and the sale of liquor confined to elegant establishments, with no inebriant carried on in refined Addisonian; the connection with the brothel eliminated and so forth; would that remove the liability to abuse? Would not the neatness and respectability tempt young men who have not yet formed the habit? Or suppose all saloons were abolished and liquor sold to be consumed at home, would not this be introducing the evil to children? What plan can be devised? All sorts

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of schemes have been tried. Governments have not been blind to the evil of drink. They have tried many plans to counteract the mischief and of all plans the most effective has been prohibition. It is true that prohibition will not cure old drinkers of their appetite, but it cuts off recruits from the army of tipplers and it persisted in for a couple of decades, will produce a sober people. Some of us think that all use of alcohol as a beverage is abuse. Anglo-Saxon will not admit that, but he must admit that it will inevitably be abused by some. If ten boys should learn to drink, we may reasonably figure that two of them will become drunkards; three more will suffer in their own persons, and the remaining five will suffer no great harm will get no good. Calculating probabilities, no better thing than this for liquor is possible. Is not such a percentage of evil, or any percentage approximately this, enough to condemn the whole thing?

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The Colonist.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1898.

AID FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Premier Semlin said yesterday that as yet no decision had been come to as to what the provincial government will contribute to the relief of the sufferers at New Westminster.

As private contributions have met the immediate necessities of the case, a few days' delay on the part of the government will not be material.

We think we can assure the ministers that anything they may feel able to do will receive public endorsement.

MR. WADE ON INGRATITUDE.

Mr. Wade, recently prosecuting attorney at Dawson, is a believer in reciprocity. The people of the Coast think he is a bad lot, and he returns the compliment.

Many stories have come out of the Yukon during the past season, but a somewhat close familiarity with the whole of them has not led the Colonist, or anyone else, to hear of it, or to suspect that so much goodness and patriotism were concealed about Mr. Wade's person.

But two wrongs never yet made a right. The Coast people may have been unjust to Mr. Wade, and they do not wish to add to that injustice by permitting him to remain any longer than is necessary under the cloud of suspicion.

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOLS.

This is a subject the discussion of which has almost become threadbare, and the teaching of which in schools in a primary way has had the least successful solution of all educational questions.

understood by experience. It is science applied—an industry. A text book can only teach us general principles and facts; it cannot teach us how to apply those principles to work on a farm.

To come back to our text, the want in regard to a text book has been that of the right kind of author—one who not only understands the subject theoretically and practically, but who can properly organize, classify and illustrate his data.

We do not propose to outline all its contents, or to indicate the method of treatment throughout, but to describe it briefly as the simple philosophy of farming.

An object of such a crime as that of the murder of the Empress was not personal revenge, or the desire to right some personal wrong. Like the assassination of the Czar Alexander II, it was intended to terrify the royal house.

For several years Argentine and Chile have been endeavoring to adjust the boundary between them, and despatches show that no result has been reached.

A GENERAL FOR A SQUABBLE.

For several years Argentine and Chile have been endeavoring to adjust the boundary between them, and despatches show that no result has been reached.

The Toronto Star thinks the experience of that city is opposed to the use of asphalt as a street paving material.

THE AXE AT WORK.

Mr. Tom Kains, for twelve years surveyor-general of the province, has been dismissed from office. Mr. Kains is a man of wide experience, and was admirably suited for the position from which he has been summarily ejected.

It cannot be alleged that Mr. Kains was not fitted for the post which he occupied. It cannot be said that he has been guilty of any wrong-doing.

ANARCHISTS MUST GO.

The blow struck at the Empress of Austria by the assassin, Ledochowski, is intended to have a different effect from what was intended.

The object of such a crime as that of the murder of the Empress was not personal revenge, or the desire to right some personal wrong.

The dismissal of the Agent-General will not be much of a surprise, because the present Premier, when in opposition, never hesitated to express his disapproval of Mr. Vernon as an official.

PROSTITUTION OF THE PRESS.

We print a letter to-day from Mr. H. P. Bell, C.E., one of the witnesses at the Trent bridge inquest.

YOUTHFUL VANDALISM.

Small boys are evidently bent upon defacing the new signs on the street corners. For some years it has been the practice of boys to break the windows of all unoccupied houses.

LIFE'S SPRING IS POISONED.

If the kidneys do not carry off its blood impurities—South American Kidney Cure keeps these organs healthy.

NEW WESTMINSTER'S PLUCK.

The news from New Westminster this morning is interesting reading. The excellent people of that town are showing that they are made of the stuff that does not know what defeat means, and they are taking hold of their work in a manner that will win for them the admiration of the whole province.

The courage shown by the citizens is of the kind that is bound to win. Men who face such a disaster without flinching must be reckoned with in the rivalry of the Coast cities for eminence.

THE YUKON SCANDALS.

Referring to the charges against the Yukon officials, the Winnipeg Free Press says that Gold Commissioner Fawcett is to lead to more accurate conclusions.

We are also told that the Collector of Customs at Dawson is a Conservative. This may be a valuable piece of information, but as no one has ever intimated that anything was wrong in the collection of customs there, we fail to see what bearing it has upon the Yukon scandals.

THE AXE AGAIN.

Dr. Furber, attending physician for the hospital and goal at Kamloops, has been given a short shrift by the Semlin government, and under circumstances that make his summary dismissal a very discreditable act.

THE AGENT-GENERAL.

The dismissal of the Agent-General will not be much of a surprise, because the present Premier, when in opposition, never hesitated to express his disapproval of Mr. Vernon as an official.

A SUGGESTION TO NEW WESTMINSTER.

The writer of the present article has had some experience in connection with large exhibitions, and speaking from the suggestions to the managers of the New Westminster exhibition the advisability of putting on a concert in the exhibition building during fair week.

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Advertisement for B. Williams & Co. Clothiers, featuring '20 Cases NEW FALL SUITS Just to Hand' and 'Wrt for Samples and self-measurement forms.'

Advertisement for 'Dixie H. Ross & Co.' featuring 'SURPRISED' and 'One Day's Work' with an illustration of a man carrying a large bundle.

Advertisement for 'THE RETAIL MARKET' listing various goods and prices, including flour, sugar, and other commodities.

Advertisement for 'THE AXE AGAIN' and 'YOUTHFUL VANDALISM' with detailed text and a small illustration.

Advertisement for 'LIFE'S SPRING IS POISONED' and 'THE AXE AGAIN' with detailed text and a small illustration.

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FURTHER NEWS OF THE

Queensland Sending That Special Request. Lord Aberdeen's Statement. Mr. Sifton's Visit to the Territories.

THE TRADES

Welcoming Addresses. Greetings from the Fenian Day Session.

PORTO RICO

Spanish Planters Affect Protection Against Vengeance. San Juan, Porto Rico.

THE PROHIBITION

Mr. Foster Shows His Power. Willingness to Enforce Prohibition.

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