

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1899.

THE YUKON TELEGRAPH.

We have already made several references to the discussion over the Yukon telegraph line and think showed very satisfactorily that the Ottawa correspondent of the Times grossly misrepresented the action of Messrs. Prior and Earle in that connection; but having promised to speak of it when the Hansard report was received, we will do so.

In the first place it does not appear from Hansard that Mr. Earle took any part in the discussion at all. His name does not appear in it from beginning to end. So far as Col. Prior is concerned the greater part of his speech consisted of the reading of letters. There is not a single word in his remarks that can be construed into a suggestion that he is opposed to an all-Canadian line.

On examination of the routes which are laid down for these two telegraph lines, honorable members will perceive that the line which the Northern Commercial Company is incorporated to construct was the one which could be built the most speedily and which would give us connection with Skagway with the least delay, and that it was very much the more preferable route, and I expressed myself in that manner.

There is not a word in Col. Prior's remarks to this effect. The only person who seems to have expressed a preference for the cable connection with Skagway was the Minister of Railways. All that Col. Prior spoke of was the failure of the government to keep faith with the company, whose project met Mr. Blair's hearty approval.

Dr. Albert Shaw, the editor of the American edition of the Review of Reviews, perpetrates the following: "The Canadians were lucky enough to find themselves the possessors of the Klondike without dispute, which was an embarrassment in their good fortune, however, by the discovery that the United States possessed the Klondike, which included all the ports and harbors that gave convenient access to the gold district."

One would naturally suppose that a man fit to write for a magazine would at least make an effort to get within gunshot of the facts. He says the Canadians were lucky to get Klondike without dispute. If he was not phenomenally ignorant he would know that the boundary between Alaska and the Yukon where it is formed by the 141st meridian, was settled by the two governments concerned long before Klondike was ever heard of.

tion the map in the Encyclopedia Britannica. This is no authority, and no one knows it better than Dr. Shaw. He knows, also, that the United States government never pretended for a single moment that the line on the map was drawn in the right place, or that its location on paper was anything else than an expedient of the map-maker, who knowing that the line ought to be drawn somewhere made a rough sweep of his pencil from the head of Portland Inlet to Mt. St. Elias. Dr. Shaw will not find any two maps alike. His whole argument is upset by the fact that the United States government has never claimed the line to be correctly indicated on the maps, but sent out an expedition to determine, if possible, where it should be drawn.

WHAT THE RESULT WILL BE. We do not pretend to see the immediate outcome of the existing political situation. It possesses too many unique features to permit any one to apply to it rules that have been followed in other cases. Serious charges are preferred by Mr. Semlin against the Attorney-General. A very serious charge is preferred by Mr. Martin against Mr. Cotton. He also alleges that Mr. Semlin has been found utterly incompetent in two departments. Dr. McKeechie has expressed his doubt as to the propriety of Mr. Semlin's action.

It is hard to say what course the Lieutenant-Governor will feel called upon to take, under these circumstances. We therefore regard the next development as problematical. But whatever may happen when His Honor returns, and however the executive council may be constituted during the next few months, it is very evident that we have come to a turning-point in the political history of the province. The time is at hand when the whole people of British Columbia will insist upon being considered in the formation of a country. The time is near at hand when the people will insist upon having men in power who will give the province progressive and enlightened administration, in keeping with its imperial potentialities.

JAPANESE STATISTICS. We are indebted to Mr. Shimizu, Japanese consul at Vancouver, for the thirtieth number of "La Resume Statistique de l'Empire du Japon." It contains statistics in Japanese and French, and many of them are of great interest. We learn from the first table that the Japanese empire consists of 594 islands, large and small, of which the largest is Nippon, with an area of 14,571.12 ri carre, a ri-carre being almost the equivalent of six English square miles.

Some excellent people fear that if the so-called phenomena of spiritualism shall be found to be true, and it is there established that there is not a place of future punishment of the orthodox soul, men will lose all restraint and wickedness will increase at a terrible rate. The world has believed more or less positively in a place of future material punishment, and we are not sure that much good has come of it. We do not believe that any of the institutions of the day which promote the well-being of mankind owe their origin to a fear of eternal torment.

Mr. Cotton avoids talking about the attempted dismissal of Mr. Martin, on the ground that everything in connection with it is in the nature of a cabinet secret. It is intelligible that Mr. Cotton may think the least said is the soonest mended, and may desire by holding his tongue to put himself in a position to take advantage of any turn in the cards. Such a course may be a prudent one from his point of view, but it is far from being a courageous one. It is idle to pretend that the request for Mr. Martin's resignation and the facts leading up to it are in the nature of cabinet secrets.

Dr. Shaw is also wrong when he says that the boundary question was raised because of the Klondike discovery. If he will take the trouble to inform himself he will learn that upwards of six years ago the two governments sent out expeditions to ascertain just where the boundary ought to be drawn, under the treaty. He will find Canadian maps, printed eight years and more ago, on which the whole of Lynn can be put down as being in British Columbia. In any one else than a magazine editor Dr. Shaw's statements would be declared to be simply clumsy lies.

they prefer countries near at home. Thus in 1897 nearly 15,000 out of the 23,857 emigrants went to other parts of Asia. The number of foreigners then resident in Japan was 10,531, of whom the Chinese come first, the English next, and the Americans third. The increase in the number of foreign residents is slow. The industrial statistics are full, but a summary of them would not be of special interest. A few features may be mentioned. The forest lands have an area of about 18,000,000 acres belonging to the state, and of other lands the state owns about 27,000,000 acres. The forest area is slowly increasing. Of tea Japan produced 8,470,182 kwan, a kwan being equal to a little more than 8 pounds avoirdupois. The cotton manufacturing industry shows rapid growth, 32,068,243 kwan of the raw material having been used in 1897, a gain of 30 per cent. over the previous year.

Of the metals, the following were the products: Gold, 30,981 ounces; silver, 2,078,396 ounces; copper, 5,354,338 kwan; iron, 7,299,579 kwan. Almost all the metals are represented in the tables, but these are the principal, except manganese, of which the product was 4,782,923 kwan. In all the chief lines of mineral production there is a steady increase, and a particularly rapid one in manganese. Of petroleum 8,296,000 kwan were produced, a very rapid increase. The value of the fisheries was nearly 48,000,000 yen, and the increase is rapid. There is a rapid increase in the product of salt. All the industrial statistics exhibit remarkable progress, and it is interesting to note that between 1892 and 1897 the increase of wages steadily advanced, the increase varying from 30 per cent. to 150 per cent.

The foreign trade of Japan in 1897 was valued at 382,435,849 yen, the exports being largely in excess of the imports. There has been a gain of nearly 300 per cent. since 1888. The United States is first on the list of purchasers of exported Japanese merchandise, France being second, Hong Kong third, and China fourth. Great Britain stands on the list, with about one-sixth as high a figure as the United States, but the British Empire as a whole surpasses the United States in this respect. When we come to the imports of Japan, we find Great Britain first in the lead, British India being second, China third, and the United States fourth. Australia appears in the list, but Canada is grouped with "other countries." It is timely to mention that the importation of steel rails in 1897 was valued at 3,325,000 yen, or bar iron at 3,046,000 yen, of nails at 1,458,000 yen, and of sheet iron at 1,175,000 yen. In these items there is a steady increase. There were in Japan in 1897 2,950 miles of railway, of which 2,288 miles belonged to the state, and 3,186 miles under construction, 1,776 miles being carried on by the state.

The educational and criminal statistics are very complete, but space prevents an analysis of them in this issue. The book, which contains 159 pages of diagrams and an index, is an admirable compilation of its kind, equal to any, and excellent most.

SPRITUALISM AND FUTURE PUNISHMENT. Some excellent people fear that if the so-called phenomena of spiritualism shall be found to be true, and it is there established that there is not a place of future punishment of the orthodox soul, men will lose all restraint and wickedness will increase at a terrible rate. The world has believed more or less positively in a place of future material punishment, and we are not sure that much good has come of it.

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But only that they are a part of what the investigators into spiritualism claim to have brought almost within the domain of demonstration. Spiritualism is now recognized as a proper field for investigation. It is quite too soon to jump at any conclusions about its real nature. In this respect we may use electrical discoveries as an analogy.

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His Honor's sworn advisers. What will he think of Mr. Martin's claim that Mr. Semlin never had a majority of the house at his back, and that he was only kept in a position, for which he was notoriously unfit, by the sufferance of Mr. Martin and a few others? Will he believe Mr. Martin when he says that Messrs. Semlin and Cotton were devoting themselves to scheming for a Conservative triumph, instead of seeking to promote the advancement of the province? Can he possibly convince himself that he has been honestly advised by a cabinet composed of such heterogeneous elements?

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Arbitration. Details of Scheme. Reference Agreement by Peace Deed. Permanent Court Settlement of Disputes. The Hague, July 7, 1899. The Hague, July 7, 1899. The Hague, July 7, 1899.

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Members of the permanent court and exercise all diplomatic privileges. The bureau is authorized offices and organization of signatory powers for the execution of any special act.

Article 1. With the object as far as possible, reciprocal relations, to agree to use all endeavours to settle disputes by arbitration.

Article 2. The signatory powers shall be authorized to send plenipotentiaries to the good offices or in several friendly powers.

Article 3. Independent signatory powers deem it their duty to send plenipotentiaries to the arbitration scheme.

Article 4. The plenipotentiaries shall be authorized to send plenipotentiaries to the arbitration scheme.

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