The Prospector

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PROTECTION VERSUS FREE TRADE.

To the Editor of the Prospector.

Sir. Within a few months at least we shall be called upon to decide either upon a Government party whose creed is Protection, or to support a party pledged to something nearly approaching free trade. Not that I propose to touch for one moment on the political aspect of the case, simply on the commercial. If we are suffering from woes, other than those brought on by our want of thrift I would ask if Free Trade is a panacea for them all; I would not refer to the subject, but that the present trend of opinion in our Province would appear to be in the direction of free trade. One of the Victoria papers in season, and out of season in nearly every issue has told us that Protection is a curse, and that free trade will bring us all prosperity; and drags forward the example of Free Trade England to prove the point. Perhaps the Victoria Times could hardly adduce a more unfortunate illustration. The British Farmer is today utterly, hopelessly ruined, not as the Times would have us believe by heavy rents, and by a powerful landed aristocracy, for the land owner is fast following the farmer to bankruptcy. Does the Editor of the Times know that at this moment not one, but hundreds of farms can be obtained rent free, the only condition being that the farm is kept in cultivation. Land, except in the immediate vicinity of large towns, can often be purchased at a price little exceeding the amount named by the Times in one of its issue as the annual rent paid by the British Farmer. It is true as the Times points out that England made a great and wonderful advance in prosperity during the years succeeding the introduction of free trade. This in spite of free trade, and not because of it; Putting on one side, the mighty onward push that steam and electricity, about that time gave to industries of all kinds, a push that benefitted England, the great Coal and Iron producer of the day more than any nation; Putting also aside the fact that transport then was very different to what it is now. There was another reason why the then wealthy farmer of England, the type of John Bull himself, had for years his own home market, the finest market in the world much to himself. War, or preparing for war, gave the nations of Europe little time for growing produce for export. Austria and Italy, Prussia Austria, Prussia France and in America, North & South. at that time also India, Egypt, Argentina, The western States of America, Manitobia and other wheat growing countries of the world were not thought of as exporting countries. But to day spend a few hours in the London Docks, and do not wonder that the British Farmer with his chill and cloudy sky, and often drenching harvest time is unable to compete with the grain grown in a hundred brighter lands. not only grain, but watch the unloading of beef from America, Frozen mutton and wool from Australia and New, Zealand, Butter, Eggs, Cheese and Fruit from Holland, Denmark, France and every other nation and country. The ocean freight on this produce even from the distant ports of America, are but a fraction of the Railway rates paid by the British Farmer, from even the central counties of England. This the Free Trade of England. Call it rather the fettered trade of Britain. Her ports open free to all the nations of the world, the ports of all nations, even those of her self governing Colonies closed against her with a high protective tariff. I will not amplify on this subject simply give one illustration. Commercial Treaties. Why even the third rate countries of the world think it a good joke when England proposes a commercial treaty. What has England to give in exchange for commercial privileges, she long ago surrendered everything, and opened free her ports to all. Germany not content with the highest protective tariff, gives a bounty on exported sugar and produce, thus effectually closing the sugar refineries of England. To day with all the great countries turning to industry and manufacture, with steamship transport that simply annihilates distance, England finds herself hopelessly handicapped in her own free market. We can hardly suppose that the level headed German, the brilliant Frenchman, the cute American and all these other people are in the wrong and know nothing of what is good for their own case, and that the Editor of the Victoria Times alone can teach them. If all these other nations have decided that protection is for their benefit, how is it that England with her sober statesmen has so long held on to free trade. No thinking man or woman, nay no thoughtful boy or girl in England that does not know that their country is staggering under the suicidical policy of free trade. no doubt its early advocates expected that other nations would soon follow, and that free trade would be universal. A dream not to be realized in our day. The English also allow sentiment to enter into their business, and no doubt one chief reason was because they thought it right. The bread buyer in their country so far outnumber the bread grower, that now they find out, that one of their own writers was right when he said, high prices, high wages means prosperity, and that in slightly reducing the cost of living, they have ruined and thrown out of employment thousands of their own people. Much has been made of the fact that the farmers in many parts of protectionist America are suffering from hard times. These people have a glutted local market, and are too far removed from a foreign one, Protection does benefit them, and free trade would injure them.

If England rich and wealthy with the accumulated wealth of centuries, "and a mighty mercantile fleet to add to her riches," has found that she cannot with impunity destroy her own industries, how can our own Province, rich it is true in undeveloped resources, "but young and without capital," rush recklessly to follow her example; how can the farmers of this Province with his farm improved and orchards planted at great expense compete with the broader farms and longer established orchards of Oregon, Washington and California. Have free trade if you will, only be sure of this, that the farmer, in two years will have become extinct as a farmer; gone as an individual to swell the already over-crowded ranks of labor, gone to the mines, gone under hopelessly, or if he is able to other lands governed by further seeing men; not only the farmer and fruit grower,

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Fort Steele B.C.

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All possible information will be furnished by the association,upon application to
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PROTECTION VS FREE TRADE.

But within two years every machine and engine shop in the country will be closed.And what will it benefit the miner if he does live 5¢ a day cheaper,if wages go down 50¢ per day as they surely will.With the advent of free trade will come also a depreciation in the value of all properties from 30,to 50 per cent.Those of us who have lived long in the Province,can remember Victoria as a free trade port;many of the business houses empty,and of those occupied half were Auctioneers offices.Ship load after ship load coming to Victoria,consigned there because there was no duty to pay,the cargoes sold at once by auction for what they would fetch,and legitimate trade at a stand-still.Mining must however be our chief support,and the Prospector and Miner must receive every protection,the Settler and the Mechanic come into the Province with no duties to pay on their effects and implements,so most certainly should the Prospector.As Germany protects her industries by giving bounties,so should our Government refund by bounty or otherwise to our mine owners.With our own Province there is the strange anomaly of all tariff revenue going to Ottawa,and our member should see that East & West Kootenay get their share;One immediate want we have,and the Dominion Government should at once by advance or guarantee enable the Crow's Nest Railway to push their work to completion,and thus allow the valuable coal to be used for smelting our ores.Surely the Government that fails to judiciously protect her industries and her products,fails in her first and foremost duty.

Michael.Phillipps,Farmer.

We have no comment to make on the above article, Our duty,and our inclination is for the best interests of this district.and the columns of the Prospector is open to both sides of the question.Let the voice of the people be heard,pro & con. Ed.

HOME INDUSTRY.

We have received from the PROVINCE PUBLISHING Co. of Victoria; an illustrated Calendar for this year,it contains a map of British Columbia,which as a work of art,and Lithography is beyond comparison;We congratulate the Publishers upon issuing an article of beauty,and of use to all the Business men of the Province. Ed.

WILD CAT SCHEMES.

To to the Editor of the Prospector,

Sir. During the last meeting of the Mining Association,the inquiry with regard to its position in the case of the floating of well known wild cat schemes was met with derision.

I maintain,that it is the duty of the Association,to prevent as far as possible all such schemes being financially floated,to caution investors by the means of the mining papers,and to notify the N.W.Mining Association.One cannot pick up an influential mining paper without observing the number of warnings,respecting investment in certain mines,and why cannot the association follow the same practice. It is generally known that in law,a person who knows of an illegal act about to be committed and does not try to prevent it,is an accessary to the act and is only one degree less culpable,than the person who commits the act. I take it,that if the association does not actively try and defeat the object of any wild cat schemes,that it is an accessory to such scheme and as such will forfeit the respect of everybody, and lose the influence it is supposed to have, beside failing to"safeguard the mining interests of the district" which it aims to do.

Mr.----contends that the association can only" passively discountenancea a wild cat scheme".and that he is for letting every man look after himself,this,of course,is nonsense,because if Mr.--- expects every investor to visit this country and see the mines for himself,supposing he knows anything about mines,which is very improbable,before investing,we shall have to wait a great many years before we progress to any great extent.I might that it would not have worked very well in his own case.Passive discountenance is just the same as connivance or accessory to,and is always wrong. It is these outside investors that we want to interest in our prospects,and if they once get to know,that dependence can be placed upon propositions from this section,we shall not have to grumble at our share of patronage. Another objection raised,,as the chances it gives for blackmailing,and the venting of personal spite.this, will not bear inspection,as nothing can be done without the whole wholeassociation discussing it, and any attempt at either would soon be suppressed. These remarks,of course,only apply to bona fide wild cat schemes,and not to propositions that hold a large element of chance in their success,as everybody knows that assured mines on the surface are few and far between. Altogether,it seems to me,that the "prosfar outweigh the cons"in favor of active opposition to any and all wild cats. and I should like the members who were absent from the last meeting,to carefully consider,what they think the position of the association should be. Yours Truly. N.A.Wallinger.

The above article needs no comment.if you caught a wild cat round your camp,you would not take any chances,we shall do likewise. Ed.

The next regular meeting of the fort Steele Mining Association,will be held on Saturday Evening Feb, 22nd.

IN TOWN.

George. Hogath,from the North Star is in town.

N.Manson, of Wasa.and Mrs.Donahue,are visiting at the Fort.

M.Phillipps.S.M. returned to Tobacco Plains,on Tuesday.

The Rev'd,M.Coccola,has gone to Golden on a visit

THE PROSPECTOR, SATURDAY, Feb,15 th,1896.

PICK PAN & SHOVELL.

A convention of the Officers of the North West Mining Association,will be held in Spokane,on the 22nd of February. A banquet will be tendered to the visiting Officials .It is expected that all the mining districts of the North West will be prepresented.The President of the Fort Steele Mining Association, R.L.T.Galbraith. has been invited,and it is to be regretted that he will be unable to be present,as this will be the largest,and most important gathering of those interested in mining,ever held in the States or Province.

DIVINE SERVICE.

Divine Service at the School Room next Sunday Evening at 7.1/2 O'clock.Subject,Dreams.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

The evening,on which the new moon,"in February" appears,is New Years Eve in China.It is the greatest holiday of the year,it is also the only Sunday in the entire Chinese year.and the people stop all work,put on their best clothes,"if they have any,new if possible;and rejoice and celebrate in their own peculiar way.Shoot Fire-works, Fire crackers,Chinese bombs,in fact make all the noise possible,and drink Sam Suie."Whiskey". Give presents wrapped in red paper,call on their friends,pay all their debts,take a bath,(the only one in the year)and enjoy themselves in the greatest possible degree.They are compelled to pay their debts on this day or go into bankruptcy it is a bad day for the debtor in China,for the creditor can enter the house and help himself to any thing he wants.Red the most brilliant and gorgeous red possible is over everything. little signs,figures and symbals are on,and over their doors,red wrapping paper about ttheir presents, even eggs are painted red,and offered to their Gods.at night the air is red with the fire from burning crackers,used to scare away the devils of misfortune,and bad luck for the coming year. They sit up all night,for there is a superstition,that the one who for ten successive years sees the sun rise on New Years morning,will have a long life.A peculiar custom is the running of the children through the streets,offering their small vices for sale,in order to start the year with a clean record;I want to sell my little lies, they are",I want to sell my stealing habits,who wants to buy my vanity,or my selfishness and my bad temper,if they find any purchasers,it is not recordedas they hold on to the stealing habits through life.The grand finale,is a tremendous,and sudden burst of fire works,a large decoction of sam suie, and a prolonged sitting at Fan Tan."gambling".

HE IS THE MAN.

DINNER AT THE LORD HIGH EXECUTIONERS AT STEELE.

A number of the residents of Fort Steele.were invited by the above august personage to a sumptious spread,on Chinese New Years.all the delicacies of the Flowery Kingdom were on the table,which were done justice to by the guests, who did not appear awed by dining with such an important functionary to the Chinese Emperor, as the Lord High Executioner.It is needless to say that old Captain,left the Flowery Kingdom for state reasons,and to save his head.

A sign is out ,a cook wanted ,at one of the principals hotels in town.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Before,M.Phillipps,S.M. and T.McVittie.J.P.

On Monday last,Charles.Lentz,appeared before the Magistrates,to answer to a charge of smuggling goods into the country.Customs collector Clark, prosecuted,and Constable Barnes proved the case against Lentz.Who had no defence.Lentz,was fined $ 50. and costs.the whole amounting to $ 60. The goods were confiscated to the Crown.

WILL BE SOLD.

The confiscated goods ,will be sold in thirty days and the Treasury of the Dominion thereby increased by the proceeds.

CUSTOMS SEISURE.

Customs Collector,Clark,accompanied by Constable Barnes,on last Saturday went as far as Bull River and seized some two hundred sacks of oats that had been stored in a correl at Beavens ranch.the goods had not been reported at the Custom House. Some employees of Messers,Derosier & Demars,had dumped their loads at that point,as the sleighing was not good.however as it was a clear violation of the law,the Collector seized the oats,and reported the matter to the Chief Collector at New Westminster.The parties put up bonds to the amount of $ 500. and the goods were released.

THE NIP & TUCK.

This claim has been leased,by the purchasers, to Mr.J.M.Buxton,of Vancouver,who is well known in mining circles. Mr.Buxton,has associated with him,a number of English Capitalists,They will put in a new Hydraulic Mining plant,and will push work on the claim during the coming season.This property is situated on Wild Horse creek,and is considered very rich,We heartily wish the Gentlemen engaged in the enterprise,Success.

It is reported that,two of the parties who acted as agents in the Nip & Tuck sale,are kicking over a division of the commission.a little Law,will help to divide it all right.

AT HOME.

If there is one place more than another,that you feel just at home,it is at Mrs,Huckle's, This was the unanimous expression of all who had the pleasure of an invitation to her social gathering on Monday Evening last.Games,Cards.Music and other amusements were indulged in,by the Guests who were loud in their praises of Mine Hostess and her amiable assistant Miss.Bailey. Among the Guests present Wwere Mr,& Mrs.Frizzell.Mr.& Mrs. Levett.Mr.& Mrs.Durick. Messers,McVittie.Doyle. Dempsey.Grassick.and others.

A pleasant Evening was spent at the residence of Mr,& Mrs,N.A.Wallinger,on Monday Evening last. With Music and Games the time passed too quickly for the invited Guests,among whom was, Mrs.Henry.Miss.Arnold.Messers,Leach and Hayden and others.

The Chinook,has been blowing for the last few days,Sleighing is a thing of the past.And the sprinkler will soon be a necessity on Riverside Avenue to lay the dust.

Jap.King, is in from the Moyea Mines.

William.Bossee,has gone to the Moyea,to work on the St,Eugene Mine.

Three teams came in over the new road,from Tobacco Plains, yesterday.

TAX NOTICE.

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF EAST KOOTENAY,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That in accordance with the Statutes, Revenue Tax, and all other taxes levied under the assessment act are now due for the year 1896, and payable at my office in Fort Steele. If paid on, or before June 30th 1896.
One half of one per cent, on real property.
Two per cent, on assessed value of wild land.
One third of one per cent, on personal property.
If paid after June 30th 1896.
Two thirds of one per cent, on real property.
Two and one half per cent, on assessed value of wild land.
One half of one per cent, on personal property.
Revenue tax of $3 for every male person over 18 years years of age. All persons, who are in arrears of taxes due up to the 31st of Dec 1895. are requested to pay the same, or costs will be incurred at an early date.

C.M.Edwards, Collector & Assessor.
Southern Division of East Kootenay District.
Fort Steele B.C.

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