

DEFEAT OF THE BY-LAW.

A majority of the ratepayers of Victoria refused to adopt the by-law authorizing the acquisition of the Esquimalt Water Works Company's property. We shall not endeavor to conceal our very great disappointment at this result and we shall endeavor to explain what in our humble judgment it means to the city.

In the first place it means that the city of Victoria will become a purchaser of water from the Esquimalt Water Works Company, probably at the rate of six cents per thousand gallons, which is the statutory price. At least we have no reason to think that the company will voluntarily reduce the price of the water below what they are entitled by law to exact. That water will be available for the use of the city in about two months, and we do not believe the citizens will be satisfied to put up with the inadequate supply from Elk Lake when there is a larger and better supply available at their doors.

In the next place we believe that the municipalities of South Saanich and Oak Bay will forthwith arrange with the company to supply them with water, and the city will lose all revenue now derived or hereafter derivable from that source.

In the next place the chance of the city of Victoria ever taking water from Sooke Lake has practically vanished; and these are our reasons for so thinking: The whole Victoria West vote will be cast against it unless the property owners in that part of the city are exempted from liability on account thereof, for it would be unreasonable to expect them to be content to saddle themselves with a debt for which they will receive no advantage. A very large vote on the east side of the harbor will be opposed to going to Sooke Lake, some of them because of the heavy burden such a project will impose upon them, and others because they will regard such a step as unnecessary by the reason that they can get all the water they require by purchasing it from the Esquimalt Water Works Company.

In the next place the city will, in all probability lose the right to use Sooke Lake as a source of water supply, because, nothing seems more certain than that the ratepayers will refuse to sanction the cost of utilizing it.

In the next place the control by the Esquimalt Water Works Company of the water supply of Victoria, West Esquimalt and all the country surrounding that part of the city of Victoria lying east of the harbor has been riveted by the action of a majority of the ratepayers of Victoria.

How this unfortunate result was brought about we shall not stop to inquire, and shall only add that if the citizens of Victoria do not awaken to the dangers into which they are being led they will deserve all that is coming to them.

RECIPROCITY.

It will be recalled by Colonist readers that when the question of reciprocity with the United States reached the acute stage, this paper, while expressing its approval of any reasonable effort to enlarge the trade of Canada with the United States, took the position that a treaty was not desirable and that all the beneficial results of a treaty could be reached quite as effectively and with much less interference with the freedom of action of both countries, by the adoption of a currently by the two of such modifications of their tariff schedules as may be from time to time found to be desirable. In this, unless we are greatly mistaken, the Colonist stood alone, but the following extract from the New York Herald's Ottawa correspondent seems to show that this view may prevail. The correspondent says:

It is remarked that the reference to better trade relations with the United States in the speech from the Throne at Parliament opening yesterday did not contain the word treaty. It was stated the government hoped soon to make an "arrangement" satisfactorily admitting Canada's products to the American market. Inquiry now discloses the fact that the much desired improvement of tariff relations may not require a treaty. The alternative of concurrent legislation pursuant to an understanding reached through conference between the two governments offers many advantages.

There is considerable sentimentalism as well as practical objection to a treaty from a Canadian viewpoint. If the Laurier Government agrees to a treaty it has the votes to insure its ratification. It is not always easy for the President to muster the two-thirds vote necessary to insure ratification by the Senate. Canadian governments have had some sad experiences along this line. They have entered into certain treaties with the United States, including sharp attacks from their political opponents for so doing, and they have

seen their negotiations nullified by the American Senate.

The character of the reductions on either side could at the same time be reciprocal. So far as Canada is concerned any advantage granted to the United States must, of course, be extended to the United Kingdom. If the reduction reduces the duty below the British preference in the Canadian tariff, and likewise to the twelve nations enjoying most favored relations with Canada, it would in that sense be practically a general tariff reduction on the articles affected.

On the American side a concurrent arrangement would still come within President Taft's doctrine that the peculiar relations of the United States and Canada require special arrangements in trade and legislation, not necessary in the relations between the United States and countries beyond the seas.

CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

Resolutions of a far-reaching character were adopted at the Conservative Convention held at Nelson. It is not necessary to say anything about these resolutions, except to express approval in a general way of the principle which inspired them, for what we wish to speak about is not any resolution or series of resolutions, but the method whereby questions are brought under the notice of conventions. Under existing arrangements any delegate is at perfect liberty to rise in Convention and move anything which he wishes. He is certain to have some sympathizers and personal considerations are apt to influence many votes in his favor, especially because the mover is likely to come well primed with his subject, and no one else has thought about it. The consequence may sometimes be, we do not say it ever has been, that resolutions may be adopted without their full significance being appreciated, perhaps even by the mover. We suggest if it would not be judicious to make a regulation providing that all resolutions should be submitted to the executive to send them out to the delegates, who would thus have an opportunity of considering them. A provision might be made whereby, on unanimous consent of a certain percentage of the delegates, a resolution, of which notice had not been given, might be introduced.

NAVAL MATTERS.

In a letter to La Presse, of Montreal, Sir Wilfrid Laurier says: Let us not forget that there are constant dangers on the Pacific Coast, where the fisheries, the forests and the mines represent billions which require defence. It is not when a catastrophe has happened that you should be prepared to remedy it. The duty of statesmen is to be able to see how to make catastrophes impossible. What would become of our commerce on the offer the shortest route between Europe and Asia, by which the precious merchandise can be exchanged between the two continents by land and sea, if by a false economy we should lose hundreds of millions of business?

It cannot fail to be a matter of profound satisfaction to the people of Victoria, and especially to the members of the Board of Trade, who have been notably active in this behalf for a number of years past, to see that the force of the presentations time and again in regard to the importance of adequate defence of the Pacific Coast of the Dominion has been recognized by the Prime Minister. It has been somewhat of an uphill task, and it is only to tell the simple truth to say that the efforts put forward in this direction in the past have not received much assistance from the representatives of this Province, who are in sympathy with the administration. When the Naval Bill was before the Commons at the last session, Mr. Templeman so far as we are able to recall, preserved a complete silence. He certainly did not make himself at all conspicuous by his claims as to the importance of this Coast from the standpoint of naval defence. Mr. Ralph Smith spoke at some length during this debate, but his chief effort appears to have been to offer some criticisms made by some of those who had opposed the measure. He did not take the opportunity of saying even so much as one word, so far as our recollection of his speech goes, of the great importance to Canada of its western frontier; and yet it seems to us that of all members of the Commons, the gentleman in whose constituency the Naval Station is might have found time to mention a matter so vital to the Dominion at large and his own Province more especially.

We hope the Prime Minister's appreciation of the importance of the proper defence of the Pacific Coast of Canada will find expression in some thing much more practical than a letter to La Presse. Such provision has thus been made for that defence, including the vessels that are to be built and stationed here, is quite inadequate to the requirements of the situation as he himself states them. What is needed here, in addition to the vessel to be constructed, is a fighting ship, either a Dreadnought or a large swift armored cruiser. If we had this we would be in a position to ward off the catastrophe, which the Prime Minister foresees may one day threaten

this rich and strategically vital part of the Empire.

The United States papers referring to Dr. Cropper were always at pains to describe him as "an American." Why any country should wish to claim such a man as a citizen passes comprehension.

The climate would become monotonous if every day were sunny. It only for the sake of variety a little cloudy weather is needed. Nelson News. Our sentiments exactly. Vancouver World. Can it be that it has been raining in Vancouver?

The new Portuguese Republic is inviting trouble. The army bill now under consideration and likely to become law makes military service compulsory upon the clergy as well as the laity. This will raise a terrific storm of protest.

It is officially announced that the King and Queen will visit India sailing from England on January 1st, 1912. A coronation durbar will be held at Delhi. It may be inferred from this, we think, that an imperial tour is contemplated by their Majesties.

Brazil is having trouble with its navy. Evidently the spirit of Portugal is spreading to that country's former great colony. Possibly the mutinous sailors contemplate sending for Don Manoel and offering him the crown. Then there is trouble in Mexico. What's the matter with our Latin-Americans anyway?

We do not wish to remind people needlessly of the passage of time, but Christmas is only a month away. Therefore it is timely to say, don't forget to shop early. Don't put off sending away your Christmas gifts to the last moment and then get sore because the Post Office or the express companies do not deliver them as soon as you would like.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is preparing a plan for state insurance in the United Kingdom. It is a bold project, but we see no reason why state insurance properly conducted might not be cheaper than any other and yet be no source of loss to the public treasury. It probably would not interfere in the slightest degree with the operation of existing insurance companies or societies.

The good-looking and affable Postmaster-General is having the time of his life. He went to Paris and smiled himself into the armpits of the Parisians. He shall not express any ideas of the impression he created upon the Parisians. He went to London and his personal triumph there made him long for new worlds to conquer. So he went to South Africa, and all manner of pretty things were said about him there. Now he has gone to Egypt to try his handiwork upon the Sphinx, probably. Possibly he is going to recommend the Act which bears his name to the favorable consideration of the Young Egyptian party as a means of settling all outstanding differences with the powers that be.

The very sudden death at Vancouver of Mr. Osborne Plunkett will come as a painful personal shock to very many close friends of the deceased and of his family in every section of this western Province. It was but a few days ago that Mr. Plunkett was one of the most active participants in the deliberations of the Conservative Convention at Nelson, at which he was elected as second vice-president of the Provincial Association, of which he has been one of the most active members and indefatigable workers since its inception; and those of the Victoria delegates, who bade him good-bye at the Vancouver docks on Monday morning last, little thought that this was to be a last leave-taking. Possessing endearing personal qualities, the late Mr. Plunkett made in his lifetime many and close friends, both in his profession and outside it, and by these his tragically sudden demise will be most sincerely mourned.

Did you ever notice how we all laugh when a theatrical troupe from across the line has one of its members represent what is supposed to be the typical Englishman? Do you remember how everybody or nearly everybody "laughed comically" the other night, when in the Prince of Pilsen Victoria was represented as a slumping miser? If an English troupe of actors should portray our neighbors after that fashion in one of the cities of that country, and should wind up the performance by displaying the Union Jack upon the stage, there would be something akin to a riot. Why the difference? It is because our neighbors have only just "arrived," while we others have recognized positions and can afford to laugh at those persons who make sport of our real or alleged peculiarities? Whether this or is not the explanation the fact remains as stated.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Burns have returned to Vancouver after a few days' visit with Victoria friends.

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SCOTTISH HISTORY

From the death of David of Alexander III, in 1250, Scotland entered a formative process, reigning during this period was William the Lion, Alexander III. None of these kings, notwithstanding his William was not a monarch. He was called the adopted that animal as his. From this fact that the Lion who is at the head of the British, derives his title, crowned at Stirling, the St. all the solemn ceremonies of More about this stone will be Malcom was only 12 years responsibilities of kingship him, and partly because of his ly because Henry II, of Eng. of more than ordinary men youth fell under the influence neighbor, and the result was wick and made prisoner, he ended declined to recognize an cause, they said, the English C to possess any, which seems Scotsmen were "canny" even William. This king also ste all efforts by the Pope to exert control over the Scottish Church illeges were formally recognized Pope Clement III. When Ric the throne of England, one of to waive the homage which Henry II, for the kingdom of was influenced to this by the William had shown to him of culities with his father. Will gratitude in turn by subscrib the ransom which was paid when he was imprisoned. of the Crusades. When Jo English throne, troubles arose and William, and war seemed agreement was reached that was isactory. As an administrator capable, and only felt a little great ruler and a great man. years. His son Alexander succ reigned 35 years. His troubles of domestic origin, and may be eral way to have arisen from im part of the Scots in Cathness, other frontier regions, as well of the Hebrides, a lawless folk of the blood of the Norsemen with the attempt to break down customs and introducing the mization as it was then understo and Lothian. Unconsciously, by pression, Alexander was sowin dissension the bloody harvest land reaped in the years to co not to be criticized on that a supplanting of barbarism by c not be performed without leavi Alexander was twice married. to mention that his second wife Couci, a family with great estat France, and who are rememb great family pride. They disd and their banners bore the cou

'Je suis ni roi prince Je suis le seigneur de

When Alexander II. died he 1 years of age, who ascended the under III. Henry III, was king this time, and when Alexander fifteen age he married Henry's garet. The relationship thus esta as an excuse for Henry to inter fairs of Scotland; but young A firmly upon his dignity, and wa serve his kingdom from Engli During his reign the people o tempted an invasion of Scotlan being that the Hebrides had be taken over by Alexander II. sought to make a landing near the Clyde, but a severe storm of the determined resistance of the feat their efforts, and King Haal withdrew his forces to the Orki died as much from disappointe any physical disease. Alexander his advantage and compelled the ceole the Orkneys and Shetland Is land. He also gave his daughter marriage to Eric, the young suc on the Norwegian throne. daughter, known as the Maid whose death while on the way t father's crown as his successor for the breaking out of disorders Scotland with blood. Alexand