

## The Colonist.

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## THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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## THE COMPANIES ACT

The discussion at the Board of Trade yesterday as to the provision of the Companies Act as passed at the last session of the Legislature was very animated and illuminating. For the present we shall only refer readers to what was said at the Board, reserving comments for another occasion. It can hardly have been the intention of the Legislature to hamper business in the manner mentioned by the several speakers, and we would like to examine the subject a little further before expressing any opinion on any of the points raised. The discussion will have a beneficial effect, for it will lead to a full investigation of the Act and possibly to its amendment, if amendment shall be thought necessary.

We cannot agree with one of the speakers in the opinion that the filing of the returns required by the Act is only intended for the protection of investors. That it is meant for that purpose is beyond question, but that it is also intended to enable all persons who may have dealings of any kind with companies to ascertain in a general way how they stand is also clear. There seems to be an anomaly in requiring a company to furnish information which, as a private individual, it is not bound to give; but joint stock corporations are the creations of statutes, and the whole public has a right to know certain things about them. These observations do not, however, touch the point to which yesterday's discussion was directed. This may be briefly stated to be that after July 1st no extra-provincial company may directly or through an agent buy or sell goods in British Columbia without becoming liable to a penalty, and the agent is also liable unless the company shall be registered in the province. As Mr. Shallock explained the matter, if the agent of a Seattle joint stock company should send an agent from Seattle to Victoria to buy a bill of goods, the agent would be liable to a fine, if his company is not registered in the province. If this is the law, we are sure that the Legislature did not intend it to be the law, but, as we have said above, we shall defer criticism until we have examined the matter further.

## THE GOVERNOR-GENERALSHIP

We are certainly not impressed with the objection taken by the London Chronicle to the re-appointment of Earl Grey to the governor-generalship for another term. What possible difference can it make what his Excellency's views on tariff reform are? Canada has nothing to do with tariff reform, which is exclusively a matter for the British electors to decide for themselves. We can very well understand that other things being equal, a Liberal ministry at Westminster might desire to name a Liberal for the post; but it can make no possible difference to Canada what the governor-general's political affiliations are, provided he keeps them to himself while in this country. What we want in Rideau Hall is a gentleman of standing and ability, who will identify himself with non-partisan questions affecting the development of Canada and will uphold the social and personal traditions of the office with becoming dignity. We do not want one who will pose as a sort of imperial schoolmaster; we do not want one who will get into his head the idea that we are yet in political leading strings; we do not want one who will fancy he has the responsibility of nurturing the alleged waning loyalty of the people. There is good work for a governor-general to do in Canada, and Earl Grey knew how to find it. We would all be glad to have him stay longer with us and continue his admirable services. To say that any one should be sent here to represent the Crown because he is a Liberal is an insult to the people of the Dominion; and it would be just as great an insult to them to say that one should be sent because he is a Conservative. For anything that Earl Grey has said in Canada, he might have no politics at all, and that is why he is so popular and has been so successful. There is a marked disposition in the British press to dogmatize on what are supposed to be Canadian questions. Many persons will recall the stupendous exhibition of assiduity made by some of the London papers after Lord Milner returned from his trip across the Dominion. We learned then for the first time that the noble Viscount had found things here in a pretty bad way, but had set our feet once more on the plain path of loyalty and imperialism. Lord Milner made no such absurd claim himself. His visit did a lot of good, because he is an intelligent observer who looks at things in a broad way. He also knows how to express his thoughts so that they make a deep impression. But he did not "revive" anything in Canada, and he would be the last person in the world to pre-

tend that he did. We make this reference to this distinguished statesman for the purpose of emphasizing the protest that the next incumbent of the vice-regal office ought not to be selected because he is a Liberal, unless he possesses other qualities which qualify him for the post, which his political leanings certainly would not, no matter what they might be.

## "ORGANIZATION"

The Galt Recorder thinks that "Canada is cursed by organizing." Of course it means political organization. The Winnipeg Tribune thinks this observation applies, with special force to the Liberal party, which we suppose is true enough, because the Liberals happen for the time being to be in power. But the principle is the same no matter to what political party it is applied. We do not know that we think the case is so bad that it is necessary to say it is a curse, but undoubtedly there is a growing disposition in Canada towards machine politics. It finds expression in political clubs; it gets into work in political caucuses. It leads, party newspapers say, in and pay out to vilify their political opponents. This sort of thing prevents the development of anything like an independent public opinion. The Conservative party used to think what Sir John Macdonald thought; the Liberal party thinks today what Sir Wilfrid Laurier thinks. The result was that when Sir John passed off the scene there was no one left to take his place, and when Sir Wilfrid makes up his mind that he has been long enough at the helm, the Liberals will be in the same predicament. Independence within the party is the red blood of its life, but it is not easy to get politicians to think so. It is a good thing to have a party well organized for election purposes, but if the nuts are screwed up too tight the machinery is likely to get heated on the bearings and stop when it is most wanted. It is not necessary to go more than a thousand miles from Victoria to discover an instance of this. It is quite possible to organize a political party to death. Organization is an excellent thing at an election, but its usefulness largely ceases when the votes have been polled. With too much organization is associated the misuse of patronage, and it is a strong leader who can resist pressure from political organizations.

## THE COMET

It may seem a little late to say anything new about the comet, but the fact that in several localities, how many no one knows, unusual phenomena were observed, at the time of the transit of the Sun by that body, and when astronomers had calculated that the tail would envelope the earth, suggests some observations. We know so very little about comets that almost all the field of speculation is open. It was stated in the despatches that in Newfoundland there were showers of something resembling sulphur, and that somewhere on the St. Lawrence passed through a layer of gas that was stifling. Hundreds of observers here noticed a peculiar appearance of the Sun, and there is no doubt whatever that its light was less intense for a short time than it usually is. There may have been many similar or other phenomena observed, of which no report has reached us. In all speculations in regard to the nature of the tails of comets, the idea generally accepted is that, of whatever they may be composed, they are homogeneous throughout. It has also been assumed that this matter was regularly distributed, and to account for the transparency of the tails, it has been said that each particle of matter might be miles from each other particle. We venture to suggest that the tail of a comet may consist of highly attenuated masses of matter of varying kinds, and that these several masses may be widely separated from each other. Or it may be that through normally these masses may be in juxtaposition, the attraction of the Earth acting upon them, may, if the tail is in its vicinity, break it up into smaller masses. Mr. E. W. Maunder, of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, thinks that the tail must have passed above the Earth's orbit, and consequently that the Earth did not pass through it; but we suggest it is not impossible that the attraction of the Earth may have detached relatively small parts of the tail, which mingling with our atmosphere caused the phenomena mentioned. Certain phenomena did occur. There is no doubt whatever on that point. In case this article may be read by some

one who has not seen a description of what was observed in Victoria, we may say that at the time the transit was scheduled to take place the appearance of the Sun was unusual. One could look at it steadily without inconvenience. It appeared to be surrounded with something, which also covered its face, and was seemingly in motion and exhibited prismatic colors. It was unlike anything that those who observed it had ever seen before. There were no changes in weather conditions during the next twenty-four hours and on the following day the Sun at the same hour appeared absolutely normal. We submit that there is nothing unreasonable in the hypothesis that the exceptional appearance of the Sun at the time fixed for the transit may have been due to the interposition between observers here and the Sun of a small mass of cometary matter, at possibly no great elevation. If this is not the explanation of the phenomenon, what is the explanation? If there is an explanation, the coincidence with the transit of the comet is certainly very remarkable. As we know that there was certainly something interposed between this city and the direct rays of the Sun on the evening of May 20th at 6:30, we find no difficulty in believing that there may have been something so interposed in other localities, and that in other localities the interposed matter may have been nearer the surface of the earth than that which produced the effects noted here. If we are driven to suppose that the passage of the Earth through the tail of a comet would mean that it would be enveloped by a uniform mass of greater or less density, and that the tail, if it did not actually envelope the Earth, would pass by with a rigid outline, then what has been suggested above is untenable. But if the tail is not necessarily uniform, and as it swept past the Earth the attraction of the latter body would draw portions of the former away from the main mass, the above hypothesis may not be wholly unworthy of consideration. Astronomers speculated upon what the passage of the Earth through a comet's tail would be like. May not what we saw on that day be what it is like? May it not be that the Earth with its surrounding atmosphere plunging through the attenuated mass composing the tail would scatter it into relatively small masses?

Nine persons here will be required to take the Canadian census next year. Here is a glorious chance for the unemployed of the right political complexion.

The Socialist member of the Prussian Diet, who thinks the Kaiser was paid too much per diem when he was at work, is certainly very much up to date.

The plans for the Quebec terminus of the National Transcontinental Railway have been settled. It will be at the Champlain Market and the necessary outlay will run into millions. But what are a few millions among friends?

It is likely that the Militia Department will shortly purchase an aerodrome. An Ottawa paper says that it is not yet settled whether or not Messrs. McQuay and Baldwin will be at Ottawa this summer. As Mr. Baldwin is on his way to Australia, it is safe to assume that he will not be there. A despatch says that there was a great German war scare in London when the British Army dirigible drifted above that city. We fancy that the scare was chiefly in the mind of the correspondent who sent out the message. The dirigible was a splendid success, the balloon not for a moment being out of control. Its flight was 150 miles and its speed was upwards of twenty-seven miles an hour.

Captain Bernier announces his intention of sailing further north this year than ever, and also that he will try to make the Northwest Passage. He says that valuable minerals have been found at Pond's Inlet and that there is likely to be great development there. Pond's Inlet is at the north of Baffin's Land and is about seventy-three degrees north latitude. Baffin's Land is a great irregular region about 700 miles long and of varying width. Its area cannot be far short of 150,000 square miles. If it shall prove rich in minerals, it may prove a valuable possession to Canada.

Rev. S. J. Thompson, the new pastor, has been cordially welcomed by the congregation of the Wallace street Methodist church, Nanaimo.



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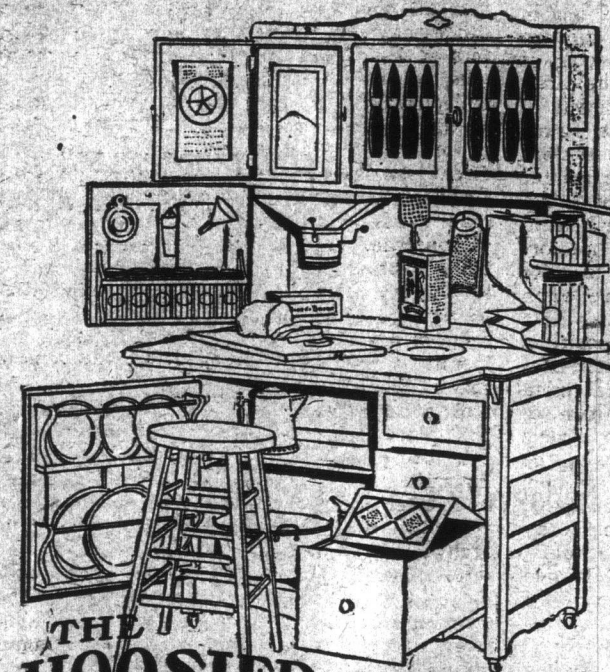
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## KITCHEN CABINET

Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets are now for sale in this city. We have just received a shipment and invite every homekeeper to see the greatest kitchen convenience of the age.

The Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet is a work-saving, comfort-giving kitchen convenience. It draws together the most used details of your pantry, cellar and cupboard, so you can do your work in one place. It saves time by saving steps.

The articles used most frequently are in places where they are easily reached, and you don't have to make a hundred trips a day back and forth from kitchen to pantry, etc.—the things you need are grouped right at your fingers' ends in one compact, well-ordered piece of furniture.

Come in and see the Hoosier Special—their best cabinet. Here are a few features—

Sanitary, self-cleaning metal floor bin, with sifter attachment.  
Self-feeding metal sugar bin, with closely fitting lids.  
Six crystal glass spice cans with aluminum, air-tight lids.  
Crystal glass tea and coffee jars, with air-tight aluminum lids.  
Hoosier improved daily reminder and want list.  
Aluminum covered work table; size 40 x 39 inches. Larger than a kitchen table and vastly more convenient.

Hoosier metal bread box and cake box, with special cake tray equipment.

Plate Racks.

Sliding shelf for pots and pans.

Made of solid oak, finished golden—steam and water-proof.

Size of cabinet—entire height, 70 1/4 inches; width, 40 inches; depth of lower section, 28 inches.

It is the most popular cabinet in the world. It'll last a lifetime, and you'll never regret the cash outlay necessary. These are priced at \$40.00.

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A visit to our fourth floor and an inspection of our collapsible go-carts will convince you that our values are unbeatable. Quality superior and prices lower than quoted elsewhere.

We want you to come in and see our great value in collapsible go-carts, complete with hood—folds or opens in one motion. Well made and finished in the Whitney way, which we sell at \$7.00, less 5 per cent for cash, or—  
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If you want a low priced collapsible cart, there's a value that you cannot beat in the city. Remember it is a Whitney cart and "Whitney" on go-carts means the very best made.

We have other collapsible carts in this make—more elaborate styles—priced at \$18.00, \$12.50 and \$9.50.

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English style carriages are very popular, and we have some real stylish carts in this style. Prices start from \$25.00.

Carts with reed or wood bodies in a great variety of designs. Prices range from \$50.00 to \$5.00.

## What About Your Summer Camp?

Many are camping now, but before the end of this month the season will be at its height. What about your camp? Have you all the necessary furniture and furnishings?

It's easy to make camp life comfortable as well as healthy if you come here for the necessities.

We have a big assortment of camp furniture—camp beds, chairs, stools, tables, etc.—the folding sorts. Then we have blankets and bedding suitable for camp use.

Cheap crockery for camp use and cooking utensils that'll stand lots of hard use. You'll find every necessary furnishing item here.

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If you have not already purchased your refrigerator, it is time to think about it. Come in today and let us show you the very latest in refrigerators, including the famous McCray refrigerator, for which we are sole agents.

We have refrigerators priced from \$12.

## Have You Purchased That Wedding Gift?

If you have a wedding gift to purchase for some June Bride, we strongly advise an inspection of the splendid stocks this store offers.

This store is filled with suitable gift-pieces—just the sort of articles the newly-weds can use to advantage in the furnishing of their new home.

No store is so well supplied with dainty wedding gift articles—none offers such a choice of articles or such latitude in the matter of expenditure.

Come here for the wedding gift.

## June Brides Furnish from Here

This store is ready to help you in the important work of furnishing your new home—ready with big stocks, broad choice of styles and prices, and ready with the help that years of experience in this work gives.

Come in and see our offerings before you spend a cent in furniture or furnishings. You'll save money here.

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## ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

Although in this and the we shall deal with monarch reigns of Great Britain, the will not be altered.

When Mary Stuart became the hands of Elizabeth, her infant in his cradle, was Scotland by the title of James between the Scottish noble them should rule the king forms no part of this narrative. Note that in the end James was his kingdom, and before the English crown. Elizabeth had come to be regarded as the English crown. Elizabeth had to admit this, but she had obstacles in his way, as she died, and James went to Scotland. There was no man Catholic, James was a Puritanism being at that England, he was received, in cordial welcome, at least with people. There were claimants. One of them was a daughter of Queen Mary; the other was of the noble house of Suffolk under the will of Henry VIII. These claims were seriously contestants being unwilling to a sovereign, and the Catholics that the son of Mary Stuart deal justly by them. Their Council without a dissenting James as King, and he at Edinburgh to London. He else but a royal figure. Green the English people, says of head, his slobbering tongue, his rickety legs stood out in contrast with all that men re Elizabeth as his gable and his want of personal dignity, his coarseness of speech, his personal cowardice. Yet he ability. Although Melville, would pluck him by the sleeve, tell him that he was "God's remind him that there were two land, one of whom, Jesus Christ had a subtle cleverness backed knowledge that men of great powers found hard to overcome habits were bad, his principle drinking, and it was not uncourtiers rolling intoxicated by his presence. He had very own office, claiming to be abstemious sense of the word. "C property of my subjects when out all this formality of asking he demanded of the Archbishop who evaded a direct reply, a Coke refused to sanction his arlings, he was promptly dismissed Chancellorship. James indeed the courts of the land the inst oppression, and in this way he for the final breach between the son. He forbade the House discuss his acts. Indeed, he decried Parliament as possessed whatever, and endeavored to son or Parliament for its impositions for statutes, and so revenue by arbitrary imposition. The foreign trade of grown with great rapidity during Elizabeth, and James saw in the ports a source of revenue and pr own accord to levy duties upon the House of Commons objected court held his action to be le saved the kingdom from confu strong hand of Robert Cecil, who

But during the reign of Elizabeth had regained something of They had been content to waive of it out of consideration for the Queen, but they took an early of form James that their rights had but were only held in abeyance. to one of his assertions of ab they said: "Your Majesty wot formed if any man should del Kings of England have any also themselves, either to alter religio any laws concerning the same, of temporal causes by consent of James, on the other hand, held dir trary, and in his "Law of Free M had laid down the principle that not bound by the law, and that "i tuous and a high contempt in "i pute what a king can do, or to sa cannot do this or that." But without his host, and the Commo comply with his demands. Ac 1611 he dissolved the House, and began the struggle that only Cromwell had deprived England king and a parliament. Cecil bro der the stress of the hour, and terminated thereafter to be his o His first step was to elevate t handsome Scotch page named Ca made Viscount Rochester and att of Somerset. Carr had little el mend him but his good looks. ruled the King. He was followed by George Villiers, afterwards Du ingham, who also attracted the manly beauty. The foolish monar in council with his head on the shol liers and beslobber his cheek with favorites naturally encouraged the aim at absolutism, and even such Lord Bacon showed a disposition to pretensions. The result was that was rarely called together, and th