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FACTS ON THE RESERVE QUESTION.

Mr. Barnard in appealing for the votes of the people of Victoria distinctly stated that Mr. Templeman was not worthy of confidence of the constituency because he had failed to settle the Songhees Reserve question. He said if returned, he would either settle the reserve question or resign. Mr. Templeman, on the other hand, pointed out that it would be unfair and unjust to adopt arbitrary measures until conciliation had proved abortive. Persuasion and appeal and generosity having failed, nothing remained but legislative action. If elected he would have an act passed removing the Indians to a more suitable location. Mr. Barnard was elected, not altogether on his pledges, as the public well knows. There were forged telegrams and lying dispatches and fake pictures introduced as active members were chosen and the former member rejected. Under the circumstances Mr. Templeman, we submit, would be amply justified in leaving the settlement of the reserve question to Mr. Barnard, and the public would be justified also in asking for the resignation of Mr. Barnard if he failed. But there is just as remote a possibility of Mr. Barnard resigning his seat under any circumstances as there is of the people of the earth establishing communication with the people who may or may not exist upon the planet Mars. Mr. Barnard is not endowed with a spirit of resignation. He will not settle the Songhees Reserve question. He will not have any part in settling the question. As a correspondent points out in a letter published this evening, he was either an active or a passive agent in preventing the settlement of the reserve question in order that the resultant agitation might be applied to base political uses. The fact that Mr. Templeman was rejected and Mr. Barnard chosen, however, will not affect the former member's determination to have the reserve matter disposed of at the earliest possible opportunity. The Indians are where they are under treaty rights. It is a delicate matter in Canada or in any portion of the British realm to set aside such rights by legislative action. There may be matters requiring adjustment which statesmen are bound to take into consideration. Consequently the organ which made itself infamous in its efforts to defeat Mr. Templeman should not give new exhibitions of its malice until it is quite sure that for once its feet are upon solid ground.

AN INDISCREET OUTBREAK.

Discussing the Indian Reserve question, the Colonist developed a virulent fit of political rabies this morning. Our contemporary, all the circumstances considered, might have been expected to display a spirit of considerable delicacy in dealing with matters pertaining to the late election campaign in Victoria. We can assure the Colonist that the people of Victoria have not forgotten, as it appears to assume, several disgraceful incidents in that memorable conflict. The Times is in receipt of letters from correspondents almost daily which are convincing proof that the manner in which the defeat of the Minister of Inland Revenue was accomplished has not passed from the public memory. The criminal offence of forging a telegram from the leader of the Conservative party, and the possibly more despicable offence of attempting to cast the responsibility for that crime upon a party not connected with the newspaper when everyone knows who the actual offender was and that he is still directing the affairs of the degenerate organ, was not the only determining factor in that unsavory campaign.

Mr. Templeman was directly charged with failure in connection with the removal of the Songhees Indians. The electors of Victoria were urged to vote against the Minister and for Mr. G. H. Barnard because, it was alleged, the former had failed and success could only be assured by the election of the latter.

Criminal practices and demagogic appeals succeeded. Mr. Barnard was triumphant. But the victory was dearly bought. Mr. Barnard entered Parliament with a stigma attached to his name which can never be completely lived down. The newspaper which was chiefly instrumental in his return is permanently shorn of whatever prestige it had of its existence under more honorable auspices.

Apparently laboring under a delusion that its late obsession had been forgotten, the Colonist this morning launched a violent attack against the Minister of Inland Revenue for his alleged failure to secure the removal of the Songhees Indians from the reserve. In its fury our contemporary charges that the Minister is actuated by re-vengeful motives in refusing to lend

his influence as a member of the government in bringing about a settlement of the question. Yet in its issue of April 21st the Colonist published a statement, alleged to be based upon official authority, that a bill had been prepared and was ready for submission to Parliament, finally disposing of the matter. We were told that Mr. Barnard had made the matter his special business immediately upon his arrival at Ottawa, that he had been actively assisted by Mr. Templeman and Hon. Frank Oliver, the Minister of the Interior, and that by their joint efforts the end so ardently desired had been finally accomplished. We shall not ask our contemporary to square its trade of to-day with its statement published two weeks ago. Its actions and its statements are so continually rising up in judgment against it that comment would be superfluous. Its readers are so accustomed to such periods of temporary aberration that anything it may say upon any subject carries but little weight.

In regard to the position of Mr. Templeman and his attitude towards Victoria, they have already been defined in a statement issued immediately following his return for the constituency of Comox-Atlin. His duty is to his constituents first of course. But he is a resident of Victoria. All his interests are here. If for no other than merely selfish or personal considerations, anything he can do in Parliament or in the Ministry for the settlement of the Songhees question or of any other matters involving the welfare of this city will be cheerfully and willingly done. The fact that he has been relentlessly, viciously, maliciously and criminally pursued by the Colonist during the whole of his public career, the fact that he has been slandered, maligned, misrepresented and vindictively assailed for personal reasons by this degenerate organ, will not influence him in the slightest degree when anything that intimately concerns the progress and prosperity of Victoria becomes a matter of official consideration.

PHEASANT AND FARMER.

Our correspondent "Delate," whose letter appeared in last night's Times, has honest doubts in regard to the benefits pheasants confer upon the farming community. In fact "Delate's" feelings are so acute upon the subject that he did not hesitate to break the statutory laws of the province by killing one of the offending birds and placing evidence in our possession which, if we cared to proceed against him in the courts, would ensure his conviction of an offence against that law. But our contributor doubtless knows that his secret is safe in our hands. We have the crop of the pheasant, and admit that, from his point of view, the execution was amply justified. None of us likes to see the labor of his hands and the sweat of his brow rendered futile by the actions of any one, least of all a foreigner, if the means lie at hand to prevent it. "Delate's" shotgun was handy and his aim was true. One pheasant will offend no more. More satisfactory still, from our correspondent's point of view, in its violent dissolution "from eight to twelve," or it may be twice those numbers, of potential pheasants with hungry crops were destroyed. If we had the time or space to carry the argument to its logical conclusion we think we could show "Delate" that by his timely action he conserved hundreds of acres of peas, oats and clover for a profitable market.

But let not our correspondent (whose sarcasm blisters), think that in citing the misdoings of one single pheasant he condemns the whole family to death. We have seen the crops of other pheasants, and they did not invariably die destructively fished from the fields of the farmer. More frequently they were filled with worms, grubs and pestiferous things capable of rapid multiplication and vastly more mischief in the realms of agriculture and horticulture than whole families of game birds. We doubt not that our correspondent holds ornithologists and scientific farmers and fruitgrowers in derision. Still there are people in the world, many of them agriculturists, who defer to the opinions of such persons and resort to them for advice. Now these investigators hold that, weighing the good that game birds do against the evils they inflict upon agriculture, the balance is greatly in favor of the good. And we think it is perhaps safe to say that the majority of farmers in British Columbia have not pronounced the death sentence upon the pheasant, although he (the bird) has traits of character that render him in some respects objectionable.

As for the deer, "Delate" has the sanction of the law to do them what seemeth good in his eyes if they destroy his crops. And we do not think many farmers upon this island hold their hands when they can find any reasonable excuse for adding to the supplies in their larder.

It is true Mr. Joseph Martin was defeated in his first attempt to break into British public life by considerably more than two thousand majority. But in considering the fate of Mr. Martin, look at what happened to Mr. Kincaid-Stratford-on-Avon at the last general election. The Canadian, although carrying the stigma of being a "for-eigner," defeated the free-food Liberal by more than two thousand of a majority. He therefore cannot be labelled as an "also ran."

WHY SETTLERS ARE TURNED AWAY.

If it be a fact, as the Colonist maintains, that the old order is changed, that the day of the pioneer settler is done, and that under a new and better dispensation the settlement of a new country such as British Columbia is more effectively and more rapidly brought about by governments disposing of public lands to speculators, the speculators acting as intermediaries between governments and settlers, what possible injury can be done by publishing the truth to the world? It is quite true that instances may be cited in which settlement has been more effectively brought about by governments making corporations their agents. The case of the Saskatchewan Land Company may be taken as an example of what may be accomplished through the agency of an intermediary when a grant of land is surrounded by salutary restrictions. That company obtained its concession in one of the Northwest Territories. The land it secured was considered unsuitable for settlement. It had been refused by railway companies entitled to land subsidies upon the ground that it was barren and unfruitful. Individual settlers had passed it by and gone on to parts of the country which appeared more inviting. The company constructed a complete system of irrigation and laid out water. These improvements completely changed the whole face of nature. The desert bloomed and brought forth in abundance. The company, as it was bound under its contract to do, disposed of its holdings to settlers at a specified price. The result is that the concession of the Saskatchewan Land Company is now one of the most populous and most prosperous portions of the province. Yet the arrangement of the Dominion government with the Saskatchewan Land Company was fiercely assailed by the opposition in the House of Commons. The Conservative critics were not convinced by the facts that under any circumstances could a government be justified in departing from the principle of reserving the public lands for actual settlers. They refused to admit the validity of the argument that even under special circumstances could a government be justified in employing a speculative company to act as an intermediary for the purpose of procuring settlers.

It may be true, as some writers contend, that there is yet plenty of land in British Columbia well adapted to the purposes of settlers which has not passed from the Crown into the hands of speculators, and that reservations are not all situated upon the mountain tops. But might the lands said to be under reservation not as well be sold at extreme elevations so far as the point of availability is concerned? We know it is a fact that many correspondents have written to the Times that they could obtain no information about lands open for pre-emption on applying at the government offices for guidance. Many such seekers for counsel, newcomers in the province, have been turned empty away and have gone either east or across the border for that which they could not obtain here. Is that the way to promote the settlement of the province? Under such conditions how long a time must elapse before we shall cease to import and pay for the five or six million dollars' worth of agricultural products annually consumed in British Columbia in excess of that which we produce?

Mr. Joseph Martin is at liberty to enjoy his holiday after all. It is as we feared, political sentiment in England is running too strongly in favor of the Unionist party for any Liberal candidate to carry a constituency which is normally Conservative. But it does not necessarily follow that our Mr. Martin will be discouraged by one rebuff. He is too old a campaigner, generally against overwhelming odds, to sit down in despair as a consequence of one defeat. If the government wants him, we doubt not Mr. Martin will place his talents at its service in some other constituency of more advanced and more enlightened public opinion.

RE BORDEN TELEGRAM.

To the Editor:—What's the hiding the Bishop of Columbia being sworn to give information, "as a preliminary to prosecution" of the forger, as your correspondent, "Justitia," points out? And who's to "bell the cat"? The bishop is relatively not objectionable as he has the moral and social reform of the city so much at heart, "and Brutus is an honorable man." See how earnestly he is opposing horse races. But of course that may only be "pro bono publico." And the gentleman who is taking "a well earned rest" after his labors in keeping the reformers out of the reformatory and prison. Strange it is that the head of the state church and the chief law officer should combine in sheltering a forger. An alliance offensive and defensive!

And the chairman of the synod's committee on moral and social reform asks that his high sounding name or even ex-ecution be "absolved" of the duty of finding the guilty party. But if they fall in a matter like this how can they justify their high sounding name or even ex-ecution? Obstacles may "block," but I presume they can be surmounted "where there's a will there's always a way."

Very truly yours,
 W. M. L. YAL SOAMES,
 Dallas road, May 6th, 1909.

PRESERVE THE PARK.

To the Editor:—I desire, through the medium of your valuable journal, to express my appreciation of Dr. Helmcken's whole-souled action in protesting against the alienation of any portion of Beacon Hill park for any purpose but for what was originally intended, the freedom of the public. The fencing of any part of that domain, or the erection of any private buildings thereon is an infringement on the rights of the public, should not be countenanced, and no doubt could be immediately stopped by application to the courts. The worthy and much respected doctor will get all the assistance necessary should he care to move in that direction. I have not the least doubt, if the men who are making this bowling green for the sake of improving the park, as they take such trouble to inform us,

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK

A FARMER'S VIEW OF PHEASANTS.

To the Editor of Twice-a-Week Times:—I am sending by same mail a box containing the entire contents of a pheasant's crop, shot this evening as it left my field.

Now, sir, if you figure out how much of an acre of peas will be left if a dozen or more pheasants feed and fill their crops, say three times a day (or more) for a month (as the plants will hardly be strong enough to resist them even then), say 100 bushels, who does the great benefit come in that you say the importation of pheasants "conferred on the farmer?"

Then, after the pheasants are through with the peas and clover, what show has the young clover got with half a dozen broods with eight to twelve each? And after they are done with the fields and several deer have had a pick over it every night, the farmer should "be thankful." O yes, but not to the farmer and game clubs nor the editor of the Times, but to the don't live in Turkey. DELATE.
 Glenora, May 1st, 1909.

SONGHEES RESERVE.

To the Editor:—This morning's Colonist contains a leader under the above heading which for its mendacity and ill-considered petty spite is happily quite unique. That the Hon. Mr. Templeman exhausted by more than two thousand of a majority. He therefore cannot be labelled as an "also ran."

to serve his constituency he employed a leading Conservative as intermediary, offering liberal remuneration to him and even extravagant terms to the Indians. But the Conservative party seeing an opening to damage Mr. Templeman in the eyes of his constituency, and to put one of their own party in his stead, sowed discord amongst the Indians and subverted all present overtures in the hopes that having supplanted the Liberal government they could later effect a settlement and cover themselves with glory. The whole correspondence bears this scandalous piece of political trickery on the face of it, and it is quite clear from the spiteful, vindictive tone of the Colonist it was a party to the whole transaction and is chewing the rag accordingly. What is the meaning of the word "gutter snipe"? Something mean and dirty I suppose! Try and fit it SIMON.

DISTRIBUTOR AGAIN RUNNING ON SKEENA

The Skeena river is opening to traffic in good shape. Capt Johnson has received word from Prince Rupert that the G.T.P. steamer Distributor returned yesterday to that port after making the trip as far as the canyon. This is the first round trip made by a steamer as far as Kitsuksin this season. The water is low in the river but is expected to rise quickly now. The Distributor took about 100 men up and supplies for all the railway camps along the Skeena. She will leave again at once with further supplies and more men.

MINE PLANTING.

San Francisco, May 6.—Under the supervision of Captain Harley B. Ferguson, the government mine planting steamers Ringgold and Armistead next week will begin a series of mine planting experiments outside the Golden Gate. The Sixtieth coast artillery, under the command of Captain Ashburn, has been detailed to assist the crews of the vessels.

THAT FORGERY.

To the Editor:—May I enquire if this telegram scandal is ever likely to be unravelled? Your very able correspondent ("Justitia") points out a course of action, but in the absence of the Attorney-General (who is one of the blockers), who is the proper person to appeal to?

BARQUE LOST.

The iron barque Adolf Tidemand has been posted in Lloyd's as "missing." The vessel left West Hartlepool on November 14th, 1908, bound for Genoa, but since the hour of her sailing no news has been received of her, and it is feared she has been lost with all hands. The Adolf Tidemand was of 1,200 tons gross register, built at Glasgow in 1882, and owned by Mr. J. E. Johannsson.

A St. Thomas, Ont., dispatch says: It is announced that after paying all depositors and creditors one hundred cents on the dollar and interest, the liquidator of the Elgin Loan Company, which failed on June 15th, 1903, will declare a dividend of seven cents on the dollar to the shareholders. The liquidators' fees will be fixed by Judge Hughes.

why do they not purchase a piece of land and make another beauty spot, say on Fairfield? They are reported to be wealthy men, and can well afford to do this, instead of infringing on the rights of our poor people. These persons tell us that "There would be no objection to anyone playing on the grounds," but it might be sentimentally asked, if when outsiders were playing, the owners of the green would turn them out did they themselves want to bow a match. Who would have the prior right?

G. T. P. Steamer Has Made Round Trip as Far as Canyon.

Kingston, St. Vincent, B.W.I., May 5.—It may be that Captain Colin Stephenson and the crew of the American whaling ship Carrie D. Knowles, long since thought to have been lost at sea, are still alive in a Venezuelan prison. An American seaman, who gives the name of Payne, an escaped prisoner from Venezuela, has made his way to Kingston, where he laid before the authorities an astonishing story of the seizure of the Carrie D. Knowles at a Venezuelan port, where she arrived five years ago in distress, and the incarceration by the Venezuelians of the captain and his men.

THREE ORIENTAL LINERS SOON DUE

Three liners are due here from the Orient during the next few days. The Kumeric should arrive here on Sunday next, three days behind her schedule. She left Yokohama three days late with 500 tons of freight for this port and about 30 Chinese who are going to the United States.

WEIR LINER BRINGING FREIGHT FOR THIS PORT AND CHINESE FOR SEATTLE.

The Chargeurs Reunis steamer, Amiral Hamelin, should arrive on the 12th, making her last visit to these waters for some time to come.

REBELLIOUS SUSAN

As the rehearsals for "The Case of Rebellious Susan" proceed, it is possible to form a fairly good idea in advance of the kind of performance which Victorians will witness on Monday evening next at the Victoria theatre, when Edmund Gardiner and his company will present their first play to the local public. A representative of the Times was permitted to watch one of the rehearsals yesterday, and he was much impressed with the showing made.

AMERICAN SAILORS IN VENEZUELA PRISON
Startling Story Told by One Who Escaped From Jail.

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SEATTLE MARU IS LAUNCHED

Tokio, May 6.—The Seattle Maru, the second of the six big steamers to be built for the Pacific service of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound railroad, has just been launched.

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Second Vessel of Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line Is Floated.

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Western Canada Wood Pulp & Paper Company, Ltd.

ONE OF THE CAMPS OF THE WESTERN CANADA WOOD PULP AND PAPER CO., LTD., QUATSINO SOUND.

Much interest has been manifested in the work of the Western Canada Wood Pulp & Paper Co. at Quatsino Sound. The saw mill is now ready for operation and the company are clearing land and preparing for the foundation of the main building, which is to be 483 feet long by 90 feet. The boiler house, acid room, chip department and sulphur room is to be separate and apart from main building. The detail plans have now been completed by Mr. Chas. B. Pridge, the eminent pulp and paper mill architect of Appleton, Wis., and the specifications are being prepared for tenders. Arrangements have already been made with the Victoria Machinery Company to furnish the tanks-conveyor system and boilers. The company contemplate putting on about 75 men May 1st and appear confident that they will have the pulp mill with a weekly capacity of 100 tons in operation by December 1st of this year. This industry means much to Vancouver Island and the future of the company will be looked upon with more than usual interest.