

## THE SIDNEY AND ISLANDS REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY  
THE SIDNEY PRINTING AND PUBLISHING  
COMPANY, LIMITED  
Every Friday at Sidney, B.C.

Subscription price \$1.00 per annum.  
Advertising rates on application.

Notices or ads to be published Friday  
should be in the Review office by Wednes-  
day evening.

A. EMERY MOORE,  
EDITOR

### PRaises ROYALTY BILL.

The Sunset Magazine, in its May issue published the following reference to the Timber Royalty Bill passed at the last session of the British Columbia Legislature:

"The United States gave away the largest and best part of its western forests at a uniform price of \$2.50 an acre for the land, and threw in the timber for good measure. British Columbia almost from the very beginning pursued a different policy. The Provincial Government sold the timber and retained the title to the land. But it did not sell the timber outright. It gave the applicant a license to cut the timber on a certain tract, charged him an annual rental for the privilege of reserving the ground and made him pay a royalty of fifty cents a thousand feet, board measure, on all timber cut."

"During the session of the Provincial Legislature which closed in March the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, introduced and obtained the passage of a bill to increase the timber royalty. A flat raise from fifty to seventy-five cents a thousand feet, with further increases in five year periods, was made, and in addition the profit sharing principle was introduced. In the future the royalty on British Columbia timber will largely depend upon the condition of the lumber market. The flat royalties provided for in the new act are based upon lumber bringing eighteen dollars a thousand feet. When the market price of lumber rises above this figure part of the increased value goes to the provincial treasury."

"For the present at least this profit-sharing clause will provide small revenues for the province. The output of the mills on both sides of the line when running at capacity is greater than the demand. As a result, lumber prices have been uniformly low for years. But this condition, like the forests themselves, will not last forever. Sooner or later—sooner if the Panama Canal can widen the market for Pacific coast woods—the value of the timber must advance far beyond its present level. When that time comes British Columbia, thanks to the farsighted steward of its lands, will see part of the unearned timber increment go into roads, bridges and other improvements of benefit to every citizen."

"It should be added that the forest service of the Department of Agriculture has incorporated similar provisions in all contracts for the sale of timber from the national forests whenever the cutting of the timber by the purchaser extended over more than five years."

### COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION International Conference on City Planning—Draft of Proposed Town-Planning Act.

That the town planning movement in Canada has come to stay and will have to be reckoned with in the future is demonstrated by the fact that it has already engaged the attention of several of our provincial legislatures. The year 1912 saw comprehensive town-planning acts passed in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and last year Alberta led the way for the western provinces. Ontario also has an act applicable to cities with

a population of 50,000 and upwards. At the forthcoming International conference on City Planning at Toronto on May 25-27, a draft town-planning act, which it is hoped will be a model for all Canadian provinces, will be submitted to the delegates present by a special committee appointed by the Commission of Conservation. Frank criticism and full discussion of this proposed act will be invited. After being amended in accordance with the resolutions of the conference, copies will be sent to each provincial government urging them to enact legislation along the lines proposed.

As now drafted, the bill provides for the preparing and carrying out of town planning projects by a local board in each city or town, subject to the approval of a central town-planning board for the whole province. Projects will apply chiefly to land likely to be used for building purposes, but may, in certain circumstances, include land already built upon or land suitable for building. Provision is made for compensation of private owners if injuriously affected and for the local authority recovering half of the unearned increment if property values are increased. The Central Board may act on its own initiative if the local board fails to do its duty or if no local board exists.

Under such an act, the growth of every town will be regulated so that streets may be of adequate width and in accord with the general plan of the town; housing congestion will not be permitted; sufficient open spaces will be reserved for parks, squares and other municipal purposes; and health amenity and convenience will be given due consideration in all new building areas and, so far as possible, in old ones.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### FIRE PROTECTION.

To the Editor, Sidney Review.

Dear Sir,—For your information I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a small picture entitled "Putting Out the Camp Fire," a clock poster, and a pocket whetstone with an inscription requesting care in regard to fire, all of which form a part of the campaign of the Forest Branch for the prevention of forest fires.

The pictures, while being distributed to country banks, hotels, stores, etc., throughout the province, are designed chiefly for distribution to the school children. They are being sent in bulk to superintendents or teachers, and the latter are requested before distributing the pictures to the pupils to give a short talk about the relation of the forests to the prosperity of the province, the life history of a forest emphasizing the great length of time required, and the way it is threatened from youth to old age by fire, and finally, the necessity on the part of everyone to be careful that they do not through carelessness set a forest fire which may destroy homes and property, as well as valuable forests.

The original of the picture is by a noted artist, and is entitled "A Friend in the Forest."

The clock posters, it is felt, present the importance of fire prevention in a manner which will reach every reader. They are to be posted in forest roads and trails throughout the province.

The whetstones are designed chiefly for distribution to persons, such as loggers, settlers, prospectors, trappers and surveyors, who live and work in the forests, and who more than any one else can be of assistance in preventing forest fires.

The newspapers throughout the province have been very generous in the support of the efforts of the Forest Branch to successfully reduce the annual damage by forest fires, and I am sure you will be interested in these forms of publicity.

Yours very truly,  
H. R. MACMILLAN,  
Chief Forester.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have heard many reasons given as to the duties of the modern press in moulding public opinion in certain ideal lines as a means of making the electorate realize the errors or otherwise of legislation. But perhaps Mr. Dooley's conception of this phase of public education is both unique and humorous, when he says: "The press is a comfort to the afflicted and an affliction to the comfortable."

### A CREED.

Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a little blinder  
To the faults about me;  
Let me praise a little more;  
Let me be when I am weary,  
Just a little bit more cheery;  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver,  
When temptation bids me waver;  
Let me strive a little harder  
To be all that I should be;  
Let me be a little meeker  
With the brother that is weaker;  
Let me think more of my neighbor  
And a little less of me.

Let me be a little sweeter,  
Make my life a bit completer,  
By doing what I should do  
Every minute of the day;  
Let me toil, without complaining,  
Not a humble task disdain;  
Let me face the summons calmly  
When death beckons me away.  
—Selected.



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## WIDE V

Sir Sandford Fleming has been installed as Chancellor of Queen's University, Kingston, for the thirteenth three-year term.

Many persons were killed and injured on May 1st, when a passenger train was derailed near Niedersaulheim, Germany, and several coaches rolled down a steep embankment.

H.E.H. the Duke of Connaught celebrated his 64th year on May 1st, receiving many congratulations from innumerable parts of the Empire on the occasion.

Mr. William Vincent Astor, whose father perished in the Titanic disaster, was married on May 1st to Miss Helen Dinsmore Huntington, the ceremony taking place at the bride's home in Stadtsburg, N.Y. It was feared at one time that the marriage would have to be postponed as Mr. Astor was taken very ill a month ago, and is still in a very weak condition.

Senator De Boucherville celebrated his ninety-second birthday quietly on May 4th, at Ottawa, where he daily attends to his senatorial duties. He is the oldest member of the senate, being some months senior to Sir McKenzie Bowell.

Michael Mahoney, who unsuccessfully tried to assassinate Mayor Mitchell, of New York, and seriously wounded with a revolver shot Mr. Polk, the corporation counsel, having been pronounced demented by three alienists, has been sent to the State Hospital for the criminal insane at Matteawan.

Senator William Gibson died at his home in Beamsville, Ont., on May 4, aged 65 years. The late senator was best known in public life as a member of the House of Commons where he sat from 1891 to 1900, and as chief Liberal Whip. He was defeated in his constituency of Lincoln in 1900 and appointed to the Senate two years later. He was Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Canada for two years.

Under a new interpretation of Order-in-Council No. 897, details of which were made public in Vancouver on April 29th to representatives of the transpacific lines by the superintendent of immigration, Asiatics of all races, Chinese, Japanese and Hindus, will be barred all entry into Canada, the order to become effective on May 31st.

The death took place recently in the United States of Rev. J. H. Hector, popularly known as the Black Knight and famous for his work in temperance advancement. He was the son of negro slaves, and by industry and hard work eventually qualified for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, later on devoting himself to platform advocacy of the prohibition cause in which he was peculiarly effective.

The end of White Wolf, the cruel Chinese bandit, seems to be coming as he has suffered another crushing defeat, four hundred of his band having been killed and six hundred drowned in the Kinshdi River when General Chao Tish defeated the main body of the bandits on April 28th near Kinyang, Shen-si. Four divisions of the government troops are now operating against the bandits.

Up to the present time no less than thirty-one aeroplane pilots have looped the loop. Of these, Hemel, an Englishman, and Gilbert, a Frenchman, have looped the loop with passengers.

The building trade employees in London, England, have rejected the terms of settlement offered by the masters by a vote of 23,000 to 20,000. The strike, therefore, will continue.