

The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited, Liability 27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year \$1.00
Six Months75
Three months50
Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

OVERDOING IT

Is there not a possibility that the clamor against the municipal administration may be a little overdone? There is no doubt about the Smith's Hill reservoir being a bad job, and in many other respects things have not been carried on as they ought to have been; but it is wrong to claim that the whole system has broken down; for it has not. Let us know where things are wrong, and let us try to set them right, but do not let us overshoot the mark by making general assertions which may be unsupportable by evidence.

A sweeping allegation of incompetency is easily made. Possibly, in the opinion of many people everything done by everyone else is an exhibition of incompetency; but it is well to remember that even in municipal matters there may be two sides to a story, and it certainly would be wise not to form opinions ex parte. We think also that critics of the municipal administration ought to be specific. A general charge may mean nothing at all.

The Colonist has indulged at one time or another in a good deal of criticism of the way the affairs of the city are carried on; but it has always endeavored to make definite allegations in respect to matters where there seemed to be room for improvement. It never could see the use of making things appear any worse than they really are.

COST OF LIVING

The high cost of living is alleged to be at the foundation of the labor troubles in the United States. We fail to see how this difficulty can be overcome by strikes. An increase of wages will mean increased cost of production, and if there must be a further advance in the former to meet the latter, the situation will be a sort of economic treadmill—plenty of action but no progress. It is said that living is too expensive; but is not the enhanced cost due in a very considerable degree to the shortening of the hours of labor and higher wages? In the last analysis is it not the amount of money that must be paid for a certain amount of labor that determines the cost of things? We have a good many readers who take a very keen and intelligent interest in propositions of this nature, and we would be glad to hear from them on this point.

The cry used to be that it did not make any difference if prices went up, as long as wages were high, but it seems as if there must be a limit to expansion along these lines. We are inclined to think that one reason why it costs so much to live nowadays is that comparatively few persons produce anything for their own consumption. Time was when a very considerable proportion of the artisan class had their own gardens, and many of them kept a cow. The growth of cities has made this impossible in the very great majority of cases, and not only has it done this, but it has also altered the conditions of living that the art of housekeeping, as our mothers understood it, is being lost. Food is bought in small quantities and very often in a prepared state, so that a minimum of cooking may be done. This is exceedingly expensive. It is also a very unsatisfactory way of living. The women of many households, in order to save themselves work, buy cooked victuals. They are not much if at all to blame, because the great majority of homes in large cities are not provided with the facilities for keeping food on hand or preparing it. Thus a generation has grown up that has never learned the great art of living economically, and the result is that a wage, which would have provided luxury a generation ago hardly suffices for a decent living now.

We sympathize very much indeed with the Labor leaders, who are seeking to discover a remedy for the increased cost of living, but do not believe they will find it in strikes. The present manner of living is artificial, and being artificial there ought to be a possibility of altering it to something more rational. We venture to suggest that the only permanent remedy will be found in steps that will prevent the congestion of population in cities. A social system, that lives millions of people within a small area, and along streets that are little else than chasms, is all wrong. It is unnatural and being unnatural, it is certain to breed social disaster. To the man who looks ahead, a sky-scraper is a monument of the folly of modern civilization. Mr. J. J. Hill says the remedy for all the ills that society is heir to is to be found in the principle, "Back to the land"; but before that principle can be effectively acted upon, some sort of legislation will have to be devised that will make the living of population impossible. We shall not undertake to indicate how this shall be brought about, for perhaps we have done our duty for the present in offering the suggestion.

AN UNWISE POLICY

We expected that the organ of the Minister of Inland Revenue would seek to justify the ignoring of Mr. Barnard in the matter of harbor improvements. To do otherwise would be to condemn the Minister, which no one would expect it to do. But we were not quite prepared to be told that because the delegates were from the Board of Trade and had their expenses paid by the voluntary contributions of business men, it was of no concern to anyone how they accomplished what they set out to do. Especially do we find this a remarkable position to be taken by a newspaper that opposed the idea of sending a delegation to Ottawa. We are not criticising the action of the delegates, who doubtless followed the course which they thought would be most successful; but we do say, and we say it with some appreciation of what is due to gentlemen who in a representative position, that the ignoring of Mr. Barnard is wholly indefensible. We knew exactly what would be said about Mr. Barnard by the Minister's organ, and we hope we do the Minister no injustice in supposing that it voices his sentiments; but we do say that it is a new thing and an abominable thing for a representative to be ignored because he is not in sympathy with the government of the day. During the past four years, Mr. John Jardine, a Liberal representative of Esquimalt in the local house, has attended with many delegations, which have waited upon the Conservative provincial government. His advice has been asked, he has been given an opportunity of presenting his views, and no instance can be cited where the presentation of a case has been made weaker in the opinion of the government because Mr. Jardine was among those who urged it for consideration.

To put the case on no higher ground, the ignoring of the local representative is in any case bad politics; but the community has grown so accustomed to witnessing displays of bad politics from a certain quarter that nothing of that nature now surprises anyone. The people love fairness. The people of the Victoria know, although the Minister's organ seeks to create the contrary impression, that Mr. Barnard has worked hard at informing the Department of Public Works as to the needs of Victoria harbor; and if any one is foolish enough to think that by ignoring him the strength of the Liberal machine in Victoria can be increased, he is making a very large blunder. It is a blunder of the kind which cost the Liberal party the control of the province. The public very justly resents exhibitions of pettiness.

A CORRECTION

In yesterday's Colonist the following appeared as a news item: In a circular issued by the commercial intelligence committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the British Columbia government, "yielding to their solicitations," has introduced in the new companies' act of this province the following provision: "Taking orders for or buying or selling goods by travellers or by correspondence, so long as the company has no resident agent or representative and no office or place of business in British Columbia, shall not be deemed to be a carrying on of business within the meaning of the act. Firms doing business through brokers or resident agents, or who carry stock in the province must carry a license, but those confining their business to sales through the medium of correspondence or travellers not residents of British Columbia are exempt." This circular is apparently founded upon an error. In the Bill Amending the Companies Act the provision quoted in the circular formed a part of Section 139, but it is not in the act as it finally passed the house, and we are unable to find any other provision that covers the point. The circular was apparently issued by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association on the strength of what appeared in the bill as introduced. We make the correction in this prominent way in order to offset the misleading character of the circular as far as it is possible to do so.

Canada's trade is booming. The Dominion is the new land of promise.

Mr. O'Shea, a Nationalist, says that the party with which he is allied will not permit the Asquith ministry to pass any Budget unless certain assurances are received from the King. The Nationalists are reckoning without their host in this matter. The Unionists will not play their game for them.

If you are all run down, have that tired feeling, can't sleep and appetite poor be sure to get

Bowes' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites

The finest general tonic ever devised makes good blood, clears the system, builds flesh and tissue. Good for old or young. A splendid remedy for all wasting diseases. Proves itself only at this store. A \$1.00 bottle contains sufficient for one month.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST
Tel. 425 and 450. 1228 Government Street

If the anti-gambling Bill becomes law, it will be illegal to bet on an election. This is our liberties being flinched from us by degrees. The next thing we know we shall be robbed of the sacred and hitherto inalienable right to buy tickets in a church raffle.

The Germans say they are not going to search for the South Pole. But the South Pole is not and never was lost. It's like the little boy whom the policeman met crying in the street. "Have you lost your mother, little chap?" he asked kindly, and the lad ejaculated between sobs: "Now, the blamed thing's gone and lost me."

It is stated that the National Transcontinental Railway will be completed and ready for operation by the fall of 1911, except the mountain section. We hope this will prove to be the case. As yet the G. T. Pacific has not asked for an extension of time in which to complete the section through British Columbia.

Mr. R. L. Borden has thought it well to make a formal denial of the alleged indications of rupture in the Conservative ranks because of unrest among the Quebec members of the party. He said to a reporter: "The delegation was composed of Sir Alexander LaCocote, Hon. T. Chas. Casgrain, Mr. D. O. L. Asperance, Mr. Louis Coderre and Mr. C. L. Beauvieux. They came to see me at noon and we had lunch together. The situation in that province was discussed as were the preliminary details of the coming convention. So far as the reports of the lack of harmony and the reading of the riot act are concerned, you can brand them as a tissue of falsehoods."

Lord Curzon told the Lords that the colonies "have always looked upon that of imperial and colonial interests than the Commons." This is a very sweeping statement, which may be true, but it would puzzle His Lordship to cite any proof of it. The very great majority of the people of the Colonies have never considered the matter at all. If Lord Curzon had confined himself to saying that the people in the over-seas Dominions find among the Lords the best exponents of the Imperial idea, as it is understood in the outlying parts of the Empire, his position could not be challenged. Such men as Earl Grey, Viscount Alinger and Lord Curzon himself have expressed the sentiments of the over-seas Britons very much better than they have been stated by any member of the Commons, except perhaps, Mr. Chamberlain; but that is as far as the facts justify any one in going.

There seems to be a unanimous opinion in all parts of Canada that this country cannot fairly be charged with discrimination against the United States. We find the Mail and Empire saying: "The delegates of the United States government who spent upwards of a week in Ottawa examining our tariffs, looking into our trade relations and conferring with our ministers, have returned to Washington with the conviction that Canada does not discriminate against them. They must have been satisfied themselves, and will doubtless be able to assure their constituents that Canada maintains no imposts that render liable to the forfeiture of the United States minimum tariff privileges. The delegates would not be long in discovering that Canada has a clear legal right to have her exports to the United States admitted at the rates of the minimum tariff." Our Toronto contemporary is of the opinion that what ever the United States may do will be done in its own interests. Perhaps the fact that Canada is the best customer may not be without its influence in determining the course of the government of that country.

Takes Over Estate

F. J. Bittancourt, for long an auctioneer in Victoria, has taken over the father's estate, owing to the death of his brother, and is now resident at Salt Spring Island, where he is running a store and is engaged in sheep-breeding and farming. He has about 50 lambs. He, however, finds time to still wield the hammer, and a few days ago he held a successful auction at Salt Spring of the furniture and effects of Rev. E. P. Wilson. Among the attendants at this sale were some of the oldest settlers of the district, among them J. Norton, H. Sampson, Mrs. H. Stevens, E. Walter, A. Walter, J.P. M. Lumbley, Mr. Ritchie, Dr. Beech, H. Mansell, J. Rogers, J. J. Ackerman, A. Clarke, A. J. Silvester, Rev. Mr. Abbott, Mr. De la Lanza, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Young and many others. Mr. Bittancourt says the farmers of Salt Spring are looking forward to a bumper year in fruit growing.

Try Shopping by Mail

WEILER BROS

Use the Ladies' Rest Room

FIVE FLOORS OF HOME COMFORTS

You Need Some of These To Brighten Up the Home This Spring

YOU have no doubt been planning some changes in the home's interior appearance when the Spring Cleaning time comes round. Well, it is almost here and the time now to do the choosing, or at least the preliminary inspection.

We list here a few items which we commend to your careful consideration. A visit to this store will convince you of our leadership in each of these lines and will certainly repay you for the time and trouble expended in coming. Come in and discuss your plans with us. Sometimes the advice of experts saves many a dollar. Certainly it won't cost anything.



Get One of These Library Tables

If you add a library table you'll get a real serviceable piece of furniture as well as secure something that'll add to the appearance of the room. We are ready to satisfy your requirements in library tables with some excellent styles. We show these in a variety of woods and finishes. Pleased to have you come in and inspect the tables in mahogany finish, genuine mahogany, golden oak and Early English finished oak.

Prices range from \$12 to \$35

We have a splendid selection of leather upholstered chairs suitable for this room—much the largest showing of leather upholstered furniture in the city. We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to show you the stock at any time convenient to you.

Some Smart Pieces for Your Parlor

THE addition of a new piece of parlor furniture quite often makes a vast difference in the appearance of this important room. Choose a neat and attractive piece and improve your parlor this Spring. You'll find the cost will work no hardship if you choose from this stock of ours. Choosing is easy, too, because of the wide variety of styles offered. Most of the upholstering work has been done in our own workrooms—a guarantee of quality.

Reception Chairs from \$7.50

Our stock of reception chairs includes a great variety of pretty styles. The price range is broad also. Upholstered in a great range of materials and colorings. Prices start as low as \$7.50.

Settees priced from \$18

You won't find a better assortment of settees anywhere else in British Columbia. Our prices are low enough to allow anyone to enjoy the service of one of these stylish pieces. Priced from \$18.00.

Special Bed Spread Show

Dainty Things to Brighten Up Your Bedroom

A PRETTY bedspread does much to improve the bedroom. Makes furniture and other furnishings look better—gives a finished touch to the room. We are making a special display of bedspreads on our second floor, and we invite you to come in and see some genuinely attractive spreads.

When you are planning Spring Cleaning and re-arrangements, don't fail to plan a new bedspread for at least one room. At least visit the second floor and see these spreads arranged for your convenient inspection.

LACE BED SETS—Battenburg lace sets—bedspread and bolster cover—very pretty. Spread has deep flounce. Priced at \$12.00 and \$10.50

APPLIQUE BEDSPREADS—We have some very handsome spreads in this style. Priced at \$10.00 and \$7.50

Shams to match at each \$1.00

MARSEILLES QUILTS—We have lately added a splendid line of satin finished Marseilles Quilts, and now have a big choice at from, each \$3.00

LIBERTY ART BEDSPREADS—These spreads in attractive art designs—a variety of color combinations—are very popular. Our stock includes some splendid examples. Some extra large spreads in the lot. Priced at, from \$3.50

HONEYCOMB QUILTS—These white honeycomb quilts are very popular with a great many home-keepers. They are very low in price, starting at, each \$1.25

Of Course, You'll Want a Stylish Bed

If you have not already got a stylish iron or brass bed, you'll be adding one this Spring. Discard that old wooden one or throw that antiquated iron style on the scrap heap. Smart, new styles in either brass or iron are so lightly priced that you may easily decorate your room with one.

We invite you to inspect a splendid showing of metal beds on our fourth floor. A visit places you under no obligation whatever and you'll be amply repaid for your trouble.

Come into day.

Iron Beds priced from \$4

We show many styles in iron beds. We have these in white, cream and colors. Some with brass trimmings—some without. A big choice. Prices range from \$30.00 to \$4.00.

Brass Beds priced from \$30

Brass beds in either bright or satin finish. An excellent range of styles and several priceings, as the list would indicate. Well built and well finished. From \$120 to \$30.00.

Furnish-ers of Homes, Hotels, Clubs

The West's Greatest Furniture House

WEILER'S

Furnish-ers of Churches, Schools, Boats



ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS

Constitutional development had reached extreme development when Parliament took to declare Henry Bolingbroke's usurper, king during the lifetime of Edward III. Historians have been accustomed to Henry IV, as a usurper, but if he every sovereign who has reigned in England since the days of Anne has been title to the throne. There is no doubt that Henry promoted the movement which led to the deposition of Richard and elevation to the kingship, but he never claimed to his position except to come from parliamentary sanction. He recalled that when Edward I. came to the throne, the formality of election was and he began his reign with no other than that which came from the fact that he was the oldest son of his father; but his case it was deemed wise afterwards to secure a parliamentary ratification of the fact that the people of England claimed, and from time to time have their absolute supremacy in all matters of state. Powerful kings have at times acted contrary to the will of the people, expressed in popular assemblies, but even such men as William I. and Henry I. were acknowledged popular sovereigns. Therefore, while Henry IV. supplanted the reigning sovereign, it cannot be truth that he usurped the throne, and although custom has been to refer to the support of the House of York as the Legitimacy, so is to borrow a Continental term which has no proper place in English history for it assumes that there is in some inherent right to the Crown, which is not.

There were no constitutional developments during the reign of Henry IV, or of his son and grandson. Henry was not content to curb the power of Parliament, towards the close of his life he expressed a strong desire to do so. Yet his reign important bearing upon the history of England for during it there began a struggle which lasted with more or less interruption until the reign of Henry VI, but it was Henry of Richmond who was crowned King. The Wars of the Roses did not begin until the reign of Henry VI, but it was Henry who had largely taken up the scepter in his collision with powerful men of the baronage, and there began a series of events, which led to the shedding of the best blood of England either upon the field or the scaffold. There is no meaning what the effort upon England has been if the very flower of her nobility perished either by the sword or the man's ax. We have seen the unique occupied by the baronage of England, for freedom. A general statement of applied to a period of three hundred years, necessarily requires some qualification, but in the main the barons were ever upon curbing the power of the King. He played a powerful part in preventing the establishment in England of the principle of absolutism which found on the Continent congenial for their growth. At the same time there was sufficient of the heaven of the baronage to compel the mass of the people to look to the King for protection against oppression, and kings, either by weakness or by city, were led to rely upon them as a counterweight to the power of the great owners could be held in check and from which the royal exchequers could be replenished. There was never in any body of men in all respects comparable to the baronage of England of the time of the sovereign; in lineage they were not aristocratic; in sense of personal dignity they were extreme. They cherished the traditions of Chivalry, and were not lacking in objectionable qualities. By common consent Edward the Black Prince is recognized as the very culmination of that extraordinary institution of the Middle Ages, whose decline came down to us as emblematic of the best and noblest in men, but he was a mixture of nobility and business. On the continent chivalry died a lingering death and it was extinguished in blood.

For some years previous to the reign of Henry IV, the church had not been progressive in public affairs. It was growing more and more independent but without any very strong line of demarcation. Lollardism spread very rapidly and we have seen no very serious attempt made to check its progress. To be sure it was not to lose either ecclesiastical or temporal advantages, although it in many cases the person professing it into disfavour early in the reign of Henry, the Church cured the enactment of a law permitting the burning of heretics. Thomas Arundel, bishop of Canterbury, had been very active in securing the deposition of Richard II. He was recognized as the leader of the conservative religious zeal, and one of the first to which he counselled the new King, Richard II, by Henry that he, as Sovereign of England, was protector of the Church. The next step was to urge upon parliament the passage of the Statute of Heresies, which Arundel's popularity was able to impose in many cases at that time few instances in which it was reserved to arrest the progress of Lollardism.