The Colonist.

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

~~THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST~~

One year	$1 00
Six months	50
Three months	25

Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

THE G. T. PACIFIC.

The contract made between the provincial government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company, which the legislature is asked to confirm, is published in another column of today's paper. Its provisions are not many, but they are interesting and important. It will be recalled that the Dominion government undertook to transfer to the railway company the ownership of an Indian reservation situated adjacent to the site of Prince Rupert, but that the provincial government objected to the transfer, even though the Indians had parted with their rights, taking the position that the reversionary right of the province could not be alienated without its consent. It is understood that the Minister of Justice holds a very strong opinion to the contrary, and that the railway company was advised that it could sustain a case against the province in the courts, but, acting on the principle that an amicable adjustment of the question was to be preferred even to successful litigation, the company approached the government and entered into negotiations of which the contract mentioned is the result. By this contract the company agrees to pay $2.50 per acre for the land in question, which is something less than 15,000 acres, and to reconvey to the government one-fourth of the area as it is surveyed. What would be a reasonable price for a reversionary interest in land, which might not become an interest in possession in upwards of a century, must remain very problematical, and if we are to understand that the government in insisting upon any price being paid was more determined to assert a principle than to drive a bargain, we do not think there is any cause for complaint. The price charged is what any private individual would have to pay for land of the same class in any other part of the province, but in the latter case, the purchaser would be in a position to enter into immediate possession, whereas the purchaser of the reversionary interest in an Indian Reservation would have to wait indefinitely for the right to occupy it, if indeed the reversion ever fell in. The only point about the payment of any price at all is that it is a recognition of the claim of the province. In addition to obtaining undisputed possession of the Reservation, the claims of the Indians and of the Dominion government as their guardians having already been acquired, the company secures a right of way across the province, one hundred feet wide, and such other land as may be necessary for stations, sidings and other purposes directly connected with the business of the railway, and they may take material from crown lands adjacent to their line for the purposes of constructing the railway. These are the usual privileges conferred upon railway companies. The company's line is exempted from taxation for ten years. The granting of a right of way through the province to a company incorporated by the Dominion Parliament is something for which as far as we know, there are not many precedents. In some of the provinces the idea prevailing is that a charter granted by parliament carries with it the right of way over crown lands. It has always been contended in this province that the Dominion Parliament cannot grant a right of way over provincial crown lands, and this principle is also recognized in the contract. It is proper to say that this part of the arrangement with the company is only what would be made in the case of any other company, although doubtless, as in this case, the government would insist upon some quid pro quo, if it was thought to be desirable.

In this instance the government has been able to secure a very substantial concession from the company. The company has bound itself to begin construction from its western terminus on or before the 1st of June next, and to prosecute the work diligently towards the eastern boundary of the province. Work having already begun from Edmonton west, the construction of the line between that city and Prince Rupert will be well under way from both ends by the time summer sets in. In addition to agreeing to begin work by the date mentioned, the company agrees, other things being equal, to purchase material and supplies in this province. These are substantial and valuable concessions, and the government has been very fortunate in having been able to secure them.

It may be objected in certain quarters that construction would have been begun at this end this year under any circumstances. The Colonist has been at some trouble to ascertain the facts in that regard. The recent flotation of $5,000,000 of G. T. P. bonds in London will provide the funds for this work, but it is an open secret that the London management would have preferred to have seen the money employed in the construction of branch lines in the prairie region, where immediate results would be available in the form of a profitable traffic, rather than in building a line in British Columbia at the present time. We have reason to believe that it was only through the persistent effort of the Canadian management that the majority of the directorate was induced to agree to the beginning of construction at this end of the line, provided the open questions with the province could be satisfactorily adjusted. Our information is that if negotiations had failed here, and the company had been compelled to resort to litigation to enforce what it was advised are its rights by reason of the purchase of the Reservation from the Indians, it would have been impossible for President Hays to have secured the assent of his directorate to the letting of contracts at the present time for mountain work in this province, which will cost something like $85,000 per mile. We are advised that a contract will soon be let for one hundred miles of the line, and that the estimated cost of it will be $9,500,000. It is certainly an excellent thing that such a great undertaking will be put in hand in the course of a few months. We think we are safe in saying that the contract made with the government ensures the completion of the railway by 1911.

The negotiations on behalf of the company were carried on by Mr. William Wainwright and have extended over many weeks. The points to be discussed were numerous and difficult, and for a time there was a wide difference between the parties, and it is only right to say that the company has shown itself as anxious to meet the wishes of the government as the government was to see that the rights of the province were properly safeguarded, and as many advantages as possible were secured for what was conceded to the company.

We feel that we can congratulate the parties to the negotiations upon the business-like agreement to which they have come. Mr. Wainwright has certainly made an exceedingly favorable impression upon all with whom he has come in contact, and has convinced every one who has discussed matters with him of the determination of the company to do what is right by the province of British Columbia. More is implied in the construction of this railway than appears upon the face of things. The government occupied a position of no small difficulty. It was the earnest desire of the ministers to see the work of construction begun at the earliest possible date, but at the same time they were determined that the public interests should not be sacrificed for a present advantage. The negotiations were naturally chiefly carried on by the Premier, but his colleagues share with him in the credit attaching to their successful termination. We also congratulate the people of British Columbia upon the fact that this great work will be begun in this province within so short a time. The stimulating effect upon business must be very great.

PAARDEBERG DAY.

It was a happy thought on the part of the Canadian Club of Victoria to celebrate the battle of Paardeberg by a banquet, and a still happier one to invite the veterans of the South African war to be present as guests of the Club. The battle of Paardeberg is a day that will ever be memorable in the history of the Empire, not only because then the power of the Boers was broken, but because it was the first conspicuous occasion when Britain and her sons united in demonstrating that the Empire is something more than a name. The story of Paardeberg is well worth the telling, and Mr. Eberts in his interesting and eloquent speech related the chief and crowning incidents of it. One may be pardoned for thinking that the hand of the God of Nations was to be seen in the disposition of the British troops in such a manner that the Canadians held the commanding position on that fateful morning, when the valiant Boer leader hoisted the white flag and gave himself and his brave soldiers up to his gallant adversaries. The story cannot be told too often, and we cannot too highly honor the men, who crept forward under the cover of darkness to their position of vantage. Let your mind dwell upon the incident for a moment. Here were men who had just learned what battle meant. Darkness and death were around them. Their orders were not to reply to the fire of the enemy. When the leaden hail came from the Boer trenches, there was not a sign of panic. Orders were obeyed and the men, dropping to the ground, crept steadily onward. There is nothing finer than this in all the history of war. Men who did this would dare anything. In that tremendous hour the Empire was born. These men were our neighbors and friends. We had known some of them well; we had met them daily; some of them were our friends and brothers. And the splendid thing about it is this proof that in this land, where our years have been happily spent in prosecuting the arts of peace, there is plenty of the spirit that makes a nation invincible in war. During the prolonged fighting some of our fellow Canadians paid the highest price that a man can give for the protection of his flag. We all honor their memory, which will long remain green in the hearts of those who saw them set out on their long journey, which ended at that bourne from which no traveler returns.

While it is natural that on such an occasion we think chiefly of the Men of Paardeberg, it is only because the fortunes of war placed them in the lime-light of history on that eventful day. To the other South African veterans, no matter from what part of the Empire they came, and the Canadian Club was very fortunate in having many British lands represented in its list of guests, equal honor belongs to that which we are all so proud to be able to pay to the men, who were offered the opportunity of doing such conspicuous service to their Queen and country; but they themselves are the first to extend their tribute of recognition to the Paardeberg men. But we must not forget that it is not only in battle that men show their heroism. In long and weary watches, in tedious waiting for what they cannot foretell, in the observance of discipline and in countless other ways the stuff of which men are made is exhibited, and tried by all these tests, the South African veterans proved themselves worthy of the splendid traditions of their flag and country.

Yesterday's gathering was in all respects a notable one, and by it, as on many other occasions, the Canadian Club has not only justified its existence, but has demonstrated what a potent factor it is in the development of true Canadian sentiment. Mr. Eberts in his observations seized upon this idea, and was very happy in his quotation from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech. He exhibited excellent judgment in selecting the utterances of the Premier as representative of those of the people of Canada, although he knew, as we all know, that there were other prominent Canadians who expressed the same ideas in words that would have well borne repetition. May we add that it is a fortunate thing for Canada and the Empire that, in such a crisis in the affairs of the Empire, the Premier of the Dominion, a man in whose veins there is not a drop of English blood, should have so well voiced the sentiments of the people? We have said English blood, because since Paardeberg we must recognize as British blood all that was shed under the Union Jack on that day, no matter whether the men who gave their lives for their flag and for the honor of the Empire look upon the United Kingdom or France or any other land as the home of their forefathers. On that day all Canadians became Britons.

The theme is an attractive one and the tendency to say more upon it is strong, but we must leave it with the expression of the hope that the lesson of Paardeberg will never be lost by the sons of the Empire. It is that no matter from what part of the world we come, the British people are one, and no matter what differences may arise between us when no danger threatens, let a note of war be sounded and everything else will be forgotten, except that the honor of the British name must be preserved at all hazards, not simply because of the traditions surrounding it, but because it stands before the world today for all that is best in human progress and individual liberty.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

The time has come in British Columbia when effect should be given to the growing sentiment of the people in favor of the further restriction of the liquor traffic, and as an earnest of what may be done in the future, we not only suggest but urge upon the Attorney-General that steps shall be taken to close all saloons in the province from midnight on Saturday until 6 a. m. on Monday, and to keep them closed. If there is no legislation on the statute book authorizing this, there is time during the remainder of the session to put it there.

Our public men and those persons who are interested in the liquor traffic in this province, may as well make up their minds that the wave of reform, now sweeping over the United Kingdom and a large part of North America, is not going to stop at the Rocky Mountains. The Colonist has forborne any agitation for restrictive legislation, not because it did not believe in it, but because it was opposed to legislation in advance of public opinion, but it recognizes that the time is at hand when the sentiment of the people will sustain the enforcement of a well-considered measure for the further control of the liquor traffic, and being of that opinion, it does not hesitate to say so, and to tell its political friends that they must give heed to the demands of the great majority of the electorate, which holds similar views to those above advanced. We do not believe in fanaticism of any kind, but are satisfied the time has come when action ought to be taken along the lines indicated.

In yesterday's Colonist was published a London despatch telling of the measures to be brought forward in that country to control the liquor traffic, and to put an end to the so-called vested rights of the holders of licenses. We do not believe that any person ought to acquire a vested right to sell intoxicants, or that such a right should be appurtenant to any premises. We restrict the liquor traffic not because it is a good thing, which certain people may acquire a vested right to carry on, but because it is an evil, which it is thought necessary to restrain. Many very enthusiastic temperance advocates are fond of speaking of our laws as "licensing a wrong." They are not framed for any such purpose. They are intended to restrict an injurious business. If we had no license laws, any one could sell intoxicants; whereas a good license law is to be regarded as a step towards the betterment of society.

In this matter we are content to hasten slowly. There are places where prohibition can be enforced to such a degree that it is advisable to apply it; there are others where, if it is attempted, the results will not be beneficial. We are of the opinion that it would be unwise at present to attempt to enforce prohibition in British Columbia as a whole, but there are localities to which it might be applied, and all over the province the license laws might be made more stringent and be enforced with greater firmness. We do not care to associate politics with a moral movement, but we feel bound to add that the political party which refuses to listen to the growing demand of the people for the greater restriction of the liquor traffic may, as well make up its mind that it will have to stand aside for one that will listen.

SURVEYING CROWN LANDS.

The Colonist has been asked to direct the attention of the government to the necessity of having certain meridian and base lines run in the north central part of the province; that is, in the area within reasonable distance of the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. It has been represented to us that settlement is likely to be retarded for the lack of such lines, and it is pointed out that, owing to the conformation of the country, it will be practically impossible to make any general survey, but that the natural features of the land will have to very largely control the work. It is said also that, however advantageous it might be to connect all the surveys together, so as to give a general plan for a large area, the fact that the agricultural land is located in valleys of varying size, and unconnected with each other by tracts suitable for settlement, renders a series of local surveys more desirable than one on a larger scale. It has been suggested that in each valley likely to be settled at an early date a base line and a meridian line should be run, from which settlers could locate the lands upon which they might wish to settle. It would, of course, be very much better if the valleys could be completely surveyed, with corner posts set up on every section, but this will take some time, and can hardly be completed soon enough to accommodate the settlers, who are desirous of going into the country. We give these suggestions for what they are worth.

The gentleman from whom the foregoing suggestions were received is exceedingly hopeful of the future of the north central part of the province from an agricultural point of view. He has lived in the Bulkeley valley for two or three years, and says that it is a region of great possibilities. The winters are not at all severe, nor is the snowfall heavy. Apparently it is destined to be a remarkable region for the production of root crops, while the only grains that have been yet tried, namely, oats and barley, succeed as well as anywhere else in the world. There has been no object in growing wheat, but there does not appear to be any reason for questioning its success. Neither has anything been done in the fruit line, but if what is possible in other parts of Canada, where climatic conditions are even less favorable than in the valley mentioned, may be taken as an indication, there is no reason why apples, plums, strawberries and other small fruits ought not to be very sure and prolific crops. The Bulkeley is only one of many valleys, and it is neither the largest nor the best of them. It happens to be the most accessible and consequently is the first to be occupied.

IMMIGRATION.

The real difficulty in regard to Oriental immigration will arise over the proposed deportation of Hindus. It is possible that the Dominion statutes already in force preclude any attempt on the part of the British Columbia legislature to prevent the entry of Japanese and Chinese, but as far as we are at present advised there is no federal law that can be invoked to oust the jurisdiction of the province over incoming Hindus. A provincial enactment on the subject of immigration is intra vires, if it is "not repugnant" to enactments of the Parliament of Canada. Whether the courts will hold that the provision for an educational test is repugnant to the immigration laws of the Dominion, as far as they relate to nationalities not the subject of special enactments, is a question upon which we would not care to express an opinion, although entertaining a pretty strong view that it would not be. If the courts should declare such a test to be ultra vires the local legislatures, the question would be greatly simplified, but if the statute is held to be good law, the Dominion government will be confronted with the necessity of deciding whether it shall disallow the provincial legislation or permit the exclusion of Hindus to prevail. It is eminently proper that the ultimate decision in this matter should come before the federal authorities. The provincial legislature and government have done their full duty. They have declared what is the will of the people of British Columbia in the strongest possible way that such a thing can be done under the constitution. They have gone forward as far as the law will allow them to go in carrying out the will so expressed. They have done so in a manner comporting with the rights of the province, the respect due to the federal authorities, and their obligations as citizens of the Empire. If any one supposes that this has been done in any other spirit than one of appreciation of the serious nature of the questions involved, he does all the parties concerned a grave injustice.

There is a new milking machine which milks six cows at once; and any small boy can turn on the faucet of the water supply. Thus does invention lighten the labors of the husbandman.

The New York to Paris automobile racers are going to cut out Alaska and Siberia. We do not usually say that "we told you so," but we did and told it when the so-called race was first proposed. The wonder now is that the racers did not ship their machines to Paris by freight and take passage by steamer from New York in time to make a triumphal entry into the French capital.

Victoria's bank clearances continue to show a gratifying rate of increase. The only city in the Dominion surpassing ours in the rate of gain is Quebec. It is worth mentioning that while Quebec is perhaps three times as big a city as Victoria, its bank clearings were only 50 per cent greater while Victoria surpassed St. John, which is more than 50 per cent greater in population.

The present post office building is a fairly large and commodious one for a city the size of Victoria, and the fact that it has proved entirely inadequate to present demands is the very best kind of evidence of civic progress and expansion. It is proposed to spend the sum of $10,000 in building an additional wing. We have no hesitation in saying that we believe that before another five years have passed it will be necessary to authorize another enlargement.

It is announced in an Ottawa despatch that President Roosevelt has just suffered a rebuke from the hands of the legislators of the United States which we fancy will be generally adjudged as being well deserved. At Washington, in the House committee on coinage, weights and measures, by unanimous vote, it was agreed to report favorably the McKinley (Illinois) bill requiring the restoration to gold and silver coins of the national motto, "In God We Trust." An altogether unpleasant incident is thus removed from the realm of debate.

During the week a little incident occurred furnishing an eloquent demonstration of the influx of population to Victoria and its rapid expansion as a residential city. A gentleman from the interior portion of the province determined to make his home here for the ensuing few months, and started out "house-hunting." Observing that a cottage was approaching completion in the James Bay district, and having ascertained that the owner intended to rent the same, he made application for it. He was informed that there were thirty-five others ahead of him.

Mr. R. M. Palmer, who has been in the Old Country for the past five months in the interests of British Columbia, presents a most cheering report on his return. He is able to tell us that a greater amount of interest is being manifested in this province than ever before and that the results of the special advertising which was done on behalf of the provincial government have exceeded all expectations. This is a very gratifying announcement. It is probably correct to say that no other province in the whole Dominion commands a larger share of public attention in the United Kingdom at the present time. Not only is the government to be commended for the wise policy they have followed in respect to advertising the attractions and advantages of British Columbia abroad, but they are to be congratulated, and the country is to be congratulated, on having been so fortunate as to secure the services of such thoroughly competent men as Mr. Palmer and Mr. Burrell to supplement the good work done by the agent general resident in London, Hon. J. H. Turner.

Buttermilk Toilet Lotion

Prevents and heals chaps, roughness, sunburn, etc. counteracts the bad effects of dustladen winds on the complexion. Keeps the skin soft and smooth; makes the hands delicately white.

Does not promote hair-growth. Is neither greasy nor sticky. Excellent for gentlemen's use after shaving. Always fresh; always pure. Made from an especially fine formula, from the best and purest ingredients. 25c bottle only at this store.

CYRUS H. BOWES, Chemist, Government St., near Yates

Now is the Best Time to Choose Your New Spring Carpets. Come in.

WEILER BROS. VICTORIA, B.C.

The China Store is Filled With a Fine Assortment of Dainty Pieces.

GOING TO BE MARRIED

THIS YEAR—THEN YOU'LL NEED SOME FURNITURE

If you are about to assume the responsibilities of a home of your own, you'll no doubt require an "outfit" of furniture and housefurnishings. The best place to purchase these needs is an important question. Experimenting might prove fatal to that limited purse of yours—it's dangerous, anyway—and the safest plan is to come to this old reliable house of homefurnishers where the largest and best stocks, the fairest possible prices and the experience of years is offered you. In the great majority of Victoria homes, you'll find some Weiler Furniture. Many have been completely furnished by us; others are just getting acquainted with our excellent values. Our host of friends is growing rapidly, each succeeding year showing tremendous advances over the one just gone before. Only honest treatment could warrant more than forty years of such continuous growth. We have had much experience in furnishing the homes of the "newly-weds," and believe we are better qualified to properly "outfit" you than any other firm in the West. Come in and consult us. You may pick up some valuable ideas, and any information we can give you will be cheerfully and freely furnished. We'll quote you interesting prices, too—which is important.

Some More New Arrivals in Wedgwood China

We have lately received some handsome new China from the renowned Wedgwood potteries. This famous china is so well and favorably known it is not necessary to dilate upon its superiority here. We list a few prices but advise a visit to the China Store so that you may see the dainty ware and then appreciate the reasonableness of these pricings.

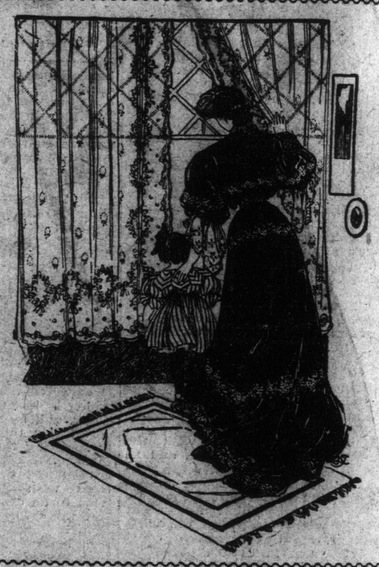
CUPS AND SAUCERS, in a variety of shapes and decorations, at, from, each, $4.00 down to..$1.50
WEDGWOOD CHINA DINNER SERVICE, 157 pieces, blue enamel and gold border, with floral pattern ..$150.00
WEDGWOOD CHINA DINNER SERVICE, gold, green, and floral border, an extremely handsome service ..$230.00
WEDGWOOD CHINA DINNER SERVICE, 157 pieces, rich gold decoration, at, per set..$245.00
WEDGWOOD CHINA DINNER SERVICE, 112 pieces, Cambridge shape, enamel pattern in mixed colors. A beautiful service, for..$110.00
WEDGWOOD CHINA TEA SET, 40 pieces, beautiful blue and enamel floral border. Price, per set ..$25.00
WEDGWOOD CHINA TEA SET, 40 pieces, exquisite rose pattern ..$38.00
Many other patterns and decorations, up from, per set ..$25.00

WEDGWOOD OFFERINGS IN POPULAR "BLUE JASPER"

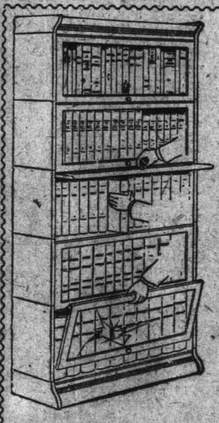
TOOTHPICK HOLDERS, at, each ..50¢
MATCH BOXES, at, each ..65¢
CREAM JUGS, several sizes, at, each, $1.00, 90c and ..80¢
POMADE JARS, at, each ..$1.25
BON BONS, covered, heart shape, each..$1.25
BON BONS, covered, square shape, each ..$1.50
SUGAR BOWLS, two sizes, at, each, $1.75 & $1.50
TEA POTS, two sizes, at, each, $2.00 and..$1.75
CUPS AND SAUCERS, at, each ..$1.50
LOVING CUPS, at, each ..$1.75
CANDLESTICKS, at, each ..$1.50
BISCUIT JARS, at, each ..$3.00
JARDINIERES, at, each, $4.00, $3.00, $2.50 and ..$2.00

Some New Lace Curtains

For this Spring's Curtain business we have gathered together a collection of artistic curtain styles far surpassing the offerings of former years. We have more and better designs than ever before and have marked these superior curtains at very fair prices indeed. Come in and let us show you some new ones.



NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS—In these curtains we have just unpacked more than 60 new designs, and these, with our former splendid Showing, makes an assortment of this style of curtains that isn't equalled elsewhere. We can promise you values that cannot be duplicated and in this range of prices you will find something that will surely suit you. Prices range from, per pair, $14.00 down to ..75¢
SWISS LACE CURTAINS—In the Swiss line we have just opened more than 50 new patterns in White, Champagne, Ivory and Ecru shades. This excellent curtain is shown in a great choice of designs at a great price variety. We have them at per pair $30.00 down to ..$3.50
ARISTON LACE CURTAINS—This is a very dainty curtain and the new styles just unpacked are indeed pleasing. A special weave makes a very strong curtain and you'll find this style an excellent wearer. The Ecru and two-tone effects are very pleasing. Price per pair, $6.00 down to ..$4.00
NOVELTY BRAIDED CURTAINS—This is a "new thing" in Curtains and a style we think you'll like very much. The designs are uncommonly dainty and pleasing. We have them in Arab and White, and offer you a very special value at per pair ..$5.00



The Best Book-Case Style

The Sectional Kind That Grows With The Library

The most economical and satisfactory Bookcase is the sort that "grows"—the Sectional Bookcase. As your library grows you add a sufficient number of sections to accommodate your literary gems, never investing in any large and cumbersome shelves that may not be used for months or years, but buying only what you absolutely require. A very small amount will start you with one of these desirable preservers of books, and there is no reason on the side of price why your books should be scattered throughout the house.

We have these in Golden Oak and Early English Oak, to harmonize with the different furnishings. They are made in an attractive design, and finished in the finest manner, and should make a desirable addition to the furnishings of any room. We have experimented with many styles, but, after most careful comparisons, have adopted the "Macey" as being the most practical of all. We have a splendid stock of these, and should be pleased to have an opportunity to demonstrate these to you on our Fourth Floor.

See These Book-cases on our Fourth Floor

FURNISHERS —OF— HOMES HOTELS CLUBS Complete and Good

Weiler Bros

THE "FIRST" FURNITURE STORE OF THE "LAST" WEST
GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.

MAKERS —OF— FURNITURE AND OFFICE FITTINGS That Are Better