

The Colonist

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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SCOTSMEN COMING.

It is announced that the Grand Trunk Pacific is going to bring out five thousand Scotsmen to work upon its railway in British Columbia. This is very good news. These men will all, or nearly all, become settlers in the province when they have finished work on the railway, and better settlers than Scotsmen cannot be found anywhere.

This news demonstrates the wisdom of the course pursued by the provincial government in refusing to assent to the employment of Chinese labor by the company. What seemed to many people a very strong case was made out on behalf of the company; but Mr. McBride stood firm. Better some delay than a relaxing of the principle that this country is to be kept for white men, was his position.

SHIPBUILDING.

The Colonist has consistently, and some think persistently, advocated the taking of such steps by the Dominion government as will stimulate shipbuilding on this coast and by preference at or near Victoria. A phase of the naval policy is the construction here of vessels intended for service on this coast. Properly directed this policy will produce very important results; but unless the government carries out its plans on broad lines, having in view not only present necessities, but future requirements as well, it will fail to take full advantage of a great opportunity and thereby make Canada as strong on the Pacific as she ought to be.

THE UNION BANK

We printed yesterday a synopsis of the annual statement of the Union Bank, which has had a branch in this city during the past year, and has

given proof of its belief in the stability and assured progress of Victoria by purchasing a valuable property and preparing to erect a costly building. The earnings of the bank were 14 per cent, which enabled it to increase its dividend from 7 to 8 per cent, and to add \$500,000 to its reserve account. The assets of the bank reach the vast total of \$47,455,000. It reports a substantial increase in circulation and a gain of \$5,000,000 in deposits not bearing interest, which means just so much increase in the transactions of the bank with commercial firms, corporations and individuals.

AS OTHERS SEE US

The Brandon Sun having said that Victoria is a "dead town," the Colonist informed it "that there is not a city in Canada of its population that is progressing more rapidly than is Victoria." The Kingston Standard quotes this, but does not seem inclined to believe it. It says that the slow growth of Victoria is due to the character of its first settlers, and it complains that even now we do not hold out a welcoming hand to the unfortunate strangers who come within our gates. This sort of thing calls for some comment. In the first place it is not true that the history of Victoria was marked by slow growth before the advent of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Coast, which may be looked upon as the end of the old order of things in British Columbia; on the contrary, the city increased in wealth and population as rapidly as any other place upon the coast north of Portland, Oregon. There was not much to stimulate great growth and activity. It was a long way from Victoria to the centres of population. It is all very well for a man to get aboard a train and run out here in five or six days, and then wonder why thirty years and more ago this city was not getting big after the fashion in which some of the Prairie towns have grown; but if he had been living there in the days before railway construction he would have understood the reason better than he can now hope to do.

On the point of sociability some things may be said. It is often alleged that Victorians are not given to making strangers as welcome as might be desirable; and while there may be some reason for this statement, very much depends upon the strangers themselves. In new towns, where no one lived more than a year or two ago, anybody and everybody soon gets upon the same footing as every one else. A stranger comes to Victoria. He has been socially prominent in his own community; he has a sort of idea that he will achieve at once the social prominence here that he enjoyed there. To his surprise he finds that social matters have settled themselves down here to an established basis. He is not called upon, not because the people here are unsociable, but because they have their own circles of friends and do not feel anxious to enlarge them. This condition exists in every city where a generation of men and women has grown up. The stranger is welcome, if not enthusiastically welcomed. We do not call out the band whenever a new resident comes to town; but if a newcomer has any desire to make congenial friends he will find hundreds of doors open to him.

We are going to see something in which the attention of Victorians, who are men of family, is directed. There are many young men and young women, who come here and find themselves for a long time almost without friends. This is true not only of Victoria but of practically every city on the Coast. A respectable young man, who is alone, may go for months without entering the door of anyone's home, not because he would not be made a welcome visitor, but because there seems to be no way by which he can get an introduction. We have heard of young men in this city, in Vancouver, in Seattle and other places who have lived a year in either of those cities without having received a social invitation of any kind. Many young girls have a similar experience. It seems as if we might do something to remedy this state of things.

BRITISH POLITICS

As the holidays draw to a close political speculation as to the outcome of events in the United Kingdom will be renewed, and we suppose there will be the usual assortment of wild guesses. Some things we think may be assumed. One of these is that Mr. Asquith will not ask the King for authority to create new peers before introducing his Veto Bill. To do that would be to assume that the Lords would reject the Bill when it is sent up to them, and such an assumption is unwarranted by constitutional usage, however much reason there may be for believing that it would meet such a fate. Mr. Asquith will doubtless place the measure before the House of Commons. There will be a full debate; its merits and demerits will be fully canvassed, probably the Unionists will seek to amend it. When the Commons has passed the measure it will be sent to the Lords and that body will adopt one of three courses. It may either pass, reject, or amend the Bill. If it passes it, the Royal assent will be given, and the crisis will be at an end. If it amends it, the Bill will come back to the Commons. If that body concurs in the amendments the Bill will receive the Royal assent and become law. If the Commons does not agree to any amendments that may be made, or if the Lords reject the Bill, then and not until then will any occasion arise for the employment of the Royal prerogative for the creation of peers. We do not suppose for a moment that the latter step will have to be taken; for if the Crown shall indicate its intention to create peers so that the Bill may become law, the Lords will doubtless withdraw all opposition. We do not anticipate that the Lords will reject the Bill as it comes first from the Commons, but think in all likelihood they will make amendments to it defining their position. If the Commons does not accept those amendments, we think it very probable that the Lords will give no further opposition, because they would have no desire to see the King placed in the position of having to decide upon a matter of legislation. If Mr. Asquith should advise the creation of peers in order to give effect to the vote of a majority of the Commons fresh from the people and after an election in which the measure in dispute was an issue, it is difficult to see how his Majesty could refuse to do so without precipitating a far more serious crisis than that which now exists. For this reason it seems unlikely that the Lords will press their opposition to the Veto Bill to such an extent as to compel action by the Crown.

President Elliot, of Harvard, thinks the democracy always considers itself to be in the right. It is true enough that you can convince the minority of mankind that they may be mistaken, but it is difficult to prove to the majority that vox populi is not vox dei.

There is nothing to prevent the city from proceeding with the extension of View street to Government. The valuation of the properties to be taken has not yet been adjusted, but arbitrators have been appointed and the owners raise no objection to the work being begun pending the valuation proceedings. We suppose a start will be made immediately after the beginning of the year.

France Buys Canadian Stocks. MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—The extent of Paris buying of Quebec railway and Lake of the Woods stock seems to have been even greater than the "street" supposed. When asked today what amount the French market had taken, Rodolphe Forget said: "It would take some time to give the exact figures, but roughly, I would say that France has taken fifty-seven thousand shares of Quebec railway and six thousand shares of Lake of the Woods." Mr. Forget said that there would be some news on the Quebec railway before long.

WEILER BROS

New Year Suggestions



WEILER BROS

Everything For the Table

SEE THIS MODEL HOME

A Special Exhibit of Furnished Rooms in Our Broughton Street Windows—Take a Hint

Don't miss the model home in the Broughton Street windows. These spacious windows allow us to furnish three rooms in a manner that gives a fair conception of the attractive qualities of Weiler Furniture and Furnishings. We have a dining-room, drawing-room and bedroom, and every lover of an attractively furnished home shouldn't fail to see this display. It is impossible to do our furniture offerings justice in the showrooms. Lack of space prevents these pieces being shown to advantage, and only when placed in the quarters for which they were designed and made can you rightly appreciate their beauty. In these rooms we give a faint idea of the possibilities of Weiler furniture. See these rooms today.

THE DINING-ROOM: This room is furnished in mahogany, which gives it a handsome appearance. It makes a nice dining-room in our window, and when you have seen it you can imagine how it will look in your home. THE DRAWING-ROOM: In the drawing-room some very handsome examples are shown, mahogany furniture of very pleasing design. THE BEDROOM: In this room we have Circassian walnut—a splendid style for bedroom use. The handsome bed adds dignity to this room. The bedding comes from our big bedding department. The Silver Manicure and Toilet Pieces from our silverware department. Many other combinations may be made.

Choose New Year's Gifts From This Stock

We have a magnificent collection of suitable gift things here. We shall be open late this evening giving New Year gift-hunters an opportunity to choose gifts from this splendid stock of ours. Nowhere will you find such a complete assortment of practical gift-pieces, nor will you find elsewhere better values than we offer.

Libbey's Cut Glass for Your New Year's Table and Buffet

- Berry Bowls, \$4.00 to \$7.50
Nappies, \$18.00 to \$5.00
Oil Bottles, \$8.00 to \$5.00
Whiskey Jugs, \$20.00 to \$12.00
Water Bottles, \$15.00 to \$7.50
Sugars and Creams, per pair, \$15 to \$6.00
Vases, \$35.00 to \$3.50
Small Punch Bowls, \$30.00
Bon Bon Dishes, \$10.00 to \$3.00
Uncovered Butter Dishes, \$10.00 to \$5.00
Ice-Cream Plates, \$40.00 to \$12.00
Candlesticks, Colonial designs, \$7.50 to \$6.00
Claret Jugs, \$18.00 to \$12.00
Sugar Holders, Colonial cut, \$15.00 to \$12.00
Custard Cups, per dozen \$30.00
Water Jugs, \$15.00 to \$10.00
Covered Butter Dishes, \$20.00 to \$16.00
Card Receivers, \$12.00
Footed Comports, \$12.00 to \$7.50
Celery Trays, \$12.00 to \$6.00
Cologne Bottles, \$7.00 to \$5.00
Mayonnaise Dish, each, with plate \$10.00
Liquor Glasses, per doz., \$22.00
Liquor Glasses, per dozen \$22.00
Sherry Glasses, per dozen \$25.00
Claret Glasses, per dozen \$25.00
Champagne Glasses, per dozen \$30.00
Whiskey Tumblers, per dozen \$16.00
Champagne Tumblers, per dozen \$20.00

Cutlery of the Best for Your New Year's Table

You can buy cutlery in plenty of stores, cutlery of a kind, but you can't buy Joseph Rogers & Son's Sheffield cutlery, which is the best, unless you come to our store. Everybody knows this famous cutlery, and when buying goods of this kind, if you buy the best you will only require to buy once. Let us show you our choice assortment.

Table and Dessert Knives, with square ivory handles. Per dozen, \$30.00, \$25.00, \$17.00 and \$12.00. Table and Dessert Knives, with round ivory handles. Per dozen, \$25.00, \$20.00, \$18.00, \$14.00 and \$12.00. Table and Dessert Knives, with xylonite handles. Per dozen, \$8.50, \$7.50, \$7.00. Other makes from \$6.00 to \$2.00. Carving Sets in beautiful cases from, each, \$12.00 to \$1.75.

Irish Table Linens

A large selection of choice Double Damask by the yard, 60in., 66in., 72in., 90in. wide. At this festive season of the year the necessity of a longer cloth than usual becomes urgent. By buying this Damask you can have just the correct quantity at a much lower rate than the cloths with the border all round. If you will give us a call we can give you some good hints that save you many a dollar. Spend your New Year's Eve in our store. We will make it enjoyable for you.

More For Your Money Than Ever WEILER BROS Money is Only Worth What It Will Buy

In the spring to return from Percy was in the accidental blast fire, and the King, who only inspired ity, determined success, and ed by the arms and other cess. His form dard, and not of his brothers, his progress, a his small force ous minor acti fro, a battle w an express agre broke, when t ations were, Bruce with su Northern Scotl in command in ried on operati tomary vigor a of success. By was in possessi land, and Edwa declined by the ed a large sum would not o preparations fo Northern king Scotland were was made to t crown to John B grandfather of to the throne, puted Lord of the bull of exo launched again Edward II, and sent a pow before which th the country be forces retired, raged the bor English expedit less results, and hands of Bruce haps never was campaigns than between 1308 a has ever interv than those whic rences on the pa interest attoche than to those of ery were inspiri try of the invad leaders on the s with the two B such men as I These were the there never war cult were more these stirring, Sir Philip de M distinguished o sieged in Stri with Bruce, wh ations should c the castle shou of St. John the he should be t treaty de Mow sulted with means of de the castle and r ing but his pr of Bannockbur better illustrate fact that Bruce for battle, trust faith. It is not nee Bannockburn, v 24, 1314. It w were greatly o numbering onl about 10,000 ca ance near the by the English ments, and pre fish force num were left dead 8,000 men. Ed in person and sonal courage. the superior fi there seems to tween the two the superior men to establish the foundation, and self to the int which were sa war did not ce in a desultory Bannockburn seem of their nationa ly that they co against the Sc Bruce set out b but notwithsta to his assistan to his Edward b Robert the when he was o but nearly the war, for altho