The Colonist.

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THE AUSTRALIAN SERVICE.

The Council of the Victoria Board of Trade yesterday determined to send a message to Ottawa favoring such a subsidy as would enable the Union Steamship company to put on vessels of the class desired. In so doing the Council took care to emphasize the necessity of providing for adequate accommodation for business originating in Victoria; for the maintenance of the cold-storage installation of the ships for the benefit of all comers, instead of its being sold to one concern, who are able to make a profit out of subletting it, and for safeguarding the proposed All-Red project. The Council has gone on record very emphatically in favor of the All-Red line, and while desiring to see the hands of the Union Steamship company strengthened so that it can put on a better service, did not wish to take a position which might be construed as a departure from the attitude heretofore taken in regard to the larger project. We think that there will be a general agreement that, in taking occasion at this time to lay stress upon the matters mentioned, the Council has acted with good judgment. There is no desire to place a single obstacle in the way of the realization of the plans of the Union Steamship company, but on the contrary the wish is to advance them in every possible way; nevertheless the Council felt that there ought to be reciprocity in these matters, and that, while a new arrangement between the government and the company is under consideration, the time is opportune for stipulating for such conditions as will only be fair to this port and to the business community of the whole province.

DEMOCRACY.

The Toronto Globe thinks that the Canadian ideal should be the development of democratic citizenship, which it defines as a democracy "free from the dominance of the political dictator, the plutocrat and the demagogue." To this it adds that in the formation of this democracy "the undemocratic races of the Orient and the refuse of old-world cities must be used but sparingly." A few days ago the Colonist, speaking of political issues, said that, excepting that of transportation, neither political party had yet approached the consideration of the real issues of Canadian national life. In saying this we had in mind somewhat of the same idea as the Toronto paper treats. There are certain principles of legislation, which ought to be observed, if we are to preserve a type of democracy in the Dominion, which will lead to the best results. We think it very fortunate for Canada in this regard that the development of her national institutions is not hampered by a written constitution, such as exists in the United States. We speak of "constitutional questions" arising in the Dominion, but they are really only questions of statutory construction. We are free to develop our nationality along any lines which commend themselves to the body of the people. Our neighbors find themselves hampered in countless ways in a similar effort. The courts are able to step in and declare that certain legislative acts are beyond the powers either of Congress or the state legislatures, while with us the whole legislative power is vested either in the Dominion Parliament or the Provincial Legislatures. Until one has had an opportunity of observing how this works out, he can hardly appreciate what a disadvantage the United States system is to all efforts at reform in the direction of democracy. We may add to make the distinction between the two countries clearer that the various legislative bodies in the United States have only such powers as the people have given them in express words or by necessary implication, whereas in Canada, as in the United Kingdom, in the legislative bodies there is vested every conceivable legislative power, the only question being in which one of them any particular power may be vested. Hence it follows that in the United States a court may declare that a certain thing cannot be done by any legislative body, whereas in Canada no question can be raised as to whether anything can be done, but only as to which legislative body may do it. From this it follows that the way is clear in the Dominion for the development of democratic ideas of government on the broadest lines.

But one may ask what we mean by this. Such a question is proper, because mere platitudes on democracy mean nothing at all. Let us give an illustration or two. The Railway Commission is the crystallization of a democratic idea; that is, it places the control of the transportation companies in the hands of a body amenable to the representatives of the people. There is nothing comparable to this in the United States, because such commissions as exist there are hampered on all sides by questions of constitutional powers. As an illustration of a line along which democratic legislation is needed, we may mention the control of corporate bodies administering public utilities. Our street railway companies, our gas, electric light, water, telephone, telegraph and all companies having public franchises, ought to be brought under public control and coupled with all franchises there ought to be the public right of revocation, of course on proper compensation being made. This control ought to be extended to the issue of capital stock so that fixed charges may be kept down, for no set of capitalists ought to be able to turn the increment of the country's prosperity into cash, beyond a reasonable return upon the money invested. Moreover, the exercise of all franchises ought to be under close public supervision, to the end that too much shall not be charged for services rendered. Under laws framed for the above ends there would be little opportunity for the development of plutocratic rule in Canada, as is so manifest in the United States.

We submit that there ought to be as little delay as possible in the adoption of means to accomplish the above objects. Now is the time to apply the means for the protection of the rights of the people. Canada is only at the outset of her career. It is evident to any observer that the next few years will witness wonderful progress, which will mean that the power and influence of capital will become greatly increased. Hundreds of franchises will be given. They will be necessary for the proper advancement of the material interests of the country. They should be hemmed about with restrictions, and we submit that these restrictions ought to take the form of general laws affecting all franchises alike. There should be laws upon the statute books defining the rights of companies receiving franchises and of the public to revoke them, and these laws should apply to all franchises that should thereafter be granted. The promoters of new undertakings of a semi-public kind can bring a heavy lobby to bear and by skillful drafting are able to produce bills which this lobby has little difficulty in inducing members to accept; whereas in a general law it would be possible to secure far-reaching provisions, and it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for the promoters of enterprises to escape their operation. A measure of this kind adopted by the federal and provincial parliaments would do more for the cause of democracy in Canada than anything else that can be suggested.

CHICAGO RELIGION.

Chicago seems likely hereafter to get its religion canned. The Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, who is in charge of All Souls church in that city, is greatly pleased with the suggestion that during the hot season ministers should dictate their sermons to a phonograph, and then go off for a holiday, leaving the machine in charge of some one, who could start it at the appropriate time. "It's a brilliant idea," he says, "one that makes for the comfort of the minister and does not deprive his congregation of the benefit of his advice." Already, we are told, a number of ministers have dictated their sermons to phonographs. While they are about it they might as well dictate their prayers to a machine. True, we are all very sad when we read of the benighted heathen who have prayer wheels, but there is a difference between a prayer wheel and a phonograph, and if you are unable to see that the latter is in keeping with the worship of the Almighty, while the former is an abomination and an invention of the Evil One, it is because you are not up-to-date in your religious ideas. But Mr. Lloyd-Jones is not as advanced as he thinks he is. Years ago, a man, whose religious ideas did not permit him to omit his nightly prayer, but whose bedroom was cold, wrote out the prayer on a card and pinned it on his bedpost. Then, after he had undressed, he pointed to the card and exclaiming "Lord, them's my sentiments," hopped under the bed clothes. But the scheme of Mr. Lloyd-Jones is instinct with boundless possibilities. It could be so developed that most of the parsons could be dismissed, and a series of syndicate churches could be established, after the plan of syndicate newspapers. Some talented parson could be employed to write out good prayers and sermons, and then some one with a big voice could talk them into a phonograph, and the records could be sent out weekly to the members of the syndicate, which would then not require to have any parson. Ministerial calls could be arranged through a social clearing-house. After a time churches could be dispensed with altogether, and the records could be distributed among the homes of what used to be the congregation. The whole thing would be beautifully simple. The singing could be done into the machine by leading vocalists, and a high-class service would then be possible in every home in the land. This is the tendency of the latest brand of Chicago religion.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC

In his report to the government of his mission to Vancouver in connection with the adjustment of the claims for damages arising out of the "riots," Mr. Mackenzie King makes some statements which are a surprise even to the people of the coast, who already knew that the sale of opium formed a very considerable item of the business of some Chinese merchants. He tells of visiting an establishment in Vancouver in which ten men were employed in the manufacture of crude opium into form in which the drug is used. The proprietor told him that his business in 1907 amounted to $180,000, of which $20,000 was profit. In another place the sales were somewhat smaller, but the profit amounted to $150,000 during the year. There appear to be six or seven opium factories in British Columbia, all of them doing a profitable business, the customers being both white people and Chinamen. In view of these facts, Mr. King thinks that the Dominion and provincial governments ought to cooperate in preventing the importation and manufacture of opium, except so far as it may be necessary for medical purposes. He believes the use of the drug is spreading at a rate of which the people of Canada are unaware. Mr. King thinks that any well-directed effort to check this traffic will meet with the hearty approval of most of the Chinese in Canada, many of whom "as members of the anti-opium league, are doing all in their power to enlighten their fellow-countrymen on the terrible consequences of the opium habit, and to suppress, as effectually as possible, the traffic, which for so many years has been carried on with impunity." We think that Mr. King's views on this subject will meet with general approval, and that if there is anything necessary to be done by the legislature of British Columbia, it may be counted on with certainty. We are inclined to think that under the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the Canada temperance case, the powers of the federal parliament are wide enough to cover the ground.

FRANCE AND QUEBEC.

France is to send a delegate to the tercentenary celebration at Quebec. To most people this seems fitting. France founded Quebec, and although by the fortunes of war the New France passed under British sway, the march of events has completely effaced any traces of ill-feeling which the change of ownership created. In the middle of the Eighteenth Century changes of sovereignty were not regarded quite as seriously as they are now, probably because they happened more frequently. Moreover the exceedingly liberal terms extended by the British parliament to the people of Quebec made a favorable impression, and the loyalty of the Roman Catholic clergy, who thought they saw in the New World under British rule greater security for the interests of their church than France had to offer, completed the work which diplomacy had begun. The part played by the church in Quebec can hardly be overestimated, and it is sufficient to say that the British crown has had no more loyal supporters than the French-Canadian priesthood. It is therefore with regret that we notice in Verite, an organ of the clerical party in Quebec, a strong protest against the presence at the tercentenary of any representative of France, or rather of the French government. Verite thinks France ought to be represented, but it says "the representative should be of that old France, that Catholic France, which has piously preserved the traditions and the virtues of our old mother country." That Colonist readers may appreciate how the clerical party in Quebec feels towards France of today, we subjoin an extract from its editorial containing the protest above referred to:

"The France that has been ignored is the Christian France, our old mother country, today ignominiously persecuted for her faith and which is still represented in that country by noble sons and daughters. Alas! we have preferred that other France, that bastard France, which has driven nuns and priests from their convents and which combats the church and the Pope. This Jewish and Masonic France, as a matter of fact, fills us with disgust. What have we, in fact, to do with the sons and followers of Voltaire? What affinity is there, we ask, between French and Catholic Canada and the ignoble monster born of the revolution of blood and dirt? Our mother country is the France of Tolbiac, the elder daughter of the church, while the Clemenceaus, the Briands, and the Vivians are for us so many strangers, and we consider that it would be the worst possible misfortune for us to fall under their odious yoke. Herbette in this country would be the intruder, and although there are some people here who will talk of the great mission the persecutors of the church are accomplishing, we want the people on the other side to understand that these few compatriots do not represent the true national sentiment of our fellow countrymen. There is, however, a consoling thought in this whole business, for in sending to our shores a man like Herbette the French government is digging deeper and deeper the abyss that already separates us from this official France, and will break the last tie which unites us. For this, God be praised. When, in fact, we consider that it was Divine Providence that separated us from France in 1760, we again ask ourselves if once more we are not the objects of Divine Grace?"

In another article the Verite refers to a document published eight or ten years ago, containing the names of sixteen thousand French Masons, in which the name of Louis Herbette appears, and it asks if it is the same man who is to be sent here as the representative of the French government? The clerical organ promises to look further into the matter.

CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE.

We understand that the Council of the Board of Trade will tomorrow take up the question involved in the maintenance of the Canadian-Australian line of steamships. Larger, better and faster steamships are needed on the line, but the Union Steamship company, which operates it, has hesitated to invest the necessary capital owing to the fact that the subsidies granted have been only from year to year. Transportation is a business in which there can be no backward step without grave loss to the community. If the Canadian-Australian line cannot be maintained at as high a degree of efficiency as any competing line, it will have to go out of business, in which event traffic between Canada and Australia will be carried via San Francisco or the Suez Canal. To state the case for an improved service is to prove it, and we think that nothing ought to be left undone that can legitimately be asked to induce the Dominion government to enter into such an arrangement as will enable the Union Steamship Line to hold its own against all competitors, and if possible make a gain upon them.

Business between Canada and Australia is only in its infancy. We pointed out a few days ago the opening which exists for Canadian fruit in Australia and we believe there is also a good market in New Zealand. This trade will certainly be captured by the states of Washington and Oregon, if the Canadian line goes out of business. Of course this is not a very large business and it is only for a part of the year; but it serves to show the way in which traffic in unexpected lines can be developed between the two parts of the Empire. Intercourse between the Dominion and the Commonwealth is growing greater and it would be a serious thing if anything occurred to check its development. We have on several occasions recently spoken approvingly of the extension of liberal aid to eastern transportation projects and we hope that the Dominion government will see its way clear to assisting this enterprise so that it may be continued on a scale consistent with its importance.

ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

A very interesting tale is told by a return recently laid before Parliament. We quote from the return:

The townsite of White Horse in the Yukon Territory comprises a number of group lots, each containing an area of forty acres, more or less.

The patent for lot 1 in the above group was issued in favor of W. W. B. McInnes on March 3, 1900, and this lot has since been sub-divided into town lots.

The patent for lot No. 3 was issued in favor of G. F. McIsaac on March 3, 1900, and a portion of this lot has been sub-divided into town lots.

The patent for lot No. 4 was issued in favor of Duncan C. Fraser on March 3, 1900, and it has all been subsequently divided into town lots.

The lots in question were sold at the rate of $10 an acre, that being the price at which lands in the Yukon Territory were at that time being disposed of.

At the time these sales were made Mr. McInnes represented the riding of Vancouver in the House of Commons; Mr. McIsaac sat for Antigonish, N.S.; and Mr. Fraser for Guysboro, in the same province. It hardly seems necessary to add anything more, except that it is a good thing sometimes to be a member of the House of Commons.

NAVAL MANOEUVRES

This week the most remarkable naval manoeuvres on record are to begin in the North Sea and English Channel. More than three hundred vessels will take part and they will be at sea for two weeks. It will be the greatest exhibition of naval force that the world has ever seen. The attacking force is intended to represent, as nearly as possible, the effective strength of Germany's navy at the present time, and it is openly stated and not officially contradicted that the object sought is to demonstrate how secure Great Britain would be from a sudden attack delivered by Germany. All the signal stations on the east and south coasts are to be kept manned, but it is thought that they will not have any part to play in the mimic war, because the defending fleet is supposed to be able to keep the enemy away from the coast. One of the most interesting features in connection with the manoeuvres is the trial that will be made of the Dreadnought. It is claimed by some critics that she is not immune from attacks by torpedoes, and it is understood that a special effort will be made to settle any doubt that may exist on this point. The tendency of naval architects at present is to get as heavy a weight of ordnance on one ship as is possible, but if it shall be proved on trial that these tremendous ships are vulnerable to torpedo craft, there will have to be a good deal of reconsideration of plans of naval construction. The result of the manoeuvres may have an important bearing upon the navy estimates. If it shall be demonstrated that there is little or no danger from an attack from Germany, those who advocate retrenchment will have a very strong argument in their favor; but if the result demonstrates the contrary, a vigorous programme of naval construction will have to be inaugurated, for however they may differ on other things, the great mass of the British people are unanimous in regard to the maintenance of the navy at such a standard of excellence that there can never be any question as to who is supreme upon the sea.

BRITISH TRADE.

In these days when we hear so much of the decadence of Britain it is refreshing to read some of the statistics of her trade. Whether we believe that the Mother Country ought to adopt the protective policy or adhere to free trade, we are all alike glad to learn that her business relations with the rest of the world are on a sound and progressive basis. The returns for 1907 show the following facts:

	1907.	1906.
Imports from		
Foreign countries	£488,670,888	£465,723,260
British Possessions ..	157,137,064	142,165,240
Totals	£646,807,942	£607,888,500

This increase is remarkable. It may be noted that the imports of manufactured articles last year came to £154,558,981, a falling off of over £1,300,000 compared with the previous year. Since 1903 there has been an increase of over £100,000,000 in the value of imports, but the gain in the value of imported manufactured articles has been less than £20,000,000. These figures do not bear out the suggestion that foreign manufactures are swamping British products. The exports show even a greater gain, as will be seen from the figures.

	1907.	1906.
British Exports to-		
Foreign countries	£288,698,327	£254,234,060
British Possessions ..	137,336,756	121,341,278
Totals	£426,035,083	£375,575,338

The export of manufactured goods increased by nearly £37,000,000. The gain in exports has been astounding, for in 1903 the total value of the exports was only £290,800,103. Including merchandise, transhipped under bond and gold and silver bullion, the trade of the United Kingdom is given as follows:

	Total Imports. 1907.	Exports, Re-exports, 1906.
Foreign countries	£859,193,974	£795,754,027
British Possessions ..	304,591,135	272,812,291
Grand Totals ..	£1,163,785,109	£1,068,566,318

1903—Grand total, £802,973,962, of which trade £669,818,980 was done with foreign countries and £233,154,981 with British possessions.

The imports of bullion in 1907 amounted to £78,972,439 and the export to £63,230,653, which is several millions in excess in both items of the bullion movements of 1906. A very interesting fact in connection with the extension of British trade is that of the increase of £260,811,148 since 1903, £71,436,154 was with the colonies and protectorates, which is larger proportionately than the increase of trade with foreign countries. To most people these returns will come as a great surprise, for we have been assured that foreign manufacturers were flooding the British market and that the products of the factories of the United Kingdom were being driven out of foreign countries.

The Olympic games in London promise to be mainly notable for having demonstrated that Canada can produce athletes as well as wheat.

Toronto has invited Lord Roberts to visit it after he has finished with the celebration at Quebec. Should not Victoria do likewise?

There was a discussion in parliament a few days ago as to whether 320 acres were necessary to make a good farm in the Prairie provinces, and the general opinion seemed to be in the affirmative. A man with a 320-acre farm in British Columbia would be an agricultural prince.

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A WEALTH of the very latest and most fashionable designs; here is one as a sample; In clear white with deep blue band edged with a line of gold; this is generally entitled the King's pattern because it is the favourite one at Windsor. It consists of 129 pieces and costs only $35

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SHIMA SAHEI

A NEW shipment of the exquisite "Shima Sahei" brass ware, just arrived from the Orient. The graceful simplicity of this noted ware is only one of its many charms, every home should possess one or two pieces for mantel and table decoration; the vases are excellent for the former, the brass fern pots for the latter. An additional charm is undoubtedly the moderate prices, viz: ..... $1, 75¢, 50¢, and 25¢

Antique Brasses

IN OUR WINDOW you will see a number of very fine pieces of Oriental brassware, but in our second floor showroom you will find quite a large collection, they are all priced very moderately indeed.

NEW CARPETS

NEW RUGS

Crossley's Velvet Squares

WE HAVE been showing an assortment of these beautiful soft pile squares in the window, now we should like you to step inside and examine them, they are woven in one piece and have that soft velvety touch which gives that delicious sense of luxury, they will last a lifetime, prices are

9x6 ft.	$24
9x12 ft.	$27.50
10 ft. 6 in. x 12 ft.	$32
12 ft. x 13 ft. 6 in.	$42

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3x9 ft.	$10
3x12 ft.	$14
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