The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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A NEEDED WORK

The Cape Scott settlers have decided to remove to the St. Joseph valley. The St. Joseph is a river flowing into the ocean a little to the north of the entrance to Quatsino Sound. The valley is a fine wide one, and adjacent thereto is an open country of very considerable extent, well adapted to farming. There were a few settlers in the valley before the Cape Scott people decided to go there, and when the latter have located themselves there will be from eighteen to twenty-five farms. The people are excellent settlers and deserve every consideration that can be extended to them. The end of the valley is about nine miles from the end of the West Arm of Quatsino Sound and the intervening country is not a difficult one to traverse. What the settlers need is a road covering this nine miles and a wharf at the head of the West Arm. If there is no money available to make a road at present, a trail ought to be cut this summer, and next winter the Dominion government ought to be asked to provide the wharf. If this is done, the West Coast steamer can take in the head Arm every trip to Quatsino, and the settlers in the valley will be provided with very satisfactory means of communication, which will enable them to get goods and mails in with regularity and ease, and will make it possible for them to get their products out to the miners and others, who are ready to buy it. An expenditure of a few thousands of dollars by the provincial government on a road, and a similar sum by the Dominion government upon a wharf would lead to the early settlement of an extensive area. We urge the consideration of those matters upon those within whose province they come.

MR. HALDANE'S PROPHECY

Mr. Haldane, Secretary of War, recently said that by the close of the present century Canada will have a population of 80,000,000. The figure is a striking one, but it is hardly an overestimate. As the Mail and Empire points out, in 1800 the United States had a population of 5,308,000, which had increased to 75,000,000 by 1900. Canada had a population of 5,370,000 in 1901, and a rate of increase corresponding to that of the United States would give us more than 80,000,000 in the year 2001. We have reason to expect more rapid development than was experienced by the United States. In the first twenty years after 1800 the population of that country only increased some 4,350,000 or an average of 217,500 a year. Our population is growing much more rapidly than that. There is no manner of doubt that by the year 1921 we will have in the Dominion very considerably more than twice as many people as we have now. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is the fact that we have the United States itself to draw upon for people. In forty years the neighboring country only gained a little over 10,000,000 in population. Canadians will be surprised if we do not make as great gain in twenty-five years. The settlement of the Dominion is a very much easier feat than was the settlement of the United States. That country was handicapped by the lack of means of transportation. The settlers during the first quarter, one might almost say the first half, of the last century went into an almost inaccessible wilderness. In Canada they are taken to their homes in railway trains. Therefore our country will be filled up more rapidly. Have we the area for such a population? The Colonist has so frequently set forth its views on this point that it will give those of the Toronto paper above quoted. instead of repeating its own. The Mail and Empire says:

As regards area we are in a somewhat similar position to that of our neighbors. We have a country covering 3,745,000 square miles; they have a country covering 3,622,933 square miles, including Alaska, which is 590,884 miles in extent. The northern territory is balanced by our north, and therefore the two countries are, in the matter of size, on a fairly even basis. But area is not everything. The question is whether or not the land we have is as capable as that next door of sustaining a large population. It is difficult, of course, to make an exact comparison of the relative merits of two great countries; but there can be little doubt that the Dominion has the larger proportion of the fertile area of Norh America. We share with the United States the huge belt of cultivated territory lying between the Atlantic and the Pacific. The international line, indeed, cuts the choice country in two. Having divided what appears to be the best land, our neighbors get the far south, while we receive the far north. Which is the more promising and the more valuable, the north or the south? We believe the facts all point to the superiority of the north. What the south is the world knows. It certainly is not a land to which a large population will go, or upon which such a population can live. But the north is a country of constant surprises. It is continually making new revelations. The time was when we imagined that the settlements along the river banks constituted Canada. The time was when the west was regarded as a desert, and the north a frozen zone. But the old ideas are passing away as a result of investigation and experience. The west has become the centre, and the north is not half so distant as it once was. What we are learning of the north is exceedingly promising, and entirely suggestive of something advantageous in the future. The Hinterland of Quebec and Ontario is known to be rich in minerals, and in many parts fertile. It is even claimed that Labrador has attractive areas that will yet be populated. The north immediately above Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta has qualities that are gradually being revealed. What are termed the Barren Lands are said to be far from barren. The country in the neighborhood of Lake Athabaska and of Great Slave Lake is valuable, while the Peace River country is choice. Over the mountains there are stretches of territory of wonderful richness, such as, for example, the Bulkley Valley, on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Our contemporary has limited itself needlessly in its particularization. For example, it takes no account of the region drained by the Liard and Pelly Rivers, which the late Dr. Dawson told us contains 60,000 squares miles of area fit for settlement, nor of the lower part of the Mackenzie valley, where one day a large population will live. In setting off Alaska against our own northern country, the Toronto paper gives the United States rather the best of the bargain; we mention this, not to find fault, but only to demonstrate how very reasonable its estimate of our usable area is.

There are undoubtedly hundreds of young Canadians today, who will see their country inhabited by nearly the population named by Mr. Haldane. This is a thought that is worthy of much consideration. With upwards of 70,000,000 people living north of the Forty-ninth parallel, Canada will be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, power in the world. It will be forty years on July 1st since the Dominion was founded. It does not seem a very long time. It has hardly been long enough for us to forget the political differences which divided us at that time. In another forty years we will probably have as great a population as the United States had at the time of the war of Secession. In fifty years we may have as many people as the United Kingdom has today. These facts carry with them potent lessons in patriotism that shall find expression in wise and progressive government.

ELECTRIC SMELTING

The Colonist printed an article yesterday on electric smelting of iron. It is not very generally known in this city that while in the Senate Mr. Templeman gave this subject a good deal of attention, and that the investigations made by Dr. Haanel were under his general direction. The Colonist with that desire to co-operate with every one, who does anything to promote the welfare of the province, which it hopes will always influence its action, mentions this matter now with the view of suggesting to Mr. Templeman that it might be advisable to send Dr. Haanel out to Victoria for the purpose of enabling people interested in the development of the iron industry here to consult with him. We need not remind the minister that the application of the bounty upon electrically smelted iron was delayed for two years to enable the necessary arrangements to be made in this province and Ontario for the erection of electrical smelters; but we suggest to him that time is passing and that he knows as well as any one else that the whole matter is quite new to Victorians except in a very general way.

He hope that Mr. Templeman will see this matter in the suggested light and will appoint a day, at as early a date as convenient, when Dr. Haanel can visit the city. If the Doctor could spare the time, to take a trip up the West Coast it would be a very excellent thing. Mr. Templeman knows that nearly all of us in this part of the Dominion have only a meager theoretical knowledge of iron smelting. He also knows that there are vast deposits of magnetite on the Island, and abundant water-powers by which electricity can be developed. He cannot, so far as this part of Canada is concerned, better signalize his entry into the charge of the Department of Mines than by taking a step, which will bring iron smelting here within the scope of early consummation, and we can think of nothing that will contribute more to such a result than an official visit from Dr. Haanel.

CLIMATOLOGY

What is not known about climatology would make a very much greater volume than what is known. The news printed in the Colonist yesterday about snow storms and cold weather in Michigan, Kansas and Missouri presented for the consideration of Victoria people such a contrast with the weather we enjoyed here as to give food for thought. Over a large part of the world the temperature last winter was unusually low, and the prevalance of severe storms very marked. Therefore one might feel justified in supposing that the world was subject at the present time to some widespread influence, which was causing a marked change in the climate. The residents of Michigan, when they experienced eight inches of fresh snow on May 27, might be excused for thinking that such a change is in progress. But while we had unusually cold weather in Victoria last January, as they also had in Michigan, we are having substantially our usual May weather, or if there is any difference it may be a little warmer and dryer than is customary. Hence it can hardly be claimed that the determining cause of the weather is universal. In the early part of the last century there was what was called "the year without a summer." As the writer of this article was told of it by a person who experienced it, there was not a month in the whole twelvemonth without frost. The previous and following years were normal. There are records of extremely cold weather in Europe. On one occasion the river Elbe was frozen solid to its bed, and on one occasion the Thames was frozen so solid on May 1, that a May pole was erected on the ice, and an ox was roasted over a fire built on the ice. Other instances might be quoted of extremely cold winters, but from none of them have meteorologists been able to deduce conclusions. We read in the Book of Genesis that Joseph foretold seven fruitful years to be followed by a like number of barren years. Whether this knowledge came to him as an inspiration or was the result of scientific investigation of meteorological conditions, we do not know. There is no reason for supposing that such a succession of seasons did not occur. Indeed there is historical authority for the statement that periods of fruitfulness and barrenness have not infrequently occurred. If it should come about, as some people in the Middle West of the United States are apprehensive, that the summer of 1907 may be marked by cold weather, which will greatly limit the production of crops, the fact will not be without precedent, and will not warrant the assumption that 1908 will not be a good year.

A CONTRAST

A Victorian, who is now in Alberta on business, writing from Wetaskiwin on the 20th inst. says: "The novelty of the thing has compelled me to write. It is now 8.20 p. m. and the residents of this part of the country are having a beautiful old time snow storm. Just think of it; Victorians have no idea of what they are missing. I left Edmonton at 4 p. m. It was then snowing slightly and has been steadily increasing until the present, when the "beautiful" covers the ground to a depth of about two inches, and the storm still going without a break. Nevertheless it is a wonderful country and what strikes a stranger forcibly is the way in which the residents of Edmonton work together as one man for the welfare of their city, some of the buildings being erected by banks, etc., would open your eyes. It will surely be a great city in a very short time."

Certainly in the point of weather, Victoria has much the best of things as compared with the Alberta cities. When the above letter was written we were rejoicing in the fact that we had just had a very refreshing rain, and people who go camping were beginning to make their arrangements so as to get to their favorite resorts. But when it comes to the other part of the letter, wherein our correspondent speaks of the manner in which the people of Edmonton pull together as one man for everything that will advance the welfare of their city, we are not sure that the contrast is not in favor of the city on the Saskatchewan. That is the one point in which Victorians are lacking. We are better in this respect than we used to be, and the steady influx of new people will have the effect of making us more harmonious, but there is room for improvement yet. A well known resident of Victoria says that shortly after he came here, one of the old-timers said to another old-timer: "We'll have to stop——, or the first thing we know he'll be doing something." To which the second old-timer replied that he hoped the new-comer would do something, and do it quick. This sort of idea that is the idea expressed by the first old-timer, is pretty well abandoned, but there is yet the haunting fear in the minds of some people that someone may be going to make something out of some undertaking. If a proposal can be made out of which no man could make a dollar directly or indirectly, and no one would derive any advantage or credit, there would be the utmost unanimity among a certain class of people, but we have not yet reached the stage when it can be truly said of Victorians that we "all work together as one man for the welfare of the people." Things are changing for the better rapidly, and we look for even more rapid changes in the future.

THE CANADIAN ROUTE

For years the Victoria papers have been pointing out to the people of Canada that northern routes across the Continent and the Pacific ocean were shorter than all others, but it has been exceedingly difficult to get eastern papers to pay the least attention to the subject. They would, of course, report speeches, delivered in the House of Commons and elsewhere, in the course of which something would be said on that point but they never seemed to think it a subject calling for editorial comment. Therefore it was with unusual pleasure that we found the following editorial in the Toronto Globe:

Canada's northern situation is regarded with satisfaction chiefly because it leads to the development of an excellent quality of human beings, and also some splendid lines of wheat, barley, bacon and cheese. But there is another and more mechanical advantage in being located on the shorter route between the East and the West. As we recede from the equator the parallels that circle the globe grow shorter, and as a consequence the route between Europe and the awakening East is shorter by way of Canada than by the more southern detour which much traffic still follows. The more southern routes not only follow larger circles, but are more circuitous, and when Canada's projected railway systems are completed there will be sufficient transportation machinery available to enable us to take full advantage of our northern situation. When all these lines are in operation and the possibilities of Hudson's Bay are tested we will find ourselves enjoying all the advantages of a favorable location on the world highway.

The great nations of the earth and the great men of the earth have been produced within a rather narrow zone circling the northern hemisphere. That zone must be regarded as the highway of national development, and it is quite satisfactory to reflect on the large part of it that is occupied by the Dominion on this continent. Australia and South Africa intend to show the possibilities of the national highway of the southern hemisphere, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made a timely effort to give the Dominion the crossing of the highways by providing for an Australian route by way of Canada. Nature has destined us for the great commercial route between the East and the West, and statesmanship will give us the advantages of location on the crossing route between Britain and Australia. The world is entering upon the transportation age and Canada has the brightest prospects of a foremost place.

We hope that this is only a beginning of a series of similar articles in all the eastern papers. Too great stress cannot be laid upon the facts to which the Globe refers. Out here we are all familiar with them, but to the majority of Eastern people they are almost wholly unknown. It is not because they do not know the fundamental facts of geography upon which the Globe's conclusions depend, but because they do not think to apply them to the consideration of the future of the Dominion. Not very many of the people east of British Columbia understand the true importance of the Pacific frontier of Canada. It is truly an Imperial frontier, and the time is drawing nigh when the full significance of this statement will be better understood than it now is. When that time comes, Victoria will come into its own.

We are glad to learn, as we do from Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P., that it is the intention of the Minister of Mines at Ottawa to send out the experts of his department to Vancouver Island, and have only to express the hope that they will come very soon.

It is pleasant to read that the prospects at present are good for a good average wheat crop in Central Canada.

The news that surveyors are to start to make a location survey of a railway from Duncans to Cowichan Lake is very interesting reading.

It is said that France, Italy and Switzerland have declared themselves ready to negotiate commercial treaties with Canada. They will all want to by-and-by.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald has been telling the Ottawa people that we are having good times in this province. He also said that he did not wish to say anything that would hamper Mr. McBride in London. Mr. Macdonald did about all he was capable of doing in that line when the legislature was in session.

It is satisfactory to learn, as we do from an interview with Mr. McDonald, the railway contractor, that there is an influx of working men into British Columbia. The Colonist has steadily taken the position that the shortage of labor was temporary only, and was just what was to have been expected when Chinese immigration was stopped, but that matters would right themselves in time. They appear to be doing so.

The Lieutenant-Governor has experienced one of the evils of having too good a time. We now know that there is one advantage which people, who do not possess private yachts, have over those who do. The Colonist congratulates him upon his escape from what might have been an exceedingly serious accident. It also congratulates all who were on board the Thistle, upon their very good fortune.

General Methuen has been appointed to the command of the troops in South Africa. Already there is a chorus of criticism as to his fitness for the post, which is based upon the fact that he did not do all that was expected of him in the Boer war. There is nothing easier of criticism. General Methuen was confronted with conditions to which European soldiers could not have been trained. None of our generals knew what to do. In time they learned and then they gave a good account of themselves. The Germans claim to be the greatest soldiers in the world, and yet they have found themselves hopelessly at sea in South Africa with a weaker foe than the Boers.

The Washington weather people say that there is no prospect of summer weather anywhere. What these people do not know about weather would be an exceedingly valuable contribution to science. If we have not been having summer weather out here for the last six weeks, we do not know what that kind of weather is. We think that a vote of thanks ought to be tendered to Dr. Klotz of the Geological Survey at Ottawa, for his frankness in saying that he does not know why there is such a late spring. As far as we have observed he is the only man who has no theory on the subject.

The Winnipeg Telegram anticipates that when railway communication has been established there will be a great revival of interest in the gold deposits of Northeastern British Columbia, and the adjacent parts of Alberta. It says that several large parties of prospectors have already entered this province from Alberta. While there may be some doubt as to the authenticity of the reported discoveries of rich placer gold in the vicinity of Yellow Head Pass, the Colonist is strongly of the opinion that there is an extensive area reached most readily from the east by that Pass, which is worth prospecting. We do not suggest that there is a certainty of rich placers being found, but it is almost certain that good leads of ore carrying copper, gold and silver will be discovered, and these will have an immediate value, when once the projected railways have been built through the district. It is a good field for men who are not afraid to take a risk, and that is what prospectors have to take elsewhere.

The Times says that it is authoritatively explained that the representatives of this city did not press its claims for a Normal School because they were concentrating all their energies upon the matter of the University. It would be interesting to know from what source this authoritative explanation came. The Colonist has never heard of it. The Colonist in reply to a question asked by the Times said that the reason why it took no part in the agitation for a Normal School grant was that because it, that is the Colonist, did not consider the agitation timely, but looked upon it as likely to interfere with the presentation of our claims for the University. The Colonist did not say that this was the explanation of the action of the city's representatives, what ever that may have been. It was asked for its own opinion and expressed it. It did not feel under any obligation to consult any one else as to their opinions. But while speaking of the Normal School, our contempoarary apparently would convey the impression that the establishment of such an institution in Vancouver was an act of the McBride government. It was not. In fact all that the McBride government has done in the premises is to make good the promises of its predecessors.

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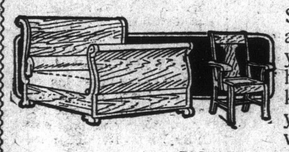

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