

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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\$28,000,000.

There is in actual sight or substantially assured an expenditure in and in the vicinity of Victoria of \$28,000,000 to be made during the next three years. Following are the factors going to make up this great sum:

Table listing various municipal and private expenditures such as water supply, sewerage, tramways, and buildings.

Each reader can form his own opinion as to the correctness of these items, but we may add something by way of comment. The first item needs no explanation. In the second item are included \$125,000 for Esquimalt sewerage, \$100,000 for Oak Bay water supply, \$75,000 for paving Esquimalt road beyond the city boundary, and \$30,000 for one new school, which will make up a third of the item, leaving \$170,000 for new permanent pavings, sidewalks, a bridge at Johnson Street and other municipal expenditures in Victoria and Oak Bay, but not providing anything for a new City Hall.

The third item will probably be found to be within the mark, especially if a new court house is provided for. The fourth item is to some extent an estimate. The tramway company is about to expend \$250,000 in improvements and extensions, and the telephone company is to put the wires underground at a cost of \$100,000. We think it reasonable to infer that within three years the tramway will be extended out to the Saanich peninsula and this will make up the million.

The estimated cost of the new drydock is as given. We are confident that two cruisers for the Canadian Navy will be built here. This will necessitate the establishment of a shipbuilding plant at a very large cost. Whether \$5,000,000 is too large or too small an estimate for these things must at present be a matter of opinion.

In the item for railways we include the cost of the Canadian Northern from Victoria to Barkley Sound, its extensions in connection with its car-ferry terminal, its initial expenditures for deep water facilities at Victoria and the probable outlay on terminal facilities for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway in consequence of the opening of the Songhees Reserve.

The item for private buildings takes into account only the prospective normal increase. We believe the estimate will be found to be too low. It is intended to embrace not only the city itself but Oak Bay, South Saanich and Esquimalt. We have not taken into account the expenditures upon the E. & N. extensions or the Cowichan Lake Railway, or the outlays in connection with Strathcona Park, all of which will be to some extent add to the business prosperity of Victoria. At least \$2,000,000 may be put down for these and similar works. We have not taken into account the vast expenditures proposed by the Canadian Collieries Company.

We draw attention to the fact that this great outlay will be chiefly for labor or for materials that can be supplied locally, such as timber, bricks, building stone, lime and cement. Hence only a moderate portion of this sum will not be actually put into circulation here. We lay stress upon the expression "into circulation," for money paid out for the purposes mentioned is handled over and over again in the community. It seems that in view of the above estimates, we are warranted in anticipating a very great impetus to the growth and prosperity of Greater Victoria.

WHAT IS MEANT?

The London Times speaks of the free admission of Canadian products into the United States as a concession

granted by this country. This observation is made in a comment upon the opinion expressed by Mr. Donald Macmaster, who said that in the course of a short time the United States would have been forced by the necessities of the people to put certain Canadian products on the free list. The concession of which the Times speaks was not only made by Canada, but to Canada. We can understand that anyone might reasonably object to any concessions being made by Canada in return for this, which is granted by the United States primarily for the advantage of its own people. Indeed this to us is one of the fundamental objections to the reciprocity agreement. What we do not understand is what the Times means when it says: Mr. Donald Macmaster, K.C., M.P., at one time president of the Montreal bar, and a member of the Canadian House of Commons, in giving his opinion of the agreement, says that the concessions made by the United States appear to him to be a very small return for making the natural products of the Dominion tributary to the United States. Mr. Macmaster certainly does not say anything in his statement published in the Times to warrant this. Evidently the Times writer does not understand the matter at all, but we confess we do not know what he had in mind. It is surely not meant that Canada should put obstacles in the way of the export of her products to the United States or any other country. We have heard and read much of the advantages of inter-imperial trade, but this is the first time we have met with the suggestion that such a policy carried with it the prevention of exports to extra-imperial countries. If the contention now so often made is correct and the free movement of our products to the United States is likely to be hurtful to the British Empire, it would seem to follow that an export duty should be put on Canadian produce sent to the United States sufficient to prevent the development of such a trade provided the United States should of its own accord lower its duties. We cannot think that any one contemplating this, and yet it is impossible to explain some of the things that are said, especially by writers in the United Kingdom, except upon some such hypothesis.

In his interview, Mr. Macmaster makes the argument that if the United States is going to buy Canadian wheat there will be so much less to sell to the United Kingdom, and hence the "price of the loaf" must go up. The inference from this seems to be that we must refuse to sell wheat to the United States, but surely Mr. Macmaster does not mean this.

Nineteen well-known Toronto Liberals have sent to the press a statement declaring against the reciprocity agreement. The ground taken by them may thus be stated: The legislation relating to reciprocity having been repealed in 1897, the government had no duty or authority to negotiate an agreement. The unexampled prosperity of Canada is the result of development along certain lines, and reciprocity will interfere with further development in the same direction and the benefit of expenditures already made will be to a large extent lost.

Reciprocity will check inter-provincial trade; Any benefits enjoyed by certain sections or individuals by reason of the agreement would be more than offset by injury to other sections and individuals; The freedom of Canada in trade matters and the development of the Dominion will be interfered with; The termination of the agreement by the United States would have the effect of disturbing Canadian trade as it might be developed under it; That to avoid such a termination Canada might be forced to extend the agreement so as to embrace manufactures.

That unrestricted reciprocity would follow in time from the agreement, and this would have a tendency to weaken the imperial tie; That in the event of unrestricted reciprocity being reached, the people of Canada, who are likely in the future to consist largely of persons of alien origin, would be disposed to favor annexation so as to avoid any disruption of their trade relations with the United States; That the agreement is a blow at Canadian nationality.

Among the signatories to this declaration we find the names of Sir Edmund Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce; Sir Mortimer Clark, a former lieutenant-governor of Ontario; Mr. E. A. Lash, chief counsel of the Bankers' Association; Mr. H. Blain, a director of the Toronto Globe; Mr. M. B. Wood, President of the Central Canada Loan Company

and very close to Senator Cox, Mr. J. C. Eaton, head of the firm of T. Eaton & Co. and others of prominence. This statement in substance places opposition to the treaty upon the grounds upon which the Colonist has relied, namely, that it is unnecessary, and that it may lead to consequences in a commercial way that cannot be foreseen.

A London despatch says that Mr. Austen Chamberlain has notified the House of Commons that the Lords will reject the Parliament Bill. We fancy that this must be the first occasion when a member of the House of Commons has undertaken to speak for the House of Lords. Assuming the statement attributed to Mr. Chamberlain to be correct, a serious crisis will shortly arise in the United Kingdom. The Lords propose to cast upon the King a great responsibility. He must choose between the creation of the necessary number of peers to pass the measure and going directly contrary to the wishes of a ministry possessing the confidence of the majority of the House of Commons. This is a responsibility that His Majesty ought not to be asked to assume. The fact that Mr. Asquith has been sustained in two elections since the Lords exercised the power to delay the passage of the Budget and virtually forced the dissolution of the House of Commons warrants His Majesty in assuming that they, his ministers correctly represent the views of the people. If he goes counter to those views, expressed in the only way known to the Constitution, he will be the first sovereign of the United Kingdom in many years to become an issue in an election campaign. For a very long time the Crown has never occupied a partisan position, and we should view with very great concern the issue that would be raised if His Majesty should refuse to give effect to the advice which his advisers will tender, provided the Parliament Bill is thrown out by the Hereditary Chamber. The United Kingdom would be torn asunder as it has not been since the days of Oliver Cromwell.

The Australian government proposes to put an end to every trust in operation in the Commonwealth. Our Antipodean friends usually make a complete job of what they undertake. Very many persons in British Columbia will learn with deep regret of the death of Rev. Dr. Mowatt, for a long time in charge of the Eskine Presbyterian church in Montreal. Dr. Mowatt was an exceptionally fine type of man. He died from heart failure, being stricken in his pulpit where he sat while the congregation was singing the hymn immediately preceding the sermon. By an extraordinary coincidence the text of the sermon, which was in manuscript, was "When I saw Him I fell at His feet dead," and the title of the discourse was "The Vision of Christ."

A remark of Mr. Edward Blake to the effect that commercial union with the United States meant political union is being cited as showing him to have been opposed to reciprocity. This is not fair to Mr. Blake. The commercial union movement meant just what the words imply. It meant the union of the Dominion and the United States for trade purposes. Each country would surrender the right to independent tariff action, but it would have inevitably followed that Canada's tariff would have to be regulated according to the necessities of the United States. For example, if the United States should be engaged in war and the cost of it would necessitate an increase in the tariff, the tariff of Canada would have to be increased accordingly. Political union would have been the inevitable result of such an arrangement.

PLAGUE SCARE UNFOUNDED Disease Causing Several Deaths is Thought to be Combination of Gripe and Pneumonia. SPOKANE, Feb. 27.—The report of bubonic plague in Spokane is unfounded. The exact nature of the disease causing several deaths recently in one family puzzled local doctors. Surgeon of Marines Lloyd, of Seattle, state health officers from Seattle, and expert bacteriologists brought here to investigate the matter all unite in declaring it is not bubonic plague. It is believed to be a combination of gripe and pneumonia.

Dr. Lloyd, of the marine hospital service, who has been investigating strange cases of fatal disease here, returned to Seattle last evening. The only statement available here from him comes through Spokane city health officer, Dr. Grievie, who says Dr. Lloyd stated that the cases were not bubonic plague. Dr. E. L. Kimball, local member of the state medical board, was the attending physician on the cases, and he has maintained all along that the cases were simply serious complications of gripe and pneumonia. Dr. Heg, of Seattle, state medical officer, is understood to be on his way here now to investigate further. A commission of three local doctors who have day officially reported that no cause for alarm exists.

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RUGS! RUGS!

A Wonderful Display Of New Goods On Our Second Floor—Don't Miss This



See The Big Rug Display in Our Broughton St. Windows This Week Yours Is Among Them

The immense growth of this fascinating branch of our carpet business makes it possible to offer you a choice unequalled in the West. During this week our Broughton Street windows will be devoted to a display of a selection from our immense stock, while on our second floor hundreds more will be on view. It will please, interest and instruct you in the latest word in rugs to see these new goods.



Oriental Wilton Rugs

Correct fac similes of fine Persian and Turkish Rugs in beautiful half-tones and soft colorings, ranging from soft rose and old blue to the heavier colors, such as indigo and Indian red, in designs of bewildering beauty. Not the least charm of these rugs is the fact that owing to the intricacy of the designs the rugs do not show dust, foot-marks or traffic. Here is a list of the prices:

Table listing prices for various sizes of Oriental Wilton Rugs, such as 2ft. 3in. x 5ft. for \$6.00 and 9ft. x 12ft. for \$45.00.

Superb Wilton Oriental Rugs

This is a very high-grade, closely-woven Wilton Rug, also correct copies of the finest product of the Orient, all the charm of the designs and coloring of the Orient coupled with the sterling qualities of British manufacture and workmanship. The pen fails to adequately describe these beautiful rugs, but we will be pleased if you will allow them to speak for themselves. Here are a few of the prices:

Table listing prices for various sizes of Superb Wilton Oriental Rugs, such as 3ft. x 6ft. for \$12.00 and 9ft. x 13ft. 6in. for \$65.00.

Victoria Parquet Rugs

These are all woven in one piece fine grade Axminster and come both in Oriental, two-tone and solid colors. We would particularly draw your attention to the latter, now so much in demand, also the charming designs of the French school, any of which would make a delightful drawing-room carpet.

Table listing prices for various sizes of Victoria Parquet Rugs, such as 7ft. 6in. x 9ft. for \$19.00 and 10ft. 6in. x 13ft. 6in. for \$52.00.

Brussels Squares

These Squares are exceptionally pretty in design, and they are also very good wearing. We have a nice assortment to choose from, and we will welcome you on the second floor when you come to inspect these new goods. These are in two-tone effects, greens, browns, and Oriental patterns in fawns, greens and crimson designs. These are very reasonable at the prices quoted below:

Table listing prices for various sizes of Brussels Squares, such as 4ft. 6in. x 7ft. 6in. for \$8.50 and 9ft. x 12ft. for \$22.50.

Tapestry Squares

These are useful Carpets, made with only one seam, and in a large variety of designs and colors: The sizes range from 6ft. 9in. x 9ft. to 12ft. x 15ft. the prices from \$25.00 to \$75.00

Scotch All Wool Art Rugs

These high-class Rugs are the latest product of a famous maker, and nothing has been spared to bring them to perfection. We only opened them a few days since, and they have been much admired and many of them already sold. In four sizes:

Table listing prices for various sizes of Scotch All Wool Art Rugs, such as 9ft. x 9ft. for \$24.00 and 12ft. x 9ft. for \$32.50.

Kensington All Wool Art Squares

These goods need no introduction to the Victoria public, their beauty and hard-wearing qualities are so well known. We have just received the new designs and colors:

Table listing prices for various sizes of Kensington All Wool Art Squares, such as 7ft. 6in. x 9ft. for \$11.00 and 10ft. 6in. x 12ft. for \$21.00.

WEILER BROS. Always Something New. All We Say We Mean.

GOVERNMENT REVERSE

Deputation Waits and Urges Annulment of South Vancouver Cover City

A delegation of about 200 persons waited on Premier McBride in the House of Commons last week, and requested that the government reconsider its decision of annulment of South Vancouver. The delegation included Mr. Taylor and Ald. Enright, Mr. Reeve, Mr. Pound, Mr. Dickson, Mr. McArthur, Mr. C. Madill and other citizens of both the city and the district. The delegation was not permitted to give a statement from the floor of the House. The delegation was led by Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton, Richmond, who briefly stated the object and then called on the speakers in turn.

Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton stated that the government had not only annulled the city of South Vancouver, but had also annulled the city of Vancouver. He pointed out that the government had not only annulled the city of South Vancouver, but had also annulled the city of Vancouver. He pointed out that the government had not only annulled the city of South Vancouver, but had also annulled the city of Vancouver.

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