

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE INDIAN QUESTION

There is no use in pretending that considerable uneasiness is not felt as to the changed attitude of the Indians on the remote localities towards the white people. We do not know that the Indians are wholly to blame. Accounts have reached us of great injustice being done them by white people, and it is not a matter of surprise that they are in somewhat of an ugly frame of mind. We are not apprehensive of any immediate difficulty, but the principle that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" fits the case like a glove. The unrest has its origin in several things. One of them is the not unnatural feeling of the Indians when they see their hunting grounds relicted by settlement and their fishing privileges curtailed by regulation, that they are being deprived of rights which are theirs beyond all question. We must not expect the Indians to see things from our point of view. Do we not know that in considering the very plain case of the Songhees Reserve white men, as anxious to have that matter settled as any one can be, have read into the correspondence between Governor Douglas and the Colonial Office things favorable to the Indians which are not there. Ought we then to be surprised that the Indians themselves are easily convinced that their rights are very much greater than they are? Two things seem to us to be necessary. The first is to show the Indians that the authority of the white man is not to be trifled with. This lesson should be taught home by a demonstration to them of the nature of the authority and of its sufficiency to maintain peace and punish offenders. When this has been done, the next step should be to exhibit to the Indians a disposition to deal with them in a spirit of perfect fairness, and genuine liberality. If ever it came to a question of force the Indians would make a poor resistance. But force ought to be avoided as long as it is possible. The plans of the provincial government are all that can be expected from that quarter, and are ample for the purposes within its jurisdiction, but, the Indians being the wards of the Dominion, it seems to us that it would be wise on the part of the federal government to assume some of the duties of guardianship other than those ordinarily undertaken. In other words it ought to see that its wards keep the peace. We have the best of reasons for saying that the federal authorities are very much alive to their duty in this respect, and will act promptly when a judicious line of action can be laid down. One of the difficulties in the situation is the very natural desire of officials not to exaggerate the unrest for this may possibly lead them to minimize the necessity for action of any kind. Under any circumstances the matter is a delicate one to handle; but our humble judgment, which may or may not be of any value, is that there ought to be action taken by the Dominion government in concert with the precautions taken by the provincial government.

THE UNITED STATES TARIFF.

It would seem absurd to claim that the revised tariff will meet the expectations of the people of the United States. During the last presidential contest they were led to expect that the election of Mr. Taft meant a series of changes in the direction of lower duties. The bill prepared by Representative Payne was a bona fide attempt to comply with that expectation; but when the measure got into the senate the majority of that body under the lead of Senator Aldrich assumed the astounding position that the pledge of tariff revision meant revision upward and not downward. The Aldrich Bill was not calculated to reduce customs taxation, and that was what the people had been promised. They had been assured that the interests of consumers would be considered to some extent, but the Senate Bill conveniently ignored the existence of any such class in the community. The measure as patched up in the Senate being very different from what it was when the house passed it, a conference of the two houses was the next step under the constitutional practice, and at this stage the President was able to use his influence to some extent. The result has been a compromise, which like most compromises, satisfies nobody. The President will sign the measure so it stands, but he will doubtless do with a heavy heart, for he knows perfectly well that it is not a fulfillment of the pre-election promises which he made and which were made in his behalf. In preparing the measure as it stands both of the great political parties were concerned. The Republicans stood out more strongly than the Democrats for high protection, but the latter have to bear a large share of the responsibility. The chief interest attaching to the new tariff from an outside point of view is its political effect. In some of the United States papers it is easy to see evidence of a belief that there will be a breaking up of old party

lines, and the formation of a new party, which will specifically espouse the cause of the consumer. As one writer expresses it, the Democrats who have fought side by side with Republicans in the interests of the consumer, can hardly oppose each other in a campaign in the consumers' interests. If the expected new line of political demarcation is drawn, one can hardly say how far it may not extend. The people of the United States submit to a great deal of misgovernment because they have faith in the sufficiency of their particular form of government to produce remedies for all political ills as soon as the case becomes serious enough to demand a remedy. Sometimes the remedy is a very costly one, as was the case with the abolition of slavery; but they are content to wait feeling certain that, in the words attributed to Lincoln, "you can fool all of the people some of the time; you can fool some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." As a general proposition that is true enough, but the process by which it is worked out is apt to be slow and destructive. It is unsafe to make even general political prophecies; but we think the signs are that the people of the United States are becoming tired of high protection, and that the trend of public opinion in favor of a lower tariff will receive a decided impetus from the action of congress.

The United States showed the world the way to high protection as a fiscal policy, and as long as that policy prevails in that country the trade conditions of other countries will not be seriously disturbed by anything which congress may do in the way of altering the customs schedule. But once let genuine tariff revision be undertaken, once let duties be so lowered that the United States approaches anything resembling a free trade basis and every civilized nation will find its commerce affected. Years ago some of the leading English statesmen expressed a fear of what might happen if the United States ever shook itself free from the principles of protection, and with its vast resources in natural wealth, intelligent population and monetary strength, declared itself ready to face the world in open competition. Of late years there has been a tendency to ignore the possibilities involved in such a change, but political economists everywhere are beginning to realize that the principle of protection has yet to meet the only real strain that can be put upon it, which will be when the United States abandons it. Some may say that we are suggesting the impossible when we contemplate such a reversal of policy on the part of the republic; but we draw the attention of such people to a few important facts. One of them is that a high protective tariff has failed to produce the revenue needed for the growing needs of the country. These needs apparently will grow at a more rapid rate in the future than in the past. For right or wrong the country has been committed to a costly naval and military programme. The vast population is making greater demands than ever upon the federal revenue. So serious are these demands felt to be that a constitutional amendment is to be submitted to authorize congress to impose an income tax for the purpose of raising a revenue. If this amendment is adopted, we may look out for a change in public sentiment. When a tax collector comes to every man's door to ask for a direct contribution towards the expense of governing the nation, the question will be asked all over the country: Why do not the customs yield enough to meet the public demand? The answer will be that the duties are too high to permit of a sufficient import trade. The next question will be: In whose interests are imports prevented? The answer will be in those of the great trusts and monopolies. It will be idle to assure the ordinary individual that he gets higher wages because of protection, for he will reply by pointing to the increased cost of living. He will want to know why his small income should be taxed in order that tariff beneficiaries may make princely fortunes. There will come about a change. No country in all the world is better equipped to stand upon a policy of free trade than the United States, and if such a policy is ever adopted, or even approached, every other country will have to adjust its policy accordingly.

AS TO DREADNOUGHTS.

There is a revival of the discussion of the propriety of giving a Dreadnought to the Royal Navy. It is many-sided. One paper declares that the general sentiment of Canadians is in favor of such a gift. While the Colonist would like very much to see such a gift made, it is unable to discover a very strong sentiment in this particular direction. As far as we

can judge, the general opinion seems to be that the shape which Canadian contribution to Imperial defence should take is something that ought to be left in abeyance until after the conference now in session has reached a conclusion. Another paper assails Mr. Borden for trucking to the French element when he accepted Sir Wilfrid Laurier's resolution. It is easy to get a reputation for being more loyal than other people. All one has to do is to asseverate that something spectacular ought to be done, and leave others to work out how it is going to be done. Mr. Borden is doubtless quite as patriotic as his critics; he probably feels the responsibility of his position more than they do. He would be unfit for the post which he adorns if he accepted the first suggestion made to him on a question of such prime importance as that involved in Imperial naval defence. Westliche Canada Post is a paper printed in German in Vancouver, and it repudiates the idea that British Columbia should assent to the building of a Dreadnought. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung, printed in Berlin, quotes from the Vancouver paper with approval, and says that German colonists in Canada will not submit to money being taken out of their pockets to build ships that may fight against the Fatherland. To this piece of impertinent advice we have two answers to make. One of them is that the German inhabitants of Canada are loyal to the Dominion and the Empire, and support whatever the majority of the people of Canada determine upon. Under these circumstances it is not necessary to say what the other answer is. There is, we regret to say, some evidence of a determination on the part of certain newspapers to make a political issue out of the question of Imperial defence. We warn those who are doing so that they are making a great error: whether their course is regarded from the standpoint of patriotism or the lower one of party advantage.

IN MEXICO

An election for the vice-presidency of Mexico is pending and feeling is running pretty high. Diaz has been president of that country now for thirty-three years, and he has been one of the most able administrators. Serious complaints are being made in the press against the manner in which affairs are carried on. It is alleged that a perfect carnival of graft prevails, that valuable concessions are granted to favorites, that new men are forced out of public life and that there must be a demonstration of popular sentiment now, before the party in power get its clutches too firmly upon the throat of the nation, for it is feared that revolution will be the result if a change is not soon made. It is said that the President has never permitted a free election. He has been six full terms in office and is now serving for a seventh. He is now nearly eighty years of age, and is said to realize keenly the necessity of providing for a successor. At one time he hoped that his son would succeed him, but this seems now to be out of the question owing to the unfitness of the man for the post. It is expected that the vice-president to be elected will be the real head of the government. Two candidates are in the field. One is the present incumbent of the position, Roman Carral, the other Bernardo Reyes, formerly minister of war. To the support of the latter all the disaffected elements are rallying. As indicating how bitter the feeling is it may be mentioned that one of the papers supporting Reyes says: "The nation is tired of Diaz, and wishes him to die." Oddly enough the success of the Young Turk Movement has led the younger generation of Mexicans to make demands for greater freedom. Their platform is: A general reform in the administration, a free press, freedom of franchise, destruction of foreign monopolies, the development of Mexico by Mexicans for Mexicans. There has been some rioting in one or two cities, and more is expected, but it is expected that President Diaz will suppress this ruthlessly. The situation is somewhat serious.

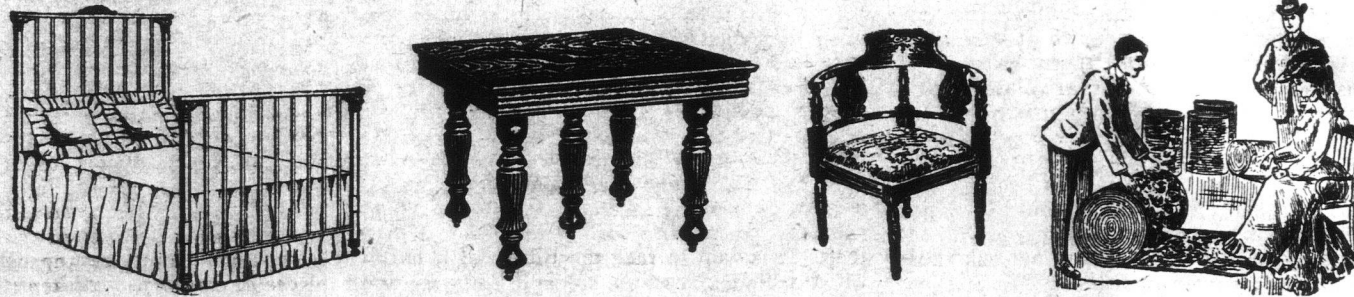
There is a little book issued by the Canadian Facts Publishing Company of Toronto, which contains five thousand facts about Canada. Most of the "facts" are fact, but there might have been a little better judgment shown on some points. For example, it seems a piece of carelessness to describe the three prairie provinces as "Western Canada." One of the "facts" stated is that British Columbia has 7,000 miles of coast line; Vancouver Island has that much. But the feature most open to criticism is the department on population. Too much stress is laid upon the number of Canadians who have gone to the United States. Eight paragraphs are devoted to that topic, which seem to us to be eight too many. There is not a single paragraph in regard to the return of Canadians.

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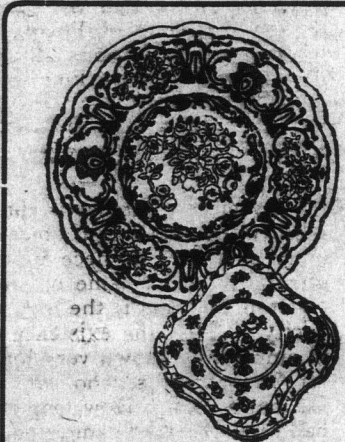


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Recent Arrivals in Silver That Please
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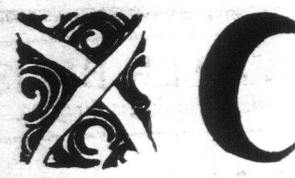
AUGUST brides would be greatly pleased to receive a piece of this excellent silver—a selection from these recent arrivals in the silver store. This is the famous "1847 Rogers Bros." silver plate—the silver that will last and be in service when the golden wedding date rolls around. And this superior ware is rightly priced here—priced at Victoria's fairest prices.

- Delighted to have you visit the silverware department any time.
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 - SALTS AND PEPPERS—All silver-plate, per pair \$2.00
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 - GRAVY LADLE—In lined case \$1.50
 - SALT, PEPPER AND MUSTARD—In Caster, at \$4.50 down to \$3.50
 - EGG CRUETS—Gilt lined cups, spoons and stand; six cup style at \$9.00; 4 cups, \$7.50, 3 cups \$6.00
 - BERRY SPOONS—Gilt lined in lined case, at \$2.50 and \$2.00
 - SUGAR SHELL—In lined case \$1.00
 - A. D. COFFEE SPOONS—All patterns, set of six in lined case, at \$2.00
 - BUTTER KNIVES—Pearl handles, in lined case \$1.50
 - BAKE DISHES—Many beautiful patterns, all have porcelain linings, big range of prices, starting at \$5.00
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 - PICKLE DISHES—At \$4.50, \$4.00, \$3.00 and \$2.50

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus had healed a man. Day and the Jews sought to He spoke to them of His mission, for of His address said: "I am the light of the world; he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life; and they are they which will not believe in Me, that they may not be judged." Many people construe this in read the Bible, but it cannot there was no Bible in existence. The New Testament had not Jewish scriptures had not been single book, and they embraced not included in the Old Testament. The press quoted means just their more nor less. It was should have said: You do not into the writings of your race, proof of what I say. Jesus, who followed Him to believe of what the Scriptures said what He Himself said and Bible had been essential to of Christianity, its progress very slow, for it is impossible of the Old Testament could able to the early Christians, people except the Jews, the writings would have carried ity. Even if they did, they sufficient numbers to have use was absolutely out of the same is true of the books of ment, when they came to be the impossibility of obtaining is the further difficulty that small proportion of the early read, and certainly those who were Jews, would be the Hebrew writings, and the translations were common to consider. We seem, therefore conclusion that while the testified of Jesus, Christian did not rest upon the Bible, a been the case for many centuries was individual experience, church authority. Reading a guide to daily life is a common practice.

While the judicious reading of the greatest value, it is in it for the purpose of spells. This has led to the multiplication of some of which have been of questionable character. Fanatical texts and organize societies around them. There deal of bloodshed because of things attached to certain expressions. Christianity does not rest upon set of books. It is nothing force of itself, which would as it is now for the regeneration if every Bible in the world were Peter found it necessary to Church against misreading in his General Epistle, after letters of St. Paul, he said some things hard to be understood that are unlearned and unsteady do other scriptures to their Therefore he advised his own to rely upon their own to "grow in grace." It for them to speculate over that had been written for the might almost feel justified Peter was not himself quite meant sometimes. But of sure, namely, that there is Grace of God in which a man profits by his own knowledge.

It has been said above a vital force of itself, that its own demonstration. It tell a man, who has felt the of Christ, that there is success was necessary in preaching the Jews to refer them to poets and prophets had wrong way in which a people Messianic tradition, could the Messiah had come. Instances in which the Apostles churches, spoke of what in the Hebrew scriptures these writings three times Romans and once in his I Corinthians. We are told Thessalonica searched the ly in which study not a them; but speaking as a general reference to the scriptures parts of the New Testament cially addressed to the Christianity depended upon sanction, it would fail to men. Those who scoff at it rests only upon a set of verities of which cannot be lished, mistake its real force they are not without excuse of many ministers of the Neither does Christianity Church, although the exist through many centuries behind it a potent agency get that Islam has lived of virtues less than Christianity sacred book. The proof of tianity is to be found in a profess it, not simply as a as the guiding principle proved by its power of p