The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE NECHACO VALLEY.

The New Westminster News complains of a lack of information about the Nechaco valley and finds very much fault because certain "aliens" are posted about it, and says our own people cannot get information required by them. There is not the least necessity for any one being ignorant of the character of the Nechaco valley. It must be twelve years, and is perhaps more, since the late A. L. Poudrier reported upon the agricultural possibilities of this valley, and nothing that has been learned since adds, except in the matter of details, to the information then made public. At that time a survey was made of a portion of the valley, and in 1903 a map was printed upon which is shown in great detail the character of the land traversed by the section lines. There have been many other reports upon the valley, some of them public, some of them private. The Colonist has published columns of description. But it is said that the government land offices are kept in ignorance of this information. This can hardly be the case. At least we have never had occasion to ask at the Crown Land office for any reports or maps dealing with that part of British Columbia without the officials being prompt and obliging in placing everything in their possession at our disposal. Let it be remembered that the inside officers of the department can only convey the information that is given to them officially. If they were to undertake to supplement this by unofficial information or by expressions of opinion, they would take a risk which they could not justify.

The News speaks of areas owned by alien syndicates. The News has heard of South African scrip, and if it does not know, we can inform it that certain people, some of them aliens, acquired land selected by virtue of that scrip. Among those persons, who visited the Nechaco valley to select land to be acquired by virtue of that scrip, was the late E. G. Russell, at one time connected with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Land acquired by means of that scrip was legitimately acquired, and if some of it is in the hands of an alien syndicate, and if the members of that syndicate have had the land examined on their own behalf, we do not see how any one can be blamed. If our own people were not alive to the possible development of the Nechaco valley, they have only themselves to blame. Some of them were, not because of anything done by the provincial government, but because they had their eyes open.

Another complaint made by the News is that the provincial government has not yet announced whether the Grand Trunk Pacific will pass through the Nechaco valley. Really this is very absurd. When did it come about that the provincial or any other government was under any obligation to announce the route selected by a railway company? But granting that it is the duty of the government to make such an announcement, it cannot make it until it is itself in possession of the information. Upon this point we are able to cast a little light. A few weeks ago the Colonist, wishing to secure a map showing the location of the Grand Trunk Pacific from Fort George westward, wrote to Mr. F. W. Morse, the vice-president and general manager of that enterprise, asking that one mght be furnished. Mr. Morse replied that the map was not yet completed, but as soon as it was ready a copy would be forwarded. It has not yet been received, and we assume therefore that it has not yet been completed. Until it is and has been filed with the government, the latter body will have no official information as to the location of the railway. But of unofficial information there is an abundance, and it has been given wide publicity not only in Canada but in the United Kingdom. Some two or three months ago it was announced that the Grand Trunk Pacific would be located due west from Fort George to Fort Fraser. Now Fort George is on the Fraser river just south of the mouth of the Nechaco and Fort Fraser is on the south side of Fraser lake, which is the source of the Nechaco, which river flows almost due east between the two points. Hence any person, who looked at the map, would see for himself that the railway must follow the Nechaco. Only a few days ago a further announcement was made unofficially that the railway company's engineers had come out to Ashcroft after completing the location of the line on the south side of the Nechaco. Ever since the company's engineers went into that part of the country, the Colonist has been endeavoring to learn what route would be chosen, and has always been met with the answer that it was too soon to give out any information because nothing would be decided until the best possible route had been found. As soon as it was found the information was given out in the unofficial way just mentioned, all of which was duly printed in all the newspapers. We have reason to believe that the final location is not where some of those, who a few years ago thought they had inside information, believed it was going to be. Of course until the company files its official map the government cannot know officially and hence cannot make any announcement such as the News desires. The complaint of our contemporary illustrates with what little reason a government may sometimes be attacked.

SIXTY YEARS EMPEROR.

Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, who was born on August 18th, 1830, ascended the dual throne on the abdication of his uncle Ferdinand, his father having relinquished his claim to the succession. He has therefore reigned for sixty years. He is the head of the Hapsburg family, which traces its descent from Rudolph von Hapsburg, a German count, born in 1218, and elected Emperor of Germany in 1273. The male line died out in 1740, with Karl VI., whose daughter, Marie Theresa, married the Duke of Lorraine, and Tuscany, from which union the present house is sprung. The title of Emperor of Germany was abandoned by the Austrian sovereigns in 1804 at the behest of Napoleon, and the title of Emperor of Austria was assumed in its stead. It is interesting to note that since 1792 only three emperors have sat upon the Austrian throne, namely, Franz, Ferdinand and Franz Josef. Of these, Ferdinand reigned only thirteen years.

The official title of the nation over which Franz Josef reigns is the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. There had been much friction between the two countries until 1867, when the existing arrangement was reached. Under it both states are independent of each other. Each has its own constitution, its own legislative authority and its own executive government. The tie between them is the identity of the sovereign and a community of interest in foreign affairs. In Austria Franz Josef's title is Kaiser; in Hungary it is Kiraly. These titles are hereditary in the Hapsburg family, passing lineally by primogeniture in the male line, but descending to females on failure of males. The Emperor must be a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Written in full the royal title is "His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia and Apostolic King of Hungary." His power is not autocratic, his ministers being responsible to the parliamentary bodies.

CHEAPER CABLEGRAMS.

The London Chamber of Commerce whose committee has unanimously resolved in favor of state-owned cables, which is a strong endorsement of the proposal because it is wholly non-political. Sir Sandford Fleming, who is the real originator of the movement for cheap telegraphy, which Mr. Henniker Heaton has espoused so warmly and efficiently, has contributed towards the discussion. We quote:

The objections urged by Mr. Ward, are not based on the real facts of the case. He states, for example, that there is a loss of $320,000 a year on the Pacific cable. I can give this an emphatic denial on the authority of the accounts laid before the British Parliament. As a matter of fact there never has been any loss in working the Pacific cable from the beginning. Each year there has been an excess of earnings over expenditure, this excess having ranged from $125,000 to $287,000 a year. Our own Auditor-General confirms the fact that this highly important work is financially in a prosperous condition, that the revenue from traffic not only meets all current expenses but yields a surplus which already discharges half the annuity designed to pay off in a fixed term of years the whole of the borrowed capital, and at the same time provide a reserve fund to renew the cable.

Mr. Ward is equally mistaken with respect to the proposed Atlantic cable. The proposed new State cable between Canada and England would serve a new class of clients to that now served by the present cable companies, men who owing to the cost of one shilling a word resort to the cable as little as possible, or never use it at all. A State-controlled cable would at once reduce the charges fifty per cent, and would shortly lead to a uniform charge on messages of not more than five cents a word between any post-office in England, Ireland and Scotland, and any telegraph office within the Dominion.

Monopoly dies hard, but it will die, if the fight against it is persistent and well-directed. We are very glad that the Dominion government has taken advanced ground on this exceedingly important question. Cheaper cablegrams means very much for Canada, and naturally it is that feature of the case, which specially commends the proposed state-owned trans-Atlantic line. We need just as cheap telegraphic communication between the Dominion and the Mother Country as can be provided, and we feel sure that the people of this country will back up the federal ministry in any well-considered plan to accomplish that object.

AS TO CLIMATE

When Captain Tatlow was speaking in England a few weeks ago he spoke of the climate of British Columbia as being particularly suited for "those who have been influenced by the bugbear of Canadian snows and long drawn out winters." The Ottawa Journal says this is "bad business, unpatriotic, in bad taste, without even the saving grace of humor." It must have been a cold day in the capital when our esteemed contemporary gave vent to this somewhat violent exhibition of temper, but be that as it may, the criticism is worthy of passing attention. Canada has a climate that varies. We have no doubt that on this first day of December there are places within the Dominion where it is pretty cold. There are also places where the roses are in bloom, where the grass is green and people are sitting with their windows open. Out here in British Columbia, where the latter conditons are common at all seasons, we do not deny that the bracing climate of other parts of the land is a valuable asset. When an eastern paper tells that the frosty air of the winter mornings puts new vigor into a man's blood, that the cold pulverizes the soil and makes farming easy, that the high class of Canadian wheat is due to the cold winters, that snow is a fertilizer—and other things of that kind, which are perfectly true, we people out here do not claim such statements to be unpatriotic, to be in bad taste, to be bad business and to be lacking in the saving grace of humor, simply because we do not happen to enjoy them. All we say, and all that Captain Tatlow said, is that that if a future resident of the Dominion prefers another kind of climate, we can give it to him in this part of Canada. We draw the Journal's attention to the fact that Captain Tatlow did not speak of the cold weather and the snow as drawbacks, but only as bugbears. Now a bugbear, say the fellows that make the dictionary, is a causeless ground of fear, and so the Journal will see that Captain Tatlow was really saying a pleasant thing about the rest of the Dominion while exalting his own part of it. When the Journal man was a little fellow and he had a bad dream, doubtless his mother used to tell him to come into her bed and not be frightened by the nasty old bears, and so Captain Tatlow says to the intending emigrant if any one has frightened you by telling you that it is cold around the shores of—well, to avoid bad feeling, we will say—Chesterfield Inlet in the winter time, come to British Columbia and you will find a climate where the grass is ever green and where if we want ice we have to make it.

THE SIKHS.

The London Globe has fallen afoul of Mr. Oliver, Minister of the Interior, for treating the Sikhs as an inferior race, and the Montreal Witness thinks it is infamous that Canadians should treat the Sikhs as if they were inferiors seeing that they are the mainstay of British power in India. We do not know just what Mr. Oliver may have said, which has aroused the ire of the London paper, but he is not always as careful of his language as he might be and possibly he has used expressions, which were not warranted; but we protest against any statement that Canadians treat the Sikhs as inferiors. So far as our observation extends, and we have daily opportunities for observing, a Sikh is treated as well as he or any one else in his position could expect to be treated. He is given good pay for his work and is never molested. He lives as well as his means and tastes permit; it may not be just the way a Canadian would care to live, but that is not the Canadian's fault. There are not many idle Sikhs in British Columbia and they are all falling gradually into the ways of the country. There is no question of superiority or inferiority in the matter. A Sikh does the work he is able to do and gets the pay he earns. We think that all of them are pretty well satisfied, and that few of them have the least desire to leave the country. If the Witness would come out here and see for itself, its ideas in regard to Orientals would be changed in many particulars, but in none more so than in respect to the treatment, which it fancies is accorded to the Sikhs. It would see the natives of India working in saw mills, doing, it is true, unskilled labor, but they are unable to do any other kind. It would find them going to and from their work unmolested, nearly all of them comfortably dressed. Possibly it would see a number of them who are apparently out of work, but as they are the least efficient workingmen in the community, they are likely to be the first to lose and the last to get employment. This is no one's fault but their own, and it is not so much their fault as it is their misfortune. The average Sikh is not a good workman, judged from the Canadian point of view. He is not a rapid worker, which is to be expected seeing that he comes from a country where rapid working is not the rule. He is not a very intelligent workman, and there are reasons in heredity why he is not. But he does the best he can, is faithful, respectful and steadily improving. He has not the adaptability of the Chinaman, nor the activity of the Japanese, but he is learning how to make himself useful, and we venture to say that he really has very little to complain of. Just here we may correct a statement that appeared in an eastern contemporary, the name of which we have forgotten. It was that the Sikhs are dying by hundreds in British Columbia from pneumonia. There is no foundation whatever for any such statement. Of course there are reasons why the Sikhs will never be like white men, at least until they materially change their habits of life; but this is not to be expected in one generation, and as there are no Sikh women in the country there will be no second generation of these people to be brought up in Canadian ways. A great deal of needless sympathy is being wasted upon the Sikhs in British Columbia, who are a great deal better off than hundreds of white Canadians in Eastern cities and tens of thousands of Englishmen in England.

THE A.Y.P. EXPOSITION.

Those persons, who have not seen the work for themselves, can only have a very imperfect idea of what is being accomplished in the way of preparations for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition to be opened in the Sound City next summer. The buildings, which are of the highest character, are being erected with rapidity, and apparently everything will be in readiness when the time arrives. It is understood that the Dominion is to prepare a proper exhibit of the resources of Canada, and although nothing has been heard about it recently, we assume that as excellent work will be done on that occasion as has been on similar occasions elsewhere. We are told that the people of Kootenay intend to expend $5,000 in erecting a structure to be used as their headquarters for Kootenay people when attending the fair, and that a fruit exhibit will also be sent. It is worth while for the people of Victoria to consider if there is not something which they can do along the same lines.

The value of the Exposition to Victoria will be very great. It will be great because it will bring thousands of people to the Pacific Coast and of these a large number will certainly visit this city. The exceptionally good transportation facilities, that will be provided next year for the Victoria-Seattle run will of themselves attract many travelers, and the hotel accommodation which the city will be able to offer, will doubtless lead many visitors to prolong their stay here. It is to be remembered that a very large proportion of those who will visit the Exposition will not know much about Victoria, and therefore it seems reasonable to suggest that next season ought to be marked by liberal advertising. It is to the interest of Victoria that the exposition should be as great a success as possible, for everything that tends to make the potentialities of the Pacific Northwest prominent will promote the welfare of this city.

FUTURE COMMERCE.

In considering the future commerce of the western coast of Canada in connection with the provision of facilities for the handling of cargoes, we must not forget to take into account the business likely to be developed by way of the Tehuantepec railway and the Panama Canal. The former is now in operation; the latter is within measurable distance of completion. Nearly all the efforts of the government of Canada in respect to transportation have been directed to the development of means of transportation to the Atlantic seaboard. To this no reasonable exception can be taken, but the time is near at hand when commerce will seek a westerly route. Speaking generally it may be said that the whole province of Alberta can ship its products more advantageously by way of the Pacific than by way of the Atlantic, even making allowance for the shortening of distance by the Hudson Bay route, which will be available for a part of the year only. The government has done little to facilitate the western movement of freight. The Canadian Pacific was not subsidized with that special object, nor was the Grand Trunk Pacific promoted by the government with that end in view. The first-named company is making the improvements needed on its line to enable it to carry wheat to the Pacific Coast and will undoubtedly make such others as shall be found necessary. The Grand Trunk Pacific is building its line with the express intention of having the best practicable route from the Prairies to the Pacific. These things mean that the transportation companies are looking towards this Coast as a future centre of business of far greater importance than it now is. This is a point, which the people of Victoria ought to keep prominently in mind when they consider the future of the city. None of us is far-seeing enough to see just what the effect of these things will be, but we may all feel very sure that they will be productive of great changes. Commerce and transportation in a western direction are not so settled in lines that it may not be diverted by localities presenting facilities superior to those available in other places.

AN IMPORTANT STEP.

The despatches announce that the work of framing a constitution for a confederated South Africa is proceeding satisfactorily, although there are several open questions yet to be dealt with over which some difficulty may arise, notably that of the capital, that of the franchise and that of the status of the native population. Of all the experiments in nation-building of which there is any record, that now in progress in South Africa is the most interesting and in some respects the most difficult. The Empire is fortunate in having a man like Sir Louis Botha to impress his views upon the Boer population. In Canada we had to be satisfied with some compromises because of the existence of two distinct elements in the population, but the French were and are now chiefly confined to one part of the country and they are numerically in the minority. Moreover their relations towards the British government had been of the most friendly kind for more than a century. In South Africa, the Boers must, we imagine, be considerably more numerous than the English. They are not confined to any part of the country, and only a few years ago they were engaged in hostilities with the British. There is no good reason why as great success should not attend union in South Africa as in Canada, and it is to be remembered that jealous as the Boers are as to their language, there is not the same difference in point of laws and religion as between the French and English population of Canada. So far an excellent spirit has prevailed among those who are promoting the union. It seemed to many people that the British government was hasty in granting the Boers self-government, and doubtless there are those who will be of the opinion that the project of union is being unduly hastened. But there is no use in trying to turn back the hands of the great clock of human events. For better for worse Britain is committed to self-government for South Africa in as wide a sense of the term as it prevails in Canada, Australia or New Zealand.

Winnipeg's latest ambition is a world's fair, in the shape of a centenary exposition, in celebration of the landing of Lord Selkirk's settlers, in 1912. We do not doubt that if it be determined to embark on the enterprise, the people of the metropolis of the prairies will rise to the occasion and make it a success.

If it proves true, as alleged by the Pall Mall Gazette, that Great Britain is about to take Holland under her protecting wing, it will constitute a crushing blow to Germany's ambition, for it has long been recognized that the latter Power hopes to ultimately acquire the little Kingdom. Germany is apparently being rapidly driven into a corner—a position so intolerable as to menace the peace of Europe.

The London Times announces that President Roosevelt has promised that when he visits England about April, 1910, after his trip to Africa, he will address the Royal Geographical Society. The subject of the address has not been decided on, but it is possible that it will be the impressions that Mr. Roosevelt will have received during his African journey. Mr. Roosevelt is one of nine honorary members of the Royal Geographical Society, all except himself being royal personages. The honorary members are of a different class from the honorary corresponding members.

There is much speculation as to who will be honored by the King at New Year's. A London correspondent says in this connection, it is believed that the King contemplates offering Premier Asquith and former Prime Minister Balfour the Order of Merit, which has heretofore been conferred on men who have distinguished themselves in the navy, and army, in letters and in art and science. The reason for this is the long felt difficulty in the recognition of men for distinguished political services otherwise than by conferment of a peerage which sometimes, as in the case of Gladstone, was declined.

The Immigration Department at Ottawa has just embarked on a policy which will, we think, commend itself to the country generally. This is the distribution of circulars to farmers and others employing newcomers, asking for information as to the degree of success experienced with such people; and the immigrants themselves are asked to report how they are getting on in the country. This would appear to be a most admirable idea. We do not doubt that in the vast majority of instances it will be found that the reports will be favorable; and with these in its hands the government will be in a position to contradict in the most emphatic fashion those who seem to take a special delight in misrepresenting conditions in Canada in respect to openings for immigrants.

Gifts for Gentlemen

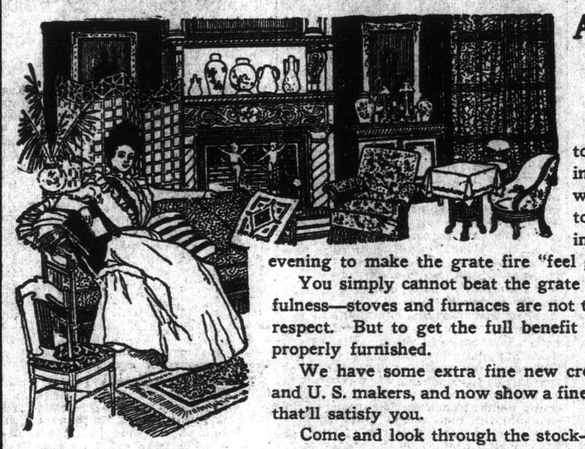
are not always aptly chosen by ladies. A man abhors knick-knacks and desires something he can use. If he is a smoker why not give him a

POCKET CIGAR CASE, fancy leathers. Prices from .....25¢ to $6.00

A great variety here to select from, the most desirable we have ever handled.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST
Government Street, Near Yates.

THESE LONG EVENINGS



Are a Pleasure if You Have These Comforts

There was just the right touch of frost in those mornings and evenings of the past week—enough in the morning to make you "step lively" going to work and enough in the evening to make the grate fire "feel good."

You simply cannot beat the grate fire as a distributor of cheerfulness—stoves and furnaces are not to be compared with it in this respect. But to get the full benefit you should have the hearth properly furnished.

We have some extra fine new creations from the best British and U. S. makers, and now show a fine assortment and a price range that'll satisfy you.

Come and look through the stock—first floor and balcony.

FIRE SETS—Tongs, poker and shovel, in brass or steel, from $2.50
ANDIRONS — Quaint and odd designs. Wrought iron. Strongy built, per pr $2.00
KERBS—Wrought iron. Several sizes and designs, from, each $1.75
KERBS—In Wrought Iron and Brass. Assortment of styles and sizes. From $2.25
KERBS—In Brass. Stylish looking and hard wearing. Priced from each $9.50
FIRE SUITES—In handsome brass, kerb, tongs, poker, shovel and rest. From $24.00
FIRE SUITES—In antique copper, kerb, tongs, poker, shovel and rest. From $25.00
FENDERS—Splendid new styles in new Flemish finish, from, each $11.00

A host of other articles at easy prices. Come and see the offerings.

Only Eighteen Shopping Days Then Christmas Is Here

Matchless Array of China Gift Pieces

¶ It is bigger, finer, more varied than ever before.

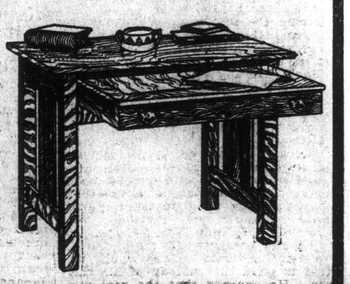
¶ The collection wasn't bought in a lump, but each piece chosen critically for beauty of design, harmonious coloring or effective combinations.

¶ Individuality marks the gathering. Here you will find "something different."

¶ We cannot urge too strongly an early selection, as it is not possible for us to duplicate any of the pieces imported from Europe.

Some Dainty Library Tables, Suitable Xmas Gift Pieces.

Late Arrivals Now on Show



Why not a Library Table? It is a very useful furniture piece, and one of the late arrivals would add tone to the furnishings of any home. Here is a price range that represents excellent values—investigate them.

LIBRARY TABLE—A splendid library table this, and low-priced too. Made in Oak, mission style, and finished in the popular Early English style of finish. Top is 29 in. x 46 in. Two drawers. Excellent value at this price $20.00

LIBRARY TABLE—A quarter-cut oak style, finished in golden, top is 32 in. x 48 in. Table has two large drawers. Legs are round. This is a very attractive table style and good value at each, only $25.00

LIBRARY TABLE—A mission style finished in Early English style of finish. Made of finest quality oak in finest possible manner. Top is 48 in. x 30 in. There are two drawers. Price, each.....$30.00

LIBRARY TABLE—Another style in golden oak that is worthy of special mention. This style has large drawer, shelves at both ends for books and magazines, etc. Top is 29 in. x 50 in., and is handsomely polished. A rich looking table and one you'll like. Price, each, only $35.00

LIBRARY TABLE—Another Mission style in the Early English finish. This style has one large drawer and has shelves at both ends for books, magazines, etc. Top is 29 in. x 50 in. Priced fairly at, each $35.00

LIBRARY TABLE—A genuinely fine style in Mission. This table has two drawers, two small and two large cabinets for stationery, etc. There is also a large shelf. Top is 29 in. x 50 in. Price, each $40.00

Here Is a Christmas Gift to Delight the Home Keeper

Doesn't a China Cabinet strike you as a suitable gift to send to some homekeeper this Xmas? She'll receive some dainty china pieces, and a suitable receptacle for these China Gifts would be greatly appreciated.

Prices shouldn't interfere with such a demonstration of friendship because we have some excellent designs at very small prices. You are welcome to come in and see the stock.

CHINA CABINET—Corner style made in golden oak, bent glass door, 4 shelves, 2 mirrors, neat design. Price only $30.00
CHINA CABINET—Early English finished oak, has 4 shelves and small top shelf. Two mirrors, bent glass ends. Good value at $30.00
CHINA CABINET—Another style in golden oak. Has five shelves, mirror, bent glass ends. A splendid cabinet. Priced right, each $35.00
CHINA CABINET—Here is a splendid value in a medium priced cabinet. Four shelves and mirror. Price is only $27.50
CHINA CABINET—For the money, you cannot beat this style. Golden oak, four shelves bent glass door. Price is, each $25.00
CHINA CABINET—A golden oak cabinet of fine design. Has four shelves, two mirrors, bent glass ends. Finely finished. Price, each $40.00

CHOOSE THE GIFT NOW AND LET US DELIVER IT LATER

Why not choose the gift now and have it put aside for later delivery. We shall be pleased to store gifts selected now and deliver them at any time you may designate.

Many have found this to be the most satisfactory way, and we believe that you, too, will find it the best plan. Choice is better now—shopping easier.

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