

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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Six Months75
Three Months50
Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

MILK AND SUCH THINGS

The price of milk has been advanced. The price of butter keeps up. The price of eggs shows no disposition to come down. This is a matter that is worth more than a passing reference. The rapid growth of the city will lead to a yet further increase in the prices of these necessary commodities, unless more people go into the business of producing them. This part of the province is at a transition stage. Nearly all growing communities reach it sooner or later. For a time the supply of certain products is not governed in any way by the demand. Men take pieces of ground and farm them to make a living without specializing in any lines, for there seems to be no object in doing so. Then the supply of products is haphazard. There may or may not be enough butter, eggs and milk or something else. No one knows, for no one is making any special effort to supply such things. After a time the population so increases and it is found necessary to provide a regular supply to a certain amount and to allow a margin for an increasing demand. Victoria and its vicinity have now reached this stage. There is a large and growing market for such farm products as are above mentioned, and the time has come when the production of them on a large scale and in regular quantity is called for.

We suggest that no better opening can be asked than is available here in the production of eggs, butter and milk on a large scale, and carried on just as any other business is carried on. There is not the least probability that the supply of these articles, and to them poultry may be added, will keep up with the growth of the city. Hence here are openings for enterprising men, who understand these lines of business. Fortunately the nature of the country surrounding Victoria and our climate are favorable to the production of these articles. It cannot be made too widely known that there is a shortage in these lines, although the locality is favorable to their production.

THE COMET

There are now two comets visible in the sky. One of these is Halley's and the other has not yet been identified with any previous visitor. The latter is about as bright as the former was a month ago; that is it is visible in a small telescope. It is thought that perhaps it is the comet of 1867 returning on a second observed visit to the sun. Whether or not it will ever be more than a telescopic object cannot now be determined.

Halley's comet is now receding from the Earth, but as it is approaching the sun it will increase in brightness. It is now near the planet Mars, that is it is apparently near that planet, and as it is said to be visible to the naked eye, it ought to be possible for a sharp-eyed person to find it on a clear night. Mars is the bright red star which is seen to the eastward. The comet is expected to grow brighter during January and February, after which it will be so close to the sun that it will be invisible in the rays of that luminary; until the latter part of April, when it ought to become again visible in the morning, just before sunrise. It will disappear about the latter part of May; but just before disappearing it will be visible as an evening star. This it will then be only 14,000,000 miles from the Earth, but its position will be so low in the western sky that to see it one must look for it just as soon as twilight fades. Just how brilliant it may be is a matter of conjecture. Astronomers have said that its brilliancy has been exceedingly variable.

THE COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living is being very earnestly discussed by the more serious periodicals in the United States, and the concluding seems to be that, if the present increase of the cities continues, without any corresponding gain in the rural population and the adoption of a system whereby a greater volume of foodstuffs will be produced from the acre, the cost of living will yet further advance or the standard of living will have to be lowered. This is a very unsatisfactory outlook and there does not seem to be anything that can be done about it. Editorials, essays and speeches will not keep people from crowding into the cities or teach farmers how to make two blades of grass from where one grew before. Of the advantages of a protective tariff there can be no doubt. It has worked wonders in both the United States and Canada. While the former country had millions of acres of vacant lands to give to settlers from the Old World, who would engage in farming, the concentration of the people in cities, due primarily to the rapid expansion of manufacturing, did not interfere with the production of an adequate supply of food stuffs. But in ten years from now there will be 100,000,000 people living in the United States and if the present trend of the population cityward continues the country will have to

draw upon Canada and other lands for its food. In the Dominion there is no danger of the population outstripping the food supplies for many years to come. We have that great solvent of all economic problems—a vast area of fertile, uncultivated soil—yet available.

Mr. Moses B. Cotsworth discusses the increase in the cost of living from a local standpoint, and he advances some matters that seem worthy of very serious consideration. There is no valid reason why the cost of living in this province should be abnormally high.

MAIL SERVICE.

The Omicron Herald, published at Hazelton, contains the following editorial in its issue of the 4th ult.: "The mail service on the Skeena during the months when there are no steamers operating is never very good. The people have ceased to expect that it shall be good until the end of the year. Conditions this year are so bad that the people of the interior might as well be at the North Pole so far as receiving mail goes. The last steamer to leave Hazelton departed October 25, since then we have had one mail and that was despatched from Prince Rupert October 28, arriving at Hazelton November 1 and bringing two weeks' delay. The people of the interior are not critical. They endure a lot and say nothing. But things went too far this fall. Conditions on the Skeena must be known to the officials in charge of this service. At any rate they were advised by wire of the closing of navigation. Instead of acting at once, in order to insure two trips a month to which we are supposed to be entitled, enough time was allowed to elapse so we had one mail in November and that was despatched from Prince Rupert October 28."

In round numbers there are three hundred names on the voters' list for Hazelton and Bulkley. There are nearly as many more too recently arrived to have a vote and not taking into consideration men connected with railway construction, nearly two hundred more.

Post office receipts in established offices increase at an astonishing rate. New offices are opened, but the service between the interior and the coast remains very poor.

This condition of things ought to be remedied without delay. Without proof to the contrary we decline to believe that better accommodation than that complained of cannot be provided. Doubtless it would be somewhat costly, but the pleasure of the province have a right to the best service that money can provide. They pay their share of the federal revenue and have a right to every consideration possible.

The London Daily Mail says it is "now or never" with the Empire, for if the United Kingdom refuses the offer of a preference from the Colonies, it will never be made again. Just when was the offer made, and by whom?

A number of Canadians emigrated to Cuba about three years ago to engage in sugar-growing. Their plantations have been swept by three successive hurricanes, and the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Cuba says their condition is hopeless and desperate.

It is said that Germany is willing to reach an understanding with Great Britain on three points. One is as to their respective dominions in Africa; another is as to the future status of Syria; and the third is as to naval construction. This is said to be due to the influence of the new Chancellor, Hollweg.

So serious is the typhoid epidemic in Montreal that the representatives of all the city hospitals have issued a request that the people will boil all water before using it. There were thought to be 2,000 cases in the city on Christmas, and the number was increasing.

Mr. J. S. Dennis, of the Canadian Pacific, says his company has received 7000 letters from persons desirous of settling in British Columbia. This is an unusual degree of interest, to be exhibited in this Province, and there can be no doubt that it will increase rather than diminish.

There is a growing demand in the East for the representation of Canada at Washington by an official, who shall speak directly for this country. We see difficulties in the way of providing for such a matter, although they are probably by no means insurmountable.

The wholesale merchants of Winnipeg are preparing for a great expansion of business during the present year. Every merchant interviewed by the Free Press of that city said that the outlook never was so bright and that 1910 "would witness unprecedented progress and prosperity."

The story that comes from northern Canada, in regard to the existence of a balloon there, is of very great interest, and the despatching of an expedition in search of it would be a very proper step for the government to take.

CYRUS H. BOWES,

Chemist.

undertake. Even if the balloon, if found, contains nothing of value, it might serve to show the fate of the gallant explorers, who are supposed to have so far out in it twelve years ago.

A contemporary charges the Colonist with vindictive criticism of its opponents. This will be news to Colonist readers and news to its opponents, if it has any. The Colonist's policy is to avoid criticism as much as possible, and then to employ it in a kindly way. It endeavors to be constructive, and because it is constructive it has the sympathetic support of the community to a remarkable degree.

Charles W. Morse, banker, has gone to prison to serve a term of fifteen years. He has already paid a fine of \$7,000,000. As to the justice or injustice of his sentence we express no opinion, but if it is true, as he alleges in a published statement, that he is a private detective of the prosecution, had the jury in charge and that the jury drank steadily until two of them were incapacitated, there seems to be some reason to believe that he did not get a fair trial.

The Post-Intelligencer says it is singular that the first attempt at the construction of a mono-rail railway in America should be in British Columbia. This is not the first time mono-rail construction has been proposed in this province. A little over six years ago some Victorians gave notice of application to parliament for a charter to build such railways in Canada, but through circumstances that need not be here detailed, the abandonment of the project was found to be necessary.

An amusing story comes from Berlin. Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria was visiting Brunswick and when he was leaning out of a window watching a parade, the Kaiser, who was passing, "spanked him" somewhat vigorously. Of course, any joke perpetrated by the Kaiser will provoke a laugh in Germany; but the visiting sovereign declined to accept the performance as such. He entered a somewhat forceful protest, and the relations between the two monarchs became so strained that he left Brunswick without bidding his host good-bye. Thus another complication has been introduced into the Balkan situation, which was already difficult enough. Boys at school will remember that an ill-famed joke led William the Conqueror to cross the Channel and lay a large part of France waste with fire and sword.

The Montreal Witness is worried over the increased output of gold, which it says is making everything cost too much. It says that money is growing worth less and less all the time. The theory usually has been that the more money the better; but the Witness does not seem to think so. And yet if everything increases in price in proportion, no one will suffer except perhaps the man with the fixed income. If money is so needlessly plentiful, why is it that the rate of interest does not drop, out of sight? One undoubted effect of this increase in gold is that Occidental nations are badly handicapped in their commercial relations with the Orient. Its other effects are problematical.

The Pool.

In the far west, where her dusk garden glows,
With the young winds about her feet
At play,
Faces the evening. Purple, gold and rose,
Bloom down her path at dying of the day.

Softly she steps, and breathes a little song;
He who has ears may hear her lullaby
Her shining hair floats the wide sky
Along.

The sudden fields are bright for many a mile
With the warm radiance from her streaming hair;
Yonder a poet has caught her smile,
And from its dark and miserable hair
Rounds to a gladder, burnished bowl
Of gold.

The fallen roses from her hand to hold,
—Mary Norworthy, Shepard in Harper's.

Calgary Buildings.

CALGARY, Jan. 3.—Building returns for the year past total \$2,430,452. This merely represents eighty per cent. of the value of the buildings erected. Building Inspector Harrison announces that in 1910 the permits issued will total at least four millions. This estimate is considered very conservative in well-informed circles. Permits issued during December show an increase of 243 over the same month last year. Revision of the building by-laws is now taking place, with a view to meeting present requirements.

Andrew Bligh, of Vancouver, is in town.

CURES COLDS

Bowes' Drug Store prepares a cure for colds and coughs that does wonders for people so afflicted.

BOWES' BRONCHIAL

BALSA is composed of soothing remedies, compounded in precise proportions. It alleviates the irritated membranes of the throat and removes the soreness from the lungs. It does not stupefy. CURE; 50c per bottle, here only.

CYRUS H. BOWES,

Chemist.

1228 Government Street.

WEILER BROS.

Five Floors of Home Comfort

WEILER BROS.

DINING TABLES, \$7.50

And From This Price up to \$60

WAS your dining-room "found wanting" during the holiday season? Not in the "refreshment" way, but in conveniences, in style? Wouldn't you have liked a new extension table, a new buffet, a china cabinet, or something of the sort?

We would appreciate an opportunity to show you our big range of extension dining table styles, and to quote you prices from a list that includes one to fit any pocketbook. We have these tables in all the popular woods and finishes, and in round and square styles—pedestal and regular. Prices start as low as \$7.50.

Other Diningroom Furniture

There may be room for a new buffet or china cabinet, or perhaps the present chairs are a bit shaky. Choose some new chairs or a new buffet from this assortment offered here. Many styles, but a specially strong line of mission effects—the most popular of all dining room furniture.

Our prices will compare favorably with any quoted anywhere, while styles and quality are of the superior sort.



Warm Bedding for These Frosty Nights

No Better Qualities or Values are Offered Anywhere

Warm bedding for these frosty nights—don't you want some? No better place to do the choosing than right here and no better time than today, for there are more chilly nights coming your way. This year's assortment of blankets and comforts is the best yet. Best in variety and completeness and best in values.

We have sold more McLintock down quilts this season than ever before. As people learn the great advantages of the down quilt the sales increase. Try one and you'll be an enthusiastic booster. In wool blankets offerings include the very best from Scotland and the foremost Canadian makers. We guarantee the qualities.

ALL-WOOL BLANKETS from, per pair \$3.50 McLINTOCK DOWN QUILTS from \$5.50



Card Prizes in China that Combine Beauty and Utility

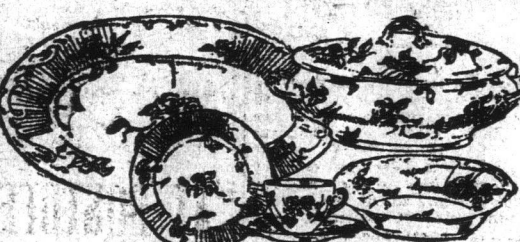
Q The thousands of pieces of china—"odd bits" we call them, to distinguish between china sold in sets and sold by single item—which form a conspicuous part of our stock, require no mental gymnastics to be considered appropriate prizes for the ladies at euchre or whist.

Q They combine a beauty which is dearly loved by every woman with a usefulness that it is her joy to exploit on every occasion.

Q Your list of prices should be exclusively china bits it would excite spirited competition in the contest.

Q Try it.

New Dinnerware



Try the "Open Stock" Plan

YOU couldn't do better than invest your cash gifts in an open stock dinnerware pattern. Choose few or many pieces as you wish. Start with a few and add as your purse permits. If unfortunate enough to break a few pieces, you can easily replace them here—no patchwork affair about it.

We show a great choice of patterns—you'll find more than a dozen different patterns in our stock of "open stock" services. Easy to choose a pattern to please, and of course the matter of buying is regulated by your requirements. Come in and inspect.

New Haviland Open Stock Pattern

One of the best of the "open stocks" is a charming gold decoration in Haviland Limoges China. The name Haviland is famous the world over. We

guarantee this to be the genuine. The ware is of the finest quality and the decoration one of the most pleasing gold treatments we have seen.

Start a service of this—you couldn't better it.

Welcome to come in and inspect at any time. Not the slightest obligation to purchase is incurred.

See This New Bedroom Furniture

Some Magnificent Pieces Shown

By all means see the new arrivals in bedroom furniture. Some of the handsomest pieces we have shown have just been placed on display and a hearty welcome awaits you here. Don't have to buy—just come to look. Chief among these are some suites in Bird's-eye Maple and in Circassian Walnut. If you want something real nice, choose from these.

Circassian Walnut Suite \$175

This is a 3-piece suite of excellent design and made from selected Circassian Walnut. Consists of Dresser, Chiffoniere and Ladies' Dressing Table.

Dresser has 3 large and 2 small drawers, and a large shaped bevel plate mirror.

Chiffoniere has 4 large and 2 small drawers and a shaped bevel plate mirror.

Dressing Table has 2 drawers and large bevel plate mirror.

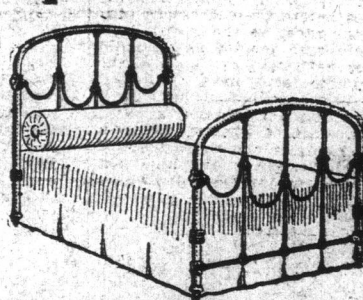
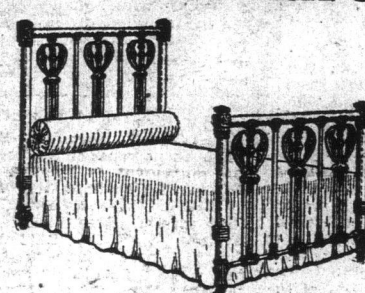
Bird's Eye Maple Pieces

Selected wood and beautifully finished.

CHIFFONIERE—Swell front style with 3 large and 4 small drawers and hat cupboard. Oval bevel plate mirror \$55.00

DRESSER—Swell front, 2 large and 2 small drawers. Large oval bevel plate mirror \$55.00

BED—A very attractive design—the newest thing. Selected wood \$45.00

Furnish-
ers of
Homes
Hotels
Clubs

The West's Greatest Furniture House

WEILER'S

Furnish-
ers of
Churches
Schools
Boats

DAIRY AND STOCK ENTHUSIASTS MEET

Agenda For Meetings Take Place First Week in February

Programmes will be issued in course of the ensuing few days the annual conventions of the British Columbia Dairyman's Association and the British Columbia Stockbreeders' Association, which are to be held respectively on the 13th and 14th proximo in the Women's Building, at the grounds of the Victoria Agricultural Society. It is expected that several hundred practical and progressive farmers, especially interested in the branches of their profession will attend, while among the speakers to be several of the foremost authorities on their specialties in the American states.

For the B. C. Dairyman's meeting the agenda in abstract is as hereunder: 9:30 a.m., directors' meeting; 10 a.m., president's address; to be followed by presentation of the directors' report, that of the secretary-treasurer and an address of welcome by the Mayor; 1:30 p.m., addresses: "Bovine Diseases and Post-mortem Examination," by Dr. A. Knapp; "Contagious Abortion," by Dr. Hadwen; "Practical Dairy Feeding," by W. Langdon, of Vancouver; 5 p.m., demonstration in operation of a milking machine; 6 p.m., banquet; 8:30 p.m., address by C. Marker, of Calgary. On the 14th proximo, on the Coast and Raising of the "Cow," by Hon. E. T. Judd, of Salem, Ore.; address of the day by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Patterson; Premier McBride, the Minister of Agriculture, and other notable.

Stock Breeders Meeting.

The programme for the Stockbreeders' meeting the day following is as follows: 9:30 a.m., directors' meeting; 10 a.m., president's address, to be followed by the secretary-treasurer's report and an address of welcome by the Mayor, and reports from the special committees on heavy and light horse, cattle, sheep and swine; 2 p.m., address of the day by Arthur Duncan, "Contagious Diseases," by Dr. Hadwen; "Poultry Raising," by Mr. Ottawa; "Poultry Raising," by Mr. Ottawa; 5 p.m., demonstration of the milking machine in operation; 6:30 p.m., banquet; 8:15 p.m., "Hog Feeding and Raising," by Dr. Webb, Chilliwack; "The Breeding of the Heavy Horse," by Hon. E. J. Judd, Salem, Ore.; with addresses by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture, and others.

ISLAND'S NEED OF FEMALE HELP

Development League Issues a Pamphlet Advertising Opportunities Here

With a view to attracting house domestics for whom there is a great and growing demand in the city, the Vancouver Island Development League has issued a leaflet which will be enclosed in all the advertising literature sent broadcast by that institution. The document should prove a factor in attracting domestics. It points out that they will receive good homes and wages according to their experience and skill. The average wages are quoted as follows: General domestics, from \$15 to \$25 per month; housemaids, from \$20 to \$25 per month; plain cooks, from \$20 to \$25 per month; good nurses, from \$20 to \$25 per month; extra good cooks, from \$25 to \$30 per month; girls of sixteen, \$15 per month. All the foregoing wages include board. Stipulating that all applicants must have references as to competency and good character, it is pointed out that Vancouver Island offers special opportunities in the line of domestic service. The pamphlet winds up as follows: "The only drawback domestics will find is that it will be difficult for them to keep from getting married, especially if they are competent cooks and house domestics."

NO ALEXANDER CUP RACE THIS SUMMER

VANCOUVER, B.C., Jan. 3.—There will be neither challenger, defender nor any race for the Alexander International yacht trophy in 1910. According to the conditions of the deed of gift governing the cup, notice of intention to challenge by any yacht club in the association must be in the hands of the cup trustees before the end of the year preceding the race. As the Royal Vancouver Yacht club decided not to build a challenger next year, and none of the other clubs has sent in a challenge, there will be no race for the trophy next July at the big regatta at Victoria. This state of affairs is largely due to the mixup in the rules, none of the clubs or designers on the coast seem to know just exactly where the line is.

TO WALK ACROSS CONTINENT AGAIN

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Edward Payson Weston, veteran pedestrian, announced today that he will make one more transcontinental walk, and that he will get from ocean to ocean in 100 days. Weston will start from Los Angeles at 4 o'clock the afternoon of February 4 and will be due in New York May 28. His hike from New York to San Francisco early last summer took him 105 days, but on that journey he encountered a long series of storms and unusually hot weather. If conditions are favorable this spring he is sure that he can cross the United States in 100 days.

Cement Company's Loss
HUDSON, N.Y., Jan. 3.—Fire here today destroyed the big storehouse of the Portland Cement company, causing a loss of about \$30,000. About \$20,000 was also caused in the cement at the adjoining. One workman is believed to have been burned to death.