

The Colonist.

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THE SEM-WEEKLY COLONIST

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ORIENTAL EXCLUSION

Tomorrow week, it is understood, the question of Oriental exclusion will be discussed in the House of Commons upon some motion by Mr. Ralph Smith. A telegram of Saturday said that the position taken by the British Columbia members will be unless an arrangement can be made with Japan, the Canadian parliament should pass restrictive legislation.

As we look upon the question of Oriental immigration it is something very much more than the determination of a policy which shall be acceptable to Japan, and at the same time prevent British Columbia from being overrun by immigrants from that country. Canada is facing a new economic condition for which there is no precedent. In the course of events it has come about that what we are accustomed to call Occidental and Oriental civilizations have come not only into close contact, but into what promises to be a strenuous rivalry, and the arena, where the problem is likely to be presented in its most acute form, is the western coast of Canada.

We think it idle to hope that, under present conditions, Occidental and Oriental races can live side by side in British Columbia harmoniously. If there is to be any considerable influx of the latter, uncounted centuries have developed divergencies between the two great divisions of mankind, which may be overcome more quickly than most of us imagine, but they exist, and their existence must be taken into account. No question of superiority or inferiority is involved, only a question of differences, and it would be madness to shut our eyes to them.

The effect of this divergence is not felt just as clearly in the Orient, where the hostility to Occidentalism, so to speak, is quite as marked as the opposition to Orientalism in this country. We venture to believe that if several thousands of unskilled white laborers were sent into Japan or China to compete with the laborers of that country, the protest against their employment would be quite as vigorous and possibly even less controllable than those which have been made against yellow unskilled labor in this country.

There are people in Victoria, who hesitate about paying their bills, and others who absolutely refuse to consider new enterprises because of a stringency referred to, which has in point of fact affected them about as much as the last transit of Venus. Such people have simply had a shock. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, an imaginary shock, given to their confidence. Not an instance can be cited where a Victoria man, having money in a Canadian bank, has not been able to get it when he wanted it, and as there have been no exceptional losses incurred anywhere by Victoria people, the money stringency here is largely imaginary.

Having dealt with the principles involved in the subject matter to be debated tomorrow week, although we are quite as conscious as any one can be that we have done so only superficially, we venture to suggest the course that ought to be taken. Just at this particular time there is no immediate prospect of any large influx of Orientals, but the government of Canada should be prepared to deal with one if it should appear likely to occur. This can only be effectively done by a general law applicable to all people. Parliament should clothe the government with power to exclude undesirable immigrants, whether they come from the slums of London, the villages of India, the crowded cities of China or the centres of coolie labor in Japan. To such a law no exception

can be taken. It is an essential part of the power vested in every government that it shall be able to say who may and who may not enter its territory, and while any nation might properly resent laws expressly directed against its people, none could object to provisions directed against the people of another nation.

In this connection we refer to Mr. R. L. Borden's speech at the Russell Theatre, which will be found in today's Colonist. This is a very manlike utterance, and it was made after an investigation of Canadians in this province and the larger adjacent territory to enable him to form a clear judgment. As he points out the question at present is not racial, but economic. It is for this reason that we express a strong conviction as to the necessity of legislation which will place barriers in the way of an influx of unskilled workmen from any point of the Orient. In the aspect of the problem, there is a domestic side to the subject, but into this we do not propose to enter at the present time.

As we are discussing the international and inter-imperial side of a question, the importance of which, as Mr. Borden says, "is greater than many people in the East have yet realized."

AN EXCELLENT CHANGE

The decision of Attorney-General Bowser to vest in the provincial police control of all liquor licenses outside of organized municipalities is, in our judgment, a very excellent one. The provincial police have the deserved confidence of the people of British Columbia and a reputation for fearlessness, impartiality and well-considered judgment, far superior to that of the officials charged with the responsibility of preserving law and order. It is eminently proper that they should have the right to regulate the issuing of licenses for the sale of intoxicants, because it is unfortunately only too true that a very large per centage of disorderly and criminal acts in this province are directly traceable to the liquor traffic.

In view of the fact that the construction of railways and other works in parts of the province where none of our people are living, we are hopeful that the granting of a license to sell intoxicating liquors will not be exercised by the holder of it in any vested interest in the liquor traffic. We have before now heard it contended that the number of licenses should be limited, but this is a vested interest which ought to be protected. No man should be permitted to acquire a vested interest in anything which he can enjoy when the public demand its abolition, more especially when the subject matter of such interest is such that the law requires it to be exercised only under strict supervision. A tremendous movement for the restriction of liquor traffic is going on, and it is to be hoped that in the newly-opened territory of the province every effort will be made to restrict it to the extent that it carries with it the greatest right that appears in the face of the document.

VALUE OF CONFIDENCE

All business is based on confidence; that is on credit, which is the same thing. This is true even in retail transactions to an extent that is hard to realize. Take the production of a newspaper. The white paper is obtained on credit, even when the gauge of trade it is bought for cash, because no money actually passes between the buyer and seller, but only an interchange of credits through the intervention of a bank. The telegrams are obtained on credit. The employees work on credit, and the money they receive is not used at all until a time comes when there are no more telegrams or telegrams are to be sent, or the money is not used until a time comes when there are no more telegrams or telegrams are to be sent, or the money is not used until a time comes when there are no more telegrams or telegrams are to be sent.

There are people in Victoria, who hesitate about paying their bills, and others who absolutely refuse to consider new enterprises because of a stringency referred to, which has in point of fact affected them about as much as the last transit of Venus. Such people have simply had a shock. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, an imaginary shock, given to their confidence. Not an instance can be cited where a Victoria man, having money in a Canadian bank, has not been able to get it when he wanted it, and as there have been no exceptional losses incurred anywhere by Victoria people, the money stringency here is largely imaginary.

The colloquial expression that many people "get cold feet" fits the situation very well. A Seattle man was talking a few days ago about the low prices prevailing in that city, and he said, "Why," said he, "I could have bought lots on Second avenue for a good many dollars, but you buy them?" "Yes," said he, "I could not buy them." "Why not?" "Well, you see, I was in a Victoria there are lots of people that are made to sing. Not that property is going for a song here, for it is not. Prices are just as good as ever, but the present time is suspicious for men with money at their command to use it. Labor is more plentiful in some ways than for a long time or than it is now, but it is not so plentiful as it was a few months have passed. The outlook

for a business revival on an unprecedented scale is unmistakable. All those who are qualified to speak are agreed upon this. The miscalculations of a lot of financial misfits on Wall street can not long disturb the prospect of a continent that is teeming with wealth and peopled by millions who are normally sane and almost in every case honest.

THE INTERCOLONIAL

Mr. H. R. Emmerson, ex-Minister of Railways and Canals, has given notice in the House of Commons that he will move the following resolution: Resolved, that in the opinion of this House it is desirable in the interests of the Dominion that the sphere of influence of the Intercolonial Railway, a government operated railway, should be extended and extended by securing by legislation, such of the branch lines of railway favoring the latter as the Intercolonial as will serve as direct and profitable feeders to the traffic of said railway, and a government-owned extension of the government operation of said road to the industrial centre of the province of Ontario, to be effected by the construction of an extension of the same to such points, or by securing, as will be deemed expedient, such of the branch lines of railway as will enable the Intercolonial railway to extend its transportation facilities to the benefit of stimulating and promoting internal and interprovincial traffic and of facilitating the export trade of the Dominion through Canadian channels.

While the past history of the Intercolonial railway has been so very enthusiastic over any proposal to extend its sphere of influence, its operations, it would not be difficult to secure popular endorsement of any plan and is likely to be carried out without scandal. Mr. Emmerson's proposal is, in our judgment, a very excellent one. The provincial police have the deserved confidence of the people of British Columbia and a reputation for fearlessness, impartiality and well-considered judgment, far superior to that of the officials charged with the responsibility of preserving law and order. It is eminently proper that they should have the right to regulate the issuing of licenses for the sale of intoxicants, because it is unfortunately only too true that a very large per centage of disorderly and criminal acts in this province are directly traceable to the liquor traffic.

IRON

We print this morning some statements by Mr. Lindeman, the expert geologist in charge of the department of Mines to report upon the iron deposits of British Columbia. As his arrival in Victoria, a single season is not long enough to enable any man to make an exhaustive report upon such a subject, and it is not surprising that the first break between him and his colleagues arose out of their report to sanction the proposed railway through Southern British Columbia. Mr. Emmerson is following, in our judgment, the footsteps of his predecessor, and is suggesting the initial steps towards the accomplishment of the policy of the Conservative leader.

In view of these considerations, Mr. Lindeman's statement is a most interesting one, and it is to be hoped that the observations in regard to the value of magnetic ore, which has been known for a long time in the mountains of Vancouver and adjacent islands, which so frequently take hold of uneducated men, and which we believe that unless an abundance of hematite or bog ore could be got to treat with the magnetic, the expense of treating the latter will be prevented from being profitably handled. There have been a good many public discussions of this question in Victoria, and at all of them this seems to have been taken for granted. It is a pity that the idea is erroneous, and he points out that all the Norwegian iron is made from magnetite. It is made from magnetite, and is chiefly from the Skegsvik, which results are being obtained, although Mr. James A. Moore, who is the principal owner of the smelter, says that a great deal of experimenting was necessary before they could be attained. He says also that whenever furnaces are built for the treatment of ores from newly opened deposits, a certain amount of experimenting must be tried before the best method of treatment can be determined. The present plan is now in successful operation and it is to be hoped that demonstration of what can be done in this province.

We venture to repeat a suggestion, already made in these columns, that some of our moneyed people should get together and make a start in the iron business. There is certainly a great demand on this coast for rails, structural iron car wheels, and axes, iron plates for ship building and various other lines of this metal. We have seen a number of men who are qualified to speak are agreed upon this. The miscalculations of a lot of financial misfits on Wall street can not long disturb the prospect of a continent that is teeming with wealth and peopled by millions who are normally sane and almost in every case honest.

Our Syrup of Hypophosphites. Is a good tonic for this season of the year. Try it for that reason. One Dollar per Bottle which will last a month. CYRUS H. BOWEN chemist 98 Government St. Near Yates St.

It is becoming quite the correct thing to speculate about the future of Canada. The latest contributor to this subject is Mr. John S. Ewart, whose views, as expressed before the Canadian Club at Ottawa, were published in yesterday's Colonist. Mr. Ewart sees five conditions which will unite the United States; an independent republic; union with the United Kingdom; an independent Canadian sovereignty; an independent monarchy under the same Crown as the United Kingdom. He seems to be inclined to think that the latter will be developed. There is one weakness in all such speculations, and it consists in the fact that no one is qualified to say with any definiteness how British institutions will work out in the future of this country. It would be unwise to undertake to order the execution of a king and assert the right to control the succession to the throne. When British colonization beyond seas began, no one contemplated the possibility of self-governing colonies. It was not until the latter part of the century ago that the idea of self-contradictory to the statesmen of less than a century ago. So we think we must thus appear to be a part of the future of the component parts of the British Empire. They will work out in their own destiny. Apparently the whole tendency of British sentiment at the present time is in favor of imperial consolidation. Certainly for that purpose it is not to be expected that the present relations of the several parts of the Empire are absolutely unchangeable. The future relations may therefore be expected to be so. All the best of us can do is to re-organize the Empire in such a way as to do all we can to promote the welfare of the particular part of the Empire in which we live.

FUTURE OF CANADA

In order to cement more firmly the friendly relations between Great Britain and her colonies, it is not to be expected that the present relations of the several parts of the Empire are absolutely unchangeable. The future relations may therefore be expected to be so. All the best of us can do is to re-organize the Empire in such a way as to do all we can to promote the welfare of the particular part of the Empire in which we live.

What seems to have been the most apparent cause of the recent rash of years is reported from West Virginia. It seems very extraordinary that with the aid of the electric light, in coal mines, it has as yet been found impossible to prevent frequent awful first arrivals of the disaster. It is to be hoped that the necessary steps will be taken to prevent the disaster from being repeated. They are all equal before the great Court of Death.

As a sister ship, the Mauretania is not displaying much stately consideration for the Lusitania, having now the latest of the eastbound record. Apropos of this latest achievement of the newest gigantic Cunarder, we observe that Mr. Thomas Duncan, son of the late Mr. Duncan, and who is president of the Engineering Society, alluding to the increase in the value of the stock of the company, submitted a diagram showing their increase in speed, indicated horsepower, and tonnage, from 1880 to date, based partly on data which had been published in the engineering papers, and partly on information placed before the society by Mr. Arthur I. Macginnis, M. I. N. A. He had projected the curves forward on what were considered the latest and most accurate public statistics, and the result appeared to be that in 1900 the crack liner would have a length of about 970 feet, a tonnage of 90,000, and a speed of 31 knots per hour. It must be admitted, he added, that that was entering to a considerable extent into the region of prophecy, but that the general curves showing the progress from 1880 to 1907 indicated not a diminishing but an increasing rate of progress, and higher figures than those shown by the curves might be justified if adopted.

When the federal government has a moment to spare from the pleasant task of directing attention to the wonderful generosity it has displayed in arranging for certain very necessary arrangements for the local post office. Less surplus and more men would fill the ranks of the local post office, and it is to be hoped that the government will be so kind as to attend to it as they ought to be.

Shopman—Yes, madam, there is no nicer present for a man than a hand-cranked desk. Look at this one, for instance. It is custom-made, very pretty, but what are all those square things? Drawers, madam, that desk has sixty separate drawers. Yes, and every time he draws anything he'll expect me to find it. However, the desk with one drawer, please.

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