

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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INTERESTING FIGURES.

The figures given by Mr. G. H. Barnard, M.P., in his speech on the "Budget" have a direct bearing upon a question of very great importance to the people of Victoria just at this particular time. We need harbor improvements here on an extensive scale, and Mr. Barnard has shown conclusively that we can make out a very strong case for a large appropriation. While we invite special attention to his own way of stating the case, we think it advisable to summarize the points here. The verbatim report will be found elsewhere in today's issue. In ten years ending 1908 the sum of \$7,396,416 was expended on harbors in the eastern provinces, and only \$256,178 on a like service on the Pacific coast. We concede that there are more harbors in the East requiring attention and more people whose wants and wishes must be met; but the disproportion between the two sums is unreasonable. Like Mr. Barnard, we do not raise any objection to the amount expended in the East, assuming it to have been well spent on works really in the public interest. Our objection, like his, is that we have not received enough in the West.

Mr. Barnard points out that, including the sum in the Estimates before the parliament, St. John has received \$1,999,142. We do not suggest that this was not money well spent; we prefer to assume that it was, because it shows that Victoria can with good precedent urge upon the Finance Minister that a more liberal line shall be followed in respect to our harbor. We are to receive this year \$65,000. This is enough, we understand, to keep the present plan in operation for a year. But our point is that this policy is niggardly. We do not want to have to wait for a quarter of a century for harbor improvements that will be needed next year. The data in respect to the trade of the British Columbian ports, presented by Mr. Barnard, must have been a surprise to those who have been considering. Sometimes when we speak of the large tonnage of shipping resorting to our ports we are told that they are in part ships in transit to other points and in part the regular ferry services to United States ports. This is true to a certain extent; but a vessel that comes into the port of Victoria, if she comes out again in the course of the next hour, requires just as good accommodation in the way of depth of water and room to move round as if she waited here to discharge a cargo of merchandise. We are exceedingly pleased that Mr. Barnard has brought this matter to the front in the way he has. He could not have done it on a more timely occasion. His data will be of great use to those who are about to urge that a large sum for the immediate improvement of the harbor on a larger scale than has been followed heretofore.

THE BRITISH CONTEST.

There is a tradition that the British people are phlegmatic and that nothing can disturb the majestic claim of their demeanor. To many people on the western side of the Atlantic an Englishman is a fellow with an eye-glass and a drawl who on the Day of Judgment will look around him and say in an indifferent tone: "Bah Jove, this is somewhat unusual. What?" A story is told of an Englishman who was in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake, and he is the earthquake par excellence. He was stopping at a hotel, and he said to a Victorian that he was awakened by the trembling of the building and got up and looked out of the window. He saw a lot of people running into the streets, but he said it did not seem to be any of his business, and he went to bed again. Presently he was awakened by some one knocking at his door and shouting that the end of the world had come. "I got up, took my bath," he said, "and took my suit case and went to the street, where I found things a good deal mixed up." This story illustrates what many people on the Continent think of the Englishman. The performances of these good folk after Mafeking rather upset some of our preconceived ideas; but it takes a good deal to eradicate deep-rooted views, and so the Western World relapsed into its previous notion of the unemotional Briton.

We will all have to admit that, as the boy in the street says, "we have another think coming" for the way in which the election campaign is being conducted can hardly be described as unemotional. If that pug-nacious Welshman, Mr. Lloyd-George alone had indulged in pyrotechnics, or even if only Mr. Winston Churchill had shattered the air with invective, we might not be very much surprised; but peers and commoners alike, every shade of politics between and including Mr. Lord Duke and Comrade Blank of the ultra-Socialists is represented in the great talk-fest now in progress and it is hard to say which has the better of the other, when it comes down to calling hard names or imputing unworthy motives. Compared with the

present election the wildest contest we have ever had in this supposed wild and woolly West looks like a Quaker meeting. All of which seems to show that underneath the veneer of indifference the average Englishman hides a lot of passion, and that he loves to fight as dearly as his fellow subjects across the Irish Channel are alleged.

FIVE YEARS HENCE

In less than five years from today the Canadian Northern will be completed. In less than five years the Grand Trunk Pacific will be finished. In about five years the Panama Canal will be completed. How many people will there be in Alberta in five years hence? How many people will there be in Interior British Columbia? The importance of these interesting questions lies in the fact that in five years from now the trade of the Pacific Coast of Canada will be revolutionized. Instead of having only one transcontinental line in the Dominion we will have three, and possibly a fourth, for the V. V. & E. with its proposed eastern connections may supply another. Instead of having to bring goods by water around the Horn or by way of Suez, we can get them promptly and cheaply by way of the Canal. Railway freights will then come tumbling. Mr. J. J. Hill realizes this and he is preparing the Great Northern so as to reduce all grades to a minimum and make all curves as easy as possible. The realization that freights must be reduced has led the Grand Trunk Pacific to seek to get as near a level grade as possible and the Canadian Northern to do the same thing. With cheaper freight rates the works really in the public interest. Our objection, like his, is that we have not received enough in the West.

DEFENDING CANADA

The reference herein is not to the defence of the Dominion with men or ships, but what can be done in that way with the pen. There are yet some people in the world who are so willing to admit that Canada is as full of natural resources as she really is, and they write to the papers about it and try to take the conceit out of us. This is all very well, we suppose; and sometimes it is a blessing in disguise, for it causes some one to spring to the defence of the country's fair name with the result that what was intended to do an injury results into benefit. The following from the Lyleton Times, of Christchurch, N. Z., illustrates this:

"The Canadians are nothing if not patriotic, and of course they have a right to be proud of their country. If the big Dominion is attacked in print there are a dozen Canadians ready to defend it, and the London Journal has ventured to disparage Canada's resources recently only gave the country an excellent advertisement. It was mildly suggested that, after all, Canada's resources did not compare very favorably with those of the United States. The principal natural resources in which Canada does really fall short, is what an Indian Canadian, 'are yellow fever, destructive tornadoes and earthquakes.' The coal beds of the Dominion, this authority tells us, embrace in all an area of 100,000 square miles, an area nearly equal to the whole extent of the British Isles. The richest deposits of coal are along the coasts, both east and west, as if put there by a wise Providence to supply the immense fleets of great ships which will soon be necessary to carry Canada's vast output of corn and other natural products to the Old World and to Asia. It is estimated by experts that the Crown's New Pass beds in the Rockies are capable of yielding 400,000,000 tons each century for the next 6000 years. The province of Alberta is 150 miles long by 400 miles wide, and the entire province is underlaid with coal. Canada's tier area is three times that of the United States. She has the greatest nickel mines in the world, and her rich wheat-producing area is vastly greater than that of the United States. There is a great deal more in this 'letter of protest.' Canada has a land area of 3,618,818 square miles, and a water area, exclusive of the territorial seas, and the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, of 125,756 square miles. Including Alaska and Hawaii, the total land and water area of the United States is 3,567,583 square miles. Canada, of course, has a big belt of territory that is not likely to be settled for a century to come, but in comparing the neighbors, it is worth remembering that the United States had a start of a century in the race of development.

HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

A great deal of attention is being given in many parts of the world to the medical inspection of school children. It has been ascertained that very much of what is thought to be dullness, and inattention on the part of pupils is the result of ill-health. We

find a very excellent article on this subject in the St. John Sun, from which we take the following extracts. Our cities are taking up this problem with vigor and intelligence. But much will have to be done before we even reach the ground that has long been passed over by many European cities. As usual Germany leads. She is first and the rest almost nowhere. In several German cities the medical inspection is so thorough that, beginning with a child's entrance into the public school, a record is kept of its physical condition up to the time of leaving. Parents are advised as to diet and other matters of home care. Children suffering from cardiac weakness, for example, are not permitted to join in violent games; teachers are urged to protect them from agitation; they are excluded from the usual physical exercise of the school and parents are warned of the danger to which they would be exposed by violent exercise or undue agitation. Children showing signs of pre-disposition to tuberculosis are sent to the children's sanatoriums and are maintained in many cases for their benefit.

Defective teeth are responsible for a great deal of pain among children of all classes but especially among the poor. They are the cause of serious digestive troubles which handicap the children during their school life. Strassburg, Germany, has established dental clinics for the children and treats them free of cost to themselves, teeth filled, cleaned, extracted as they may require. Strassburg has carried this work further than any other city. In Norway and Sweden the children are regularly examined and those needing it are provided with medicine and tonics free of charge. In Brussels the children are regularly examined once a year and general physical condition. Physical defects, experts assure us, are the real trouble in most cases which we inaccurately call stupidity, inattention, indifference to study, silliness, truancy and "general clumsiness." What the child fails to keep up who drops out and takes to the street and to crime—what he often needs by way of punishment is not extra tasks, the birch, or the Industrial Home, but glasses to correct astigmatism, the removal of adenoids, or the service of a dentist.

We are quite in sympathy with the Sun when it says that the cost of carrying out such a system is a secondary consideration. The good that must result to the community at large will far outweigh any expense that might be incurred. The treatment of children is a new art. We are learning that many things can be explained on the ground of physical condition that were formerly attributed to mental weaknesses or moral perversion. We are learning that prevention is not only better than cure, but infinitely easier; and that the proverb that as the twig is bent the tree is inclined applies to the human mind and body quite as well as to such minor matters as tastes and habits.

It looks as though we may have something like a navy after all. Whatever else comes out of the British political crisis, the House of Lords will never be quite the same again.

The St. John Presbytery declined to pass a resolution in opposition to the establishment of a Canadian navy. It would be an extraordinary thing if it had passed such a resolution.

The Daily Graphic, a strong Conservative paper, does not like the outlook. It complains of a lack of speaking ability and political tact among the leaders of the party. If a Canadian paper should say this, all manner of things would be charged against it by some people.

Mr. Balfour is unfortunate in being practically out of the campaign for the present at least. He may not wholly regret it, for things have got into such a shape that he would hardly know which way to turn. Mr. Balfour is not an extremist and this is a campaign of extremes.

Cleared Up. Bewilderment was written in the face of the richly gowned lady that hurried into the elderly physician's office.

Doctor Swallow, said she, "this morning I received your bill for ten dollars, and I can't understand it. Some time ago I settled our account and have had no occasion to consult you professionally since."

"Did I not call at your house one day since that?"

"Only as my guest at dinner, doctor! That was four weeks ago."

An apprehensive shade overspread the dignified physician's countenance, as quickly he withdrew his notebook from his pocket and rapidly fingered over the leaves.

"Here it is," said he, stopping at a certain page. "Dinner at Mrs. Penelope's. Uneventful. Eked out the hour by giving hostess my opinions on the digestibility of mustard pickles, scalloped oysters, and plum cake, and added the physician, 'without thinking I annexed the amount of the bill which you have received. Madame, it should have been twenty-five.'—Life."

Consolidated Leases. Notice is given in the current issue of the Gazette by Wilson & Bloomfield, of the intention of clients to apply for a special act at the coming session of the House consolidating certain valuable dredging leases on Willow creek, an auriferous affluent of the Fraser River.

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS LAST DAY FOR BUYING

JUST today left for the Christmas buying—start this minute to make your final purchases. The earlier you shop the better for yourself and us, and though we shall be open until late tonight we advise that you come in this morning.

Yesterday was a big day in our China Store and dozens of lonely pieces testify to the big run on many assortments. These have been placed on the special value counters to clear today. Don't miss these counters—10c, 15c, 25c, 35c and 50c—values to double that amount are to be found on them. It'll pay you to come here first.

LADIES SHOULD USE OUR REST ROOM TODAY

Ladies—when you are tired from the rush and worry of shopping, come in and rest in our rest room on the second floor. You are welcome to make free use of this convenience whether a shopper at this store or not. Comfortably furnished with easy chairs, dressing-room, etc. Yours—so use it.

Big Show of Brass Goods

BRASS GOODS—A magnificent collection of brass goods this season—and such brass as this makes splendid gifts. Don't miss seeing these today.

POLISHED BRASS VASES, from 25c
HAMMERED BRASS FINGER BOWLS 75c
HAMMERED BRASS JARDINIERES \$4.50
MAHARADBAD COBRA CANDLE STICKS—quaint and artistic, at from, each \$1.25
BENARES BRASS TRAYS, for tea table use. Very handsome. Each at \$14.00

Ladies' Companions, \$3.00
These useful articles are rightly popular as gifts. The outfit consists of scissors, thimble, knife, bodkin, sullette, etc. These are in a lined linen case of attractive appearance. From the famous Joseph Rodgers & Sons' factory. Set \$3.00

Sets of Scissors in leather cases—same make. Three pairs in case at \$3.50
Dinner Gongs, at \$6.00
This \$6.00 Gong is of very stylish design. Finely polished oak frame—silver-mounted with silver plated gong. Priced at, each \$6.00

Chafing Dishes, from \$7.50
What better than a Chafing Dish for a homekeeper or some young lady? Hundreds of dainty dishes easily and quickly prepared—after-theatre suppers, etc. Nickel-plated. At, from \$7.50
Meteor Coffee Percolators, \$10.00
These make a most delightful coffee—clear as wine. A grand gift for a drink of coffee. We have them in nickel-plated, brass and copper. Prices start at \$10.00

Art Electric Portable Lamps
We show some very handsome Art Mission Electric Portable Lamps. These lamps are great values at the prices marked. We have them from \$6.50

Mothers Would Like These:

Cotton Comforters, from \$1.00
Down Quilts, from \$5.50
Hearth Rugs, from \$1.25
Carpet Sweepers, from \$3.25
Art Table Covers 50c
Bed Spreads, from \$1.25
Tea Cloths, from \$1.00
Sideboard Scarfs 75c
Lace Curtains, pair \$7.50
Couch Covers \$3.75
Dining Table Covers \$2.50
Cushion Tops 50c
Linen Table Cloths \$2.00
Linen Napkins, dozen \$1.00
Reed Chairs \$3.50

Wicker Work Basket \$1.00
Hassocks, fr. \$1.50
Bedroom Rockers, at \$1.00
Morris Chairs, at \$9.00
China Cabinets \$20.00
Parlor Tables \$3.25
Tea Sets—40 pieces, at \$10.00
Carving Sets—3 pieces, at \$3.00
Camphor Wood Trunks, moth proof, for woollens and furs, at \$7.50
Mexican Drawn Linen 75c
Plant Stands—Weller made—strong, suitable for heavy plants \$3.50
Cake Curates \$2.50
Dinner Gongs \$6.00
Electric Lamps \$6.50

THE GIFT MOST DESIRED BY MOTHER

WE SHOW SOME VERY ATTRACTIVE SILVER MUGS THAT WOULD DELIGHT THE HEART OF A YOUNGSTER, AND THE PRICE IS SUCH THAT YOUR PURSE WILL FIND IT EASY TO LET YOU HAVE THE PLEASURE OF BRINGING SUCH JOY TO SOME LITTLE ONE. VISIT THE SILVER SHOP AND SEE WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU AT \$1.75, \$1.50 AND \$1.00

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Are you puzzled what to give?



Give Silverware

There is no gift that is so acceptable and lasts so long as good silverware. That's the kind we sell. We guarantee every piece. We would like to show you some of our newest designs in tea sets, berry dishes, salad bowls, sugar bowls, cake plates, baking dishes, etc. CITY'S BEST VALUES

Wedgwood Salad Sets, at \$4.00

A gift suggestion worth investigating. Some very attractive Salad Sets from this famous pottery. 14-piece set—bowl, platter and 12 plates—from, per set \$4.00

Wedgwood Broth Sets, at \$3.50

These Broth or Beef Tea Sets would make a splendid gift for some invalid friend. From the Wedgwood pottery. Consists of salt, pepper, covered bowl, plate and tray. Per set \$3.50

China Pudding Bowls, \$5.00

We have some very handsome China Pudding Bowls in the Dresden and Saxe decorations. Prices start at \$5.00

Embroidered Pillow Slips

A pair of these dainty Mt. Mellick Hand-embroidered Linen Pillow Slips would make an acceptable gift to some homekeeper or some prospective keeper of a home. Very fine. Per pair \$9.00

Embroidered Top Sheets of same quality at, each \$5.00

Down Comforts for Babies, \$2.50

Give the baby one of these Down Comforts—send it to the mother and she'll bless you. Famous McIntock make—none better. Handsomely covered \$2.50

Three-Piece China Tea Sets, \$1

FOR THIS FIGURE and also at \$1.25 per set, we show many dainty sets. The china is of excellent quality and the decorations are very artistic and attractive. Few gift things at the price equal these. Set consists of teapot, sugar and cream. Priced at \$1.25 and \$1.00

Dinner Sets from \$7.50 to \$230

SEND HOME a Dinner Set today and delight the heart of your wife and your guests. Price needn't prevent you, for we make that matter easy. And the choosing is easy too—from this magnificent collection of beautiful patterns. Come in and see what we can offer from, per set, \$7.50 down to \$7.50

Salad Bowls, from \$7.00

A very popular style for the salad bowl. These are attractively silver mounted. Consists of porcelain, oak highly polished. Complete with servers. Priced at from \$7.00 to \$7.00

Liquor Frames at \$8.50

Many attractive styles in liquor frames. These frames have 3 bottles and the frame is so constructed that a lock securely protects the contents. Priced from \$8.50 to \$8.50

Silver Mounted Oak Trays \$3.25

MOST EVERY WOMAN—Homekeeper—has use for one of the stylish oak tea trays and we know of nothing more certain of a hearty reception. These prices make the choosing easy, \$6.00 down to \$3.25

Silver Fern Pots, \$2.50

NO OTHER STORE IN THE CITY can show such a wonderful choice of silver fern pots and none can show better values than are offered in our re-arranged silver department. Here is a gift that would be appreciated by any homekeeper—a stylish gift that would grace any home. And the prices will surprise you in their fairness. Come in and see the offerings at \$2.50 down to \$2.50

Napkin Rings, \$1

SOME OF THE NICEST and newest designs in Napkins—heavily silver plated—we have yet offered and at remarkably low prices. These are styles that will please you and make ideal Christmas gifts. Special value at, each \$1.00

Silver Mugs for Children

WE SHOW SOME VERY ATTRACTIVE SILVER MUGS THAT WOULD DELIGHT THE HEART OF A YOUNGSTER, AND THE PRICE IS SUCH THAT YOUR PURSE WILL FIND IT EASY TO LET YOU HAVE THE PLEASURE OF BRINGING SUCH JOY TO SOME LITTLE ONE. VISIT THE SILVER SHOP AND SEE WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU AT \$1.75, \$1.50 AND \$1.00

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CHRISTMAS

Not very many people selves today about the of how the date corresponds season of the year when least of all the children to of us devote the day. What Christmas was, but be, as the wise people to tion of an ancient heath poses of the Christian C felt it wise to engraft tices of heathendom, wh harmless, upon the new the occasion to the com birth of its Founder, the new converts altogether, early fathers were not be exact in fixing the da things are proper eno other times, but not at, do not make the least way or the other, but the excellent folk, who are unless they have every straight-edge and all th have no use for curves but just as Hogarth's curve was the emblem, everybody knew it bef in those things which m we must make use of "best results. In long ce been taken out of thing very wavy line that we if we would trace Chr when there was born i hem a Baby Boy, whos potents it all the more we trace it, we would course the sentiment of Highest, and on Earth Men." Even in the rug our rude, but virile a nut-brown ale, while th the hearth; or in later ers, with clanging of shi zy, hurled defiance at whom they sought to the Child of Bethlehem later, when monasticis tanism had robbed the outward evidences of Perhaps there were tim love found the dark cl manity difficult to pe sun was there; ever in earthwards, and even i a glow of its divine fir days, when the anthe finds an echo in the bre Day is the season of L sure there is sorrow, su malice in the world; b ily before the splendou rolling away. The divi ting more and more of years roll on, and we fidence to the glory of ciple for which Christm the world.

Christmas Day is a of them are sad, but m Even with the former ness, for when on the who have left us forev was good about them for our memory of ot of grief never fell into barren. Christmas Day men without