

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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PARLIAMENT OPENED

The British Parliament has been formally opened with the Speech from the Throne. In that document the veto bill, the payment of members, workmen's insurance and more stringent laws relating to aliens and anarchists are mentioned. The Associated Press correspondent concludes, from the inclusion in the Speech of a reference to the veto bill, that it is to be assumed that Mr. Asquith has the King's promise to create a sufficient number of peers to carry the measure. This does not necessarily follow. Mr. Asquith has no status at present to make such a request, for he does not know that the Lords will reject the Bill after it has passed the Commons. It will be time enough for him to approach the King with such a proposal when he finds that the Bill cannot be carried without it. We suppose the course of the measure, in the event of the Lords refusing to pass it, will be as follows: First it will be passed by the Commons; next it will be rejected by the Lords; it will again be passed by the Commons, and may be again sent to the Lords, but it will only be after it has been rejected by the Lords at least once that the question of creating peers will come up. Mr. Asquith will doubtless ask for such a creation, if he cannot pass the Bill without it. He might ask for another dissolution, but that is hardly probable. In the event of the King declining to create the peers, Mr. Asquith would be compelled to resign, and Mr. Balfour will take his place, when an election will follow.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the guiding spirit of the Unionist party at present is neither Mr. Balfour nor Lord Lansdowne, but Mr. J. L. Garvin, editor of the London Observer. Mr. Garvin is one of the most forceful of living writers. He is of Irish birth, and was at one time a pronounced Nationalist Home Ruler. He has been dominant in Unionist councils for the last two years. It was upon his advice that the Budget of 1909 was held up by the Lords. It was he who proposed the Constitutional Conference. It was he who led the van in the spasmodic discussion of "devolution." He also is responsible for the proposal of a referendum on tariff reform. He is probably the most influential private citizen in Britain today.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS.

As our eastern exchanges arrive we examine them carefully to learn the views on the reciprocity agreement. Most of them not only express their own opinions, although in most instances they do so very guardedly, but they have interviews from persons, who might be supposed to speak with a knowledge of the situation. We are bound to say that there is a great divergence of opinion and that the lines of cleavage are not wholly political. We suppose the truth of the matter is that no one seems to feel able to deal with the question as it will affect every interest in every part of Canada, and therefore each person speaks about it as he thinks it will affect his own locality and his own individual interests.

The Mail and Empire thinks the effect of the reciprocity agreement will be to prevent us from making a preferential agreement with the United Kingdom because it says a preference accorded to Canada will have to be extended to the United States. On this point the Montreal Star says:

Free trade in food stuffs between Canada and the United States spells death to a preferential arrangement between Canada and the United Kingdom. Canada is a big country, but it is a fiscal unit, and it cannot prefer both of two rivals. Now our two great customers are Britain and the United States. All the other markets supply no more than the small change we rattle in our pockets on the way to real business. When we talk of a British preference—whether at the ports of Canada or those of the United Kingdom—we mean a preference against the United States. There is no use blinking the fact.

The Star also thinks the effect of the agreement will be hurtful to our railways, and it asks the following pertinent questions:

Canada's trade has been running east and west, from seaboard to seaboard. If trade is to be stimulated in opposite directions and is to run north and south, what will become of our transcontinental railways? What will become of our national ports? What will be the attitude of foreign capital if we enter on a new policy meaning change and instability? It is to be hoped the coming parliamentary discussion of reciprocity

will be confined to patriotic instead of party lines.
The Ottawa Citizen was very cautious in its first reference to the agreement. It said:

There has been a fair and even amount of give and take on both sides and as a result of the new arrangement, the results, the manufacturer's interests as a whole being opposed to the agreement while the producers declare their satisfaction with the practical nature of the understanding. From all parts of the country come diverse opinions, but the new agreement is as yet imperfectly understood and unanimity is in the nature of things scarcely to be expected upon such a subject. The agreement depends upon the enactment of legislation simultaneously by the parties to the understanding.

The Toronto News takes very much the same position at that of the Colonist. We quote:

Though the Fielding-Taft bargain may temporarily benefit many Canadian farmers, the agreement is open to several possible objections. In the first place had the Government been more patient the United States would have let down its tariff bars without asking any concessions from this country. The Democrats, who are shortly to assume power at Washington, are ready to revise American duties downward regardless of reciprocal action by Canada. In offering to pay liberally for that which we should get for nothing simply by waiting a few months, Mr. Fielding cannot be said to have made a fore-handed arrangement.

The Montreal Gazette discusses the question at considerable length. It thinks Canada's commercial autonomy is threatened by the agreement, and that "a blow has been struck at the protectionist principle in the tariff," because it thinks that the United States, being the greater nation of the two, may be able to take advantage of Canada to secure greater concessions than those accorded by the agreement. Briefly its argument is that if Canada develops a large trade with the United States under the agreement, the latter country may by and by call upon us to give greater concessions on the threat of withdrawing those made to us. It concludes its article by saying that "this reciprocity proposition is not in the great interest of this country."

In another article it says: That the effect of the reciprocity agreement will be to reduce the value of the British preference to British manufacturers by about 8 per cent. If these estimates are correct, we think the people of Canada would be greatly pleased to see the British preference yet further increased. The members of the Farmers' Convention asked for an increase in the British preference.

The Montreal Star closes a general review of the reciprocity agreement with these words: "Let us, however, exercise patience and forbearance while the new policy is under discussion. Let us as Canadians and not at partisans, take a broad patriotic view of the situation and resist all temptation to make mere party capital out of the projected change."

The above views are either those of the Montreal Star, or in the case of the Toronto World, which is independent with Conservative leanings. The Toronto World, which is independent in its views on most questions, says:

Now that the first spate of approval and disapproval has passed over the reciprocity scheme, it will be well to await developments and allow public opinion to crystallize. Further time must elapse before the full bearing and effect of the proposals on the national prosperity and expansion can be gauged with approximate accuracy. Meanwhile are not wanting that some of those who have hailed the announcement with acclamation are beginning to question whether they were not a little premature in assuming a diplomatic victory. Many other considerations intervene that are covered by the direct influence of free trade on the exchange and prices of commodities. The points involved are of such vital importance to the future of Canada that the amplest opportunity should be afforded for discussion and judgment.

Our Liberal contemporaries have not very much to say. Naturally they do not attack the policy of the government in negotiating an agreement, and like the Conservative papers they have not as yet had time to analyze the agreement very fully. An exception must be made in the case of the Liberal papers in the Maritime Provinces, which are enthusiastic in support of the details of the agreement. Summing the situation up, we may say that the opposition is to the principle of the agreement rather than to its details, the disposition of the Conservative press being to discuss its influence in a national and imperial way rather than as to its effect upon specific industries or special localities. They look upon it as certainly needless and possibly mischievous, with which view we concur.

They are having another "worst storm of the season" in the eastern provinces and states. This crescendo movement in snow storms is confined largely, we suspect, to the imagination of faithful scribes, who do not propose that the stories shall lose anything in the telling, when they are exported to the Pacific coast.

The Imperial Conference is to be held in May. It may, very easily prove a gathering of exceptional interest. Events have moved rapidly since the last Conference met.

News of the death of Miss Elliston, who never recovered from the shock occasioned by the murder of her brother, the late Capt. Elliston, will recall to the minds of Victorians the terrible tragedy of last summer.

Letters from "Patriotism Above Party" and "A Chief Among Ye" cannot be printed except over the proper signatures of the writers. There is nothing objectionable in the letters, but this is our invariable rule.

The United States Steel Corporation has cut the salary of its president from \$100,000 a year to \$50,000. The new incumbent of the position will be the recipient of much sympathy, but possibly with strict economy he can struggle along.

The New York Herald says Mr. J. D. McCurdy is "a Canadian by birth, but an American by avocation." The Herald is wrong. Mr. McCurdy is a Canadian by avocation, for he experimented at Baddeck, N. S., long before he tried his wings in Uncle Sam's land.

Public Opinion says that one of the wealthiest distillers in England recently expressed the opinion that the moving picture shows were responsible for the great decrease in the output of their plants. "We can never again hope to make what we did," was his final word.

The London Daily Telegraph thinks one of the most remarkable signs of the times is the public apathy towards such far-reaching measures as that to insure working men against sickness or unemployment. It thinks the change in conditions has "become fatalistic."

A donation of money from Canada to the relief of the distressed population in China would be a timely and praiseworthy act. We may not want any more Chinamen in Canada, but that is not because we have any ill-will towards the Chinese as a people. The dictates of humanity ought to know no race distinctions.

An English journalist wants some one to explain why plenty of English money is forthcoming to build a fine railway station in Winnipeg and not a penny is available to build one in London. The preference of investors for investments where they can't see them is one of those things that no fellow can find out.

It is said to have been officially stated that the only persons in Canada who will be invited to the coronation will be the Premier of Canada and the Premiers of the Provinces. They will make rather a striking group when they all get together. At least three of them, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. McBratney and Mr. Hazen, are above the average height. The others are all good specimens of humanity, and the combination will not make a bad exhibit.

The statement is made that the British Foreign Office has missed an excellent opportunity for a rapprochement with Germany over the Baghdad railway. It has been said before that it is the permanent staff of this office that is responsible for maintaining Britain's stand-off policy towards Germany. It always was hard to teach an old dog new tricks.

The Board of Trade Labor Gazette gives some interesting facts relating to labor conditions in Britain. It reports a net increase in wages in all groups of industry, yet 13,341 persons obtained decreases in hours of labor amounting to 43,393 hours a week, while the increases affected only 3,068 persons and aggregated 5,414 hours a week. The percentage of unemployment dropped from 7.7 in 1909 to 4.7 in 1910. The price of bread in London and twenty-five chief towns fell 4 per cent, flour 8.2 per cent, and cocoa 3.8 per cent. There were 213,000 tons of an increase in shipbuilding, and a marked improvement in the cotton trade. Nevertheless more persons were concerned in strikes than in any year since 1893. Five per cent of the industrial community went out on strike, and the average loss of work was one day per head. On the whole this is a highly satisfactory showing.

Gambling Joint Raided
VANCOUVER, Feb. 7.—The third of a series of raids which have recently been conducted by the police on gambling joints in Chinatown, or its vicinity was brought off late yesterday afternoon, when the premises at 424 Carroll street were invaded by the deputy chief of police and other officers. The result was the temporary incarceration of fourteen men, only four of whom were Chinamen. A very few hours after they were lodged at police headquarters, all except four of them were out on bail, the white men at \$25 per head, and the Chinamen at \$100 per head. The usual games of hooch on the part of the Chinamen were being run, such as chuck-a-luck and fan-tan.



Car Loads of New Furniture Arriving Daily

The last few days we have been receiving large shipments of new furniture for the Bedroom and Dining-room; these goods are just being unpacked and within the next few days we will have some of the finest furniture that has ever been shown and of the very latest designs and expert workmanship on exhibition. We don't want you to just look only at the appearance of this furniture, but examine it all over, look under the surface—you will find that every piece is finished beautifully. This furniture will be priced to suit you, and we will advise you immediately all the samples are on exhibition. We have a few on our third floor already. Watch our advt. and be ready to have your choice of these beautiful arrivals.

See Our Window of Royal Allervale Art Pottery

Read the Quaint Sayings—You Will Appreciate Them

The quaint sayings on these pieces of Royal Allervale Art Pottery will amuse you, and the true sayings will make you think and appreciate. First time you are down town don't fail to see this ware; it is interesting as well as pretty and attractive. If you have to meet a friend down town, come in and amuse yourself by reading the sayings on this pretty ware. It will cost you nothing, and you will see something you would not like to miss. Hundreds of useful pieces for the table and general use in the home are included. A few such pieces add a charming quaintness to the table and the room, and the cost is little. Here are a few of the mottoes, etc.:

This is a world to live in.
To buy, to spend or to give in;
But to beg, borrow or get a man's own,
Such a world was never known.

Life is mostly froth and bubble,
Two things stand as stone,
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.

Some have meat that canna eat,
An' some would eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat,
So let the Lord be thankit.

Here are a few prices:

Teapots at, each, 75c, 50c and	40c
Cups and Saucers at, each	25c
Hot Water Jugs at \$1.75 and	\$1.00
Candlesticks at, each, \$1.00 and	40c
Match Holders, 40c and	25c
Jugs at \$1.75, \$1.25, 75c, 50c and	35c
Tobacco Jars at, each	50c
Mustard Pots at, each	25c
Bowls at, each, 75c, 50c and	35c

"Say not always what you know, but always know what you say."

"Be a little deaf and blind, and happiness you'll always find."

"Improve time while time lasts, for all time is no time when time's past."

"Do not burden today's burden with tomorrow's load."

"Water is good outside or in,
To slake the thirst or cleanse the skin."

Hat Pin Holders at, each	50c
Butter Dishes at, each, 50c and	25c
Sugars and Creams at, per pair, 75c, 50c and	35c
Marmalade Jars at, each	50c
Plates at, each, 50c, 35c and	25c
Porridge Bowls at 75c, 50c and	35c
Loving Cups at, each, 40c and	20c
Pin Trays at, each	25c

And Many Other Pieces

Look at the "Comfy" Bedding in One of Our Broughton Street Windows

Bedspreads, Sheets, Blankets, Etc.

The Scotch Universal Bath Blanket—Cheviot. This is Weiler's Special Line of Blankets. The blanket is pure white fleecy wool, is unshrinkable and very closely woven. Beautifully finished with light blue lines and border—

10 lbs., 80 x 90. Per pair	\$10.50
9 lbs., 78 x 94. Per pair	\$9.50
8 lbs., 76 x 88. Per pair	\$8.50
7 lbs., 72 x 86. Per pair	\$7.50
6 lbs., 68 x 84. Per pair	\$6.50

We have a Special Scotch 8 lb. Blanket, beautifully finished, silk bound. Per pair \$12.50 |

Hand-Blocked Art Bedspreads, in a large variety of the very latest designs, \$13.50, \$12.50, \$11.00, \$8.50, \$5.00 and \$3.50 |

Beautiful White Soft Fleece Blankets, all pure wool, with pink and blue borders—	
6 lbs.	\$5.50
8 lbs.	\$7.25

COTTON QUILTS OF QUALITY, from \$1.75

English Down Quilts of Fame Are McIntocks

These famous Quilts with their beautiful designs are here in a splendid variety for you to choose from. We know these will delight you, not only in beauty, but in price. Come and see these. In Turkey Chintz, French Art Satin, etc., etc., from, each \$6.50 |

Simply
A Case of
Quality—
We Guarantee
Every
Satisfaction

WEILER BROS.

Not Quantity
Sit Down in
Some Quiet
Place, and
Read This Ad.
Carefully

ORDER YOUR
GOODS
BY MAIL.
WE
GUARANTEE
EVERY SAT-
ISFACTION

PIONEER SETTLERS OF SOUTH

Mr. George Bartlett, 26
sults of Agricult
ments. Extens
Twenty-six Year

Twenty-six years ago
trict entitles a man to
thority on the advance
nesses. He is more o
speak on the agricultu
at all events, when o
a century is spent in
find out what the cap
land are.
Mr. George Bartlett, 26
cultures of South Cowl
entirely visiting Victoria.
ago he took up a large
lands in that district and
been experimenting on
with all sorts of fruit.
The conclusions he has
these are: (1) The soil
4500 acres) is an ideal
raising of all sorts of
For apple growing it ca
throughout any portion of
the south of the island.
for poultry raising. The
paratively level, of red
tempered with alder b
most free from frost. The
line to the south of Co
sheltered on the north b
halim. The land require
is readily cleared an ca
at from \$75 upwards p
population of the dist
three hundred, and a n
settlers have gone in
menement of the prese
are good roads, three
churches, and a rural
tem. All kinds of fish
Cowichan Bay which bo
trout. At the boom at th
bay there are excellent
Deer, pheasants, willow
a pound while occasio
panther are seen.

Through the efforts of
numbers have been indu
in South Cowichan. E
bureau in himself. And h
more. The sympathy with
listened to the ambitions
and the spontaneous and
vice he has given to the
the means of inducing ma
the Island, after they h
come heartbroken at the
These people to whom he
population of the dist
vice of his experience he
prospered and there are
toria and elsewhere on th
who owe their fortunes in
street to Mr. Bartlett.
On his return to South
intends endeavoring to b
ters to establish a bran
River Island Development
believes that the branch
the island are doing good
is anxious that the possi
district should be broug
tion of the world.

FATHER OF ME

MERRITT, Feb. 8.—W
father of the town, and o
est and best known of th
eers of British Columbi
the age of 75 years.

Born in Germany Mr. V
the new world when a y
tender years. He made the
of the old types of sailin
around Cape Horn and be
wards of seven months.

He was associated with
better known as "Dad" S
Myers. The latter was les
survivor of the Indian
Slaughter Flat above Yale
of Lytton, the pioneer fr
the province, J. B. Gre
manager of the
Cattle company's property
well known provincial c
was one of the party that
California in the early fift
the water of gold rush.
thrilling tales could
with the Indians.

Mr. Voght came to Me
train about '65 and bou
ranch of a young English
Myers. The latter was les
east to meet his wife
from the Old Country to
and he was drowned while
river near the ranch home
was indubitably printed on
Mr. Voght and his patios
impress.

As its first citizen, Mr. V
see the transformation fro
to the progressive Merritt

REBELS FA

Proposed Attack On Juan
Materialize—Orozco's
Unknown

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 8.—
ed definitely tonight that E
eco, leader of the insurre
Rancheria, about 15 miles
away, with his entire comm
he is still making the cl
paring to meet General Na
advancing from Gallegos at
700 men, is purely a matt
ture. His plans are unknow
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—
embassy here received the
gram today from Enrique C
lister of foreign relations
City.

"Colonel Rabago arrived
night after encountering th
and causing them heavy lo
free from any danger. Rumo
Mexico City that armed fil
crossed the border are abso
as the watch of the United
prevents any breach of th
laws. The reports publi
papers of a general uprisi
to help the disturbers in
na foundation at all."