The Colonist.

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FLAG COURTESY

A Winnipeg despatch in today's Colonist told about the pulling down of the United States flag in that city, because it was hoisted by the consul of that country above the Union Jack. The act was not justifiable, because undoubtedly the consul intended to show respect to the Canadian holiday. At the same time he was guilty, unintentionally, no doubt, of a great act of discourtesy. When a flag is hoisted under another, it is taken as an assertion of superiority, or conquest, on the part of the nation whose flag is at the top of the staff. This is the recognized rule in the use of flags all the world over, although there is not the slightest doubt that the Consul at Winnipeg did not know it. The proper course to take, when it is intended to show respect to another country, and at the same time to display the colors of your own, is to fly the two flags side by side, both being fastened to the halyards in the same place. Officers of the United States navy know this as well as any one, but it is not probable that those in any other branch of the service of that country do. On one occasion, when the Quadra lay at Port Townsend, with Sir Louis Davies on board, the Collector, out of compliment to the Canadian Minister of Marine, hoisted the Union Jack below the United States flag; but upon his attention being called to the rule, he took down the flags and hoisted them side by side, at the same time expressing regret that he had made the mistake. We think it would be well if this rule were generally understood, because no one wants to see what is intended as an act of courtesy converted into one of unpleasantness. The people of the United States are singularly ignorant as to the use of flags. An incident occurred some years ago at Providence, R. I., which was the cause of a great deal of discussion in the press, and the newspapers never seemed to get the rights of the matter.

It was during the high feeling that was running between the two countries because of President Cleveland's Venezuelan message. A schooner from St. John entered the harbor, flying the Red Ensign. As she tied up at the wharf a crowd was waiting for her, and the spokesman stepped up to the ship's rail and ordered the captain to take down the flag. He refused. Then the crowd threatened to take it down. He replied that the first man who stepped upon the deck for that purpose would be shot in his tracks. The crowd was not prepared for this, and withdrew, but sent for the mayor. That official came to the dock and ordered the flag down. To him the captain said that he had better call upon the collector of customs. The mayor did so, and was informed, much to his surprise, that it was the captain's duty to fly the flag of his country on entering port. The mayor was not satisfied, and while he let the captain alone, he referred the matter to Washington, receiving an answer to the effect that the collector's ruling was correct. The matter got into the newspapers, and so far as they were concerned it was never set right.

ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENTS

We regret very much that the miners in Atlin have taken an attitude of hostility to the Japanese. The Colonist desires as much as any one can, that British Columbia shall remain what is called "a white man's country," but it is unable to shut its eyes to the facts. Great Britain and Japan are allies, and the treaties between them secure for the subjects of each country the same privileges in the other country as are extended to natives or the representatives of most-favored nations. These treaties are a part of the law of Canada. The Parliament of Canada has voluntarily, and we think without a dissenting voice, accepted these treaties as binding upon the Dominion, and the people of Atlin may as well make up their minds that the Japanese will be protected in the enjoyment of the rights secured to them by virtue of them. We may not like Japanese competition, but under existing circumstances it is impossible to see what can be done to prevent it. There can be no possible objection to the presentation of a fair statement of the objections to the presence of Japanese, which can be placed before the Mikado's government by the proper authorities, but anything like an attempt to deprive Japanese subjects of their legal rights in Canada will be resented and properly so by the government of Japan. This is a matter in which the greatest good of the greatest number must prevail, and the Atlin people will find that they will not be permitted to antagonize the sentiment of the great majority of the British people. If they were permitted to do so, there would be an end of international obligations. We have no fear that Japanese immigration will ever reach that volume, which will make it a serious menace to white labor in Canada as a general proposition. The Mikado's government has shown itself to be exceedingly reasonable in all international matters, and we will believe in this case.

CAR SHOPS

We present to Colonist readers an illustrated description of the Angus car factory in Montreal. We do this for the purpose of showing what sort of an establishment, the Colonist wishes to see erected in Victoria. We commend the subject anew to the consideration of our readers. Since this matter was mooted, the people of Moncton have taken up the question of establishing a factory there. Moncton is only a few hours' run by rail from Amherst, where there is already a large and prosperous factory in operation. Moncton does not possess a single advantage over Victoria as the site of such a factory. If it is necessary to import pig iron, it can be brought here from China or the United Kingdom, by water, very cheaply. We have what Moncton has not, namely the best timber for flat and box cars, and in frames for passenger cars close at hand in unlimited quantities. We have abundant iron ore, that can be smelted, with plenty of flux and fuel. We have the finest possible climate for the manufacture of cars of any kind. Under these circumstances there would seem to be no reason why the project should not be taken up here and pressed to a successful issue.

Some years ago Mr. J. J. Hill asked the people of Seattle why they did not build cars. He pointed out to them that the Middle West needed Washington lumber, but could not get it for lack of cars to haul it. He said that cars ought to be built on Puget Sound and sent east loaded with lumber. The answer given him at that time was that it had not been shown that sufficient iron ore existed on the coast to make the production of pig iron a profitable venture. Since then, the abundance of ore has been demonstrated, and it is certain that, in consequence of Mr. J. A. Moore's plans for the smelting of iron on Puget Sound, an extensive car-building plant will be very shortly erected.

With so many new people in the city, with means, and with so many of the older residents with money open to investment, there ought to be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary amount of capital to establish a plant for the manufacture of flat and box cars, to be supplemented at an early day by one for all descriptions of car building, including the manufacture of locomotives. We have now put the public in possession of our idea on this matter, and once more invite them to give it their best consideration.

B. C.'S CLAIMS

The Times asks:

In the meantime does our eminently sane contemporary, the Colonist, honestly cherish the belief that the Colonial Office will recommend that the better terms question shall be submitted to arbitration and that it will undertake to appoint one of the arbitrators in accordance with the demand of Premier McBride? On the other hand, is it not sincerely convinced, although it dare not openly express such a conviction, that the cause of the province would have been much more effectively served if Premier McBride had remained in the conference which lately met at Ottawa and had accepted the proffered services of Finance Minister Fielding, who had undertaken to assist him in procuring an amendment to the terms proposed by Premier Whitney of Ontario and endorsed by all the Premiers of the other Provinces?

We concede that these are perfectly fair questions, and that as a paper, which has expressed its approval of Mr. McBride's course, we are bound to answer them. Frankly the Colonist cherishes the hope that the Colonial Office will make some suggestion to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. McBride in accordance with which they can come to an understanding. If the suggestion takes the form of a recommendation that the question shall be investigated on its merits, we assume that the Colonial Office will, if it is thought necessary to have an umpire, appoint some one to decide such things as the federal and provincial premiers are unable to agree upon. We do not suppose that the Colonial Office will undertake to dictate either to Sir Wilfrid Laurier or to Mr. McBride. We hope that, as the result of the reopening of the case, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will see his way clear to undertake to meet such reasonable request as Mr. McBride may make on behalf of this province. If neither of these things occur, we shall have to confess to disappointment, but shall not on that account regard Mr. McBride's course in going to London as unwise. In fact we look upon it as the only logical course open to him.

Upon the second question we have no difficulty whatever in giving a categorical answer, and that is: No. From what has transpired since the Inter-provincial Conference we are more than ever convinced that it was hopeless for Mr. McBride to expect to secure anything more from that body than he received, except perhaps some paltry sum, which the premiers might have been willing to concede at the request of Mr. Fielding. We think that Mr. Fielding hoped that he could get the Conference to give some $25,000 or $30,000 more than was offered to and rejected by Mr. McBride, but such a sum is so ridiculous in comparison with what Conservatives and Liberals alike in the local legislature thought the province was entitled to, that Mr. McBride could not have hoped that his acceptance of it would be endorsed by the people, whom he represented. We assure our contemporary that the above answers are given with the utmost sincerity, and we may also inform it that there is no subject, political or otherwise, upon which the Colonist fears to express its opinion, a fact of which it and every one else may take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

THE RISE OF JAPAN

It is difficult to appreciate the wonderful rise of Japan as a world-power. Only yesterday as it were, we were accustomed to regard the Mikado as something in the nature of a comic opera monarch, to whom pretty fair justice was done in the Gilbert-Sullivan opera, and his subjects as an interesting lot of little brown people, whom we could patronize, when we felt like it, and set to one side when we grew tired of them. Today we read of the influence of the Oriental Empire being a counterpoise to that of Germany. Bismarck would not be able to rest comfortably in his grave, if he could know this. The following leading editorial from the London Times of the 9th instant shows in a very clear light the new position to which Japan has attained.

The news that France and Japan will shortly sign an agreement which will constitute a fresh guarantee for the peace of the Far East has been generally received with deep satisfaction. To this country the event must be a source of special gratification. The French are our friends and the Japanese are our allies, and we naturally rejoice in an arrangement which will bring them closely together. The agreement has not yet been signed nor apparently is the text yet finally settled. But the statements which M. Pichon, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Kurino, the Japanese Ambassador in Paris, are reported to have made to representatives of the Temps and of the Matin give a sufficiently clear account of its main provisions. It contains, we are told, two guarantees of first-rate importance—a guarantee of the integrity and independence of China and a mutual guarantee by the signatories of each other's words, it confirms the territorial status quo as the Anglo-Japanese agreement already confirms it. The negotiations have been conducted side by side with those which have been proceeding between Japan and Russia at St. Petersburg; and it has been the desire of France and Japan to associate the British and the Russian governments in the interchange of views which has been taking place between them. M. Kurino, declares that absolutely all differences between Japan and Russia have now been removed, and he points out that, when the agreement with France has been signed, the maintenance of the status quo in the Far East will be guaranteed by four Powers. This arrangement, he adds, implies that these four Powers also bind themselves to prevent other nations from acquiring territory in these regions. In fact they apparently undertake to apply a kind of Monroe doctrine to this part of the world. Both M. Pichon and M. Kurino rightly insist upon the purely pacific nature of the agreement. It is absolutely conservative; it is directed against nobody, and it has no objects in view but the preservation of peace and the development of commercial and industrial relations between France and Japan. M. Pichon remarks that it is the logical outcome of that policy pursued by France which tries to prevent complications everywhere, and particularly in those parts of the world where France has special interests.

The possession of the great and flourishing colony of Indo-China certainly gives her such interests in the Far East. It is but natural and reasonable that she should desire to protect them by satisfactory arrangements with the principal Asiatic Powers. The Temps reminds her that, even when the hospitality afforded to Admiral Rozhdvestvensky's fleet in Indo-Chinese waters put a severe strain upon Japanese feeling, the government of the Emperor consistently protested that Japan did not covet the Asiatic possessions of France. They have given, the French journal justly remarks, a striking proof of the sincerity of these assurances by entering into negotiations which will end in a convention guaranteeing these possessions to the Republic. French statesmen have long felt that from a military point of view Indo-Chinese was somewhat in the air. Henceforth they will have the gratification of knowing that it is protected by a diplomatic security of the utmost value. All of the Powers which, by reason of their geographic position or that of their colonies, are mainly concerned in the maintenance of the peace of Eastern Asia, are now substantially agreed that the actual territorial position shall remain undisturbed. No surer foundation could will be devised for the tranquility of the vast part of the Asiatic continent to which the arrangements between them relate. The suggestion which has been put forward in some quarters that these arrangements, or some of them, are aimed at the United States, has been treated in that country, we need hardly say, with the contempt it deserves. The new treaty is recognized to be a powerful factor for the promotion of peace, and the only regret expressed is that the traditional policy of the Republic does not allow her to make a similar agreement with Japan in respect to the Philippines. The traditional policy of the Republic has been modified in more ways than one, of late years, by the inexorable pressure of events. It will probably be modified in many more. Were it adjusted to present circumstances and to future developments in this particular, Mr. Kurino evidently thinks that Tokio would not be slow to widen the arrangements on which the peace of East Asia will henceforth depend. The other parties to these arrangements would, of course, heartily welcome such an accession to their company.

From the first we have maintained in this country that our treaty with Japan would make for the general peace of Asia and of the world. The conclusion of agreements between the four chief Asiatic Powers for the preservation of the status quo is a remarkable proof of the soundness of this view. The maintenance of the territorial status quo is the principle on which our treaty with Japan was based. The agreements between Japan Russia and between Japan and France ratify it, and uphold it by an array of force which should make it unassailable within any number of years of which diplomacy can take account. The news that France and Japan have entered into an arrangement with this object appears to have caused some surprise both in Berlin and in Vienna. We are glad to see that in both capitals its pacific character appears to be acknowledged, though, of course, some of the German newspapers affect to see in it yet another insidious attack upon German policy. It is a happy coincidence that the news should be made public at the time when Prince Fushimi is the honored guest of King Edward and of the British people. We are sure that he understands us well enough to appreciate the true meaning of the protests which have been raised in some quarters against the action of the Lord Chamberlain in forbidding the performance of a comic opera which is a special favorite with all classes of the nation. The Mikado was written years ago before the real Japan was known to the outside world, and it has become dear to us all. We trust that means will be found to preserve it for us in some shape. At the same time we are confident that all sensible and patriotic Englishmen must recognize that it would be improper and in every way inexpedient to run the risk of hurting the susceptibilities of our allies by continuing a performance which might grate upon their most sacred feelings.

ISOLATION OF GERMANY.

The political position of Germany is giving her public men a good deal of concern. There was a time, and it was not very remote, when the Triple Alliance, namely that of Germany, Austria and Italy, was assumed to be the most powerful factor in international politics. Encouraged by it, the Kaiser took an exceedingly arrogant position. While no one doubts his professed desire to preserve the peace of Europe, every one was made uneasy by his frequent reference to the military prowess of his empire, and by the repeated statements on the part of German publicists and influential German papers that the Kaiser was determined to make his military and naval strength supreme. The references to the possible invasion of England were not official, of course, but in Germany things of that nature are not discussed publicly by very prominent people when it is known that they are not pleasing to the head of the state. There can be no question that Germany has for some years past allowed herself to be placed in the position of an international bully. Most of us will readily recall the taunts that were thrown out so freely about the isolation of England, and there was an ill-concealed anticipation upon the part of at least one Continental power that the time was not very far distant when there would be some fine work doing in the way of picking the bones of a disrupted British Empire. The first indication of a change came during the Boer war, when all the world was shown that the Empire was more than a name, and when the Kaiser learned to his surprise that, even with one war on his hands, John Bull did not propose to stand any "Kruger telegrams." With the advent of His Majesty to the throne there came a new departure in British foreign politics. Under our constitutional system, the King has nothing to do, ostensibly, with such matters, but Edward VII. is not only a sovereign, but also a man of great sagacity, probably the greatest statesman, as far as international relations go, in the whole world. Successive ministries have recognized this, and because the elasticity of our system there was ample scope for the talents of the King. They appear to have been employed to exceedingly good purpose. First Japan, then France, then Spain and then Italy were all brought, if not into alliance with the United Kingdom in every case, at least into such relations as are substantially equivalent thereto, and through the same instrumentality, France has reached a complete understanding with Japan. While it is true that there does not appear to be anything in the nature of an official entente cordiale between the United Kingdom and the United States, it seems to be taken for granted that the two nations are sympathetic towards each other in respect to their relations with other countries, and there is little room for doubt that the influence of His Majesty has paved the way for a complete understanding between our neighbors and Japan. Thus we find clustering around the United Kingdom, in relations more or less definite but all friendly, France, Spain, Italy, Japan and the United States. This is a League of Peace which, if it chooses to assert its power, can control the world. To this must be added the probability that a complete understanding will likely be reached between the British and Russian governments.

Under these circumstances the position of Germany becomes almost isolated. The alliance with Austro-Hungary remains undisturbed on the surface of things, but recent utterances of the German press indicate that matters are not as serene in that quarter as they were. The Neue Freie Presse has taken occasion in an article referring to the relations between the two empires to inform Austro-Hungary that "no conceivable combination would be able to ignore the present German Empire, even did that empire stand alone," a statement which is interpreted to mean that if Austro-Hungary feels like withdrawing from the Triple Alliance she will not be greatly missed. The same paper also predicts a revival of close relations between Germany and Russia. It frankly states its fear that a combination will be formed between the United Kingdom, France, Japan and the United States, "which in certain circumstances may become a combination against Germany." The leading Austrian journal understands that an agreement has been reached between Russia and Japan, and is well-nigh complete between Great Britain and Russia. This, says the Vienna paper, makes possible the maintenance of an alliance between Russia and France. If the relations of the powers are correctly set forth above, the position of Germany is one of almost complete isolation, for the Triple Alliance, while still nominally in existence, could not be invoked in case of a quarrel between Germany and any of the greater nations.

Premier Roblin, of Manitoba, says that grain was never sown under more favorable conditions in Central Canada than this year. This is the best kind of news which we could receive from the Central Provinces at this time.

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