The Colonist.

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THE BETTER TERMS BILL.

A special cable to the Colonist from London states that the amendment to the British North America Act, necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Inter-provincial Conference, has passed its second reading unanimously, the words "final and unalterable" having been of course struck out. Our despatch tells us that several complimentary references were made to British Columbia and that Messrs. Hamar Greenwood and Winston Churchill complimented Mr. McBride upon the able manner in which he had handled the case for the province. This is very pleasant reading for British Columbians, except the few bitter partizans, who would rather see the rights of the province sacrificed than have a political opponent obtain any prestige. Mr. McBride's visit to London has been both directly and indirectly a great advantage to British Columbia.

AN UNREASONABLE CRITIC

The Montreal Herald says that all Mr. McBride accomplished in London was to secure a compliment from Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, and seeks to detract from whatever value these may possess by saying that Mr. Churchill is sub-chief of the Colonial office, and Mr. Lyttelton was a member of the Balfour administration, which is now out of office. This seems to be a small piece of business. Mr. Churchill acted for the government; Mr. Lyttelton was spokesman for the Opposition. We do not see what more complete endorsement of Mr. McBride's position could be looked for under any circumstances. If Mr. Churchill was competent to express the views of the government, then his statement that "the Imperial government were not able to adopt his (Mr. McBride's) opinions entirely, but endeavored to make the legislation as agreeable to him as possible by not introducing into it the words 'final and unalterable,' which it had been proposed to introduce, and which would have prejudiced British Columbia's chance of making some other friendly arrangement with the Dominion and the other provinces," means that Mr. McBride secured the withdrawal of the objectionable words as a concession to his province, and not because, as the Herald alleges, "the British Constitution recognizes nothing as final and unalterable." The Herald says that effect will be given to those words just as if they had been introduced into the Act. This may be true as far as the present federal government is concerned, although we have many doubts on that score; but the Montreal paper holds no authority to bind future governments. British Columbia will ultimately receive justice in spite of the narrowness of those who have opposed its just claims.

The Herald says that there was a keen fight in the local legislature against Mr. McBride's trip to England. In making this observation the Herald draws entirely upon its imagination, as it does also in its statement that the "Opposition considered that having been awarded a substantial bonus in addition to participating in the subsidy increases on the basis of population accorded to the other provinces, the Pacific Province had not been badly treated." Nothing of the kind occurred during the session of the legislature. On the contrary, Mr. Macdonald, leader of the Opposition, said, "I think that in future this fight must be kept up for better terms for British Columbia, because we have no hesitation in agreeing with our honorable friends on the other side of the House, that the paltry sum of $100,000 a year for ten years is inadequate and ought not to be accepted as a final settlement."

We are at a loss how to account for the fact that the Herald, a paper which makes claims to respectability and standing, can justify itself in such deliberate perversions of the truth. Much allowance may be made for inaccuracies in statements made in the heat of a conflict, when men cannot always take time to look up the facts, and general allegations approximately correct convey a fairly accurate meaning; but how any honorable newspaper can deliberately falsify facts that are open and accessible to the public, and do so when nothing critical is happening, passes our comprehension. The only explanation which we can find is that the Herald recognizes the substantial character of Mr. McBride's success, and seeks to belittle its significance.

WILL THEY ACT?

As yet there has been no response to the suggestion of this paper that the Liberal Association of this city might make some advance to the Liberal-Conservative Association for the purpose of seeing if some plan cannot be devised, whereby the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Transportation in regard to rail connection with the Mainland cannot be carried into effect by a movement that shall be absolutely non-political. We do not despair yet. Experience teaches that some time is required for any new suggestion to bear fruit, and this reference to the matter is simply for the purpose of keeping it alive. It is the earnest wish of the Colonist that political partizanship shall not be brought into the consideration of this important proposal. Our evening contemporary has on several occasions reproached the members for the city in the provincial house for not taking some action. It has excused itself for so doing because Mr. Eberts laid great stress upon the subject in at least one of his speeches during the late election campaign, and the Colonist on one occasion commented strongly upon a statement by Mr. McInnes to the effect that the Liberal party were committed to the idea of developing the commercial supremacy of Vancouver. But our contemporary did not succeed in arousing a party controversy, and so far as the Colonist is concerned, the question will not be discussed from a party point of view. At the same time it is proper to point out to the Liberal Association of Victoria that the appointment of the Commission on Transportation was an act of policy for which Sir Wilfrid Laurier took considerable credit. It was a decided innovation. The character of the gentlemen appointed to the commission precluded any suggestion that the commission was created simply to give them employment. That men of the wealth and business standing of Messrs. Reford and Ashdown would devote weeks to the consideration of the transportation problem, if they did not believe that it was the desire of the Dominion government to secure reliable data as to what new projects ought to receive the attention of the Parliament of Canada, is not supposable. Seeing that such a commission, appointed for such a purpose, made an exceedingly strong recommendation about a matter in which Victoria is very deeply interested, one would suppose that the Liberal Association of this city would exert itself to demonstrate the value of that recommendation. We do not think that our Liberal friends have taken the trouble to look into their responsibility in this regard, for if they had done so, they could hardly fail to see that a duty rests upon them to take such steps as will demonstrate that the people of this constituency endorse the recommendation made by the commissioners appointed by the Liberal premier. We are placing the case before them in very plain language, because we feel that under similar circumstances the Liberal-Conservative Association would act very promptly in backing up such a report, if it had been made by a commission appointed by a Conservative premier. We do not wish to be understood as suggesting that the Liberal Party in Victoria should espouse the question mentioned as a part of a political platform, but only that, as the political organization in this city, which is in sympathy with the Premier, by whom the commission was suggested and by whom the appointments were made, it should show a disposition to meet the Conservatives half way in a movement to secure united action in an endeavor to obtain what the Commissioners recommended.

There can be no doubt as to what reception an overture from the Liberal Association would meet. Mr. McPhillips, in his speech on Monday evening, spoke the mind of the Conservatives of Victoria, when he expressed the desire that everything possible should be done to advance this great undertaking. We do not wish to introduce the names of citizens into editorials needlessly, but we suggest to Messrs. Drury, Richard Hall, Lewis Hall, McMicking, Cox and others, who we know are highly favorable to immediate action, if they will not take into their serious consideration our suggestion of concerted effort between the two associations to launch an active campaign, in which all the public can be asked to participate.

OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Victoria has had the honor of welcoming Prince Fushimi, of Japan. He is not the first representative of the royal house to visit this city, but he is the first to come in an official capacity. He is the first to official capacity. He is the first to be the guest of the nation. As a man who has made an honorable record for himself. His Imperial Highness is entitled to a warm welcome from the Canadian people, who, while not hero-worshippers, appreciate and are glad to show honor to merit no matter what the nationality of the individual who exhibits it. But Prince Fushimi did not visit us on his personal account. He was sent by his Emperor on a mission to our King, and the honors that have been accorded him throughout Canada are intended chiefly as a recognition of the prestige of Japan and the value of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. His Imperial Highness and his august master the Emperor know too well the wide differences which distinguish the English from the Japanese race, to expect that the relations between the two peoples can as yet be as thorough and cordial as between the two governments. This is something that could not very well be looked for We do not understand each other well enough. But the Colonist can assure Prince Fushimi that the Japanese nation has nowhere greater admirers than the people of Canada, nor are there any people anywhere, who appreciate more highly what the sons of the Island Empire have accomplished and to what they may be expected to attain.

It seems right to say to His Imperial Highness that the people of this part of Canada, while they desire the closest and most friendly relations between this country and his own, are very strongly of the opinion that those relations will advance more rapidly upon the lines of friendship and natural respect, if the government of Japan will continue to exercise a wise discretion in the matter of immigration to Canada. It is not desirable in the interests of either country that there should be a large influx of Japanese laborers to Canada, as we assume that it is not desirable that there should be a large influx of Canadians into Japan. The people of both countries have their prejudices and it would not be wise statesmanship to run too directly counter of these. Many things must happen before the Oriental and the Occidental will be able to stand side by side, recognizing perfect equality between them in all things. Perhaps, if the truth were told, the Occident fears the Orient. In some respects its ways are not our ways, and until we know each other better there is danger of friction, if our intercourse becomes very intimate. We all know that in every day life close intimacy is not always conducive to lasting friendship. In the discharge of its duty as a public journal, the Colonist feels itself bound to convey to His Imperial Highness these views upon what it regards as the most important matter to be considered in connection with the relations of his great country to the British Empire. We have every confidence that the statesmen of Japan, who have shown themselves equal to so many grave emergencies, will know how to shape their policy in this regard, and we have the more confidence to that end, because of the views expressed to the Colonist by Marquis Ito some years ago. In discussing this subject that great statesman said that Japan's real work was in Asia, and that her government had no desire to see her people emigrate to lands where their presence might prove an obstacle to harmonious foreign relations. We look for the adoption of some line of action which will not only enable the Anglo-Japanese friendship to remain a matter of permanent policy, but will, when the people of the two nations have learned to understand and emulate each other's virtues, lead to a unity of sentiment and a strong mutual esteem that will make the two nations as one in everything that makes for the betterment of humanity.

W have not had any grass fires at Beacon Hill this year, but we can hardly hope to escape them. Once more the Colonist urges that steps shall be taken to reduce the mischief done by these fires, by making broad paths through the grass-covered areas.

It Is Not a Mask

The complexion produced by usin g Shotbolt's Cucumber Toilet Cream is Skin Deep. It is acknowledged gener ally as the best application for Sunburn and Freckles, rendering the skin naturally soft and healthy. Gentlemen cannot get a better preparation for us e after shaving.

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A grass fire is not a very serious thing as long as it is confined to a small space. It is easily put out, but when it once gets a start it is hard to handle. Fires in the park can be confined to small areas by the means suggested.

AMUSEMENTS.

One thing which impresses all newcomers to Victoria is the lack of public amusements. After they have been here a little while, they find so many opportunities of enjoying themselves that they cease to notice the deficiency. There will have to be a change in this respect, now that the city is becoming such an important resort for pleasure seekers. Those of us, who have our own special places, where we go when we have nothing particular to do, and where we can enjoy to the full the sweetness of doing nothing, must try to put ourselves in the place of the people, who cannot be expected to get into the ways of the town during the short periods they are with us.

To the man, who comes here seeking rest, we have everything that he can well ask. To him, who intends to make the city his headquarters, while he seeks enjoyment in the woods or on our delightful waters, nothing much more is needed than what we already have or what will be supplied as the demand warrants; but to those who only intend to stay here for a day or two, we have not very much to offer, except the natural attraction of the city and its environs. These are sufficient for any one during the day, but when night comes there is little or nothing to do, except to take a ride out to the Gorge Park, a very pleasant way of passing an hour or two, but hardly sufficient to fill the bill. Nightly band concerts in Beacon Hill Park would be a very attractive feature, especially if the central part of the park were illuminated. Afternoon concerts would also be much patronized. These things cost money, but the city must be prepared to spend money, if we expect Victoria to become as popular a summer resort as it may be made.

Hitherto tourist travel has chiefly consisted of those people, who came in on one steamer and went out on the next, and spent the few intervening hours in tally-ho drives or in looking around the city in some other way, but this sort of thing will not be the rule hereafter. Victoria is to be the great Canadian resort, to which people will come with the intention of remaining as long as they find things sufficiently attractive. Private enterprise can be trusted to provide amusements for such people to some extent, but there should be much more done in a public way than is done now. We have a competent board of park commissioners. They have not enough money at their disposal to accomplish very much this year, but perhaps they can devise some plans, which may be acceptable enough to the citizens to secure a grant next year of an amount having some relation to the necessities of the case.

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

A writer in one of the leading United States weeklies pleads for an American language. He thinks the country has grown big enough to have words and idioms of its own, for that is all he proposes. He does not suggest that new words should be formed, at least not more rapidly than there is a demand for them. We fear the greatest difficulty would be to suggest what should be adopted as the standards. For instance would it be considered correct American to say: "I want you should go," as they do in some parts of the land wherein eternal vigilance is the price of liberty? Would it be deemed good American to say "we-uns" and you-uns" as dialect story writers allege the people of large sections do? All Americans, or at least the majority of them, say "Between you and I," "It wasn't me," "He ain't," and like a good many Victoria folk they nearly all say "et" when they mean "ate." Shall these things be recognized as proper in the American language. It is fair to the writer referred to say that he does not mention matters of that kind. He would confine his Americanization of English to such changes as can be made without dislocating the language entirely. He protests against the use of the word "tram" when what is meant is "car." He prefers automobile to "motor." He would drop the letter "u" whenever it can be conveniently got rid of as in color, rigor and so on. He has not yet been able to get his courage up to write "exprest" when he means "expressed," probably because his ear is able to distinguish between the two sounds, which President Roosevelt's is not.

We are very much of the opinion that there will be no American language. Our writer proves it in his own article for he finds it necessary to protest against a return to the discarded spelling of colour, valour and the like, confessing that intercourse with England is overcoming the prejudice which once existed against that method of spelling. There will be differences in some respects between the language as spoken on the opposite sides of the Atlantic, but they will not be great. At least such differences will not come from the usage of the educated classes. In the course of time there will be pronounced local dialects in the United States, just as there are in England. Certain sections of New York city speak a dialect of their own. If a man, accustomed only to the language of educated society, should happen to overhear a conversation in the "restricted" district of Seattle or some other western city, he could not understand what was said. He might even be puzzled to know just what is meant by some of the paragraphs in the sporting columns of well almost any American paper you may choose to name. We quote: "The Seattle boys piled up 17 hits, Jay Smith led with four safe raps; Hickingbottom and Mullen for three each; McGeure, Coyle and Hilton copped one. The Seattle boys went up in the air in the third inning, when Chicago piled up four runs for one hit. They got sane after that however, and played the game right." Again we are informed that the pitching of the Cubs "is shot full of holes." Another game ought to be "a hummer" "because Fenney, the big southpaw and Woodworth, the foxy little box man", are to play. We are also informed that "the fat one is ridding his system of a lot of harsh stuff", the exact meaning of which some one else will have to give. Our guess is that "the fat one' has been making some rather strong observations. Here we have the American language in the making, and the careful observer may perhaps note a disposition to recur to the phraseology of the Red Indian, although with other words.

But while dialects will undoubtedly develop, in these days of close intercourse between all sections of the English race, the parent language will remain unchanged except through slow processes of time, and the changes will be general. England will accept American variants in pronunciation and significance of words and America will accept English variants, but the Yorkshire ploughboy and the New York street gamin will continue to speak a tongue of their own.

Vancouver lawyers are complaining of the congestion of legal business and want another judge appointed. This incident may be taken as a criterion of the rapidity with which business throughout the province is developing.

The Park Commissioners have displayed commendable promptitude in arranging that steps shall immediately be taken to care for the oak trees which are so essential a part of the attractions of Beacon Hill park. The hoary old monarchs of the forest are too valuable an asset to be longer neglected.

Congratulations are extended to all who in any way are responsible for the conspicuous success attending the initial race meet under the auspices of the Driving Club. Victoria has now demonstrated that it not only has one of the best race tracks in the West, but knows how to conduct a meet. The resultant advertisement cannot but prove very beneficial.

Very cheering indeed is the announcement in Saturday's depatches that the crops on the prairies are in the best of shape—and this in spite of the adverse conditions arising out of a winter unparalleled in its severity and a most backward spring. British Columbians observe with especial interest, not unmixed with anxiety, such announcements, as the Northwest is not only one of their most profitable markets, but a section on which we draw largely for our population.

Interviewed at Ottawa on his return from London, Earl Grey, alluding to the "All-Red" steamship project, about which he is extremely enthusiastic is quoted as saying that "he believed such a line would be consumated." We wonder what his answer would be if the people of Victoria were to ask him if he thought the better policy to pursue would be to sit down and wait longer before pressing that the project of bridging Seymour Narrows should be considered as an integral part of the scheme, as far as British Columbia is concerned.

Evidence is accumulating that the Conservative party in British Columbia has at its head a gentleman destined to occupy a still more important position in the public life of Canada, it being doubtful if any one of the provincial premiers is regarded as a more prominent national figure than Hon. Richard McBride. A Montreal dispatch of yesterday quotes G. W. Fowler, M. P., of New Brunswick, as saying that "Premier McBride is king of the coast, and will hold the province as long as he likes." While we may not admire Mr. Fowler's choice of phrases—we have no "kings" at the coast—we heartily concur in his conviction that the gentleman he alludes to has won an impregnable position in the affections and esteem of the people of this province, and that he is sure of a long and uninterrupted tenure of office.

Before we let a man pull our teeth he must pass an examination. Before we let him doctor our horses, he must undergo a similar ordeal. So he must before he can give us medicine, or look after our property, or run lines around our land. But when it comes to administering the affairs of a nation, we ask no embarrassing questions. A man may be so ignorant as not to know whether or not Vancouver Island is in Hudson's Bay or Nova Scotia is next door to Alaska, but, if he can get votes enough, we permit him to determine what policy shall be adopted for the development of Nova Scotia and Vancouver Island. Then we wonder why the policy of governments is not shaped in accordance with the facts of geography, and why it is difficult to get public men to appreciate things, which are as plain as a pikestaff to some of us.

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Our very latest additions to our Carpet Stock is a large shipment of these famous Carpet Squares. This shipment is from one of the oldest and best Scotch mills and includes their most beautiful designs.

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4 yds. x 4 yds., at	$22.50	3½ yds. x 4 yds., at	$12.50
3 yds. x 3½ yds., at	$14.50	3 yds. x 3 yds., at	$8.00
3½ yds. x 4 yds. at	$20.00	3 yds. x 4 yds., at	$10.75
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Mounted Jugs, 2 gills, each	$1.00
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Tea Cups and Saucers, each	25c
Open Sugars and Creams per pair, 50c. and	75c
Acorn Shaped Peppers and Salts, each	25c
Coquitier Egg Cups at each	75c
Menu Tablets, in plain and tinted, at, each 50c. and	75c.

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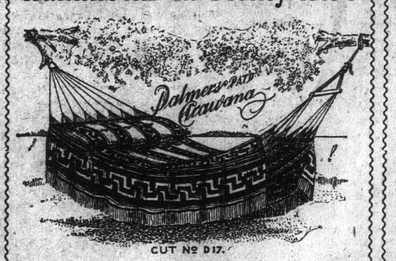

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