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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVII., NO. 115. VICTORIA, B.C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1905. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Mr. Balfour's "Suggestion"

The Leading Government Organs Suggest That Government Should Resign.

Belief That Proposal Was Inspired From Downing Street.

A Cabinet Meeting Called for Today to Consider the Situation.

London, Nov. 24.—This morning's newspapers are unanimous in their belief that the meeting of the cabinet today will result in the resignation of Premier Balfour. The speech of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman at Stirling is the subject of much comment owing to his downright adoption of home rule for Ireland as a plank of the Liberal platform. The Unionist Daily Telegraph expresses its elation in an editorial and contends that Sir Henry is thereby driving a wedge into his own party infinitely more destructive than the rift existing in the Unionist party.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—Tremendous activity in political circles today, consequent on the circulation of a well-founded report that Premier Balfour had decided to bring his ministry to a close and to directly or indirectly appeal to the country. Rumors regarding the resignation of the cabinet and the dissolution of parliament have been thick for three months past, but when two of the leading government organs today almost in the same terms "suggested" the immediate resignation of the premier on account of the unmendable breeches in the Unionist party over the fiscal question, the "suggestion" was looked upon as having been inspired by Mr. Balfour himself. This was strengthened by the knowledge that prior to the publication of the editorials Mr. Balfour met certain influential persons at his official residence in Downing street. These two facts, when coupled, led to the belief that the premier had intimated at the conference

His Intention to Resign

and as he had just returned from visiting King Edward at Windsor Castle, it was believed that His Majesty had been informed of Mr. Balfour's intentions. Beyond this, however, there is not the slightest official confirmation of the report.

All political interest now centers in the cabinet meeting to be held tomorrow at which it is understood the situation will be discussed. Some well-informed persons go as far as to say that Mr. Balfour will go from the meeting to King Edward with the resignations of himself and the other members of the cabinet.

Conservative papers are in favor of the resignation of the cabinet, which will place

Liberals on the Defensive

in case of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman consents to form a cabinet, but the Radicals say that the resignation will only mean dissolution, as Sir Henry, if requested to form a ministry, would certainly decline to do so until the verdict of the people became known. The Liberal papers point out that while Mr. Balfour may attempt this "tactical move," they are confident it will fail on every side, and that, therefore, the dissolution of parliament is believed to be imminent. There is no thought, however, that a political campaign will be forced prior to the beginning of the year with the elections somewhere about the end of January.

Result of Internal Pressure

The Associated Press understands that forces have been at work inside the party for some time to bring about the present situation. One prominent Unionist recently wrote to the premier asking whether it would be considered disloyal if he introduced early in the next session a resolution bringing the whole fiscal question squarely before the house. He told the premier that the Unionists got tired of being twitted concerning their attitude on the fiscal question in the last term of parliament, where they repeatedly declined to take part in the debates or divisions in deference to the wishes of Mr. Balfour. The premier's reply was not given out, but the Associated Press understands that in any event the Unionists intended to push such a resolution, when they believed it would mean the defeat of the government.

Radical Changes Lately

The political situation was so radically altered during the past week that even the government supporters no longer argue that Mr. Balfour has a sufficiently united party at his back to meet parliament again with the object of initiating any legislation to the public advantage.

The premier's appeal to the Unionists at Newcastle a week ago to unite on his fiscal policy has not met with much success. On the contrary, Joseph Chamberlain, the most powerful private member of the Unionist coalition, directly joined issue with his chief by a speech at Bristol on Tuesday calling on Unionists to rally to the support of his own more drastic fiscal proposals, including a tax on grain.

The cleavage of the party was thus more markedly accentuated and many Unionist politicians hold that no good purpose could be secured by a longer retention of office and that the weakness of the party will only be further increased by a perpetuation of the existing rivalries between the two sections.

Cabinet Meeting Today

A cabinet meeting has been called for tomorrow. This will be only the second held this fall and the fact that there has been so few conferences between the ministers is taken as another indication of the imminence of a change of government.

On the stock exchange a definite announcement of the resignation of the cabinet is expected at any time and the whole market today was flat in consequence. The Liberals are inclined to resent Mr. Balfour's resignation at the present moment. They contend that the premier should remain in office a few weeks longer and himself dissolve parliament and appeal to the country. The Liberals see no reason why the present opposition should put themselves to the inconvenience of forming a government in the dark without knowing what forces they will command in the new parliament and they object to what they designate as Mr. Balfour's tactical manoeuvre whereby the Liberal attack would be turned into a defence before election and Mr. Balfour would be given a free hand to arrange with Mr. Chamberlain for concerted action against the Liberal party.

Want of Confidence

West Houghton, Lancashire, Nov. 23.—Lord Stanley, the postmaster-general, was booked for a speech to his constituents here tonight. On entering the hall he found it packed with members of the labor party and was unable to find a place on the platform. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution of want of confidence in the government. Lord Stanley later endeavored to deliver an address from the balcony of the Conservative club but was howled down.

Campbell-Bannerman Speaks

Stirling, Scotland, Nov. 23.—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, leader of the Liberal party, speaking here tonight, said that the air had been cleared to some extent by Premier Balfour, when, addressing the national union of Conservative associations at Newcastle-in-Tyne, November 14, he said: "I am not afraid of the opposition but of my own friends," and by Joseph Chamberlain at Bristol when he said: "Away with all lame ducks and blunt swords."

The Liberals said Sir Henry might have had sympathy for Mr. Balfour if they knew his policy, but no one knew if that policy was to deliver the party to Joseph Chamberlain.

Sir Henry plainly outlined his attitude toward home rule for Ireland. He said that the only way to heal the difficulties of the Irish government and to make Ireland strong instead of weak was to give the Irish people the management of their own domestic affairs. He said that opinions regarding Ireland in this respect were becoming stronger.

Pacific Coast Happenings

Ill Fated Voyages of San Francisco Schooner to the Far North.

Robbers Secure $15,000 From a Japanese Bank at Los Angeles.

PORT TOWNSEND, Nov. 23.—It seems decreed by fate that the little schooner Maid of Orleans is not, this season at least, to reach her destination in the far north. On September 3rd the Orleans sailed from San Francisco bound for Saldovia, on Cook's Inlet, with a cargo of blasting powder and provisions for the miners at that place. The vessel had accomplished all but 70 miles of her long voyage when overtaken by a storm, which shattered the rudder post and left the little packet at the mercy of the winds. Capt. Taylor made every effort to proceed, but the schooner would not steer, and no alternative was left him but to return here, which he did, scudding under bare poles before the wind at racehorse speed all the way until picked up by a tug off Cape Flattery, arriving here October 25, and the vessel was at once repaired. In the interim the crew had been paid off and an exasperating delay followed in securing another forecastle crowd willing to undertake the trip to the north so late in the season. The voyage, however, was resumed on November 3, and today the vessel is reported as coming into port again in tow of a tug. Shipping men are speculating whether the vessel found her progress barred by ice or whether she has suffered another accident which made it impossible for her to reach Saldovia. The Maid of Orleans should reach here by daylight.

The Salmon Fisheries

Seattle, Nov. 23.—Chairman Gorman of the Washington fisheries commission announced yesterday that the convention to be held in this city of all the different fishing interests of the Sound, to secure the views of the gill-netters, the seiners and the trap and cannerymen on international legislation to be recommended at the next joint session, would probably be called for December 15. In regard to the action of the Dominion fisheries commission, now in session at Vancouver, hearing objections to joint control of salmon hatcheries by the state of Washington and British Columbia, and the statement given out that a closed season for 1908 was being considered for both sides of the boundary, Mr. Gorman said: "No proposition has been made by the Washington commission for joint control of hatcheries on the Fraser, and the question of a closed season for 1908 has never been brought before the commission officially, although it will undoubtedly be brought to the attention of the next legislature and the passage of such a law will be asked at the hands of the law-making body of this state."

Robbery at Los Angeles

Los Angeles, Nov. 23.—Robbers broke into a local Japanese bank at 111 East Fifth street last night and took cash amounting to $15,000. The robbers gained access to the bank, which is a branch of Nichi Beinchiko, by opening the door of a bicycle shop in the adjoining building, cutting a hole through the brick wall, and thus reaching the rear of the safe. They had intended, it appears, to break into the safe by the use of dynamite. Evidently they feared the noise of the explosion, so near to the corner, and resorted to the use of chisels.

YELLOW FEVER IN CUBA.

Havana, Nov. 22.—Three new cases of yellow fever developed today. There are now seven cases of yellow fever under treatment and seven suspected cases.

Dominion News Notes

Controller of Chinese Immigration Denies Report of Illegal Exemptions.

Sad Fate of Poor Machinist's Little Daughter at Montreal.

Shareholders of The War Eagle Approves of Merger With Centre Star.

OTTAWA, Nov. 23.—An order-in-council has been passed authorizing the refund of the poll tax paid by the guardians of the five young Chinese who arrived at Vancouver some months ago to attend college and who were drowned in Burrard Inlet shortly after their arrival in Canada.

Mr. Parmalee, comptroler of Chinese immigration, stated today that there was absolutely no truth in the allegation that Chinese are evading the poll tax. Every Chinese merchant entering Canada and claiming exemption from the head tax on that score, must show that he is actually engaged in conducting some merchandise business. So particular is the department with respect to the carrying out of the regulations that only 64 of the merchant class entered Canada during the year ending June 30 last. One merchant with his wife and five children entered free in October, and this month there have been but two—a father and his son.

New Zealand's Exposition

The government has accepted an invitation from New Zealand to participate in an international exhibition to be held there from November 1, 1906, to April 7, 1907.

The department of agriculture is sending out diplomas to 1,500 farmers of Canada whose produce helped to win the trophies for Canadian display of goods at the Louisiana purchase exposition. The display contained samples of honey, grain and maple sugar gathered in all the provinces.

Deputy ministers have been given a gentle hint that at state functions in future they must appear in civil uniforms as provided by the King's regulations.

Dr. Charles A. E. Harriss has been made an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music, a distinction much coveted by eminent musicians of Great Britain.

Changes in Molsons Bank

Montreal, Nov. 23.—Among the changes recently inaugurated in connection with the Molson's Bank, one well-deserved promotion is that of J. H. Campbell, formerly their Trenton manager, to the position of manager at Vancouver and inspector of branches from Calgary west. Mr. Campbell's mother is now living in Winnipeg, also his brother, who is connected with the Ogilvie Milling Company.

Little Girl's Sad Fate

Lily H. White, the seven-year-old daughter of Charles White, machinist, died at the general hospital last night from the effect of burns sustained yesterday afternoon while preparing her father's supper. The mother of the girl is ill at the hospital and the deceased was taking care of the home and two younger children. While lighting the fire to prepare the evening meal, she used kerosene on the wood, which when lit flared up and caught her clothing.

George McL. Brown's Promotion

A circular issued today by Robert Kerr, passenger traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, announces the appointment of George McL. Brown, superintendent of sleeping and dining cars, as general passenger agent of the company's ocean steamship service, with headquarters in the board of trade building in this city.

War Eagle Merger Sanctioned

Toronto, Nov. 23.—A meeting of the shareholders of the War Eagle Mining Company this morning, approval was expressed of the scheme to amalgamate with the Centre Star Company. A meeting of shareholders of the latter company will be held on November 28. The merger means $6,500,000 in capitalization. A proposal to amalgamate also with the Le Roi company will be taken up by the stockholders of this company at a meeting shortly, but a contest is promised.

Constable Commits Suicide

Halifax, Nov. 23.—Rufus W. Black, constable and well known citizen of Pugwash, N. S., committed suicide this morning by drinking carbolic acid. He leaves a widow and five children. No cause is assigned for the rash act.

Mr. Smith's Majority

Dundas, Nov. 23.—Later returns in Wentworth give Smith (Conservative) 8 majority. There will probably be a recount.

Studebaker's Branch Factory

Fort William, Nov. 23.—It is probable John Studebaker, the great United States wagonmaker, will locate a branch factory here.

Killed by a Colt's Kick

Wawanesa, Man., Nov. 23.—I. Mackenzie was killed on his farm near here by being kicked by a colt.

Liberal Nominated

Yorkton, Sask., Nov. 23.—A. Garri, rancher, was nominated for the legislature at the Liberal convention today.

Winnipeg Wirings

Winnipeg, Nov. 23.—H. Hannah of Lauder, Man., who farms extensively, has disposed of only a portion of his wheat of this year's crop, but today he received a check for $8,000 for what he has marketed. This indicates how farming pays in the Canadian West.

The staff of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company at Portage la Prairie is preparing a large shipment of flour for Japan. This order, which comprises 2,000 bags, leaves Vancouver on December 16 for Kobe, Japan. Another order has been received for a considerable quantity which will leave the coast January 15.

Premier Roblin tonight announced the decision of his government to construct a system of telephones covering the entire province of Manitoba.

MARSHALL FIELD JR.

Condition of Injured Young Man Is Somewhat Improved.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The condition of Marshall Field Jr., who was accidentally shot last night, was reported this morning as somewhat improved, and his chances of recovery are slightly better.

FOR JEWISH PRAYERS.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The conference of the American rabbis has issued an appeal urging that every rabbi in America request the people to close their places of business at 4 p. m. on December 4 and meet in their houses of worship at 8 p. m. for prayer and as an expression of sympathy with their afflicted brethren in Russia.

BISHOP ELECTED.

Concord, N. H., Nov. 23.—Rev. Edward Melville Parker of this city was elected coadjutor bishop of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of New Hampshire today. Bishop Parker was born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1855. He was educated at St. Paul's school in this city and at Oxford University, England. During the past 26 years he has been master at St. Paul's school.

U. S. ADMIRAL'S VISIT.

Commander of an American Cruiser Reaches London.

London, Nov. 23.—Rear Admiral Chester came up to London today from Gravesend, where the United States cruiser Minneapolis is coaling. He said that the report that the warship had touched ground off the French coast was incorrect. Admiral Chester has been instructed to remain at Gravesend and await orders from Washington before proceeding to the Baltic.

Devastation and Untold Horrors

Fear That Movement Among the Russian Peasants Will End in Massacre.

Excitement Is Spreading Rapidly Among Ignorant Fanatics in Country.

MOSCOW, Nov. 22.—The excitement among the peasants in the central and southeastern provinces is spreading rapidly, and it is feared that it will be impossible to suppress the movement, which promises to develop into a general uprising, bringing devastation and untold horror to the whole country. The revolution is among the peasants, who are industriously spreading the story that the imperial reform manifesto really decreed a division of the lands, but that the intelligent Jews distorted it and took all the freedom for themselves, and the peasants therefore have the right to possess themselves of the land which the emperor granted them.

The peasant congress, which is largely under the domination of men who during residence in the cities have become imbued with socialistic ideas, and who are preaching the expulsion of the landlords and the division of the estates, will assemble here tomorrow. Some of the radical members of the zemstvo congress are in negotiation with the leading members of the peasant congress.

ISLAND CATTLE RAISING PROJECT

Plan Developed to Establish a Branch Down in the Sooke District.

The announcement was made yesterday by F. J. Bittancourt that along with W. W. Armstrong, of Montreal, he had pre-empted 320 acres of land in the district of Sooke with the intention of embarking in the cattle-raising business.

The property which has been selected by Mr. Bittancourt is located about three miles from Cutler's ranch, and borders on a lake that is not shown on any official map. In view of the fact that the lake was never located before, Mr. Bittancourt has named it Surprise lake, and it is a body of water covering 30 or 40 acres.

The land is very rich, and with an abundant supply of water Mr. Bittancourt expects to have the cattle in the best possible condition for market. It is his intention to stock the range as soon as sheds have been erected, work on which will commence immediately, and which will be about 100x50 feet.

Mr. Bittancourt returned from his new location on Tuesday, and while there he, with the assistance of Mr. Armstrong, blazed a trail to the property and also built a log cabin.

The intention of the new concern is to raise cattle for the supply of the local market, as well as outside points.

KING HAAKON STARTS.

New Ruler of Norway and His Queen Leave for Capital.

Copenhagen, Nov. 23.—King Haakon VII., Queen Maud and Crown Prince Olaf started today in the Danish royal yacht Dannebrog for Christiania. Great crowds gathered to witness the departure.

The Sultan Is Stubborn

Refuses to Accept Ultimatum and Braves Threatened Naval Demonstration.

Crafty Turk Plays Upon Jealousies Existing Among Interested Powers.

Germany's Aloofness Leads to Belief in Kaiser's Support of Porte.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—The persistent refusal of the Turkish government to accept European control of the revenues of the vilayets of Macedonia notwithstanding the ultimatum presented by the allied powers, is about to lead to the putting into operation of the threat of a naval demonstration with the view of compelling the acquiescence of Turkey in the European control of the administration and the proposed reforms in Macedonia.

The obduracy of the Sultan apparently is based on the belief that he has the passive support of the Emperor of Germany and upon the jealousies supposed to exist among the powers interested. In diplomatic quarters it has been supposed to the very last

The Sultan Would Yield

and even now it is said that he will do so before the fleet takes active measures.

It is understood that the Sultan appealed vainly to Emperor William, Emperor Nicholas and Emperor Francis Joseph against the projected demonstration.

The combined fleet of the powers now assembling at Piraeus consists of six large and four small vessels commanded by Admiral Ritter Von Jedina of the Austrian navy. Great Britain is represented by the armored cruiser Lancaster and the scout ship Sentinel, Austria by the armored cruiser St. George and the torpedo cruiser Szitgar, Italy by the armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi and the torpedo boat destroyer Ostro, and France by a cruiser and a gunboat.

German Abstention from Participation

in the proposed demonstration makes the situation increasingly interesting. The powers are said to have agreed as the first part of their procedure on the seizure of the harbors and customs houses of the island of Mytilene and the island of Lemnos, in the northern part of the Aegean sea, and the island of Tenedos, on the west coast of Asia Minor.

The fact that the session of the council of ministers at which the proposals of the powers were rejected was a stormy one, and that all the ministers except the minister of war favored yielding to the ultimatum, leads to the belief that the Sultan will yield at the first show of determination on the part of the powers, after satisfying his people that he is yielding to superior force. This is said to be the view of Count Goluochowski, the Austrian-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs.

Bulgaria Ready to Act

The correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Vienna says that the Bulgarian government has notified one of the signatory powers of its determination to march troops into Macedonia if the powers fail to carry out their measures for Macedonian reforms.

Vienna, Nov. 23.—Baron Von Calyo, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Constantinople, has telegraphed Admiral Ritter Von Jedina for a portion of the international fleet to sail immediately, proceeding either to Mytilene, an island of the Grecian archipelago belonging to Turkey, or for Besika bay, near the entrance of the Dardanelles.

Athens, Nov. 23.—It is understood that the international fleet will sail tomorrow. The foreign ministers today paid visits to the commanders of the warships of their respective countries. The commanders later held a conference on board the Austrian flagship.

NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

London, Nov. 22.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that Emperor Nicholas has ratified the nomination of Privy Councillor Gerard as Governor-General of Finland, adding that his selection will be most acceptable to the Finnish people.

WHITELAW REID'S GIFT.

United States Ambassador Donates $500 to London's Unemployed.

London, Nov. 23—Ambassador Whitelaw Reid has contributed $500 to Queen Alexandra's fund for the unemployed, which now amounts to $400,000.

ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

Russian Anti-Jewish Disorders Causes Rush to Palestine.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 22.—Despatches from Southwestern Russia indicate that the Zionist movement has been given a powerful impetus by the anti-Jewish disorders. Hundreds of Jewish families are leaving or preparing to leave for Palestine. Three hundred sailed from Odessa on one steamer today.

FINLAND'S NEW GOVERNOR.

Count Witte's Selection Not Approved by the Delegates.

Helsingfors, Nov. 23.—The report that Privy Councillor Nicholas N. Gerhard has been appointed governor-general of Finland is correct. Governor-General Gerhard is a senator and president of the department of civic and ecclesiastical affairs. He held a seat in the old committee of ministers, of which Count Witte was president.

UNITED STATES PORT OF ENTRY.

St. Albans, Vt., Nov. 23.—By an order received today from Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, the town of Swanton has ceased to be the port of entry into the United States in this district, and all traffic will come to St. Albans. The order follows the recent transfer to the Grand Trunk of the Canada Atlantic Railway, which extends from Swanton to Depot Harbor, Ont., a distance of 410 miles. St. Albans now becomes the southern terminal of the Ottawa division of the Grand Trunk. It is expected that in addition to the natural entry traffic from Swanton, St. Albans will receive a large part of the western freight which formerly passed to Montreal, there to be examined by United States officials.

THE ROYAL FLITTINGS.

Madrid, Nov. 23.—Official circles here expect King Edward will visit Madrid in May, following Emperor William's visit to this city in April.

PRIZE FOR AUTOBOATS.

Rome, Nov. 22.—King Victor Emmanuel, the minister of marine and several public institutions have promised important prizes for auto-boats if the next contest for the Mediterranean cup takes place, as proposed, between Palermo and Toulon, in which case important Italian firms will participate.

DEADLY GRADE CROSSING.

Two Young People Killed by Train Striking Buggy.

Newburg, N. Y., Nov. 22.—Clara Rudolph, aged 17, a daughter of Henry Rudolph of Newburg, and George Adams, aged 10, a nephew of Mr. Rudolph, were killed today at the Renwick street crossing of the West Shore Railroad. They were driving across the tracks when their wagon was struck by a passenger train.

NEW STEEL WORKS.

U. S. Corporation Purchases Land on Lake Michigan for Site.

New York, Nov. 22.—F. E. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, announced today that about 2,500 acres of land in Indiana, on the shore of Lake Michigan, have been purchased in the interests of the United States Steel Corporation, which will erect thereon blast furnaces, open hearth furnaces, by-product coke ovens and various mills for the manufacture of a diversity of steel products.

London Gossip By the Cable

Trade With the Colonies Continues to Engage Attention in England.

Duke of Argyle Writes Letter Giving His Views—Plea for Reduced Postage.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—The tariff committee of the Birmingham chamber of commerce recommended that the secretary of state for the colonies make representation to the colonies concerned in favor of the removal of the taxes imposed on commercial travelers representing British firms, and also to lay the question before the next colonial conference.

The issue of the Yorkshire Post of September 20 contained an editorial referring to W. K. George and the C. M. A. The editorial stated that their Ottawa correspondent said that the Quebec tax on commercial travelers had been practically endorsed by the C. M. A. "In view of the fact," writes Mr. George to the Yorkshire Post, "that we have strenuously opposed the act, I hardly know whether to put your correspondent's statement down to ignorance or intention." Mr. George, in confirmation of his statement, quotes a couple of extracts from the resolutions passed by the Montreal branch of the C. M. A. against the tax, the second from the speech of Mr. McCordill, delivered at a banquet of the C. M. A. in Quebec on September 14, in which Mr. McCordill expressed his readiness to meet a deputation on the subject, and that he thought he could convince the deputation that the principle of the tax is good. Mr. George concludes a lengthy letter by saying that he was anxious that friends in England should know that the C. M. A. was in no way responsible for the Quebec non-resident tax, nor that he had been laying down any different policy for Canada than when he was in Great Britain.

The editor of the Yorkshire Post in a footnote says: "We publish Mr. George's letter before we can refer it to our correspondent, but must point out that Mr. George, if he has read our correspondent's letter, should have seen that it was dated prior to the speeches and resolutions which he quotes.

Prosperous Emigrant

A man who had to sell some of his effects to procure funds to emigrate to Canada six months ago, and was assisted by the church army, is now a prosperous farmer in Manitoba and has sent a handsome donation to the funds of the church army.

Duke of Argyle's Views

The Duke of Argyle has written a letter to the North of Scotland Liberal-Unionist Association, saying that all fiscal changes must be experimental, and nothing should be done which might not be taken back. They should remember that colonies grow fast, and that their growth was much greater than was possible today for an old power such as those powers which were foreign. There was, therefore, always a prima facie argument for preference, but only where our own people could not be hurt by such preference; no colony desired to stint the food of the Mother Country. Where the colonies could supply enough food it was wiser to take from them than from others.

Favors Reduced Postage

J. C. Coloner, in a column letter to the Times, making a plea for reduced postage on British magazines and periodicals to Canada, emphasizes the fact of Canada being inundated with American periodicals containing American advertisements.

Iron Mines Are Sold

Big Deal Consummated Yesterday Involving Transfer of West Coast Claims.

Bently and McGregor Holdings Acquired by a Syndicate of Foreign Capitalists.

Sum Involved Said to Be About One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars.

WHAT is probably one of the largest deals in iron properties that has taken place on Vancouver Island was completed yesterday forenoon, when a company of United States and English capitalists, represented in this city by I. B. Atkinson, M. E., concluded arrangements to take over nearly all of the iron properties in the Port Renfrew district. The deal will include the Conqueror group, composed of the Conqueror, Cyrus, Daniel and David, the property of the Bently Iron Mine Company, Ltd., which also owns the Elijah and Benjamin, and the Jacob and Joseph. The Jennie fraction has also been taken, as has the Iron King, Iron Prince, Iron Master and Iron Master's Son—all of which are located on Bugaboo creek. The sum involved is said to be

In the Neighborhood of $150,000

which will be divided among Messrs. Bently and McGregor and their associates, among the latter being a number of Victoria's prominent citizens.

The properties have been located for a number of years, and were examined by Mr. Atkinson in January, 1902, after the property had been surveyed by A. W. Harvey, C. E. Mr. Atkinson immediately cabled his report to London, and sent a written report to his principals in New York, only to have the report declared a fake by a number of experts who had seen the property. Not satisfied with this, Mr. Atkinson made another examination and again submitted the result of his investigations to his principals. In the report he stated that he would stake his reputation that with six months' development he would show them a property with

500,000 Tons in Sight

and running on an average of 60 per cent. in iron ore.

In referring to the property yesterday, Mr. Atkinson stated that in his opinion the David claim would prove to have the largest body of high grade iron ore on the American continent.

When asked if that was not a little extravagant, Mr. Atkinson said: "No, sir; I have been in business as a mining expert for 28 years and have visited nearly all the iron camps in America, and the showing of the David surpasses anything I have seen. In 1902 an offer was made to the owners of the Conqueror group, which represented a higher figure than what the entire holdings are being sold for at the present time. This offer was refused by the owners, on the advice of some prominent men of this city, who thought that they would get better terms." As has been said, the deal was

Engineered by Mr. Atkinson

who was in close connection with Jas. A. Moore of Seattle, who represents the company in that city. Mr. Atkinson has spent considerable time in this section of the country, since coming to America he was engaged in the iron mines in the northern part of England.

Mr. Atkinson expects the property, which is situated about eight miles from salt water, will prove a very rich one. It has already been developed to an extent of about $7,000, and 18 samples which were taken from a depth of 138 feet, and which were treated by J. O'Sullivan of Vancouver, who was for 26 years assayer for Vivian & Sons of Swansea, averaged 68.79 per cent. in iron.

The property adjoins the claims of H. E. Newton, who has also done some work on his claims, and has also found high grade ore. With regard to the

Intention of the New Owners

it is their present plan to establish an iron smelting plant on Vancouver Island and which will have a capacity which will enable the owners to supply the whole of the Pacific Coast. The site for these works has not yet been secured. It had been the intention to establish them at Esquimalt, and Mr. Atkinson had made inquiries for a site, but he was informed by some of the property holders in that section that the works would create too much smoke.

With regard to steel works, the manufacture of the steel will be carried on in the Sooke district at some time to come, or until British Columbia can show the capitalists that there is a market for their product. Whenever it is shown that there is a market in British Columbia or Canada, sufficient to warrant the

Erection of a Plant

they will lose no time in doing so.

Mr. Atkinson prophesies that with the establishment of the iron works on the West Coast, the whole of Vancouver Island will witness a remarkable growth, both in population and in manufactures.

Mr. Atkinson stated that the purchase of the property had been under consideration by a company known as the Seattle Iron & Steel Company, who had sent Prof. Winchall out to examine into the

Quality of the Ore

The report which was sent back by the expert was very hard on the property, so much so that it was decided to abandon their effort to secure control of it.

During yesterday afternoon Mr. Atkinson received a number of telegrams from both New York and England congratulating him on the successful conclusion of his tedious negotiations.

FIVE MEN KILLED.

Fatal Result of Head-on Collision on Baltimore & Ohio.

Albion, Ind., Nov. 23.—Five men were killed and one seriously injured today in a head-on collision near here between a work train and a gravel train on the Baltimore & Ohio Railway.