

THE SONGHEES RESERVE

A person, who had never heard of the Songhees Reserve question, might, after reading the telegrams in yesterday's Colonist, come to the conclusion that the matter was something quite new, and that the Board of Trade were exceedingly unreasonable in expecting the powers that be to deal with it in the hasty manner suggested. He would never suppose that the question is forty years old, and that two generations of public men have been going to settle it "tomorrow." There is a united mind the insistence of the Board of Trade would be utterly indefensible and only to be parlied by restoring fishing optimism in expecting such a subject to be taken up in the last hours of a parliamentary session. The uninitiated person foresaid would very naturally say that the undue haste exhibited disclosed a very poor appreciation of the eternal fitness of things. The uninitiated man might be a little staggered by the references to the pre-election promises of a gentleman named Templeman; but that would be because he would not know that with a certain school of politicians defeat has the effect of a political Statute of Limitations, and wipes the slate clean of all previous promises that as the said Mr. Templeman stated to the Council of the Board of Trade, as one of the things to be done, was a Bill to settle the question, which was probably prepared last February, there was some intention of disposing of the matter, and this might cause him to wonder why the introduction of the measure had been delayed until it was too late in the session to get it through. There are several explanations of this. One, of course, is that Mr. Templeman's statement was not in accordance with the eternal verities, and that no such Bill was prepared last February nor was its preparation contemplated. We do not advance this as an explanation, for to do so would be to suppose that a Minister of the Crown in conference with the Council of the Board of Trade on an important public question willfully misstates the facts of which which is, or at least ought to be, out of the range of possibility. The uninitiated man would therefore be driven to the conviction that there was no time in March, April or May to introduce into Parliament a measure which was not in the least contentious. He might venture, perhaps, to think that such a measure, if it had been brought forward in the Senate, where its purport could have been fully explained, so that its passage through the House would be purely a formal matter. Another explanation which might suggest itself is that Mr. Templeman says he is writing a letter, it would be premature to suggest what that letter is likely to contain.

A MAD POLICY

A recent writer in a British publication assails the people of Quebec for their supposed hostility to projects which he and his political friends choose to regard as essential to the security of the Empire. This is the policy of madness. There are in Canada a great many people who are of French extraction, and they are just as much Canadians as just as much British subjects as any others. They have played their part loyally in working out the destinies of the Dominion. They are increasing in numbers and are becoming year by year better educated and more alert to what is going on throughout the world. Present indications are that their numerical strength is not likely to be relatively as great in the future as it has been in the past. It is, however, always been an element of the population that will have to be reckoned with in any policy of the Dominion. Their presence in the country, with their own language, certain institutions of their own and their staunch adherence to their own religion, which carries with it a degree of ecclesiastical influence with which English-speaking people are not familiar, creates a domestic problem that is not without its difficulties. The conditions in Quebec, for some things similar to it has been experienced by other countries. It is not an insoluble problem, and if we read the signs of the times aright, it is becoming less difficult as the years go by. What has been needed is the development of mutual confidence and confidence is a plant of slow growth as between two nationalities. Under these circumstances it is deeply to be regretted that a certain set of British writers feel called upon to say things calculated to arouse suspicion, if not actual hostility, among our French-speaking fellow Canadians. These people are practically being told by such writers that the day is not far distant when the Conservatives will be in power at Ottawa, and then they will find themselves forced to submit to a line of policy which they would be falsely represented as being opposed. There may be some great imperial service to be rendered by representing Quebec as in point of fact not in sympathy with the Empire and as unwilling to do their share in the making of great political fabric secure, but the gentlemen of the party from which these allegations emanate have not made such a conspicuous success in dealing with their own racial problems at home as makes their advice prima facie of any great value in Canada. We suggest to these academic gentlemen, who are persecuted by an imperialism which they could not define and which seems at a distance to resemble parliar politics more than anything else, that they should be wise if they would treat Canadian affairs in a different spirit. On the narrow ground of the welfare of the Conservative party in Canada, we protest against representations that there is no intention on the part of Mr. Gordon and his followers to force the people of Quebec into any course, which cannot be justified to their reason. On the broader ground of the welfare of the country, we protest against utterances which, if they have any effect in this country at all, will tend to broaden the line of division which must necessarily exist between peoples of different origin, language and customs.

LORD MILNER'S VIEWS

Lord Milner recently addressed the Basestlaw Conservative and Unionist Association at Worshop. In the course of his speech he touched upon the reform as a political issue in the United Kingdom. Viscount Milner is not one of those who profess to believe that if concessions in the way of preferential trade are not made, the Overseas Dominions will go out of the Empire. He takes the same position that in the framing of the tariffs each country must consult its own interests first of all, but in the case of the United Kingdom he thinks that this condition having been met, the next step ought to be to promote inter-imperial commerce. Too many of those who dilate on this subject, mixed these

things up. They start out by misrepresenting the Colonies, and then a preference in the markets of the United Kingdom as the price of their loyalty to the Empire, and thus handicap themselves in the discussion. For the most natural answer of the average resident of the British Isles to such a claim would be that if the Colonies will only remain in the Empire on the condition that the people of the United Kingdom shall be taxed for the benefit of their trade, the language of Tennysen would exactly meet the case.

"So loyal is too costly. Friends, your love is but a burden. Loose yourselves and go."

When once the effort is made to consolidate the Empire and strengthen its growth by the adjustment of tariffs in the mutual interest of all parts of it, the start must be made by showing the people of the several parts that what is proposed is primarily good for them. In Canada the people long ago reached the conclusion that a protective tariff was in their interest. To this idea the Marquis of Lorne took such an exception, not indeed on the score of local policy but of its apparent antagonism to the colonial relation, that he asked for advice from the Colonial Office as to giving his assent to the tariff of 1859. He was told to follow the advice of his ministers. The enactment of this tariff not only enabled the people of Canada to develop their own industrial possibilities but gave them an opportunity to extend a preference to the Mother Country. So we have always held that the first thing to be done in regard to tariff reform is to convince the people of the United Kingdom that they in their own interests need a departure from the free trade policy which has been in vogue for so long a time. When this has been done, the arrangement of an inter-imperial preference will be relatively easy. To combine the two things has always seemed to us to be to court misunderstanding if not to the defeat of an important principle. We quote a short extract from Lord Milner's observations:

The Colonies had not framed their tariffs in our interests and they did not expect us to frame our tariffs in their interests. The Colonies having arranged their duties in the interests of their own people, then made a reduction in favor of the Mother Country. Why should not we, who have established our tariffs, give them a preference and thus reciprocate their feeling of brotherliness? The policy of tariff reform is not very deep, and of far less importance than the principle of national development. Why we should attach importance to it was that its supporters believed it would increase the material and human resources of the British Empire.

A LITTLE ABOUT FLAGS

Every now and then one reads an account of supreme silliness exhibited on the part of some people in the United States over the display of the Union Jack. In this country we really have no very great feeling about the flying of any particular flag, but the hoisting of Stars and Stripes, or the French ensign, or the sunburst of Japan, or one of the advantages of living in a free country. But one of the matters has been brought to the attention of the Colonist in regard to which a little change would be advisable. It is the habit of vaudeville and sometimes of theatrical performers of waving the United States flag as though it were the emblem of their own country, or at least something so supremely great that all mankind ought to thrill in the sight of it. We are not, of course, matured folk here, and there are always some people to applaud that particular piece of being wrong. It is shown on the stage, which we do not suppose would be consciously the case if the Union Jack were shown on a stage at Seattle. It has been suggested that when it comes to flag-waving in Victoria, the British flag is to be proper one to use. It has already been pointed out that Mr. Taft is not "our" president, nor is Mr. Roosevelt "our" president. These matters are not really of any very great importance one way or the other, perhaps, to our Victoria audience, do not as a rule pay their money to witness an exhibition of United States jingoism up to the chin. It is said to be sufficient not to say that there is any special reason for speaking that word at this particular time.

CROP PROSPECTS.

The spring has been cold, but the telegraphic reports from the Prairie Provinces say that the crop is being sown under favorable conditions. We have at hand the crop report of the Canadian Northern Railway company and the \$700,000,000. Everywhere the weather was reported as good and great progress had been made in seeding. Reports from sixty-one places were given and not one of them was unfavorable, and very many of them were exceedingly favorable. The ground is generally reported as in excellent condition, and the weather conditions were good. There was a large increase in the area sown reported from many places, but the majority of the reports said nothing about the area that will be in crop this year. Earlier in the year the season was unquestionably backward; but the change has been decidedly for the better. There must be rather more moisture in the soil this spring than is usually the case, and if the latter part of this month is at all warm growth ought to be very rapid. It is very significant of the progress of the country that this railway has reports from so many points. Look over the list one sees many names that are absolutely unfamiliar in connection with towns and centres of population. These sixty-one reports refer to hand along

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It is a well known fact that the common house fly does incalculable harm in spreading typhoid fever, as also it carries the tubercular bacilli from the sputum of consumptives and distributes them wherever it alights.

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the Canadian Pacific or most of its branches, but our information is that the prospects are quite as favorable there.

OUR VISITORS.

We may venture this morning to extend to the officers and men of the Japanese navy now in our waters an informal but none the less hearty welcome to Victoria, British Columbia and Canada. They are our next-door neighbors, although many miles of ocean separate their home from ours. But to people of the British race the sea was never a barrier and the people of the Island Empire of the Orient have given evidence that they are as much at home upon its waves as we are. We may represent different branches of the human family; we may cherish traditions that are dissimilar, we may have ideas that in many ways are divergent; we have a different language and literature; our institutions may be unlike in many respects; but in the capacity to make the sea our servant we are as one. It is true that the glory of the British mercantile marine long antedates that of Japan's; it is true that the British fleet had a long record of honorable deeds before the Japanese had ventured out of their own narrow seas; but the marvellous progress which the latter have made in commercial and naval sea power appeals to the imagination of British people everywhere. Hence it is of peculiar interest, that representatives of the admirable navy, which our ally has created during the last few years, should pay a visit to this westernmost outpost of the British Empire.

It is impossible to think of this visit without its great significance being borne in upon us. We see in our visitors the representatives of a force which with one blow annihilated the naval power of a great European nation. Almost every week and sometimes often we have ships of commerce flying the Japanese flag at our wharves competing with the commerce that is being developed between America and Asia. The sun of Japan is arising above the waters of the Pacific Ocean, and that does it mean to us? What does it mean to the world? The statement of Japan claim, and we believe that it is sincere in making the claim, that the policy of their nation is not one of hostility to any other power. But no nation ever yet was fully master of its own fate. When once a people have sea their feet upon the path of progress neither they nor any one else can prevent them from following it. In entering the arena wherein the European race has hitherto been supreme, the Japanese have the advantage of being able to be eclectic in their adoption of the results of our experiments. Marquis Ito once said, "Japan can profit by the mistakes of Europe." The great Oriental power is under no necessity of learning by its own experience many of those things which we have only found out through tasting the bitter fruits of error. We credit to the fullest extent the claims of Japanese statesmen that they are animated by no other object than to make their nation strong and their people prosperous and happy; nevertheless we realize that the working out of the problems involved in such a policy must be attended with consequences of the greatest importance to the rest of the world. The Orient and Occident are meeting in rivalry, that they have never before experienced, and the best wisdom, of which both peoples are capable, will be required to prevent that rivalry from extending beyond the paths of peace. We have felt that some observations of this kind ought to be made on this occasion, because we realize to some extent the extreme gravity of the problem which is being met. We are in the midst of a struggle on the North Pacific Ocean, and think it well that they ought not to be lost sight of even on an occasion of such great interest and so wholly hospitable as the present.

We welcome the visitors not only because of the progress that they have exhibited on sea and land, not only because of the wonderful way in which they have hitherto made their way to competition in the great industrial and commercial struggle going on between all civilized nations, but because they are our allies. To a certain extent our fortunes are linked together, and if the diplomats of the two countries had not seen fit to enter upon a treaty of alliance, the mutual interests of the two peoples would have led them to a common ground. We hope that this alliance will never be anything other than a guarantee of peace, that neither country will ever be called upon to draw the sword for the other. The true object of such an alliance is to preserve peace, not to destroy it, and we are sure our visitors will join with us in the hope that the flag of Britain and Japan may long fly together as a guarantee of peace and security, but never for armed defence. That they should be unfurled side by side for the purposes of offence is inconceivable. We are very earnest ourselves that the entry of Japan into the front rank of nations and the alliance between the two empires will prove an efficient factor in preserving the peace of the world.

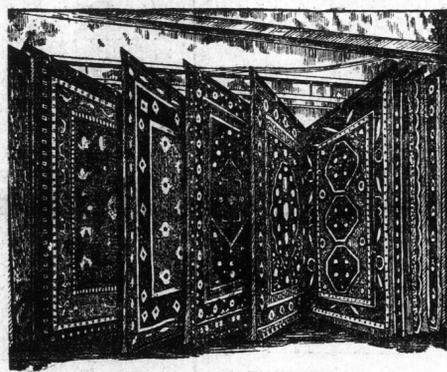
Once more we extend a hearty welcome to our visitors and express the hope that their short stay with us may be pleasant and that they will carry away, as we are sure they will leave behind, only the happiest recollections.

The telegrams relating to the Songhees Reserve read at the Board of Trade yesterday and published in the Colonist this morning form chapters in a very extraordinary story. They hardly call for comment, but there are some things which may be said about them later. They demonstrate the absolute necessity for the people of Victoria to resolve that they will stand no more humbug in this matter.

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These are guaranteed squares—a guarantee backed by the makers and ourselves. The patterns are delightful floral and Oriental effects and the colorings rich and beautiful—a superior rug which must not be confused with cheap imitations.

We show these on the new rug rack and can show you the whole range of sizes in five minutes and you see the rug in good light and see the whole of it, not just a corner. Come in and ask to see these—with this system of showing all trouble is eliminated.

- SIZE 9 ft. x 10 ft. 6 in. \$26.25
SIZE 9 ft. x 12 ft. \$30.00
SIZE 10 ft. 6 in. x 12 ft. \$35.00
SIZE 10 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. 6 in. \$40.00

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YOU HAVE promised baby a new go-cart for the 24th, so why not get it today and use it tomorrow? You are assured an unbroken assortment today and that is something we cannot promise close to the 24th, for these excellent carts are selling quickly. The largest choice and the finest values are offered and the very best cart made.



COLLAPSIBLE GO-CART PRICE \$6.50
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RECLINING FOLDING GO-CART PRICE \$20.00
No. L. 56, U. & P.—Body is reed, varnished. Upholstering, green leather cloth. Mattress cushion, lace parasol. Gear is all steel, four 12 1/2 inch rubber tire wheels. Patent wheel fastener. Foot brake. Patent folding cross reach. Dark green enamel finish. Enamelled push bar.

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Go-Carts Repaired and Extra Parts Kept in Stock
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There isn't a western establishment better able to look after your needs in all these lines than this store. If you are not already acquainted with its offerings now is an excellent time to start. Come in and investigate the offerings in supplies for hotels, restaurants and summer boarding houses.

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WE ARE MAKING a special display of Metal Beds—Brass and Iron styles—in our Broughton Street window today, and we suggest that you see the showing and choose the bed you need for the 24th of May visitors and your summer visitors.

You have probably been promising yourself a new bed for one bedroom at least and right now is an excellent time to select it, now when it is most likely to be needed. The attractions of the Seattle Fair and the inducement to travel offered in the low railway rates is almost

sure to bring you Eastern friends this summer. Why not prepare right now by getting one of these fine beds? Prices are easy enough to suit most anyone, and the styles—well, we are showing the very latest and best from the leading makers throughout the world. Many lines are confined to us. Purchasing large quantities secures for us very favorable price concessions and this benefits you for we are enabled to offer you interesting beds at interesting prices. The showing is one worthy of your inspection and we hope to see you today or tomorrow.

BRASS BEDS, from \$110 to \$30 | IRON BEDS, from \$40 to \$4

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TORTOSA

The history of Spain's occupation, which lasted A.D. 1212, is full of romantic and extraordinary record of them is so mixed with inventions of troubadour traditions that it is not between fact and fable. Moorish regime represented that time advanced civilization, at another time it was archy and misgovernment, served a few names and the markable deeds done in between Christians and Moors are told how Pelayo, who, had taken refuge in the turias, had with thirty men but actually destroyed an army of thousands of Moslems—hardly be accepted as true, repetition fired the imagination of Christians and kept alive the words led to the expulsion of the queros. Then there is the and the battle of Roncesvalles surrounded with the fiction one can hardly say what for it. The facts seem to be advancing into Spain signed to drive out the Moors was crossing the Pyrenees upon his rear-guard, which commanded, and utterly defeated is not the legend. That the magné's army was a vast host followed with the rear-guard sand men. A great army, pagan nations of the world Now Roland had a famous which would ring for mountains, and he had of bring Charlemagne to his disdained to do, and fought one hundred thousand of were left. Then another than fifty thousand strong men from Northern Africa. Roland at first refused but at length blew his horn heard it and would have persuaded that Roland was was left, and he dragged his above Roncesvalles, where Song of Roland was long Frankish chivalry, and was advancing to the attack on venge—the story ends with field in a series of marvelous all so greatly exaggerated that there was a prince, fell in a battle in a valley can be accepted as historical this story of El Cid, which but this is so long that it So prolific was Spain in the of the battle of Tortosa, July 16, 1212.

The remnant of the served their independence in power and influence at ment attributed to Pelayo kingdoms were established of which are preserved un them there clusters much imagination. They were Leon and Aragon, and united with the King of deavor to destroy the M had greatly deteriorated idor from the days when the dova was a centre of lea Disensions had arisen themselves, and successiv in control of the Spanis time to which reference is hades were in control. T religious sect formed for grown Islam from certain ing upon within it. The our word Unitarians, and ment was at first religio- tical. The new sect a power, and as was the the followers of Moham a political organization w latter part of the tenth ce of Moslem sectaries had, extending from along the ern coasts of Africa from a distance of more than The emperor had for ma glances at Spain, and tal distracted condition of the Christians and the stant strife, he in his eig the conquest of that co successful and established a tinued for a century un by the Almohades. Th the followers of Islam, afford the Christian kin enabled them to increa come prepared for the s seen to be inevitable b followers of Christ and The influence of success ed to the consolidation o It proved very successf med-al-Nasar undertook peninsula under his sw confronted with the co five Spanish princes ab