The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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LAUNCHING OF THE LILLOOET

The government steamer Lillooet, which was launched yesterday at the yards of the British Columbia Marine Railway company, was not by any means the first ship to take the water in this part of Canada, but the incident serves as a text for a few observations upon what is one of the most interesting and important subjects which the people of Victoria and Vancouver Island can take into consideration. This community ought to become one of the greatest ship-building centres in the world. We do not mean that it can become this at once, but we have all the facilities here available to make it such, and if these are properly utilized, time will do the rest.

The day of wooden ships seems to be pretty well passed, except for coasting and river purposes. Those that go upon the ocean, and many that do not, are now built of steel. We have on Vancouver Island an abundance of iron ore, and there is not the least good reason why this ore should not be converted into steel, and the steel be rolled into plates and forged into beams or whatever the correct technical name may be for steel that is used for structural purposes and is not called plate. We have in Victoria plenty of money to make on this island what a railway man the other day described as a "second Pittsburg and a second Clyde." The difficulty seems to be in inducing those people who have the money to combine in the establishment of the necessary plant. We urge this matter upon the attention of citizens. An effort is being made to induce the Dominion government to have the new fishery cruiser built here. Our chances for securing it would be very much greater if we could point out to the government that the cruiser, if built, would result in the establishment of a plant which would combine Canadian labor with local raw materials in the construction of future vessels, so that all the money would be left in Canada. At present a very large part of the price of every steel ship must be sent to England, and so far as that part of the transaction is concerned, our local builders are practically only commission merchants for British firms. We venture to think that if the government could see that by giving such contracts to local concerns, it would encourage the development of the iron and steel industry and lead to the installation of such plants as would enable everything to be made in this country that goes into the composition of a first-class ship, it would be quick to see the wisdom of awarding contracts to our people. Political differences ought not to play any part in matters of this kind. It is far better for us to show the government, if we can, that it is to the interest of the country to encourage local industries, than to wait until it is too late to do so, and then find fault. We do not propose to follow this line of thought any further just now, but only to set on foot what we hope will be a strong and concerted effort on the part of the people of Victoria to inaugurate a movement looking to the utilization of our great resources in the production of structural steel, so that we may build up here a great ship-building industry. We invite the assistance of correspondents.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The granting of old-age pensions may be now said to be a live issue in Canada. With the position taken by Mr. Fielding, Mr. Ralph Smith and some others there will be general agreement. If we are to have an old-age pension system, its application should be universal. The acceptance of a pension should not be made a badge of poverty. Mr. Fielding estimates that at $3 per week such a system would call for an expenditure of $40,000,000 annually, which is certainly a good deal of money, but it is to be borne in mind that it is money that would go directly into the pockets of the people. Therefore if some means can be devised to raise it without placing undue impositions upon business, the burden would not be felt by the people who paid the money. On the contrary, as a pension of $3 per week would greatly reduce the taxes of the people for the support of the poor, and individuals from being called upon to contribute to the necessities of old people, there would be a lightening of burdens all round, as well as a great increase in the comfort of a large number of people. The proper source from which to collect the taxes necessary to supply the money necessary for the payment of these pensions, seems to us to be large estates and great accumulations of wealth; but whether or not the Dominion Parliament has the right to levy taxes of that kind is a question upon which there may be some doubt. The B. N. A. Act confers upon the local legislatures the exclusive power to make laws in relation to "direct taxation within the province in order to the raising of a revenue for provincial purposes." On the other hand the Dominion Parliament may make laws "for the peace, order and good government of Canada" and the Act declares that the specification of powers must not be taken to restrict the generality of the foregoing terms." The impression which the public has gathered from the manner in which the B. N. A. Act has been administered is that the Dominion Parliament may not levy a direct tax, but this does not necessarily follow from the language above quoted. It may be that Parliament has the right to levy direct taxes for any purposes rendered necessary for the promotion of the peace, order and good government of Canada. If this is correct, there would appear to be no insuperable difficulty in devising a plan whereby the accumulated wealth of the country might be made to contribute to the pensioning of old people. A graded tax upon all estates, using the expression "estates" in its widest significance as applicable to property, would be a sound economic method of providing a pension fund. The wealth of the country ought to contribute directly to the support of those by whose labors it has been accumulated. Such an amount as Mr. Fielding suggests would not be burdensome if placed upon the shoulders of accumulated wealth. It would simply be a return to the responsibilities recognized in old feudal days, when the lords felt, and to a large degree discharged, the obligation to see that their poor retainers did not suffer from poverty. The only difference would be that it would crystallize in legislation a principle that ought to lie at the very base of our social structure, and make that compulsory, which the enlightment of those days thought might be left to voluntary kindness. It would be a legislative recognition of the truth that the producer has rights in the products of his labor as well as the accumulator of such products. Old-age pensions, based upon such a principle, would be a long step in the direction of social progress.

NOT QUITE PARALLEL.

Mr. Joseph Martin is not wholly correct when he likens the position of lieutenant-governor to that of the King, and the reason is that he fails to take into account the fact that provincial legislatures have only a limited jurisdiction. What the Commons, Lords and King agree upon is law, and there is no power short of the sovereign people which can alter it, and even they must make the change through the medium of parliament. There never can be any question as to the constitutionality of an Act of the British Parliament; there can never be any question as to its interference with the powers of some paramount authority. Of course Mr. Martin knows this as well as anybody; but in discussing the responsibility of the provincial ministry he loses sight of the fact that the legislature of a province is a statutory creation owing its existence to an Act of the British Parliament, and that its powers have been defined. One of the limitations upon its authority is the power vested in a lieutenant-governor to reserve assent to a Bill. There could not possibly be such a reservation in the case of the British Parliament, for there is no one whose "pleasure" could be subsequently "signified." Hence British precedents and the rules of British parliamentary government apply to a province of Canada only, so far as they are not qualified by the provision referred to. We concede that even in the application of that provision the maxim that "the king can do no wrong" may be maintained. If a lieutenant-governor reserves a Bill, some one must assume the responsibility. We have shown in previous articles that the provincial ministers may not assume it, for if they could, it would be to enlarge their powers beyond what the principles of responsible government warrant. It must be assumed by the Dominion government. The principles of responsible government are fully satisfied if the minister states to the legislature that the lieutenant-governor acted in pursuance of his duties as an officer of the Dominion government, and, on the principle that things must be presumed to have been regularly done until the contrary is shown, it may be assumed that such action was in pursuance of instructions. We are not now discussing any particular case, but only the application of the principles of responsible government to the conditions created by the British North America act. As a vote of want of confidence in the federal government passed by a local legislature would be idle words, the only way in which such a body can effectively express its disapproval of a lieutenant-governor's action, if done under instructions, is by re-enacting the reserved measure. If these views of the subject prevailed and were carefully observed it never would be necessary for any one to discuss the action of a lieutenant-governor.

A PLEASING INCIDENT.

Quite in the ordinary course of preparation of the extracts from the files of the Colonist of forty years ago, there happened to be included among those which appeared in yesterday's issue this paragraph:

St. Valentine's Ball.—Miss Sophia Hill announces a ball on St. Valentine's evening at the Royal hotel. The occasion is rendered doubly interesting by the fact that the present is Leap year.

To the member of the staff who is in charge of that department of the paper, this was merely a paragraph, nothing more—a case of "a primrose by the river's brim, a yellow primrose was to him"—but to one reader of the Colonist it was of supreme importance, for it unlocked the floodgates of memory reaching back to that St. Valentine's eve forty years ago when Miss Sophia Hill, now Mrs. (Capt.) Rudlin had entertained her friends. And Mrs. Rudlin felt so pleased to be thus reminded so unexpectedly of the past, that she called at the Colonist yesterday to say so. And further to emphasize her satisfaction at what she interprets as quite a singular coincidence, she begged that the reportorial staff of the Colonist should accept the sum of twenty-five dollars and expend the same in the manner which pleased them most. After some consideration the staff have decided that the amount shall go towards the funds of the Seamen's Institute, a most worthy institution, which we are informed stands badly in need of financial aid at this time. We feel that this disposition of Mrs. Rudlin's generous gift will complete the chain in what can only be termed an extremely pleasing incident, breaking the monotony of work on a daily newspaper. We are glad that we were able, all unconsciously though it was, to revive some pleasant memories in the mind of Mrs. Rudlin, and we congratulate that lady that she has lived to see reproduced, after a period of forty years, a newspaper item telling of an incident of her girlhood days. We trust that she may long enjoy good health in the city where for so many years she has been a most estimable resident.

THE IMMIGRATION ACT.

On Thurady our evening contemporary intimated that the course which events in connection with the Immigration Act would be as follows, that is to say, the Japanese Government would protest to the Imperial Government, and the latter would call upon the Dominion government to take action. This would imply that it was, in our contemporary's opinion, the intention of the Laurier cabinet to shift from their own shoulders to those of the British cabinet the responsibility for defeating the well-understood wishes of the people of this province as expressed in a measure passed by the unanimous vote of the legislature. If this plan were adopted it would then be open for "the solid seven" to tell the electors that they had secured a policy of non-interference from Ottawa, but, of course, Sir Wilfrid Laurier could not decline to give effect to the protests of the Imperial authorities. In this way the issue might be dodged and the Liberal candidates would be extricated from a situation which they would find exceedingly uncomfortable. Our contemporary has on one or two previous occasions brought the Imperial Government into the discussion. We were inclined to think that it spoke with authority, and this seemed the more probable because it was not unreasonable to suppose that the Times would receive at least a hint from Mr. Templeman as to the line likely to be followed.

Our Ottawa despatches indicate that the Dominion Government intends to act without waiting for any protests from Japan or representations from the Imperial Government, and will proceed to test the constitutionality of the Act in the first case arising under it, and will disallow the measure itself at the earliest opportunity. We hope the first course will be taken, whether the second one is or not. It is highly desirable that the jurisdiction of the province in respect to immigration shall be defined. If legislation on the subject is ultra vires of the provincial legislatures the fact ought to be made known, and if it is not wholly ultra vires the limits of the provincial jurisdiction ought to be defined. This is a matter of very great importance to British Columbia, because it is here that we will feel the first shock of an Oriental invasion. As yet the other provinces are quite indifferent. If the province has no jurisdiction in the premises the sooner we know it the better; if it has a limited jurisdiction we ought to know that. Until these questions are settled we take it to be the duty of the provincial legislature to assert jurisdiction in the widest possible degree. If for any reason it shall be held that the powers conferred upon the province by the B. N. A. Act to deal with this question have been nullified by reason of federal legislation, we take it that there would be an end of all attempts by the local authorities to restrict the entry of people into the province. We would then know that we had to look directly to the Dominion Parliament for protection, and could govern ourselves accordingly. We repeat the hope that, whatever course the Dominion government may take under its power of disallowance, it will raise the constitutional question in the courts and secure a decision at the earliest possible day.

EVERY-DAY HEROES.

A New York despatch tells of the death of a deputy fire chief who lost his life "while leading his men in a desperate fight against flames in Canal street." His heroic death will be widely recorded, and then be forgotten, except among the firemen who knew him, and even they will soon cease to mention him, for their lives are so crowded with valiant deeds that they have little time to recall those of the past. The public is very much given to criticizing the fire brigade, not only in Victoria, but everywhere else. Every time anything like a serious fire occurs there are people to ask why the firemen did not do this, that or the other thing; but seldom do we hear words of approval of the brave deeds they do. When one of them falls a victim to duty we all speak of his valor, but if he comes out of a hard place unscathed he says nothing about it, and neither do the rest of us. As a matter of fact, there is rarely a serious fire in fighting which firemen do not perform heroic acts, and this is true even of a city in which the buildings are as small as in Victoria. In the larger places things are done the bare recital of which makes the blood run cold. At a recent fire in New York two men—and one of them not a fireman but a frightened creature acting under compulsion—formed a bridge of their bodies across a passage six stories from the ground. The feet of the men were held by others inside the buildings, and they interlocked their arms. Across this living bridge the inmates of one of the buildings, whose escape by way of the street was cut off, were able to reach safety. This is a striking illustration of what firemen do, but there are other things less spectacular and even more heroic occurring all the time. The world does not half appreciate its every-day heroes.

IS ISLAM AWAKENING?

An impression seems to be gaining ground in Europe that we are about to witness a great revival of Mohammedan power. Yesterday's dispatches told that the Sultan was to be entrusted with certain authority that has hitherto been exercised under the supervision of a group of European nations, one of which was Germany. That power has, for undisclosed reasons, seen fit to abandon the concert of Europe in this regard. For the last half century and perhaps even longer, we have been accustomed to look upon Turkey as "the sick man," but its vitality is something marvellous. The Sultan is not by any means a negligible quantity, and apparently would not be unwilling to try conclusions with Russia. He has an army composed of as good fighting men as are to be found in the world. They are larger than the Japanese, and have as great courage. When inspired by religious fervor their fanaticism is unbounded. Let there be a "holy war" proclaimed from Constantinople and it would be useless to attempt to set a limit to what the Turkish forces might do. A "holy war" means to a Mohammedan that his death means a swift and sure entrance into Paradise, and he believes this, not as Christians believe their religion, but with absolute conviction. Not a shadow of a doubt enters his mind. There seems to be no reason why such a war should be declared against any nation. The operations in Morocco are only local, and although they have afforded us many instances of fanatic courage, these are not unlike the incidents which attended the campaigns of our own forces in the Soudan. In India the Mohammedans are conspicuous for their contentment under British rule. A few months ago several of the Islamic princes of India issued proclamations to their people, enjoining them to avoid taking any part in anti-British demonstrations. There does not seem to be a cloud in the political sky as far as Egypt and the Soudan are concerned, and Persia seems to be quiet under the combined influence of Great Britain and Russia. And yet we read in European papers of an uprising of Islam, of a determination on the part of its leaders to make the world know that this faith is not the mere superstition of inferior races, but the governing force of millions of people who are able to hold their own with any others. A recent English paper says: "At the present moment there is a great revival of Pan-Islamic feeling, which is the cause of many new and difficult problems wherever the east and west come into contact. Moslems throughout the world followed the Russo-Japanese war with the greatest interest and they are keenly alive to the problem of Turkey. A writer in the Times has pointed out that it is a mistake to believe the awakening is due to a movement on the part of the Yildiz Kiosk (the Turkish government). It is something deeper." Disregarding the islands of the East Indian Archipelago, the domain of Islam extends almost without a break from the Atlantic Coast of Africa to the Pacific Coast of Asia. Its adherents in China are numerous, but there is a great Mohammedan population spreading over Russian Turkestan and across Southern Siberia, with outlying, though extensive, colonies well within Siberia. If the Pan-Islamic movement is directed against Russia, that nation could be attacked all along its southern frontier. But its object is all a matter of speculation. Possibly those who have promoted it would find difficulty in explaining to what purpose it is directed.

It is announced that there is a prospect of Raisuli, the Moroccan bandit, who kidnaped Caid MacLean, appearing on the variety stage in London. If he is wise he will keep away from Scotland.

It is very gratifying to be informed that the party of immigrants who are being brought out from England under the auspices of the Salvation Army will find places awaiting them in various parts of the province.

Politically, the Conservative party has got a stonewall built around this province, and the steps that are being taken to maintain a splendid organization ensure that it is going to be kept in a thorough state of repair until after the next federal election, in any event.

The Laval students from Montreal who thought it a joke to take a large quantity of silver from the Russell House, Ottawa, would no doubt experience a thrill of ecstatic joy at the process of looting a bank, though their ideas of what constitutes ground for merriment will hardly meet with general acceptance.

Mr. Paulsen the inventor of wireless telephones, says that he will be able, when he gets sufficiently powerful apparatus made, to talk across the Atlantic ocean. Mr. Paulsen will have to think of something more startling than that if he wants to surprise anyone.

It is reported from Ottawa that there is every possibility that during the present session legislation may be presented whereby drop letters or those posted to persons who live in the same city or town, may be mailed for one cent. We will all hope that the report may prove true. There is not much difficulty in understanding that it ought not to cost the same to send a letter, say to a friend living in James Bay, as it does to send one to England.

Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian trade commissioner at Australia, says the greatest impediment to Canadian trade there is the inability of Canadian manufacturers to fill orders. This is not a very serious matter. The popular impression had been that the new tariff presented the greatest difficulty, and now that it has been shown that this is not the case, it is "up to" our exporters to "get busy" and take advantage of their opportunities in the Antipodes.

The triumph scored by the Cunard company in the building of the gigantic liners Lusitania and Mauretania has not dampened the ardor of its rivals. We observe by a special cable dispatch that the shareholders of the North German Lloyd Steamship company have unanimously approved a resolution to raise a loan of $6,250,000 for the purpose of building four large steamers, which Director Wiegand declared were urgently needed to meet the ever-growing competition of other lines.

In all fairness, it must be said that Rear Admiral Evans has achieved a conspicuous success in bringing his great fleet of battleships safely as far as Valparaiso on the long voyage from the Atlantic. The entire trip has not only been made in remarkably short time, the number and character of the ships being considered, but it has been free of mishap, which latter feature is a notable one in view of the admitted hazardous nature of the route. Thus far the great naval manoeuvre has more than met all expectations.

The automobile race from New York to Paris via Behring Straits, which has just started, is likely to prove an extremely interesting event, aside altogether from what may be achieved in the way of demonstrating the endurance of machines and drivers. It will be recalled that it has long been the dream of some transportation enthusiasts to see railway facilities given over a greater portion of the route which will be traversed, and the race, if finished, should go far towards demonstrating the feasibility what was proposed in that regard.

Spring Time Zephyrs

From Our Curtain and Drapery Dept. Second Floor

CLOSE in the wake of these new British and French Cretonnes and Chintzes will come the glorious spring zephyrs, and even now spring seems to have come to our second floor. So much of the coming glory of the most delightful of seasons is reflected in the new Cretonnes and Chintzes the whole Curtain and Drapery department has taken on the air of spring.

Each year designs are improved and colorings made more beautiful, and this season's efforts easily surpasses all previous attempts. Even with all this extra goodness the prices are, if anything, lower than before and certainly low enough to make their use more popular.

These materials may be used for a great many purposes and are particularly adapted for curtains, drapes, loose covers, etc. We offer you such a great choice of designs and color combinations you will experience no difficulty in finding one to suit you and harmonize perfectly with any other furnishings. Ask to see our new Art Designs which are selling at Twenty cents a yard. It is unusually good value. Make your selection now while the assortment is complete.

SOME OF THE DAINTY NEW LINES WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED

BRITISH CRETONNE—A specially nice line in a variety of pretty tapestry and floral effects. Splendid value at the price marked. Per yard .....20¢

BRITISH CHINTZ—A fine range of pretty and attractive designs in Green and Yellow, Rose and Green, Pink and Green, with blue ribbon. Per yard .....40¢

BRITISH CHINTZ—Artistic designs on jaspar ground. This style is suitable for long curtains, 48 inches wide and sold at, per yard .....65¢

BRITISH CHINTZ—A very pretty and serviceable Chintz with artistic designs, in various colorings on a jaspar ground. This particular ground has a softening influence on the whole effect. It makes the less liable to soil, yet does not detract from the daintiness. Price per yard.....40¢

BRITISH CRETONNE—In floral and conventional designs, that are bright and cheerful, we show a splendid range. Priced at, per yard, 35c, 30c and .....25¢

SPRING STYLES IN NEW MUSLINS

A Splendid Showing of Latest Ideas

When you start to plan for Spring Cleaning, plan new curtains and plan to see our showing of curtains and curtain materials. We have just received an unusually large shipment of new Lace, Madras and Swiss Muslin and Casement Fabrics and suitable trimmings for the making of curtains for every style of window, and adapted to every room. These goods were personally selected for their artistic and wearing qualities, and, buying in such immense quantities, we were fortunate in securing favorable price concessions, and are in a position to offer you artistic goods at the price usually asked for materials wholly devoid of "character." Investigate!

SWISS MUSLIN—In white and ecru. Pretty coin spot, sprig and bow knot designs. Low priced at, per yard, 25c and .....20¢

SWISS MUSLINS—In the colored muslins we show a great variety of patterns and at a popular price. See these at per yard, 35c and..30¢

WHITE GRENADINE—A light, dainty muslin with scalloped border, suitable for sash and other curtains. Price, per yard .....20¢

SCOTCH MADRAS MUSLINS—We have this popular material in cream shade, many pretty designs, ranging in price from, per yard, 85c to .....30¢

SCOTCH MADRAS MUSLINS—In cream and white and bordered for sash curtains. Pretty designs. This comes 30 inches wide. Price, per yard .....30¢

TASSELED MADRAS MUSLIN—This is a popular curtain material and has much to commend it. 45 inches wide, at, per yard.....40¢

COLORED MADRAS MUSLIN—A great choice of attractive designs in several colorings, such as yellow, Nile green, rose and blue. Per yard..40¢

COLORED MADRAS MUSLIN—This is an especially attractive line and a very popular one. The stained glass window effect pleases. Per yard .....75¢

COLORED MADRAS MUSLIN—We have an excellent assortment of colored Madras muslins. A wide range of designs and colorings at, per yard .....50¢

These materials can be made into the daintiest of curtains by yourself or in our own factory. Our experience is at your service—make use of it.

This Season's New Curtains

NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS—In these curtains we have just unpacked more than 60 new designs, and these, with our former splendid Showing, makes an assortment of this style of curtains that isn't equalled elsewhere. We can promise you values that cannot be duplicated and in this range of prices you will find something that will surely suit you. Prices range from, per pair, $14.00 down to .....75¢

SWISS LACE CURTAINS—In the Swiss line we have just opened more than 50 new patterns in White, Champagne, Ivory and Ecru shades. This excellent curtain is shown in a great choice of designs at a great price variety. We have them at, per pair, $30.00 down to $3.50

ARISTON LACE CURTAINS—This is a very dainty curtain and the new styles just unpacked are indeed pleasing. A special weave makes a very strong curtain and you'll find this style an excellent wearer. The Ecru and two-tone effects are very pleasing. Price per pair, $6.00 down to $4.00

NOVELTY BRAIDED CURTAINS—This is a "new thing" in Curtains and a style we think you'll like very much. The designs are uncommonly dainty and pleasing. We have them in Arab and White, and offer you a very special value at per pair $5.00

MANY OTHER DAINTY STYLES

How to Buy Carpets

IT IS VERY POOR ECONOMY TO PURCHASE CHEAP CARPETS—Carpets of unknown worth. The old saying, "The best is the cheapest," is especially true of Carpets, and the safest and most economical way is to purchase Carpets of known worth, made by reliable houses and sold by people with a reputation for "goodness" in Carpets.

In these days there are many inferior quality Carpets made to look the equal of the good sorts, and unsuspecting people who are not "well up" in Carpet quality have unpleasant experience with the short life of these. Usually, one lesson is sufficient. It shouldn't be necessary, though, and if you thoroughly investigate our Carpet offerings, we guarantee you no disappointments. Just at present, shipments of new Spring styles are arriving and being rapidly placed on show, and the styles so far received are excellent examples of master workmanship. We especially invite you to visit the Carpet Department today—or any day.

FURNISHERS —OF— HOMES HOTELS CLUBS Complete and Good

Weiler Bros

THE "FIRST" FURNITURE STORE OF THE "LAST" WEST
GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.

MAKERS —OF— FURNITURE AND OFFICE FITTINGS That Are Better

Malt and Hypophosphites

COMBINED WITH THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF COD LIVER OIL.

This preparation has none of the objectionable features of Cod Liver Oil, as the taste is completely masked.

We have great confidence in recommending this to the most delicate, or to anyone needing a tonic.

CYRUS H. BOWES, Chemist, Government St., near Yates