

The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability
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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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EVOLUTION OF A NEWSPAPER.

The many complimentary references which are made these days in regard to the Colonist suggest that it would not be inopportune to state some facts respecting the publication, the expansion of which into one of the leading newspapers of the Dominion constitutes an achievement unparalleled in the history of Canadian journalism. In the first place, let it be noted, that while the growth of the city in the past year has not been very great, the Colonist, in that period, has almost doubled in respect to size, amount of advertising carried, and nearly doubled in respect to circulation. That this has been accomplished is in itself sufficient cause for congratulation, but it is not all. With one single exception the Colonist is the largest newspaper published in the Dominion. That is to say, in printing a 15-page newspaper five days in the week, and a 23-page paper on Sunday, the record of the great newspapers in the large cities, such as Montreal and Toronto, is surpassed. Probably the two most widely circulated dailies in Canada are the Montreal Star and the Toronto Globe. Yet they do not appear each day, as 15-page papers, and the Colonist, on two or three days during the week they print 12 pages or 14 pages; and on Saturday, when they print supplements, the total number of pages never exceeds 32. This is said in no boastful spirit, but simply because it is one of those facts which ought to be recorded as of interest to the people of Victoria. The Colonist by the business community has made this expansion possible; and as perhaps to a greater extent than any other private enterprise is a daily paper a part of the life of a city it is proper that its progress should be recorded.

A CIVIC DUTY.

The opinion so generally held in Victoria that this city will witness a tremendous influx of people from the Prairie Provinces during the ensuing few months is only a faint echo of the recent arrivals from that part of Canada. It would, therefore, appear the part of wisdom for some consideration to be given the question of what we can do as a community to see that every inducement is extended so that the newcomers may determine to take up their permanent residence here. The genesis of the movement of population to our shores no doubt lies in the fact that attractions of climate, scenic beauties and superior residential advantages have been widely advertised amongst people who are not so fortunately situated in respect to those conditions. But while the magnet draws well, our duty to the newcomers does not cease when they walk down the gang-plank of the steamer while lands them at our doors. It is probably true that in the case of those who are possessed of some means, they may be depended upon to adjust themselves to the situation on their own initiative; but many of those who are coming are seeking either employment or opportunities for engaging in business—and it is in respect to this class that we think some action is due on the part of the community. It occurs to us to suggest that a very logical movement would be to arrange that the visitors shall be met by some sort of a reception committee, whose duty it shall be to ascertain from them what their particular object in coming to Victoria is, whether for the purpose of taking up residence here, or whether they seek opportunities to establish industries or secure employment. It may be urged that we must maintain the Tourist Association for just such a purpose. That may be true, but we are not aware that its good offices have been extended quite as far as the situation we have in mind. The point we wish to make is, that if we are not to be neglectful of our full duty in the premises we must arrange to keep in close touch with every newcomer to the city and aid him in every way in our power, so that he may arrange to take up his permanent residence amongst us. It goes without saying that he could best be met by some instances where a helping hand can be given in the direction we wish indicated. The matter is one to which immediate attention ought to be given, as the future of the city is in a large extent bound up with our ability to hold as citizens the host of people pouring in as visitors.

BILL MINER'S CASE.

Correspondents of the press say that Bill Miner, the robber and outlaw, who recently escaped from the penitentiary, has so many friends in Southern British Columbia that his capture may be a matter of a great deal of difficulty. We hesitate about taking a statement of this kind on its face value, but there is probably some foundation for it, or it would not have been made. It is a very unfortunate state of things that such a report should be in circulation, because we can think of nothing more unworthy of Canadians or more calculated to injure the standing of the province, than the existence of anything like racial sympathy with a notorious criminal. It has been our boast in the Dominion that as a people we are staunch upholders of the law and all classes see that it is enforced, and it will be a stain upon the good name of British Columbia, if this man is allowed to remain at liberty because of a kindly feeling towards him on the part of any considerable number of the population.

There is one thing which more than another makes life on the borders of settlement in this country more to be recommended than frontier life in other parts of the continent, it is the fact that the majority of the law is upheld, not only by those who are charged with its administration, but by the people at large. This more than anything else has made our country a place where a man may safely bring his wife and children. There has hitherto been no need in Canada for the law of the shot gun. If such a state of things is to continue the people must assist the officers of the law, rather than throw obstacles in their way. There is perhaps no more unusual sympathy for a man who is seeking to gain his liberty, and perhaps those who know him may feel that they ought not to stand in the way of his success, but the idea is a

wrong one and is calculated to lead to great mischief. It will be an exceedingly unfortunate thing for this province if it shall ever happen that any part of it there should be public sympathy with criminals. This is one of the most fruitful causes of crime in the western part of the United States. Criminals are converted into heroes. The newspapers exploit their crimes; every word they say is published, and it is usually the case, they do not say anything worth reporting, words are put into their mouths. To meet the public taste a new vocabulary has been invented. Thieves have become "larcenists," convicts are men "who do time," the man who has "done time" has squared himself with the community. With all the details of every crime the people are familiarized, until it comes to be regarded as a part of the ordinary routine of an ordinary man's life that he should be a criminal. An instance occurred in a nearby city, where a young girl from a country district had innocently been entangled in some criminal transaction by a convict, who had served out his term. When asked how she came to allow herself to be mixed up with a man of that character, she replied: "Why can't you do time and then they'll let you go?" She had been led to believe that every man at some stage of his life went through the penitentiary. Doubtless her case was an extreme one, but extreme cases show the trend of popular ideas, and undoubtedly there is in many parts of the United States a very prevalent idea that crime is not wrong, but only something for which the law punishes the unfortunate man who is found out and cannot persuade a jury to acquit him. Canada has hitherto been free from this perverted notion. Old-fashioned British ideas of respect for law have prevailed. When a man committed a crime the whole community was against him, and in seeing that he was duly punished. It would be cause for the deepest regret if other views of the duties of citizenship, ever becoming common amongst us and we most earnestly hope that the correspondents are wrong in what they say is the attitude of the people in regard to Bill Miner, and that the law will receive every possible assistance at the hands of private citizens.

VISITING PRESSMEN.

A number of representative British newspaper men will arrive in this city today. They are the guests of the Dominion government, and it is understood that the object of their visit is to form some estimate of the country as a field for colonization. It is to be regretted that their visit is a hurried one. Perhaps any other would be impossible. To remain long enough in every locality to be able to form an opinion from close personal observation would, in a vast country like Canada, require more time than such a party could devote to that task. It seems advisable therefore that such assistance should be given them in reaching their conclusions as can be afforded by the local press. Speaking strictly from the standpoint of the colonist, by which we mean the man who comes to the country with or without means, for the purpose of settling here on land of his own and making his living from tilling the soil, Vancouver Island, in which the adjacent smaller islands are included, presents many advantages. Let us take the case of the man without means. If such a man wishes to go he can find employment here on farms and can without great difficulty become a landowner in a modest way in the course of a few years. The lot of the would-be farmer without capital is not easy in any part of the world. He must expect at the outset to put up with privations if he hopes to accumulate a little capital, so as to get into doing something for himself. By privations we do not mean hardships. He will always be comfortable; always have enough to eat and always be able to clothe himself decently, but he will have to curtail his personal expenses, and in the first few years after he has got on land of his own, he will have to make every dollar and every day tell. But if he is sober, industrious and healthy, there is no reason why a farm labourer in the course of ten years ought not to have a home of his own with enough land under cultivation to keep him in comfort for the rest of his life without having to work too hard. This is not a very bad prospect to face, and we do not think we have stated it any too favorably.

For the settler with a small capital the conditions are very favorable, as we suppose a case. A settler secures ten acres of land, which when ready for the plough costs him \$2,000. He puts half of it in fruit at a cost, say, of \$500. His house, farm, implements cost him \$2,000. This would give him for \$4,500 or \$5,000, a very comfortable home and more land than he could well look after with a little help, or if he has a family of boys without hired help. What would be his income? Of course, this cannot be told with accuracy. An acre of strawberries may yield in favorable years as high as \$1,000 per acre, and instances can be cited where they yield more. A Saanich farmer said to the Colonist today that from two plum trees he would gather 500 pounds of fruit this year, which he can whole-sale readily at 4 cents a pound. This is \$10 to the tree, and an acre would take from 60 to 70 such trees. Estimating that he has 100 such trees, the acre, and putting the apples at \$1 a box, an acre of apple trees would yield from \$250 up. One orchardist says that he has taken \$500 worth of apples off an acre. But let us take one year with another and put the orchard in full bearing and including apples, plums, prunes, cherries, pears, of them as the farmer might select, at \$150 an acre, we have an income of \$750 a year, or £150 from the five acres when the trees are in full bearing. There remain five acres more, a barn, chicken house, etc., which lease for four acres, of which we will assume that one acre is in strawberries, and the other three in such crops as seem most desirable. It is very clear that the ten acres will give the farmer a very comfortable living.

We do not think the above is a fancy sketch, but it has to be said that it can be done by any man of sober and industrious habits, with any knowledge of farming, and if it is a fair statement of the case, we ask if any one can suggest a better investment for \$5,000 from which a settler can hope for better results. Of course he can not expect such returns for the first few years, because it takes time for fruit trees to grow to full bearing. Like the man without capital, the man with small capital will have to cut things fairly close for a couple of years or so, but five years ought to see him in receipt of a good income with a good home on a farm that can be handled with a small expenditure for labor.

The area available on Vancouver Island for immediate colonization is not very large, but a very considerable

number of settlers can be accommodated now, and in the course of a few years the area will be greatly broadened. No reference to this matter would be complete if mention was not made of the many smaller islands lying in the Gulf of Georgia, whereon many settlers could establish themselves on homes under conditions that are exceptionally favorable.

PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The development of British Columbia ought to be undertaken along lines which have been the best known of the provincial land surveyors. Among other work with which he was entrusted was an exploratory survey of the country through which the Neclaco river and the Bulkley flow. It is said that the actual surveying was not done with as great accuracy as was desirable, but this is as it may be, for the country in which his operations had been carried on, that surprised everyone. He said there was a great deal of land fit for settlement, and so opposed was this to all preconceived ideas of that part of the province, that he was charged with being utterly unreliable, and to quote his report to the wise people who had never been more than a few miles from home, was to come in for a little good-natured chaffing. Now we know he was right, and his critics were wrong, which goes to show that a man may be a pretty good observer of things as he sees them, and at the same time not be the best person to put at the head of a surveying party. It is proved that it is a mistake to accept as the last word in regard to any part of the province the statements of people who have made hurried trips across it. Professor Macoun, in giving evidence before a committee of the Senate some twenty years or so ago, cautioned his hearers against inferring too much from what an explorer said. We are inclined to think he said in effect, and necessarily our observations are confined to what we can see from the streams, or we seek the easiest route across country and can only speak of what lies along our path. He said also that the surest estimates of the agricultural capabilities of a country were those made from observations of the natives, who are the greatest of all the western pioneers in respect to the details of his observations. We are inclined to think that the greatest of all the western pioneers in respect to the details of his observations, exercised the same caution in reaching conclusions. He has told us that the available agricultural area of the province is large, and he laid down a great deal of ground, which he thought would be a useful guide, but he was very careful to say that these principles are likely to be modified by future conditions. During the last few years a great deal of official exploratory work has been done, and the facts brought out warrant the conclusion that the area in the province fit for settlement is very much greater than was at one time supposed. The development of the province may very safely be carried on upon the assumption that there is room within its borders for a large agricultural population.

It seems very obvious that prominent among the things which the province must consider and upon which the greatest attention must be asked to pass judgment at no distant day is that of railway construction. The Grand Trunk Pacific will undoubtedly be of value as a development road, but it will certainly leave untouched a large area both to the north and south of its route. The Canadian Pacific enters the province about latitude 51 degrees 30 minutes, but by very much the greater part of its line is south of the Pacific. That is to say, the area lying between the Canadian Pacific and the International Boundary line will average in width considerably less than 150 miles. Yet this belt of country is not only being opened by branch lines of the C. P. R., but the Great Northern is also building a railway through it. The Grand Trunk Pacific will enter British Columbia in about latitude 45 degrees 45 minutes, but the greater part of the line will be between 53 degrees 45 minutes and 54 degrees 25 minutes. In fact, the area between the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the line of the Great Northern will have an average width of over 300 miles, and no railway project is now under way which aims at opening this vast region. Yet it contains the richest agricultural area, perhaps fully four times the area of the region in which the Canadian Pacific and the Great Northern railway are competing for traffic in the southern part of the province. North of the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific and south of the northern boundary of the province is a region having an average width of six degrees of latitude, or say 450 miles, and there is not any plan whatever formed for the opening of this vast area by railways. Included in this is that magnificent region known as the Peace River country, which we suggest ought to be developed, as its affairs will have to be administered, from the British Columbia seaboard. These estimates take no account of Vancouver Island and the other members of the great coast archipelago, which of themselves are far from being negligible quantities even in a province of such imperial dimensions as our own.

Through all these great areas nature has been prodigal of her resources, and by no means the least of them is that of fertile soil suited to settlement. It may be well to mention here the region known as the Peace River country, north of British Columbia drained by the Liard and Pelly rivers, said that there was an area of 60,000 square miles which might be very properly taken into account in estimating the crop-producing lands of Canada. Bearing this in mind we may well hesitate to set a limit to the agricultural possibilities of this province.

The foregoing facts combine to form a problem of development of the first magnitude, and they show the force of the contention advanced by the Colonist that transportation and colonization ought to proceed simultaneously. They show the difficulties involved in devising a policy which will produce the results which the people desire and expect. Everything that is to be done here must be done on a large scale. If we speak of a railway from the northeastern part of the Peace River lands to Victoria and Vancouver, we have to contemplate a line more than a thousand miles long, and for the most part through a difficult country. To build a railway to open the great region north of the Grand Trunk Pacific, we have to think of one many hundreds of miles in length. If we seek to induce a railway company to build "from the plains of Alberta to the ocean ports of Vancouver Island" we must present such attractions as will lead capitalists to invest millions of money in a country which, while stored with natural wealth, is as yet undeveloped. The proper development of British Columbia by railways is a greater problem even than the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Probably not very many people have looked at the matter in this light.

But if the work to be done is of great magnitude so also are the benefits which will accrue from it. If the work is well done, the magnitude of the task ought not to intimidate the government; the perspective benefits ought to inspire a courageous effort to attain the end, and to admit it to be the duty of the provincial government to approach this great question boldly. The people will stand by them. We submit also that the Dominion government may very properly be called upon to do its share, in promoting undertakings, which, when carried out, will mean more than any one can very well foresee to Canada as a whole.

THE BUTE INLET ROUTE

The attention of the Colonist has been directed to the fact that in its estimates of distance from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island points by way of Tete Juan Cache and Bute Inlet it is the shortest route. We are inclined to think that a man may be a pretty good observer of things as he sees them, and at the same time not be the best person to put at the head of a surveying party. It is proved that it is a mistake to accept as the last word in regard to any part of the province the statements of people who have made hurried trips across it. Professor Macoun, in giving evidence before a committee of the Senate some twenty years or so ago, cautioned his hearers against inferring too much from what an explorer said. We are inclined to think he said in effect, and necessarily our observations are confined to what we can see from the streams, or we seek the easiest route across country and can only speak of what lies along our path. He said also that the surest estimates of the agricultural capabilities of a country were those made from observations of the natives, who are the greatest of all the western pioneers in respect to the details of his observations. We are inclined to think that the greatest of all the western pioneers in respect to the details of his observations, exercised the same caution in reaching conclusions. He has told us that the available agricultural area of the province is large, and he laid down a great deal of ground, which he thought would be a useful guide, but he was very careful to say that these principles are likely to be modified by future conditions. During the last few years a great deal of official exploratory work has been done, and the facts brought out warrant the conclusion that the area in the province fit for settlement is very much greater than was at one time supposed. The development of the province may very safely be carried on upon the assumption that there is room within its borders for a large agricultural population.

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Mr. Oliver is reported to have said that the matter of Indian Reserves is all tied up in British Columbia because the provincial government insists that the Indians have only the use of the land. They why does not the minister untie them, by admitting the correctness of this claim? The Dominion government has no right to the Reserves after the Indians die out. Why then does it not accept the view of Mr. Oliver's reason looks like a mere excuse for inaction.

It is really lamentable that a newspaper claiming to be respectable can be guilty of deliberate untruth. Last night the Times stated that after the Grand Trunk Pacific is completed and the Canadian Pacific has built branch lines to the limits of its financial capacity, the work necessary to enable British Columbians to enter upon their magnificent heritage will be begun. We mention this matter simply that Colonist readers may know how persistently Mr. Templeman's paper misrepresents facts. There was not in yesterday's Colonist any such statement as the Times alleges or anything which by any construction of the English language could be so construed.

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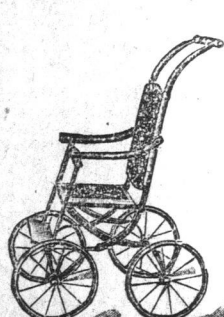
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Reclining Go-Cart



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TELEGRAPH

At Public Meeting
provements are
up

Port Essington, most important years in Essington day, and when a vexed question of a harbour to make the matter of dock stage of the water on a low tide have in the streets and docks, and freight, and scows. The plan of the Morrison dock, which is a back existing shipping, will have the present plan row & Fraser, and of their dock fifty feet have been present month by a have been a contract, since the contract. To obviate the something new. There will be a 9 feet of the present in deep water. This is to afford the escape without structures. The dock is 50 feet wharf. The piles used been secured, and give every satisfaction. The work will prove to Essington to the travelling north.

BILL MINER'S ARE NOW

Four of Desperate
Are Being Shad
minal

Vancouver, B.C. men, all pals of Bill Miner, in the penitentiary and under the eyes of have been here for a matter of years. The presence has been an escape of the des fellow convicts. The men now are Hamburgers, C. her says Chas. mentioned twine, the police in British Columbia, to two next level of penitentiary. The hanging around time.

Further investigation which reached the Monday afternoon stopped for dinner day at the house. Mission Junction, stay in the C. force bent sent morning. The penitentiary guard Westminister in up-river with all. Another party criminals in the ward's Slough on Westminister. It is possible Miner's room at Central, volvier was stolen tion-house, and

ALL NOW EM OF GI

Significant Cha
Working for the
way

Vancouver, B.C. poyees of the V. Vancouver, N. points along the trees (are now from the Great V. W. & Y. pa and in its place Hill.

Just what the means, or whether is not quite clear that for a long department of has been in char them, and its a rected from the Dawson. Now, some time has been being to outw under the contro and half under them. The player is directly ials of the latter

BOUGHT PHO

Consolidated Co
to its

Toronto, Aug. 1 has just been Consolidated M company of C property, mining the Phoenix Mines, Ltd., local why included War Eagle, Red Fraction, Pine Fair, Missing L stone company as stone. No mentioning operati of men are at tles.

Child Gleichen, Alta been received Mr. and Mrs. of Gleichen, w in a tub of w rshaw.