

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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A DRY DOCK AND STEEL SHIPS

The resolution passed by the Board of Trade yesterday in regard to the construction of a dry dock at Esquimalt capable of accommodating a vessel of the largest kind and favoring the adoption by the Dominion government of a policy that will promote the construction of steel ships in Canada will, we think, commend itself to the public as pertinent to the question of naval defence. At the same time we are not only unable to give any assistance to the Mother Country to defend our coasts against an enemy, but so far as this the steel ships are concerned, we are not in a position to provide facilities for the repair of the larger vessels of the Royal Navy. They should unfortunately be damaged while defending us. This is surely not as it ought to be. If we had any guarantee that there never will be a naval war on the waters of the North Pacific ocean in which the vessels of Britain will be engaged, it might be justifiable for us to allow the present condition of things to continue, but there is not, and in the very nature of things there cannot be any guarantee of such a thing. The Victoria Board of Trade has already placed itself on record as to the need of such a dry dock as is referred to in the resolutions passed yesterday, but the necessity of it has been greatly emphasized by recent developments in naval matters.

Coupled with the reference to a dry dock is one suggesting that a policy should be adopted which will stimulate the construction of steel ships. It seems as if this ought to form an essential part of the national policy of the Dominion. We have the iron in the country, and we ought to put ourselves in a position to convert that iron into steel ships. This phase of the resolution is not local, but is of general application. At the present time the construction of steel ships in Canada is not profitable owing to the greater cost attending the work here. The government may be able to devise a method by which this disadvantage may be overcome. In his speech in the House of Commons Mr. Foster laid stress upon the desirability of inaugurating the time when Canada could build its own steel ships, and therefore be able in case of necessity to supply itself with ships of war. Great Britain in this respect, it has been pointed out by others, more competent to speak upon this point than Mr. Foster, that the great weakness of the Empire is that it has not the facilities for building Dreadnoughts rapidly enough to keep up with the two-power standard. In the course of his observations in the debate referred to, Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed his strong opposition to the House of Commons. A tolerably intimate knowledge of the industrial features of politics in the eastern province disposes us to suspend judgment as to the degree of personal guilt involved in any disclosures that have recently been made. No man, even though he is in public life, is to be held responsible for a disclosure of an offence until his guilt has been established; but giving Mr. Pugsley the benefit of every reasonable doubt, what has transpired at Ottawa during the past day or two makes it only clear that the Colonist was right in saying that he should have been relieved of office until he had demonstrated the falsity of the prima facie case made out against him. It is a very poor conception of the principles of honesty which would lead any one to construe resignation under such circumstances as tantamount to an admission of guilt. If Mr. Pugsley is guilty of wrong, as every man having any pride in his country must have been, his plain duty, when the report of the Commissioners was made public, was to deliver his seals of office to the Prime Minister and meet his accusers face to face. If he had done this and had established his innocence, he would not only have founded his political enemies, but he would have gained a place in the esteem of the people of Canada such as few men have ever attained. He would also have done much to elevate the whole tone of Canadian public life. Instead of doing this he retains his place in the cabinet; he sits on the government benches; he claims to enjoy the confidence of the Governor-General and the people of Canada; and yet the report on the Royal Commission stands against him with all its hideous implications, and he seems to feel content with saying that it is not borne out by the evidence, that judgment must be suspended until the evidence has been examined. Meanwhile public sentiment has been severely shocked, and the faith of the people in the integrity of their public men has been greatly weakened. A gentleman in Mr. Pugsley's position cannot afford to take a course which might be justifiable in the case of a private individual. The latter may regard his duty to himself as coming first, but public man's first duty is to the people, whose servant he is. The country ought to have been relieved of the unsavory feeling over the Mayes contract, and all that creditable business. We have already said in regard to this special matter that the evidence against Mr. Pugsley was, to say the least, not conclusive, and we have declined to condemn him upon it. But surely it is a most un-

MR. A. J. DAWSON

The members of the Canadian club of this city will be very glad to hear Mr. A. J. Dawson on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to this city. Mr. Dawson, as the founder and editor of the Standard, of Empire, is, in our opinion, one of the foremost of our countrymen for the cause of Imperial solidarity. His imperialism is not of the vociferous kind, but seeks by making the people of the various parts of the Empire familiar with each other's doings, ideas and ambitions to begot a community of interest. He has had opportunities of learning the point of view of Britons who live beyond the sea, and he knows that in their own way, the people of the outlying dominions are working out the imperial problems. A gentleman of strong opinions, he is wise enough not to seek to impose those opinions upon others, and his broad sympathies enable him to realize that those who may not see eye-to-eye with him on matters of policy may be equally sincere and equally patriotic in their efforts to make the British Empire permanent. The Standard of Empire is notably free from imperial quackery.

DECLINING SOCIALISM

Yesterday the Colonist had an article reprinted from a contemporary in England. This is really not a cause for surprise. One set of writers attributes its decline to a revival of the military spirit and a recognition of the fact that the aims of Socialism, if carried into effect, would leave the country helpless against its enemies. Doubtless also the British Socialists have learned something from the example of their German brothers. In Germany, the Socialists interpose no obstacles to the thorough arming of the nation for the purposes of offence; naturally British Socialists can, under such circumstances, hardly be expected to refuse to assist in arming their own country for purposes of defence. Another reason for the decline of Socialism is doubtless to be found in the realization that many of its doctrines cannot be put into practical operation. We have always been inclined to regard the Socialists with a great deal of respect, for though we have been unable to agree with them in many things, we have always recognized that they were among the most part men who thought. It has indeed, seemed to us that they thought too much in one groove, that they sought to reach the unattainable, that they were blind to the teachings of history, that they were thinking men it appears as if it was inevitable that sooner or later they would see that the best things are to be accomplished by reforms, and not by revolutions. There are, however, not at all surprised to learn that in England, where there is absolute liberty of discussion, Socialism is growing weaker. We believe the cause of true reform will be greatly strengthened by the fact that the Socialists are not so much as they were. Socialists in the country have allied themselves with the Socialist movement. It will be a distinct gain to have these men co-operate in bringing about social and industrial reforms in a spirit of conciliation rather than in one of antagonism to those who do not fully share their views.

VERY REGRETTABLE

It is a matter of very great regret that the scandal of New Brunswick politics should be transferred to the House of Commons. A tolerably intimate knowledge of the industrial features of politics in the eastern province disposes us to suspend judgment as to the degree of personal guilt involved in any disclosures that have recently been made. No man, even though he is in public life, is to be held responsible for a disclosure of an offence until his guilt has been established; but giving Mr. Pugsley the benefit of every reasonable doubt, what has transpired at Ottawa during the past day or two makes it only clear that the Colonist was right in saying that he should have been relieved of office until he had demonstrated the falsity of the prima facie case made out against him. It is a very poor conception of the principles of honesty which would lead any one to construe resignation under such circumstances as tantamount to an admission of guilt. If Mr. Pugsley is guilty of wrong, as every man having any pride in his country must have been, his plain duty, when the report of the Commissioners was made public, was to deliver his seals of office to the Prime Minister and meet his accusers face to face. If he had done this and had established his innocence, he would not only have founded his political enemies, but he would have gained a place in the esteem of the people of Canada such as few men have ever attained. He would also have done much to elevate the whole tone of Canadian public life. Instead of doing this he retains his place in the cabinet; he sits on the government benches; he claims to enjoy the confidence of the Governor-General and the people of Canada; and yet the report on the Royal Commission stands against him with all its hideous implications, and he seems to feel content with saying that it is not borne out by the evidence, that judgment must be suspended until the evidence has been examined. Meanwhile public sentiment has been severely shocked, and the faith of the people in the integrity of their public men has been greatly weakened. A gentleman in Mr. Pugsley's position cannot afford to take a course which might be justifiable in the case of a private individual. The latter may regard his duty to himself as coming first, but public man's first duty is to the people, whose servant he is. The country ought to have been relieved of the unsavory feeling over the Mayes contract, and all that creditable business. We have already said in regard to this special matter that the evidence against Mr. Pugsley was, to say the least, not conclusive, and we have declined to condemn him upon it. But surely it is a most un-

THE MILITIA

The fact that there are only some three hundred men in the active militia in Victoria is not very creditable to the city. We do not suggest for a moment that the smallness of the number is to be regarded as indicating any laxity in the patriotism of the young men of the city, and we are very slow to believe, as some people think, it is due in any way to the opposition of the employers of labor. It is only an illustration of the casual way in which many important matters are regarded in this city. If there were an enemy in the field, a long line of men would be waiting on a hour's notice to take the field against him. There is plenty of patriotism among the young men, plenty of courage, plenty of everything necessary to make a strong local militia establishment, except the one essential, namely a disposition to take the trouble to join the corps. Really there ought to be a change. Of late years there has grown up an idea that young men ought not to be trained to fight for their country, and we have heard of parents who have objected to the entry of their sons into the active militia because they feared that in the event of hostilities the young men would be called upon to serve. We profess to know something about the point of view of young Canada, and it teaches us that, if there was need for the young men to come to the defence of their country, nothing would keep them back. The father or mother, who does not wish his or her son to become a trained militiaman, let him remain at home, day by day, and take the field, ought to realize that thereby they are sentencing him to take the field as an untrained man, in such an event, for take the field he would. We are unable to understand why any employer of labor ought to object to his employees serving in the militia, especially as the arrangements which prevail in this city, at least, are such as call for no interference with business hours. Even if there were an occasional slight interference one would suppose that the patriotism of employers would be equal to such a slight strain upon it. Canadians have had so long a period of peace that they have come to look upon the possibility of war as utterly out of the question, and hence to regard time and money spent on military training as so much water. There may be an awakening some day.

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seemly thing that on the floor of parliament there should be fierce debates upon the personal honesty of ministers of the Crown, and that charges of the falsification of affidavits should be made as though such things were a part of the normal politics of Canada. It is with no little surprise that we contemplate the course which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has chosen to follow. He has been shown to be as free from any suspicion of personal corruption, and he cannot deny that, until Mr. Pugsley's answer to the report of the Commission has been made public and his position cannot be regarded as free from any suspicion of wrongdoing on his part, the Minister of Public Works cannot be regarded as innocent. It seems to us that he has unnecessarily delayed taking the people of Canada into his confidence on the subject. If he knows anything more than the public knows, he should tell the public what it is; if he does not know any more, it is difficult to understand how he can justify to himself the retention of Mr. Pugsley as a member of the Cabinet. If it shall appear in the end that the report does not do Mr. Pugsley an injustice and that he is really open to the animadversions made upon his course, it will be impossible for the Prime Minister to offer any reasonable excuse for permitting him to sit in the councils of the country after the publication of the report. If on the other hand Mr. Pugsley shall establish that the report is a grave injustice to him, delivered without being done by his temporary withdrawal from the ministry. We repeat that before he administers his office another day, the Minister of Public Works should demonstrate to the satisfaction of all reasonable men that he is entitled to their confidence.

BRITISH DIPLOMACY

Just at this particular time Mr. Justice Longley's speech on British diplomacy in its relation to Canada is good reading. It is too long for reproduction in the Colonist today, but we may mention that the learned judge contends that Canada has never suffered at the hands of British diplomacy, and he cites especially the Ashburton Treaty, the Oregon Treaty and the Alaskan Treaty. Perhaps award would be better word to use in this connection than treaty, for it is with the findings of the several tribunals of which he speaks. The address was given in the Canadian Club of Halifax, which, by the way, is not adverse to hearing local people on the subject of public affairs, and the thanks were moved by Mr. Justice Russell, who said that if it had not been for British diplomacy, the British navy and the British empire would have no Pacific seaboard. When, years ago, the cry "forty-four, forty or fight" went up in the United States, British diplomacy was the only thing that kept it from being a reality. It is worth keeping in mind these days.

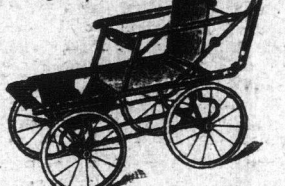
It is of special interest to the people of British Columbia to know that in the opinion of Mr. Justice Longley Lord Alverstone's decision in the Alaskan boundary case was "reasonable and fair." He repudiates as absurd the suggestion that His Lordship was influenced by any counsel given by the British government, and he finds a solution of the case which would be acceptable to the United States. He examines the facts of the case in great length, and says that he himself would have reached the same conclusion from the facts as presented. Mr. Justice Longley thinks the Oregon Treaty was wholly reasonable. It is worthy of mention that many people in the United States were quite as confident that the interests of that country were sacrificed by that treaty as any resident of British Columbia was. Right in saying that the treaty was a bargain, whether or not a better bargain, more favorable to Canada, or rather to British Columbia, made out against him. It might not have been secured by greater pressure, but we are very sure that a man who would make such a bargain would not be a man to be trusted. We shall not go into the Ashburton treaty, whereby the boundaries of New Brunswick, Quebec and the State of Maine were settled. We think that on the whole Mr. Justice Longley has made out an excellent case, and while errors of judgment may have been made and perhaps decisions were reached in some cases without full appreciation of their effect, we think he demonstrates clearly that British diplomacy has never sacrificed Canadian interests, but has always endeavored to protect them.

Dr. Bernard Hollander writes to the Westminster Gazette to say that the brain grows as long as it is actively exercised. This removes the reproach attaching to having "the big head," unless the bigness has been superinduced by indulgence in things which are not always conducive to mental activity, at least in the later stages of their employment.

A small wag, that if it should rain today half the people in town would tell you, it rains in all the time. Somewhere it is written that a man looks at his face in the glass and forthwith forgets what manner of man he saw, and so with the weather. The prolonged cold winds and dry weather which we are experiencing at the time form an unusual combination. It is so long since we have had a good three days' southeast rain that we have almost forgotten what it is like. And yet we are willing to make never remember from one month to another what it has been like, and as a consequence it is always the coldest, the windiest, the wettest or the driest, as the case may be, according as it is cold, windy, wet or dry.

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PAUL IN R

In a certain sense of the word the Christian world. The view of people call themselves Protestants of this. Hence everything relation of Christianity into Rome who wish to know about the he There is no record, and, as for tradition of any preaching of before Paul arrived there in A posed. The date of the Crucifixion to A. D. 33, and it is alone none of those who had embraced in the intervening twenty-three capital of the Empire. There Rome during these years, and w city's first years was to present of the Jewish community and he expected a very hearty reception, for he was told that he had that no one had written anything none of the newcomers had said to him; but they added that the were everywhere spoken again which is taken from the Acts of how small a part Christianity of the Jewish people, or the pu the first quarter of a century o we read Paul's account of his o those years, he seems to have what prominent role; but we te be an authoritative record of h in the centre of the empire knew him, and that the Christian sect no credit at all. The Roman favorably disposed to Paul after expound his doctrines, although cepted his teachings; but he w clarification to them that he woul the Gentiles who would recel success was very limited. Alth Rome as a prisoner, he seem with respect, for we are told th hired house for the next two ye liberty to teach all who came to believe that he made man At this time the utmost religio prevailed in Rome. There to have been any state religion Mithras, which was a philosoph worship, although marked by and barbarous orgies, was able of them all. By the way tioned that December 25th, was day of Mithras, and therefore for Christmas was probabl heathen custom for the purpose liberty in relation to matters m for the Jews to live in Rome a to their own faith, but it made Paul, who, though ostensibly have been looked upon by the a of no particular consequence. Romans towards the Jews was mingled with contempt, and th garded with even less favor. It is, if we give a little, the only to imagine that there is an elements of this city a factio despite and condemn as trouble of the position which the ear Rome. Hence the Gentiles all manner of evil things, and persecuted, it was not because but because they were regard the community. The faithfuln made better love to the master than the Roman people that they were not influenced any hatred of Christianity as a tions under Nero, when tradit Peter both perished were not in the strict sense of the term, an attempt on the part of the them responsible for the burn can readily see that these men have come to hate the Chris always arrogant in the asserti in the sight of God, and in the gods and systems of religion, equally devoted to the gods. In the opinion of the immediate who was to be a great temp the circumstances Christianity all in Rome is a tribute to its as well as to the wisdom an Paul.

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What became of Paul at the in which he "lived in his own ter of speculation. There see lie that he visited Greece a trning again to Rome, was the Gospel in Spain. There is the class of people among wh his converts, although he un profoud impression upon m educated members of the m son tomb prelodgments was preconceived idea of the com haps if we say that Christi Rome almost wholly on its ow It was in any sense the full we shall not be far astray. T tively short time the new reli many scholars of eminence. However, that the new faith of Nero. We quote from T about the persecution of the people towards Christianity. Emperor desired to divert fro that he had destroyed the co ceives and protects whatever atrocious. The confessions o discovered a great multitu and they were all convicted, of setting fire to the city as a kind. They died in torment, embittered by their own cert scribing the awful horrors of public feeling was at length a cause of sympathy for the u of fear that the cruelty of others beside themselves. Yet th fluent wholly to stay the p later resumed, and assumed n acter. It seems probable that persecutions has been exagger the number of martyrs was reference seems to be to the end of Nero's persecutio This brief and necessarily of the circumstances under v the Christian Church were lea ing evidence of the quality must have been something in mere belief that Christ was