The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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TWO VIEWS OF SOCIALISM.

We printed on Wednesday an article on Socialism from the pen of Count Leo Tolstoy, a social reformer. We publish another this morning from the capitalistic point of view. Both are extremely interesting.

The views of the great Russian writer are the more interesting, from the position he occupies in the literary world and in the field of sociology. It is very difficult to give definiteness to his theories on society. They might be described as Christian Nihilism, if we could justify such a classification. Count Tolstoy's later mental attitude is the result of development in an environment of conditions which, living as we do in an atmosphere of political and social liberty, we can scarcely comprehend. His theories, if carried into effect, would be destructive of most of our recognized institutions—kingly power, state, church, judiciary, jury, army, even marriage; and at the same time his general tendency is peace and love towards his fellow man—even to the extreme of non-resistance. He is almost a literalist in regard to the teachings of the New Testament, though his gospel is largely a reconstruction of what we commonly understand as the doctrines of Our Saviour. He idealizes labor—manual, everyday labor—as the true condition of every man, and has reduced his own standards to the most severe form of the simple life—to the simplicity and rigor of the peasant. In many, many ways he, therefore, represents the extreme of socialistic views.

Keenly analytical and profound in his diagnosis of the social situation, he has perceived some of the fallacies which lie at the bottom of the recognized socialistic propaganda. State socialism is one of the most beautiful of theories. Bellamy in his "Looking Backward" did much to popularize it among those who only theorize superficially on such subjects, and to give a certain definiteness in the minds of those who were seeking a favorable practical solution of the question. He presents a very pretty picture of the human race as a happy family, and is scarcely less logical than Henry George himself. We are all looking forward for a millenium for the world at some stage of its history. We all have ideals, and we all dream dreams. Bellamy dreamed a beautiful dream, and very largely shaped the ideals of popular socialism of the day. Count Tolstoy makes this statement, which seems to express pretty clearly present aims:

"The socialistic idea is that the workers, having become masters of all the means of production, are to obtain all the comforts and pleasures now possessed by well-to-do people. They will all be well clothed and housed and well nourished and will all walk on electrically-lighted asphalted streets, and frequent concerts and theatres and read papers and books and ride in automobiles, etc."

Commenting upon the premises which he has established, Count Tolstoy proceeds calmly but kindly to dissect the programme. Assuming that the production and attainment of all these are possible, the question arises as to who is to decide how the production is to be apportioned, how long each man and woman is to work, how much of each article is required, and what articles are to be considered necessary and what unnecessary. It must be kept in mind that in a state of socialism the state controls the production and consequently regulates it to the minutest detail, and it must also be remembered that the considerations of supply and demand, such as we have it in a competitive system of affairs, are entirely eliminated. Somebody must pick and choose for the entire community.

In any civilized community anywhere in the world there is a variety of tastes. Some are fonder of clothes than others, some like bright and spectacular goods for wear, and some like wearing material which is quiet and subdued in colors, and so on. Some believe in simplicity of attire and living. Others, like the peacock, love to sport gay feathers. These are instincts of the human breast, just as some persons love to sing and others to paint, and others to hunt for bugs and butterflies, and others to cultivate a garden. Where there is no system of natural supply for the demands created by human taste and occupation, as under conditions of free competition, a line must be drawn somewhere in order to determine what are things which the state should undertake to produce and in what quantities. Consequently, we can quite understand that in the realm of state socialism the principal issues of politics would be the articles that should be worn and used and consumed—whether knickerbockers, or cigarette cases, or automobiles, or shirt waists, or tobacco, or whiskey, or any other commodity should be supplied by the state.

Some people do not believe in tea or coffee or stimulants of any kind. A great many others do. Therefore, it would depend very largely whether the stimulant or anti-stimulant party were in power as to whether these things would be produced or not. So we can readily understand that the vital issues of "wants" and "don't wants" would extend all the way down the line into the smallest affairs of living. Once begin to discriminate and there is no end to it. Every man in the community has the right to express his likes and his dislikes, and if there are enough of "dislikes" it means, under a system of representative government by the majority, that the things which the minority likes must go. How are the minority to be made to participate in the production of the articles which they think harmful, is the question which Count Tolstoy asks.

"And then comes another question insoluble with free workmen—which men are to do which work? Evidently all will prefer hay-making or drawing to stoking, or cesspool-cleaning. How, in approaching the work, are people to be induced to agree?"

No statistics, he states truly, can answer these questions. How are we to divide labor up in such a way that all the requirements of society are satisfied? Must there not be an arbitrary and oppressive use of power in order to make the man, who might prefer blacksmithing, dig ditches? At the present time the law of necessity compels a man to do something to provide himself with a living. If he cannot find employment in his own aptitude, he must try the next best thing; but, speaking in a general way, he has the opportunity to find his own niche. Natural demand for production and special skill in their production regulate employment. With a state regulated production, everything is arbitrary. A man can wear or eat or use only what the state decides to produce. Either some men will be obliged to be engaged in employment that is more distasteful and more laborious than others, which destroys the equality and "equal opportunities" of the system, or otherwise everybody will be obliged to do all kinds of work in turn. Obviously, such a division of labor would tend to minimize the efficiency of work. No man can do all things well. The majority of people can do only one thing well. Ergo, under a system of working by turn, all things would be done badly, and many things would cease to be done at all.

Tolstoy observes:

"Robertus says that communal division of labor united mankind. That is true, but it is only free division, such as people voluntarily adopt.

"If people decide to make a road and one digs, another brings stones, a third breaks them, etc., that sort of division of work united the people.

"But if, independently of the wishes and sometimes against the wishes of the workers, a military railroad is built, or an Eifel tower, and one man is compelled to obtain iron, another to dig coal, a third to make castings, a fourth to cut down trees and a fifth to saw them up, without even having the least idea what the things they are making are wanted for, then such division of labor not only does not unite men, it divides them.

"To suppose that with communalized means of production there will be such an abundance of things as is now produced by compulsory division of labor is like supposing that after the emancipation of serfs the domestic orchestras and the theatres, the home-made carpets and laces and the elaborate gardens, which depend on serf labor, would continue to exist as before. So that the supposition that when the socialist idea is realized everyone will be free and will at the same time have at his disposal everything that is now being made use of by the well-to-do involves an obvious self-contradiction."

Tolstoy's view of the case is not the capitalist's view. His is the philosopher's. One capitalist's view is referred to elsewhere in an article taken from the Literary Digest. In this a Mr. Parry, who is president of the Association of Manufacturers of the United States, in the guise of the novelist, a la Jules Verne or Bellamy, imagines a condition in which the socialist idea has been fully developed and prevails to the exclusion of all other economic ideas. To his mind it means a condition of absolute uniformity and a form of slavery that is detestable. All individualism is necessarily repressed. There can be no enthusiasm or idealizing on the part of the person apart from the community. Every man becomes a fixed cog in a wheel. He is not even known by a name, but by a number. He is completely merged into the body politic. All energy, ambition and ability of a special form are discouraged and penalized. All form of reward is eliminated. Charity, sympathy, self-sacrifice are gone. The lights and shadows of life do not exist. It is all shadow or all burning sun. The pains and sorrows and hopes and elations which give spice to life are entirely absent. Our possessions, our sensations, our pleasures, our prizes are only enjoyable by contrast. Our "downs" make the "ups" more agreeable; the dark shadows make the sunlight the more glorious; our pains make our pleasures the more delightful; our ill-health causes our good health to be the more appreciated; if there were no positive bad there could be no positive good; if there were no ugliness there could be no beauty; if there were no sinners there would be no saints. As human beings we can only conceive of things relatively. This is true of dimension, color and every other attribute of substance. Place a tall man and a short man side by side and you make the tall man look taller and the small man look smaller than he really is, or as you conceive of him by himself.

So if you take out of the world the inequalities, the contrasts, the tragedy, the struggle for existence and all the rest we complain of, you take away much that makes life worth living. A dead, uniform, monotonous existence, without ups or downs, loves or hates, dark hours and joyous ones would be very hell itself. So the author of "The Scarlet Empire," in the book in which Mr. Parry has developed his ideas about Socialism, regards a socialistic millenium as another name for "cursed servitude," against which the citizens would rebel as intolerable, or sink into a condition of lethargy and decay similar to what we find prevailing among some savage nations of a low type.

ASSISTING SAN FRANCISCO SUFFERERS.

In another column is given the correspondence which has passed between the provincial authorities and the governor of California with respect to the contribution made by the government of British Columbia to the San Francisco relief fund. Some fault has been found because the government did not buy provisions locally and ship them to San Francisco along with the other supplies that went from this city, in order that the money might have been distributed among the merchants at home. In ordinary circumstances this criticism might have been well founded. In fact, if the government had desired to make political capital out of the circumstances which occasioned the contribution in question, they would have followed the course that has been suggested.

We are led to understand that the question of supplies was considered, but in view of the fact that aid was urgent and that at least a week would elapse before provisions could reach the stricken city, it was decided to make the contribution immediately available, as the cry which came from San Francisco through the governor of California and the mayor was for means for immediate relief. The government acted promptly and sent the money as soon as the necessary special warrant could be obtained. He who gives quickly gives twice, we are told, and we feel certain that the money received at the moment it was, was of much greater service to the sufferers than had its equivalent in supplies arrived a week later, when the first acute distress occasioned by the disaster had been relieved.

That the money so sent was greatly appreciated and in the spirit in which it was sent is made fully evident from the reply of Governor Pardee in acknowledging the donation. Even if the government or any other body of men in an official capacity should have made a mistake on an occasion of the kind, when only generous impulses inspired the action, carping criticism reflects no credit upon those who indulge in it. The thought of the moment was how best and quickest to relieve the needs of those who were suffering, and with that end in view and in that spirit the money was sent. The government, in our opinion, scored heavily in the fact that there was neither attempt to make political capital out of the gift, which might easily have been the case, nor graft in the dispensation of their beneficences. In the opinion of most persons, it will be considered a miserable piece of cavilling to take exception to the way in which the contribution was made.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TRADING COMPANY.

There has never been in the political history of Canada a more barefaced attempt to rob the public treasury under the guise of an official contract than that which has been revealed in connection with the modus operandi of the North Atlantic Trading company. It confirms the faith that under Sifton all forms of political iniquity were possible. There is nothing which his hand has touched in affairs which does not reek with the reputation which has administration of the department of the interior has established. The Yukon was the great field of exploitation for himself and his friends; but everywhere, as far as the influence of his department reached on two continents, are the traces of these political marauders. Sifton was frequently referred to with pride by his friends as the young Napoleon of the West. The little Emperor, relatively speaking, was not more successful or more unscrupulous than this modern imitator. The latter has been even more successful, because he has apparently escaped and his whereabouts are unknown, while the greater Napoleon was caught and placed in exile.

Outside of his department it is not known that the late minister of the interior either toiled or spun. He was engaged in no industry, and carried on no business by which to make money, and yet it is a matter of common knowledge that he has amassed a fortune, and now is in a position to be regardless of the fact of whether school keeps or not. A poor man to start with, with a departmental salary of $7,000 a year and certain dignity to maintain, does not in the ordinary course of events become a millionaire within nine years of office. A very second rate schoolboy can put two and two together and form his conclusions. We need not speculate as to what his conclusions would be.

But to come to the North Atlantic Trading company. It had apparently, in an informal way, been carrying on operations for two years, but was only registered as an incorporated body within the last twelve months. When the contract was made, whereby the stockholders were to obtain this $5 a head for immigrants coming to Canada, we do not know, but there evidently had been a lot of arrears accumulating which were liquidated by one payment from the Dominion treasury of nearly $200,000. We are informed that the company was obligated under its contract to spend $15,000 a year for advertising, but who checked up this amount and certified to its correctness, or how the government arrived at proof of the immigrants coming into Canada as the result of that advertising, or who certified to the accuracy of the count, we are left in the dark. Nobody examined on these points at Ottawa seems to know anything about the details. It is not known who the chief beneficiaries of the $200,000 were.

Mr. J. A. Smart, Mr. Sifton's deputy and appointee, who suddenly resigned a lucrative appointment in the department to take charge of the business of the company in Canada, appears to have destroyed the books, and there is, therefore, no record of the company's business. If the business of the company has been a legitimate one we do not know what his associates in this concern will say as to his conduct. If its affairs are transacted as ordinary business concerns conduct business he would be liable for serious action in the courts, if not for criminal prosecution. One does not know what to think about such procedure. It is simply inconceivable.

Mr. Sifton, under whose authority the contract was made, is conveniently absent on a European tour or some other tour, probably on a quiet yachting trip in the Mediterranean, contemplating his triumphs as a statesman and a Napoleon of the West. There is talk of summoning Mr. Preston, from the London immigration office, to shed light on the transaction. He has been heard of before in Canadian politics, and if he should obey we may look for an interesting time at Ottawa. One thing is certain: Mr. Preston will not be made a scapegoat for Mr. Sifton or any person else, and if his fat is in the fire the fat of the entire crew will simmer with his. He will not sacrifice himself for others. He has no nice scruples or principles of self-abnegation.

British Columbia is no longer without official arms. A warrant assigning arms to the province has been signed by the King and bears date March 31st, 1906. Although the device commonly in use was adopted by the government it has never received Imperial sanction, and, therefore, had not been recognized officially outside of the province. Hereafter it will appear among the insignia of the provinces whenever used collectively.

THE RAILWAY SITUATION.

There is a rational optimism and there is the kind of hope having for its basis what is admirably designated "hot air," which courts inflation and temporary activity without seeing farther ahead than the immediate temporary causes which produce them. The Colonist, so far as its influence goes, has endeavored to found optimism upon that broad and enduring basis, which produces success and prosperity justified by actual results. Railway expansion, industry of various kinds, residential development, the attraction of tourists, the creation of new industries like smelting, iron and steel and paper manufacture, the creation of woolen mills, shipbuilding—all of these are things, which, as they develop, according to the conditions which are favorable to their growth are what make a city great and prosperous. We can never make a city by mere talk, any more than we can lift ourselves over a house by our boot straps. We must work for specific things on definite and specific lines. No prosperity is real or lasting that has not a solid payroll, or a large actual production of wealth, behind it. The Northwest is not filling up today because of the advertising policy of the Dominion Government, but because after years of toil the people are growing wheat in great quantities and demonstrating that there are profitable means of making a living in that country. The most effective advertising which has been done by the Dominion Government or the C. P. R. or the Manitoba government is in directing attention to the actual results of farming operations. Others rush in as a consequence to share the prospects, while there is land yet to be had. People are coming to British Columbia today, looking for farm land because we have demonstrated that we can grow fruit and grow it successfully.

The Colonist believes thoroughly in the principle that it is useless to advertise what it is possible to do, unless we ourselves show that it can be done. If that be regarded as pessimism it is the pessimism by which we stand all the time.

These remarks are suggested by the fact that a number of persons have throughout the day commented favorably upon the article of yesterday with reference to making Victoria the terminus of a transcontinental railway, by the spanning of Seymour Narrows, either by a ferry at first or a bridge built by and controlled by the Dominion government as a highway for all railways that would seek an entrance to the Island from the Mainland. It is the one thing to which the energies of the citizens of both Victoria and the Island of Vancouver should bend their energies. The preliminary step is to secure a survey of the locality where a bridge should be built or a ferry should operate, and to obtain a careful estimate of the cost of construction and operation. After having secured the necessary data upon which to proceed, then there should be persistent effort to bring about the accomplishment of the object in view.

More than anything else the making of Victoria depends upon its being the terminus of one or two transcontinental railways and while they are great there are no insuperable difficulties in the way. We have simply to study the map to convince us that the obstacle of connection with the Mainland removed, we have the most advantageous position on the entire Pacific Coast, all things considered. That fact should not create jealousy, because there are room for a number of large cities on the coast of British Columbia, and our ambition should be simply to stand well, if not head, on the list.

THE NEWS-GATHERERS.

Now that the San Francisco danger is about over and the work of reorganization is progressing favorably, a meed of praise is due to the Associated Press and their agents in this country, the C. P. R. Telegraph company. There never was a better service rendered under more trying circumstances. Readers who picked up their paper in the morning or in the afternoon, to eagerly scan the latest news of the disaster, scarcely realized at what cost of money, strenuous effort and risk of life it involved to secure the news that was printed. There are no more enterprising, courageous or hard-working men in the world than the members of the Associated Press staff. They realize that their first, only and immediate duty is to the public. They are an army of specialists trained in news-gathering. They represent one of the most complete systems of organization and discipline in the world. We do not believe that any picked army corps in existence is equal to them—alert, quick, strenuous, fearless, resourceful, ever ready for any emergency.

We all know the story of Stanley, who was sent for by the managing editor of the New York Herald and asked how soon he could be ready to go into the heart of Darkest Africa and find Livingstone, and how he promptly answered, "Within an hour, sir." We also read of the laconic despatch sent by the editor of a leading newspaper in the United States last year to a member of his staff in Washington to go and find the North Pole. As in Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," it is not to ask the reason why, but to do and die. These are the class of men from whom the Associated Press draw their forces. If it be necessary to climb Mount Vesuvius in the throws of eruption and interview the director of the observatory, there is nothing for it but to do it. If a man is wanted to "find Garcia," he is forthcoming. In the field of battle, in the burning, earthquake-shaken city, in the raging flood, in the storm-swept area, wherever he is wanted to do all sort of impossible things, there he is found; and as a tribute to the ability of men who are imbued with the proper spirit to do things, he generally succeeds.

While San Francisco was crackling with flames and certain doom impending over the city, the Associated Press agents had organized their forces and kept sending out messages until driven out by the fire and falling buildings. They then shifted their scene of operations to Oakland, to which levies of correspondents went to and fro with their redhot messages and the world was kept informed of the progress of the disaster. It was a magnificent service, which only newspaper people can fully appreciate, because they alone know the almost insuperable difficulties to overcome. But while the men who supplied the "copy" were working wonders, so also were the staff of telegraph operators, and the mechanical members of the telegraph service. Their duties were neither less arduous nor less intelligently performed. Every distributing office in San Francisco, north, south, east and west, was taxed to the uttermost of its resources. The getting of the news to the outside world, which was waiting breathlessly for it, depended upon them and they, as were as the correspondents, worked for twenty-four, thirty-six, and even as long as forty-eight hours at a stretch, hard, unremitting, driving work every minute of the time. Few persons realize just how much extra work it imposed on the staffs of the two telegraph offices in this city, and the Colonist is in a position to appreciate their successful endeavors to meet the situation cheerfully and adequately. It wishes, therefore, in this connection to pay a well-deserved tribute to the work done by all the agents in the work of distributing the news.

In comparing the Associated Press staff with a well-organized army corps, with, to some extent, the same character of discipline, there is this difference to be observed: While discipline is strict, the correspondent is left largely to his own resources as to how he shall carry out the allotted task. The service allows full play for his own initiative, and his success or failure depends upon how he exercises the discretion allowed him in an emergency. He is, therefore, not only a private fighting in the ranks, but he is a general in command of his own movements. The responsibility for results are upon his own shoulders. Knowing that his reputation is made by himself and not by his superior officer, he does and dares great feats. Could we train an army corps on the same lines it would be invincible. The public is too apt to blame the Associated Press for many things the nature of which they do not understand. As a rule, the reports given out are reliable and always the quickest possible to obtain. There is much in the press despatches for which the Associated Press is really not responsible, but in any event when news has to be collected and reeled off at lightning speed there is not time to verify details. It is given for what it is worth upon the moment, but in the end you may depend upon getting the full and true story.

The Montreal Gazette: The Conservatives in the Senate have done well in selecting Mr. Lougheed as their leader, in succession to the retired veteran, Sir Mackenzie Bowell. He is in the prime of middle age, capable, energetic and respected. Political divisions are not always as much thought of in the Senate as in the House of Commons, and measures are judged more on their merits than on their probable vote-getting efforts. There is much, however, that an Opposition leader can do, both for legislation and his party; and this it can be expected Mr. Lougheed will do, and do effectively.

The North Atlantic Trading company is developing into a very pretty scandal. Hon. Clifford Sifton, who is responsible for the contract with that mysterious aggregation of capitalists, is conveniently absent in Europe or elsewhere.

A proper query is, if Mr. J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition, went into heroics over the Kaien Island deal, what would he do if he were in the House of Commons, Ottawa, at the present time? Would he be prepared to denounce the members of the North Atlantic Trading company as a "band of adventurers," or would he follow the example of Duncan Ross and become their defender?

In a news item respecting the Coldstream ranche yesterday morning, which, we may say, came originally from the London Financier, there is evidently a mistake or a confusion of facts. It might be inferred from the item in question that the Aberdeen estate, which has now been converted into an incorporated company, contained only 470 acres, whereas there are some 15,000 acres in it, with a very much larger extent under cultivation than was mentioned. We do not know all the facts in connection, but we believe that the 470 acres in question refers to the Lavington ranche adjoining, which has been taken in along with the Coldstream property. We understand, what is very important, that very important developments are likely to take place in connection with this fine estate, and that we may look for equally important results from an agricultural point of view. As a commercial proposition, the Coldstream ranche has demonstrated what is possible in British Columbia to be made out of farming conducted on business lines.

In his speech on the address in the Saskatchewan Legislature says the Toronto News, Mr. Haultain, asked what parallel there was in Canada for the election in Saskatchewan or what parallel there was in any civilized country where the people had responsible government. He said there had been election crookedness before. Everyone knew that. But there had always been some thin veil of decency surrounding the operations. When they were revealed to the public the persons who were responsible invariably felt ashamed at the crookedness. But in Saskatchewan there was nothing of the kind, and there was the difference. Mr. Haultain reviewed in detail the campaign carried on by the homestead inspectors, immigration officials and other puble officers, and declared that many of Mr. Scott's supporters owed their return to this army of public servants who went about the Province intimidating voters. He said he would not charge that this work was done by direction of Ministers, but he said without hesitation that they received the benefit of it. They sat in their places, not as thieves, but as receivers of stolen property and the representatives of the "back townships." It will be remembered that the boast was made that however the vote might go in the more settled portions of Saskatchewan the "back townships" would guarantee a coercion triumph.

It is to be regretted that there was not a larger audience at the Victoria Opera House last evening to hear and see Frederick Warde in his recitals from the Merchant of Venice. It was the most splendid literary treat, not only of this season, but many seasons. Those who may have feared a surfeit of Shakespeare without the glamor of stage trappings would have been agreeably disappointed. It was not only "good as a play." It was better. It was the finished product of the tragedian lecturer and not in combination, and thoroughly enjoyable from the first to the last sentence.

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WANTED—A young Englishwoman wishing to return to England, would like to assist in the care of children on the journey, in return for part payment of traveling expenses. Address "Enquirer." Station S, Tacoma, Wash. ja30

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FOR SALE—Eggs for hatching from pure bred stock; imported breeds of White Minorcas, $2.50, and Black Spanish, $2, a setting. R. H. Robertson, Cumberland, B. C. ap8

EGGS FOR HATCHING—Orpingtons, black $2.50, white $1.50, buff $1; White Leghorns, $1; Pekin ducks, $1 dozen. Miss Turner, Cadboro Bay road. Phone B337. a6

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FOR SALE—Pure Silver Laced Wyandotte pullets, at $1.50 each, and Blue Andalusian pullets, $2. H. W. Bullock, Salt Spring Island. a3

FOR SALE—White Rock eggs for sale, prize winning strain; $2.00 15. Shade's Shoe Shop, 85 Yates street. a4