

The Colonist.
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AN OLD PROVERB.

A gentleman, who has lived in the province a long time and knows it well, and whose business has taken him into every section of it, says there is a proverb current among the old-timers to the following effect:

"Some parts of British Columbia are good some of the time, but Old Victoria is good all the time."

It is said that a proverb is "the wisdom of many and the wit of one." This definition fits this case, and Victorians cannot adopt any better slogan than this proverb of the pioneers.

A NOTABLE CHANGE

The Saturday Review, which is the outward and visible manifestation of time-honored English Conservatism, that is political Conservatism in its higher sense and not merely as a party shibboleth, recently admitted to its columns two articles in which the writers endeavored to show that the end of the old Conservative party is at hand. Reduced to its last analysis the Conservative idea in England—we purposely confine these observations to that part of the United Kingdom—has been that there is a governing class; composed in part of those who have inherited certain positions, and in part of those who by reason of some peculiar qualities may be able to force themselves into it. Of the latter Disraeli was representative, although he was an extreme type. His official biography, now being issued, shows him to have been playing a game from the day when, little more than a boy he told Lord Melbourne that he wanted to be Prime Minister. Melbourne assured him that his ambition was hopeless, for he said the great Conservative families had arranged for the succession; but Disraeli knew his game and played it to a brilliant finish. Under his leadership the Conservative party became a party of expedients. Lord Salisbury, who was the incarnation of the Conservative idea, checked the course of the party, but when he passed off the stage, the policy of expediency became again the order of the day. Mr. Chamberlain sounded a truly imperial note and the Conservatives rallied round him, although most of them had at one time roundly denounced him as the most dangerous of Radicals. Then an Irish Disraeli in the person of Mr. J. L. Garvin came to the front and for some years he has been leading the party a merry dance. The climax was capped when Mr. Balfour proposed that in the event of a deadlock between the Lords and the Commons there should be a referendum. This may be right enough in principle; we are not discussing principles, but only relating facts; but it is the very reverse of the old-time principle of Conservatism. It throws the idea of a governing class to the winds; it disregards the ancient British idea of representative institutions; it appeals to the Democracy, not as the court of last resort, but as an ever active factor in legislation. This may be a step in the right direction, but it is not Conservatism.

As a matter of fact the Conservative party under the ostensible leadership of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour, but really driven by Mr. Garvin, is out-radicalizing the Radicals. We pointed this out long ago in discussing the Lansdowne-Rosebery plan for the reform of the House of Lords. These two peers, one of them a Conservative, and the other a Whig of the old school, proposed at a single step to take the House of Lords further on the road to extinction than the so-called Radicals would go in two generations. Mr. Asquith claims that the Parliament Bill will conserve the Hereditary Chamber, while restricting its powers. It is a conservative measure in that, while preventing the blocking of legislation by the Peers, it preserves what has for centuries been one of the strongest bulwarks of the British nation. The plan favored by the Marquis of Lansdowne would eliminate absolutely from the British Constitution the hereditary right of legislation, by creating a new elective body to be chosen by a limited constituency. Under this plan the Lords were to elect an Upper Chamber. There are objections to the creation by the Crown of hereditary legislators in batches large enough to force legislation through the Upper House, but these objections would not apply to the creation of a sufficient number of peers for the purpose of enlarging the constituency by which the members of that House should be elected. Under the Lords plan of reform a tremendous power would be placed in the hands of the government of the day, which might of its own sweet will change the whole complexion of the Upper Chamber by

the simple expedient of creating a sufficient number of peers to elect whomsoever it might select to seats in that body. We do not profess to be able to foresee the ultimate outcome of the changes that have been in progress in English Conservatism for some time past; it is sufficient to direct attention to the fact that a great change is in progress.

GENERAL APPROVAL

We have not heard a word of dissent from the action of the city council in deciding to award the whole paving contract to the Canadian Mineral Rubber Company. On the contrary, every one has words of warm approval of the course that has been taken. It is recognized that as the Colonist has already explained, certain formalities must be gone through with respect to some of the streets that are to be paved; but the citizens take a very broad view of the case. They realize the position in which the city council found itself placed, and they understand that it was a plain, business proposition with which the Mayor and Aldermen were confronted. Therefore, when those gentlemen took hold of the question as a business man would take hold of a private undertaking, keeping in mind only a single object, namely, the desirability of securing the best possible contract for the great amount of paving that had to be done, there was a universal chorus of approval. The feeling is that business principles have prevailed in this highly important matter. The property owners will unhesitatingly endorse what has been done, if ever they are called upon to do so.

The announcement of the decision of the council produced a profound effect not only in Victoria, but elsewhere. News of the letting of the contract has been telegraphed far and wide. All the great English dailies have had despatches telling of it, and Victoria has received such a degree of prestige as has been the lot of few cities.

THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has decided to go to Ottawa. The explanation given for his change of plans is that if he remained at home his reason for so doing might be misunderstood in the United Kingdom. It would not be the chance of a misunderstanding that would trouble the Prime Minister, but the fact that everyone in the United Kingdom and everywhere else would put the only possible construction upon his absence, which would be as was stated in the columns yesterday, namely, either that he regarded the Imperial Conference as of minor importance or he was afraid to trust his colleagues in charge of the House. Speaking of the prospective absence of the Prime Minister from London, and it is fair to say that the article was in type and in the paper before the Ottawa despatch stating that he intended to go was received, we said that while his absence from the coronation would not be very material, his absence from the Conference would be culpable. We think no injustice is done him in saying that the course he has adopted shows that he took this view of the case himself. For Canada to be unrepresented at the Imperial Conference because her Prime Minister chose to remain at Ottawa for the purpose of forcing a trade agreement with the United States through the House would have created an impression that could be effaced only with very great difficulty. Conceding as we must all concede, that the first duty of a Canadian Premier is to Canada, we are unable to see how any one could pretend that the adoption of the reciprocity agreement is of such importance that it could not be delayed for a month or two in order that Canada might be properly represented at a conference between the Premiers of the Empire.

It is not proper to charge Mr. Borden with pursuing a policy of obstruction. Under our system of parliamentary government the members of either House have a right to discuss any and every question as they may see fit. It may be, as has been stated, that ours is the only English-speaking Parliament in the world, where there is no limit to debate; but such is the rule in the Canadian Parliament, and the opponents of any measure have the right to avail themselves of whatever advantage it gives them. Mr. Borden has pursued a dignified and patriotic course throughout the somewhat difficult situation that has arisen. He had no desire to see Canada unrepresented at the Conference; he was unwilling to consent to the shortening of the reciprocity debate. It is important that the people of Canada shall be educated as to the true significance of the agreement, and the one way by which this can be done is by full discussion on the floors of Parliament. We are told by a local contemporary that the Opposition threatened to block supply so as to force a dissolution. There is no warrant for such a statement. There may have been some wild allega-

tions to that effect from irresponsible quarters; but there has been no authorized announcement that under any circumstances whatever the Opposition would stop supply and compel a dissolution on the eve of a census and the resultant redistribution. The issue between the two leaders has been a very interesting one. Mr. Borden undoubtedly had the Prime Minister at a disadvantage, for the latter was confronted with a choice between two very divergent alternatives. The Conservative leader stood out for an opportunity of full discussion only. He could have forced a dissolution if he had so desired, and the fact that he has decided not to do so shows that his only object is to secure such a discussion of the reciprocity agreement before it is voted on. The Prime Minister was in an untenable position, and he has acted very wisely in receding from it. When he gets back from Ottawa we shall see what we shall see, and we have a shrewd suspicion that there may be an element of surprise in it.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE

Mr. Lennie, in a book which some of us recall with mixed feelings, lays down the proposition that English grammar is the art of speaking and writing the English language with propriety, and he not only gave in his book a lot of very useful rules, but also a list of adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections in which he sought to cover the whole scope of English speech. The presumption is the Mr. Lennie has gone to that bourne into which, as far as we know, grammars do not penetrate, but if he were alive to hear his beloved language, spoken as it now is, or if he has spiritual ears wherewith to hear, he must have many a bad quarter of an hour. It is not only the marvellous variety of accents that are employed. These are sufficiently numerous and extraordinary to bring confusion to the mind. Between the cockney tone and the extreme Victoria, B. C. accent there is a great gulf fixed, but the resources of a typesetting machine are inadequate to illustrate its breadth and profundity. It is of the use of words to which reference is to be made. Mr. Lennie says in his book aforesaid that "very" is the superlative; and so for a great many generations it was supposed to be. But it is not so any longer. Suppose, for example, some one should ask you if you were fond of bridge and you should say that you were very fond of it, the impression you would be likely to convey would be that you did not altogether dislike it. If you really hold the game in high esteem, you would be expected to say that you like it awfully, or that you are mad about it, or something like that. Should a lady appear on a platform and sing very well, and that is all you said, her friends would be likely to think you did not think so. To make them feel that you really appreciated her performance you would have to say that she sang divinely or that her voice is too perfectly sweet for anything or some other combination of words. If a little rain happens to fall, the result is beastly weather. If you go to a dance and do not greatly enjoy yourself, you feel that you cannot do the subject justice by any such expression. You will tell your friends that you had a perfectly rotten time. In a recent novel written for people of refinement and dealing with characters who are assumed to be refined, a lady informs another that a mutual friend is a perfect rotter. You talk about things that are awfully nice; your friend's baby is awfully pretty. That is to say you contradict yourself in almost every sentence, because Mr. Lennie's list of adverbs is not sufficient for your purposes. Perhaps there is no use in protesting, but really it would not be a bad idea if we dropped back to the usages of former days and once more learned to speak the English language with propriety.

The Duke of Connaught says that Scotsmen have played an important part in the history of Canada. After His Royal Highness has served a term in the vice-royalty he will wonder how he came to see things in that light. He will then realize that what he ought to have said was that Canada has played an important part in the history of some Scotsmen.

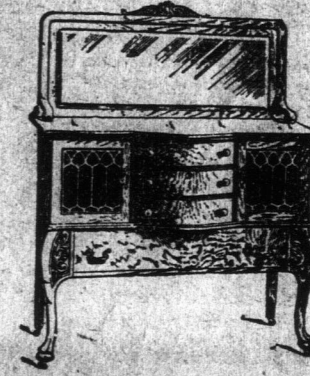
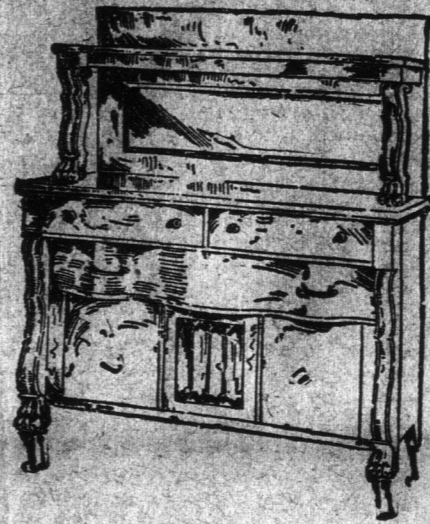
Washington Horse Show
WASHINGTON, May 4.—President Taft, Mrs. Taft, Miss Helen Taft and other leaders in official, political and social Washington attended the opening of the national capital horse show today.

No Women in Conference
TORONTO, May 4.—The court of appeals of the Methodist church today decided that under no circumstances are women to represent Methodist congregations at national conferences. The issue was raised by the British Columbia conference, where women elected by the quarterly board to represent the church, were refused admission to the conference.

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It is Easy to Improve the Appearance of Your Dining Room---It's Your Best Chance

It is a simple matter to improve the appearance of your dining-room by visiting our furniture floors with all the newest attractions in designs for the dining-room. It is also an easy matter to pay the price asked for these goods, because they are very small in comparison with the article and its high quality and beautiful workmanship. Remember, you cannot improve the appearance of the dining-room or make it more comfortable unless you make selections from the proper stocks. We not only want you to see the beautiful furniture, but also the Carpets, Curtains, China and Silverware, that all add to the appearance of a pretty and comfortable room. We can do your home complete and in the most satisfactory manner.

By all means see our display.

A Splendid Choice of Buffets

More attractive Buffet Styles have never before been shown. Select one from our wonderful showing on the third floor. If you are bewildered with them—because they are all so beautiful—and really don't know what would look best in your dining-room, let us make a few suggestions for you. You will find we will be of great assistance to you in our ideas, because of our long experience. There's no better time than now to make your selection. We have a magnificent collection ready for you. We have all the latest popular woods and finishes—Early English, Mission style, are still popular. Some very pretty styles in Golden Oak.

- Sideboards in golden elm, from \$15.00
- Sideboards in Empire oak, golden finish, from \$22.50
- Sideboards in solid oak, golden finish, from \$30.00

- Buffets in golden surface oak, from \$25.00
- Buffets in solid golden oak, from \$35.00
- Buffets in Early English oak, from \$38.00
- Buffets in Early English, solid oak \$38.00

Extension Dining Tables

There is no more important piece of dining-room furniture than the table. The dining-room table is the pride of many a home-keeper. The beautiful top of a stylish table is admired by every visitor. You must have the table correct.

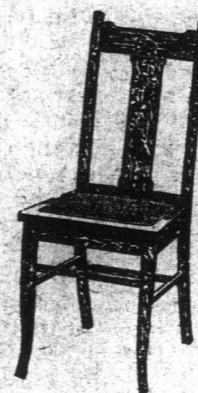
Get a real good one. We show a great choice of really fine table styles, and have them in all the popular woods and finishes of the newest designs. The tables are in either pedestal or regular styles, and in round and square tops. There is a table style and a table size that adds to the appearance of your dining-room.

- Golden Fir Tables, from \$7.50
- Solid Golden Oak Tables from \$25.00
- Early English Oak Finish Tables from \$14.00
- Early English Finish, Solid Oak Tables from \$25.00



Get Your
Summer
Furnishings
Here

Select Your Dining Room Chairs From Our Fine Collection

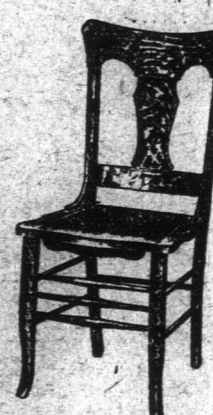


The dining-room chairs are the most used furniture pieces in the room, and should be carefully selected. Only well built chairs should be purchased. Our chairs are properly designed and are constructed to withstand just as hard and rough usage as chairs must get. The styles are very pleasing and there is a great variety here. Having just received a large shipment, do not fail to inspect our offerings in dining-room chairs before making any purchases. You'll find both styles and values are much superior.

- Dining-room Chairs in golden finish, from \$1.00
- Dining-room Chairs in oak finish, from \$1.85
- Dining-room Chairs in solid oak, with leather upholstered seats, from \$4.00

Dining-room Chairs in Early English surface oak, from \$2.50

Dining-room Chairs in Early English surface oak, leather upholstered seat, from \$4.00

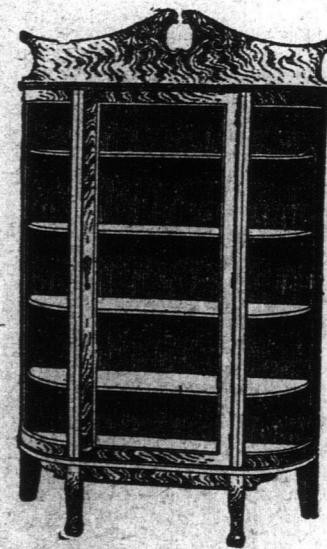


China Cabinets

What's the use of having beautiful china and cut glass if you have it locked away somewhere in the dark to keep it from the dust and where there is no chance of getting it broken. You seldom see these beautiful specimens, and your friends do not know you possess such things. You certainly want something to display these pieces of yours.

Get one of the beautiful China Cabinets and keep your choice bits of china and glass safe, and also add to the appearance and attractiveness of the room. The cost is little, and you will never regret the outlay. Our present showing is most complete, showing an excellent range of styles and prices. Come up to our third floor and let us show you a China Cabinet that will fit your dining-room, and at prices that will fit your purse.

- China Cabinets in Early English oak finish, from \$16.00
- China Cabinets in Early English oak, from \$20.00
- China Cabinets in golden oak from \$20.00



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Summer
Furnishings
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WEILER BROS

LEADERS

The fast of the to be considered in. Only a brief biography remarkable man need about the year 570 Empire had succumb of the so-called Bard formerly owned the were in a state of flux new leader. Moham fortieth year, when a a divine command to has been called after cess attended his first ten years of labor in to Medina, where he hundred families, w divine. Opposition was able to overcome aries into all the e early found it necessary order to meet his ad operations were inva in 632, leaving behin tion, which he had ample to be utterly of the new faith.

The religious sy markable man is p means entire submis Mohammedan conceal with that of the c relates to the Trin pression "There is much a protest again of the divine nature o ever, is admitted to divine operation, a to earth is anticipa the religion of Islam anism teaches the e as of evil influences the books of the Ol Gospels are accepted true, but are said to Immortality is one o Islam, the soul rem stage between death tion, enjoying happi able torment, accord sessor has been god the general resurrecti good will be reward wicked will go into tion is an essential p aims-giving and fa games of chance, an ship are strictly forb is permitted, the n being four, but more y cannot act equit the matter of divor recognized as allow crime of all kinds ar things and many m Koran, which is cla divine inspiration. code of ethics presc highest type, but it tion to the Faithful fideis.

The progress of less than a century Arabia, Syria and P coast of Northern Straits of Gibraltar into Europe, and if crushing defeat wif upon the Turks in been the religion number of Moham ascertainable, for the how large a portion accept this faith. 160,000,000. They ar ern half of Asia and in Turkey-in-E ber of individuals, w requirements and ac out question, bears of the whole, it is an e lligion, and more diff overcome by Chris are very diligent th peals peculiarly to has been made, and evidence to support many more converts therefore a mistake caying religion. In sands, perhaps even believe that today th Mahdi, who is desti before him. He has tions of initiating hos paring the minds o for the word, which such an onslaught ag never been witnesse that a note of prep through all Moham

On the other han known as Babism. Mohammed in Persia clared himself to be "Inspiration." His la moral regeneration o with great oppositi Hammedans. He w his followers met th survivors was one w cessor, and he gaine succeeded in 1892 b leadership the movem It has adherents all o in some European co