

The Colonist.

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CONCERNING CAR FERRIES

It will soon be possible to take a private car at New York or, for that matter, at Victoria and go to Havana, Cuba, without change, if you want to indulge in such an experience, although it is 213 miles to the Cuban city from the nearest point on the continental shore to which a railway has been built. This is due to the completion of the Key West railway, which is to be supplemented by a car ferry. The Key West railway is 123 miles long; of this distance 75 miles are over water and the remaining 48 miles over land, numbering 41 in all, most of them being very small. There are places en route where the train is out of sight of land. The railway cost \$150,000 a mile, or a little less than \$20,000,000. From Key West to Havana the distance is 90 miles and this is to be covered by a car-ferry. We commend these facts to those people, who, when we speak of connections between Victoria and the Mainland by way of car-ferries, reply by asking: What's the use of talking about car-ferries when you can cover the space in a steamer?

A year or so ago the Colonist ventured the suggestion that the C.P.R. would reach Halifax from St. John by way of a car-ferry to a point on Annapolis Basin. The suggestion seemed so visionary that not even the St. John papers, which usually reproduce everything the Colonist says bearing upon the future of their port, thought it worth while to refer to it. Yesterday our telegrams said that the C.P.R. is arranging to put in the necessary facilities for such a ferry. The distance to be covered is 45 miles.

There will come a time in the near future, when, if you wish to go to the expense, you can get in a car in Victoria, be ferried across to Asia, cross Asia and Europe and be ferried across the "silver streak" to England and then across the Atlantic and home again across the Continent. The possibilities of car-ferryage are only beginning to be understood, but we do not wish to be thought of as suggesting that trans-Atlantic ferries will ever be in use. We mention the possibility of such ferryage only to emphasize the statement that a modern, up-to-date car-ferry is a very different thing from a big scow towed by a tug.

A NATION ON TRIAL

The theory that republics are incapable of a prolonged existence and that sooner or later they end in absolutism was looked upon half a century ago as abundantly demonstrated by the facts of history. The manner in which the United States passed through the war of Secession seemed to disprove it, and great encouragement was thereby given to the republican movement everywhere. France and Portugal among European countries have got rid of their monarchical form of government, and China is endeavoring to become a republic. The Central and South American countries, with the exception of Brazil, have been republics in form but dictatorships in fact for very nearly a century. Brazil expelled its emperor in 1889, and two years later adopted a republican constitution. The country in which republicanism was supposed to be receiving its best trial was the United States. Its constitution was framed by men of ability, and has frequently been referred to by statesmen of eminence as the greatest example of human wisdom. It provides for a series of what are called checks and counter-checks, whereby it is assumed that anything like a tyranny can be prevented, and yet we find in a paper read before the Bar Association of Virginia and Maryland the following surprising statements:

Theoretically, the President is under the law. The Supreme Court has so declared by a majority of one; but is there no danger that, at some future time, some ambitious and popular man, returned from a foreign conquest, and elected President as the champion of the people, might feel that his powers were too great to be confined by a theory, and that, for the good of the people, he ought to be President for life? The Supreme Court came within one vote of holding that the President of the United States was above the law; that the title to land taken possession of and held under his orders could not be inquired into or passed upon by any court; a doctrine, said Mr. Justice Miller, speaking for the majority, that "sanctions a tyranny that has no existence in the monarchies of Europe, nor in any other government which has a just claim to well-regulated liberty and the protection of personal rights."

The writer of the paper points out that if one of the judges had changed his vote, as happened in the famous case involving the constitutionality of the income tax, "the Supreme Court would have sanctioned that same tyranny." Thomas Jefferson—at least if it was not he it was another of the Fathers of the Constitution—is quoted as saying that the only purpose of the Federal government at Washington was to conduct international affairs; but in a little over a century and a quarter, through the interpretations put upon the Constitution, that government touches the most intimate rights and privileges of citizens. A nation which stands on the brink of a tyranny is certainly a nation on trial.

A novel point, having a bearing upon the future of the country, is that while the United States is "republican," it is not "democratic." This is not a mere play upon words, as might at first sight be supposed. Perhaps we can make the distinction plain in a few sentences. In a democracy the power of the people is absolute, as it is in Canada, and, for that matter, everywhere else in the self-governing parts of the British Empire. It may take time in some instances for the people to secure compliance with their will, but there are no limits to the scope of the exercise of that will. No sovereign or court or any one else has the right to say that we may not do whatever we see fit to do as a people. For the sake of maintaining orderly government, the courts may say that we can only do certain things in certain ways, but of the right to do what we please there is absolutely no question. This is a democracy. Ours is a "crowned democracy," to quote Tennyson; but that serves to maintain its stability. A republic, according to the new doctrine advanced in the United States, is a form of government under which the Supreme Court, appointed by the President, has a right to say what the limits of popular sovereignty are. "An independent judiciary has been granted by the will of the sovereign people as expressed in their several constitutions. If this guarantee should not be kept effective, I cannot conceive of any other result than anarchy," said Mr. Lynn Helen, president of the California Bar Association. Again, he says "to vote for their representatives freely is the highest act of original sovereignty." This may be true enough in a country like ours, where the powers of representatives are unlimited, but it is not true in a country like the United States, where those powers are limited by the decrees of an appointive tribunal. Upon this issue between Democracy and Republicanism the people of the United States are rapidly dividing into hostile camps, and, with the profoundest respect for the common sense of the nation, we feel unable to regard the possible outcome of the impending struggle without considerable anxiety.

POORLY PAID JUDGES

It will be a matter of interest to the smaller centres of population in the province to learn that steps are to be taken at an early moment to provide larger salaries for county court judges. Up to the present the men who have filled these responsible posts have not been paid as much as if they had been practising at the Bar. The result has created a difficulty in obtaining good men. This factor has led to the suggestion that the position of county court judge should be abolished and their present jurisdiction vested in the supreme court, the judges of the latter court being assigned to residence in the various districts. It is hardly likely that this course will be adopted, although it is generally believed that some reformatory action will be taken at an early date. The matter will shortly be taken up by the Attorney General with the Minister of Justice and as a result of representations which the former will make it seems probable that a solution of the difficulty will be reached.

THE LIQUOR LAW

The manner in which the provincial liquor law is being administered must be a matter of considerable gratification to all who have the moral interests of the province at heart. We print today some figures from the annual report of the superintendent of provincial police which make interesting reading. It appears that there are in existence at present fewer licenses in British Columbia than there were at the end of 1910. This is in spite of a very considerable growth in population. During 1911 the number of licenses cancelled or those the renewal of which was refused, amounted to ten. There were 103 prosecutions by the Attorney General's department and 86 convictions were secured. In upwards of sixty of these cases alternative sentences of imprisonment, in terms ranging from two to nine months, were imposed, and a total of \$14,675 was collected by the province in fines.

Attorney General Bowser is to be congratulated on the work of his department in rigidly enforcing the Liquor Law. He has given notice of a bill to further amend that law, one which will

enable his department to deal with abuses which at present hardly come within its scope. There have been instances not only in city hotels but in roadhouses, and among these some in the immediate vicinity of Victoria, where such abuses have been going on for some time past. The authorities in the various cities have shown an indifference amounting almost to complete apathy, and it would seem now that the government is going to insure that these abuses are continued no longer. They include the selling of liquor to minors, a matter to which the Colonist has drawn attention on more than one occasion recently.

INTENSIVE CHICKEN FARMING

Mr. Godwin Edwards, of London, says 40,000 chickens can be raised on an acre in a year. The hatching is done in incubators. The chicks are never allowed at large and are fed a ration that makes them weigh 3 pounds at 13 weeks old. Their feed would cost 12 cents each. At local prices here the feed might be put at 15 cents and the 3-lb. chicks at 60 cents, giving a margin of 45 cents or, allowing for eggs and the cost of hatching, 40 cents. Forty thousand chickens sold at a profit of 40 cents each would yield \$16,000 to pay for labor and interest on capital, a profit that is about as good as real estate speculation in boom times.

Mr. Edwards also discusses the egg problem. We are going to have shortly what he calls "super-hens." He says there are breeds now that will give 200 eggs a year, but this does not satisfy him. Apparently he wants hens that will lay an egg every day in the week and two on Sunday. But speaking seriously, he looks for a time in the near future when "by the careful management of these super-breeds and their universal adoption by poultry experts, we shall so augment our home supply so enormously that the foreign egg will become unobtainable in the London market." Then we shall see, probably, the end of the alleged classification of this necessary food product into Strictly Fresh Eggs, Fresh Eggs, and Eggs.

"The oldest man in Ireland is dead," says a despatch. Now, how can the oldest man anywhere be dead?

The grain-growers on the prairies are beginning to appreciate the importance of providing for the western transportation of wheat. Victoria cannot get ready any too soon.

Commenting on the statement that "the nation is calling Mr. Roosevelt," the New York Herald remarks that Central may have rung up the wrong number, or perhaps the wires are crossed.

The libel suits arising out of the recent municipal elections in Montreal, set forth claims for damages aggregating more than \$200,000. We did not know any given set of aldermen could be damaged that much.

The Duke of Connaught is going out to Winnipeg to spend a week next fall, and the Winnipeggers are very properly jubilant. It's lucky for them that His Royal Highness will visit them before he comes to Victoria.

Mr. Arnold Bennett, an English novelist, has been saying of Dickens that he "cannot consider him a first-class creative artist." Miss Jeanette Glider disposed of this criticism very neatly when she said: "A little dog may bark at a railway train, but the train goes on just the same."

It is refreshing to read in a St. John paper that the money to be expended in development work in New Brunswick during the next five years will exceed \$25,000,000. What the New Brunswickers chiefly lack is faith in their own province, and it is a mighty good province, too.

According to those who profess to know, there is to be a supreme effort this month to overthrow the Portuguese republic. A counter story is that there is to be an effort to overthrow the Spanish monarchy and make the whole peninsula a republic to be called "the Iberian Republic."

Another demand for higher wages from railway employees in the United States. This will probably lead to another advance in railway charges. This will further increase the cost of living. This will lead to another demand for higher wages, and so the thing will go on. One thing is certain, and it is that something will have to give way some time in this endless chain of increases.

There are twenty-six thousand miles of railroad track in Canada, of which 8,000 are in Ontario. Compared with European countries, Canada is third in the list in railroad mileage gain in the last fifty years. In pointing to the railroad progress of the country, it is a matter of the greatest gratification for the people of this province to know that British Columbia is now being honey-combed with the steel of various companies.



New Lines Just In

NEW SPRING CARPETS are arriving—a splendid shipment arrived yesterday. From now on we shall be adding to this stock, and we suggest frequent visits to our Carpet Department if you would keep in touch with the latest in floor coverings.

The new arrivals are splendid examples—they are an index of what is to come. If newness and goodness will help, this season's carpet business should excel all previous records, magnificent as they may have been. Costs nothing to come in and inspect. Get acquainted tomorrow.

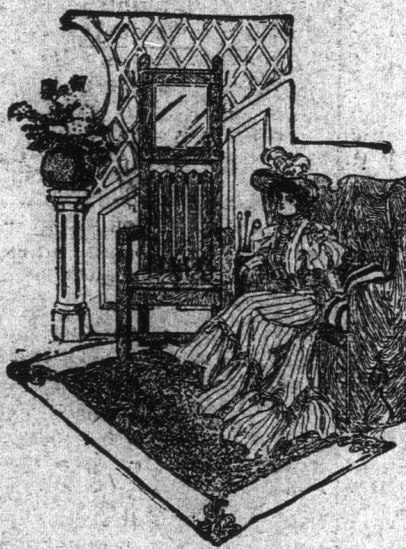
Tapestry and Brussels Squares

These Tapestry and Brussels Squares are certain to please you. They are of excellent wearing quality and fine appearance. There will be a big demand for these carpets shown on our second-floor, where the light is brightest and other conditions are best. Patterns, designs and blending of colors are the richest and newest that we could select, in addition to the attractiveness of the Squares themselves. We have attached prices that should be a big inducement.

TAPESTRY SQUARES	BRAEMAR / BRUSSELS SQUARES	CRONOS BRUSSELS SQUARES	NYANZA BRUSSELS SQUARES
The weave resembles that of Brussels in appearance, but is a much less expensive carpet. Made mostly in floral designs.	These are well known squares and present an easily swept, hard wearing surface. Made in all shades and patterns and suitable for all purposes.		
Size 3 x 3 yards \$10.50	Size 3 x 3 yards \$12.00	Size 2 1/4 x 3 yards \$16.00	Size 2 1/4 x 3 yards \$15.00
Size 3 x 3 1/2 yards \$11.50	Size 3 x 3 1/2 yards \$13.00	Size 3 x 3 yards \$24.00	Size 3 x 3 yards \$18.00
Size 3 x 4 yards \$15.00	Size 3 x 4 yards \$18.00	Size 3 x 4 yards \$32.50	Size 3 x 3 1/2 yards \$23.50
Size 3 1/2 x 4 yards \$16.00	Size 3 x 4 yards \$22.50	Size 3 1/4 x 4 yards \$36.00	Size 3 1/4 x 4 yards \$26.00
Size 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 yards \$17.00		Size 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 yards \$38.50	Size 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 yards \$32.50

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Hall Racks—Solid quarter cut oak, Early E. gilt finish, British bevel mirror 23 x 28, with box seat, \$30.00 and \$32.50
Hall Racks—Solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, British bevel mirror 12 x 20, \$20.00
Hall Racks—Purmed oak, British bevel mirror 22 x 28 \$30.00
Hall Racks—Purmed oak, British bevel mirror 14x20 \$20.00
Hall Racks—Purmed Oak, British bevel mirror Price \$22.50

HALL SEATS

Hall Mirror with Hall Seat to Match—Solid quarter cut oak, golden finish—
Mirror \$20.00
Hall Seat \$16.00
Hall Mirror with Hall Seat to Match—Solid quarter cut oak, golden finish—
Mirror, 14 x 24 \$14.00
Seat, 15 x 36 \$14.00
Hill Mirror with Mirror to Match—Solid quarter cut golden oak—
Mirror at \$8.50
Seat at \$8.00

Also Mirror at \$10.00 to Match at \$12.00
Hall Seat with Mirror to Match—Solid quarter cut, Early English \$8.50
Also Seat with Mirror at \$7.50 and Seat to Match at \$8.00
Any of These Articles Can Be Bought Singly

UMBRELLA STANDS

Umbrella Stands—Golden Oak, at \$12.00, \$6.00, \$4.00, \$3.50 \$2.50
Umbrella Stands—Early English, at \$10.00, \$7.00, \$6.00, \$4.50 \$3.50
Umbrella Stands—Purmed oak, at \$10.00, \$7.00 and \$6.00

HALL COSTUMERS

Hall Costumers—Solid quarter cut oak, golden finish, Each \$12.00 \$8.50
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Hall Chairs—Solid quarter cut oak, golden finish, Each, \$9.50, \$9.00, \$8.00 and \$7.50
Hall Chairs—In solid quarter cut oak, golden finish, Each, \$10.00, \$9.50, \$9.00 and \$7.50

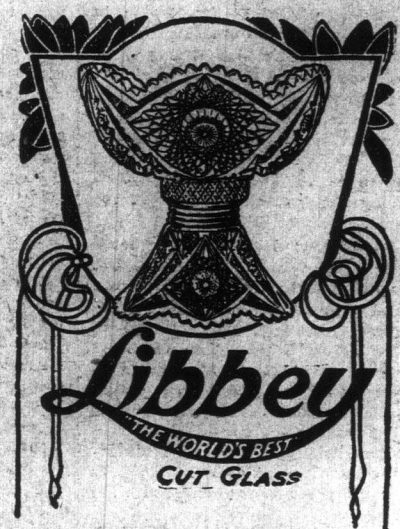
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There is no standard above or beyond Libbey Cut Glass on either side of the ocean. Its supremacy is frankly conceded to come within range of Libbey perfection—that is the highest excellence any maker can hope to obtain. Libbey shows at its best and loveliest when it is side by side with any other glass. You then appreciate that the full extreme depth of its cutting, its truly superb lustre and that delicate blueish tint that you have always hoped for in a perfect brilliant Cut glass always comes first in your mind when you think of wedding gifts, doesn't it?

We herewith give you a list of the latest arrivals. Visit our Cut Glass Room tomorrow.

Berry Bowls, \$4.00 to \$7.50	Water Jugs, \$15 to \$10
Nappies, \$18.00 to \$5	Covered Butter Dishes, \$20 to \$16
Oil Bottles, \$8.00 to \$5	Card Receivers \$12
Whiskey Jugs, \$20.00 to \$12	Footed Comports, \$12 to \$7.50
Water Bottles, \$15.00 to \$10	Celery Trays, \$12 to \$6
Sugars and Creams, per pair, \$15 to \$10	Liquor Glasses, per dozen \$22
Vases, \$35 to \$3.50	Sherry Glasses, per dozen \$25
Bon Bon Dishes, \$10 to \$3	Claret Glasses, per dozen \$25
Uncovered Butter Dishes, \$8 to \$5	Champagne Glasses, per dozen \$30
Candlesticks, Colonial designs, \$7.50 to \$6	Whiskey Tumblers, per dozen \$16.50
Claret Jugs, \$18 to \$12	Champagne Tumblers, per dozen \$20
Custard Cups, per dozen \$30	



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