

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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AN EMPIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Earl of Meath has sent a letter to the Standard of Empire, bringing under public notice a proposed Empire Association. What is suggested is an organization having its headquarters in London, with branches everywhere throughout the Empire, its object being to bring about greater unity between the several parts of His Majesty's dominions.

Co-operation and unity would be the watch-words of the association, and among its rules it is suggested that the following would be likely to find a place: 1. The association to be absolutely independent of all forms of party politics.

2. No club to be formed with less than twenty members, or to continue to be recognized if its members fell below that number. 3. Each new club to hold not fewer than six meetings in each year, at which a paper should be read upon some object connected with the general object of the association, and followed by a discussion.

4. Any affiliated club would be at liberty to invite anyone in sympathy with the objects of the association to read or send a paper for discussion or to read any paper prepared for another affiliated club. 5. Any affiliated club to be entitled to have copies of papers for discussion sent by any other club, on payment of the cost of production.

6. Subject to the general policy of the association, every affiliated club to be perfectly at liberty to make its own rules. It is proposed to adopt the Canadian Club idea of luncheons, and it is proposed that addresses delivered on such occasions shall be printed verbatim in the best channels by which the public can be reached.

7. It is proposed to disseminate useful literature bearing upon Imperial matters. Earl Meath's desire is that there shall be an expression of opinion upon the merits of the suggestion, and we have hesitated in saying that, if the movement can be kept clear of politics—that is the personal side of politics—it ought to be exceedingly valuable. The Canadian Clubs have been very successful in respect to the non-partisan character of the addresses delivered before them, and nothing has contributed more greatly to their popularity.

8. The impression should ever be abroad that the Canadian Clubs are not the opponents of the Imperial movement, but that they are its political opponents, the clubs would speedily go to pieces. We commend this phase of the subject to the promoters of The Imperial Association.

9. Speaking on the general principle involved, it may be said that the time seems ripe for the crystallization of Imperial sentiment. We do not mean by this that any scheme of Imperial consolidation should be forthwith devised. On this point the Colonist has always endeavored to make itself clear. None of us is able to suggest, at this time, any plan of closer union, which gives promise of success. Those, to whom preferential trade seems the only realistic, see only the present case. We concede the great advantage of such an arrangement, but in our humble judgment, the Empire needs a better bond of union than reciprocity of tariffs. We are often asked to consider the cementing influence of interstate free trade between the component parts of the United States and of the German Empire; but we venture to think that citizens of these nations would be first to deny that the commercial advantages of such arrangements form the corner stone of their unity. It was not for example, a consideration of trade which called more than a million of youths of the United States into the field to cement with their blood a union that should have been an indivisible. The strength of all national bonds is sentiment, and while an imperial sentiment may be strengthened throughout British lands by a system of preferential tariffs, they will not create it, nor will their absence destroy the sentiment that now exists. There is something intangible perhaps but none the less real, behind the Empire, and it is this intangibility which we would like to see crystallized. After this has been done the work of promoting imperial solidarity will grow apace. We are very strongly of the opinion that this aspect of Imperialism can be advanced by an association formed along the lines suggested in Earl Meath's letter. We know that the effect of the establishment of the Canadian Clubs has been the development of a robust Canadian sentiment and the results might be looked for with confidence in the wider field.

FOREST PRESERVATION

We are glad to find the Toronto World devoting a good deal of attention to the question of forest preservation. This is excellent work, and even during the heat of a political campaign there ought to be time to give it consideration. The question is not a political question, and therefore it can be discussed without feeling. The people of Canada are not, as a rule, laying as much stress as they ought to upon the necessity of taking steps to protect the forests. In the United States public opinion is much more aroused. The World says: All over the states, chambers of commerce, scientific societies, forestry experts, the wiser sort of lumbermen, national clubs and other public bodies are bestirring themselves to create a healthy public opinion in support of an enlightened and thrifty forest policy. This, too, has done for manufacturing and industrial purposes, but on account of the extraordinary benefits forests bring to agriculture and to the nation at large by protecting against floods, the coming of winter and climatic conditions, improving the public health and preserving natural beauty. Memorials have been and are being presented to congress urging the further creation of forest reserves, and the staying of the devastation that has been proceeding for decades in regions such as the Appalachian and White Mountain ranges. As frequently happens,

there are peculiar constitutional conditions in the United States that present obstacles to congressional action, but the movement in favor of effective action is general and strong. The press of Canada ought to endeavor to bring the people of the Dominion up to a proper appreciation of the need of action. We suppose that the close proximity of the forests to nearly all our settled areas renders it difficult for us as a people to appreciate that a timber shortage is measurably near at hand. The plain and simple fact. As yet we have the great forest preserve of the civilized world. Surely it would be wise to try and maintain it as a national asset.

THE LATE MRS. DUNSMUIR.

When Jean Olive Dunsmuir passed away Friday morning one of the noblest of the pioneers of British Columbia entered into rest. After a life of eighty-one years, the distinguishing feature of which was self-sacrifice, she has gone to her reward. We hear very little of the pioneer women of this Northwest Coast. As a rule their lives were simple. There was little to bring them into publicity. While their husbands were working and striving more or less in the public gaze, they were devoting themselves to the humbler, but really the more important task of maintaining the sanctity and the far-reaching influence of the home. The deceased lady had in her early days many experiences which would make a story of great interest, but this is not the time to tell them. It is enough to mention that she left her home in Ayrshire, a young mother with two little girls, to seek with her husband what fortune might have in store for them in this remote corner of the earth. Nearly three score years have passed since then. The trackless hills of this western land, the mountains crossed by bands of steel; the waters, which only knew the canoes of the Indians or the ships of explorers and occasional traders, have been furrowed by the keels of many fleets. Where the untamed Indians had their homes modern cities have arisen. Where savagery reigned in some of its worst aspects, a refined Christian civilization now flourishes. Mrs. Dunsmuir's life covered this great transition, and we may well believe that if she had told the stories of the early days, it is one well worth the re-telling.

When we reflect upon the place which her husband occupied in this community and how large a share his energy and influence had in bringing about the conditions which we enjoy today, and when we recall that she possessed a mind of more than ordinary vigor and a keen sense of duty combined with great fearlessness, it seems self-evident that her part in British Columbia history must of necessity have been one of much importance. This is the view, which one regarding matters from the outside would naturally take, and if nothing has ever been said about it, the explanation is that she herself placed foremost in her ambition the faithful discharge of her duties as a wife and mother. Her large family made great demands upon her physical, mental and moral resources, for her aim was to bring up the children as worthy parents ought to be brought up and to educate them so that they would be fitted for any place in life. Those who knew her in her later days, when she lived a less retired life, bear testimony to countless instances in which her kindness of disposition and gentle strength of character were of great service to many, who had no claim upon her except that arising from our common humanity. She was a welcome visitor to every home where there was need of a clear brain, willing hands, and a heart full of sympathy. We did not come early to her husband, and she knew that her best was always sustained by the consciousness that she was doing her best under the circumstances in which Providence had placed her, and that her best was well done. As a wife and mother her life was exemplary and she leaves behind her a memory which her descendants may well cherish. The Colonist extends its sympathy to the bereaved family.

ISLAND FRUIT-GROWING

The splendid display of fruit at the late Exhibition has already had a stimulating effect upon the public appreciation of the importance of this industry. The fruit-growing section was not confined to any one part of Vancouver Island, but was spread over the whole of it. The first prizes at the Exhibition went to fruit some of which was grown on Salt Spring and other of the Gulf Islands. The Colonist takes great satisfaction in being able to record this triumph for the product of the islands, for, as our readers know, we have always contended that nowhere in the province could better results be hoped for than here. We have at hand the ninth report of the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, and in a subsection headed "Vancouver Island as a Fruit-Growing Section," we find a synopsis of an address read at Sooke, by Dr. S. F. Tolmie, reported by Mr. S. F. Smart, secretary of the Metcosh Farmers' Institute. The report is as follows:

The meeting was largely attended. The chairman, after a few introductory remarks, called on Dr. Tolmie, who, departing from his usual subject, "Stock and Diseases," gave the meeting a brief account of his recent trip through the Okanagan and Kootenay districts, giving a description of the land and climatic conditions in these parts and comparing them with the southern portion of Vancouver Island, principally as fruit-raising localities, assuring his audience that, with the same care on the orchards of this island, fruit superior to that of Kootenay and Okanagan could be produced. He also spoke of the high prices obtained for fruit in the districts he had just visited, and attributed this, not to the superiority of the soil, but to any advantage of climate or locality, but principally to judicious and persistent advertising of these parts of the province. He closed his remarks by a rousing appeal to the people of Sooke to bestir themselves and let their district be heard of, by sending articles descriptive of the place and its advantages to the papers, both local and in the east by forwarding views of Sooke for exhibition in the Tourist Association rooms, and by sending exhibits to the various agricultural shows within reach. He advised the meeting to strike while the iron was hot and help on the suggestions he had made in regard to advertising the district.

"It will be observed that Dr. Tolmie not only thinks that the islands can do as well as the interior, but even better. We are under the impression that these are climatic reasons for this. The cooler nights of the interior must have an effect upon the quality of our fruit. Possibly that growth in the interior may, owing to the brighter sun and the superior soil, be more highly colored than the fruit grown at the coast, but our impression is that for solidity, keeping qualities and general excellence, the fruit grown under conditions, where the growth would be less forced would have advantages. Probably for some varieties the interior would surpass the coast and vice versa. But there is no necessity for laying any special stress upon the probability that one district may be better than the other. Both are good. The great value of recent demonstrations lies in the fact that the product of the islands has a superior. The future of the island fruit industry depends wholly upon our own people. Nature has done her part.

THE UNEMPLOYED

Mr. J. L. Garvin contributes an article to the Observer in which he advances some old ideas in a new form, and this is meant to bring us to our feet. He says that the area of the "white lands" of the interior of the United Kingdom is 45,000,000. He says that the area of the "white lands" of the interior of the United Kingdom is 45,000,000. He says that the area of the "white lands" of the interior of the United Kingdom is 45,000,000.

MALIGNING VICTORIA

The following despatch appeared in the Montreal Witness of September 23rd: London, Sept. 22.—Some letters have lately been published in the Yorkshire Post, Leeds, warning emigrants to avoid Victoria, B.C. A writer of a letter to the Montreal Post, forwarded to the editor of the Vancouver Daily Province in support of this assertion, writes that he has heard of no such thing. Another writer says it is more than a mere "hexatechnique." It is a successful campaign against the city, and is one of the healthiest places in the world. "Victoria, the beautiful," he says, is overrated. It is situated in a beautiful spot, but it has no other claim to beauty. This extract was enclosed in a letter from Mr. H. B. Fraser, Sr., of this city, and in the letter Mr. Morton said: "Enclosed you will find a cutting from the Montreal Post, forwarded to me by the Witness (get it from your city, and it is so different from what you have told me and from what I have read and heard from others that I thought I would send it to you. There is no doubt that you have suffered in common with the rest of the country from the depression in business, but I always understood that Victoria was the only place that was not getting worse for some time, and no remedy is in sight. It is timely, therefore, to inquire if some plan cannot be devised whereby the effects of such periods of extreme depression in the labor market can be prevented, and the number of the permanently unemployed in the United Kingdom can be reduced. The increase in the population of the United Kingdom has been remarkable, notwithstanding emigration. The population has more than doubled since 1821, and at present it is increasing at the rate of one half million annually. The consequence is that a large number of people are under unfavorable conditions than those existing in Great Britain and Ireland, and that a large number of people are transplanted to a country, which is vastly greater than these figures disclose. If half a million a year of the people of the United Kingdom transplanted to the 'white lands overseas' the increase of the home population would not be wholly ascertained for many years. Improved conditions of life, that would result at home, the excess of births would doubtless advance while the progress of the United Kingdom would be greatly increased. In a short time there would be built up a British people all over the Empire rivaling the population of the United Kingdom numerically of the white nations. Lord Northcote, on leaving Australia, said that the best thing he had seen in the world was the United Kingdom. In other words, Australia needs an increase in her population, and Canada needs the same. We are getting a great increase to our white population, but we have room for many more, and we are being urged to get them from the United Kingdom. South Africa needs British people. In the presence of that country in rapidly increasing numbers, it would be found the simplest solution of the problems presented by the unique political conditions arising out of the war in the United Kingdom, the nursery from which the Dominions beyond seas can be supplied with what they need. It is not a matter of course that we are not encouraged to think so when we read in our British contemporaries' articles devoted to Imperial problems. Almost invariably they are superficial and seem designed more to influence votes at the next general election than to help us to know the people an intelligent comprehension of the greatness of Imperial questions and of how closely interwoven are the welfare of the Mother Land and that of Great Britain. Is there no public man in the United Kingdom who can discover the right word to speak at this pregnant hour in the history of the Empire?"

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

An Eastern banker, whose name is not given, thus sums up the financial situation in Canada: "The financial condition of Canada is now 'easy.' The banks have a sufficient supply of money to move the crops, and it is, therefore, to be hoped that the farmers will immediately take their produce to market. It is the duty of the farmers this autumn to rush their grain east, so that as much as possible can be sent down the waterways before frost closes the harbor at Montreal, for as soon as the produce is exported money will at once be available for the farmers to pay their debt, and to be used for the purchase of seed and for assisting to restore the market to its normal condition. There is no reason why the farmers should hold on to their grain, and the prices at the outset will be good. Furthermore, if ever the ghosts of the old Romans revisit these glimpses of the moon, they must, when they see a motor race, feel a pang of regret that they did not understand that method of killing people in the good old days of yore, when people were butchered to make a Roman holiday." What useful purpose is served by a lot of reckless people endeavoring to see which of them can force a motor car to the greatest speed, we have never been able to see. We are able to understand that the development of a public which tolerates such practices. A prizefight is a lady-like affair compared with some motor races.

more, by promptly selling their produce the farmers will be able to pay their debts and thus remove further interest that is piling up against them, besides ensuring better conditions during the winter. "The country is growing at a remarkable rate and business increases at a greater ratio than the savings, so that the savings are not even in demand all the time, and incidentally keeping up the rate of interest. Money that has been placed on call in New York has been brought in, and no more than the amount required for the removal of the crop has been recalled as the money in New York is earning good interest. It is surely not very far off. Already the first signs of improvement are manifest.

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