The Colonist.

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ADVERTISING BRITISH COLUMBIA IN THE NORTHWEST.

We call attention specially to the interview with Mr. R. M. Palmer, provincial exhibit commissioner, who has just returned from the fairs held at Winnipeg, Brandon, Indian Head and Regina. Already a good deal has appeared in the Colonist with respect to the success of these exhibits, but in the interview in question Mr. Palmer summarizes results and gives a great deal of interesting information besides. One fact is of particular interest, contained in the statement that a number of persons who visited the exhibits at the various places were making arrangements, some to visit the Dominion exhibition at New Westminster and others to visit the fruit-growing sections of British Columbia for themselves. There is no doubt that the government has adopted the most successful plan of advertising the horticultural resources of the province by sending commercial exhibits to the Northwest fairs. There the actual or prospective settler is brought face to face with the finished product of our fruit farms in all its excellence; there also the fruit dealer finds in most tantalizing form the commercial article which alike creates the demand and affords the supply, for the market. We believe that the success of the exhibits during this year and last will justify the government in making arrangements for an exhibit on a much larger scale next year.

LAND COLONIZATION SCHEMES.

The London Daily Telegraph has a special correspondent in the Northwest enquiring into colonization schemes and a letter of his appears in the issue of that paper on July 31st, in which he says that his main enquiry was, after satisfying himself that none of the Daily Telegraph families had been stranded, to hear what could be said in favor of a land colonization scheme as an alternative to the plan of placing families fresh from London in Ontario to make a start in their newly-adopted country. The result of his enquiries, briefly stated, are that he did not find any person, however enthusiastic about the golden West, who from actual experience was enthusiastic over planting out colonies of town folk on the prairies. One sentence is significant, even from a political point of view: "I am bound to say that the adherence which Hon. Clifford Sifton had given to the scheme (speaking of the Salvation Army scheme of Rider Haggard) did not weigh much with those who knew that this gentleman was no longer a member of the government." It was something, he said, that the government was ready to face another experiment in the way of grouping individual communities collected from the same town or district, but he was nevertheless surprised that the authorities had not had enough of such experiments already. In this connection are enumerated their experiences with the Barr colonists, the Crofters, the De Hirsch schemes of settlement, the Doukhobors and others. The Daily Telegraph correspondent found official opinion in the Northwest opposed to colonization on the township plan, and opinion generally in favor of individual settlement. This did not apply equally to all classes of immigrants. There was something to be said in favor of settling in townships Doukhobors, Galicians and other foreigners who group themselves naturally, but in regard to people of the British race the correspondent expresses a sound view when he states that he would rather depend upon the business principle than upon the cheap and charitable administration of a land colony. From an English point of view the writer in question is not enamored of the prairie, as will be seen from this extract, by the way, of rather special interest to British Columbians:

"No one can drive out even a few miles upon the prairie without realizing painfully that the farmer's wife, in particular, must lead a life of isolation and drudgery. Mixed farming is being encouraged, and the poultry yard is finding a place, but Canadians are too busy, they say, to cultivate flowers, and the farm as it exists in an old-world English village bears little resemblance to the unromantic, wheat raising quarter or half section. There is no variety, no beauty; nothing but ugly, utilitarian buildings, with the grain elevator, in place of the market town, as the predominant factor in the year's routine. The elevator must be fed, or there will be no money in the bank after harvest. DOLLARS, DOLLARS, DOLLARS—NOTHING ELSE IS TALKED OF, UNTIL ONE DAY THE FARMER SELLS OUT AND TAKES THE C. P. R. OVER THE ROCKIES INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA, TO SETTLE DOWN ON A HIGHLY-PRICED TWENTY-ACRE FRUIT RANCHE, AND THERE SPEND IN COMFORT THE EVENING OF HIS DAYS. Nothing can persuade me that life on the prairie is satisfying; on the other hand, I well believe, as a lady who has tried it tells me, that it brings madness to many women compelled to pass solitary lives on the dreary plains. They will at holiday times spend large sums to get to the nearest town to escape the monotony of existence. As for the men, the agricultural exhibitions at Winnipeg and Brandon, annually held in permanent grounds, are the means of collecting immense numbers together. Pleasure is then combined with business."

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

It is understood that the recent high price to which wheat went in Winnipeg was the result of manipulation rather than legitimate demand. There is an interesting inside history to it. One of the big milling firms undertook to corner the supply, and in a way it was legitimate because the wheat was actually wanted for grinding purposes. However, after it was thought all the available supply was in hand and the price had sky-rocketed to $1.36 a bushel, it still kept coming in, and was actually being shipped from Ontario, illustrating the folly of shipping coals to Newcastle. As a matter of fact the farmer never at any time got more than about $1.15 a bushel. A leading grain firm caught "short" in the deal appealed to the grain exchange, which ordered settlements on the basis of $1.16 or $1.18 a bushel. It has not yet been discovered yet who has been most hurt, the people who tried to corner the market or those who sold and couldn't deliver the goods. It is generally agreed, however, that the farmer got the best of it. Wheat at $1.35 was altogether too high—a purely artificial price. Wheat at about $1.15 seems to represent what is now normal and legitimate, affording sufficient profit for the consumer, but nevertheless too high to suit the pockets of the consumers.

INCREASE OF THE INDEMNITY.

The Kincardine Review, edited by Mr. Hugh Clark, M.P. for Centre Bruce, Ont., discusses the increase of indemnity to members of Parliament in this way: The people are not going to wax enthusiastic over the proposal to select one of two men to a $2,500 job. The candidate will find it difficult to get his friends to enthuse over the job of electing him to a seat in Parliament. Under the indemnity of $1,000 or $1,500, the honor of the position was the predominating feature of the prize. Henceforth salary will take the place that honor occupied. We say "salary" because it is no longer indemnity. There will be greater strife than ever for the position and mostly by men mercenarily inclined, and corruption will prevail more than it ever did before, because the candidates will be more anxious than ever, and the electors less likely to work for the love of working or of the candidate or cause. We think the indemnity for members of the Legislature at $1,000 and of members of the House of Commons at $1,500 was about right, and the difference between the two no more or less than it should be, and a mistake was made when the indemnity was disturbed.

PREMIER HAULTAIN ON PARTY LINES.

The question of Dominion party lines in Provincial politics is not by any means a new one in British Columbia, as our readers are well aware. In the olden days in this Province when there were not well defined lines even in Dominion politics, non-party government was a success. There were certain local issues, never very well marked, it is true, upon which the Opposition attacked the party in power. The party in power represented the leadership of McCreight, or De Cosmos, or Elliott, or Walkem, or Beaven, or Smithe, or Davie, or Robson, or Turner, or Semlin, or Martin, or Dunsmuir, or Prior as the case might be. With each of these premiers were associated other men selected as the result of personal choice or political exigency. The administrations were essentially personal in character, and the political complexion of the members was largely, if not altogether, a matter of accident. It was not really until 1896 that in Dominion elections Dominion dividing lines were generally recognized; and so long as that condition of things existed it was comparatively easy for provincial administrations of a personal nature to carry on. In reality there could not have been any other. However, when the cleavage in Dominion politics became distinct and definite, we had the rather unsatisfactory, though wholly logical, condition of affairs in which supporters of a provincial government, working hand in hand in local matters, found themselves in opposing camps in Dominion matters, and vice versa. Theoretically, it was quite logical and possible, but from the point of view of practical politics it was embarrassing to say the least. A prominent provincial politician was today warmly co-operating with another, both canvassing on the same side, appearing on the same platform, advocating the same policy and strongly commending and defending each other. Tomorrow these two men in respect to Dominion politics were as bitterly opposing each other. In other words, one man was asking the electors today to elect, support, believe in and trust another man, and a few days hence was appealing to them to regard the same man in an entirely different light. Today they were asked to look upon him as a friend and tomorrow as an enemy of the public weal. This is not a suppositive case; it is something that was true over and over again in the experience of this province in late years. Its practical effect was the unsettling of the public mind, and it actually led to the breaking up of the condition of affairs in which personal politics governed.

Coming now to the consideration of Mr. Haultain's position, we find in the Winnipeg Free Press of the 9th inst., his letter in full to which reference was made editorially a few days ago. As stated then, there were only a telegraphic summary and a short extract, insufficient in themselves to determine the grounds upon which he went. From the letter now before us it is quite clear what his views are, and that he does not in a general way believe in the "party line" principle in provincial politics. Perhaps no more lucid exposition of the question from his standpoint has ever been given. The whole of the letter, really necessary to read in order to fully understand his policy, is too long to print. In the first place, he defends himself on general principles for taking sides with the Liberal-Conservative party in Dominion politics and at the same time a position of neutrality in local politics, which he states as follows:

To divide on Dominion party lines in the local legislature has always appeared to me to be undesirable, unintelligible and unnecessary. Party names and differences which may have some meaning at Ottawa when applied to the business to be done there have no meaning at Regina or Edmonton when applied to the business done by the provincial legislatures. The work of parliament is quite different from the work of the legislature. Parliament deals with national affairs, the legislature with provincial business. Men who disagree on Dominion questions may very well agree on provincial questions, and differences in the larger field should not prevent co-operation in the smaller. Diverse opinions on the tariff are not inconsistent with harmonious action with regard to roads and bridges, schools and the hundred and one practical subjects which fall within the jurisdiction of provincial legislation. This is not a theory, but an established fact proved by fourteen years' trial of the non-party system. That the result of that system has been fairly satisfactory to the people of the Territories has been abundantly shown by the confidence which has been given to the Territorial government ever since its formation. Not one word has been said by my new-found opponents against my administration of the local affairs of the Territories. Why, then, the necessity for a change? Why are men, whose administration of public affairs up to the 31st of August is pronounced honest and efficient, unfit to continue the work on the 1st of September on the same lines? Is the government in favor of party lines made in the interest of the people and the province, or for the benefit of the politicians? Are the best men of the country to be separated into hostile groups under names and for reasons which have nothing to do with the business entrusted to them? Are the interests and business of these two new provinces to be imperilled and neglected in order to allow politicians to squabble and fight and thwart each other because they profess allegiance to Sir Wilfrid Laurier or Mr. Borden?

No presentation of the case could be clearer than the above. It would be difficult to find an abler one. What, however, appears to more strongly influence Mr. Haultain's mind than anything else are the special and peculiar circumstances under which the new provinces enter Confederation, and having these in view, rather than the general theory of non-party lines, his present position is undoubtedly a strong one. Regarding these, after dealing with the school question, he says:

There are many important questions for the new provinces to consider which I trust will not be obscured by the introduction of Dominion party lines and the political agitation and discussion which must follow. Departments will have to be reorganized and new departments will have to be formed. The question of public institutions, higher education, a more comprehensive system of roads and bridges, and other local improvements, transportation, both ordinary and by railway, including that overshadowing question of a Hudson Bay railway, the development and encouragement of our agricultural and other interests, the administration of the criminal law and the numerous other questions which under the provincial constitution are relegated to the legislature, all these must be taken up and dealt with. Surely all these matters and their consideration will place a sufficient tax on the time, the energy, the devotion and patriotism of all the best men in the country.

On the general question, leaving out such special and important consideration as are here advanced by him, the experience of Mr. Haultain and the local political situation in the Northwest during his many years of control are really not a safe guide. To start with, the Territories up until the present time were not full-fledged, and the government at Ottawa was in a sort of fiduciary relation to the local administration there. In other words, they were not ripe for a system, which might bring the local government at Regina in direct hostility to the authorities at Ottawa. Then, again, the Territories belong to the West, with a population not so keenly interested in Dominion affairs as in the affairs of an administration dealing with matters directly connected with local development. But, chiefly, however, Mr. Haultain is an exceptional man. Under such leadership personal government would be successful in any province. There are several circumstances that will tend to make personal government in the Northwest not only possible, but desirable, for a few years longer. We have the questions incident to organization of new provinces, already referred to, we have the peculiar Western character and the geographical situation of the country, and we have the tremendous influx of population, the great majority of whose units are, and will for some time be, unfamiliar with Canadian politics. In such circumstances, Mr. Haultain, even if he be not successful in impressing his views upon Liberals and Conservatives in the new provinces, is undoubtedly right.

In the long run, however, for reasons which brought about party lines in British Columbia, they will be adopted as a basis of party government in Alberta and Saskatchewan. They are an obvious, practical necessity in maintaining stable administration. It has been the experience of all the older provinces, and when the new ones have settled down and conditions are normal they will be no exception to the proved rule.

APPLYING THE REMEDY.

The present representative and responsible form of government in vogue in the British Empire is an evolution of centuries. There are many other ways in which this country could be governed and still retain the representative character of our institutions. There are numerous models, and others could be suggested, any one of which might prove successful. It is all a question of becoming used to systems that might be adopted. The difficulty, however, is that a new form of government means a revolution, an upsetting of established routine, an entire change of methods. Anything different from what we have means an experiment, and experiments in government are dangerous. The parliamentary system we have is the outcome of centuries of adaptation to changing conditions, and we may fairly assume that it is the system best suited to our requirements. It is based upon the will of the people, to the manifestations of which it is peculiarly sensitive, and, theoretically at least, it is the most democratic representative system which the experience of statesmen has been able to evolve. It may not be perfect in practice—indeed, it is not—but perfection in politics can never be attained under any form of constitution. Perfection in government is only possible as our representatives approach the ideal. In a large measure, as the people are so is the government. Under any system of popular rule that must be the case. Cut-and-dried schemes look well on paper. The fathers of United States independence thought they could devise a scheme of government much superior to that of Great Britain. It is doubtful if there is any one particular in which it is an improvement, and there are several important respects in which it is admittedly inferior. It is not as free, as democratic or as adaptable as the good old British constitution, with all its faults. Our Dominion and Provincial systems are practically replicas of the British model. These remarks are suggested by the letter of a correspondent, who has a brand new solution of the problem of government. It is intended in one particular as a cure for long sessions. We are afraid the remedy proposed would in itself be worse than the disease, inasmuch as the legislature, in the way proposed, would become nearly interminable. We did not, however, start out to discuss its merits or demerits as a plan, which lacks neither ingenuity nor originality, but simply to remark that at no time in the history of British parliament has there ever arisen a difficulty or an abuse so serious as not to be successfully overcome, and long sessions, excessive legislation, too expensive government and other defects developed in our parliamentary system will find a cure when the people of the country are fully awakened to its necessity and are sufficiently insistent in their demands for it. It is not a better form of government we want, if we want anything, so much as a better class of representatives. If government by the people for the people is not a fiction, then the people themselves are responsible for what evils are incident to it. If they cannot rectify the abuses of the system, then any system of popular government must prove a failure.

BRITISH CAPITAL IN CANADA.

In view of the fact that we have heard frequent criticisms of the failure of British capitalists to invest in Canada, it will be interesting to note the following statement published in the London Times as to the distribution of new capital outside of the United Kingdom:

United States	£41,359,707
Japan	30,200,000
South Africa	15,513,520
Canada	10,788,287
South America	6,658,200
India	5,333,707
Australasia	3,800,000

The United States was formerly a most popular field for investment, a great deal of which, probably one-half, became profitless and worthless. It was said that Great Britain had a blanket mortgage over the whole of that country. The money loaned throughout the West by New York houses was really British capital borrowed at a low rate of interest. Now that state of things has altered to a large degree and New York is an important money centre of itself and is taking a hand in world finance. The United States, however, still heads the list for British investment on account of the extent of industrial enterprises and large population. Japan ranks high because of her huge war expenditures and South Africa on account of her mines, developed almost wholly by British capital, and her railways. Recently Australia, which drew heavily in former years, has not been favored.

Canada for many years failed to draw. To a great extent this was due to the fact that the United States, South Africa and Australia were more fashionable. The trend was that way, and it took years for economic conditions to change. Canada, by virtue of her steady plodding and the success of her own efforts, became a factor of the Empire and forced the attention of the men of money as a field for enterprise. Capitalists are keen, long-headed, far-seeing men as a rule, but, just like other classes of the community, they are a flock of sheep who follow the lead of the financial bell weather. After years of waiting the psychological moment arrived. It came Canada's turn. Today the eyes of the whole financial world are upon the Dominion, and its securities are the prime favorites. During the first six months of the present year no less than $132,721,486 was subscribed by British investors for enterprises in Canada and other countries, as shown in the foregoing table:

The investment in Canada include £6,102,000 for the three issues of the Grand Trunk Pacific floated during the half-year, and £1,025,000 for the Canada Atlantic; £2,523,287 for Canadian Northern issues; £60,000 for the Imperial Paper Mills at Sturgeon Falls, Ont.; £150,000 for the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company; £78,000 for Quebec City; £400,000 for the Shawinigan Water & Pulp Company, and £450,000 for the Western Canada Pulp & Paper Company.

Canada can certainly no longer complain, and we look for the time when British Columbia will be as popular in this respect as the rest of the Dominion. Our time will come.

"VICTORY" SOUVENIRS.

The Nelson centenary is being very actively promoted in naval and military circles. Such men as Lord Curzon, the Earl of Spencer, Vice-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, Field Marshal Roberts and Lord Brassey are giving their warmest sympathy and support. Even Captain A. T. Mahan, of the United States navy, the gifted author of the "Life of Nelson" and other noted works on naval affairs is keenly interested. Needless to say that the Navy League is most active in its efforts in the same direction.

Pursuant to a suggestion in a letter which appeared in the London Times nearly a year ago, the occasion is to be marked by the issuance of a special "Victory" souvenir for boys and girls. In this connection there is what is known as a "Nelson Centenary Memorial Fund," which is to help seamen in all parts of the world. This is perhaps the best and most appropriate way in which the memory of Nelson can be perpetuated. In the language of the London Times, "Nelson's fame is part of the world's history, and his example and his memory will be cherished by seamen as long as that history endures." It is a remarkable coincidence that Nelson's centenary should occur in a year marked by another of the most notable naval victories the world has seen since the days of Trafalgar, that of Togo over the Russian Baltic fleet. In the letter in the Times of last year, by Lord Brassey and his colleagues of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, to which reference has already been made, it is stated:

It is peculiarly appropriate that a maritime nation should in various ways suitably commemorate the centenary of the death of Nelson. Many of your readers will be interested to know that the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, of which Vice-Admiral H. R. H. the Prince of Wales is patron, will, with the hearty approval of many representative men, carry through a centenary scheme, in the shape of a "Nelson Centenary Memorial Fund."

Many of the old naval ships have necessarily been broken up, and many persons feared H. M. S. "Victory," after the recent accident, would follow her unfortunate consorts; but the King is credited with having commanded that she should be preserved as the one floating monument of the heroic past. The lords commissioners of the admiralty gave to the above society the whole of the old material taken from H. M. S. "Victory." The society has also secured the entire parcel of copper sheathing left from Nelson's flagship, the "Foudroyant," wrecked in 1897, and will therefore be in a position to present some million Nelson "Victory" souvenirs to the boys and girls of the Empire.

In a circular letter, just received, some of the details of the plan that has been adopted to raise the fund in question, which it is expected to reach about £50,000, are given. In this it says:

"We notice in the Old Country that in some of the widely read Canadian press it has got abroad that the dear old Victory, of Nelson fame, has been entirely broken up. Fortunately this is not the case, and King Edward has preserved this historic and famous ship as the one floating monument of that great era of the sea which ended in Trafalgar. After the accident which befel H. M. S. Victory, the damaged parts were taken from her, and it is this material—oak and copper—which was given by the lords of the admiralty to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society."

The plan of raising money suggested by the possession of these relics is to offer a Nelson centenary memento, actually containing copper from the Victory—a suitably inscribed medal or brooch, which "will be a lasting and priceless souvenir—to the boy or girl who will send one dollar or upwards to the fund. The King has given his permission to have his initials stamped on the mementoes. The committee of management expect to sell about a million of them in this way.

There is also a plan especially for schools, but open for cities, institutions and families contributing to the same fund: A school collecting £6 5s and upwards, a small oak shield with a plate of centenary "Victory" copper and suitable inscription; £10 10s and upwards, a "Victory" copper tray of special "Victory" design; £25 and upwards, a very fine shield of "Victory" copper, mounted on oak; £50 and upwards will have a choice of a bust of Nelson, containing "Victory" copper, on stand or oak bracket; or a single block of oak from the "Victory," with copper plate bearing a centenary inscription

In addition to the foregoing, which is a plan of campaign for a specific purpose, there are preparations being made in London and throughout the Empire for fetes of a musical, nautical and demonstrative character. We are asked to state that contributions to the fun, from whatever source, should be sent to Edward W. Matthews, Secretary, Passmore Edwards Sailors' Palace, Limehouse, London, E.

In compliance with the desire that the matter should have publicity, we give the above particulars. The object in view is a worthy one, but as the public have many demands on their pockets for various worthy objects, made through one form of appeal or another, we do not feel called upon to specially advocate the giving in the way suggested. Such a matter should be entirely voluntary. Those who are in sympathy and can afford to contribute, would probably prize a memento of the kind. As seaports, the coast cities of British Columbia will naturally feel more interested in it than most other parts of Canada, or of the province. As a souvenir many would value it sufficiently for its own sake, to send their dollars.

In the article copied yesterday from the Winnipeg Free Press and contributed by a woman writer signing herself "M. T.," the statement is made that the population of Victoria is 23,000, in which there is included 10,000 Chinese. According to the last Dominion census there were about one-third of that number in the Victoria electoral district.

The August issue of Field and Stream might almost be called a Canadian number, for in addition to a long editorial on the advantages which our West offers to young men of energy and ambition, there are two illustrated articles on Canadian topics. The first of these is "The New Northwest," by Frank I. Clarke, of this city, and the second, "The Game of Vancouver Island," by D. W. and A. S. Iddings, two enthusiastic young sportsmen who visited Victoria about a year ago in search of big game and material for magazine literature.

Under modern conditions of transportation the same problems crop up everywhere. The Washington State Railway Commission met at Colfax, Wash., the other day and heard complaints against the railways from patrons in other towns in respect to the discrimination in favor of Spokane. The merchants in the latter city get what is called the "wholesalers' rate," which is about one-half as much from Spokane to neighboring points as from those points to Spokane. The evidence of a number of shippers was heard, and the commission promised immediate investigation. A press despatch states that if the rate be changed "it would be a body blow to Spokane's wholesale trade."

M. WITTE'S MISSION.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 16.—It is explained to the Associated Press today that M. Witte's mission to America in addition to undertaking peace negotiations was to correct certain mistaken impressions in America regarding the attitude of the Russian government on the Jewish question. He is to explain, too, the government's proposals for reform which it has been decided to submit to the proposed national assembly for final action. M. Witte, as president of the council of ministers, is familiar with the Russian government's intention regarding the Jews and has a close personal knowledge of the Jewish question in all its details.

Reports received from Portsmouth that

Negotiations May Be Broken Off.

at the end of the week and possibly sooner have found a distinct echo in high official quarters here. The announcement that the emperor's manifesto summoning the douma will be issued Saturday has added to this pessimistic view. It had been declared that its date of issuance would be dependent either on the conclusion of peace or the breaking off of the negotiations. Though the form and scope of the proposed assembly is supposed to have been definitely decided, it is said at this late date influence is being brought to bear to effect a change in the paragraphs in the project relating to elections which were regarded by the friends of the present order of things as going too far in the direction of liberalism and with only the slightest hope of success.

THE SALARY GRAB.

Mail and Empire.

According to the St. John Sun, the Ottawa ministers had a bitter quarrel among themselves before they could agree to the terms of the salary grab. Some of these statesmen wanted the haul in the shape of an increased annual stipend. Others stood out for pensions, on the ground that such allowances would yield more. It does not appear that any of the ministers fought against the extra public charge. They were unanimously favorable to the graft, and were divided only on the question as to the best means of making it large.

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