

## The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1898.

### CIVIC LICENSES.

Messrs. Shallcross, Macaulay & Co. send the Colonist a letter, which we print this morning. It has a direct bearing upon the question of increasing civic licenses. In connection with this we may refer to the Vancouver law upon this subject. The only licenses exacted in that city, in addition to those for selling liquor, are for cabs, drays, omnibuses, livery stables, sale or feed stables, hawkers, transient traders, auctioneers, exhibitions of various kinds, intelligence offices, bill posters, dealers in opium other than for physicians' prescriptions, pawnbrokers, second-hand stores, junk dealers, scavengers, pipe layers, plumbers, chimney sweeps, laundries, express, gas, telephone, tramway, investment, loan, insurance companies and banks, not chartered, clairvoyants, milk sellers, bowling alleys, corn doctors, street fakirs, shooting galleries, dog-racks and knife stands, and persons engaged in fire insurance. It will be observed that these licenses do not apply to ordinary commercial or manufacturing businesses or to the learned professions. The exemption of chartered banks is also noteworthy.

### TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The report of Mr. George Anderson, who was sent last year to Japan as a special trade representative of the Dominion, is published and it contains a great deal of valuable information. Mr. Anderson has confined himself to bare statements of fact, and his report is therefore more in the nature of a handy reference for business men than a paper for popular perusal. We suggest that it ought to be published with an introduction, in which some facts relating to Japan could be given and the general situation be fully reviewed. Either this should be done, or the newspapers ought to make use of the information which he obtained and now presents so succinctly, so as to stir up an interest in the great question of our commercial relations with our trans-Pacific neighbors.

Among the articles for which Mr. Anderson thinks there is a demand in Japan we find alcohol first mentioned. The next is barley. Barley is used for three purposes in Japan. The impression that has gone abroad hitherto is that there would not be very much demand for Canadian barley in Japan owing to a preference for the German article. Mr. Anderson shows that this preference only affects the barley used for malting, and points out that this grain is used as a food for cattle as well as for men, being mixed with rice in the latter instance. As Canada produces the best of barley for food purposes, it seems as if a market ought to be found in Japan. He also tells us that beans and peas would find a large sale, because rice being high, cheaper foods are much sought after by the poorer classes, who are the great majority of the population. Light beers would find a ready sale. In this connection a remark made by Marquis Ito may be repeated. When he was in Victoria he asked the name of the principal mountains on the Coast, and on Rainier being mentioned said: "Ah, that is where the famous beer comes from." The beer in question is the lightest kind of a beverage, but it seems to have made a hit in Japan. Japan is making a great deal of beer at home, and for this purpose German hops are in much favor. Mr. Anderson thinks that by an energetic effort British Columbia hops could be sold there in large quantities. For the better qualities of biscuits and the cheaper kinds of blankets there would be a large sale. The former would be for the wealthier classes; the latter for the coolies. The blankets ought to be small and highly colored; probably a special variety would be needed for the trade. There is a large demand for horns, hoofs and bones, which are manufactured by the Japanese into a variety of articles. There is a good demand for butter in tins; but it ought to be sent over in cold storage in summer. There are cold storage plants in Yokohama. In the winter season roll butter would sell quickly. Mr. Anderson believes that large quantities of British Columbia salmon could be sold in Japan, notwithstanding the fact that a great many fish are canned in the country. For cattle and horses there is a growing demand, because the existing breeds of Japan are undersized. For oatmeal, rolled oats, wheat flakes and similar food there is an opening market, which bids fair to be large. There is some demand for coal and a large one for coke, which, Mr. Anderson thinks, British Columbia could wholly supply. The coal of Japan is not fit for cooking and what coke is needed is brought from England and Germany. For condensed milk and confectionery there would be a large sale. Among other articles mentioned by Mr. Anderson in which British Columbia people are directly interested are smoked and salt salmon, apples, pears and plums, wheat flour, iron, lumber, fresh meat, wood pulp, shingles, soap and barrel staves. He speaks of a large number of other things, especially manufactured articles. On the whole he makes a far more favorable report even than we looked for.

The statements of Mr. Jaffray as to the operations of the Crow's Nest collieries, in yesterday's Colonist, were of great interest. Anything which bears upon the cheapening of the treatment of Kootenay ores is of the utmost importance. Cheap fuel and cheap power will work a revolution in the smelting industry, thereby giving employment to many people and adding to the prosperity of the whole country. It is to be hoped that plans of some kind will be devised whereby the export of ores to foreign smelters can be stopped.

The New Westminster Sun is cruel enough to ask if the phraseology of Mr. Kennedy's resolution to prohibit the sale of intoxicants in the parliament restaurant is due to his interest in some Victoria saloon. We do not think the Sun should have made such a remark as this. No one supposes for a moment that Mr. Kennedy was influenced by such a thing, but on the contrary every one gave him credit for being influenced by the best of motives. His resolution was not carried, but something of the kind will be the rule by and bye. British Columbia will not lag behind the rest of the Dominion in this matter. But what we wished particularly to say is that the Sun should leave insinuation of the kind referred to the opposition press. Such things, even in jest, are hurtful, because they may be misunderstood.

### ENEMIES OF THE PROVINCE.

We do not suppose that the gentlemen composing the provincial opposition are actually determined upon injuring the province; but there is a legal principle that a man is supposed to intend the consequences of his acts, and their conduct certainly is calculated to do British Columbia a great deal of harm. One of their principal claims has been that the government of the province is corrupt. No greater injury can be done a province, which is lagging population and investment than to have an impression go abroad that the government is not conducted upon honest lines. In the other portions of the British Empire party feeling runs high but there are no charges of this kind hurled around as if corruption were quite the thing to be expected and not the grossest of all offences against the public. If one reads the opposition press of other British countries, he will see that the policy of the several administrations is severely criticized, but he will not be told that those in power are robbing the public for their own aggrandizement or for that of a favored few. It has been reserved for the opposition of British Columbia to lead off in this sort of political warfare. Fifteen years ago the Liberal party in federal politics were much given to charging corruption; but accompanying this was a vigorous assault upon the policy of the government, which in a measure overshadowed the other phase of their attack. Such charges of corruption as were made were explicit and could be met and answered, as they were, but the British Columbia opposition simply deals in sweeping charges of dishonesty, whereby they poison the minds of strangers against the administration and create an idea that the province is a place where no man is safe, because every one knows that no one is safe, no interests are safe, if the government of the country is corrupt. Important concessions have been granted to capital, extensive aid has been given to railways—if all these things have been corruptly done, as the opposition allege, the province is no place for an honest man, having anything to lose, to come to, because the whole body politic must be a mass of seething corruption. This is precisely the idea which the opposition are seeking to create. Their only object in so doing is to persuade people to vote against the government; but the legitimate and necessary result is to create impressions abroad which are harmful to the province. We have already seen how certain Toronto papers, taking their cue from the opposition press here, have treated it as an established fact that affairs are administered in British Columbia in an exceedingly corrupt way.

The persistent representations that the province is burdened by a debt far beyond its capacity and that the consequence will be the imposition of extremely heavy taxation is another harmful line of action followed by the opposition. If it were true, there would be a good excuse for it; but it is not true. The people of the province pay no means heavily taxed, and the increasing population will keep the burden down to what it is at present, and undoubtedly after a few years will lighten it. Representations are made day in and day out by the opposition that the farmers of the province are crushed under a burden of taxes, that their condition is deplorable in the extreme and their future hopeless. Mr. Forster said in the house the other day that even the market in the North to be opened to the farmers of British Columbia would be of no use to them, and he represents, or is supposed to represent, a farming community. We may search the speeches of the opposition members in vain for a single word of hope for the farmers of British Columbia. All through them there runs the same dismal lament of overburdening debt and oppressive taxation. If an enemy of this province wished to have literature to circulate in Europe and America to deter farmers from coming to the province, his utmost ingenuity could not devise anything more effective than a series of selections from the speeches of the members of the opposition. The province justly boasts of its great mineral wealth. It claims to afford unexampled opportunities for men of enterprise and capital. It represents itself to the world as containing within its imperial domain the greatest store of the precious metals to be found in a similar area anywhere in the world. It has been advertised far and wide as being so rich in mineral resources that the only embarrassment to the intending investor is to know what to choose. And yet when propositions are made to open the country by railways and public works, the opposition members of the legislature and the opposition press unite in a cry that the country cannot afford to go to any expense. They have been telling the world, substantially, that although so many great things have been promised of British Columbia, as a matter of fact it will not pay to develop the country. Possibly, indeed, probably, the opposition do not appreciate the effect of

what they are doing. They are so utterly blinded by lust for office that they cannot see whether their steps are leading them. They are not in point of fact, as the consequences of their acts; but so far as results go there is not such a difference between the man who throws a lighted brand into a powder magazine thoughtlessly and one who does so intentionally. He is accountable just the same in either case for the mischief he works. So we say of the provincial opposition. They ought to be held as responsible before the bar of public opinion for the hurt they are doing as they would be if they were doing it intentionally.

It seems a little odd that the gentlemen who believe the subsidy to the Coast-Leslin road is a gigantic steal were prepared to permit that portion of it to be stolen which applies to the part of the line between the Stikine and the Lake. We suppose that comparatively small amounts of money are more easily exorable. We all remember the excuse of the unfortunate girl: "But it was such a little one."

The Loan bill has passed its third reading and nothing now remains to be done but to obtain sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, which will come in due course. The most important departure in the history of the province has been fully inaugurated.

The news which we print this morning from the Stikine will be read with great interest. For a river that could not be navigated, according to some people, an excellent beginning has been made.

With the supplementary estimates before the house the session may be regarded as very near its end. The appropriations asked are large, but no greater than the needs of the country demand.

The Three Tailors of Tooley Street have removed to a Vancouver newspaper office and are crying out night and day for Mr. Joseph Martin to save the province from a political disaster by taking the leadership of the opposition. As Mr. Martin stated most distinctly to the Colonist a few days ago that under no circumstances would he enter British Columbia politics this year, we suppose the province is irrevocably lost, and we suggest to the Three Tailors that it might be well for them to move at the earliest possible date to some lone isle of the ocean where they will escape the grand smash when it comes.

The Kamloops Standard is needlessly complimentary to the local opposition. It speaks of them as desiring to sit still and vegetate. They have passed that stage. Political dry rot has set in. They are sitting still indeed, but no microscope is powerful enough to discover even the promise of vegetation. What the Standard mistakes for a vegetating process is simply an external mossy growth, with which kind nature loves to hide things that are no longer useful.

The Westminster Gazette does not like Mr. Ogilvie's lectures. What does the Gazette want? Mr. Ogilvie did not go to the Old Country for the sake of sitting in judgment upon Yukon schemes. He appears to be telling the people there, what he told the people of Canada, that is, the result of his observations. As a Dominion official he would have no right to tell anything more.

The Union Jack is no wrompinently displayed in many theatres in the United States and the people cheer when "God Save the Queen" is played. There's nothing like trouble to show a nation who its friends are.

The New Westminster Sun says that Mr. Henderson must be understood as the candidate of the people who are independent in politics, but as between the government and opposition will choose the government. Independent support is satisfactory to any government that is doing its duty.

### JEROBOAM.

In the reign of Rehoboam the Hebrew nation was rent in twain by a rebellion. Rehoboam came to the throne on the death of his father Solomon, who notwithstanding his wisdom and magnificence, was a severe ruler. The short period which had elapsed since Saul was made king had not sufficed to eradicate from the minds of the Hebrew people those democratic ideas under which the nation had flourished. Therefore when the new king came to the throne, the people were determined that their ancient privileges should be restored. There was at that time living in Egypt one of the tribe of Ephraim named Jeroboam, who is described as "a mighty man of valor." He had chafed greatly under the oppression of Solomon and his opposition to that monarch became so marked that his life was in danger and he fled to Egypt. When Rehoboam ascended the throne, the people sent for Jeroboam, who responded to the call, and headed a deputation representing all the tribes to demand a promise of freer government. The story as told in the Book of Kings is provokingly short, but the few lines of the picture are so pronounced that it is easy to fill in the remainder. We are reminded by it of another day when the people came to demand from their king the restoration of the rights which had been theirs from time immemorial, but on the latter occasion John of England was wise in his day and generation and the Great Charter was signed at Runnymede. Rehoboam, we are told, consulted the old men, who advised him to yield to the demand of the people; but he afterwards advised with the younger members of his court and they counselled him to assert his sovereign rights. His reply to the deputation when at the expiration of three days they came for the answer to their petition is memorable. He said: "My father made your yoke heavy; I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you

with whips; but I will chastise you with scorpions." Then went up the cry of freedom that has rung down through nearly thirty centuries: "To your tents, O Israel," and the secession of Israel from Judah was accomplished. The new kingdom thus erected lasted for two hundred and fifty years, when Sargon, King of Assyria, overthrew it and carried the people into captivity.

Jeroboam is a character of striking interest if for no other reason than because he is the earliest historical leader of a popular revolt against kingly oppression. The date of his memorable uprising is variously given, but it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 975 B.C., of 2873 years ago. To this valiant man the divinity "that doth hedge a king," even if it were identified by all the religious surroundings accompanying the Hebrew monarchy, was no less a deity than the deity of the anointing oil, which was supposed to convey something of the attributes of divine power, greater than all the splendor with which Solomon had surrounded the throne, were the rights of the common people in the eyes of Jeroboam. He was the first constitutional sovereign of whom we have any record. It seems therefore a matter for regret that he was in his later days a failure as a king and that the twenty-two years of his reign left his people in an unsettled and unprosperous condition. The truth of the matter seems to have been that the Children of Israel were not fitted for monarchical institutions as they were understood in those days. The instinct of individual liberty was too strong.

Undoubtedly the secession of Jeroboam led to the final overthrow of the Jewish nation; but for this the kingdom might have remained powerful enough to resist the onslaught of its great neighbors. Almost immediately after the secession, the king of Egypt attacked Rehoboam, king of the Jews, with great success. Then followed turbulent and bloody times, resulting in the weakening of both the kingdom of Judah and that of Israel, as the seceding nation was called, so that Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. had no difficulty in capturing Jerusalem. Eight years later the city was again sacked and ten thousand of the flower of its people were carried away to Babylon, and eleven years only passed before a Babylonian conqueror came again and this time to lay the city to waste, destroying the temple with fire. This was in 586 B.C. Long before this the kingdom of Israel had perished. Cyrus permitted the Jews to return and some 40,000 of them availed themselves of his offer; but the fate of the captives, who were taken from Samaria by Sargon of Assyria, has never been solved. What became of them is one of the mysteries of history.

The rapprochement of Great Britain and the United States lends a new interest to the inquiry as to the fate of the Ten Tribes. As many people are aware, the claim has been advanced with much pertinacity, and maintained with a good deal of substantial argument, that the English-speaking race is descended from the men and women of Samaria whom Sargon carried into captivity, or in other words from the seceders who threw off the yoke of Rehoboam rather than submit to tyranny. The arguments for this claim are many and the literature on the subject is quite extensive. The merest outline of the subject would be impossible here. About thirty years ago a work appeared giving thirty-seven identifications. This has been followed by a host of similar pamphlets, in each of which new arguments are adduced. The identifications are in part historical, in part based upon the interpretation of Hebrew prophecy and in part traditional. Some of them seem very far-fetched; others appear almost conclusive. The substance of the conclusion reached is that the Israel of the prophecies is not the church, as is generally held, but a great nation to be made up of the descendants of the Ten Tribes and those whom they amalgamated with themselves, which nation is to be supreme over all the earth. To mention one of the arguments as illustrating the character of some of them: The tribe of Dan is traced across Europe by the names it left on the way. Some of these are the Dnieper, the Don, the Danube, and Denmark. No less than three rivers, one in Russia, one in England and one in Scotland, bear the name Don. Another argument is derived from the Coronation Stone in Westminster Abbey, the history of which is lost in remote antiquity, but is taken up by tradition, which alleges that it was brought from Jerusalem by the daughter of Henehiah, king of Judah. If it be true in point of fact that our race is sprung from the tribes whom Jeroboam led out from under the sceptre of the tyrant Rehoboam, it would be difficult to find a name in all the annals of history that means more for mankind than his.

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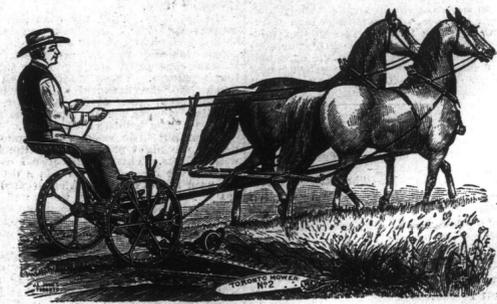
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