

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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CANADIAN BANKS

There are thirty chartered banks in Canada, and their aggregate authorized capital, according to the last statement, is \$140,486,666. Of this, \$98,698,241 is subscribed, and \$97,936,700 is paid up. The banks with the largest authorized capitalization are, in order: the Bank of Commerce, with \$15,000,000; the Bank of Montreal, with \$14,400,000; the Bank of Toronto and the Imperial Bank, with \$10,000,000 each. The largest paid-up capital is that of the Bank of Montreal, all its stock being paid up. Next comes the Bank of Commerce, with \$10,000,000 paid up. The Bank of Montreal has the largest reserve, the amount being \$12,000,000. The aggregate of all the reserves is \$78,449,573. The aggregate circulation of the banks is \$78,378,676, the Bank of Montreal leading with \$10,664,418. The highest dividend declared at the last declaration was by the Bank of New Brunswick, which paid 13 per cent. The banks held on deposit, subject to withdrawal without notice, \$288,428,786, and subject to notice of 60 days, \$207,404. They held, in addition, \$5,699,911 for the Dominion government and \$28,775,784 for the provincial governments. In all, their liabilities amount to \$962,026,478. Against these liabilities they held assets amounting to \$1,149,364,437, of which \$27,094,487 was in specie and \$73,974,295 in Dominion notes. The loans to the public, that is what are ordinarily known as discounts, amounted to \$590,984,344, or rather more than half the total assets. It will be observed that the cash and Dominion notes on hand far exceed the bank notes in circulation. The bank statement seems to an outsider to be exceedingly satisfactory and to disclose a state of things which justify the expectation that money will not be tight during the coming season. The figures must strike the general reader as enormous for a country of the population of Canada, the deposits being very large for a population of less than 8,000,000, especially when we remember that a very large sum is carried by the public in the government savings banks.

CHINA AWAKENING

There is a steady movement in China towards constitutional government. It is true that Chinese scholars say their country had this two or three thousand years ago and concluded to abandon it, but be this as it may, the people have apparently determined to experiment with it again. But this is only one of several things that show China to be awakening. The assertion of authority over Tibet is a step that indicates the presence of a new spirit in the Pekin government. The stand taken in regard to Manchurian railways also shows that China expects to be reckoned with hereafter. In all matters relating to Eastern Asia, the statement is freely made that war with Russia is in contemplation, but we are unwilling to believe that the Yellow Kingdom will be the aggressor in that or any other case. Chinese policy seems to be one of passivity. She endeavors to carry out certain lines of policy, but has not the least intention of beginning a fight with any one who may question whatever. If some other power thinks it worth while to attack her, she will resist, and the time has gone by when her resistance could be regarded as a negligible quantity. None of us can hope to realize what the effect upon the world will be when China gets thoroughly aroused to a sense of her own power. Not only does she possess a vast population, but her natural resources are beyond comprehension.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Rosebery will shortly announce his plan for the reform of the House of Lords. It is understood that he will propose that its numbers shall be greatly reduced; but he will adhere to the hereditary principle in so far as the majority of the membership is concerned. How this will meet the views of the Liberals, Laborites and Nationalists it is not easy to say. At first thought one would be disposed to think that the Laborites and Nationalists would not approve of any change short of a purely elective body, but this conclusion might be found to be hasty. The feature of the Rosebery proposals over which a clash will come will be the recognition of the hereditary principle. There may come a time when it will be wise to abandon this, but we hesitate to do so, about thinking it has already served its purpose. Expediency is the chief thing to be considered in determining a form of government, and we are very much inclined to doubt if it is expedient at the present time to establish in the United Kingdom a second chamber with a membership that will be elective wholly.

Nevertheless there is a feature about a second chamber, founded on the hereditary principle, which deserves some consideration. As a rule the British peerage is a very worthy institution so far as its membership goes, and a very large proportion of

that membership takes exceedingly little interest in public matters. Peers have no votes, and of course they are ineligible to seats in the House of Commons. The lack of votes may not be a very material matter; but we are not by any means sure that good would not result if Peers could be elected to the Commons. Except on rare occasions the real governing of the Kingdom is done by the Commons, and it would be a distinct advantage to that body if it were open to every British subject. The question has not sufficiently developed to enable any one to speak with confidence as to the value of any of the proposed changes; but it is one of great interest and importance, not only to the United Kingdom, but to the whole Empire.

WANTED, A BUDGET

A strong agitation in favor of a Budget is springing up in the United States. Perhaps it may be well to explain what is meant by this. At present in the United States no person is charged with the duty of presenting to Congress an estimate of the probable income for the year or suggesting what expenditures ought to be provided for. The receipts are roughly calculated, but the expenditure is not framed to correspond with them. The Cabinet says what it needs. The President makes recommendations; the House of Representatives adds to or subtracts from these demands, and last of all the Senate has its say. The result is that no one in particular is responsible for anything, and of late years the outgo has ranged considerably above the income. Lately the Secretary of the Treasury has been charged with the duty of making up some sort of a preliminary estimate of what must be voted, but no one feels bound by it. They have a process in the United States Congress that used to be called log-rolling. If one appropriation cannot go through of itself, two or three or more may be got through together, and thus the Treasury is at the mercy of combinations of members. Necessity is felt for a change, and the idea that some responsible person shall be charged with the preparation of a Budget is gaining ground rapidly. The weakness of the Budget system, when applied to the United States, is that there is nothing in that country corresponding to our rule that money votes must be proposed by the Crown, and there is nothing resembling our system of responsible government. If Congress saw fit to ignore the Budget nothing could be done about it. There is no provision in the Constitution providing for the resignation of a Cabinet, because of a hostile vote of Congress, or for an appeal to the people except at stated times. The United States Constitution was drawn up by men who did not understand parliamentary government as we have it today, and for the very good reason that such a form of government had only then recently come into existence in Great Britain, and its working was very imperfectly understood by any one. Nevertheless we think the adoption of the Budget system would serve a useful purpose in the United States. It would serve as a guide to the two Houses of Congress, if for nothing else.

If any unusual atmospheric disturbances are reported during the next few weeks, do not jump to the conclusion that Halley's comet is to blame. It may be one Theodore Roosevelt coming home.

Commander Peary declines to submit his proofs of the discovery of the North Pole to the United States Geographical Society. This seems a funny sort of business. Can it be that the Pole has not been discovered after all?

A New York despatch says that Mr. Rockefeller proposes to give \$250,000 to establish the "Foundation" and it is said that he will then have \$500,000 left. These figures may or may not be correct, and the chances are they are not.

It is to be hoped that the civic authorities will be as careful as possible about cutting down the old oak trees. In some cases it is doubtless necessary to remove these ancient landmarks, but the rule ought to be "Woodman, spare that tree."

And now the pessimists are telling us that Great Britain has been making a mistake in building Dreadnoughts, and that while she has been congratulating herself that she had some pretty good fighting ships, she is really hopelessly out-classed. It really seems as if political partisanship were

depriving people not only of all patriotism, but even of ordinary common sense.

That erstwhile creator of lively news, George D. Collins, has got into the limelight once more, and this time through a petition for pardon which the Governor of California refused to grant. The Governor says that it is a serious thing to marry a woman and have children by her and then swear that no marriage ever took place. San Francisco will be mildly astonished at this definition of propriety. It was supposed at one time that anything went in that part of the world.

A correspondent asks for the popular vote in the United Kingdom at the last election. We are under the impression that the figures have already been given in the Colonist, but they may be repeated. In England the Liberal-Laborite coalition had a majority of 51,000; in Wales, 109,000; in Scotland, 128,000. In Ireland, the Nationalists had a majority of 200,000. Thus, the Unionists were in a minority in the whole United Kingdom of 488,000. The Liberal-Laborite coalition had a popular majority of 86,000 over the Unionists and Nationalists.

The Nicola Valley News is very confident of the future which lies before that part of the province. It says that the splendid transportation facilities that will be provided will give the district a great stimulus. Its sources of prosperity are its minerals, its cattle ranges and its agricultural lands. It anticipates the early construction by the Canadian Northern of a line down from Kamloops and it says that which that road has been built the Nicola Valley Coal and Coke Co. will install a thousand coke furnaces.

Commenting upon the visit of the United States Tariff Commissioners to Ottawa, the New York Herald's correspondent in that city thinks that great good will come of it even if their report does not enable the President to see his way clear to apply the provision of the minimum schedule to the Dominion. The commissioners hoped for some concessions in regard to the export of pulp wood, and were somewhat surprised to be told that this was a matter wholly within the jurisdiction of the several provincial governments, which own the crown lands.

In view of the publication throughout the United Kingdom that the openings for teachers in British Columbia are many and promising, Mr. Turner, Agent-General, has taken the wise step of advising all persons who contemplate coming to the province to engage in teaching, to communicate with the Department of Education before coming out. This is very desirable to avoid possible disappointments, not because there are no opportunities for employment, but because intending teachers may not possess the necessary requirements.

Senator Thomas C. Platt, of New York, died on the 6th inst. Of late years he has not been very prominent in political life, but at one time he was almost the most powerful public man in the United States. As "Boss" Platt, his doings were watched with that feverish interest displayed by the people of that country in the transactions of its most prominent citizens. He was seventy-seven years of age and a hard worker up to the last, although for some time his physical strength has been failing. For forty years he has been before the public and although there are some phases of his public and private career into which it might not be desirable to let the light fall too freely, he was a man of great mental strength, courage and resourcefulness.

The Montreal Gazette is mistaken in supposing that the reason why the contract between the Provincial Government and the Canadian Northern provides that rates shall not be under the supervision of the Railway Commission, is that "the Commission is not regarded as an unbiased blessing." The reason for the provision just mentioned had nothing whatever to do with the efficiency or value of the Railway Commission. The Provincial Government is assisting the company with a liberal guarantee, and one of the conditions of that guarantee was that control of rates should go with it. It is obvious that the Government were left in the hands of the Railway Commission, so there was no other course open than for the Government to retain the control in their own hands.



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REAL Victoria days—those last three. Days when every baby in the city ought to be outside breathing health. If you have a little baby in your home and you haven't a comfortable go-cart, come down here right away and choose from this splendid stock we offer.

To make the matter of owning one easy, we have specially priced some very stylish carriages. We illustrate three here. You'll find The Whitney name on every one of them—the mark of highest quality. The illustrations give but a faint idea of the stylish appearance of these. Come in and inspect at close range. Dozens of others at all prices. We have them

Priced from \$3 to \$50

Here Are Three Specially Good Values



RECLINING FOLDING GO-CART

No. L. 42, U. & P.—Body is reed, varnished; sides upholstered; has mattress cushion, lace parasol. Gear is all steel; four 12-inch rubber tire wheels; patent wheel fastener; foot brake. Patent folding cross reach. Dark green enamel finish. Enamelled push bar.

Same as Illustration.

Special Value at \$12.50



RECLINING FOLDING GO-CART

No. L. 43, U. & P.—Body is reed varnished. Upholstered sides and mattress cushion. Lace Parasol. Gear is all steel; four 12-inch rubber tire wheels. Patent wheel fastener; foot brake. Patent folding cross reach. Dark green enamel finish. Enamelled push bar.

Same as Illustration.

Special Value at \$13



RECLINING FOLDING GO-CART

No. L. 49, U. & P.—Body is reed, varnished. Upholstered sides and mattress cushion. Lined chambray parasol. Gear is all steel, four 12-inch rubber tire wheels. Patent wheel fastener. Foot brake. Patent folding cross reach. Dark green enamel finish. Enamelled push bar.

Same as Illustration.

Special Value at \$14.50

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Right now, when assortments are most complete, and before the real rush begins, is an excellent time to do the carpet choosing—it's the best time. Come and choose from a magnificent collection of carpets and rugs—much the best showing in British Columbia. The work of making and laying is done by expert workmen, and absolute satisfaction is guaranteed you here. Try us with your Spring needs in carpets.

"Fix Up" Your Dining Room This Spring

WHEN you arrange for Spring Cleaning plan to "fix up" the dining-room. Easy to transform the appearance of this room, and at little expense, if you choose carefully. Come in and let us talk dining-room "schemes" with you, let us show you one of the finest collections of dining-room furniture in Canada.

We are ready to go into the matter with you fully and freely. Come in and consult us at any time, and remember, there is not the slightest obligation to purchase incurred in so doing. See the display on our third and fourth floors.

You'll Find a Buffet to Please You in This Assortment

Golden Oak Buffets are favored by many, and to meet the demand we stock a very comprehensive range of styles. Both style and price range is broad enough to satisfy you. We have these in surface golden and in solid golden oak. Every one well built and finished in best possible manner.

GOLDEN SURFACE OAK, from \$25.00
SOLID OAK, golden, from \$32.00
SIDEBOARD, surface golden \$17.00
SIDEBOARD, solid golden \$30.00

Dining-rooms in Mission have enjoyed a wide popularity of late—and the demand is still growing. We are ready for it with one of the most comprehensive displays of Mission dining-room furniture ever attempted in Victoria. In all lines we show broad choice, but in buffets the smart styles are especially noticeable. The very smartest creations. Finished popular Early English.

MISSION SURFACE OAK, from \$25.00
MISSION SOLID OAK, from \$30.00
GOLDEN ELM SIDEBOARDS, \$16.00 and \$15.00

Splendid Choice of Dining Tables Here

Matters not whether you prefer round or square, pedestal or regular, golden or Mission in dining tables, you'll find the best assortment right on our fourth floor. The table is a very important item of the dining-room's furnishings. We make the matter of both choosing and owning easy by offering you a broad assortment of styles and range of prices designed to fit any purse.

Come in and see the tables we show in golden fir, golden oak finish, solid golden oak, Early English oak finish, solid oak in the Early English finish, mahogany, etc. Prices start as low at \$7.50.

A Grand Assortment of Dining Chair Styles

Dozens of different chair styles await your selection. We have them in "all shapes and sizes." All the popular woods and finishes and the newest designs are offered. If you cannot find your ideal style here—well, you are pretty hard to satisfy. We have them in plain wood seats, cane seats, leather upholstered seats, etc.

GOLDEN FINISHED CHAIRS, up from \$1.00
GOLDEN OAK FINISH CHAIRS, up from \$2.50
GOLDEN OAK CHAIRS, up from \$2.50
EARLY ENGLISH FINISHED CHAIRS, up from \$2.75
EARLY ENGLISH OAK CHAIRS, up from \$3.75

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COMPETITION FOR MODEL DAIRIES

Handsone Cup Donated by the Provincial Government for Competition Amongst Farmers of B. C.

The handsome silver cup, possibly the largest and most ornate trophy of the kind that has ever been given in Western Canada, which the provincial government has presented to the Provincial Dairyman's association as the prize in the dairy farm competition just inaugurated, has reached Livestock Commissioner Hodson from the manufacturers, and is exciting the admiration, and possibly the covetousness, of all who have seen it at least some day to own it. The trophy is about three feet in height, by perhaps eighteen in diameter, and is made of a handsome oaken base. Simplicity and graceful lines are its chief characteristics from a designer's viewpoint; while its solidly finished surfaces are a comment.

The competition is to be conducted under the provisions of a regulation and victory and the ownership of the trophy will rest with the farm most closely complying with the provincial regulations. Judging will be upon the general health of herds; the sanitary conditions, ventilation, etc., of dairy premises; and the most efficient methods of handling the dairy product while on the farm. The competition is now inaugurated, and judging will take place three times in each year—in the early spring, at midsummer and in November.

The cup must be three times won to become the personal property of the fortunate dairyman entitled ultimately to its possession. Needless, perhaps, to say, there is a very large entry list, and the judges are promised a task of no small magnitude. Commissioner Hodson will have assisted with him in the spring judging, upon which he starts out on Monday, Mr. W. E. Buckingham, president of the B.C. Dairyman's association; together they will visit Comox, Vancouver, Burnaby and Steveston during the ensuing week, their future itinerary not yet being arranged. The associate judges for midsummer is to be Mr. Bishop, of Bishop and Clarke, Victoria; while in November, Mr. McKay, of Burnaby, will act.

Mr. E. T. Judd, the famous Oregon expert in all dairying matters, has been secured by the department of agriculture for a series of lectures upon his speciality, to be delivered through British Columbia, the tour opening at the Islands on the 23rd instant and continuing during the ensuing two months. During a portion at least of the tour, professor Judd will be accompanied by a lady lecturer, to whom will be left the explanation of the scope and practical usefulness of women's institutes. It is expected that the department will be so fortunate as to secure for this mission Miss Mary Ann, of the University of British Columbia, who is regarded as among the foremost experts of the world, the American department of agriculture at Washington so grading her.

WANTS DESERTED WIFE TO REJOIN HIM

Man Who Misappropriated Provincial Police Fund, Eight Years Ago Turns Up in Northwest.

Mrs. W. R. Atkins, who has many friends in and about Victoria who will learn of her departure with keen regret, is leaving this week to join her husband in one of the new settlements of the Canadian Northwest.

The simple announcement of this sudden change in Mrs. Atkins' plans covers a little story that is full of human interest and a domestic tragedy redeemed by woman's fortitude under the stress of trying circumstances.

To turn back the pages of provincial history eight years, W. R. Atkins was constable and clerk at Provincial police headquarters, residing at and teamed by all brought into association with him until, to the amazement of all, he suddenly disappeared. The investigation disclosed that he had misappropriated some \$1,100 or \$1,200 of the funds of the province, and his passage through his hands in the course of official duty.

Inquiries were forthwith instituted as to his whereabouts, and after many months it was discovered that he had gone to South Africa, and thence it was reported to Australia. Nothing was directly heard from or of the delinquent, and in course of time, Atkins has been virtually forgotten.

His deserted wife courageously assumed the responsibilities of providing for herself and caring for her little son, adopting the profession of a nurse, in which she has brought comfort and health to many.

A week or so ago she received a letter from her long lost but not forgotten husband, urging her to come to him, expressing contrition for her years of silence, and stating that the writer was desirous of making and maintaining a home for her and the boy hereafter.

It is in response to this belated invitation that Mrs. Atkins is now preparing to leave Victoria.

JU JIM JUSTIFIED

Ju Jim is cleared of all suspicion of having stolen jewelry, to-wit one collar button, one watch chain, one five, ten and fifteen cent store on Government street. Jim was brought before the magistrate last week, and charged with the offense by a man who declared he was a floor walker employed in the store, and that he had seen Jim cop the button. Jim denied the charge, and secured counsel. The case was adjourned to allow Jim's counsel to bring witnesses.

When the case was continued yesterday morning the facts turned out to be quite different from the story first told. Jim's counsel called the manager of the store, who explained that the alleged floorwalker who laid the charge had been discharged from the store's employ several days ago, because he was a heavy drinker, and that in having Jim pinched he was acting on his own responsibility. Magistrate Jay heard this and other evidence. Jim told how he was a hard working China boy, employed at the Empress for a long time. Finally, when it was shown that the alleged floor walker had smelt of liquor at the night