Twice-a-Week Times

Published every Tuesday and Friday by THE TIMES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

JOHN NELSON, Managing Director.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

By mail (exclusive of city).$1.00 per annum

DISPLAY RATES.

Per inch, per month .....; $2.50

CLASSIFIED RATES.

One cent a word an issue. No advertisement less than 10 cents.

NOTE—A special rate is quoted where an advertisement is carried in both Daily and Twice-a-Week.

SORE, AND IN A RAGE.

The Colonist says it does not care a button what may be said about it, nasty or otherwise. Its reputation for honor, integrity and virtue of all degrees of comparison, is too well established to be affected by anything that may be asserted or insinuated. But our contemporary's soul is desolated and its heart is torn with anguish at the very idea of its beloved Victoria being aspersed in character. Therefore it protests against the things that have been portrayed, pictorially and otherwise, in the columns of the Times respecting the morals, public and private, of the city. It asserts that articles appearing in the Times have been reproduced or commented upon by other newspapers all over Canada and the United States, to the hurt of the city of Victoria, and that dispatches based upon the "insinuations" complained of having also been sent broadcast by correspondents, none of whom, we trust, are connected with such a highly respectable journal as our contemporary.

We admit that the Times has a large circulation and that its opinions are given very wide currency by the press of this continent and of Great Britain. At the same time our modesty forbids us to accept in their entirety the sweeping statements made by our envious neighbor. And we are quite sure the city of Victoria has not received a "black eye" or an eye of any kind or color as a result of inquiries based upon any charges it has made. On the contrary, we have received testimonials from sources of vastly greater value than the Colonist respecting the value of the services the Times has rendered the community in exposing the methods of the little local Tammany which had set itself up in our midst and was looking forward to some years of profitable participation in the proceeds of vice. We have reason to believe, whatever the Colonist in its fatuous partizanship may think, that the government of the province has been convinced by the evidence given before the Police Commission of the necessity of a change in the system of police administration and that provision for reform will be made at the next session of the legislature.

As for the charge that dispatches based on articles appearing in the Times have been sent broadcast to the hurt of the city, we doubt whether that statement is true, and even if it were true, the Times is responsible only for what is printed in its own columns. We have never yet shirked that responsibility. Can our contemporary say the same?

We admit having labored diligently to have reforms effected in the system of carrying on municipal work in the city. In that task we ought to have had the support of every patriotic citizen and institution. But it is quite evident no assistance need be expected from the Colonist. Its influence seems for some reason or other to be behind every indefensible undertaking having for its object extravagance in the expenditure of municipal revenue.

WEALTH IN POPULATION AND TRADE.

The government of the United States is engaged in the interesting task of numbering the people. When the returns are announced there will be a fierce controversy between various cities as to which shall be considered the greatest centres of population, commerce and industry in numerous districts. Canadians will count heads in the first year of the decennial period—in 1911 instead of 1910. The result will show the progress the country has made along all lines during the decade of which the present year marks the close. Some authorities who profess to be in a position to know predict that the census figures will show a population of eight millions. The Times will not peril its reputation by venturing within the realms of prophecy. Sufficient for us is the knowledge that the people within our boundaries are prosperous and happy beyond the lot of the inhabitants of the majority of other countries. And the prospects are very alluring. If growth in population and wealth will increase the sum of our happiness, then we are destined to enjoy unparalleled felicity in the future, because there is no question that at the rate of which immigrants have been pouring across our borders during the present year — and such movements gather impetus as they go—we shall soon be numbered among the great nations of the earth.

But it is not safe to assume that because America is rapidly gaining in population as a result of immigration that the countries from which the immigrants are drawn are decreasing in population and wealth. A writer in the Review of Reviews points how absurd is the theory that Great Britain in these respects is decadent. He says the nation never possessed elements of strength equal to those of to-day. A population of 20,000,000 in 1815 has increased to one of 44,000,000. In 1815 the nation's accumulated wealth was under £3,000,000,000; as late as 1845 it was only £4,000,000,000; in 1882, according to Mulhall, it was £8,720,000,000; to-day it is variously estimated at from £12,000,000,000 to £15,000,000,000. The yearly addition to this accumulated wealth in 1815 was £60,000,000; to-day it is £300,000,000, or five times as much. The total foreign investment of British subjects, almost a negligible quantity a hundred years ago, is now estimated at £2,700,000,000, upon which there is an annual income of not less than £140,000,000. During the past six years the placement of British capital in foreign countries, largely suspended during the previous decade, has been resumed on a stupendous scale, greatly to the improvement of foreign trade, and distinctly to the encouragement of public and private thrift. At least a hundred millions were invested abroad in 1908, and approximately the same amount in 1909. These are merely a few of the more obvious evidences of the financial power of the nation. Of the ultimate ability of the British people to support a government twice as lavish as any yet on record there can be not the remotest doubt. Assuming that the principles of reasonable economy are to prevail, the one towering question is as to how the public burden may best be adjusted so that the fifteen per cent. of the population which receives fifty per cent. of the national income and possesses more than ninety per cent. of the nation's aggregate wealth may be made to bear its just share.

IN A PITIABLE PLIGHT.

The unfortunate opposition at Ottawa, rent into fragments by internal dissensions, should be pitied and not censured because of the hopeless position in which it finds itself. Its friends and supporters outside of Parliament have been hectoring and lecturing it on its duties and responsibilities and demanding of its leader that he shall at once purge it of the insurgents who beset it from within and of the lack of initiative which paralyzes its efforts from without. But Mr. Borden is not a man of strenuous disposition. He prefers the path of peace which promises to prove barren of political results to the pain of cutting away the human hamper that makes progress impossible. And, besides, the progressive policy of the government—the intuitive foresight of its leaders—prevents Mr. Borden, who lacks initiative, enthusiasm and imagination, from formulating a constructive policy. The necessities of the country are intuitively realised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his ministers. As soon as practical on realization provision is made in Parliament for every grand scheme necessary to the development of the country. The consequence is that the opposition has but two courses left open. It must either endorse the programme of the administration as that programme is unfolded or adopt an attitude of pessimism, criticism and negation.

For example, the efforts of various governments, Conservative and Liberal, to secure reciprocity with the United States, having proved abortive, when the Laurier government attained power in 1896 it shortly thereafter carried into effect a scheme of preferential trade with Great Britain. The opposition of the day must in its heart have known that such a policy would not only prove popular in Canada and in the Mother Country and beneficial in its effects apart altogether from its popularity. Yet it felt constrained by circumstances to oppose preferential trade. Its leaders proclaimed their belief that preferential trade was impossible owing to Imperial commercial treaties, and that even if it were practicable it would prove ruinous to Canadian industries. But the government carried out its programme. Obstacles were surmounted. Canada entered upon the era of greatest prosperity she has known in history.

That marked the beginning of a long list of tactical mistakes. Hon. G. E. Foster proved by a mathematical demonstration that Imperial penny postage as an auxiliary to preferential trade would paralyze the postal department and jeopardise the finances of the Dominion. Yet every year since that reform went into effect with the possible exception of the first one the revenue of the Post Office Department has shown a large surplus.

The policy of advertising the agricultural lands of the Northwest in the United States and Europe, initiated by Hon. Clifford Sifton, was bitterly assailed and condemned. Yet the increase in the population and wealth of Canada dates from the beginning of that propaganda.

The proposal for the construction of another transcontinental railway across Canada, designed, as its author, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, pointed out, to unroll the map of Canada and create a new and vaster dominion in the north, was attacked with the deepest virulence of all the policies of the government. It was beyond the financial ability of the country, and, even if it were not, the lines of railway already in existence [illegible] to meet all present and prospective transportation requirements. But the greater part of the cost of the construction of new road has been met out of surpluses over ordinary expenditures, and, although only partly finished, the scheme has already more than justified itself by the assistance it has rendered in the transportation of the abounding products of the prairies to market and the provision it has made for the accommodation of the new settlers.

So we might go on enumerating the mistakes the opposition has made in its policy of carping criticism and pessimistic negation. It is now eating its heart out in envy because it cannot conceive of any constructive enterprise that has not been met and executed by the government. Driven to extremity by realization of the impregnability of the position of the administration on every question that has arisen during the past dozen years, it is finding fault with its leaders and striving to prove by constant iteration that there has been corruption in connection with the administration of the affairs of the country. When charges of corruption are demonstrated to be unfounded, it turns and charges its opponents with disloyalty to British connection.

In every instance the fullest investigation has proved that there is absolutely no foundation for the allegations of wrongdoing in connection with the administration of public works. The charge of over-classification of the work of contractors on the National Transcontinental Railway may be cited as an example of how the opposition scandals peter out under investigation. The chief engineer in charge of that undertaking stated under oath that the difference in the classification as between the engineers of the government and the engineers of the Grand Trunk Company along the whole of the line would not amount to more than a hundred thousand dollars. The claim will be settled by a court of three professional men representing the Grand Trunk Company (which is interested in keeping the cost as low as possible because it will operate the road and pay interest on its cost), the transcontinental commissioners and the government. Against this settlement a sum of between three and four hundred thousand dollars due the contractors is held. Under the circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the Conservative members on the committee of the House of Commons which is investigating the charges of over-classification withdrew and declined to take any further part in the proceedings. They early preceived the impossibility of making anything of political value out of the alleged scandal.

The St. Peters's Indian reserve sale was another scandal out of which the opposition in its desperation evidently hoped to make some capital against the government. Investigation proved it to be just as barren of scandalous matter as the over-classification charges. The reserve was sold with the consent of the Indians by public auction after it had been advertised extensively in the public press. The property went to the highest bidders, some of whom were prominent Conservatives. The Indians were given a new and more suitable reserve; part of the purchase price was given them in cash and part was funded for their future benefit. The net result is that a large section of land not well suited for the Indians' purposes but eminently suited for agriculture is brought under cultivation.

The course of the Conservative party as represented at Ottawa has been fatuous in the extreme; but, as we have pointed out, the party is more to be pitied than blamed for the position in which it finds itself. That position is perhaps not altogether of its own choosing. It has been out-manoeuvred and baffled by superior men. And the exasperating feature of the situation is that the political glass is still falling.

The people of Prince Edward Island were wise in their generation after all, although some of us thought they were merely unprogressive, when they passed a law excluding motor cars absolutely from the island. In town and country alike automobiles have been proved to be an ungovernable nuisance and an ever-present source of danger. In the most frequented roads in the neighborhood of Victoria just now the atmosphere is next to unbreathable—and it is only a matter of time until the newspapers will chronicle a terrible tragedy as a result of the rate at which some chauffeurs run their machines. We are hardly so extreme as to advocate the suggestion of a country Jehu who sticks to the old-fashioned mode of travel—that as a matter of precaution a homicide in practice, if not in intent, should be hanged in advance. But an example should be made of some of the madmen who run cars.

* * *

Hartridge, the American lawyer who received fifty thousand dollars from Mrs. Thaw for defending her son against the charge of murdering Stanford White and sued for ninety-three thousand more, is likely to receive a reward proportionate to his talents and abilities. He may be prosecuted on charges of perjury, bribing witnesses and generally obstructing the course of justice. The judge who heard Hartridge's case has ordered that disbarment proceedings shall be commenced against him. The atmosphere in which Harry K. Thaw moved seems to have been altogether bad.

Beautiful New Summer Dresses Now Being Shown

$4.75 to $22.50

The illustration shown here conveys the new Princess style of beautiful Summer Dresses which we have now on display. Dainty and charming are the new effects, with panels and yokes of exquisite lace and insertions, while the prices this year are moderate. Below are two descriptions:

WOMEN'S PRINCESS DRESSES of mercerized mull. Front of dress daintily trimmed with lace and embroidery. New style puff sleeve. Skirt finished with deep gather flounce trimmed with lace insertion and tuck. Prices from $4.75 to $22.50.

WOMEN'S ONE PIECE DRESS of fine white Swiss lawn. The waist is made with round yoke finished with rows of lace insertion, front and back tucked with rows of insertion between tucks. Long sleeve made of fine tucks and finished with embroidery and lace. Skirts tucked over hips and beautifully trimmed with embroidery and lace, deep flounce of embroidery.

New Linen Suits Priced to Suit Everybody. From $9.50 to $20.00

The new Linen Suits which we are now showing are the most attractive lot we have ever had. They are in plain semi-loose styles, while a great many are beautifully trimmed with cords, etc.

WOMEN'S LINEN COSTUME, in cream, white, mauve, blue and tan. Coat semi-fitting, 35 in. long, collars and cuffs inlaid with contrasting shade and very smartly finished with linen braid. Single breasted with large pearl buttons. Skirt pleated, giving over drape effect and braid trimmed.

WOMEN'S WAIST COSTUME, in very fine French cord. Coat semi-fitting, 36 in. long, with single breasted cutaway front. Shawl collar and roll cuffs of white pique, inlaid with linen lace. Skirt is new pleated effect, form deep yoke.

Summer Hats and Bonnets

The Millinery Department is the most interesting place in the whole store. Charming and distinctive styles in beautiful hats and bonnets greet you on every side. The display is without a doubt the largest in the city. Modes from faraway London and Paris, as well as New York styles and clever efforts of our own milliners are to be seen grouped here and there, and in such shape as to make selection one of the easiest tasks.

Dainty New Parasols

The new effects in Parasols this season are most pleasing, and what is more, the prices are decidedly low, covered in the finest silk, with new style handles, most predominent of which is the new Directoire.

FANCY PARASOLS FOR CHILDREN, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, $1.00 and $1.75

MISSES' PARASOLS, 75c to $1.50

LADIES' PARASOLS, $1.00 to $6.75

Our Dress Goods and Silk Department Filled With Everything New for Spring and Summer

The extensiveness of our Dress Goods and Silk Departments speaks volumes for our immense purchasing power. Being in such a position, it is little to be wondered at the reason of our low prices. Then, too, our own buyers are always personally on the ground, which enables us to keep in close touch with what is going on in the world of fashion.

ALL WOOL DIAGONAL AT $1.25

ALL WOOL DIAGONAL WEAVE, soap shrunk, fast dye, one of the most stylish fabrics for a street costume at a popular price. Colors are tan, grey, taupe, reseda, marine, brown, wisteria, ashes of roses, delph blue, navy and black; 50 in. Per yard $1.25

FRENCH DYED WORSTED AT $1.25.

FRENCH DYED WORSTED, fine herringbone stripe, self color. A fine range of new tones of colorings, sage, fawn, steel, new cadet blue, Catawba, navy, wisteria and ashes of roses; 52 in. Price $1.25

COLORED SERGES AT $1.50.

COLORED TAILORING SERGES, soap shrunk, coating serge, fine twill, very firm, English made, guaranteed to keep color and not spot. Colors are tan, sulphur, reseda, taupe, moss, bronze, wisteria, light and dark navy; 52 in. Yard .. $1.50

FRENCH DELAINES AT 50c

In floral stripes, dots and scroll, a fine English made Delaines, firm texture, light and dark ground. Hundreds to choose from ..... 50¢

ALL WOOL ESTEMENE, 75c.

ALL WOOL ESTEMENE, soft chiffon finish, indigo dye. Just the cloth for a useful morning skirt. Color guaranteed. Yard, 75c to $1.25

COLORED LUSTRE, 35c TO 50c

COLORED LUSTRE, an even weave, made from fine grade English mohair. Colors, marine, navy, cream, brown, myrtle and black; 42 in; 35c to ..... 50¢

ENGLISH SUITINGS AT $1.50.

WEST OF ENGLAND SUITINGS, magnificent weaves. For exclusive suits and dresses. Distinctly a tailor cloth, in six different shades of grey; 54 in. Per yard $1.50

BLACK DRESS GOODS

PANAMA, SERGES, LUSTRE, POPLIN; 42 in ..... 50¢

VENETIAN, SATIN CLOTH, PANAMA, SERGE; 44 in .. 75¢

RESILDA, POPLIN, VENETIAN, SATIN CLOTH, CREPON, SERGES, LUSTRES, SATIN STRIPES, VOILES; 44 in. Per yard $1.00

FANCY RESILDA SUITING, silk and wool mixture, in spot, scroll, floral and stripe patterns; 44 in. Per yard, $1.25 to $2.80

BLACK FRENCH BROADCLOTH, beautiful finish. Per yard. $1.00 to $3.50

BEAUTIFUL NEW SILKS

BLACK GRENADINE, plain and silk and silk stripe; 44 in.—75c and $1.50

PLAIN AND FANCY EOLINNES, beautiful wearing, make up good; 44 in; $1.00 to $1.75

BLACK SERGE, guaranteed fast colors. None better for separate skirts. Per yard, 65c to $1.50

PLAIN AND FANCY STRIPE VOILES, 44 in., $1 to ... $1.75

BLACK SICILIAN, highly finished, double warp, made from the best quality English mohair. Will neither cockle nor slip in making up; 44 and 46 in. wide; 75c, $1.00 and ... $1.25

NOVELTY CREPE DE CHENES, wool and silk, in fancy woven effect. Very high grade fabric for elderly ladies' evening gowns; 46 in. wide; $1.50 to $2.50

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