

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1897.

Published Every Monday and Thursday

The Colonial Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

W. H. ELLIS, MANAGER.

TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST.

Published Every Day except Monday

Per year, postage free to any part of Canada

Per week, if delivered, 20

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion of the United States

Six months, 75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly

ADVISING RATES.

REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS, as dis-

tributed from everything of a transient character

that is to say, advertising referring to

Merchandise and Manufacturing Business, Government and Land Notices

Published in the morning, the duration of publication to be specified

at the time of ordering advertisements.

More than one fortnight, and not more than one month, 50 cents.

More than one week, and not more than one fortnight, 40 cents.

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the present government proposes to hold the next elections with the constituencies divided exactly as at present. We do not say that this is the case; but the plan in question was framed upon the supposition that such is to be the case and hence must be considered from that point of view. This brings us to the second question.

Suppose the Opposition win at the next elections, will they feel bound to call the house together at once, pass a redistribution bill, order a dissolution and go to the people in order that there may be no more legislation by a body which is alleged to be so unrepresentative as the present legislature?

Question three naturally is: If the Opposition will not do this, how can they justify omitting to do so?

Question four may very properly be: If we are not to have two elections in 1898 in order that the alleged inequalities of representation may be corrected, when may we expect the second election, presuming, of course, that the Opposition win next year?

When the date of redistribution has been fixed, another question will at once arise. We give this as number five.

What districts are to have their representation reduced?

What districts are to have their representation increased?

It is evident that before our Opposition friends can answer these questions they must be prepared to say when the redistribution is to take effect and also to prognosticate with accuracy the movement of population in the meantime. The latter will certainly be a very difficult thing to do.

We confess to some surprise that the thing called a platform lays any stress on the matter of redistribution. The party now in power in this province have never shown any disposition not to make the representation conform to what seemed to be the just rights of the several sections of the province from time to time. It is reasonable to infer that they will maintain the same policy and continue to make such changes in the distribution of the representatives as seems to be necessary. But since the New Westminster convention of Malcontent has declared for redistribution, we submit that they ought to go a little further and tell us just what they mean by it. May we beg one of their newspaper organs to answer the above questions?

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Thanksgiving Day has been altered somewhat from its original character.

As an annual institution it is of New England origin. It was first observed to express the gratitude of the Plymouth colonists for the arrival of ships from England with provisions. The colony had been reduced to terrible straits; death, indeed, stared it in the face, when the sails of the relief ships were seen on the horizon. The New England Chronicle tells in the quaint language of those days how the governor of the colony appointed a day, shortly after the ships came in, and the people had been well fed once more, to render thanks to Almighty God because he had not forgotten them in the wildernesses of the New World. Days of national thanksgiving have been by no means confined to America, but we think that nowhere else have they been recognized as a regular institution. At first the South refused to observe the Puritan festival, but later it came to be as much in favor there as anywhere. It is now observed in all parts of the United States and Canada, but its observance has changed very materially from what it was in the grim old days of the Puritans. For the most part it has become a day devoted to sport, and the spirit of thankfulness finds more expression in enjoyment than in services of the churches. As every one knows, throughout the Northern States of the American Union, the day is principally celebrated by family reunions.

The adoption by Canada of this American institution is in harmony with the general sentiment of the people, who recognize Divine interposition in the affairs of nations and men to a very considerable degree. It is likewise in consonance with the British idea, for it cannot be denied that the British people are essentially Christian. Our national anthem breathes the sentiment of Divine guidance. Every speech made at the opening and prorogation of British parliaments and legislatures embodies the same thought. Our patriotic poems are full of it. In our hours of national crisis there is a turning to God. It is eminently fitting therefore that Canadians should set apart one day in the year for a general thanksgiving.

We have in Canada many things that should inspire a feeling of gratitude. Never before have we as a people so felt the pulse and thrill of empire. It tingles in the veins like a new life. We feel as a people the stronger and the nobler because of it. The whole world realizes that a change has come over us. It is a source for profound thankfulness that this new national birth has taken place amid the enjoyment of profound peace. This fact is unique. Other countries have passed through the same transformation, but it has been amid the travail and misery of war. Most countries, and we might say all countries except our own, have only been consolidated by blood and iron. All countries, except our own, have

only reached the stature of nationality after tens of thousands of their sons have laid down their lives on battlefields. Canada, by a remarkable dispensation of Providence, became a confederation through the peaceful means of legislative action. She extended her domain by the arts of peace alone. She has reached a pinnacle of national eminence by the way of peace only. It is a marvellous record. Divergent interests have been harmonized; unity of sentiment has been developed; our dignity as a people has been maintained; our right to absolute self-government has been secured beyond all possible question; and it may be said that all has been accomplished without the cost of a drop of blood or the shedding of a tear by widow or orphan or those who felt that the country might live. We do not overlook the few small exhibitions of force that have been necessary or the service rendered to the Dominion by the men who have laid down their lives in her service; but these incidents were more in the nature of police duty than anything else. The Dominion was conceived in peace, born in peace and has grown to manhood in peace. Surely we have been blessed above all people, and if any in all the world have cause to praise God from whom all blessings flow, the people of Canada have.

If the past is full of cause for gratitude the future seems no less so. Our country appears to have reached a turning point in its career. At last its vast possibilities seem to be appreciated by the world. We may look forward with the brightest hopes for the fruits of the great movement Canada wards now in progress. Our great domain with its infinite variety and extent of resources seems to be about to receive the vivifying touch of immigration and capital. Lying close to the northern limit of successful development, Canada bids fair to give a new and mighty illustration of the law of nature that the greatest perfection is reached as the line of northern production is approached. This is true of animals and plants, and in view of what history tells us of northern races of men, it seems to be true of humanity. Certainly as Canadians turn their faces from the past towards the future they must find abundant reason for a deep feeling of gratitude.

How is it with us all personally? It goes without saying that all of us have not been prosperous this year. Many have seen their hopes shattered; many have found failure where they seemed to have reason to look for success. We take very little stock in that count which tells people to be happy because they are not so badly off as others, or that says we should congratulate ourselves upon the smallest blessings, for the reason that the worst that can happen to us is better than we deserve. But we do believe that there is hardly a phase of life, not criminal, wherein a properly constituted mind cannot find cause for gratitude. A day of general thanksgiving may be good for the individual by leading him to see how much he is dependent upon things not under his control, and if he honestly examines the facts of his own life, he can hardly fail to discover how often his fate, if he chooses to call it so, has been better than his fears. A thankful frame of mind is a good one to cultivate. Coupled with energy it will win success. The same Scripture writer who urged men to render thanks to God for all the benefits that He had bestowed, said "Seeest thou a man diligent in business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." The same teacher who exhorted men to be fervent in spirit, added "diligent in business." There is no divorce in the teachings of Christianity between thankfulness and energy. By thankfulness more than a mere expression of gratitude is meant. There are some men whose thanks to the Almighty mean no more than "yours truly" at the end of a letter. True thankfulness shows itself in action, in sharing with others the benefits that we enjoy. In watching inspiration for noble efforts from past success, in using what we have and what we are for the betterment of our fellows and ourselves. The unprofitable servant who hid his lord's money in the earth and simply gave it back to him, exhibited no gratitude for the trust reposed in him. So we say that as individuals the way to show our appreciation of the great advantages, with which a beneficent Creator has surrounded us, is to set to work to improve them, being ever in mind that we only see in part, that the greatest and most influential of us is only playing a small role in a great drama, and that we have appeared to others to have accomplished, but what we are conscious ourselves of having done. For the greatest work of mankind is the building up of character.

Very appropriate to the thanksgiving season is the extract from the Nelson Miner which we reproduce this morning. Nelson has only just begun its career. It is destined to become one of the most progressive cities in the country. It has many things in its favor. A commanding position and excellent tributary mines ought to make a city anywhere.

THE GOLD AREA.

A correspondent asks how far east from the 141st meridian the gold area extends. We do not know and do not think that anyone does. We have seen a statement that a party which went down the great Mackenzie river found no gold, or at least very little, on the bars of that river; but we do not know if they tried the benches and gulches. It will be remembered that some of the streams in the Yukon valley give very little gold on the bars. In the absence of a thorough exploration of the great region lying between the 60th parallel and the Arctic ocean and east of the 141st meridian, it is useless to attempt to say how far the gold area extends. There is an area here that is fully 600 miles in width in the widest part and about the same in length from north to south. It contains in Canada, west of the Mackenzie, about 200,000 square miles. In no part of it that any person has gone has there been an entire absence of gold. As yet exploration has been confined to the valleys of a few of the more important streams and to parts only of these, and in mostly every case the exploration has been in a very casual sort of way. In view of these facts our correspondent will see how hopeless it would be for us or any one else to attempt to fix the eastern limit of the gold field.

A story appears in a San Francisco paper to the effect that a live mastodon has been seen in Alaska by some of the natives. The story is not new. It appeared in a Seattle paper about four years ago and was given on the authority of a man who said that his brother had gone with some Indians in search of a big as the Hudson's Bay Co.'s store, at the post whence they set out. The party was said to have traveled for two days into the mountains, seeking for the valley in which the monster lived, but the journey was so full of peril that the white man abandoned it. Probably this story must be classed with that one which told of the existence of a tribe of cannibal Indians in the heart of the Olympic mountains, to search for whom Lord Durnaven planned an expedition some eight or ten years ago. Mastodons did live in Alaska in great numbers, but there is no reason to suppose them to be now extant. They were not confined to Alaska, but roamed Northern Siberia in countless droves. The greatest accumulations of vertebrate remains are the heaped up bones of the Siberian mammoths, or mastodons. "Islands," says Sir Charles Lyell, "are made up of these perished bones." The date when they were created cannot be approximated in years, but the fact that in many cases their frozen flesh has been found in perfect preservation, indicates that they met their death suddenly and from cold.

The Kootenaiian directs attention to an evil resulting from the destruction of forest by fire. It says that the absence of trees leads to snowfalls. There is no doubt of this. Indeed, there is no doubt that the destruction of mountain forests may very materially affect the future of Kootenay, which depends to a very considerable extent upon the volume and regularity of the water supply in the rivers. If the forests are destroyed, not only will the snow slide down into the valleys, but it will go off with a rush in the spring, and there will be no great reserve of moisture to keep the streams full during the summer. We are glad that our contemporary has spoken of this matter, and would like to see it come forward with a practical suggestion as to how the evil can be best dealt with. The subject is a difficult one to handle, but it may not be found impossible to devise a remedy. Certainly prospectors and others, by being careful about extinguishing fires, could do a great deal towards reducing the amount of mischief annually wrought.

The Inland Sentinel asks if the Colonist will admit that the failure of the provincial government to open the North Riding of Yale has retarded the development of gold mining there. We see no reason why we should not, with the qualification that it was not in the power of the government to do everything at once. The same thing is true of Cariboo, Omineca and other places. But it does not lie in our contemporary's mouth to make this complaint against the government, for it says that the government's policy has done Kootenay no good. What use would there have been in extending to the North Riding of Yale a policy that was no good where it was applied?

We print an extract from the Roseland Miner which shows how that camp is going ahead. While Roseland has not increased in population as rapidly as some sanguine people anticipated, its solid advance has been greater than reasonable men hoped. There is nothing the matter with Roseland.

According to that delightful paper, the Columbian, the Colonist has once more confessed that the government policy cannot be defended. We mention this because we fancy that Colonist readers would not have suspected it.

The New York Commercial Advertiser speaks of the Klondyke region of Alaska. We do not know where this is, but we suppose it is somewhere near the Toronto region of New York.

DURRANT, who is under sentence for the murder of Blanche Lamont, was also indicted for the murder of Minnie Williams. He has not been put on trial for the latter crime; but his lawyers intend to move to have him tried. This is a very shrewd move. If the state refuses to try him, it will be in the position of refusing to permit a man who is charged with murder from having an opportunity to clear himself. If it does try him, he must be present in court during the trial. This will mean that he cannot be hanged for the murder of Miss Lamont until the other case has been disposed of.

Will the Columbian take compassion upon the Colonist and tell us what are those dire and sinister motives which inspire the breast of this paper and to which it darkly alludes every time it has a spare day? We would really like to know something more about them. Come, good neighbor, speak up and tell everything you know, and if you do not know anything, which is most likely, tell everything you think. Let us get at the naked facts of our distressing case.

The proposal of Austria that the Continental powers shall unite in some sort of a league against American competition is something in which Canada has an interest. The countries chiefly aimed at are the United States and Argentina, but Canada would be included in any plan that might be formed. It goes without saying that Great Britain would not join such a league, and in that case we could afford to regard the proposed plan with equanimity.

The News-Advertiser refers to the provincial government as a cabinet of mediocrities. Was there ever a greater piece of presumption on the part of a paper voicing the sentiments of a man who lies awake thinking of how he can get into the government?

We can assure the Seattle Times that every facility will be afforded American citizens to travel to the Golden North next year. There is not the least reason to worry on this score. What their rights will be when they get there is another story.

An annoying clerical error occurred in the Colonist's article yesterday in regard to the amount of the personal tax. The figure named was \$18,000. What was meant was \$8,000. It was not a slip of the pen, but a mis of the type-writer.

The Times promises that our queries as to the coal tax will be answered when the right time comes. This is pleasant. We hope the time will not be too remote.

To-morrow being Thanksgiving Day the Colonist will not be issued on Friday morning. The paper will appear to-morrow as usual.

We direct the attention of the government to an extract printed on this page from the Midway Advance. The road referred to seems to be a necessary one.

The Kootenay Mail thinks that Yale-Kootenay ought to have another representative in the House of Commons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS.

AN ALL-CANADIAN ROUTE.

All Canadians will agree with Sir Charles Tupper when he says that the question of great importance in connection with the Yukon is the prompt establishment of an all-Canadian route.

SEEMS TO BE NECESSARY.

Of the many claims for the carrying out of public works, which will be pressed upon the government at the next sitting of the legislature, none we dare to say will be more worthy of consideration than one relating to the necessity for the construction of a good wagon road between Fairview and Keremes, the same to take a course over the divide between the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys, by way of a low pass, which starts to the north of Camp Fairview and emerges on the Similkameen almost opposite Keremes. At present the large farming population of the Similkameen valley are obliged to travel a distance of 100 miles to the north to get to Fairview, and then to go back to Keremes, to take it the round-about route by way of White Lake, or the alternative one by way of Richter's, in either instance traveling a distance from the centre of the valley of about 36 miles, whereas the building of a road over the route as above outlined, would shorten the distance by at least 50 miles.—Midway Advance.

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

Great dissatisfaction has been experienced at the Dominion government having the mail between Kallapa and Fort Steele to an American contractor. Certainly such straws show great carelessness on the part of the postmaster-general in overlooking the interest of his own nation, and when the government see so disloyal an example what shall we expect from the common people?—Golden Era.

PROSPEROUS ROSSELAND.

The ore shipments to date for the year have reached the enormous total of 66,000 tons, which at \$35 per ton, would mean a value of \$2,310,000. To this may be added 2,700 tons of ore treated at the mill, which would mean a value of \$94,500, which would bring the grand total up to \$2,404,500. In addition to this, look at the development work that is in progress on some of the properties in the immediate vicinity of the camp, not a few of which it is safe to say will in a very short time be shipping mines.—Roseland Miner.

GOOD NEWS FROM NELSON.

Certain little gold bricks have arrived at the Bank Montreal which marked a period in the history of Nelson's mines. They are the result of the first 38 days work at the Fern mine. During that time the ten stamps crushed 975 tons of rock from which these little bricks of the value of \$15,145 were taken.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

"That man does not seem to have got credit for his public services."

"He doesn't need it," replied Senator Sorghum. "He has made enough to be able to pay cash."—Atlanta Constitution.

"Mother—Your schoolmaster can't be such a mean man as you make out. I notice his son has all the toys he can possibly want."

"Tommy—Why, those are what his father takes away from the other boys.—Boston Post.

"Oh, I don't know, your not so warm; take your temperature and see." remarked the depleted can of dog biscuit to the Klondyke miner's thermometer.

"No, but your not so see, my either; count yourself and see," retorted the thermometer.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"Bill—I read in the trade journals that the noise of the hammer is heard in the South."

"Jill—Yes, I guess they're going on to the fact that Croker is down there, and they are beginning to nail things down.—Yonkers Statesman.

"You have basely deceived me; you told me when you married my daughter that you had money coming to you."

"Well—I meant the money I would get by marrying her."—Detroit Free Press.

Interviewer—So you have decided to take your play on the road, eh?

Manager—Yes, sir.

Interviewer—What will you do if it doesn't have the run that you anticipate for it?

Manager—Walk, as usual.—Richmond Dispatch.

"You better not go boat riding with sisters," said Tommy Jones to his sister's beau.

"Why not, Tommy?"

"Cause I heard her say she intended to throw you overboard soon."—Ohio State Journal.

"See, madame, did you ever see such a homely man as that over by the chimney corner?"

"Sir, that is my husband!"

"Ah, madame, how true the proverb is that the homeliest men always have the handsomest wives!"—Gaulois.

Mr. Younglove—What do you do when your baby gets sick at night?"

Mr. Oldpop—I generally lie still and wait to see if my wife isn't going to get up and attend to it.—Chicago News.

"Do you think there is any such thing as perfection in this world?" she cooed.

"Oh, yes," he replied, drawing her closer; "I'm very near to perfection now."—Yonkers Statesman.

MACKINTOSHES, \$4.90, \$8 and \$10. Special Line at \$5.15 to Clear. B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS, 67 JOHNSON STREET.

Granby Rubbers. Are out again this season in new styles and in all the new Shoe Shapes, right up to date, with the same old "wear like iron" quality that has always characterized them, because they are honestly made of pure Rubber. BE SURE YOU GET GRANBYS THIS YEAR.

STRENGTH LIES IN UNION.

Farmer of British Columbia at Last Begin to Realize This Truth.

The programme as laid down for the meetings regarding Farmers' Institutes, on the north side of the Lower Fraser and at Burnaby and Mission on the south side, has just been completed, and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Paterson have returned to Victoria. The programme for future meetings as at present arranged is as follows:

Comox—At Courtney Agricultural hall, on Wednesday, 1st December, at 2 p.m.

Wellington—At public hall, on Thursday, 2nd December, at 7:30 p.m.

Nanaimo—At city hall, on Friday, 3rd December, at 8 p.m.

Cedar—At Agricultural hall, on Saturday, 4th December, at 1 p.m.

According to present arrangements it is the intention to next take up the remaining points on the south side of the Lower Fraser and the upper country, or Alberni and Nanoose, which will complete the round of meetings in the institute districts.

The speakers have everywhere been well received, and whilst the farmers generally are of the opinion that such a measure as the Farmers' Institute Act is in the highest degree desirable, and the formation of institutes under it of the greatest benefit to the interests of the agricultural interests of the province, it is evident that a want of confidence in themselves exists very largely amongst the farmers, showing the great want of educational associations such as the Institutes Act provides for in order that confidence in their own qualifications as educators of each other may be established—and for the removal of those jealousies and the want of unanimity which it is acknowledged exists to such an extent as to have rendered all efforts at cooperation in the past for their mutual