

## The Colonist.

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## THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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## THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Following upon the remarks in the Colonist on Sunday with respect to immigration, there is a duty to be performed by the Dominion Government, apart from the administration of the Act to prevent undesirable immigrants. Under Section 95, of the British North America Act, the provinces and the Dominion have concurrent powers of legislation respecting agriculture and immigration. These powers were given for the purpose of permitting each province to make laws in accordance with its own agricultural requirements and to induce immigration on certain lines, which might be well adapted to conditions in another part of the country. A general law, however, none the less devolves upon the Dominion government to do all in its power to promote agriculture and immigration. It is true, but not altogether true, that the Dominion have followed a very progressive policy of agriculture, mainly with a view to eastern conditions and requirements. It is true, but not altogether true, that the Dominion have followed a very progressive policy of immigration, mainly with a view to eastern conditions and requirements. It is true, but not altogether true, that the Dominion have followed a very progressive policy of immigration, mainly with a view to eastern conditions and requirements.

In respect to immigration for a long time past the Dominion government has concentrated its energies upon filling up the Middle West—Manitoba and the Territories. That was good policy, also, as a large population there meant a large and profitable market for the products of British Columbia. As well as the eastern provinces. The latter have found the Middle West a most excellent market for manufactured products, and British Columbia has discovered that in fruit and lumber, in sugar, some Oriental and British imported goods, and to some extent in fish that that country is likely to be of great benefit. To some extent, too, it has solved the immigration problem. Now that newcomers are pouring into the Middle West from all parts of the world, many persons are making a great deal of money, and are selling out and coming to British Columbia to enjoy a more moderate climate, and in many instances are receiving a better class of settlers than they otherwise would, had we to depend entirely upon our own resources. This it will be observed, however, is an incident of the policy of the Dominion government, and not the result of any kind of special effort to induce immigration to this province, not for some years.

The policy of the immigration department at Ottawa in confining its efforts to the Middle West has been more or less justified from the fact that the lands to be settled there required special attention. Outside of Manitoba, the country was practically under the control of the Dominion. It was not, however, that Saskatchewan and Alberta have been organized as provinces, the whole populated territory from the Atlantic to the Pacific is now under Dominion control. The Dominion government, to pay all its attention to the problem of immigration in one spot, so to speak. The federal authorities, it is true, still have a great deal of unalienated land in the two new provinces, but they also own large tracts of land in Southern British Columbia and in Peace River district.

The western lands are rapidly filling up. It is with difficulty even now that crown lands in the Middle West can be secured by settlers. The immigration problem in Canada has not about solved itself. The campaign of publicity carried on for many years has had its reward, and hereafter it will scarcely be necessary, except for special purposes, to maintain immigration agents abroad. People are coming of their own volition, and will continue to come, as they have done in the United States, without any government assistance. One difficulty will probably soon be experienced in the inability of the government to stop the stream once it has fairly started.

It seems to us that the next thing to the Dominion government to do is to turn its attention to the conditions which exist in British Columbia, in Northern Ontario and in other similar parts of Canada, and especially in British Columbia. It should apply itself to the solution of the problem of an adequate supply of labor of the right kind, and one of the things necessary for the development of this country. One of the difficulties with which we have to deal is that owing to the rate of transportation to the coast, and the fact that the benefit of the immigration already coming into Canada and for which we help to pay. The Canadian Pacific Railway, as we stated Saturday, gives a special immigrant rate as far as Calgary, which is double to the Coast. To the poor immigrant this is a practical barrier much higher than the Rocky mountains. It is a matter of but little concern to him, as his services are in demand east as well as west. The fault cannot be said to be with the Canadian Pacific Railway, or with the transportation company, its business is not necessarily that of supplying the economic demands of the country at a rate lower than the normal. If the C. P. R. favors the Middle West in its labor, it is because it has interests there, and it pays it to do so. The situation there is one for the Dominion government to take into its most serious consideration.

While on the subject, it might be well to refer to irrigation, which, in this connection, has been discussed in the Colonist on several previous occasions. The Ottawa Free Press, a leading labor paper, remarks that "the work which has been undertaken by the Dominion government, and also by the C. P. R. for the reclamation of arid lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta is bearing wonderful results, and goes on to point out that in the United States, according to Vice-President Fairbanks, 10,000,000 acres have been added to the area under cultivation by the various irrigation and reclamation enterprises. We do not know to what extent the Dominion government has gone in the Middle West in irrigation to obtain

"wonderful results." All credit, so far as it is probably due to the Canadian Pacific Railway, but we do know that the minister of agriculture at Ottawa, has declared himself in favor of a policy of that nature. There is, as we know, considerable land in British Columbia within the dry belt, which, if irrigated, would extend very considerably the areas of land available for horticulture in this province. If it is a good policy to irrigate in the Middle West, why is it not in British Columbia? And if the Dominion government undertakes irrigation for the Middle West, why not for British Columbia?

## THE VALUE OF A GOOD NAME.

P. B. McNamara, Canadian commercial agent at Manchester, in his report to the department of trade and commerce, Ottawa, points out that the onslaught made by the English press on American canned meat has had a decided reactionary effect on the trade in foods of all kinds from all countries. The consumption has fallen off almost entirely in the case of meats, and stocks held by merchants prior to the onslaught have been sitting on their hands for some time. Mr. McNamara says that "one of the large Chicago packing firms is now advertising extensively in the English press that its food products are eminently wholesome, and that their cleanly mode of packing was never questioned, in order to offset the very strong prejudices at Manchester, which have been suggested that canned meat packages should bear the date at which packed, but the adoption of that would, it is said, seriously interfere with the sale, and is strongly condemned by all the large dealers here. The use of these foods cannot be forced at the present time, the warm weather adding its weight against their use, but when the cold weather sets in, Canadian canned meats will experience a boom, as there is an abiding faith in its superiority. It is true, but not altogether true, that the Dominion have followed a very progressive policy of agriculture, mainly with a view to eastern conditions and requirements. It is true, but not altogether true, that the Dominion have followed a very progressive policy of immigration, mainly with a view to eastern conditions and requirements.

According to King Solomon, "a good name is rather to be chosen than riches." This is true in a commercial sense. A good name in this respect is an important asset, and is of greater value than a big business. The foundation of a good name is the reputation of the meat packers of Chicago, not secure owing to the methods employed. The people of Great Britain have faith in Canada for two reasons. One is that Canada is more like the British people than the Americans, and the other is that their business methods are believed to be more honest. It is, therefore, in the interests of the manufacturer of Canadian canned goods, as well as of Canadian commerce, that the factories and product should be subject to very strict inspection, so that when Canadian goods find their way to the home market they can always stand the test of scrutiny for quality and purity. A good name is priceless.

## THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS AND ORIENTAL LABOR.

The Trades and Labor Congress attended by delegates from labor unions in various parts of the Empire met in session in Victoria, and the report of the executive officers appeared in Tuesday's Colonist. It deals with a large number of subjects, but of special interest at Ottawa is the connection with labor and outlines pretty fairly what are likely to be the topics of discussion during the week.

The matter dealt with is of importance, and it cannot be said that from a labor standpoint the views expressed are extreme. It is almost needless to say, however, that there are some with which we take strong exception. Diversity of opinion is what makes life worth living. The section of the report which calls for particular attention is Section seven, which deals with the importation of Oriental labor. The executive officers advocate that restrictions similar to those which are imposed on Chinese should be placed on Japanese and other Oriental labor. The report also advocates that the principle of restrictive legislation such as affects the Chinese, because however desirable it is, it is therefore, not in accordance with the circumstances opposed to it render it out of the question.

The Japanese are a nation with which Great Britain has treaty relations of a most important character. Japan is not only a first-class power now, but is an ally of Great Britain. A commercial treaty made with the consent and approval of Canada, has gone into effect, and it is quite hopeless to expect either the Dominion of Canada or the Imperial government to impose such restrictions. And it would be quite as hopeless to expect the Japanese government to submit to it.

With reference to the Hindus, the objection to placing restrictions upon them similar to those on the Chinese are even greater than in the case of the Japanese. They are British subjects, and British subjects are not to be treated in a discriminatory manner. The freedom within the Empire which is extended to any outside nation. It is almost unthinkable that Great Britain would submit to the humiliation of her subjects in any part of the Empire in this manner. These larger constitutional, national and Imperial reasons stand in the way of any action being taken on the lines suggested in the report. The Trades and Labor Congress were prepared to advocate the severance of the relations between Canada and the Empire, it would be quite useless to press the recommendations made in the report referred to. The Japanese are not coming in at the present time in any numbers, and from present outlook there is no immediate fear of an influx. The energies of the Japanese government are being devoted to colonizing Manchuria and Korea. That is sufficient for the time being. As to the Hindus, the problem must work itself out. We do not think that they will find the conditions in British Columbia at all congenial. In fact, it is quite apparent that they will not succeed, and the temporary movement in this direction will cease of its own accord very shortly. It is the duty of the Dominion government to make it known in India among their countrymen that they are not wanted in British Columbia.

The problem of dealing with an influx of Japanese, if it were threatened, in order to meet the views of the labor unions would be a very difficult one for the Dominion government. The legislative assembly has on several occasions announced the right—and apparently with the general concurrence of the electorate—to exclude Japanese, but the Dominion government has resolutely set its face against the proposal and promptly disavowed the legislation, as being ultra vires and also as being opposed to the policy and interests of the Dominion and Imperial governments. As a solution of the difficulty and presumption

on account of representations made through the Dominion government, the Japanese government voluntarily presented the immigration of Japanese laborers to this country. Recently, it is understood, that government has decided to give permits to Japanese subjects desiring to obtain freeholds. So far as we know, however, the policy of non-emigration will otherwise be maintained, and as already intimated the Japanese are devoting their attention to Manchuria and Korea as fields of settlement and exploitation. The statement has been made on high authority that the Japanese, being a proud people, would not permit their subjects to "emigrate" to countries where they were not placed on a level with the subjects of those countries. Hence the danger of an overflow from that quarter does not seem imminent. The future of the question is, however, very much in the dark as yet.

## PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN A NEW ROLE.

President Roosevelt has undertaken a good many things in his official career. In most he has succeeded, if not in accomplishing his aim, at least in acquiring popularity. He is a man of surprises, and about his policy of non-emigration Edwin Arnold said of the Japanese—a people of whom it is impossible to predict. That he should undertake to reform the spelling of English words is wholly unexpected. That there should come criticism from the British and Canadian press was to be looked for, and backed up by such authority. President Roosevelt's no doubt felt himself quite safe to take the plunge.

The English language is a development. Its roots are far from certain, and therefore in attempting to disturb settled forms we are intruding an element of uncertainty and one that may be explosive. The people at heart are very conservative on things of daily life, and the every day man is opposed to his spelling being interfered with, therefore, the President is practically alone in this question. He has, if public opinion is at all a criterion, made a huge political mistake.

In Great Britain a good deal of opposition has been aroused from the fact that the educated people have always more or less objected to the innovations suggested by the English-speaking world. There have strongly objected in the past to American spelling of English words, the dropping of the "u" in labor and honor, and one of the "s" in history. The dropping of the "u" in labor and honor, and one of the "s" in history. The dropping of the "u" in labor and honor, and one of the "s" in history.

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to bring it about will only increase the evil they are intended to cure.

## YE OLD TIME.

On Tuesday reference was made to the harsh, vitriolic way in which editorial writers of the day dealt with the emperor. If, however, they were severe in criticism, they were also very warm in their eulogies. A cosmopolitan editor of today, while he may be very severe in his denunciation of a contemporary, if occasion demanded, would never think of adopting the style of the Hamilton Spectator of 1857. On the other hand, it would be farthest from him to adopt the same "hifalutin" language which journals of that day employed towards each other when on terms of friendship. The farther we go back to the days of the great men of the day lampooned and "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," the "Dundee" and farther—the tendency to extremes seems to increase. No better specimens of literary savagery in the history of letters can be found than in the pamphlets and old-fashioned quarrels of the eighteenth century. Each other with merciless virulence. Praise or blame was nearly always in the superlative degree. Of fifty years ago this is a good example of an obituary notice. In Ottawa an editor had rounded out his days, and of him an editorial associate wrote, in part:

"Within the last three months the disease under which he suffered had become so deep-rooted that it baffled the skill of the most experienced physician, and he was gradually dying day by day, until yesterday, when his immortal spirit took flight to the regions of eternal bliss to make one of the heavenly quartets, and to ascend the throne of the Most High."

That kind of thing would be laughed at today, but fifty years ago it was most common. Many of the present editors will remember the columns of Mail and Leader of Toronto, and of course, many other newspapers used to "clang" each other daily. These were the leading papers of Canada, and the Globe, as we know, was controlled by Hon. George Brown, and later by his brother, Gordon Brown, both eminent Canadians. It is evident, therefore, that in some respects our journalism has improved during the last half century.

## THE PRESIDENT'S SPELLING REFORM.

The discussion of the President's attempt at spelling reform goes merrily on. There are many critics and many defenders. Those who are inclined to favor the reform on principle are, with few exceptions, not prepared to go the length President Roosevelt has gone. He could probably have restricted the movement to his own vigorous championing by expressing himself in favor of it without, single-handed, attempting to put the system into operation. The obvious course to follow would have been to have sought the co-operation of the governments in other parts of the English-speaking world. This is the view most generally held by Americans, and it is the view which became the American standard, had a violent antipathy to things British, reflecting the sympathy of his time, and made very radical changes in the spelling of English words. Webster is no longer rampant in the United States, and leading newspapers, and many American scholars are anxious to preserve the English language as we find it in America. The English language is peculiarly a common heritage of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, unimpaired and transmitted it as a sacred heirloom to posterity.

There are, however, strong arguments in favor of a more simple method of spelling many words, following in the direction of a phonetic system. The great objection raised to this has been that phonetic spelling would obscure the history and origin of the language. This would be true in many instances, but in as many instances it would not. The phonetic spelling would be nearer the original form. Hundreds of examples of this could be given.

The objections to phonetic spelling, which are not the result of prejudice, are more practical than theoretical in their nature, and reform, for that reason, must proceed very slowly, and must be accompanied by a very gradual and careful process.

Again the action of the President in determining the form of certain words for use officially is an executive act, and may be undone by his successor, who may also choose to exercise his power in some other direction and thus lead to further verbal complications.

The San Francisco Argonaut points out that the phonetic system of spelling in the United States is a very different thing from a uniform system of pronunciation. The theory of the phonetic system is that words should be spelled as they are pronounced, but there are different pronunciations in different parts of the Union. There are local variations. "New York" is pronounced in at least three recognized ways. There is a frequent pronunciation for "Chicago," "New" is pronounced "noo" by many Americans, which is "troo" of many other words with the "u" sound, such as "due," "tune" and so on. There are hundreds of words that could be mentioned to which if the phonetic rule were applied spelling would become more complicated than pronunciation.

Authorities are agreed that reform in spelling is desirable and almost a necessity. This is true of authorities in Great Britain as well as in the United States. Canada is a very different place between these two people is intensely interested in the problem and has eventually decided either between the two or upon a system of its own. As English is the common medium of language for so many countries, the suggestion of The Outlook that what changes are made should be made the result of an Anglo-Saxon agreement is undoubtedly sound. Otherwise, there is no possibility of maintaining a standard of spelling and, of course, pronunciation. An English-Saxon agreement in language of trade and commerce throughout the world, and to a considerable extent of diplomacy as well, it will be seen that any attempt to preserve uniformity would be a very difficult one. In time, would force to learn a language the words of which were spelled and pronounced differently by every nation of the Anglo-Saxon world. The reform of a language is truly a work of time and spasmodic and local attempts

reaching or sudden, or, indeed, anything very great at all. It is merely an attempt to cast what slight weight can properly be cast on the side of the popular forces which are endeavoring to make our spelling a little less foolish and fantastic."

The reception to the Governor-General on Monday night in the Government Buildings was the most brilliant ever held in the experience of the city. The perfection of the internal arrangements was only equalled by the outside decorations. The illumination of the buildings was an attempt. Earl and Countess Grey could not but have been pleased with the efforts put forth in their honor.

A branch or off-shoot of the great firm of J. & P. Coates, the famous thread makers, now an immense consolidation of allied manufactures, is being established in Canada. The company now being organized will have a capital of half a million of dollars. The operations at Fort William will comprise the manufacture of carpets, art publications and certain branches of merchant engineering works. Henry Coates, the head of the new Canadian company is the son of Andrew Coates, one of the founders of the firm of J. & P. Coates. He has selected Fort William, because of its being a sort of halfway house in Canada.

## Births, Marriages, Deaths.

## BORN.

BITTANCOURT—At the residence of Fred J. Bittancourt, 60 King's road, Mrs. Bittancourt, a son.

GILHAN—On the 15th inst. the wife of T. Gilhan, 1001 Metcalfe, now of Esquimalt, a son.

HIBBEN—The wife of T. N. Hibben, a daughter, on September 15 inst.

BANCROFT—In this city, on the 14th inst., the wife of Mr. D. Bancroft, a daughter.

BITTANCOURT—At the residence of Fred J. Bittancourt, 60 King's road, Mrs. Bittancourt, a daughter.

BENNET—At Dallas avenue, on the 16th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bennet, a daughter.

## MARRIED.

SMITH-PIDCOCK—On Sept. 12, at Quathlamb Cove, B. C., by the Rev. J. A. Smith, Rev. J. A. Smith, of Comox, Mary Emily, second daughter of the late R. H. Pidcock.

NATHAN—In this city, on Monday, Sept. 18, the wife of Mr. Nathan, of London, England, aged 82 years 10 months.

OMEARA—At the family residence, 21 Quebec street, on the 19th inst., the wife of Mr. Omeara, a native of Paris, France, aged 22 years.

WHITE—At the residence of her parents, 21 Quebec street, on the 19th inst., the wife of Mr. White, a native of John L. White, aged 20 years.

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It is only fair, however, to hear from the President himself. In a letter in reply to his critics, he says:

"Most of the criticism of the proposed change in spelling is made in entire ignorance of what the step is, no less than in entire ignorance of the very moderate and common-sense views as to the desirability of the change."

There is not the slightest intention to do anything revolutionary or to initiate any far-reaching policy. The purpose simply is for the government, instead of lagging behind popular sentiment, to advance abreast of it, and at the same time abreast of the views of the ablest and most practical educators of our time as well as of the most distinguished scholars—men of the stamp of Professor Lounsbury and Professor Skeat.

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