

The Colonist

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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SAANICH TRAMWAY

The Colonist makes it a rule never to tell people what they ought to do with their own property and it does not propose to depart from this practice in the case of the contemplated extension of the B. C. Electric Railway up the Saanich peninsula. The company has asked the larger landowners to give certain concessions as a condition precedent to the construction of a high-class line on its own right of way, and it is for the landowners to say whether or not they will grant these concessions. We may, however, very properly present some considerations that might be taken into account by the Saanich people.

It will be said, and we suppose it is true enough, that the company will at some time build the proposed railway whether or not any land bonus is given. On the other hand there is no certainty when this will be done. What the landowners have to consider is whether they would prefer to give something and have the line built now or wait indefinitely upon the unassisted action of the company. It is not wise to assume too much upon what such a company "must" do. The local management may very earnestly desire to do something, but the London Directors have to be reckoned with. These Directors have to account to the shareholders in the company, and they naturally want to secure the best return at the earliest possible moment upon any money they invest. It is very well to say that the company ought to be enterprising and reach out for business. That is what we think; but we cannot blame the Directors if they reach out in directions where there seems to be the most immediate prospect of a profit. If the company were a local concern, or one operating in this part of the province only, we could ask them to take their chances of making a profit, with much greater prospects of success than we can urge such a contention upon an outside company doing business over a large section of the Mainland as well as here. Sir William Van Horne once said that the public must always remember that "the Canadian Pacific has its limitations." By this he meant that when it asked for authority to expend money in development work it must have regard to the prospects of immediate returns, for it could not get money to spend unless there was such a prospect in sight. So we can imagine the Directors of the tramway company taking into account their limitations and saying in effect: We can get so much money to expend, but we must expend it where it seems likely to bring the most immediate returns, and if we cannot be certain that we must try and secure something else that will be equivalent to such a profit, they can profitably use all the money they can get in extensions on the Mainland and in improvements on their existing lines everywhere, and if they say that, before they recommend a large outlay on extensions on Vancouver Island, they must be able to make out at least as good a case as they can for extensions on the Mainland, it is difficult to see why they are not in the right. This, as we understand it, is the position of the Director, and it is for the landowners to consider if they think the tramway worth enough to them to warrant them in giving the assistance necessary to overcome these arguments.

From the landowner's point of view the chief things to be considered is if it is better to give something for an immediate advantage or to give nothing and wait indefinitely. They will naturally ask themselves certain questions. They will want to be satisfied in their own minds if the convenience of a thoroughly modern tramway system, with the important adjuncts of light and power, is worth paying something for. They will want to be satisfied if the building of such a line and the availability of light and power will add to the value of their holdings. In brief they will want to be reasonably satisfied that present additional convenience and the future increased value will be sufficient to warrant them in giving the assistance which the company asks for. These are matters upon which we shall not express any opinion, for perhaps the resident of a city, who has facilities of transportation, of light and power available, is not quite able to put himself in the place of those who have neither. We who have these conveniences can hardly understand them, and therefore possibly we are not unprejudiced judges of what suburban landowners ought to do.

There is an other reason why a resident of a city can hardly put himself in the place of rural landowner. The city man is keenly anxious to see the rural districts developed. He would like to see many homes where there

are now only a few. He knows that there is a large and growing class of people who would prefer suburban life if they could get quick transportation, and such modern conveniences as electric light and power. They know that such people would readily pay much more for land in localities where such facilities are available than they would for equally good land where they are not available. They know the great advantages of quick long distance communication. For example, the resident of Oak Bay thinks nothing of going to Esquimalt to transact business or make a social call; yet the two points are six miles apart. The quicker transportation possible on such a line as the company will build on the Saanich peninsula, would bring Sidney almost as near to Victoria as Oak Bay is to Esquimalt. Indeed all the advantages of city life and none of its disadvantages, would be available to people living within reasonable distance of the proposed tramway. Knowing these things, residents of Victoria are perhaps hardly fair judges of what the landowners in Saanich ought to do; but the latter might, we suggest, very well consider if any weight ought to be attached to these considerations, which would undoubtedly incline a resident of the city to make something of a sacrifice to secure the building of the tramway as soon as the work could be done.

A RAILWAY POLICY.

It was inevitable when the government adopted the railway policy of which the electorate gave such warm approval at the last provincial election, that the country was only at the beginning of something very far-reaching. Mr. McBride was careful to tell the people this, and we think it was so understood. In other words, the people sanctioned the policy knowing that they would be called upon to go further than was therein outlined. We think, however, they did not expect that further steps would be taken quite as soon as now seems certain. The reason of this was that only those people, whose business required them to keep in touch with what had been done elsewhere and with the demands and opportunities of British Columbia, were in a position to realize what it meant to have a strong and aggressive association of capitalists become directly interested in the provinces. Perhaps even some of these are somewhat surprised at the quickness with which the results have been reached. We do not mind confessing to a little surprise ourselves. Readers of this paper have known that we have all along contended that once powerful interest in British Columbia, and especially in Vancouver Island, surprising results would follow; but we have said it so often, and have waited so long with which events have moved, has been greater than we dare hope for. We are not surprised to know that Mr. D. Mann says that the more he studies British Columbia the more enthusiastic he becomes of the wonderful prospects it presents, for that is how we have felt about it ourselves. What we are frankly surprised at is the speed with which he and the gentlemen associated with him are crystallizing this enthusiasm into investments. Perhaps though strong in belief, we were weak in faith; but this may be excusable when one considers the long barren years in which this paper has labored to arouse some one to what everyone now seems alive to. It seems strange to be able to say, not as we have said for a long time that when once the potentialities of the province were understood we would find ourselves on the eve of vast and rapid development, but that this vast and rapid development has already begun.

The statement made by Mr. McBride, at Kamloops, in regard to branches of the Canadian Northern in this province, directly through the agency of this company and those associated with it, a hundred millions of dollars. Railways, metalliferous mines, coal mines, fishing, whaling, lumbering, steamship transportation and we do not know what else are embraced in their expansion plans. These investments will attract others. Indeed we happen to be in possession of information showing that they have already done so. Truly we are launched upon a career of progress, such as bids fair to surpass the most optimistic forecasts of any of us.

DANGEROUS TACTICS There is more than a little danger that the ardent advocates of imperial solidarity may so confuse it in the public mind with the principle of protection, that harm may come of what are well intended efforts. At present there seems to be no reasonable certainty that the United Kingdom will abandon the Free Trade policy. It may be as great an economic mistake as its opponents say, but if it is to be continued, we would be sorry to see it understood that thereby the permanence of the Empire will be endangered. Yet there seems to be no other conclusion from the statements that are being put forward by certain prominent people. The Colonist is of the opinion that the unity of the Empire would be materially advanced if the Mother country were in a position to give the over-seas Dominions certain trade advantages; but it is not of the opinion that otherwise the Empire will be even in the slightest degree weakened. We can profess to speak only for Canada and for this part of Canada especially, when we say that the attachment of the people to the Empire is not based upon the existence or the expectation of commercial advantages in the markets of the Mother country. The very great majority of Canadians want the people of the United Kingdom to do whatever they think is best for themselves. A prominent advocate of what he called imperialism, whose writings have recently been quoted to some extent, told the Colonist that he fully believed what has just been stated, but he added it is necessary to state the contrary in order to set the people of the United Kingdom aroused to action. We decline to believe that any such necessity exists. If we were in a position to advise the tariff reformers, we should say to them to labor as hard as they are able for the success of their policy; that if they took to Canada they will see a striking example of the benefits of a protective tariff; that, in our humble judgment, if it is worth anything on a subject of which of necessity we cannot speak with authority, tariff reform would be a most excellent thing for the United Kingdom. But to do this we would add that, if they really desire to preserve unimpaired the integrity of the British Empire, they should cease now and for all time to come to couple the maintenance of their position in that it is not necessary, for we can get, by exercising a little patience, all the advantages of such reciprocity as our neighbors are likely to give us, without our having to give anything in return; but we insist that no scheme of reciprocity trade between the two countries that can be devised would weaken Canadian loyalty to the Empire in the slightest degree. Those who think it would simply do not know upon what that loyalty rests. They also lose sight of the teachings of Canadian history, for it is a fact, which cannot be disputed, that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 completely killed every semblance of a desire for annexation among the people of the British North American Provinces.

Now we have a gold mine up on the edge of the Barren Lands west of Hudson's Bay. If this sort of thing keeps up, the whole country will stop digging potatoes and go to digging gold.

Mr. W. J. Bryan has formally announced that he has retired from the leadership of the Democratic party in the State of Nebraska. This is taken as indicating that he proposes to retire from active politics. But as the saying is: "You sometimes can't always quite tell."

Our evening contemporary says: "We have Mr. Mann's assurance that the lines of his company on the Island will be completed well within the three-year limit fixed by the terms of the contract. More than that we could not in reason ask for." This is very satisfactory, and for the only correction we feel called upon to make is to point out that while Mr. Mann said the work would be done in three years, the contract really gives the company four.

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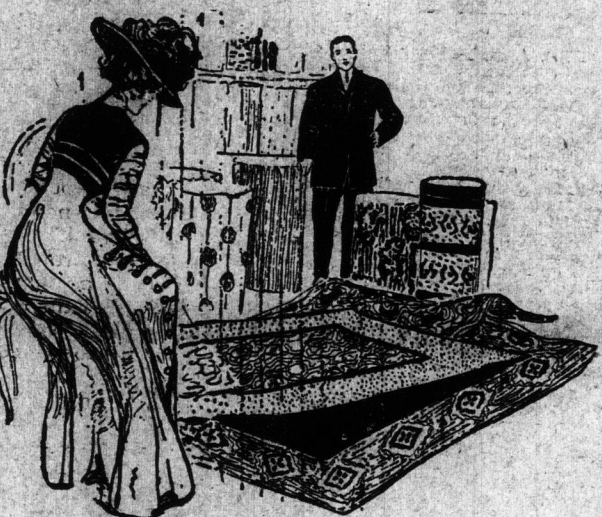
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ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

The beginning of party government was under conditions days, would not be tolerated matter of bribery. This was and flagrant, although the main cases were absurdly rather absurd to read that his vote at £10 2s. It also to find that regular accounts were kept, and that in opened where business of the acted. In the days of the Tories, if a member of Parliament to the wishes of the people was an easy matter to Tower until he saw the error the measure to which he had been passed; but the Revolution practice, and under the leadership who was probably selected for no other reason than that he anything that resembled a cabinet of members became so looked upon as a matter of course.

We saw in the last part the Commons endeavored that body all office-holders and that the Lords objected the proviso that, while an evacuated a seat, the office-holder elected. The King vetoed Houses determined that it law of the land, and final passage, the King gave his find the origin of the practice wherever the British system in force, of members seeking being appointed to a cabinet the United States, nearly adopted their Constitution, plan, which the English rejected, during the reign of with the result that they of terial responsibility. Non available give the name of first suggested the adoption England. Possibly he was far wiser than he knew." sibility was further ensured a resolution requiring all be transacted by the Privy the King should be incapable executed, and under the sisters. Thus the British call it today, was fully strengthened by the enactment providing that judges should an address from parliament the abolition of the censorship. Having accomplished the proceeded to reduce the army, and determining throne.

William and Mary latter having died in 1689, survived her eight marry. It became necessary for the succession and although the King recognized his son as English people themselves he should not ascend determined on maintaining head of Protestants or

Mary, it will be remembered of James II. She had was married to Prince Protestant, and she was She was therefore, in succession, and her course, acceptable to time of the death of less. She had had a whom had died in the Gloucester, who died Ham and Mary. It was provide for the success Anne, or in the event William. By the right of succession the descendants of granddaughter of Roman Catholics, considered. The descendants throne, it was necessary one step farther to Prince kept in the kingdom, Elizabeth, who was Palatine. She had whom died except the Elector of Han Protestant in right and the choice of the first year of his it had been enacted should profess should be forewarned and the Act of declaring the Crown of Anne, to Sophia Hanover, and Protestants, w soever the c should join in England as the reign of Anne the right of tion with Pa should be his plains the m "Hence it is crown is at quite as absolute the common descent must merly the c