The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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MR. M'BRIDE SUCCEEDS.

A London despatch to the Colonist announces that the objectionable words, "final and unalterable," have been struck out of the proposal for the settlement of the financial relations between the Dominion and the provinces. This is a great triumph for Mr. McBride. It is perfectly futile for the opponents of the Provincial Premier to contend that the omission of these words is merely a matter of form, and because no Act of the British Parliament is ever "final and unalterable." It is to be presumed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was quite aware of the principle that no Act of Parliament is "final and unalterable." This principle was settled so long ago that it is a part of the very essence of the British Constitution. But this is one thing; an agreement reached between parties competent to make it, which they have agreed shall be considered final and unalterable, while it may not, strictly speaking, bind the Imperial Parliament, would be to all intents and purposes binding, because when once it had been understood that the people of Canada had at any time determined that a certain arrangement should be final, and the Imperial Parliament had recognized its finality, that Parliament would very properly decline to interfere, if the subject matter were again brought forward. The Liberal press must choose one of two alternatives. Either Sir Wilfrid Laurier thought the inclusion of the words in the resolution of the words "final and unalterable," ever settle the claims of British Columbia, or he must have inserted these words knowing them to be meaningless, or in other words that he deliberately deceived the Dominion Parliament. The disposition of the Liberal press seems to be to accept the latter rather than credit Mr. McBride with accomplishing anything.

During the discussion of the resolution in the Canadian House, the Colonist contended for the exclusion of the words "final and unalterable." It called upon our representatives at Ottawa to make an effort to have the resolution amended to that effect. So far as our memory serves, the Colonist was the only paper in Canada which took exception to those words. When the question was up in the legislature, the Colonist urged the members of the Opposition to join in a request for the omission of those words. Our appeals fell upon deaf ears, and it is, therefore, with great satisfaction that we note that the British Government has accepted the view presented by this paper.

We look upon the outcome of Mr. McBride's visit as something that is of very great importance. Special attention is directed to the remarks of Mr. Winston Churchill. He found no difficulty in recognizing the right of British Columbia to be heard at the foot of the throne, and he expressed the appreciation of the British Government of the able manner in which Mr. McBride had presented our case.

The door which Sir Wilfrid Laurier endeavored to close has been thrown wide open. British Columbia may still demand recognition from Ottawa. The hands of future federal governments are not tied. This admirable condition of things is due to the fact that Mr. McBride took our case to headquarters. The Colonist congratulates him very heartily upon his success. The result of his mission justifies his action on every point.

AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Professor William Saunders of the Dominion Agricultural Department is in the city, and elsewhere will be found an interview with him. Mr. Saunders is a gentleman who has done much for Canada. His labors have chiefly been in connection with the experimental farms which establishments have been of great value to the Dominion. For a year or two there has been a pronounced demand for such a farm on Vancouver Island it being recognized that agricultural conditions here are somewhat unique. The object of this visit of Mr. Saunders is to report on sites for such a farm.

The Colonist hopes that a site somewhere in the vicinity of Victoria will be chosen. There are some advantages in establishing the farm near the principal city on the island because it is to this point that farmers from all parts of the island most frequently come. If it is located at some point to which farmers will need to make special journeys if they wish to see for themselves what is being done it necessarily will not be of as great benefit as it would be if placed near the chief centre, that is, of course, other things being equal. We do not know what can be done to secure the choice of a site near Victoria. Doubtless Mr. Templeman will have a good deal to say on the subject but not more than Mr. Smith or Mr. Sloan for we assume that in a matter of this kind our representatives will all stand much upon the same footing. In fact, while Mr. Saunders will not personally make the selection, it is only reasonable to suppose that his views will have a good deal of weight with the Minister of Agriculture. We therefore suggest that during his stay in the city those, who are desirous of seeing the farm located near Victoria, will exert themselves to point out to him the advantages offered by the vicinity of the city for the proposed establishment.

THE SIMPLE LIFE.

"The Simple Life" has been chosen as the caption of a page which will form a regular feature of Sunday's Colonist and will deal with matters relating to the farm, the garden and kindred topics. The title has been chosen, not because the subjects dealt with are simple, but because they treat of that phase of life which brings us nearest to nature. Perhaps there is no department of human industry in which more complex problems are presented than those coming within the classes above mentioned. Therefore, while we have introduced this new feature into the Colonist in response to many requests for information upon topics specially interesting to the farmer and gardener, we do not assume to speak with any great degree of authority. In the Colonist library are some of the most esteemed works in regard to plant life, and as far as possible from these and such agricultural periodicals as may be available, we will be glad to give information upon any points that may be suggested. In saying this we are conscious of one very important fact, namely, that the climate of British Columbia is unlike that of almost any country in the world and is so different in different localities that great care will have to be exercised in order that the department of the paper inaugurated today will not be misleading.

In order that the new departure may be a success and of as much benefit as possible to Colonist readers, we invite the assistance of those who have had experience, which will be of advantage to others. We also think that if readers with practical knowledge would favor us with comments upon some of the articles that are printed from time to time a very great deal of good might be accomplished.

The Colonist has been led to give attention to this new department of work not only because frequent requests have been made that it would do so, but because with every year the various departments of agriculture and its kindred industries are increasing in importance. The time is not far distant when the farm products of this province will be more valuable than any others. There is a great deal more good soil in British Columbia than the pioneers of the country were disposed to admit. The province has been very greatly misrepresented in this respect. The latest school encyclopedia published says that four-fifths of Vancouver Island consists of barren rock—a statement that is wildly astray, although there are many people who, a decade or so ago, would have said it was true. All over the province there are many areas of very fertile land. Some of them are fairly large, but the majority of them may not be—that is, there may be no continuous areas of hundreds of thousands of acres all fit for farming, except in the northeastern corner, where the Peace River valley lies. The aggregate of these small areas is very great—sufficient to guarantee the province a prosperous future after every deposit of coal and metalliferous ore hidden in its mountains has been worked out. It is because of this that the Colonist appreciates that it has a duty devolving upon it in this regard not less important than that of making known our wealth of forest, mine and fisheries, that we have decided upon this new departure. We know that it will be appreciated by our readers, but we repeat that if the best possible results are to be derived from it there must be co-operation upon the part of those who in agriculture, horticulture, fruit culture and the kindred industries of poultry and stock raising have had experience within the borders of our own province, for this must necessarily be much more valuable than anything which we can find in books.

PASSING OF THE STOCK RANCH.

The Colonist has a letter from Mr. H. A. Mullins, in which he says: "I have closed today (13 June) a sale of the entire herd of cattle belonging to the New Waldron Ranch company, one of the first established ranches in Alberta. They are driven out on account of the great influx of settlers. The sale represents over 10,000 head and involves over a quarter of a million dollars. I sold out the Cochrane ranch some time ago, so with this sale comes the end of two of the first established ranches." This is a very interesting piece of information and marks an era in the history of Central Canada, which is now entering upon its third stage. For years it was supposed that the plains of Alberta were useless for any of the purposes of civilization. Professor Macoun, in his evidence given before Senator Shultz's committee of the senate in 1888, said that on a previous occasion he had been examined before a committee of the House of Commons, and when he stated that the region now embraced in Alberta would one day support thousands of cattle his statement was received with incredulous smiles. "Now," he said, "the thousands of cattle are there." He ventured a prediction that the time was not far distant when the country would be cut up into farms, and, although the senate committee did not smile at his prophecy, the country did, and the committee's report, based upon that and similar statements, was received by the public with very scant courtesy and practically no consideration. It was regarded as a visionary thing got up by a lot of amiable gentlemen endowed with an abundance of optimism and a great deal of leisure. Shortly after Professor Macoun made his first forecast, the period of stock-raising was inaugurated, and a remarkable period it was. It has not lasted as long as was expected. The ranch has given way to the farm, and over large areas the farms will be of moderate area and the population consequently dense. The great irrigation projects of the Canadian Pacific and those being carried on by other companies, as well as by private individuals, will change the whole character of southern Alberta, where the great stock ranges were. The effect of this will be far-reaching. It will increase the value of the stock ranges of British Columbia, but it will also have a tendency to increase the business of stock-raising as a branch of farming. The man with 160 acres or less in western Canada has hitherto found th market for beef cattle closed to him, for the reason that the owners of the ranches controlled the supply to such an extent that the small operator could hardly call himself "in the business." This will be changed. More beef cattle will be raised on farms. This will mean that farms will be better kept up in point of fertility. With the stock ranch on the prairies will pass away the cowboy and other picturesque features of life there. Of course, there are yet thousands of cattle on ranges in Alberta and Saskatchewan and there will be for years to come, but the closing out of the establishments mentioned above is conclusive evidence that a great change is in progress.

MR. McBRIDE'S POSITION

The result of Mr. McBrile's mission to London cannot be belittled by his opponents with any hope of creating an impression on the public mind that he accomplished nothing. He has accomplished a very great deal. Let us examine the matter a little further than we were able to do yesterday.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier sought to make the decision of the Inter-provincial Conference binding upon all the provinces for all time to come by introducing into the Canadian House of Commons a resolution declaring that it was the desire of the Canadian parliament that the new terms included in the resolution, which were those adopted by the Conference, against Mr. McBride's protest as far as the special provision in regard to this province was concerned, should be made a final and unalterable settlement of the matters contained therein. The resolution was adopted. We were told by the Liberal press that its adoption demonstrated the unspeakable folly of Mr. McBride's action in not accepting Mr. Fielding's offer to ask the Conference to supplement its proposal or failing this to secure a small aditional sum directly from Parliament. We were told that it was the height of folly for a province to think that the Imperial government would presume to open a matter, which the Parliament of Canada had ordered closed for all time to come. Upon this point the Liberal press of British Columbia never grew tired of harping, and some of our eastern contemporaries thought that Mr. McBride's impending defeat would be so utterly humiliating that they grew merry in advance over it. Our local contemporary seemed to have had its mind made up as to a beautiful cartoon representing Mr. McBride being kicked over by His Majesty, as he knelt at the foot of the throne, and the Montreal Herald appears to have been contemplating something that would place him in unfavorable contrast with the two Siwash chiefs, who visited London last year. How very different is the outcome of the mission! The case of British Columbia, instead of being closed for all time to come, is open, so that the demand for justice can be preferred until justice is done. The "final and unalterable" settlement has ceased to be final and unalterable. British Columbia will be entitled to receive all that the Inter-provincial Conference and the Dominion government were prepared to give, and yet will remain in a position to press for what is her just due in the matter of further consideration. In other words, Mr. McBride has sacrificed nothing and gained much.

The Colonist has never hesitated to confess its fears that the great influence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in London might be such that Mr. McBride would find it exceedingly difficult to accomplish anything. We said so when Mr. McBride's departure was announced; we have repeated it since. Sir Wilfrid Laurier went to London at a time when the Imperial government had its hands full because of the clamor for preferential trade. He took a course at the Imperial Conference which helped the British Premier and his colleagues out of a tight place. We are not now discussing whether or not the position taken by him was the correct one. The point is that he took it, and thereby relieved Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman of what might have proved a very troublesome matter. He is persona gratissima with the present British government, and when he came before the Colonial Office, armed with the resolution of the Canadian Parliament asking that the settlement reached by the Inter-provincial Conference should be final and unalterable, he occupied a very strong position. That Mr. McBride succeeded against such odds demonstrates two things. One of them is the strength of British Columbia's case and the other is his own ability to present it.

It is true that the Colonial Office did not see its way clear to pass judgment upon the claims of the province. In this it is to be commended, because the questions involved are too complex to be decided without very full investigation. In this respect His Majesty's government has shown a higher appreciation of the case than the provincial premiers. They disposed of it in the most casual way. The amount offered to the province was not based upon any principle. It was given as a sort of sop to the British Columbia Cerberus, which stood in the way of the acceptance of the demands of Quebec. But Mr. McBride obtained what is of more value than any money grant. He obtained a declaration from the British government, which the Imperial Parliament undoubtedly will sustain, that the highest legislative body in the Empire will not sanction the principle that any individual province is at the mercy of the other provinces as far as its relations to the Dominion are concerned. In other words, the rights of each province are individual to that province and cannot be surrendered or diminished by a majority of the provinces. The working out of these relations is a matter, which is left to the provinces and the Dominion, but so far as the highest legislative authority in the Empire is concerned the smallest and most influential of the provinces cannot be stopped by its more powerful partners from asserting what it considers to be its just rights. What effect this will have upon the final disposition of British Columbia's claims it would be useless to try to forecast. It is time enough to think about how to play your hand when the cards have been dealt, but we venture the suggestion that before Mr. Templeman and his colleagues in the House of Commons again ask for re-election, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will have discovered a way in which he will endeavor to take "Better Terms for British Columbia" out of politics.

Mr. McBride has gained greatly in personal prestige by his mission to London. His name will be associated with a new definition of provincial rights. He deserves and will receive the very hearty endorsement of the people of his native province. He has stepped at one stride into the front rank of Canadian public men, and his success will be hailed with satisfaction, not only by the Conservative Party in Canada, but by every one who values the maintenance of provincial rights in their integrity.

"THE W. C. T. U. REST TENT"

We regret to dissent from the decision of the Women's Christian Temperance Union not to maintain a "rest tent" this year at the Fall Exhibition. The reason advanced for such action is that the protest of that body against the sale of intoxicating liquor on the grounds has "been utterly ignored by the management and other officials connected with the exhibition." If the situation be examined camly and dispassionately, we think the worthy ladies who compose that admirable institution will see that they have unwittingly made a blunder in assuming such an attitude. No one will for a moment doubt their sincerity, nor that their aim is to exert every effort in the direction of uplifting humanity and improving the moral welfare of the people. But the best-intentioned people sometimes make a mistake of policy. Now, in the city of Victoria there are quite a number of saloons, and a considerabe proportion of the people patronize those places. But also in the city of Victoria there is the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and it is doing a noble work. It has not refused to labor in this community because there are many saloons here. On the contrary, its officers have very wisely seen that there is a work to be done here, all the more pressing for attention on account of the presence of the insidious drink traffic. This is a most logical position. Now, when the Fall Fair is in progress, it will to all intents and purposes during its continuance, be a complete little community: The composition of its population will be much the same, only on a smaller scale, as the population of Victoria. That is to say, there will be many there who do not think it harmful to drink; and there will also be many there, no doubt, who will be seeking out the friendly "rest tent" which is made an annual feature by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. As it would be admittedly impossible for the authorities of the city of Victoria to say "we want within our gates only those who are total abstainers," and it is almost equally impossible for the management of the Fall Exhibition to take a similar attitude in respect to it, we trust that the ladies of the W. C. T. U. that there is at least room for argument as to whether they have not been a little hasty in their action. The Colonist has every sympathy with them. They are engaged in a noble work, calling for much self-sacrifice and offering little reward in return, except what is given in the consciousness that they are trying to stamp out a great evil. But it ought never to be forgotten that community enterprises, such as the Fall Exhibition, must be conducted along the lines meeting with community approval, if we may coin a phrase. That is to say, in a public venture the complex views of the public must be observed if it is to prove a success. So we must sincerely hope that the ladies will reconsider their decision and determine to maintain the "rest tent" this year as usual. As the W. C. T. U. is able to do its work in its Mission on Yates street, nowithstanding that there are a number of saloons in close proximity, so will the "rest tent" at the Fall Fair serve its purpose regardless of the circumstances that liquor is being sold on the grounds.

THE TSIMPSEAN RESERVE

It will be recalled that at the time of the meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway company, held several weeks ago, a statement was given out to the press to the effect that the Grand Trunk Pacific had obtained 22,000 acres including Kaien island and a part of the Tsimpsean Reservation, with the approval of the provincial government. The Opposition press made such ado over the matter, even going so far as to say that Mr. McBride, when on his way to London, had seen Mr. Hays in Montreal and agreed to surrender the reversionary right of the province to the 12,000 acres embraced in the reservation. There was some warrant for this, because some reports of Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson's speech contained something to the effect that the Provincial government had given way. The Colonist, on enquiry of Acting-Premier Tatlow learned that there was no foundation for the statement. Mr. Tatlow immediately drew the attention of Mr. J. H. Turner, Agent-General to the matter, and the result is the following correspondence, which shows that Sir Charles was misreported.

Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada, Dashwood House, No. 9 New Broad St., London E. C., 29th May, 1907:

Dear Sir.—I am desired by Sir C. Rivers-Wilson to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, and to forward to you the enclosed copy of the official report of the proceedings at the half-yearly general meeting of the Grand Trunk company, held on the 11th April last, containter mentioned by you.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.)—H. W. NORMAN,
Secretary,

J. H. Turner, Esq., Agent General for British Columbia, Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, E. C.

London 30th, May 1907.

Dear Mr. Tatlow.—Your telegram May 1st, and letter about the speech of Sir Rivers-Wilson were duly received. Sir Rivers was out of town at the time, I therefore wrote him on this subject and have today received a note from H. W. Norman, his secretary, and a copy of the omcial report of the meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway company, 11th April which gives Sir Rivers speech correctly. Those I send you herewith, you will notice that he did not according to the report, says, "with the consent of the government." This, I trust will be sufficient to put the matter right before the public.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. TURNER,
Agent General for British Columbia.
Hon. R. G. TATLOW, M.P.P.,
Minister of Finance, Victoria.

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