

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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DISCUSSING THE KING.

A contemporary says that "the character and actions of this King are perfectly legitimate subjects of discussion to British subjects." This is true enough in one sense, but it is not true in the sense in which certain criticism has lately been carried on. It may be legitimate enough, but it is not in accordance with the principles of parliamentary government to discuss the actions of the King as sovereign, although we regret to observe a growing tendency in that direction. We have been told that one being told that the King will do this, or do that, or will do something else. That way danger lies. The whole tendency of British political development has been to keep the King out of politics, so that no matter what may happen the Crown can never be brought into an election contest. Said a recent writer, "if the King (meaning the late King) should appeal to the people against the Asquith ministry he would be sustained." The idea of the King joining conclusions with his ministers in a general election could only have found a place in the mind of some one profoundly ignorant of the nature of British institutions. If the King felt that he ought not to accept the advice of his ministers, the latter would have no other course open to them but to resign, and permit His Majesty to find other advisers, who would "undertake to state and justify his course to Parliament." The new ministers would accept the responsibility of the King's act. But if the acts of the King, as such, are to be discussed and criticized, His Majesty would in such a case become an issue in politics, which it is the object of our system of responsible government to prevent. As the Apostle Paul said: "All things are lawful, but all things are not expedient." It may be lawful to discuss and criticize the King; that is you cannot be sent to goal for it; but it is very far indeed from being expedient, when there are ministers who assume the responsibility for what he does.

THE PLACE OF THE CROWN.

What is the place of the Crown in the British Empire? We do not mean the legal place, for that we all understand in a sort of way. What is its moral place? Suppose there were no king, would the Empire continue? We do not propose to attempt an answer to this question, because we do not claim to be able to appreciate the conditions that would arise out of the abolition of the monarchy. We have faith, the greatest of faith in the ability of the British people to cope with any emergency that may develop in the evolution of their institutions; but history and experience combine to show that it is not possible to forecast the manner in which constitutional problems will be solved. Nevertheless it may not be amiss at this time, when we are mourning one King whom we trusted profoundly, and are rendering assurances of allegiance to another from whom we expect much, to enquire briefly what place the sovereign holds in the fabric which we call the Empire. To define that place is more than difficult; it is impossible, for it is one of those things that escapes definition. There are some things which we take for granted, and are all the stronger, because they cannot be analyzed or made square with what we call reason. The kindly office in relation to the Empire is one of those things. When a provincial legislature meets, a gentleman who has in all probability never exchanged a word with the King, and whose name the King never heard, delivers a speech, which is called the King's Speech, and he gives the King's assent to laws of which the King never heard. We suppose a very wise person could demonstrate conclusively that this is all a very foolish performance, and when you attempt to analyze it, and make it square with your so-called reason, you will find it hard to justify. But you know that in point of fact, it is the only real and permanent thing in the whole body politic. A few years ago these things were done in the name of Victoria; a month ago they were done in the name of Edward; now they are done in the name of George; after a time they will be done in the name of someone else but neither Victoria nor Edward did them; George will not do them and neither will the some one else who will follow him. These things are being done in every province in Canada, at the Dominion capital, in every Australian state, at the capital of the Commonwealth in New Zealand, South Africa, and so many other places that it is hard to count them. They are done in India and millions upon millions of people acknowledge them as done with authority. So here we have one thing that is common to the whole Empire, it is certainly an imperial tie, and the tie is not personal. It is what we may call institutional.

Let it not be supposed that the personality of the sovereign has nothing to do with the strength of the tie. The high personal character, the profound sagacity that has characterized the two sovereigns, who have reigned since colonial self-government was established, have doubtless contributed much to the development of confidence in the Crown. We have no means of judging how self-governing Dominions beyond the seas would be influenced by the presence on the throne of an unworthy king, and happily there seems to be every reason to believe that the present generation will not have such an experience. Under Victoria and Edward VII. the place of the Crown in the Empire has been greatly exalted. Their virtues have shed lustre upon it, and have made the British people everywhere feel that there can be no better head to the body political than a constitutional monarch. Therefore a matter of prime importance. But the British people are not children to be awed by sovereignty or august personages. They are loyal to the Crown because of what it stands for, and here we have the aspect of the case which, as we have said, escapes definition. When we stand and sing God Save the King we mean something more than an expression of good will towards the individual who sits upon the throne. That thought may be in our minds but behind it is the greater thought of the kingly office. For the Crown represents the wisdom of centuries, the traditions of British institutions, the evolution of a race that has always possessed the instinct of freedom, the equality of all men before the law, everything worth while, in short, that the British people have achieved. It is to these things that the Briton is loyal, whether he lives under the shadow of St. Paul's, or somewhere out on the edge of civilization. To him the Sovereign stands as representative of these things.

HEART OF EMPIRE.

Here we have a tie of the Empire that is the strongest of all. In time it may develop other ties that will be stronger, but we doubt it. So this is the place of the Crown. It is a place that nothing else that we can think of can take. It is, as we have said, a place that cannot be accurately defined, but many of the best things in life are quite as indefinable.

In his farewell address to the members of Parliament, Earl Grey said in substance that before the end of the present century, Canada might be the heart of the British Empire. There is nothing improbable in this. We observe that the population of the United States has increased during the past ten years by 15,000,000. This is about two per cent a year. The average rate of increase during the past century has been about three per cent a year. The current rate of increase in Canada is much greater than this, but at three per cent a year for the remainder of the century the Dominion could have a population of 100,000,000 by the year 2000. It is of course possible that the number may then be greater, for there are some reasons, notably the filling up of the United States, that may augment the stream of migration to this country. The British Isles now contain about 45,000,000 people. They can make room for more but hardly for twice as many people. There must come a time when the cities will be as large as they can well be and when the rural districts will be filled to their capacity. Therefore in the year 2000, Canada will contain more people than the United Kingdom, and from this it would seem to follow that the great centre of imperial strength will be here. But long before that time is reached the position of Canada in the eyes of the world will be vastly different from what it now is, and herein lies the fallacy of the policy that attempts to shape the future of the Empire by provisions that seem to be suited to the special requirements of today. The chances that Canada will contain 25,000,000 in twenty years from now are very good. Great Britain had less than 25,000,000 people when she bade defiance to all the world. Such a population in such a country as ours cannot be expected to occupy subordinate place in any political organization. Long before that time Lord Milner's idea of a partnership between equals will be realized, and the Dominion's place in the Empire will be changed. By this we do not mean that the bond between Canada and the Mother Country will in any way weakened, but it is settled.

that our point of view of our imperial duties, and the point of view of the Mother Country towards us will be altered very materially. As we have said on previous occasions, we do not attempt to define what the future has in store. We are content to regard the development of the British Empire with the confidence created by its past history.

THE COMET.

The data given in yesterday's Colonist in regard to the comet were compiled somewhat more than a month ago. Later data given in the Scientific American change the hours somewhat. We quote from our contemporary:

On the 14th the comet will be on a level with Venus, and a little farther to the left. On the 15th, it will be much lower than the planet and about 30 degrees to the left. After this the comet will grow larger and brighter. It will be very interesting to watch the comet grow larger and brighter. How long its tail will be is impossible to predict. The best time to see this, however, will in any case be from the 15th onward, when the moon is out of the way and the sky dark. The comet will be larger and brighter, too, at this time than previously.

Even after the head gets too near the sun to be seen, the tail may be observable in the mornings of the 17th and 18th extending upward and to the right from the eastern horizon, perhaps broad and fan-shaped, from the point of perspective, since the end of it will be much nearer us than the head.

On the evening of the 18th or morning of the 19th (according to the observer's longitude) the comet will be between us and the sun, and the earth will be enveloped in its tail if the latter is long enough (over 15 million miles).

If this evening is clear it will be of great interest and importance to look at which the comet is in general light, and which the tail is in general light. The comet's tail will be in the east, but a few hours later it will have passed over toward the west. If, as is sometimes supposed, the tail is a hollow cone of light, there will be two times at which the tail in general light is comparatively brightly illuminated, separated by an interval while we are in the darker center of the tail. Meanwhile observers on the opposite side of our planet will have the rare privilege of seeing the sun through the comet's tail. Only the extreme western portion of the United States is included in this favored region, but as the comet enters upon the sun's disk at 8:32 p. m. by Pacific Standard Time, and remains on it till 2:25, the transit will be visible all along the coast. The comet passes almost squarely across the center of the sun from west to east.

Paradoxical as it may seem, it is probable that the ordinary observer, even with a small telescope, will not be able to detect even the slightest trace of the comet's passage. Only the extreme western portion of the United States is included in this favored region, but as the comet enters upon the sun's disk at 8:32 p. m. by Pacific Standard Time, and remains on it till 2:25, the transit will be visible all along the coast. The comet passes almost squarely across the center of the sun from west to east.

It is possible, too, that the absorption of the gases composing the envelopes of the head and the tail may be detected by means of the spectroscopic, and as the comet will be looking through the tail lengthwise, nearly 15 million miles of it will be there to exert any possible effect on the sun's light. Even so, it will not be surprising to many astronomers if nothing unusual is detected.

Such negative results will however be scientifically valuable, since they will enable us to say that the materials composing the comet do not exceed certain limits of mass or density.

Transits of comets across the sun are very rare. The most remarkable previous instance is that of the great comet of 1832, which, though so bright that it could be seen close to the sun in broad daylight with the naked eye, vanished completely when in front of the sun's disk, showing that it was practically perfectly transparent.

On the evening of the 14th we may perhaps already see the comet tail in the evening sky, though its head will set while the twilight is still very strong. On the 15th however it will be visible till about 9 p. m., on the 22nd till 10:20, and on the 25th and 26th till 11 p. m.

On the 21st, the comet's head will be close to the star Gemma, on the 23rd about 10 degrees above Procyon, and on the 25th near Alpha and Gamma.

Just so. It can be shown that the Spring Ridge site is the best for a majority of reasons for the High School, by all means let it be chosen.

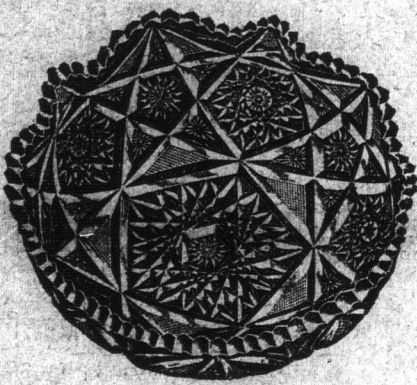
Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Frederick Borden, Mr. Fielding and Mr. Graham are all to come out to see us next summer. Let us kidnap the bunch, and hold them in duration more or less until the Songhees Reserve question is settled.

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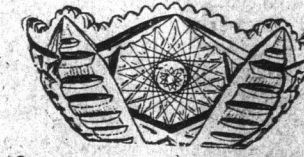
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Visit the first floor today and see these latest additions, and we believe that you'll agree with us that the values are remarkably good. There's quite a variety of pieces and patterns, and the price range is broad too. Pleased to have you inspect these.

We don't expect this glass to remain long at these prices, so we suggest an early visit—today would be the best time.



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Window Display of Summer Furniture

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Of course you are interested in Summer Furniture—or you'll soon be. Then see the display of Summer furniture in the Broughton Street windows. We are showing some very interesting creations in reed, rush and rattan furniture specially desirable for Summer use.

These chairs are invitingly cool in appearance, and they are most comfortable, too. The ideal chair for porch or lawn use, and chair style that'll do good service inside the home when the Summer season is passed. There's a big choice of styles this year, and they are priced at right prices—we have never offered such excellent values. See the window show, then come inside and let us show you more.

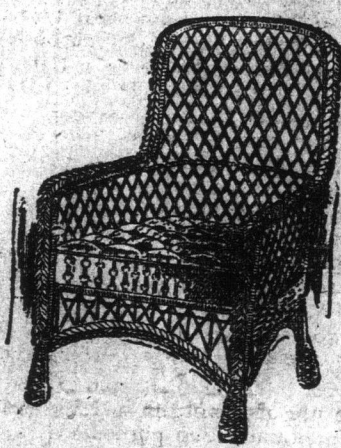
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Try Gold Medal camp furniture when you go camping this Summer—it's the ideal sort. Light, compact, strong, easily "packed"—it's the right sort if you must "transport" the outfit on your back.

We show a complete line of camp stools, camp chairs, camp beds, camp tables, camp baths, etc. We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to show you these, and we welcome a visit to our fourth floor—where they are shown. See some samples in the window.

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This establishment offers you a great selection of Summer floor coverings. Matters not whether you wish something for the town house or for the summer camp—you'll find the right thing here. See our China and Japan matings at, per yard, 30c and 25c.



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Magnificent New Bedroom Furniture

Pardon us for again referring to the new Bedroom Furniture, but yesterday's arrivals are so unusually nice that we must call your special attention to the display now awaiting your inspection on our third floor.

It has never before been our good fortune to show such a magnificent assortment of bedroom furniture. The choice is broader, the styles better and the values greater than ever before. We list but a few of the new arrivals here. Come in and see some genuinely handsome bedroom furniture.

Chiffoniere—Dull finished mahogany. Top measures 20 x 32 inches. Has mirror 18 x 24 in. Has 4 full length and 2 small drawers. Priced at.....	\$55.00
Dresser—This style has 2 full length and 2 small drawers. Top measures 23 x 43 inches, and the mirror measures 28 x 34 inches. Dull mahogany. Priced at.....	\$58.00
Dresser—Has mirror 28 x 36 inches. Top measures 24 x 46 inches. Dull finished mahogany. Has 2 full length and 4 small drawers. Each.....	\$70.00
Chiffoniere—This style has a 18 x 34 inch mirror. Top measures 20 x 32 inches. Has 4 full length and 4 small drawers. Dull finished mahogany. Priced at.....	\$65.00
Here is the very newest in chamber furniture—two handsome pieces in a beautiful wax finished oak. We want you to see these because they are something "different," and something real nice. Shown on the third floor.	
Dresser—Has 2 full length and 2 small drawers. Top measures 24 x 46 inches. Has a 28 x 36 inch mirror. Handsome design and finished beautifully in a new wax finish. Priced at.....	\$70.00
Chiffoniere—Has 4 full length and 4 small drawers. The top measures 22 x 38 inches. Has mirror 18 x 28 inches. Dull finished mahogany.....	\$80.00
Chiffoniere—This style has 4 full length and 4 small drawers. The top measures 22 x 38 inches. Finely finished, dull mahogany. Priced at.....	\$75.00
Dressing Table—A very handsome table, in dull mahogany. Has 4 drawers and a 26 x 28 inch mirror. Top measures 19 x 30 inch. Priced at.....	\$70.00
Dresser—Top measures 24 x 48 inches. Mirror measures 32 x 38 inches. Has 2 full length and 2 small drawers. Dull mahogany. Priced at.....	\$125.00
Chiffoniere—Has 4 full length and 2 small drawers. Top measures 20 x 38 inches. Has 20 x 28 inch mirror. Dull mahogany. Priced at.....	\$100.00
Chiffoniere—This style has a 20 x 24 inch mirror. The top measures 20 x 32 inches. Has 4 full length and 2 small drawers. Designed to match the dresser, and in same finish. Priced at.....	\$60.00

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Protect All the Winter Clothing by Storing These Valuable Articles in Camphor Trunks

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Don't worry about this matter. Here is the solution in these Camphor Wood Trunks. Moths and other insects cannot live in these, and furs or other clothing stored in same will come out next Fall as bright and fresh and good as when they were deposited. And the price is very little—much less than loss you might sustain without one.

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