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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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CANADIAN NAVAL QUESTION.

If you read history carefully you will seem to see that certain great statesmen from time to time inaugurate movements which result in far-reaching actions changing or modifying the national history.

A national sentiment is a live thing which goes through its own process of evolution; and perhaps if we could take a sufficiently wide view we might be able to prophesy with accuracy as to the events which must follow the evolution of the sentiment of any given nation.

Knowing the races from which the vast majority of the Canadian nation has sprung, we ought to be able to prophesy as to the stand that nation will take upon the burning question of the day.

This gives importance to the announcement that mass meetings are to be held shortly in Victoria and Vancouver by the Navy Leagues of these cities.

The gigantic meeting in the Victoria theatre last year has not yet been forgotten, nor the enthusiasm which our Coast cities exhibited. They at any rate realize what the Empire owes to the sea and they seemed determined to claim full share in the glory of the past and their right to bear a man's burden in the duty of the future.

We may be busy builders, but we are not fool builders, building nests for our foreign cuckoo to lay its eggs in; we may be teachers but traders who insure their wares, we are Canadians but we are the same people who won our wealth from the sea and made it our road to all the best places on earth and whether we are Liberals or Conservatives our coats will come off, if there is any sign of slackness amongst our leaders in facing their responsibilities and safeguarding the possessions we have now.

For this reason we welcome the rumor that Victoria is to have a chance of reminding the world that she is one of the Sea Queen's children with a big interest in all that concerns the sea. We wish the Navy Leagues a full house and all of a kind.

THE ALEXANDRA CLUB

The enterprise of the ladies of the Alexandra Club, in determining to provide themselves with a club-house of their own, is worthy of the highest praise. The plan, on which the building will be erected, and to be an very comprehensive scale.

The money invested in such an undertaking can hardly fail to be profitable, for even if the rentals at the outset should not be sufficient to pay dividends, the enhancing value of the property would be such as to give, in the course of a few years, a splendid increase upon the initial cost.

The way in which the people of Paris flock into that city, when danger from high water threatens them, illustrates what a gregarious animal man is. He wants to get near his fellows when trouble is near, although his reason tells him that he would be very much better off alone.

That "when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war," is an old although not quite correctly quoted expression. Just now Greek is meeting Greek in the classic neighborhood of Athens. The army and the navy are at odds, and just how things will turn does not seem very clear from the telegrams.

The London Daily Mail is clearly wrong in suggesting that the repeal of the German sur-tax was delayed by the Ottawa government until the result of the British elections was known. If we are able to form an estimate of the fiscal policy of the Laurier ministry, it refuses to take into account any probable changes in the British fiscal system, and adopts a strictly Canadian view of each question as it comes up.

ations, or that the prolonged tenure of office by Mr. Asquith has influenced it in the slightest degree.

Our attention has been called to the fact that, while there is supposed to have been a close season on pheasants and other game on the Saanich Peninsula, the regulation has been grossly violated in some parts of the district. If we are to have game laws, they ought to be enforced. There is no sense in making regulations and then permitting them to be defied in certain places while they are carried out in others.

The spectacle presented by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, when he went to the House of Commons to be sworn in, is one that we think the country might have been well spared. As its beyond human probability that Mr. Chamberlain will ever leave his seat in the house, it would surely have been better if he had refrained from the ordeal, for such it was, of being sworn in. The cause of tariff reform will not be advanced by what is likely to be his last public appearance.

The local Liberal organ says that the Colonist has complained of the delay of the Dominion government in proceeding with its naval programme. The Colonist said nothing of the kind, nor anything which can be construed as meaning anything of the kind. What the Colonist did was to refuse to accept without other proof than its contentment, that there would be no appropriation for additional dock accommodation at Esquimalt this year.

Objection to the proposed increase in the pay of policemen and firemen do not appear to us to be well founded. The city needs the services of the best men it can get, and it must expect to pay reasonable wages. Both policemen and firemen give the city good service. The work in which they are engaged is surrounded with peril. In view of these facts and of the increased cost of living, we think granting the increase asked for, it is well to give good men some inducement to remain in the service of the city.

We were told by the local Liberal organ, and accepted the statement in good faith, that the British government, for some undisclosed reason, had delayed handing over the Navy Yard at Esquimalt to the Dominion government. We have taken the trouble to look into the matter, and beg to inform our contemporary and everyone else that the Admiralty has been ready at any time during the last six months to hand the Navy Yard over to the Dominion government whenever the latter is prepared to take it. Will the local Liberal organ challenge the truth of this statement?

The Victoria branch of the Local Option Committee has addressed a letter to the Attorney-General that had better have been left unwritten. There is at present a law in Canada which provides for local option in respect to the liquor traffic, namely, the Canada Temperance Act. In spite of all the criticism directed against it, this act is a measure as well adapted as any other for the purposes for which it is designed. We think that it might not, perhaps, be applicable to the unorganized districts of British Columbia, although on this point we are not quite certain. If the Canada Temperance Act cannot be carried, a local option law cannot be; and if the Canada Temperance Act cannot be enforced, neither can a local option law.

We find in what seems to be a discriminating review of business conditions in New York, a statement that buyers for both wholesale and retail houses are exercising very great caution in their purchases. No reason is assigned for it, although the suggestion is made that the business community in the United States endeavored to force the pace too soon after the late crisis. We are inclined to think that perhaps tariff agitation has a great deal to do with it, and also the general uneasiness all over the United States because of the cost of living, the demand for the overthrow of the trusts, and matters of that kind. Confidence is of very slow growth in unsettled soil, and just now the United States is very much unsettled over a variety of things, none of them very serious, perhaps, but sufficient in combination to cause a good deal of uneasiness.

It is hardly the part of a daily newspaper to advise farmers, but in these days when every one is trying his hand at suggestions bearing upon the cost of living, perhaps a point or two may not be out of place, even though they may smell more of printer's ink than of the ploughed fields.

they may smell more of printer's ink than of the ploughed fields. Point 1 is that every square foot of cleared land, that is unproductive or not devoted to some necessary purpose, is so much wasted capital lying idle. Another is that it costs as much to keep a poor animal as a good one, and the profit from the latter is greater than from the former. Another is that it pays to produce the best of everything. Another is that farming is a business and ought to be conducted on business lines. Another is that the sale of raw products is not as profitable as the sale of finished products. Another is that very often the greatest profit is in by-products. These are business principles that apply as much to the production of eggs as to the manufacture of steel or the building of ships. Wasted capital, wasted energy, waste of opportunities, are what are wanting in drudgery in many cases. Of course farming was, and is always will be hard work; but it ought to be something more.

WESTERN RAILWAYS

Applications for Charter Extensions Cause Some Alteration at Ottawa

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—Both the senate and commons railroad committees met today, there being a noisy meeting of the latter body. The bone of contention was the bill of the Vancouver, Westminster and Yukon Railway Company asking for an extension of time and for permission to bridge the narrow narrows at Vancouver. The same privilege is being sought by another company for a proposed extension of the line from Vancouver to the north. The senate committee was more tranquil, but a charge was made by Senator Talbot and Davies that railway companies were seeking to obtain blanket charters for lines when they had no possible chance of going ahead with the extensions of time, however, were granted. The Calgary and Edmonton, Esquimalt & Nanaimo, Manitoba and North-Western, Vancouver & Kootenay and the Northern Railway.

Calgary Bank Clearings.

CALGARY, Feb. 17.—What is one of the greatest increases in weekly returns of the Calgary clearing house has just been recorded. For the week just closed the total clearings were \$3,172,380, as compared with \$1,997,377 for the corresponding week of last year.

Wrights Get Injunction.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—A writ of temporary injunction against Louis Paulhan, the French aviator, was granted by U. S. Circuit Court Judge Wright on application of the Wright company. Infringement of the Wright patents were alleged in the application for the injunction.

Mad Mullah on Warpath.

ADEN, Arabia, Feb. 17.—Mohammed Abdullah of Somaliland, the "Mad Mullah," is again on the warpath. A big force of dervishes has raided the sultanate of the Mijertine, killing and burning in all directions. The slaughter of the tribesmen was very heavy. One whole town was gutted by fire and many camels were taken by the dervishes.

Weary of Squabble.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Barney Dreyfus, of Pittsburgh, gave his proxy to Garry Herrmann this afternoon, saying he was weary of the squabble over the selection of a playing schedule, and was going home. "I told Mr. Herrmann to vote for the short schedule until the last," said Dreyfus. When the time came for the afternoon session it was found that there was not a quorum of the magnates present.

Night Riders Prosecuted.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 17.—The first blow struck at the United States against alleged night riders was delivered today when the federal grand jury at Covington, Ky., returned indictments against twelve men of Dry Ridge, Ky., for conspiracy in restraint of trade. One of the men indicted is C. John E. Steers, member of the state legislature. The indictments charge that the defendants conspired to prevent W. T. Osborne from shipping four hundred pounds of tobacco from Dry Ridge to Cincinnati. They were charged with having intimidated by threats of violence both Osborne and the station agent at Dry Ridge. The federal government will prosecute the cases arising under interstate commerce.

Mr. Keene's Stock Manipulation.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—A large crowd of brokers and other men with Wall street interests was on hand today looking for possible disclosures of new wrinkles in the handling of stock pools from James B. Keene, the financier who resumed his testimony in the J. M. Flisck & Co. bankruptcy hearing. Mr. Keene was asked today what his holdings of Hoeking coal stock were individually, and in the pool when the crash came on January 19. "I had the pool stuff," replied Mr. Keene. "I had 7,500 shares, but my bookkeeper tells me that I had 6,100 or 6,200 shares in the pool." Mr. Keene said that the difference was held by him individually, and that 7,500 shares were all he had at the time.

Bowes' Eczema Ointment

Cures eczema, salt rheum, scurvy, acid ulcers, erysipelas, ringworm, barbers' itch, etc. It is not only a specific for eczema, but for all kinds of skin diseases which are not of a blood-poison character. All diseases of a hot, itchy or inflammatory nature yield readily to its use. It produces quick results. 50 cents per package.

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Are You Prepared For the Extra "Wash" During Spring Cleaning?

SPRING housecleaning means a whole lot more work in the laundry. Are you properly prepared for this extra labor? You are not if you haven't an ACME Washing Machine. The Acme will save two-thirds of the labor and do the work better in one-third the time.



Robs Wash Day of Its Terrors

The machine will run so easily that a small child can run it without the least trouble. It will wash the finest fabrics without tearing or breaking a thread—and the heaviest blankets and quilts with perfect ease. Your clothing is washed perfectly clean without the slightest wear or tear on it or on yourself.

Read the guarantee the makers give—it means just what it says. There are no strings to it—you may back it if it does not do all they claim for it. Don't buy a washer until you have examined the Acme. We are sole Victoria agents and sell the machine—same as illustrated below—at \$10.



Priced at \$10

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To do more work and better work with less work on your part and with less wear and tear on the clothes than any other washers on the market.

A CHILD CAN OPERATE IT

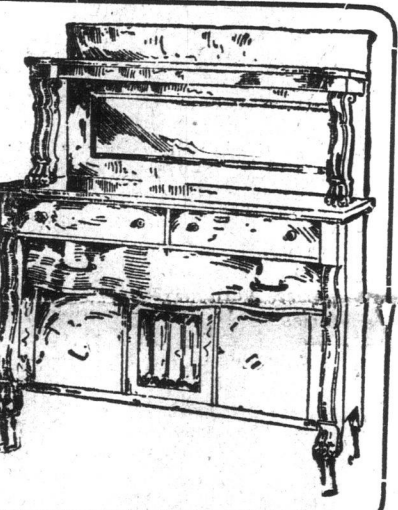
Some Smart Buffet Styles in Window See Them and see also the China Cabinets we are Showing You'll Like Them.



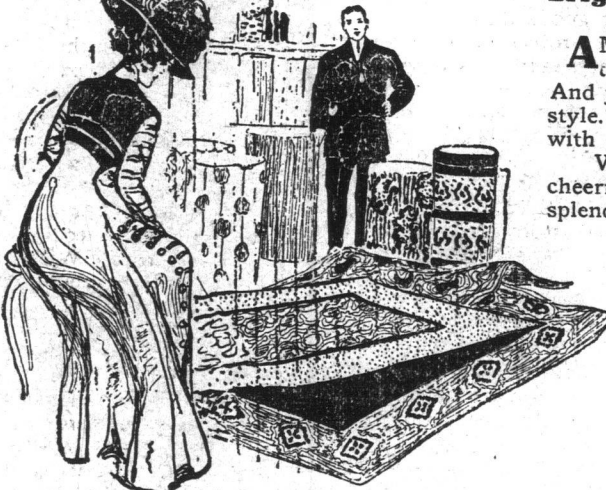
IT won't inconvenience you very much to take a few steps along Broughton street, first time you are "down town," and see the smart styles in buffets and china cabinets displayed in our windows.

We have taken a few representative styles from our stock and placed them in the window for your easy inspection. Creations in both golden and Early English finished oak are offered. If you don't see a style to suit you in the window, come up to the third floor and let us show you what we believe is by far the most extensive showing of dining-room furniture ever shown in the city.

We would appreciate a visit from you. Don't imagine there is any obligation to purchase incurred—for there isn't. SEE OUR HAVILAND CHINA TEA SETS 40 Pieces, \$15 and \$16.



Splendid Low-Priced Tapestry Squares



Bright and Cheerful "Efforts" Desirable for Bedroom, Livingroom, Diningroom

AMONG the hundreds of squares and rugs offered by our carpet store there are no low-priced styles that can excel these Tapestry Squares. And just because they are low-priced don't imagine they are lacking in style. Far from it—they combine abundant style and excellent quality with easy prices, just the sort of square you are looking for.

- We have a full range of sizes in these. They come in bright and cheerful floral and Oriental designs—nice colorings. The quality is splendid, and you'll find these squares will give excellent satisfaction. If you want a good, hard-wearing, inexpensive floor covering for the bedroom, living-room or dining-room, try one of these. Size—9 x 9 ft. 6 in., at \$7.50 Size—9 x 10 ft. 6 in., at each, \$16.00 and \$10.50 Size—9 x 9 ft., at \$13.00 Size—9 x 10 ft., at \$14.00 Size—9 x 12 ft., at \$18.00 Size—12 x 10 ft. 6 in., at \$20.00 Size—10 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. 6 in., at each, \$22.25 and \$18.00 Size 12 x 13 ft. 6 in., at \$25.00

Come in and see the magnificent stock of new Spring carpets, squares and rugs we are now displaying. Almost daily additions are being made, and you shouldn't fail to inspect the stock at the very earliest opportunity.

Brass Fern Pots and Jardinieres are Popular

BRASS fern pots, jardinieres, candlesticks, and such items, have been very popular during the past year, and are growing more so every day. We recently added an excellent line of low-priced brass fern pots and jardinieres to our first floor's offerings. Although low in price, they are not lacking in style—they offer you a splendid opportunity to secure a much-desired article of home adornment at light expenditure of cash.

Fern Pots are made of satin-finished brass and have removable metal linings. We sell them with or without ferns. Price, without fern, \$1.25. Priced with fern, \$1.55.

- We have a line of medium sized Jardinieres in satin-finished brass with lion ring handles, that are excellent value at each, \$4.00. The other lines of Brassware to be found here disclose some very interesting and charming pieces you would enjoy in your home. Let us show you some of the following: POLISHED BRASS VASES, from 25¢ HAMMERED BRASS FINGER BOWLS 75¢ HAMMERED BRASS JARDINIERE \$4.50 MAHARADBAD COBRA CANDLESTICKS—Quaint and artistic, at from, each \$1.25 BENARES BRASS TRAYS, for tea table use. Very handsome. Each at \$14.00

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PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICA

At the time of its settlement the Indians of a large part of America depended upon agriculture for living. The commonly received idea lived chiefly upon the products of the soil, or, however true this may be, it is the Indians of the Plain who apply to those of the Atlantic Coast and a considerable part west of the Appalachian range. food was maize, for that reason known as Indian corn, or more commonly simply corn. This plant is not found in a wild state one knows where it originated, to have been known in China 2000 years ago, and a few grains of it have been found in a tomb at Abydos in Egypt; but if this is the case, it is difficult to explain how its cultivation was completely abandoned in the World before the discovery of America. Corn seems to be a plant which requires human intervention for preservation, seeing that although it has been cultivated in America for centuries it is never found growing wild.

Dr. Charles Conrad Abbott, an expert in archaeology, says that ten thousand years ago the Indian Atlantic coast had attained a somewhat advanced stage of civilization, and that the first calamity or series of calamities which struck the Indians of the Century were in a period of arrested development. Whatever may be the explanation may be, the use of a vast area of the Western Hemisphere for a long period during which the inhabitants had made some progress and carried on some kind of agriculture. Dr. Charles Conrad Abbott, an expert in archaeology, says that ten thousand years ago the Indian Atlantic coast had attained a somewhat advanced stage of civilization, and that the first calamity or series of calamities which struck the Indians of the Century were in a period of arrested development. Whatever may be the explanation may be, the use of a vast area of the Western Hemisphere for a long period during which the inhabitants had made some progress and carried on some kind of agriculture.

At some prehistoric period a race known as the Mound-builders was distributed over the Continent. It has been made to identify these people with the present Indian population, but this has been very successful. There seems to be a relation between mound-building and mounds, for all the intermediate stages of a rude mound and a finished pyramid are found on the American continent. Above 1,500 mounds of stone and earth have been found. The word "mound" may be observed, is here used to denote a class of structures, which are not merely heaped-up masses, but may be of a shape of walls or some resemblance to mounds, such as the great elephant mounds, which, accidentally or otherwise, striking resemblance to an elephant don, the great serpent mound, and so on, from a few feet from 5 to 30 feet, and from a few acres up to a square mile known instance. They are of various circular, oval, square or several-sided shapes, and are surrounded by a sometimes by more than one. Briefly may be made to some of them. One of them is known as the "Great Mound" of Ohio. It is 900 feet in circumference, 70 feet high, and is in the form of a cone; that is, it does not come to a point, but has a flat top. The mound is excavated in the solid ground was 6 feet deep. It was 8 by 12 feet in area and 7 feet high. Its sides and roof had been of timber had rotted. Two human skeletons were found in this chamber. One of them was a man, and the other a woman, and was dressed by 650 ivory beads and an ivory comb. Above this vault or chamber other, and in it was a skeleton of a man with copper rings, plates of mica beads, and more than two thousand from shells. In North Carolina a mound