

The Colonist.

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A PROGRESSIVE VICTORIA

There is only a little more than a week to elapse before the present election campaign is a thing of the past. Daily we are in receipt of telegrams from different parts of the province which show that the tour undertaken by Premier McBride and Mr. Bower is in the nature of a triumphal progress. Probably no ministers have ever before met with such a solid enthusiasm for their policies, and the reason apparently is that the same spirit of enthusiasm for progressive action is being encountered at all points.

In Victoria, from a Conservative standpoint, the campaign so far could not have been more successful. Reports received from every ward in the city show that Premier McBride and Messrs. Thomson, Behnen and Davey will be returned by overwhelming majorities. A feature of the campaign which, from the standpoint of a progressive Victoria, is of exceptional interest, is that daily we hear of prominent Liberals in the city who are enthusiastic for the era of expansion upon which we have entered, and who on March 28 intend voting for Premier McBride and his associates. The reason they give is that it would be unwise to disturb conditions as they exist and in addition that they cannot help but admire the forward policy of expansion adopted by the ministry now in power. In this city anything in the nature of criticism of the Government's policy is almost a negligible quantity. It will be a happy message that will greet Mr. McBride on his return from the Interior, a message to the effect not only that his own election is secure beyond all shadow of doubt, but also that the return of the other Conservative candidates in the city is certain. And we believe that it will be the same throughout the province. Elections are uncertain things to prophesy about, but we do not think that there was ever a time in the history of any country, state or province, where a government stood stronger in the regard of the people than does that of which Mr. McBride is the leader. It might well be that the result of the forthcoming election will be a unique event in Empire politics. If it is so it will be because the people throughout the length and breadth of British Columbia have both hands up for progress and are determined to take full advantage of the opportunities which exist. That is the sentiment of Victoria and that is the reason why the Conservative party here is certain to roll up a record majority.

THE PERSONAL EQUATION

Yesterday we had a reference to certain resolutions to be moved in the Senate by Senator Macdonald, of this city, and a very interesting interview with Mr. H. S. Paterson, of Winnipeg, both of which dealt with the footing of western grain. We are sure we do no injustice to the Senator in assuming that he had in mind in framing his resolutions the probability that a great deal of the grain might be shipped from this coast and preferably from Victoria, while Mr. Paterson was frankly in favor of this as a shipping point. While the importance of Victoria as an ocean port is being more and more appreciated, one might almost say, from day to day, the residents of this community must not lose sight of the fact that, notwithstanding everything which Nature has done for our city, and notwithstanding anything that governments may do for us, it is the personal equation that really counts. The energy and enterprise of our citizens must supplement all our natural or acquired advantages, if we would realize what the future may be forced to yield to us.

Mr. Paterson directed attention to the matter of a grain elevator. On Mr. Coste's plan of outer harbor improvements a site for a grain elevator is shown. Now, we ought not to wait until the breakwater has been built before we set out to get this elevator; our effort ought to be made to have both in progress at the same time, so that, as soon as a berth for a grain-carrier has been provided, the elevator full of wheat can be ready to load the first ship to arrive. Provide the port accommodation for the ship, and assure shipowners that a cargo will be ready, and we will get all the ships we want. This is one of the things we must work for immediately. It is somewhat of a task, which devolves upon a few people, to devote their time and ability to promoting things in the city's interest; but the work has to be done. There is a lot done quietly along these lines of which the general public knows nothing at all. The public will read in the paper that such and such

a committee of such and such a body presented a report, and the report will perhaps only occupy a few lines. It may represent many hours spent in investigation into matters in which the members of the committee have no more interest personally than any other members of the community. There is a great deal of this sort of work to be done just now, and it is to be hoped that there will be hearty co-operation between all public agencies to accomplish the desired results. We think this matter of a grain elevator is one of the first things to be considered.

When we have got all the facilities needed for the immediate future, the business men individually will have their work to do. One of the things they will have to think about is the cost of living here. This is a more effective factor in determining the prosperity of a city than appears at first sight. While we all realize that there has been a general advance in the cost of living all the civilized world over, there is a widespread belief that prices are higher in Victoria in many lines than there is any just reason for their being. This is a matter to which we invite the very serious attention of business men. In proportion as the cost of living can be reduced, the attraction which the city will offer to all people, and especially to working people, will be greater, with the result that more business will be done, and while the percentage of profit may be less, the aggregate profit will be more. Here is an aspect of the case in which the personal characteristics of our business men may count for very much indeed.

The manner in which the affairs of the city are conducted counts much for the general benefit, quite irrespective of the manner in which the taxes are expended. Members of the Aldermanic Board would be wise to bear in mind that the public are not specially concerned with their individual views, but only with the results they accomplish. There has been very little "scrapping" this year, but there are not lacking signs that more may arise. Our advice to all concerned may be expressed in a little slang phrase, "Cut it out." What the public wants is results.

Just think over these things. Remember that what's everybody's business is your business, and that as an individual you can do much, if you only try, to add to the prosperity of the city.

MR. POOLEY AND HIS CLIENTS

Mr. H. R. Pooley has chosen to regard the suggestion that his relations to the Esquimalt Water Works Company disqualify him to fairly represent Esquimalt, as a reflection on his honor. There is no question of honor involved. The point is that, if he were elected, and if the interests of the company and the constituency came into conflict, he would have to act as the legislative representative of the latter, and at the same time would be the solicitor of the former. The positions are incompatible with each other, and we are surprised that Mr. Pooley is unable to recognize so self-evident a fact. If the suggested conflict of interests should arise, Mr. Pooley would have to choose between serving his constituents and serving his clients. As a man of honor he would find himself placed in an exceedingly difficult position. In such an emergency he certainly would not profess to be able to act independently for his constituency, because, no matter how he might endeavor to do so, he could not disassociate himself from the interests of his clients. This is a rudimentary proposition in ethics from the operation of which we do not imagine that Mr. Pooley regards himself as exempt.

The Esquimalt Water Works Company has already too great a hold upon Esquimalt to make it desirable that the representative of the constituency and the solicitor of the company should be one and the same man. No part of Esquimalt being incorporated the powers of the representative are wider than in incorporated areas, and it is highly objectionable that these powers should be exercised by an officer of a company, with a franchise that seems to have been granted without any consideration of the public interest. For five months last year the company held the government back from doing necessary work upon a public highway, and left one of the most important thoroughfares in the country in such a condition that it was dangerous to life, not to mention destruction to vehicles. For months the ditches and earth piles of the company were an obstruction to vehicular traffic, and after it suited the pleasure of the company to complete its work, the road was left in such a state that it was necessary for the government to get a special warrant for \$30,000 to put it in repair. A company, of which this can be said, has too much authority already without having its solicitor on the floors of the Legislature, and in practical control of the constituency during the recess.

IN THE ISLANDS

Mr. McPhillips, President of the Council, and therefore a member of the Provincial Government, is being opposed at the election by a candidate who claims to be a supporter of the

Government. Far be it for us to suggest that any person has not a perfect right to offer himself as a candidate in any constituency. We are not so enamored of the system of party conventions as to look upon them and their decisions as sacred. It is a praiseworthy ambition on the part of any man to desire to represent his neighbors in the Provincial Legislature. Mr. McPhillips' opponent is quite within his rights. What we do not understand is how he has been able to persuade himself that it is better for the constituency to be represented by him than by a gentleman who occupies a very prominent part in the Government of the province. No one can claim that Mr. McPhillips is unmindful of the duties he owes to his constituents. In fact, he always has that in mind, and no one is ever allowed to forget that he represents what is known as the Islands. He is not only a painstaking representative of his constituency, but also a very useful member of the House. We have no expectation that he will be defeated, but we do not see why he should be opposed by a candidate who supports the Government of which he is a member. Of course, it is possible that his opponent is only in the field for the purpose of a preliminary canter, so to speak, in the event of a suitable opportunity for his election arising later on. This would be intelligible enough, and very legitimate, if he were running in opposition to some one on the other side of politics, but we hardly see how it justifies him in opposing a political friend.

Our local Liberal friends have been unlukey about starting their campaign. But really what difference does it make?

The Toronto World says: "The Liberals of British Columbia seem to be waking up." You are mistaken, good contemporary. It's only a false alarm.

Our advices from Vancouver are to the effect that the Liberals themselves concede the utter hopelessness of electing a single man on their ticket. This is of itself a reason why Victoria should send its four men to support Mr. McBride.

One of the few parallels in history to the suffragette craze in England is to be found in the story of the Children's Crusade in 1212, when 50,000 children set out to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the Infidel. Both illustrate how widespread emotional insanity may become.

It is given out that the Conservative party in the United Kingdom may oppose the government Bill to provide for the settlement of the coal strike. It seems to have been written by the Pates that the Conservative party in the United Kingdom shall commit every conceivable blunder.

Some of the Liberal orators in Vancouver say that Vancouver Island is over represented, because it has more members than the city of Vancouver, which has a larger population. If they had their day there would be at least twelve representatives from the Terminal City in the Legislature. But what use would that be to them? They could not elect one out of a hundred.

Congratulations to Mr. F. Carter-Cotton on his election by acclamation for Richmond. He is a gentleman highly respected by the members of both parties, and his election without opposition is a tribute to the esteem in which he is held by the people in the constituency which he has represented so long and so faithfully.

The session of parliament at Ottawa continues to be uneventful and a pro-rogation by Easter seems to be wholly probable.

The Turks are going to try conclusions with the Italians on the sea. Their old-fashioned craft are to meet the modern vessels of Italy on the sea. C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre.

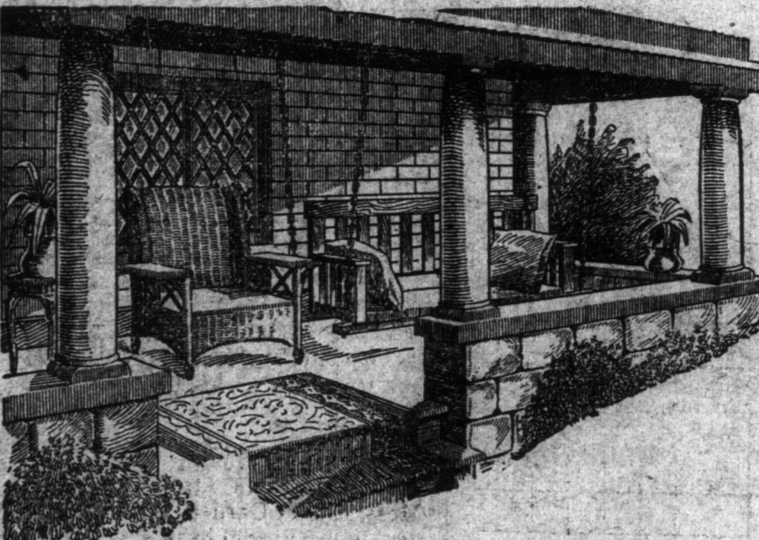
We quite readily concede that sometimes contracts may not be construed to mean as the government making them intended. But we were not talking about contracts in connection with the C. N. Pacific. We were speaking of the construction to be placed upon an Act of the Legislature, and we assert it to be an incontrovertible position in law that a statute will be construed by the courts with regard to conditions existing at the time it was passed, if any other construction would be in derogation of the rights of the public.

Through the energy of Col. Sam Hughes, the surviving veterans of the Fenian raids are to receive governmental recognition in the shape of a bonus of \$100 each. It is only too often the unhappy lot of men who have fought for their country to pass from recognition almost as soon as they cease to occupy the limelight. This is perhaps as often the fault of the people at large as of the Government, but is a reproach which the latter has always the power to remove. It is estimated that some six thousand veterans of the Fenian raids still survive, and will share in the distribution, and it is safe to say that they all will hereafter associate the name of Col. Hughes with the fact that their declining days have been made a little easier.



After Cupid Strikes Home
Your Thoughts Turn Homeward--
Turn to Ideas of a Home of Your Own

And with home thoughts come wonderings, "How am I to get it?" Don't there? There need be no such thoughts—no doubts as to how YOU may get it—for this store is ready now, with every solution to furnish your home as you want it—for what you desire to pay—and arrangements to suit you. Doesn't this eliminate every doubt? Then come today! Let's have the home planned at once.



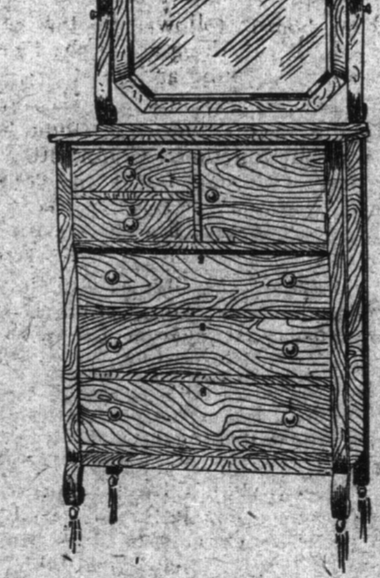
New Sea Grass Chairs

FOR YOUR LAWN AND VERANDAH
There is nothing more comfortable, nothing more economical than these Reed Chairs for your lawn or verandah. They can also be used in any room of your house and not look out of place. We have some specially large and roomy ones on our fourth floor at \$5.25.
Reed Arm Rockers at \$5.50

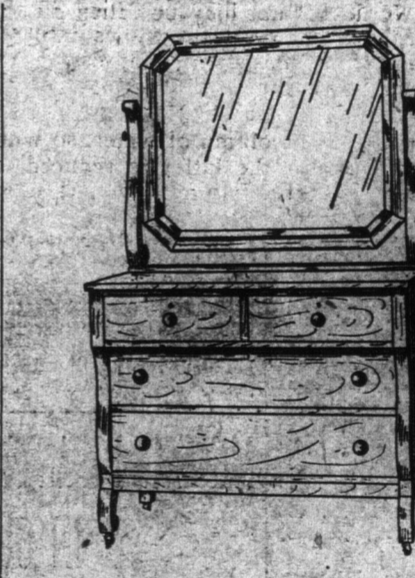
THE VERY LATEST CHAIRS
The very latest in Chairs has just arrived, and we want you to see them. They are FUMED REED CHAIRS. Very strongly built and closely woven, upholstered in the best quality cow hide leather. Comfortable, large and roomy. They have never before been seen in this city—\$45.00 and \$35.00 each.
Fumed Reed Table to Match—Top upholstered in cow hide leather. Oak undersheif. Price \$25.00

A Room Furnished With These 3 New Pieces
ON OUR FOURTH FLOOR—THE BEST QUALITY

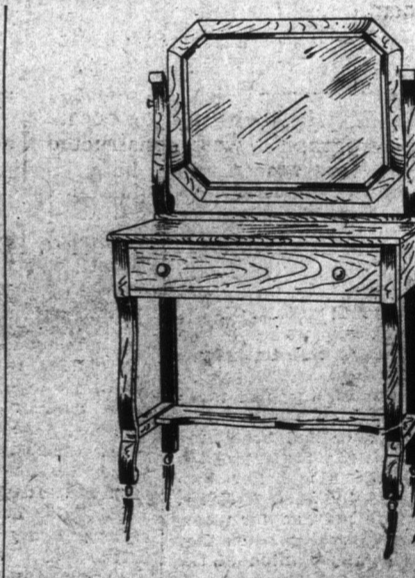
We have put these new pieces in one of our rooms on the fourth floor, to give you an idea of how they will look in your bedroom. The design is one that cannot be beaten, the articles are of the best quality, the prices are exceptionally reasonable.



Mahogany Chiffonier—Colonial style, dull finish, octagonal mirror 20 x 26. Top measures 16 x 34. Same as illustration above \$40.00



Dresser to Match—Dull mahogany finish, size of top 20 x 42. Mirror 28 x 34, two large and two small drawers. Same as illustration above. \$45.00



Dressing Table to Match—Dull mahogany finish. Size of mirror 20 x 26. Top 19 x 34. Same as picture. Price \$30.00
Somnoce to Match \$12.00

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Heavy Scotch Wool Rugs from \$55 to \$22.50
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Genuine Oriental Rugs all prices.
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