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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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OUR NORTHEAST TERRITORY.

British Columbia has an extensive area lying northeast of the Rocky Mountains. The Peace River and its tributaries flow through it. It is a region of great value, as it contains millions of acres of fertile soil, extensive forested areas and probably valuable mineral deposits. It will be occupied by people just as soon as modern means of communication are provided. In all probability a large share of the business that will be developed there will centre at Edmonton, which will shortly be a large city and able to compete very successfully with the British Columbia cities for an area of trade that may be developed within five hundred miles to the northwest of it.

Our of this part of British Columbia the Dominion is entitled to about 3,500,000 acres, and an officer of the Department of the Interior spent two seasons in the country, picking out the area to be chosen. The tract is in a rectangular block, and one of its sides must be the line dividing British Columbia from what is now the province of Alberta. It is to be assessed in the absence of information to the contrary, that the instructions to the department's officer were to select the best land available. The department as managed by Mr. Frank Oliver is only a glorified real estate agency; and to expect that gentlemen to be influenced in his selection by any other consideration than to get the best land in sight, is to impute to him a quality, the possession of which he would be the last man to acknowledge. We may take it for granted that if there is any part of our northeastern territory available for selection that is more valuable than any other, and most likely to be quickly settled, this is what Mr. Oliver will choose.

We are not going to discuss the policy of such a selection today. Mr. Oliver is not acting according to his lights, and none of our representatives in Parliament seems to think the matter worth any of his business. What we wish to point out is the manner in which this matter will work out. The Dominion having come into the possession of 3,500,000 acres of first-class agricultural land in British Columbia, will feel itself justified, under the policy which prevails in the Department of the Interior, in advertising the lands of its own such land, and the department's agents will be instructed to see that intending settlers are informed about it. We are not doing Mr. Oliver any injustice in saying this, for he has flatly said that his reasons for not making British Columbia better known abroad is that the Dominion has no land in the province that it can ask immigrants to take up. This will be changed when the selection has been made, and it is to be assumed that the Peace River lands will be embraced in Mr. Oliver's plan of campaign.

Let us examine for a little what this means to the province. The people who will occupy this area will require various facilities which the provincial government has been accustomed to supply to heavily populated districts, at the expense of administering the government will be proportionately increased. It is true that the land will become taxable as soon as the Dominion sells it; but if the province were to undertake to impose a rate of taxation upon real property sufficient to realize from the Peace River lands the money absolutely necessary to build the roads, bridges, etc., the burden would be so heavy that no one would remain upon the land. The general taxation of the country were increased so as to provide the necessary money; it would be a charge upon the older districts, which ought not to be asked to bear. There would be no other resort open than the borrowing of money, and thus we would have the rather extensive spectacle of the province adding to its public debt for the purpose of making land owned by the Dominion more valuable. If the province were to sell the Dominion as it would the owner of any other area of wild land within its boundaries, it would receive from the federal treasury upon the 3,500,000 acres, the case would be different. Of course, this is out of the question, but sometimes an impossible suggestion casts a little useful light upon a situation. Another way to look at it is that the province would probably not bear the extra expense to which the province will be put when the Dominion government begins to settle up the 3,500,000 acres referred to. Our relations with the Dominion are examined, the more preposterous is the suggestion that we should accept the sum offered in full of our claims for exceptional treatment.

ARCTIC DISCOVERIES.

On the heels of Peary's exceedingly interesting report of his observations in the arctic regions, come stories from Northern Canada that will stimulate Arctic exploration. In an editorial in the second section of this issue, written at the time the news of Peary's return was received, the opinion is expressed that there is probably little to be learned by exploring the region north of Greenland, but that something notable is likely to be brought to light as the result of Capt. Mikles's journey into extreme Northern Canada. Within a day or two after the article was in type, word was received of the discovery in the latter region of an unknown tribe of Eskimos, who had never yet been in contact with white people. Such news is interesting in the possession by these people of weapons of copper, and the statement that they get the metal from a great mountain, which is said to be almost solid copper.

There is nothing specially wonderful in the fact that people live some hundred miles toward the northern continental shore line of the Dominion. People can live anywhere. It is the most marvelous of all known things in nature that men can adapt themselves to the most rigorous climates and be happy. Another very extraordinary thing is that the Eskimos have no desire to move to less rigorous lands than those in which they live. It is not surprising that individuals do not emigrate to warmer regions, because they are unfit for life elsewhere, but it is marvelous that there is absolutely no reason to believe that Eskimos have ever sought to reside outside of the Arctic regions. Whatever may have been the case in extremely remote times, there is nothing now, nor has there been anything for centuries, to

prevent these people from migrating southward, in a rapid movement, but by slow degrees, just as other tribes have journeyed across continents in more southerly latitudes. It is inconceivable that they should ever divert their course north; because, if they were, there would be a racial instinct, if not tribal traditions, which would impel them to seek the land of their origin. But they seem to be wholly of the North, and they cling to their ice-clad land, where for long months they are exposed to extreme cold and inclement long periods of darkness, with as much tenacity as ever a child of Italy clung to his sunny native country.

The use of copper implements by these people is worthy of very close examination. Capt. Klenkinberg can hardly be expected to have brought home a very accurate account of the sources from which they got this metal, but they know how to smelt copper ore, even if they had the appliances necessary for that purpose is not possible. It is almost as difficult to suppose that they are able to quarry out metallic copper. Of all materials, native copper is the easiest to handle when it is in bulk. In the mines at Lake Superior the working of the deposits of pure copper was found so expensive as to be unprofitable, even with all the appliances available to modern mining. How infinitely more difficult must the work be to Eskimos with their almost total lack of apparatus and explosives. We may depend upon it that the whole story has not been told about this copper. There may be a surprise in store for the world in Prince Albert Land.

We anticipate a revival of interest in this unknown part of the world. Fortunately competent explorers are on their way thither now, and by this time next year we will perhaps have some further details.

THE PROPOSED SANATORIUM.

Drs. Davie and Fagan addressed the Board of Trade on Thursday evening on the expediency of the business men in erecting themselves in the proposed sanatorium for consumptives. This is a matter which calls for broad treatment by the business community. The sanatorium idea is no fad; it is one of the natural decisions of modern medicine. Dr. Davie spoke none too strongly when he said that the proper treatment of tuberculosis is the most important question before the civilized world today. Nations spend millions upon armies and navies to guard against possible foes from beyond their borders, but here is an enemy within our gates, infinitely more dangerous, against whom we are by no means careful to protect ourselves. There is no doubt that Dr. Fagan, who is indefatigable in his efforts, will succeed in getting money enough together to establish a sanatorium, but as a simple business proposition he ought to be put in a position to inaugurate one on a scale somewhat commensurate with the need of it. A small affair would only be a disappointment to those who assist in providing it; but it would be worse than a disappointment if it were to be a failure. Let us have an institution worthy of the province.

Among the subscriptions published by the Colonist yesterday there were some handsome contributions from business men. For example, will no doubt be followed by many others, the amount of which we wish to direct special attention is the \$50.00 from the Native Sons. This is very much the largest subscription received. It is to be assumed that it will undoubtedly have the effect of bringing under the notice of other societies the importance of assisting in the work as far as they are able. There is no better way in which a charitable or beneficiary organization can promote its objects than by aiding in the establishment of a sanatorium for consumptives.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are in receipt of a good many letters, and as far as possible publish them; but it is necessary to draw the line somewhere. "J. R." writes us what would take up about a third of a column. His letter is moderate in tone, but it advocates economic doctrines, with which the Colonist is not in sympathy, and therefore we do not publish it. We wish once more to express our regret that the referees' disavowal of responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents can receive a paper from the responsibility of the referees. It is not a legal responsibility, but to moral responsibility. The Colonist does not, for example, believe that there is war between Capital and Labor, and it would feel that it was false to its duty to the community if it permitted its columns to be used by correspondents, who believe that such a war exists, no matter how moderately they may write. If the Colonist's views on the fundamental principles of our economic system are wrong, let that be understood, but as they are what we think, we would feel that we were not doing right in permitting correspondents to have the platform afforded by the paper's circulation to place before the public ideas which in our opinion are not sound. Indeed, are intended to be published, and we are sorry that we printed such letters. It would be necessary for us to print replies to them, and that is not desirable. In fact it is not easy to justify the publishing of opinions which we think are mischievous, unless we answer them immediately, and that would keep the paper occupied with needless discussion, for it is hopeless to think of convincing such correspondents that they are in error, and there are far more important things to be considered. Moreover, a newspaper must have some regard for the tastes and views of its readers.

We are quite aware that this frank expression of policy will be misinterpreted by those who are in sympathy with the ideas advocated by "J. R." but we cannot help that. A newspaper is primarily a publication devoted to the news of the day. Secondly it is a medium for the discussion of the questions arising out of current events. The supply of labor comes under the latter head; but the eternal problem of how mankind shall advance toward ideal conditions is not. Those who believe that "the times are out of joint" may write at any rate they have the right to their opinions, but in our judgment—and this is what must prevail in such matters—a daily newspaper is not the place to "set them right." We hope correspondents will appreciate our position. We have no space, and our readers, as a rule, have no time to read economic polemics. What we would most cordially welcome would be suggestions of practical value, something that can be given to the reform, which administrative action or legislation can do. If the Colonist is crystallized in legislation, there are great problems to be solved, but they cannot be solved by the press. Our aim is to get down out of the clouds of controversy, where the way is easily trodden, to the solid ground of practical reform, which is based upon facts, and if "J. R." or other correspondents to accomplish this, we shall be more than pleased to print what he or they may send us.

APPEALING TO THE PEOPLE.

The Times says that "it has been definitely announced that Mr. McBride is going to appeal to the people upon the question of the proposed extension of the franchise. The Times has so announced quite frequently, and if it will only keep on saying so, there will come an occasion sometime within a week or two when months when it will be timely. There can be no doubt that, at the next election, the government will appeal to the people in a more direct manner than in the past. When this will be the Colonist is not in a position to say, further than that it will be at such a time, either before or after the next session of the legislature, as seems most expedient to the government, and meets the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Our esteemed contemporary will put this date down upon its calendar, it will not have to do any more guessing, and will have those who look to it for political information a great deal of needless anxiety. Our contemporaries ought to be more careful. Its trick of exploding political bombshells under the nose of the government is a very unbecoming one, and it should be attended by dire results. A few weeks ago it had the whole town talking about an impending dissolution. It seems that the government will not properly be dissolved, mentioned to some one else, who, for obvious reasons, did not wish his name mentioned, at a public meeting. The government is locally where people are accustomed to meet, that he had received definite information from a source, which, if it were named, would be completely untrue. It is the Premier had told a man, who told another man, that he had decided upon an election at a date that was not yet known. The Premier had played up this very interesting information in its usual attractive manner on its first page, and there is reason to believe that the government's circulation took more or less stock in the story.

On the present occasion its exclusive information takes the form of an editorial, and it is, of course, infinitely within the limitations above indicated. There will be an election some time during the next six or eight months, and at that time the government will appeal to the people for an expression of opinion on the question of better terms, and what is more, they will get such an expression of opinion. It is not left for the Opposition to do will be to move to make it unanimous.

THE LABOR PROBLEM.

"W. F." whose letter appears elsewhere in this issue of the Colonist, very truly says that the labor problem is the labor problem, that ought not to be lost sight of. Substantially his point is that the lack of a guarantee of permanent employment, to which he refers, is a curing of workmen so difficult. While this element of the case has been recognized by many people, it has been in a great measure overlooked. It is a matter which has been recognized by our correspondent says that he has lived in British Columbia seven years, and that he has seen the labor problem of conditions to be faced, and he very fairly states the difficulties to be overcome. We suggest that the lack of permanent employment, to which he refers, is a matter which ought to be given more attention, may in a large measure be due to the fact that there was until the last year or two an inexhaustible supply of labor from the States, and that the labor market was flooded with men. This was a fair state of affairs, and it is not surprising that the labor market was flooded with men. This was a fair state of affairs, and it is not surprising that the labor market was flooded with men.

Mr. James J. Hill has become an apostle of reciprocity. It is not very long since this same gentleman used to laugh at the idea of paying any special attention to Canada. A few years ago he had occasion to make a speech somewhere in the Northern States, and he spoke very meaningfully the words "product of Canada," saying that it was not greater than that of the State of Washington. Reciprocity has completely changed his tune? We do not say this in any fault-finding sense, but only to point out that the conversion of a man of such standing and influence to the view of the labor problem, and that the labor market was flooded with men.

The Labor Problem  
By W. F.  
I read with much interest the article on labor, which appeared in your paper frequently. From a careful perusal of the articles it seems to me that many of the writers take a very superficial view of the labor problem. The Phillips-Wolley, Percival and others think the solution lies in bringing out labor from the old land. Now suppose that the labor market was flooded with men from the old country and labor conditions are more favorable in Washington, Alaska and the rest of the world. How long would it take the labor market to be flooded with men from the old country and labor conditions are more favorable in Washington, Alaska and the rest of the world.

The Sound Service.  
An Ottawa despatch to the Times says that the Alaska Steamship Company is demanding a subsidy of \$200,000 for carrying the mails from this city to Seattle, instead of the \$2,000 which they now receive. This has been known in some quarters for some time. For many days, and efforts have been put forth by the Board of Trade to secure the subsidy for some Canadian company. As a matter of fact, the Alaska Steamship Company has the field to itself, greatly to the regret of the business community and the travelling public, who would prefer to see the service directed by the Canadian Pacific. However much the last named company may have desired to meet the wishes of the people and with the same result, the unfortunate accident to the Princess Victoria ties its hands for the present. There is very great interest in the matter, as the Alaska S. S. Company is not perfect, but it is asserted, and with the same result, the unfortunate accident to the Princess Victoria ties its hands for the present.

travel she is totally unfit, by reason of the number of her dependents, and the limited accommodations, and her unsuitability in providing a very serious drawback to the business of Victoria, and the question of her removal to a pleasure traveling in the Colonist hardly knows what to suggest; but perhaps by voicing in this way what is the opinion of the community, some good may be accomplished.

It is amusing to note the fervid manner in which our Liberal contemporaries are applauding Senator Macdonald. It was not always thus.

We have a letter devoted to the abuse of capital. So far does the writer carry his views that he scorns the use of capital letters.

The Canadian must not be too hard on the Opposition for their shifting and evasive course in respect to better terms. As their leader, Mr. Macdonald, says, it, they do not know where they are at.

The Times suggests that the water question should be allowed to rest until after the next municipal election. This is the same idea as was advanced by the Times in the defeat of the first by-law, and we have seen no reason to change our opinion.

Complaints have reached this office of the manner in which young boys going to and from their work are molested by older lads, and we have been asked to issue a notice to the effect that boys, whose mother complains, should manly to tell of the ill-treatment to which he is subjected, but when he is asked to do so, he is told that the fact is secret. We direct the attention of the police to this matter.

The Colonist joins in the warning, given by the real estate men, interviewed by whom were given in this paper yesterday, against an undue inflation of property values. It is infinitely more promising outlook has been marred by the desire of property owners to get rich quickly. We do not expect to see "boom" prices prevailing in Victoria, and do not warrant them. Steady sales at good values is all that there is any good reason to anticipate.

The interview in yesterday's Colonist with Mr. Williams, game warden, was exceedingly interesting. There is no doubt that the Premier has completely claimed that the big game of British Columbia is an asset of very great value, and will prove a source from which much revenue may be derived. It is a matter of big game are, as a rule, men who spend money very freely. Hence it is probable that all reasonable protection should be given to game.

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Winning papers note with satisfaction that there were one hundred less cases of typhoid in that city in October than in September. This is a decrease of 30 per cent, and is, of course, gratifying, but even the existing number of cases shows that the prairie metropolis has a very serious problem that it is free from danger of contamination.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is coming in for a good deal of criticism in the English press for his declaration in favor of the right of every man to work. It is an opinion which is true enough, but it is also true that he ought to exercise some discretion as to how he expresses it. Sir Wilfrid may be able in his own mind to dissociate himself from his office as premier of Canada, but other people cannot. In that matter the Canadian people, which are not so numerous as the Americans, there are many true Canadians who do not believe in the doctrine and many of the larger and not pretend to understand the subject sufficiently to be able to express an intelligent opinion.

The Mystery of the Nerves  
Professional men, as well as laymen, have been puzzled over the mystery of the nervous system, but this much is certain, that the nerve force is created from pure, rich blood, and with the exception of accidental injuries, diseases of the nerves arise from a thin, watery condition of the blood.

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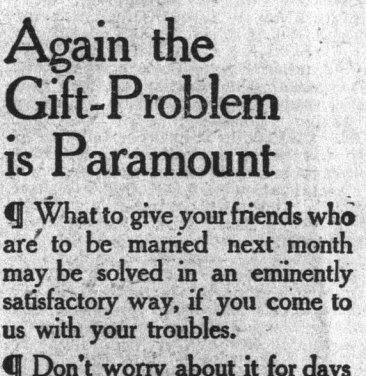
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