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93 GOVERNMENT STREET

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISLAND'S RAILWAY CONNECTION

Sir,—In your reference to the city members in the late legislature you overlooked the fact that the Colonist has chosen the present as the time to inaugurate a vigorous campaign on the subject of Island-Mainland connection. In my former letter the matter was being discussed upon your own premises and from your own point of view, which was that now is the time for action. It follows, therefore, that the present members are necessarily charged with the responsibility of pressing the matter on the attention of the government. Moreover, everyone will readily recognize that the present members possess the obvious and important advantage of being on the government side of the House. But in any case, there were considerations which rendered it inopportune to press the matter in the last House. The government and legislature had to face large financial obligations and responsibilities in connection with the New Westminster bridge and the debt for the dyking of the Fraser river districts, aggregating about two million dollars. Moreover, if was only at the last session of the late legislature that the condition of the provincial finances began to take a favorable turn. The people in this portion of British Columbia are glad that the bridge at New Westminster has been built, and they can even take a pride in it. Nor has there been any exception taken by the Island members to the large amount of public money that has been expended in reclaiming and protecting the fertile lands of the Fraser River Valley. But it is just as well to recognize in the present instance that the time has arrived when Vancouver Island is entitled to consideration at the hands of the provincial government.

It is also a fact that the general improvement in business conditions has brought with it an improvement in the provincial finances. Taking all these things into account together with the point brought out by Mr. Barnard in his letter that the present government have secured a majority which will enable them to carry out a progressive policy, it would seem that all things combine to render conditions favorable "to take occasion by the hand" in any opportunity that presents itself to improve the transportation facilities of this Island.

It is not a question of securing the construction of mere transcontinental lines to the coast, for in the not far distant future we will have no less than four lines to the coast. The great object is to bring them to the Island. In view of the fact that the projected route of the Canadian Northern lies between that of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the C. P. R., and that it will reach the coast at a point nearest to Seymour Narrows, it does seem that the suggestion made by Mr. Barnard in his letter has much to commend it to favorable consideration. The fact that this company were willing to enter into an arrangement of this kind at the time Col. Prior was elected to the legislature shows that they look favorably upon this route. Of course no such sacrifices on the part of the province could be entertained for a moment as were proposed at that time. In fact, the extent of government assistance required might be of such a nature as to entail comparatively little cost to the province, and at the same time be of such material benefit to the company, as to secure from them government control of rates, in addition to the Island connection.

Government ownership of railways is an end to be desired, especially when it is possible to operate a complete railway system as a government work, but we have to deal with things as they are, and if a favorable and reasonable arrangement can be brought about, there is no reason why our prejudices should prevent such an arrangement being carried out. A ferry can be satisfactorily operated, and in due time the bridge will follow, and there is no doubt that the Dominion government should assist in such a large and costly undertaking when the time arrives.

R. L. DRURY.

LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE ACT

Sir,—When in committee on the Lord's Day Bill (the Lord's Day Alliance Bill), Mr. Fitzpatrick, now Chief Justice, made the astounding assertion that the bill was not a religious one. Whose spectacles had he on?

That it was and intended to be a religious act is acknowledged by its supporters.

If Mr. Fitzpatrick had acknowledged the bill to be a religious one, it would have been ultra vires of the government, as well as according to the constitution of Canada as parliamentary law and "orders."

The Act is double faced, deceitful and composite, two subjects in one Act. The Act is based on that of Charles II., an avowed sectarian one. In Charles' day "divine service" meant that of the Church of England, and fines, stripes and so forth, inflicted on those who did not attend this kind of divine worship. Independent and dissenting preachers were hunted out of their livings and homes to perish or starve in the fields. Many were imprisoned or executed, because Charles said they had been accessories to the murder of his father! In fact, the tables were turned and dissenters were persecuted just as violently and unjustly as the Roman Catholics had been under the rule of Oliver Cromwell. Do the public desire such days to return? Does divine service mean that of Charles II. day, i.e., that of the Episcopal church?

Acording to parliamentary orders, two opposite subjects cannot be contained in one bill. The cessation of labor on the Lord's Day (Sunday) is made dependent on the acceptance of a Lord's Day, which it creates, the "dogma" of the R. C. Church made a statute law. The Act is ostensibly a labor and secular Act, more or less objectionable, but it is made a dogmatic religious one by having virtually tacked on to it. In fact, it transforms a labor bill into an austere religious one. It pretends to give freedom on Sunday and then surrounds it with slavish religious or other bonds. The destruction of the rights of the people become the privileges of the clergy, only a class of the people, a very noble and honorable and useful class laboring in the national vinyard, are made superior to the people. The helpmates become masters.

The Bible is an open book from which the ordained and the unordained, Trinitarians, Unitarians, Humanitarians and many other religious bodies derive their instruction, each one confident of their own interpretation.

The Gospels, the guide to and of the Christian philosophy, do not make Sunday superior to any other day of the week. Every day of the year is the Lord's Day, an which every Christian is extorted to conduct himself according to the teaching example and percept, and ideal of the Author; indeed (I think) the Gospels do not command any material rest day.

When the Author said in answer to the Sabbatarian Jew that the Sabbath "was made for man and not man for the Sabbath," he was evidently speaking of the seventh day, and so had no relation to religious observance on Sunday, the first day of the week. The dogma on which the religious portion of the bill is based.

That the opinion that the Lord's Day is not Sunday but every day, is common to many is shown by the fact that when the bill came before the Senate the words the "Lord's Day" were struck out of its title and body, the word "Sunday" inserted in lieu thereof, some of the members shouting "every day is the Lord's day." Of course, this amendment deprived the bill of its pernicious sectarian religious character, and made it a secular one—a "Sunday Rest Act."

When, however, the bill, as amended, came in due course before the Commons, it would not agree to the amendment, and so reinserted the words "The Lord's Day." It is said, on the ground that Sunday being a pagan day, the people might be led into idolatory as the Israelites are said to have been, worshipping the sun as the lord and giver of light, heat and life. (Emblematistic.)

It being the last days of a very fatiguing session, the Senators hurried to get home, so the Senators unfortunately did not insist on their amendments, and so thus the Lord's Day became a part of the bill. Of course the executive, astonished at their conduct, applied the whip or club to their henchmen!

With regard to the clause in the Act regarding the assent of the provincial Attorney-General to give his assent before any prosecutions could be commenced, was introduced by Senator Kerr to prevent persecution (I suppose by and from the authors of the bill, the intolerant pseudo Canadian papacy). However, when the clause carried, Senator Ross of Nova Scotia, said Senator Kerr's amendment would kill the bill as dead as Julius Caesar. Why? Brutus, "come forth!"

None dare assert that the Federal government has power to pass an Act making the Roman Catholic regulations, making Friday of every day in the year a fast day by statute law, binding on all. No one dare say so, and yet the Lord's Day has no other foundation than a dogma of the R. C. Church. A dogma probably usefull at the time it was made, but in those days the R. Church was the government of the country, and indeed later on extended its sway, taking precedence of even the King of England.

Members of parliament have no individual or constitutional right or privilege to legislate for sectarian religious laws. The Canadian parliament does not possess the right, and so the members do not. Most people have an idea of how parliamentary majorities are obtained. Most people pretty well know how members obtain the seats, sometimes under the temporary emotional or other extravagances of the day, in fact, temporary or other manias, sometimes engineered for the purpose. The people possess, like the executive, constitutional rights only. That the government has power to enact sanatory laws is undoubted. It is impossible to go into the complicated details of the Lord's Day Act; suffice it to say, that everyone desires a rest from ordinary labor, for recovering spent mental and physical energy and for sanatory reasons. That such a rest day should be Sunday is, from old custim and usage, probably most convenient. But this blessing must not be poisoned by the surreptitious introduction of unconstitutional sectarian religious notions into the act. No man is independent of his fellows; no one can exist excepting with the assistance of his neighbors. The necessity of getting the means of living governs all, clergy included. How would the clergy like to be boycotted? The damning blot in the bill is the surreptitious unconstitutional sectarianism.

There is now an attempt to form a Protestant papacy in Canada, aiming at the subjugation of the freedom of the public on Sundays. How soon will they attempt to do so on other days? This Act makes a class of very worthy people, criminals, because they do on one day of the week labor which is declared to be honorable during the remaining six. The Act creates a Lord's Day and then prosecutes and punishes them in the name of the Lord, for the Lord's (reverently, J. S. H) sake! What damnable Machiavellianism is this!

A Protestant or Combined Papacy

The so-called Lord's Day Alliance and some of the clergy of various denominations have bound themselves together to dictate to and compel the Federal government (and local government also) to make laws declaring how the people of Canada shall conduct themselves on Sunday as well as other days. The sooner this is nipped in the bud the better, and let the people declare themselves not to be, and will not be, in bondage to this nor any other papacy. Let it be said again that the damnable blot on the Act is the making it a sectarian religious law. The government of Canada is debarred by the constitution of Canada from enacting sectarian or any other religious laws.

Let the people then fight against the unconstitutional Lord's Day Act. Let them fight for Sunday freedom, for freedom of conscience, freedom from the arrogant demands of the pseudo-Canadian papacy, for liberty and the right of interpreting the Gospels, their religious guide, from which source have come Trinitarians, Unitarians, Humanitarians and other good peoples, each confident of the truth of their creed; for provincial rights and against the subjugation of the provinces by the Federal government; strenuously against the assumed power of the Federal government to enact religious sectarian laws or tacked composite ones, such as the Lord's Day Act, even if it be necessary to place the principle before the judicial committee of the Privy Council of our Mother Country to learn whether the assumed and exerted power of making sectarian religious laws be in accord with the constitution of Canada, and God defend the right!

J. S. HELMCKEN.

BUSY IN ROYAL CITY

Increase of Staff Required in Land Registry Office

A petition is being circulated among the legal and business men of New Westminster for signature, the object of which is to secure a liberal increase to the working force in the land registry office in order to bring the work up-to-date. C. S. Keith, land registrar, has been handicapped for months on account of a lack of sufficient help and the clerical work of the department has become away behind as a result. Things began to get strenuous for Mr. Keith and his staff about the time city and district property commenced to move in the market last spring, and records have been piling up ever since at a much faster pace than the present staff can register and file them away, says the Columbian. Land registry returns almost doubled in the 1906 over previous years while the staff remained about as large as it has been during the last dozen years. Mr. Keith applied for more workers months ago, but no action was taken by the government in response, and his efforts are now being supplemented by the business men who will endeavor to impress upon the department the great inconvenience which is being suffered by the legal and real estate men of the city because of the conditions at the registry office.

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A Few Descriptions Are Given Below:

LADIES' BOX COAT, 27 inches long, black and white overcheck, black velvet collar and velvet button trimmings, outside pockets. Special price..... **$11.50**

LADIES' COAT, seven-eighths length, white and black check, bias back with stitched straps over shoulder, outside pockets, velvet collars and cuffs, black silk braid and buttons. Special price..... **$25.00**

LADIES ETON COSTUME, navy blue Panama cloth, coat trimmed with black silk braid and white pipings, black taffeta collar and cuffs, elbow sleeves, lined throughout with white taffeta, skirt with double panel front effect and numerous side pleats. Special price..... **$42.50**

LADIES' ETON WALKING SUIT, black and white overcheck, coat trimmed with stitched straps of self and black braid, elbow sleeves with cuff, skirt. Special price..... **$27.50**

LADIES' COAT, seven-eighths length, tweed mixture, fitted back with wide stitched straps, double breasted, green velvet collar and cuffs, sleeves and yoke lined. Special price..... **$25.00**

LADIES' COSTUMES in grey and white overcheck, tight fitting hip coat, stitched seams, full sleeves with cuffs trimmed with black and white stitched silk, lined throughout with grey taffeta, 16-gored skirt with inturned pleat at each gore. Special price **$37.50**

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We are almost daily receiving and showing WAISTS in the New and Fashionable Styles for Spring and Summer wear. It is very apparent that dainty lingerie effects will again take the popular lead. Materials are soft and beautiful, trimmings refined, The New Waists are tastefully made and completed. Visit DEPT. E., and see what special values early and fortunate purchasers can secure.

LADIES' FINE LAWN WAIST, with five rows of tucking on either side of front, two rows of wide embroidered insertion with narrow row of lace on either side, tucked back, three-quarter length sleeve. Price..... **$1.25**

LADIES' FINE ALLOVER EMBROIDERED TUCKED WAIST, three-quarter length sleeves, finished with tucked cuff edged with Valenciennes lace. Price..... **$2.75**

LADIES' LAWN WAIST, with square-cut neck, front made of fine pin tucks and insertion, six rows of pin tucking down back, elbow sleeve finished with white lace. Price..... **$1.75**

LADIES' FINE LAWN BLOUSE, yoke made of fine pin tucks and insertion, lower part of blouse made of allover tucked embroidery, tucked cuff edged with Valenciennes lace, collar of same. Price..... **$2.00**

LADIES' FINE MULL BLOUSE, transparent yoke of Valenciennes insertion, lower part of blouse made of fine embroidery and lace insertion, sleeve trimmed with ornaments of applique, lace cuff and tucked back. Price..... **$5.75**

LADIES' FINE DOTTED SWISS BLOUSE, yoke trimmed with ornaments of applique and lace insertion, three-quarters sleeve finished with insertion, lace collar. Price..... **$5.00**

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Are Now Showing---Buy Your Stock Whilst Prices Are Low

Another rise is approaching—just come in and see what an attractive assortment "Our Special Buying" has collected; the qualities, too, at such prices are a great reflection, of which we are proud. Here are a few descriptions:

HOLLY BATISTE MUSLINS, in white grounds, colored and black spots and floral designs for summer blouses, special price per yard..... **20c**

DOTTED SWISS MUSLIN, in floral and spot design, black with white spots, etc., special price, per yard..... **25c**

DIMITY MUSLIN, white ground, fancy and floral designs, very suitable for little girls' dresses, etc., special price per yard..... **20c**

IMITATION EYELET EMBROIDERED MUSLIN, white grounds and fancy figures, specially suitable for ladies' blouses, special price, per yard..... **25c**

FANCY SILK TISSUE MUSLINS, a very fine lawn with silk finish, for evening and party dresses, special price per yard..... **35c**

ORGANDIES, in white grounds. floral effects, special price, per yard..... **50c**

Important Clearance Tomorrow of "Fish Net" Lace Curtains, in Some Instances, at Just Under 1/3 of Reg. Val.

PATTERN 1658—17 pairs only, extra good net and lacey pattern, regular value $3.50. Tomorrow's sale..... **$1.95**

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PATTERN 1787—Six pairs only, very handsome design in handsome fish-net curtains, regular value $2.90. Tomorrow's sale..... **$1.95**

PATTERN 1788—Four pairs only, large Oriental pattern, heavy fish-net mesh, regular $2.90. Tomorrow's sale..... **$1.95**

PATTERN 1883—Four pairs only, fish-net heavy mesh, regular $2.95. Tomorrow's sale..... **$1.95**

PATTERN 1903—Five pairs only, extra good, Oriental pattern, regular value $2.75. Tomorrow's sale..... **$1.95**

The Stationery Department Has Received Several Cases of the Newest Books Recently Published

The Loves of Lady Arabella, by Seawell; The Spanish Dowry, by Dougall; Frank Brown, by Bullen; The Leader, by Dillon; Balance of Power, by Goodrich; Jewel Weed, by Winter; Lucy of the Stars, by Palmer; Silver Maple, by Keith; Kid McGhie, by Crockett; Late Tenant, by G. Gordon Holmes; Romance Island, by Zona Gale; G Rezanov, by Gertrude Atherton; The Red Reaper, by Stewart; Corner House, by White (paper); Fortune Hunter, by Phillips; Diamond Ship, by Pemberton; At the Court of Maharaja, by Tracy; The Spoilers, by Rex Beach; Secret of Toni, by Seawell; Made in His Image, by Thorne (paper); The Patriot, by Antonio Fogazzaro; Prisoners, by Mary Cholmondeley; The Lost Leader, by Oppenheim; Bob Hampton of Placer, by Zarrish; The Lone Furrow, by Fraser; Affairs of State, by Stevenson; Gabriel, by Dickson.

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