

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

The recommendations of the Civil Service Commissioners in regard to examinations for the civil service seem very reasonable. A young person who cannot pass such an examination ought not to aspire to any position under the government. The examination is a practical one. The subjects are simple and rudimentary. Spelling, writing, arithmetic, English composition, the geography of Canada and the British Empire and their history are matters concerning which every young man and young woman ought to be informed. We are glad to see that stress is laid upon writing, spelling and composition. The use of the typewriter is going away to a very large extent with penmanship. It is likewise exposing the general weakness of mankind in regard to spelling. Really one of the most useful of all accomplishments is to be able to write an original statement in a clear hand, in appropriate words correctly spelled. How rare this accomplishment is no one knows better than those who are connected with newspapers. The adoption of the system of examinations for entrance into the provincial civil service will have the effect of removing the service from the domain of politics with the pretty good opportunities for observing the manner in which vacancies in the service have been filled, we think we can say that there has been a minimum of political interference, and this observation applies to most of the administrations that have been in power in British Columbia. There has been very little disposition shown to load down the service with mere political appointees or to force incapable people into positions of public trust. The members of the British Columbia civil service are as a rule competent and obliging. While we favor the change, speaking frankly, we do not expect that it will result in any very material change in the character of the personnel of the service.

LIBERTY IN GERMANY.

"Suppress disturbances without mercy" was the order of the Berlin Superintendent of Police, and forthwith men were cut down with sabres and hundreds were more or less grievously wounded. A disturbance, in the opinion of the Superintendent, seems to be the gathering together of a few people to discuss something. In England when a lot of people wish to tell themselves and others how much they hate the government, the government sends out a detachment of police to see that they are not molested in expressing their views. Then the discontented folk, after passing all kinds of resolutions, go home and nothing comes of it. In Germany mounted police with drawn sabres charged upon such gatherings and people are smitten to the earth, when they have not been doing anything objectionable from the most extreme point of view of German officialdom. If you do not speak as the Kaiser speaks it is becoming dangerous to speak at all; by and by it will be an offence to think otherwise than as the Kaiser thinks. Wilhelm II is a man of many admirable qualities, but he is an anachronism. He belongs to the Seventeenth Century, not to the Twentieth. If the Germans were not the most patient people in the world he would have been taught a salutary lesson long ago. He represents the mailed fist. He believes the peace of the world can only be maintained by gigantic preparations for war; he holds that the domestic safety of the nation can only be secured by repression. He would but far into all the chambers of Europe and into the hearts of the German people. Seemingly he has confidence in no one but himself and in nothing except cannon and the sword. It is difficult to believe that people like the Germans, in many respects the most intellectual people in the world, a people who cherish traditions of freedom, will submit to the yoke of imperialism being laid upon them. When a Briton talks of imperialism he means a great federation of self-governing people, using the ancient term for lack of a more appropriate one. But to the Kaiser imperialism signifies the rule of an imperator, of a commander-in-chief of armies. British imperialism and German imperialism are as far asunder as the Poles. The former means the distribution of sovereign power among many acting in concert; the latter means its concentration in the hands of a single individual. We cannot believe that Ger-

man imperialism will endure. The ancient Teutonic love of liberty will assert itself.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

January 1st, 1915 is fixed for the opening of the Panama Canal, and Mr. Roosevelt is of the opinion that it may be completed six months earlier. There are yet persons who refuse to believe that the Canal will ever be completed, according to its present plan, and who insist that the crucial test has yet to come, but it seems hardly likely that a day would be fixed for its opening unless there were good reason to believe that all difficulties in principal have been overcome and that nothing now remains except to carry on the work, the length of time for doing which can easily be estimated. We are asked, then, to believe that in four years from the present time this great work will be completed. Here is another way to look at the matter: By the time the Canadian Northern is completed to the Coast the Panama Canal will be ready to take care of any shipments of freight to Europe that may be sent over its westward. It is not too soon therefore for the people of British Columbia to begin to take into account the results that will follow from the opening of this great waterway to the commerce of the world. The London Times, after remarking upon the effect of the Canal upon the commerce of the United States, says: "Even more important will be its influence on the three trunk railways, which will soon be draining into Western Canadian ports. The natural products of the Pacific Coast of North America must largely travel by the Panama route to the English market, and return freights should be low. British manufacturers should therefore strengthen their position in the expanding markets of the West." The Canal cannot fail to have a very important bearing upon the development of the commerce of the coast cities of British Columbia. It will undoubtedly divert towards them a vast trade with the interior that otherwise would find its way to the Eastern provinces.

ENGLISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

To most people the English public schools has stood for all that is best in education, and it will therefore be with some surprise that many people will learn through the educational supplement of the London Times, that these schools never did turn out pupils who were at all learned, and that the great lesson which they imparted was that of manliness and self-reliance. "A Public Schoolmaster writes: The public school boy in the past has, no doubt, been too often in some ways an ignoramus; examinations have been a terror to him, and he has frequently been able to disguise the uncertainty of his spelling only by the obscurity of his handwriting. But on the other hand, he has learned how to hold his own in life, how to face difficulties and how, when in a tight place, to 'muddle through' somehow by sheer pluck and resolution. His education, in fact, has been of the old Roman type which, if it dispensed the arts, at least strengthened the character, and had for its chief aim to secure that respect for 'manliness' (virtus) without which no race can long make good its claim to leadership or Empire.

An education that produces boys of this type is not to be despised. Indeed it is infinitely better than the product of a system that turns out lads well posted about things to be found in books, but unfitted for the activities and responsibilities of life. But this Schoolmaster would have us believe that even this can no longer be claimed for the public schools of England. He says there is too much 'cossetting and coddling' of boys, too much of an effort to fit them to pass examinations and too little to develop their character. He attributes this falling off in part to the relatively low salary paid to every one connected with a public school except the headmaster, and he accuses the latter of aiming more at becoming a bishop than at promoting the efficiency of his school. It is quite possible that we make too much of competitive examinations nowadays. It by no means follows that because a lad has his memory so well stored with certain

facts that he can answer a certain set of questions, that he is in any way better fitted for work and responsibility than the lad who has to 'muddle through' everything he attempts. It is not a rule that the brilliant boy at school is a failure in the active affairs of life, but it is true that brilliancy at school is no guarantee of success in business. Indeed it may be something of a disadvantage to a young fellow just starting out in life that he can begin things without effort. But the best part of the stress he touches the real point of the schoolmaster's letter, which is the stress he lays upon manliness. Here in Canada public schools fall short. Of course an English public school and a Canadian public school are widely different things. What the Englishman knows as a public school, we call a private school, and just now we are using the expression in the Canadian sense. We do not think our public schools develop manliness as they ought to. One reason is the lack of close personal contact between teachers and pupils. Another is the preponderance of women teachers. Another is that teachers are responsible to school boards and not to parents primarily. Our public schools seem in danger of becoming what the Times' writer says the public schools of England are becoming, mere intellectual forcing houses, or scholastic machines, wherein every boy is put through precisely the same process and in the end are turned out all of the same pattern.

Mr. Fielding's physician recommends him to take a rest, but he seems unwilling. Better take good advice when you get it. W. S. You are too good a man to work yourself to death.

Winnipeg expects a potato famine. With the tubers at 30 cents a bushel, and the probability that an acre is safe to produce 300 bushels, there ought to be some inducement for Manitoba folk to raise "spuds." In Armistock county, Maine, the farmers get rich selling potatoes at 25 cents a bushel.

The observations of Earl Grey's party bear out a forecast made in the Colonist some time ago when it said that the region west of Hudson Bay would be the centre of a great pulp industry. This is apparent from perusal of the reports of the Geological survey, which are works replete with exceedingly useful information, although not as much read as they ought to be.

It is difficult to understand how Mr. Roosevelt can be anything else than a President of the United States, divided his Republican party is able to carry the election. No one else would care for the position, for with him in the country, any other Republican would necessarily occupy a subordinate position. Whether or not it can be said that he has made himself necessary to his party need not be considered, for it is plain enough that he has overruled any one else from taking the position of leadership. Never before has there been such an instance of one-man power in the United States, and possibly it would be the best thing for the country for the Democrats to win. Perhaps not even that will save the Constitution.

The request of the people of Esquimalt that the government shall guarantee bonds issued for sewerage purposes, opens an important question, for it is evident that if this is done for one unorganized district municipality it will have to be done for another. On the other hand the cases are not many at present where large expenditures for sewerage are likely. It may be argued that the district ought to form itself into a municipality and issue bonds, but it is an open question if such bonds could be floated any more advantageous than bonds issued by a sewerage district under the act of last session. A sewerage system for Esquimalt will be expensive and while the security would be ample, these things seem to be in the minds of those who have looked into the matter if the unsecured bonds of the district could be marketed at anything approaching par.

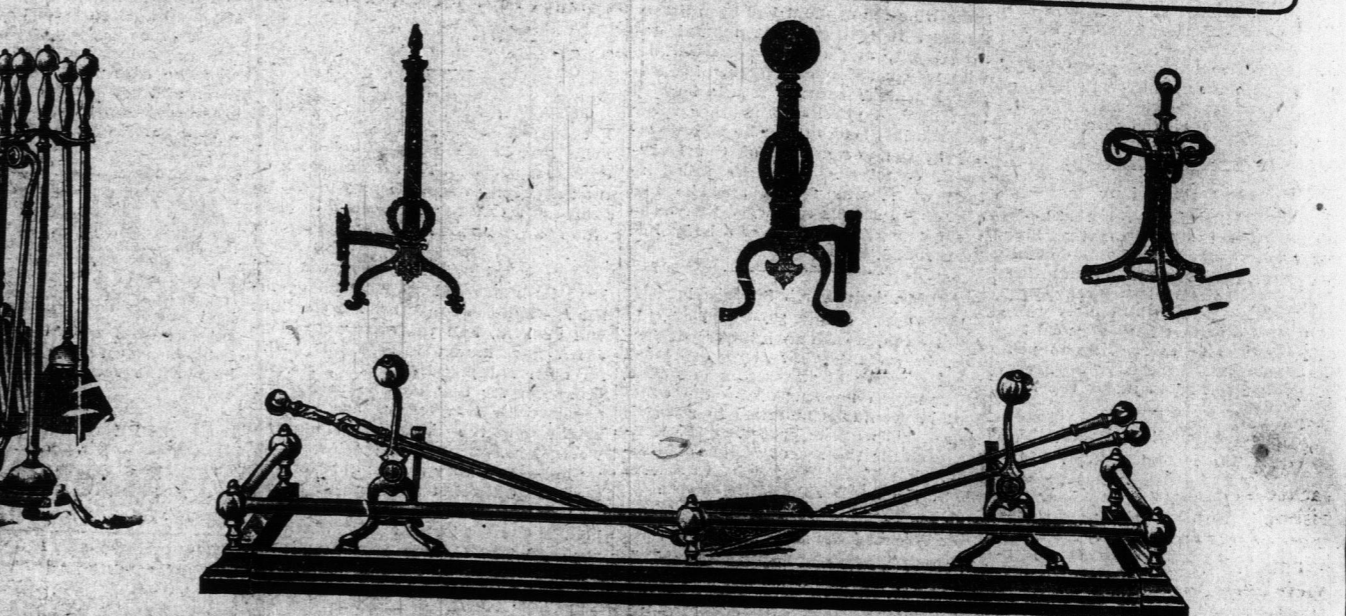
Cod Liver Oil advertisement featuring an illustration of a man and a woman, and text describing the benefits of the oil for various ailments. Includes the name CYRUS H. BOWES and address 1228 Government Street.

You Need Not Buy Because You Look, or Keep Because You Buy

As we have said time after time—you can look around this large store of ours and spend as much time as you like without spending any money. We like people to come into our store and look at our display. We are proud to take it home for approval, why—you can do so, and if you find you don't want it—you don't have to keep it. Then, again, if you buy an article and take it home, and after a few days find you don't like it, and would like another you will find us the most straightforward business firm you have ever had dealings with. Prove it by giving us a trial order.

Now Is The Time To Buy a Door Mat We Have All Kinds

Advertisement for door mats listing various types and prices: Heavy Cocoa Brush Mats, Fine Diamond Cocoa Mats, Skeleton or Rope Mats, Wool Bordered Brush Mats, Rubber Door Mats.



Andirons, Fire Sets and Fire Suits

We have a nice assortment of the above article to choose from. Now is the time to buy your furnishings for the fireplace. Don't leave it until all the prettiest designs have been chosen, but come today and let us put aside some of the prettiest of these pieces for you. Here are a few of our prices:

WEILER BROS advertisement with 'DO YOUR SHOPPING BY MAIL' and 'LADIES, USE OUR REST ROOM' text.



ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

In the year 1430, in the reign of Henry, a law was passed declaring only persons who should have the for members of the House of Commons those who held a freehold of the shillings yearly. Before that time was almost universal, all persons manor courts in the capacity of leaseholders and copyholders had a voice. The change reduced the number to only a fragment of what it had been, and it was not until 1832, that the monstrous abuses grew up in the parliamentary representation. In 1832, there were living in the United Kingdom over three million male adults, but only 100,000 were members of the House of Commons. The members were elected by fifteen thousand electors, and fifty-seven members were elected by eight-hundred electors, without even the formality of a poll. Members were returned from a single constituency, and in some cases, fifty voters each returned ninety members. Birmingham had no member, and was returned to represent a district in Cornwall. Originally the selection had been exercised by the Crown, and with a degree of fairness, passed abuses crept in, and then, after a long struggle, it was sanctioned by usage. It seems a matter of course that a House of Commons should have proved itself to be a guardian of the liberty of the subject, and showed itself at times to be; but one of the inexplicable things in the history of British institutions.

The Reform Bill of 1831 was opposed by the Tories, under the Duke of Wellington. Lord Grey, father of the measure. It swept the "rotten boroughs" out of existence, and seats to Manchester, Birmingham, and other populous centres, increased the number of the counties, gave in the hands of the holders and lease holders the same hold suffrage in the cities and corporations of representation. It was a reaching measure and the Tory party saw in it the beginning of the tish greatness. The Duke of Wellington declared that in his opinion the measure could no longer be carried, and became law. The debates on the Bill became law. The level of mischief remarkable thing in connection with the measure was that it was carried by a majority in a house in which the abuses as represented in their full strength was defeated in committee. The appeal to the people. King William IV, after granting a dissolution, a petition was presented to him by asking him to do so, he became what he regarded as an attempt with the exercise of his prerogative to Lord Grey's request. The followed was an exciting one. The Whigs was; "The Bill, the whole thing but the Bill." The result of was a House which passed the Bill three hundred and sixty-seven to and thirty-six. When the Lords Bill they dealt with it very promptly made no suggestion that it might order to meet the views of the element, but rejected it by a majority. It was a notable thing that peers of late creation voted for representatives of the older peerage up for reform. The Commons declared its adhesion to the measure was fairly joined between the two chambers throughout the country. There arose a popular movement for abolition of the House of Lords went so far even as to declare against archy. Violent attacks were made bishops and clergy, who were all posed to the Bill. The residence of Wellington was stoned. The mansion sacked and burned the mansion of the bishop's palace. In Nottingham there were serious riots. In Manchester, a hundred thousand men threatened upon London. The capital itself was of excitement. Indeed the who seemed to be on the verge of civil Bill was again passed in the Commons on the second reading, and the slaughter it in committee. Grey then mandated that the King should authorize a sufficient number of peers to pass the measure as it stood. King refused. Grey at once resigned the Duke of Wellington was sent to the task of forming a government refusing to co-operate with him. leader in the Commons who could hold public confidence and so he form a ministry. Grey being the called. He refused to take office unless granted power to create a sufficient peers to carry the Bill, and the given this promise, he formed a ministry that resistance would be useless capitulated, but not very gracefully tented themselves by remaining a Bill was carried through a very slender majority. The three kingdoms rejoiced. Men felt that a new era had dawned when held under the new law, in an overwhelming victory for the Whigs, the Radical element not