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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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RECIPROCITY

The reciprocity treaty, which for ten years was in force between what was then the British North American provinces and the United States, was negotiated chiefly for two reasons. One of them was the feeling of disappointment in the Colonies because of the repeal of the Trade and Navigation laws, which had assumed in some places the form of a demand for the severance of British connection and annexation to the United States.

In 1861 the War of Secession broke out, and it not only arrested the expansion of the trade of the United States in all directions, but by reason of the fact that to some extent the British Provinces were a sort of base for Confederate intrigues, a feeling of hostility grew up in the Republic towards them.

In a fortunate hour Sir John Macdonald launched the National Policy, which, as has already been explained in these columns, was not simply a protective tariff, though commonly so understood, but a policy for the development of Canada along national lines.

While the Conservative party had not been opposed to reciprocity and had made efforts to secure it, the Liberals were more strongly committed to it, and there was a general expectation that, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into office negotiations would be renewed and pushed to a conclusion.

Such is now the general condition of the Canadian mind. There was a time when such an intimation as President Taft has given, namely that he would use his influence to secure a reciprocity treaty between the two countries would have been hailed with enthusiasm.

to know just what our neighbors will propose. The President's statement has excited more interest south of the forty-ninth parallel than north of it. If our friends supposed that Canada would jump like a trout at a fly, at an offer of reciprocity, they must have realized their mistake.

EVILS OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte, formerly Attorney-General of the United States, addressed the Canadian Club of Montreal on civic government. The picture he drew of conditions in his own country was a very black one.

Everywhere the conduct of public affairs has fallen into the hands of the least estimable and least trustworthy classes. Everywhere we find in the management of public business wastefulness, inefficiency and frequent scandals.

The Socialists are on deck in Milwaukee, and they promise better schools, penny lunches for school children, a seat for every passenger in the street cars, 3-cent fares, cheaper gas, coal wood and bread, an 8-hour day for work, and employment for the unemployed.

This is a terrible indictment, and we are glad to be able to feel that when Mr. Bonaparte said that such conditions do not exist in Canada he was justified by the facts.

Why do we really first class men, as a rule, shun public employment in the higher grades, and too often oblige their city, state or nation to be content with the second hand, if indeed, even these can be secured, and our public trusts are not abandoned to the clearly unfit?

When our public servants are matched against the servants of huge corporations or individuals of vast wealth, we are disgusted and alarmed to find them outclassed; a very little thought should serve to show that the trusts and the multi-millionaires get what they pay for, and we get what we pay for likewise.

While there is, happily, no doubt that in Canada we are comparatively free from the evils of which Mr. Bonaparte speaks, his observations are of deep interest to all Canadians, not because we can smugly congratulate ourselves that we are not as other men are, but so that we may see the rocks upon which the institutions of the United States are going to pieces.

The statement that the contract for that portion of the Canadian Northern which lies between this city and Stooke will be let within the next few days is very interesting.

It is alleged that the amount of money that will be spent in London on entertainments in honor of Mr. Roosevelt and his family will reach \$15,000,000. This includes private entertainments as well as those of a public and semi-public nature.

There are any other community in the world that would sit with folded hands and await the settlement of a vital question after the fashion in which Victoria awaits the settlement of the Songhees Reserve?

The announcement that Senator Aldrich will not seek re-election to the United States Senate is of more than mere personal or local significance.

As was suggested in the Colonist the Chinese riots were exaggerated to their staple. Things have quieted down, and although the Yellow Peril is a good deal like a volcano, whose movements are only known when they occur and never in advance, there seems to be no reason to think that the disturbance which happened had any more than a local significance.

And now it is said that Commander Peary is not able to produce conclusive evidence that he reached the North Pole. It seems to us that in a matter of this kind there must always be some doubt, and that, too, without impugning the reliability of the explorer.

A contemporary informs us that by Mr. Fielding's new coinage bill a man must take any amount of gold in payment for a debt. It is hardly necessary to pass a law to that effect. We have not the least doubt that our country would be glad to take any amount of gold, and the more the merrier, for the debts which accrue to it.

If the Princesses keep cutting down their time, the public will complain that they are not getting their money's worth in the way of a sail. Some years ago the journey between two points in Mexico was made in a schooner which used to be anywhere from three days to a week on the way.

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Nothing has done so much to make the name "Wedgwood" famous as their Blue Jasper Ware. The world over these pieces are sought by collectors and lovers of the beautiful in art pottery.

Like all superior productions, this ware has its imitators, and you must exercise care in the purchase of same. Every GENUINE piece has the name "Wedgwood" stamped on same, and if a dealer offers you anything without this, refuse it.

We guarantee the genuineness of these pieces, and we want you to see the splendid display of new arrivals now shown in our Government Street window. Here are a few of the offerings:

- Jugs—Upright style, at from \$1.50 to .80¢
Jugs—Dutch shape, at each \$1.00 and .85¢
Match-Holders, at each 85¢ and .65¢
Candlesticks, at each \$1.75 to .1.25
Pin Trays, at each .50¢
Trinket Boxes, covered, at each \$1.00
Portland Vases, priced from each \$2.25
Toothpick Holders, priced at .50¢
Brush and Comb Trays, at each \$2.50
Jardinières, from each, \$3.00 to \$2.00
Fern Pots, and lining, at each \$4.50
Chocolate Jugs, at each, \$3.00 and \$2.00
Biscuit Jars, at each, \$3.50 and \$2.50
Hot Water Jugs, metal tops, at \$1.75
Marmalade Jars, at each \$2.50
And Many Other Pieces

Black Basalt—Another Wedgwood Production

Black Basalt Ware is another Wedgwood creation that bids fair to be one of the most popular of the many Wedgwood productions. Late last year we received a shipment of this ware, and it disappeared in short order.

Vases, priced at each .75¢
Jugs, priced at each, 75¢ and .60¢
Cups and Saucers, at each \$1.00
Coffee Pot, Sugar and Cream, 3 pieces \$5.00
Teapot, Sugar and Cream, 3 pieces \$3.00
All dull black finish

Housecleaning helps waiting for you here—come and see them today.

New Scotch Madras Muslin—First Shown Today Splendid Materials for Spring Curtains

Scotch Madras Muslins, in either white or ecru, are popular materials for Spring Curtains. Here's a shipment from the foremost Scotch maker just arrived.

We have a splendid assortment in ecru, some pretty colored pieces and some popular tasseled Madras. Some in and see it today. Madras Muslins, ecru shade, at, per yard, 85¢, 65¢, 50¢, 40¢ and .30¢
Tasseled Madras Muslin, ecru shade, at, per yard .40¢
The drapery store is filled with materials suitable for curtains, drapes, chair covers, cushion covers, etc. The very newest designs and color combinations are shown. We would esteem it a great pleasure to show you the stock.



It'll Pay You to Inspect Our Lace Curtain Display

No doubt there'll be at least one pair of your curtains that won't stand this Spring's house-cleaning wash, and you'll require something new. It'll pay you to inspect this display of ours before you spend a cent in lace curtains.

Kitchen needfuls by the score—put some in your kitchen today.

An Advance Word on Refrigerators A Carload Just Placed in Stock Here

Just because the mercury hasn't been climbing very high just yet, don't imagine the summer is going to be a cool or a short one. Ten to one it'll start in real hot pretty soon, and continue that way for a long stretch.

Samples are now on the fourth floor, and right now is the best time to make your selection. A refrigerator isn't a summer furniture item—it's for all the year around. A splendid place to keep all the spoilable eatables.

Give us your carpet order and learn what carpet satisfaction means.

Linoleum Is the Best Kitchen Floor Covering Best for Pantry, Vestibule and Bathroom, Too

By far the most satisfactory floor covering for the kitchen, the hall, the bathroom or the pantry is linoleum—preferably the inlaid kind. Linoleum is easily kept clean and gives a stylish appearance to an otherwise uninviting room.

We have just lately received two carloads of inlaid and printed linoleum, and the present selection is certainly an interesting one. The very newest and best patterns are offered and in a variety broad enough to satisfy anyone.

Printed Linoleum, from, per yard, .50¢ Inlaid Linoleums, from, per yard, .75¢

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"Fruit-a-tives" sweetens Juice, strengthens the stomach, cures indigestion, and shows the power of this fruit. It is shown in curing the grippe, influenza, 50c a box, 6 for \$5.00. Fruitatives Limited, Ottawa.

DUE TO CHANGE ASKED BY G

Divisional Engineer Acc for Enormous Exce Constructing First S West of Quebec on N.

OTTAWA, April 18.—That increased cost of construction of the new St. Lawrence bridge between Quebec and 150 miles was due to the refusal of the G. T. P. to accept the route originally planned.

According to a statement filed by the Divisional Engineer, the 150-mile section of the new St. Lawrence bridge cost to date as per engineers report has been \$11,219,828, an excess of \$2,321,972.

GIANT WHEAT CARS Grand Trunk Preparing for Haul of Grain Eastward in Winter Time.

MONTREAL, April 18.—Preparations for the time when the Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific will become important factors in the handling of grain in Canada are shown by tenders being called for by the Grand Trunk for a number of big box cars particularly adapted for grain traffic.

A short train of twenty of the monster cars will be loaded to carry thousands of tons of wheat each trip with a minimum of handling.

OTTAWA, April 18.—The avoidance of Canada by Lord Kitchener on his way from Australia to England, likely to cause some ferment here. A. Currie, of Simcoe, has placed a formal question on the order paper asking if the Government is aware that the famous Field Marshal avoided Canada and the All-Red route, the importance of which, from an Imperial strategic standpoint, it should have been his duty to examine.