

The Colonist

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THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

The second imperial conference was opened in London yesterday. It is the fourth gathering of British prime ministers. The first was held in 1897. Nothing of any special moment was transacted there, and the principal deliverance of the body was contained in a resolution declaring that "the present political relations between the United Kingdom and the self-governing Colonies are generally satisfactory under the existing condition of things."

Mr. Chamberlain's views did not commend themselves to the members of the Conference nor even to his colleagues in the ministry, the nearest approach to their adoption being the passage of a resolution providing for periodical conferences. Mr. Chamberlain went out of office in 1905 and was succeeded by Mr. Lyttleton, who issued a circular calling a Conference to be held in 1906. In this despatch it was proposed to change the name of the gathering to "The Imperial Council" and that India should be presented thereat. The despatch also proposed that provision should be made for a permanent department of state to collect information and conduct correspondence between the meetings of the Conference.

That an Imperial Conference shall meet every four years; That the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom shall be president of the Conference; That the Prime Ministers of the self-governing Dominions shall be members of the Conference; That the Secretary of State for the Colonies shall be a member of the Conference and shall preside in the absence of the president; That each government may appoint ministers to be members of the Conference, but only two representing a government may participate in a debate, and each government shall have only one vote;

That there shall be a permanent secretariat to collect information bearing upon matters within the scope of the Conference and to keep the several governments informed thereon; That subsidiary conferences may be held to dispose of matters that cannot be delayed until the regular sessions, the representation at such subsidiary meetings to be specially arranged.

Such is the nature of the body which met yesterday in London. It is to be observed that it is a conference pure and simple. It has neither executive nor legislative functions. Its deliberations and resolutions will therefore have no legal status, but as it is a conference between governments, the reasonable

presumption is that each government will be in a position to give effect to its decisions as they may be embodied in resolutions. It is to be observed that the decisions of the majority of the Conference are not necessarily binding upon the minority. Hence it is reasonable to assume that no resolution will be promulgated unless it meets with unanimous approval. The pace will be set by the most cautious element, and this perhaps is just as well, for it is not desirable that anything should be attempted in an imperial way, which looks like an attempt to force anything upon public opinion. Concerning the importance of the Conference the London Chronicle said:

The Imperial Conference which meets in London next month is destined, we believe, to mark a most interesting stage in the history of the British Empire. The outcome of those discussions will be, unless we misread all the signs of the times, a reorganization of the British Empire, so far as the Dominions in relation to the Mother Country are concerned, on the basis of the Five Nations. Just as the Imperial Conference is now a discussion between Prime Ministers, so it is suggested that, in the normal conduct of business between the United Kingdom and the Dominions, the Prime Minister's Department, and not any subordinate one, should be the official Kingdom not as a chief, but as "first among equals." They desire to have what have hitherto been called "Colonial affairs" raised to the status of "Imperial affairs." It would be a profound mistake to regard all this as a mere matter of names, of punctilio, precedence, and what the French call "the protocol." We sympathize with none of the croakers who openly or secretly dislike and distrust the new state of things. We have a profound belief in the solidarity of the British Empire, and a conference, which is justified by the experience of the past, that the political genius of free peoples, here and Overseas, will evolve such institutions and forms for the expression of common aims as new circumstances may require. The very growth of the Imperial Conference itself is a further justification for such belief. But the first step to be taken is to reorganize the machinery for the conduct of business between the Five Nations.

Victoria holds her own on the diamond.

The High School building that is to be erected in Fernwood will be a first class structure in every respect, as the description of it given elsewhere in this morning's paper shows.

The Daily News of London says that Mr. Asquith is confident that the Veto bill will pass the House of Lords, and it intimates in no uncertain terms that the necessary number of peers to pass the measure will be created unless the Bill becomes law before the King goes to India.

A demand comes from London that Canada should negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the West Indies, but as the Montreal Gazette points out, the Dominion already admits West Indian products under a preferential tariff, and it is clearly up to the island legislatures to make the next move by admitting Canadian products under a preferential tariff.

We suppose the reason why the Library and Parks bylaws did not pass yesterday was because a good many ratepayers thought it just as well to go a little slow in regard to expenditures that are not absolutely necessary. We should have been glad to have seen them all adopted, but as the really vital measures were passed, we are not disposed to make any complaint.

Mr. J. A. D. McCurdy has been again demonstrating the efficiency of the aeroplane. While 2,000 feet in the air and above Long Island Sound he was in communication with New York with wireless. Then he descended and took up a passenger, who did some rifle shooting while in the air. The aircraft swung about in a 20-mile breeze and the rifleman did not hit the target, but that was only a matter of skill.

Man in Seattle says he is a descendant of the Black Prince. Nothing very wonderful about that. There must be lots of descendants of ancient royalty scattered around the country, for English royalties, unlike German royalties, do not always remain royal. Unless the blood runs out the children of the most princely house become mere commoners in the course of a few generations.

Among the older residents of Victoria and many who have recently come to the city the news of the death of Mrs. James A. Raymur, of Kingston street, this city, will have been received with great sorrow. Her home has always been noted for its unostentatious but very real hospitality, her charm as a hostess lasting long after the age when most women cease to take an active interest in social affairs. Her genuine kindness and her keen wit will long be remembered with pleasure by those who knew her well. She was a lady of the old-fashioned type, whose interest centred in her home, but whose sympathies

were broad enough to make the circle a very wide one. To her beloved son and his family and to her niece Miss Mary Lawson, the Colonist extends its deep sympathy.

The British House of Commons passed the Women's Suffrage Bill through its second reading by a substantial majority, and now it is said that members of the cabinet are urging the Prime Minister to facilitate its final passage and send it up to the Lords, principally with the view of giving the members of the hereditary chamber a chance to reject it, as it is said they most certainly will.

The questions which the census-takers are going to ask are the nature of an legislation, and from what we know of census statistics, most of the "information" to be gathered will be of no possible value to any mortal person. It will not be published until it is too old to be of the slightest use to any one. Census-taking in Canada is chiefly valuable as a means of giving out a host of little political jobs. We wish we could say the Liberals began it, but unfortunately this is a case where no one can throw stones.

The apathy of the ratepayers in regard to the bylaws submitted for their approval yesterday was so amazing that a question arises as to whether it is really worth while continuing the practice of submitting such measures to a vote. Both the city papers made frequent references to the fact that the vote was to be taken yesterday, but only a very few people paid the slightest attention to the matter. How would it do to change the law, and authorize the City Council to pledge the credit of the city for loans unless on a day to be fixed a certain proportion of the ratepayers voted against the proposal? It may be taken for granted that if a ratepayer does not take the trouble to vote, he is quite willing that the liability should be incurred, or else that he has paid so little attention to the matter that his opinion is not really worth anything.

There was a long discussion in the House of Commons a week or so ago over the right of the House to know by whom political appointments were recommended. The members of the government, who spoke, took the position that such recommendations are confidential. Some of the Opposition speakers tried to distinguish between major and minor appointments, holding that recommendations to the latter might be properly made public; but Mr. Fielding was unable to see any distinction. Mr. Borden and Mr. Monk spoke and they were disposed to agree with the government, at least they did not urge anything to the contrary. We think the rule laid down by the government is a sound one. The responsibility for appointments rests with the minister who makes them and after him with the government as a whole. The question of making public recommendations must therefore always be left to the discretion of the minister.

The case of the Lion Saloon licence is not as easy as it looks. The holder of the licence has had it for many years, and finds that to retain it he must erect a hotel. He finds that there is great opposition, and he must admit it is reasonable opposition, to the erection of a hotel having a liquor licence in very close proximity to a public school. From his point of view he has a legitimate right to carry on the business of liquor selling where he proposes to. He is building the hotel because he has to do so to comply with the law. At the same time he is willing to give up his licence on being paid a certain sum of money. He is within his legal rights and a good many people will think he is not unjustified in expecting compensation if he is to give up the licence. On the other hand there is no doubt in the mind of any reasonable person that there ought not to be a place for the sale of liquor over a bar within a few yards of a great public school. The third consideration in the case is that there seems to be no authority for either the city council or the school board to pay the compensation asked for. The principle involved is of general interest, for it may arise at any time in any community in the province.

In Memory of L'Enfant WASHINGTON, May 22.—On a green knoll in front of the old Lee mansion in Arlington cemetery, a memorial was unveiled today to Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the French engineer to whose prophetic vision Washington owes its broad avenues and its symmetry of design. President Taft, Ambassador Jusserand of France and Senator Root of New York spoke in eulogy of Major L'Enfant. "L'Enfant will now lie here appropriately in state and in rest with the gratitude of the nation that he served so well," said President Taft.

Municipal Plant CARMANGAY, Alta., May 22.—The town council is taking steps to install a municipally-owned waterworks and electric light system. Already it has secured an option on the electric light plant owned by C. W. Carman, which lights the town at present.

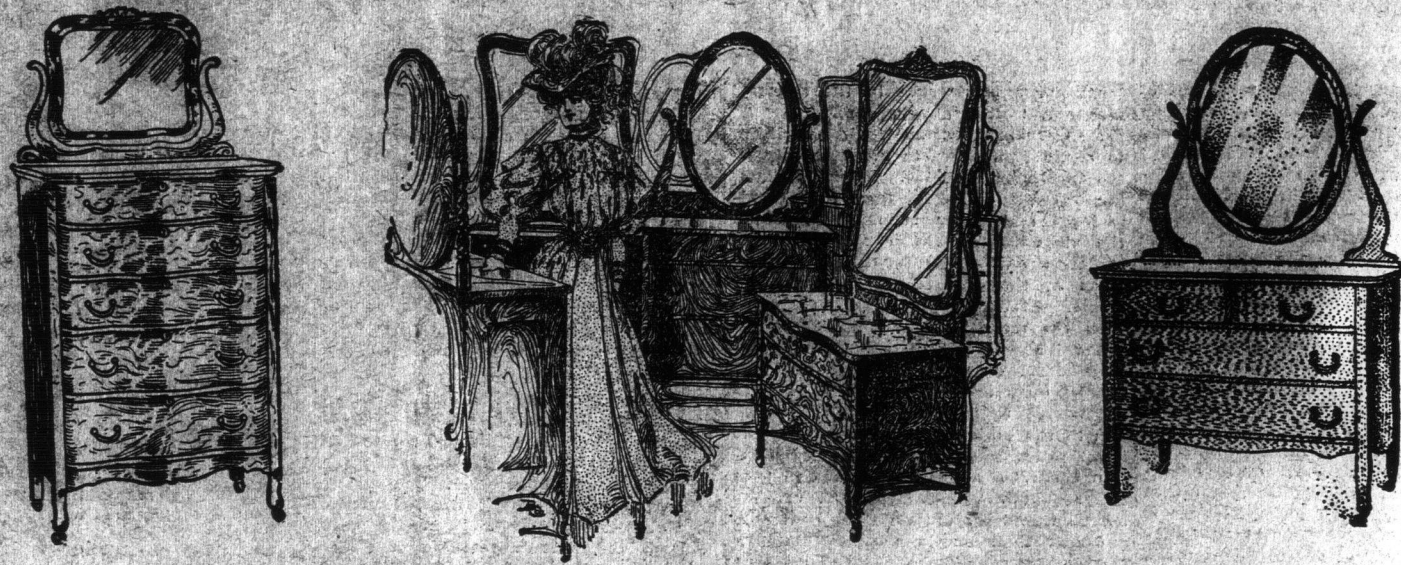
We'll Save You Money We Know We Can

WEILER BROS

We Know There's None In Town Like These

Why Do You Pay Two Profits When One Will Do?

We have nothing for sale that is cheap—but anything that is good at fair prices. Ask yourself the question: "Why do I pay two profits when one will do?" There is more than one way why you should pay two profits, but there is only one way that you can avoid paying the two, and that way is easy—"DEAL HERE" with the old reliable establish firm where the quality is unquestionable and the price is always the same. Why, the goodness of our goods brings re-orders. This is the home of new ideas and honest values. The only skimming is in the price. The severest critics can find no fault with our goods. The name makes an impression and the goods sustain it. We have the power to make the price, and we make the price a power. We knew you would look for our ad. this morning. Everybody reads them. You want to know what we have to say, don't you? Well, read below and then come and see.



STYLISH CHAMBER FURNITURE

Made For Your Own Bedroom. You'll Like the Styles and Our Way of Pricing

Handsome, serviceable furniture for your bedroom is ready for you on our third and fourth floors, and lots of it. There is a wonderful, complete showing of bedroom furniture just at present, a display that you should not fail to see, if you are at all interested. Come in and see something unusually attractive in

SUITES, DRESSERS, CHIFFONIERS, BEDS, WOOD, BRASS AND IRON

You'll find plentiful assortments in every line, and priced at the fairest prices, consistent with good quality. There's a price tag suit you, and also a style of wood and finish, for we have many pieces in such woods and finishes as

GOLDEN FIR EARLY ENGLISH OAK CIRCASSIAN WALNUT GOLDEN POLISHED OAK POLISHED MAHOGANY WAX FINISHED OAK DULL MAHOGANY BIRD'S EYE MAPLE

And many others. We would appreciate an opportunity to show you these, and assure you that there is never the slightest obligation to purchase incurred in a visit of inspection. There are three representative values:

- CHIFFONIER, \$10 Dresser—This style has a British bevel plate mirror 12 x 20, made of solid oak, finished golden. Has 3 long drawers. This is an excellent design and is special value at \$12.00
CHIFFONIER, \$14 Chiffonier—Has 5 full length drawers, top drawer is bow front shape, top 20 x 34, solid oak, in golden finish. You'll like this chiffonier. Extra good value at each \$14.00

SOME IDEAL BEDROOM CARPETS

We list below some splendid Bedroom Squares—splendid for many reasons, the chief of which are: their great wearing qualities, their attractiveness, and their easy price. There are other points in favor of these, one of which is the fact that they lighten the housework, they are "hard" finished and easily swept. They are made from the very best materials, and there is no square at the price that'll give you so much satisfaction. Come in and get one for YOUR BEDROOM

GOOD VALUE IN THE UNION ART SQUARES

To the person looking for a low priced Square, suitable for bedroom use, we commend these Union Squares. These are well made and will give excellent satisfaction as a bedroom carpet. Many pretty floral patterns are offered in reds, browns and greens. There are quite a variety of sizes, and you will note that the prices are decidedly reasonable.

- Size 2 1/2 x 3 yards \$5.00 Size 3 x 3 yards \$6.00 Size 3 x 3 1/2 yards \$7.00 Size 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 yards \$8.00 Size 3 x 4 yards \$8.75 Size 3 1/2 x 4 yards \$9.25 Size 4 x 4 yards \$10.50 Size 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 yards \$10.50 Size 3 1/2 x 5 yards \$12.00 Size 4 x 5 yards \$14.00

KENSINGTON WOOL SQUARES ARE POPULAR

We can heartily recommend these Kensington Wool Squares to anyone looking for a medium-priced square that combines stylish appearance with good wearing qualities. You will find these features strongly developed in these Kensington Squares. Many pleasing art patterns and colorings are included. These are excellent wearers and are very serviceable. They, as well as the Krypton, are a hard finished square and are easily swept.

- Size 2 1/2 x 3 yards at each \$11.00 Size 3 x 3 yards at each \$13.00 Size 3 1/2 x 3 yards at each \$15.00 Size 3 x 4 yards at each \$17.50 Size 3 1/2 x 4 yards at each \$21.00 Size 4 x 4 yards at each \$23.50 Size 4 x 4 1/2 yards at each \$26.00 Size 4 x 5 yards at each \$29.00

KRYPTON SQUARES. A GREAT SQUARE. EXTRA HEAVY

Krypton Squares are of excellent heavy weight. They are also reversible, giving a double wearing surface. Charming art designs and colorings are features of these squares. Some late arrivals show exceptionally fine effects in two-tone green fields, with mauve and pink floral borders, and also with gold and green floral borders. There are also some two-tone greens that are very effective. We want you to come in and see these Krypton Squares and see something unusually good for bedroom use.

- Size 3 x 3 yards at each \$19.00 Size 3 x 3 1/2 yards at each \$22.00 Size 3 1/2 x 4 yards at each \$25.00 Size 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 yards at each \$29.00

SEE THE NEW ARRIVALS

WEILER BROS

SEE THE NEW ARRIVALS

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