

The Colonist.
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SENATE REFORM.

In the United Kingdom they are laboring with the question of House of Lords reform; in the United States they are talking very earnestly about reforming the Senate; in Canada—well in Canada we make some remarks occasionally about the necessity of changing the constitution of our Second Chamber; but all the politicians, big and little, and all the newspapers seem content to let it go at that. A member of the House of Commons brings up the question, and the head of a political party, which has claimed to be the champion of Senate reform for a quarter of a century, pleasantly remarks in effect that he would be glad to carry out his pledge in that behalf, if some one would be so kind as to show him how to do it. Meanwhile the aforementioned leader fills up vacancies as they occur with the staunchest available Liberals he can find, and the Conservatives dare not make a serious protest, for their leaders did the same thing when they had the appointing power in their hands. Both parties are in the same box, with this difference that the Liberals promised to reform the Senate and the Conservatives did not. And so the present condition is likely to continue until some party leader realizes that you cannot make omelettes without breaking eggs. In other words, Senate reform will not be brought about until some political leader in power realizes that he has to break up the old and mistaken idea governing the constitution of the Senate. This idea came down from Crown Colony days and is utterly out of touch with modern, democratic, self-governing principles.

The two fundamental errors in the constitution of the Senate of Canada are the life tenure of office and the appointment of Senators by the ministry of the day. The suggestion has been made that the objection to the appointive system might be overcome by permitting the leader of the Opposition to nominate a certain proportion of the vacancies as they occur, but this is a poor expedient, besides being quite out of harmony with the principles upon which our government is based. To pay the Leader of the Opposition a salary was a somewhat startling change; to permit him to have a voice in appointments would be to vest in a person not responsible to Parliament the exercise of prerogative rights of the Crown, which constitutionally are only exercisable by the responsible ministers. It has been suggested that the appointive power should be left untouched, and that the term of the Senatorial office should be limited. This would simply mean that the government in power at the expiration of the Senatorial term would fill up the chamber with its own political friends, and, if it was displaced from office during the next Senatorial term its successors would have to deal with a hostile upper house.

These expedients and others like them are simply suggestions as to the making of omelettes without breaking the eggs. The remedy for the recognized evil is only to be found in the abolition of the appointive principle and the life tenure of office. But it always was easy to suggest how to get rid of something objectionable, and it is usually more difficult to propose something in its place.

Let us analyze the situation, as it would present itself if the above objectionable features of the Senate were disposed of. There would remain four things to be considered:

- 1. The qualification of Senators.
 - 2. The term of office.
 - 3. The method of election.
 - 4. The distribution of Senatorships.
- At present a very moderate property qualification is required. It is too small to make the Senate exclusive or representative of what may be called the interests of property, and yet it is large enough possibly to keep out of the Senate men, who would adorn the office and give the country good service. As no good purpose is served by the property qualification, and as its maintenance would limit the choice of the electorate, we submit that in any plan of Senate reform it should be omitted. Residential qualification ought to be required. In other words no one should be eligible for election as a Senator in any other province than that in which he resides and had resided for a term of years. Removal from a province

should render the position of a Senator vacant.

The term of office should, we suggest, be longer than the legal term of the House of Commons, that is, it should be more than five years. We suggest also that it should be less than ten years. A certain day in each year, that is a certain day of the week in a certain month, should be fixed for the election of Senators, and the Ministry should have nothing to say about it.

We favor the application of the principle of popular vote to the Senate. We think the election would have to be by constituencies and not by elections at large in each province. The latter plan would have much to recommend it if the numbers of Senators from each province were small, but where they are as numerous as they are in Canada we think it would be objectionable, for it would lead to the formation of a party ticket for each province, which would have the effect of hampering freedom of choice by individual voters. It might be possible to group the distribution of seats so that the principle of proportional representation could be applied.

There remains the distribution of Senatorships, first between the provinces, and second within the provinces. It does not occur to us that this need present any very serious difficulty. We suppose irregularities could not be wholly avoided, but they could be reduced to a minimum. Perhaps it might be well to declare that the Senate should consist of a fixed number of members, say, one hundred, of which no province should have less than two, the remainder to be apportioned between the other provinces according to population, a re-apportionment to take place after each decennial census. Senatorial constituencies within the provinces could be determined in the same manner as are the constituencies for the House of Commons, with which, however, they would very rarely, if ever, coincide.

We advance the above suggestions for what they are worth.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords is probably the oldest legislative body in the world; or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it is the oldest body now exercising legislative functions. The reason of its existence is not to be found in the reasons usually advanced for its continuance. By far the greater number of the peerages are modern creations. Their holders are the nominal successors of the ancient baronage, but they are not actually so. To think of a man, who has been made a baron because he acquired a fortune in making carpet tacks, for example, and contributed liberally to the campaign funds of his party, as being in the same class as the bold fellows who forced King John to sign the Great Charter, or such men as Warwick, the Kingmaker, Essex, who sought to place the English crown upon the head of James of Scotland, while Elizabeth was yet alive, and the like, is absurd. The ancient baronage of England was composed of men, who yielded the King allegiance when they saw fit and withheld when they were so inclined. We are not discussing the quality of the individuals who made up the ancient peerage or make up that of today; we are only trying to enable readers to see things in the proper perspective. The ancient baronage asserted the right to be consulted in the making of the laws because the barons owned great estates, possessed great power, exercised administrative authority within their several domains and were expected to rally with their retainers to defend the nation, and even to fight the battles of their king abroad: Today we have hereditary legislators, who owe their position to the fact that their fathers or their grandfathers made good "beer," or good poetry or good public works. This is no argument against the fitness of the modern peerage to act in a legislative capacity. It is not an argument for anything in particular. It is only the statement of an historical fact, which is of interest especially in view of the fact that the Lords themselves seem disposed to abandon the right of legislation as vested in themselves by the hereditary principle.

We hardly think that the general public in this country appreciates the democratic nature of the proposals to which the Peers gave their assent by adopting, as they did at the last session of Parliament, the Rosebery programme of reform. We are constantly told that the Liberals, or as they are usually called in this connection, the Radicals, propose the abolition of the hereditary chamber, but this is not the case. That radical suggestion emanated from the Lords. The ministerial programme, as far as it has been disclosed, aims at the retention of the hereditary principle unimpaired, merely qualifying the manner in which this hereditary right of legislation shall be

exercised. The Unionist proposition is that the hereditary principle shall no longer be recognized as carrying with it a right to take part in legislation, but only to select the members of the upper chamber, who may or may not be the holders of peerages. But no matter which view of the question prevails, the ancient baronage of England will shortly cease to be even indirectly represented in the law-making power of the United Kingdom, and the democratic student of constitutional evolution will not be able to regard the change without a feeling of regret.

H. M. C. navy has made its first capture. In the Rainbow is a sign of promise that poschera must "keep off the grass," she will justify her existence.

It is said that a strong effort will be made to force the British to lay the keels of six new Dreadnaughts instead of four as proposed. Rear-Admiral Wilton says that thirty-eight Dreadnaughts must be built during the next six years or Britain's naval supremacy will be in danger.

A "graving dock" is defined by the dictionary as "a dock for holding a ship for the purpose of graving or cleaning her bottom." There is a verb "to grave," although it is obsolete except in the connection just mentioned, and it means to clean. A graving dock is therefore not necessarily one that has been excavated, as many suppose.

Lady Sarah Wilson, of whom we heard during Making days and who tried to catch General Baden-Powell in San Francisco, has once more got herself in the limelight, but this time it is as an opponent of woman suffrage. She says: "I think that if woman gains her rights, as the suffragettes call them, she will lose all of her influence. Women today have more influence over the affairs of governments and such things than one imagines at first. If she were to have a vote, well—then some of them would be treated just like I am sure they don't have very much influence."

WORK PROGRESSING ON NEW RAILROAD

Store to Supply Construction Gangs Established at Colwood Station—Surveying Second Twenty Miles

The work of buying the right of way over the first twenty miles of the Island section of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway is proceeding rapidly and only a few outstanding claims remain now to be adjusted. Messrs. M. Carlin and Grant Smith and company, the contractors have the work of construction well started. A camp and depot have been established at Peddar, while the sub-contractors have gangs of men at work at different points along the first twenty miles.

Meantime surveys are being carried out on the second twenty mile section. In spite of heavy snow being encountered beyond Sooke. As soon as these surveys are completed, and the route definitely determined the sub-contractors for this portion of the route will be let. Just beyond Sooke some laborious construction work will be necessary and it is estimated that for some miles this portion of the road will cost from \$60,000 to \$70,000 per mile, before the necessary grade of slightly over one per cent is obtained.

Present intentions of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway company provide for stations on their Island route in the vicinity of the present stations on the E. & N. railway which the new road parallels, and also at Metchoosin and Sooke. The company will not establish townships on the Island, or at least has no plans for such prepared at present.

Seattle Investigation
SEATTLE, Feb. 22.—The grand jury continued the examination of policemen today in the investigation of alleged graft conditions existing in the police department under the administration of former Chief of Police Charles W. Wappenstein. It is understood that the evidence in connection with the graft case is nearly complete and that action will be taken in a few days. It is probable that the grand jury will then take up the investigation of other cities and county departments.

Rebels Blocking Work.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—An unofficial telegram received at the war department from General H. G. Otis at Los Angeles is to the effect that insurgents in the neighborhood of Mexicali have captured a train loaded with supplies for the workmen and animals employed on the construction of the line along the Colorado river just across the international line. If this information is confirmed, officials say it probably will lead to renewed representations to the Mexican government pointing out the necessity of preventing interference with important engineering work as injuriously affecting the welfare of the settlers on the American side of the line.

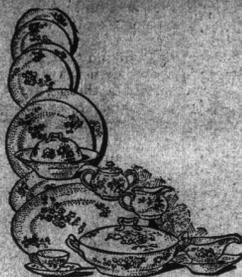
ORDER YOUR GOODS BY MAIL

WEILER BROS

LADIES USE THE REST ROOM

FAMED FOR FINE FURNITURE

Dinner Set Specials!



THIS SATURDAY MORNING OFFER is a good one, and if you are in need of a Dinner Set, you certainly should see these that we are offering today. They are the most attractive that have ever been seen in this city. The prices are more than reasonable, and we know they will delight you. You cannot get a better buy in China Dinner Sets. See these this morning when our store opens; it is your only chance.

Here are four interesting prices:

DINNER SET, \$27.50
109 Pieces - \$27.50

This beautiful Dinner Set in Bavarian china is very reasonable at the above price. The design has a gold edge with green decorations.

- This set consist of—
- 11 Dinner Plates
 - 11 Dessert Plates
 - 12 Tea Plates
 - 12 Soup Plates
 - 12 Butter Pads
 - 12 Fruit Plates
 - 12 Teas and Saucers
 - 3 Platters
 - 2 Covered Dishes
 - 2 Bakers
 - 1 Sauceboat and Stand
 - 1 Covered Sugar
 - 1 Jug
 - 1 Bowl

See all this Dinner Set of 109 pieces for \$27.50. This is a special price.

DINNER SET, \$20.00
112 Pieces - \$20.00

This Dinner Set of Royal Austrian china, in white and gold, be sure and see when you visit us today.

- This set consists of—
- 12 Dinner Plates
 - 12 Dessert Plates
 - 12 Pie Plates
 - 12 Coupe Soups
 - 12 Individual Butters
 - 12 Fruit Saucers
 - 12 Teas and Sugars
 - 1 Flat Dish, 14-in.
 - 1 Flat Dish, 12-in.
 - 1 Baker
 - 1 Pickle
 - 1 Covered Butter Dish
 - 1 Sauceboat and Stand
 - 2 Covered Dishes
 - 1 Covered Sugar
 - 1 Cream Plate

Note that this is a special price, and your only chance to get it will be this morning. Come early.

DINNER SET, \$18.00
113 Pieces - \$18.00

This Dinner Set of Austrian china has a beautiful decoration of a blue flower and green spray. You will like this one. It's great value at the money.

- This set consists of—
- 12 6 1/2-in. Flat Plates
 - 12 8-in. Flat Plates
 - 12 9 1/2-in. Flat Plates
 - 12 9-in. Soup Plates
 - 12 5-in. Fruit Saucers
 - 12 Butter Pads
 - 12 Teas and Saucers
 - 2 Sauceboats and Stands
 - 2 Covered Vegetable Dishes
 - 2 Bakers
 - 1 11-in. Platter
 - 1 13-in. Platter
 - 1 15-in. Platter
 - 1 Covered Sugar Bowl
 - 1 Covered Pitcher
 - 1 Slop Bowl

Come and take a look at these 113 pieces and see if \$18.00 is not the most reasonable price you have ever set eyes on.

DINNER SET, \$12.00
98 Pieces - \$12.00

A 98-piece Dinner Set of Austrian china, with pink flowers and green fern for decorations—something worth seeing, \$12.00.

We have a great assortment of Dinner Sets for you to select from, but we want you to see these specials.

- This set consists of—
- 12 Dinner Plates
 - 12 Dessert Plates
 - 12 Soup Plates
 - 12 Fruit Plates
 - 12 Butter Pads
 - 12 Cups and Saucers
 - 2 Platters
 - 2 Covered Creams and Sugars
 - 2 Covered Vegetable Dishes
 - 2 Bakers
 - 1 Slop Bowl

This is your chance to get a fine big Dinner Set for very little money. You have heard of the Weiler Quality.



Choose Your New Hall Furniture From These New Arrivals—A Great Variety

If you have a hall that is needing replenishing, we have the articles for you to select from. If you have a hall in your new home, and you want it furnished with the best quality goods, which will make it one of the most attractive and comfortable rooms in the house, don't fail to see these new arrivals. The variety we have for you to make your selections from is incomparable. We have hall furniture at prices to suit everyone. No matter how small or how large your hall may be, we have furniture to suit it. Here are a few of our prices—

HALL STANDS

- Elm Hall Stand, with square mirror, and folding seat and hat and coat rack \$14.00
- Solid Quarter Cut Golden Oak Hall Stand, with large oval mirror and copper coat and hat racks with hollow seat and lifting top \$40.00
- Solid Quarter Cut Oak, Early English Finish Hall Stands, oblong glass 22 x 28, coat and hat rack, panelled front lift up seat \$30.00
- Golden Oak Hall Stand, with exceptionally large mirror, with lift up seat and hat and coat rack \$32.50

HALL SEATS

- A big variety of Hall Seats we offer in either golden oak or Early English finished oak. Most of them have a covered seat. They are all of very stylish designs and well finished.
- Hall Seats, in solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, \$25.00, \$20.00, \$16.00 and \$15.00
- Hall Seats, solid quarter cut oak, golden finish, \$16.00, \$12.00 and \$8.00

HALL MIRRORS

A fine variety of Hall Mirrors to match the hall seats can be examined on the third floor in either Early Finish Oak or Golden Oak. The mirrors are of the very best quality.

- Hall Mirrors, solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, \$18.00, \$16.00, \$14.00, \$9.50 and \$7.50
- Hall Mirrors, in solid quarter cut oak, golden finish, \$30.00, \$20.00, \$10.00, \$9.50, \$8.00, \$7.50 and \$7.00

COSTUMERS

- Brass Costumers \$7.50
- Iron Costumers, cream color \$6.00

UMBRELLA STANDS

- Umbrella Stands, in solid quarter cut golden oak, \$12.00, \$6.00 and \$4.50
- Umbrella Stands, Early English finish \$7.50
- Umbrella Stands, in golden oak \$2.50
- Umbrella Stands, in solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, \$7.00, \$4.50 and \$3.50

Furnishers of Homes Hotels Clubs

WEILER'S

Furnishers of Churches Schools Boats

SCOTT

The course pursued by his mother, heroic, and yet it is reasons why he could not do. He had not and in every respect mother, she was a flexible Roman Catholic, edged his right to living her lifetime. It is indicated, or of what time, were directed as against that of a thought of her excess at any time pay the offences. When we think of the spirit he lived, we feel not immediately enviously. Personally, he was if there was any other, and reasons of own peaceful desires to arms. Scotland for England in those has been united, religious dissension is doubtful if James support of the Catholic were Huntley. Arrless, if he had been land, would have invited Spain to invade and remove the Protestant King. James argued that it would mother no good to sands of lives in a could only have been. The affairs of serious condition. olic earls a constant but for the lack of affairs, private the whole country fusion. It is difficult such as existed in Scotland. James would have more than three hundred, carried on with murder. There was a peace, and that was James was absent had gone to marry the King of that country the nuptials, but he by a storm, James, unusual to him, emboldened him to remain, he remained for the proclamation, which among the curiosities of self was responsible his journey to Denmark to prevent of Bothwell, being course. The proclamation: "These true the chancellor, as sake, that I may not an absolute ass, with own motive." The happy as a whole, arose, which at time discords.

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