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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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A. W. VOWELL

Mr. A. W. Vowell, for twenty years Superintendent of Indian Affairs in British Columbia, has resigned. Altogether Mr. Vowell has devoted forty-six years to the public service, having held Imperial, federal and provincial positions. In whatever line his work lay, he always performed it with thoroughness and good judgment. In every respect he has ever been an official of the best class, and his retirement leaves the civil service of Canada by so much the poorer. When we say that we wish him long life and much happiness, we know we speak for the whole community.

We draw attention to the fact that Mr. Vowell is not to receive any retiring allowance. Why this should be the case we do not profess to know. Surely his period of service has been long enough and his discharge of duty has been faithful enough to entitle him to the consideration extended to nearly every one else in the employ of the government of Canada.

It is understood that no successor will be appointed to Mr. Vowell, but that the various Indian Agents in the province have been instructed to communicate directly with the Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa. We are not sure that this is a wise change, although possibly it can be justified. At the same time it seems proper to say that with the settlement of the unoccupied parts of British Columbia the problems that may be presented by the existence of a considerable and somewhat unreasonable Indian population may call for the presence near at hand of some one having the right to act for the Department.

HARD WORKERS

If anyone thinks that the members of the provincial government have an easy time, he ought to spend a little time around the departments and see just how these gentlemen put in their days. All the members of Canadian governments are busy folk, although some of them have of necessity, more to do than others and we are not making any special claim for the cabinet ministers of British Columbia when we say that they are a hard-worked lot. In a new province, where such a large part of the country has no municipal organization, the variety of things devolving upon the political heads of the several departments is almost bewildering, and, of course, pretty nearly everything finds its way in some fashion or other to the Premier. This would be just as true if others than Mr. McBride and his colleagues were carrying on affairs. And there is no prospect of any improvement, but rather that as the years pass the work will increase. After a time so many precedents will be established that the exercise of executive discretion will be in a measure simplified; but the present generation will not witness a period when a minister can justly be regarded as a "soft snugg" from the standpoint of work. These observations are not made as a prelude to the suggestion that there should be more ministers or that the salaries should be increased. They were written after a reporter had outlined the several matters with which the Executive Council had to deal yesterday, and the length of the list and some knowledge of what the routine work is like led us to think that perhaps no harm would result from saying what has been said above. We are not asking anyone to believe that everything the ministers do is done in the best possible way. They are only men, and doubtless sometimes do things that they ought not to have done and leave undone things that they ought to have done. Doubtless none of the ministers is particularly anxious to be relieved of his responsibilities. Doubtless, also, if any one of them was, there would be no difficulty in finding some one to take his place. All we have in mind is to state a fact with which a great many people may not be quite familiar, namely, that the actual labor and responsibility involved in administering the government of a province—and we repeat that what is true of British Columbia is to a very great degree true of the other provinces and the Dominion—are very much greater than is generally supposed.

THE U. S. TARIFF

Evidently the business interests of the United States are very much concerned lest the maximum tariff shall be enforced against Canada. Our neighbors are learning a much-needed lesson. They have been accustomed to deal with trade matters as if all the world would hasten to fall in line with their policy, and it was considerable of a shock to the complacency of the Washington statesmen to find that Canada had a mind of her own on such matters and proposed to exercise it. The theory on which the United States has proceeded in its trade relations with Canada is that we ought to be satisfied to send our raw materials to that country, and in

exchange for their admission duty free to admit manufactured products duty free. But that is just what Canada has been unwilling to do ever since the National Policy was inaugurated. The nation which exports raw materials and receives in return manufactured products, will always be a poor country, little more than a hewer of wood and a drawer of water for the manufacturing country. Canada no longer proposes to occupy such a position in relation to any other part of the world, and it is with some surprise that our neighbors have found it out.

A small minority of United States public men have for years taken the position that a mistake was being made in not cultivating closer trade relations with the Dominion; but there were always counter influences at work that could not be overcome. The existing difficulty arises from the fact that the farmers of the Pays-Bas and the farmers of the Dominion are not in any way responsible for it. We have gone along in the even tenor of our ways, making such trade agreements as seemed, in the opinion of the party in power; to be for the best interests of the country. Notwithstanding the great importance of the trade between the two countries the United States Congress made no provision for its treatment in any other way than applies to some petty state, whose commerce in a year is not equal to that of Canada for a month. Hence the President, who appreciates fully the importance of avoiding anything that will interrupt that trade, finds himself confronted with serious difficulty. He is not called upon to decide upon a policy, which would be easy enough, but to place a legal construction upon a statute passed without any regard to the only important case to which it seems likely to be applied.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Why is it that all over America municipal government is a problem of great difficulty, and that in almost every city profound dissatisfaction exists with the manner in which affairs are being carried on. Those people who are under the impression that Victoria is a little worse than any place else in this regard are much mistaken. There seems to be something about the affairs of a municipality that does not lend itself to treatment by democratic institutions. Not that we advocate any other sort of institutions. We are not wholly out of sympathy with those persons, who say that they would rather be wrong, and do things themselves, that have some one else do them right. Of course no one actually holds such a view, but influence many people. There is not much doubt that if the governments of the several provinces and states of America would appoint men with similar powers to carry on the affairs of the several cities, and good men were named for the positions, much money would be saved to the taxpayers and better service would be given; but no one expects that such a thing will be done, and it is doubtful if more than a very few people would want to see it done. We will have to go on blundering with our democratic ways of managing the cities for a long time to come.

But surely it ought to be possible to secure better municipal government than is usually the case in cities. In those places where the executive and legislative branches of the city government have been segregated, good results have been reached. We do not mean that ideal conditions have been brought about, because that claim would be preposterous; but certainly greater satisfaction has been given than ever came from such a system as is in force in Victoria, and most other cities. One of the weaknesses of the aldermanic method of executive control is that too much uncertainty attaches to it. No alderman feels safe in laying his plans for city work very far ahead. Take the case of Victoria. The city government is elected in January. It takes new men a little time to become familiar with what they have to do, and they are naturally distrustful of avoiding the leaving of too many legacies to their possible successors in office. Hence the beginning of their terms is not fruitful of results, because they are not quite sure of their ground, and the end of their terms is one of partial inactivity because they do not want to tie the hands of the incoming council. This is all perfectly right and proper. We would not have it otherwise. On

the other hand if the executive branch of the city government were in office for a term of years, say three, a definite policy of work could be developed and carried out. Under the present system the city loses some six weeks of the best services of an alderman at each end of his term; whereas if the control of the executive department were in the hands of men elected for three years, the only period for which their best services would not be available to the city, would be when they were "tearing the ropes" at the outset.

Another reason, why under aldermanic control of the executive department of the city government we do not get the best results, is that very few men can afford to give the necessary time to it. Occasionally some one with leisure is willing to go into the Council, but nearly always such persons are not men of business experience. In every city there are exceptions, but they only serve to show how universal the rule is. We make the above observations wholly without having any one in mind, and also without any intention of following them up for the present at least, with suggestions. Sometimes it is well to direct public attention to general facts.

Perhaps nothing is quite so rare as a day in June; but these March days we have been having are a pretty good second; and when we say rare, we do not mean raw.

The London Morning Post thinks that the retention by Canada and Australia of the control of their navies is likely to prevent the British government from ever engaging in an unpopular war.

A Bill has been passed by the New Brunswick legislature to authorize the construction of an electric railway from St. John to Quebec across the State of Maine. It is said that the route will be 200 miles shorter than the Intercolonial.

Nova Scotia is to have a 9-hour day for employees in shops, offices and electric railways. If this includes newspaper offices, we would like to know when the reporters are going to get the news. In every other part of the world a newspaper reporter is supposed to be on duty twenty-six hours a day.

The failure of the St. Stephen's Bank in New Brunswick has revived the demand for an independent audit of all the banks. It is said that the defunct bank's assets are of little value, and that even though the double-liability of the shareholders is enforced to the limit, the chances are that the depositors will not be paid in full.

The stories that come from the Indian frontier to the effect that China intends to shoot anzerality over Nepal and Bhootan must be taken with many grains of allowance. Telegrams of five hundred words and more do not emanate from Calcutta as often as they are represented as doing, especially when they are made up chiefly of guesses.

The coroner's jury, which inquired into the loss of life in the snowslide at Wellington on the line of the Great Northern, seems to have gone about its duty fearlessly, and its finding is a severe rebuke upon the company. It blames the company for paying such poor wages that men would not stay in its employ on the mountain, and with falling to run the train to one of several available places of safety. There are very serious charges, and the public will expect some answer from the company.

The Mayor of Montreal is to receive a salary of \$10,000 a year. Of this \$2,000 is paid him as a member of the Board of Control and \$8,000 as Mayor. Last year his salary was \$4,000. The reason given for the increase is that the former salary was not in keeping with the dignity of the position. The citizens of Victoria will fervently pray that Mayor Morley may not be seized with an attack of dignity that nothing short of the gold-cure to the extent of \$8,000 per annum will meet his necessities.

Mrs. J. Peters of Work Point is visiting in Vancouver, where the engagement has just been announced of Miss Claudia Bate of Ottawa, second daughter of Col. and Mrs. H. Allan Bate, to Mr. Frederick Peters, C.E., son of Col. J. Peters, D.O.C., and Mrs. Peters.

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A Yankee advertiser says, "A man might succeed in New York in his shirt sleeves; but it wouldn't pay you to experiment. You ought to be well-dressed." Your office, like yourself, should be well-dressed always. "Clothes don't make the man," neither does fine office furniture make a business success; but it's the special thing the prospective customer sees, and it helps him to read a good many things between the lines.

Let us fix up your office in a way that'll help you win your share of the business coming this year. Our stock of office furniture is very complete, and any special work may be made to order in our own factory.

Roll Top Desks

The low style in the roll top desk is a very popular desk with many business men. Our selection of this style of desk embraces many very stylish and well arranged desks. Finish and workmanship is the very best. Come in and let us show you the desks at—

\$35.00, \$40.00, \$45.00, \$50.00, \$55.00, \$125.00

High Roll Style

The high roll top style gives more space for the convenient storage of papers, etc., and is therefore favored by many business men. The convenient arrangement of these desks will certainly appeal to you. There are many styles and a big choice of prices—a desk to fit your office and your purse. Priced at—

\$25.00, \$38.00, \$45.00, \$50.00, \$60.00, \$80.00, \$85.00, \$140.00

"Sanitary" Roll Top Desks

The "sanitary" desk—the desk on legs—appeals to many, and is a much-asked-for style. We have several styles in this desk, in golden finished oak. Come in and see the desks at—

\$50.00, \$55.00, \$115.00

We also have a very attractive "sanitary" desk in Early English finished oak. Priced at \$50.

Tilting Office Chairs

We show a splendid assortment of these chairs. We have them in golden finished oak and in Early English finished oak. Some are upholstered in leather. Many styles to choose from. Priced from \$5.50 to \$25.00.

OFFICE STOOLS—for high desks—in several styles. Some wood seats, some cane seats, some revolving seats. Priced at \$2.50, \$1.50 and **\$1.25**

Flat Top Desks

Many of the larger offices—offices of corporations—prefer the flat top style desk. Certainly it is a stylish looking desk. Lacks, of course, some of the storage conveniences of the roll tops. We have some splendid desks if you prefer this style.

See the splendidly made and finished desk in golden oak—quarter cut—in "flat top" style. Priced at **\$60.00**.

We have a "sanitary" flat top style in Early English finished oak, priced at **\$25.00**.

Then there is the "Banker's" style of "flat top." This is a "flat top" desk with a raised shelf running around three sides. We have this desk in either golden oak or Early English finished oak. Priced at **\$70.00**.

Standing Desks

We have a very fine book-keepers' standing desk in elegant design and arrangement, and well made and finished. We have this desk in 6ft. length, in either golden finished elm or oak. Has 3 drawers and top shelf.

In Golden Elm, at **\$25.00**

In Golden Oak, at **\$30.00**

Typewriter Desks

We show several styles and finishes in these desks. We have them in golden oak at—

\$12.00, \$30.00, \$35.00

In Golden Oak, roll top style, at **\$45.00**

In Early English Oak, at **\$12.00**

In "Sanitary" style—either golden or Early English oak, at **\$35.00**

Typewriter Chairs \$8

We have an excellent typewriter chair at this price. Golden oak frame, cane seat, adjustable, spring back, leather upholstered back. Priced at **\$8.00**.

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ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS

Among the sovereigns of England Monmouth, better known as the most picturesque. Greater riches to him even than the Coeur the first Edward. He was more Black Prince than any other in the Plantagenet family, although his virtues than those, which characterized his exceptionally courageous. He displayed a genius for military fitness for feats of arms by assigning command in the operations again and so well did he perform the duty to him that his fame and popularity King to believe that his son aiming him upon the throne. He moved him from his command, a young prince plunged into dissipation like that which he had exhibited. He gathered around him many spirits, and for some time led a dissipated life, but when the time came to succeed to the crown, he completely changed his method of living, becoming a man who had been reckless, and as full of life as he had been of boisterous mischief with France he distinguished himself especially at Agincourt, where he glory against a force of vastly superior numbers. He extended his power over the French throne, aimed to conquer and died as he was planning an escape the Holy Sepulchre from Jerusalem. This is the Henry of whom history tells in his powerful drama. But another side to his character. He was zealous to encourage, if actually charged with heresy. His reign, though technically only a few months, was a deliberate and successful step towards the establishment of a weak king and a strong country. His valor and unquestioned skill were marred by mercilessness, and he gave little care to the welfare of his people, and shaped his policy only so far as gratify his personal ambition. He was a little short of universal dominion, but his ability that, if he had lived, he had achieved it.

His reign was not marked by a moment of constitutional government indeed, there was very little room, Archbishop Arundel had declared in Parliament during the lifetime of King Richard II, that there was no doubt that the Commons of England had the right to appoint another in his stead. This form can be assigned to the reign of King Richard II, was a steady process going on in the institution of the English government no longer necessary for Parliament its rights, for they were no longer the baronage was already showing weakness in its personnel, owing to losses by death in battle, or on the political offences. Henry's course then was in every way conciliatory towards the Church closely by him by his wards heretics, and he dazzled the eyes of the common people by his splendor as a soldier. He asked little except men and money to carry on and so long as these were available, reason for interfering with Parliament the idea of parliamentary government strongly implanted in the minds of the people; the right of the representative men was fully recognized and the nation looked upon Parliament as supreme.

Such in brief is the part which played in English history. When, in made for the customs of the times, if lived, we need have no hesitation in him to be one of the greatest of English monarchs. He was strong and successful monarch. He was great king in the sense that Edward great, but he had those qualities which royal support of the populace. He was only the richer by glorious though unprofitable for the part which he played upon the history, and yet his is a name that will be among the most honored in the English sovereigns.

THE JEWS

In the court of King Solomon the youth of the tribe of Ephraim, of are told that he was "a mighty man." He attracted the attention of his father who made him ruler over all the tribe of Joseph, that is, over the tribes of Judah and Manasse. There was current a relating to this young man, to the effect that he was destined to be king of ten tribes of the Israelitish people. Whether it was believed this prophecy or because sought to strengthen his influence a sense of his sovereignty, Solomon's life, whereupon Jeroboam fled to Egypt he was living at the time the king died he heard that Jeroboam, Solomon's ascended the throne, Jeroboam returned to his country, and, placing himself at the head of the "all Israel," demanded of the new king concessions. It was a protest against the great Charter, Jeroboam was made of sterner stuff than John of England, and he not only re-