The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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WHY THEY WON.

There is a good deal of talk just now in the Eastern papers as to the cause of the Conservative defeat in the Dominion election of 1908. The inquiry seems rather belated; but perhaps it may do some good. As a contribution to the subject we may mention some of the seasons why the Conservatives have won so frequently in British Columbia of recent years. There have been two principal causes for the success of the McBride Ministry in its appeals to the people. One of them was the fact that it is and has been an energetic, able, honest, and progressive administration. The other is that its opponents have pursued it with vindictive criticism. The local Opposition has only been an Opposition. It has opposed everything proposed by the government. Here are a few instances:

The Conservatives took a stand on Better Terms; the Liberals opposed it, although at the outset they favored this claim.

The Conservatives claimed certain rights for the province in regard to the Fisheries; the Liberals opposed this claim.

The Conservatives claimed a reversionary interest in the Indian Reserves; the Liberals opposed it.

The Conservatives formed a policy whereby large revenues have been derived from the Crown Lands; the Liberals opposed it.

The Conservatives formed anti-Oriental legislation; the Liberals opposed it.

The Conservatives favored the Canadian Northern guarantee; the Liberals opposed it.

So we might go on and point out that everything that has been proposed and carried into effect by the Conservatives administration has been opposed by the Liberals. And the Opposition has not been confined to reasonable criticism in the legislature. It has been bitter, personal, and vindictive. The Liberal newspapers, or at least some of them, have indulged in all manner of charges of dishonesty against their opponents; Liberal speakers during election campaigns have done the same thing. Now, you cannot win the confidence of the people by abusing your opponents; and this is one of the things which the record of the Liberals in this province has established. Given a government that is resolute and progressive, and an Opposition that confines itself to opposition and personal charges, and the government will win out every time.

A NEW RAILWAY.

Two companies, known respectively as the Northern Empire Railway Company and the Mnaitoba and British Columbia Railway Company have assigned their charters to a freshly organized syndicate of Canadian capitalists, and it is said that construction is to be begun. The projected line will start at Winnipeg and run to Lethbridge in Southern Alberta and thence to Pilot Bay, which is on Kootenay Lake, which for the present will be its western terminus. Then a line will be built from Cardston, on the International Boundary, by way of Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton to Fort McMurray. Thence westward up the Peace River and thence by the most feasible route to Dawson. A branch from Fort McMurray to Fort Churchill, or Hudson Bay is also contemplated.

This is a fairly ambitious undertaking, but nothing seems too ambitious now to be undertaken in Canada. Our impression is that the road would prove a profitable undertaking, for such information as we possess of the country between Edmonton and Dawson seems to justify the belief that it is one rich in varied resources. As Colonist readers may remember, this paper has always maintained that judging from geological conditions as far as they are known, from apparently analogous conditions existing in other parts of the continent and from such information as has been received from prospectors, Northeastern British Columbia and the region in the Yukon Territory drained by the Lewis and Liard rivers are likely to be found to be very richly mineralized.

AIRSHIPS IN WAR.

The latest idea in warfare is that squadrons of airships will replace cavalry and Earl Roberts and Major-General Baden-Powell are given as authority. Perusal of the speeches of these gentlemen hardly justifies such a conclusion. Lord Roberts simply urged the British people and military authorities to study the question of flight, establish trained aeronautic corps and set up plants for the manufacture of the machines. Baden-Powell gave the following summary of the use to which aerial squadrons could be put:

Reconnoissance, obtaining complete and reliable information of the enemy's position, movements of armaments and numbers; transportation of troops by the employment of thousands of aeroplanes capable of carrying three or four men each; discharge explosive with much damage by hovering over the enemy's country and dropping bombs on powder magazines, stores, bridges and railways; raids, by carrying small parties of troops for dashing forays; communications, could carry despatches and communicate with any besieged place; in savage warfare they would have great moral effect by dropping bombs to spread panic among the ignorant enemy; as a lookout; unsurpassed as a coign of vantage for the commander-in-chief during an action; advantages of the airship as compared to the marine vessel, greater speed, wider view, ability to rise to a sufficient height to avoid projectiles and to get vertically above an enemy.

All this to a layman reads as if it were reasonable; but how any one could assume from it that the use of horses in battle would be discontinued passes ordinary comprehension. We think it is open to doubt, however, if the airship or flying machine has yet been brought to a stage when it can be relied upon for all the purposes mentioned above. Notwithstanding all that has been accomplished these machines are yet in an experimental stage although they are fast reaching the practical.

NOT IN FORMA PAUPERIS

Speaking of British Columbia's claim for Better Terms, the Ottawa Free Press says that it will be difficult to convince any one that the province is on the verge of penury. No one ever said it was. The province has never approached the Dominion government in forma pauperis. When it asks for better terms it asks only for what it thinks is its just due. There is no more reason for depriving a rich province of its rights than there is for treating a poor province—if there is such a thing in Canada—in that way. The claim for better terms is based upon justice, not upon charity.

British Columbia has been a very liberal contributor to the Dominion and it has not received, either directly or indirectly, anything that can be called a fair return. We are often told that the Canadian Pacific Railway, or at least a large part of its cost, ought to be charged up to this province. In this there is no justice, and even if there were, we have paid back in land and in contributions to the revenue far more than any part of the transcontinental railway, chargeable to this province, cost the Dominion.

British Columbia is going to maintain its claim for better terms until they are recognized, for there is a principle involved in the claim, which the people of the province have no intention of abandoning.

SAFETY OF THE EMPIRE.

Lord Charles Beresford says that the Overseas Dominions must assist in keeping Britain's supply of materials and food products secure. To us this seems to sum up the present duty of the outlying parts of the Empire. The time may come when we will be called upon in the discharge of our Imperial obligations to build battleships to defend the coasts of the United Kingdom; but at present, as has been stated over and over again by naval experts, publicists and others, the Mother Country is fully able, financially and otherwise, to take care of that part of any possible emergency that may arise. A contribution of one or more battleships would be valuable from a sentimental point of view, and would be useful for the purposes of the navy at home; but in our view the duty of the Overseas Dominions lies on the ocean and not in the narrow seas which separate the British Isles from the Continent. The people of the United Kingdom depend upon distant wheatfields for food and upon distant sources of supply for the raw materials of manufactures. It seems to be the bounden duty of the Colonies to keep the pathways of the seas as safe as they can be kept. The actual defence of Canada and Australia are of importance, of the latter especially. The probability of an invasion of Canada is remote, for no nation would undertake such a thing, no matter how much Great Britain were involved in hostilities, because the United States would come to our defence. We need not repeat what we have already said, namely, that we protest against Canada placing herself in the dangerous and humiliating position of looking to her neighbor for defence against a foreign foe; we only make the above observation for the sake of making as clear as we can what is the real position of Canada in connection with the naval defence of the Empire. It is not necessary, we do not say it is not desirable, that we should send the Admiralty the price of a Dreadnought. It is not necessary that we should build ships with the view of protecting our own shores. But it is necessary that we should begin the construction of a navy that will help to keep the highways of commerce safe to British ships. It is necessary that we shall build docks to which the largest vessels of the Royal Navy can resort for repairs when necessary. Such projects as these are in line with what Lord Charles Beresford advocates, and we understand that this is what is contemplated by the naval programme to which Parliament will be asked to give its sanction after the holidays.

This view of the case, it seems to us, meets a great many objections that have been made to the proposed programme. It is a complete answer to those who say that the creation of a Canadian navy might be understood by the government of the United States as an unfriendly act. It shows how baseless is the contention of some of those who profess to believe that cruisers and destroyers will be of no service in case the Empire shall be involved in war. Our only criticism of the government programme is that it does not go far enough. We are confident that when the sober thought of the people has had an opportunity to express intself, it will declare that it is the duty of Canada to come to the defence of the Empire on the seas; that this duty can be best discharged by the construction and maintenance of swift cruisers and destroyers, coupled with dry docks of the largest size; and that these ships, while paid for with Canadian money, and manned by Canadians, and controlled by the Canadian government, shall form a part of the Imperial navy, and in time of war be subject to the supreme control of the British naval authorities. We think the best judgment of Imperial statesmen will be that the defence of the British Isles can safely be left to the people thereof; but that the peoples of the outlying Dominions can best discharge their duty to the flag by providing just such a fleet as Canada is, we hope, about to begin to build—a fleet that will in the course of a few years be able to patrol the sea; and make the commerce of the Empire safe from any foe.

The loss of life on the Great Lakes this year amounted to 121 persons. This is probably the greatest on record. It is four times as large as the loss last year.

Out of 36,000 qualified voters in Winnipeg, 2,500 voted at the municipal elections. This does not look as if our Prairie friends took an especially keen interest in municipal affairs.

There are people in Canada upholding the House of Lords, who would be in a furious rage if its Canadian counterpart, the Senate, would do as it has done.

The president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company says that in a very few years regular and satisfactory telephonic communication across the continent will be established.

Sir Lomer Gouin says that Quebec is ahead of Ontario, and hence of all the other provinces, in technical education. British Columbia will have to see that her place is well to the front in this splendid rivalry.

A Montreal dispatch says that a certain murderer, who is undergoing a life sentence there, does not take kindly to it at all. This is very sad, although the general opinion of people has hitherto been that men were not sent to the penitentiary because they liked it.

A story comes from Berlin to the effect that a council of war has recently been held in that city to prepare for hostilities with Great Britain. It is said to be the belief of the Kaiser that Great Britain contemplates an early move against Germany.

Professor Robertson, of Macdonald College, says that the Prairies can never compare with Quebec as a place of residence. Settle that among yourselves, good friends; and when you have made up your minds which is the better place for a home, come out to British Columbia and live.

It is alleged by the supporters of race-track gambling that without it there would be no horse races, and that without horse races the breeding of race horses would languish. To this it seems as if there were several answers. One is that there were horses in Canada before race-track gambling became the principle feature of such meetings. Another is that races, that are made interesting as races, have over and over again been quite as successful financially as races that are simply an adjunct to bookmaking. Another is that there is practically no breeding of race horses in Canada. Another is that the money that is made in this country in breeding horses does not come from rearing thoroughbreds. Another is that any possible good which might come from horse races in connection with race-track gambling is offset over and over again by the evil resulting from it.

If He Shaves Give Him a "Gillette"

A splendid Gift would be this best of all Safety Razors. It would enable "him" to shave himself in safety and comfort and make shaving a downright pleasure as well as an economy.

Our Price From $5.00

CYRUS H. BOWES,
Chemist. 1228 Government St.

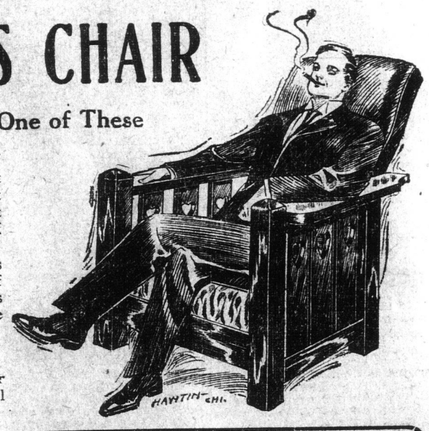
WEILER'S

OUT OF TOWN ORDERS are packed and shipped promptly. We'll pack your gifts careful and put the smaller pieces in attractive packages. China and glass can be safely forwarded—if you let us pack it.

WEILER'S

SEND HIM A MORRIS CHAIR

Nothing Would Be More Acceptable Than One of These



YOU'LL spend much time in looking before you'll find a gift for Mr. Man that can compare with a comfortable Morris Chair. It is one gift you can send HIM that is bound to be appreciated. Fact is—it's good for every member of the household. And surely a gift bound to be appreciated by the whole family, solves the problem of "what to give?"

Always leaders in the furniture business we are this season leaders in the choice of these chair styles. The newest ideas in the matter of design and finish are offered. Come in and choose a chair from this stock and you'll have no regrets. Mission and other designs in all the popular woods and finishes.

Morris Chairs Priced From $9 To $45

Of course we have dozens of other furniture pieces suitable for gifts for men. A visit of inspection to the third and fourth floors will amply repay anyone looking for a gift.

SPECIAL VALUES IN STERLING SILVER TEASPOONS

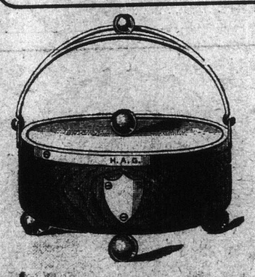
At $12 and $14 Per Dozen—A Much Desired Size—Attractive Patterns

THE Silverware Department offers you some special values in sterling silver tea spoons, and sterling silver spoons are ideal for giftgiving. These spoons are of a most desired size—between the coffee and the large teaspoon. The patterns we show will please you. We will sell you any quantity you wish. Special value at per dozen $14 and **$12**

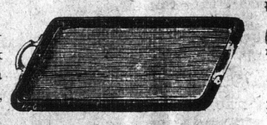
We claim to offer you the best values and the smartest styles in silver shown in the city. An absence of "exclusive" prices is noticeable throughout the stock—a stock brimful of holiday suggestions. Don't miss it.

Charming Silver and Oak Pieces—Splendid Gifts

We Have Just Received Some Pleasing Styles



Yesterday we opened a big shipment of silver-mounted oak ware—one of the most popular of all Christmas offerings. You'll find this on display in the silverware department. There is but a limited quantity so an early visit is advisable. Styles are excellent and the prices right. Splendid Gifts.



Silver Mounted Oak Trays $3.25—Most every woman—homekeeper—has use for one of these Stylish oak tea trays and we know of nothing more certain of a hearty reception. These prices make the choosing easy, $6 to **$3.25**

Oak Butter Dishes, $3
In these we have some splendid examples. Such ware has been popular for this use. You'll have to step lively to get one. Prices are easy. We have them at $3.50 and **$3.00**

Biscuit Barrels, $3.50
In biscuit barrels we show some very attractive pieces, and the price range permits much choice. Stylish designs and finely finished. These are priced from $6 to.....**$3.50**

Salad Bowls, From $7
A very popular style for the salad bowl. These art attractively silver mounted. Linings of porcelain. Oak highly polished. Complete with servers. Priced from $15 to **$7.00**

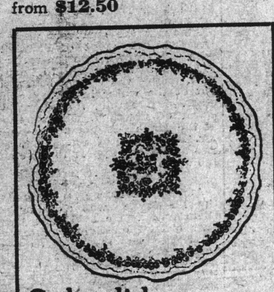
Liquor Frames at $8.50
Many attractive styles in liquor frames. These frames have 3 bottles and the frame is so constructed that a lock securely protects the contents. Priced from $18.50 to **$8.50**

Parlor Cabinets from $12.50

Send a Parlor Cabinet. You know a home where such a gift piece would be appreciated. Choosing is easy from this stock. Range of styles is broad and the price list shows one for every purse. Weiler quality of course—the recipient will appreciate that fact. We have them priced from **$12.50**

China Cabinets from $20

Most every homekeeper has some choice bits of china stored away somewhere for safe keeping and she would welcome the arrival of one of these stylish china cabinets so that she could properly display her select specimens. We have cabinets of many sizes and styles and in the popular woods and finishes. Wall and corner styles. Priced from **$20.00**



Splendid Gift Things Which Cost Little

¶ A well chosen china and glassware stock like ours abounds in beautiful, useful and decorative bits within the reach of the smallest purse.

¶ This season it would seem that such things were grander than ever—it is almost inconceivable that such handsome pieces can be produced for the prices obtaining.

¶ If you have only a modest sum to expend, you will be delighted with what we can show you.

¶ No trouble to do it, we assure you.

Napkin Rings Special, $1

Some of the nicest and newest designs in napkins—heavily silver plated—we have yet offered and at remarkably low prices. These are styles that will please you and make ideal Christmas gifts. Special value at each, **$1.00**

Silver Fern Pots, $2.50

No other store in the city can show such a wonderful choice of silver fern pots and none can show better values than are offered in our re-arranged silver department. Here is a gift that would be appreciated by any homekeeper—a stylish gift that would grace any home. And the prices will surprise you in their fairness. Come in and see the offerings at $12.50 to **$2.50**

Music Cabinets $8.50

You have a friend who would appreciate a stylish, new music cabinet. We have made it easy for you to gratify the desire to give because we have an excellent assortment at little prices. Come in and let us show you some splendid gift suggestions at prices starting as low as

$8.50

Others up to **$30**

What Your Christmas Store Discloses---

¶ A splendor of Holiday merchandise representing more than half a year's planning, making and gathering.

¶ Thousands of expert workers, both in America and Europe have spent weeks and months in the preparation of this wonderful aggregation of beautiful merchandise, which you are now cordially invited to inspect.

¶ We are confident that nowhere would these splendid things receive such a welcome as from the artistic, beauty-loving women of this city.

¶ The early hours are most comfortable.

FIVE FLOORS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

WEILER'S

THE MECCA FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPERS