

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE SONGHEES RESERVE.

We are in a position to say that an understanding has been reached with the Dominion government as to the terms of the settlement of the Songhees reserve, and that the agreement entered into with the Indians will be carried out.

We are also informed that the Premier has written to Mayor Morley to say that in view of the very great expense attendant upon the removal of the Indians and the acquisition of the new reservation, it will be impossible for the government to meet the wishes of the city in respect to the dedication of a part of the present reserve to public use.

SINGLE TAX.

Reduced to its final analysis the principle of the Single Tax means the resumption by the state of the ownership of all land; and a charge upon all persons who may use any portion of it. This is not so very different from the feudal system as appears at first sight. The king owned the land and he gave it to his followers in consideration of services to be rendered. In the course of a thousand years or so the land-owners have managed to shift the burden of service to other shoulders. The Single Tax advocates would replace the burden on the land and relieve industry and its fruits, but instead of permitting the land to be held by a few favored individuals, they propose that it shall be held by the masses. This result they would bring about by levying all taxes upon land values, and it is believed that the effect of this would prevent anything in the nature of speculation in the value of land, the retention of land in large areas by any single owner, and the existence of any landless class in the community. It is claimed by them that this would mean a complete social revolution and give all men an equal opportunity. The idea is that property in land is as unreasonable a thing as property in the atmosphere or the high seas; that all wealth is the result of the application of labor to the land in one form or another and hence it is argued that as land ought to be common property and as labor is the universal contribution of mankind, all wealth ought to be distributed among the people in proportion to the amount of labor, mental or physical, each has bestowed upon its creation. It is not proposed that there shall be any fixed scale of distribution or any attempt to level up or down, as the case might be, between individuals. Equality of opportunity is all that the Single Taxer claims to offer. Herein it differs from Socialism, which aims at equality of results, which is impossible. The Single Tax system is claimed to be favorable to the best development of individuals.

We do not suppose that the most enthusiastic advocate of the Single Tax expects in his lifetime to see it carried out on a very extensive scale to its ultimate conclusion. There are a good many bridges to be crossed before that point is reached. At the same time the placing of the incidence of taxation upon land values is steadily growing in favor, and is likely to come into very general application. The advocates of the system make a mistake when they concentrate their attention upon the ultimate goal and disregard the intermediate steps by which alone it can be reached. If the principle of the taxation of land values is a correct one, and we think it is, it may be trusted to bring about its own results in its own way. The human equation must always be borne in mind, and the most perfect system on paper may fall when it comes to be reduced to practice. The advocates of Single Tax must be content to hasten slowly. The world is not quite ready for the millennium.

RECIPROCITY

The provisions of the reciprocity agreement between the United States and Canada call for a good deal of consideration, and there will be a material difference of opinion as to its bearing upon trade and the general industries of the Dominion. There will also be some divergence of view as to their effect upon trade relations between the United Kingdom and Canada. We cannot hope to do more this morning than present some very general views on some of the various aspects of the agreement. First as to the effect upon trade with the United Kingdom.

Some of the articles dealt with do not enter in any appreciable degree

into the exports from the United Kingdom to the Dominion, such as coal, and agricultural products, linseed oil, mica, gypsum, canned meats and vegetables. The same observation applies also to agricultural implements, at least to a very large extent. There are certain manufactured articles, upon which the duty has been reduced, that do form part of our imports from the United Kingdom, but without fuller details than we have at hand it is impossible to enter into any critical analysis of what effect the reduction of duty on them will have upon our imports from Britain.

At first sight we are disposed to take an unfavorable view of the case. In regard to natural products such as wheat, and other grains, dairy products, fruit, fish, eggs, poultry, cattle, sheep and other live animals, which are to be admitted free into both countries, we are not inclined to view with favor the provisions of the agreement. We necessarily look upon the matter largely from a local point of view, and the free admission into the country of articles the production of which we are endeavoring in British Columbia to stimulate locally, will not impress the people of this province favorably. Especially is this the case with fresh fruits, which at present form our chief surplus agricultural production. Our fruit growers have a sufficient handicap now in selling their produce on the Prairies. The reduction of rates on canned foods will have no special local effect one way or the other. In respect to lumber there is a good deal to be said. The free admission of lumber into Canada will interfere with the market on the Prairies, which it seems to us ought to be preserved to Canadian millmen. On the other hand the free admission of lumber, both rough and dressed, into the United States may lead to the rapid increase in its manufacture here. Many Americans hold large timber areas in this province and they are likely to begin their exploitation in order to preserve their timber limits nearer home. While this will have an important effect industrially, we are disposed to think that British Columbia would have been content to wait until the United States had of its own accord reduced the tariff on lumber, as would undoubtedly have been the case in the course of a few years, rather than have the Prairie markets thrown open as a dumping ground for the surplus products of United States mills. Speaking from a local point of view we are by no means inclined to favor the provisions of the treaty in this regard. The free admission of fish into the United States will be of no particular local advantage, and its free admission into Canada is of no local value whatever.

Speaking of the agreement as a whole we are not favorably impressed by it. We seem to be conceding something and to be receiving nothing in return that we could not have got by waiting. Such information as we have at hand confirms us in the view that we have taken since the beginning of negotiations, namely that the consideration of a reciprocity treaty was ill-advised and that all the advantages, that could possibly be derived from a treaty, could be gained by independent action on the part of both governments. We are unable to see what gain it is to Canada to have the United States market opened to wheat. There is sale for all our surplus in the United Kingdom and long before we have a surplus in the British market, the United States would have lifted the duty from it. It seems absurd to talk about reciprocity between the two countries in wheat. The offer of a free market for paper in exchange for a removal of the prohibition of the export of pulp wood will, we fancy, be a dead letter, and the inclusion of such a provision in a treaty might be construed to bind the hands of the United States if hereafter in should be deemed advisable in that country to remove the duty from paper. Speaking frankly we are not at all favorably impressed by the agreement, for it seems to be an unnecessary thing, the effect of which upon our industries and upon our trade relations with the United Kingdom cannot be foreseen. We have bought a pig in a bag and we do not know how much we have paid for it.

The Toronto Star says that fortunes are made so quickly nowadays that "a beggar of today may run you down in an automobile twelve months from now." We always supposed that Toronto was a slow old kind of a place anyway. Out here men go to bed paupers and wake up millionaires, in their minds at least.

Mr. Ellison's interesting and eloquent remarks on the second reading of the Bill to establish Strathcona Park will be read with very great pleasure. We suppose it would be impossible to realize what the reservation of this magnificent area as a pleasure resort will mean in a financial way to this city and this Island. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world.

It is said that so much breath and time are lost in saying "telephone message" that the need for a new word to express the same meaning is urgent. Among the suggestions are "teleote," "phonogram," "teleword," "calligram" and "wiregram." Out in this part of the world we find "phone" do very well. It is not a very scientific word, but everyone knows what you mean when you say "So-and-so left a phone for you."

We used to say in the newspaper offices, when word of a shipping disaster came, that there would be two others. We had the case of the Queen day before yesterday, and the two others came along yesterday. The part which the wireless played in these cases is a story by itself. It cannot be fully told tonight, for details are only coming in; but the simple statement of facts given in our news columns speaks eloquently of the value of this wonderful invention.

This is the fifty-second birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm. May he live long and prosper. He has now reigned twenty-two years, and it can be said truly that he has proved a very different kind of sovereign from what was expected. All the world was uneasy when he came to the throne, for the fear was general that he would seek fame by the use of blood and iron, but he has kept the peace, and we think it may be assumed that a sovereign who can show such a record as this, may not properly be regarded as a menace to his neighbors.

We have a very interesting reference this morning to the work of Mr. Napier Denison, of which we spoke on this page yesterday. We then mentioned the possible practical bearing of his investigations, and we are able this morning to outline in a general way what he expects to be able to do. It will be a discovery of inestimable value if Mr. Denison is able to show that, just as storm signals may be hoisted for the guidance of mariners, danger signals may be displayed for the guidance of miners sufficiently far ahead to enable them to take precautions for safety in some cases at least.

Rev. Dr. Smith, a distinguished missionary, addressing an audience in Brooklyn, referred to the Yellow Peril. Among other things he said: "Four times have the Asiatics invaded Europe. The fifth time they will come to stay unless something is done now to prevent the further stirring up of Oriental ambition." Dr. Smith looks for a coalition between the Chinese and Japanese, and says that the invasion of Europe will come and later that of America. He thinks the only remedy lies in the control of the trade of China, which he thinks the United States and the European nations should set out to secure.

The town of Listowel, Ont., is the limit. A returned missionary, a widower with two small children, came to that town and was found to be afflicted with small pox. He was hurried off to a makeshift isolation hospital, hurriedly erected, and died, and now the town authorities wish to collect \$1,000, the cost of the hospital, from his estate. We hardly suppose it can collect the money, for there was nothing in the nature of a contract between the town and the missionary, and it can hardly have an action for damages for something it chose to do for its own protection. It cannot prove that the isolation was necessary, however desirable it might have been.

By the death of Sir Charles Dike, one of the ablest men who has taken part in the political life of Britain has passed away. He first attracted wide attention by his book called "Greater Britain," in the title of which he coined a phrase that has passed into general use and will probably never be forgotten. It was an achievement to have given the world such a phrase, for it was pregnant with meaning. Sir Charles might easily have been one of Britain's greatest ministers, but he made an error which seemed to close the door upon his political advancement. He shocked the British conscience and there was no pardon for him. Sir Charles has been looked upon for many years as one of the greatest authorities on international questions, especially as they relate to armaments. He leaves an excellent public record.

Two Freighters Coming
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 26.—The British steamers Penrith Castle and St. Dunstan have been added to the fleet of steamers that make up the new line recently established by the Guthrie & Co., between Europe and this port and Victoria and Vancouver. The Penrith Castle will begin loading at Antwerp in March, and the St. Dunstan in April.

Workmen's Compensation.
TORONTO, Jan. 26.—Chief Justice Sir William Meredith has been appointed to recommend to the government the form to be taken by the Workmen's Compensation Act, which the government will introduce to take the place of the present legislation which has been in force for 25 years. The new act is expected to be a distinct advance upon the previous one.

Takes Two to Make a Bargain

Our Reasonable Prices and Our High Quality

When you buy goods at reasonable prices and get the best of goods, you are buying goods that are bargains. When you buy goods at low prices and the goods are of no quality, and they are advertised as bargains, they are not bargains, because they last you no time. You think you are getting a wonderful bargain because you see the advertisement, "goods marked at half," but when you have had these goods home for a few weeks you begin to wonder where your bargain is. It is a different thing altogether when you buy from us; we don't tell you prices "cut in half," etc., etc., we tell you all the time that we have the best quality, and that our prices are reasonable, and we have proved this statement of ours time and again. We can sell quality goods at reasonable prices because we buy in such large quantities that we get special prices from the manufacturers that cannot be obtained by any other firm but ourselves. We are pleased when you go to other stores first; but never buy until you have carefully looked over our assortments of all Home Furnishings.

The Last Are Going First Thing This Morning

A week ago we advertised that we were clearing our shelves of short lengths in Liberty and French Chintz and Cretonnes. Well, we sold all these, and those who were lucky enough to get them got real good values. Those who got them must have been showing these bargains to their friends, because we have had several enquiries for them since we sold the lot off. We have managed to get together another lot of a big variety for this morning, and those wanting them will require to be bright and early.

Chocolate Sets in Beautiful Patterns



If you have not got a Chocolate Set, and you would like to have one, we have an unequalled variety for you to choose from, at prices that will suit you. The Chocolate Sets we are now showing are the most beautiful that have ever come to this city, the designs are perfect, and the many different shapes we have these sets in are worth while taking a look at. We have them in White and Gold, in Floral and Conventional designs, such as Roses and Holly, Violets and Ferns. White with Yellow Tops, and Birds in Circles all the way round, and many others too numerous to mention. We show these in French, English, German, Austrian and Russian China.



Sets consisting of six Cups and Saucers and Chocolate Pot, from, per set, \$35.00 to \$3.00

Sets with China Trays to match in same designs as cups and saucers, from \$14.00 to \$7.50

Latest Arrivals of Wedgwood Tea Pots, Sugar and Creams

The latest in Wedgwood has just arrived, and in one of our Government street windows we are displaying same. We have a beautiful assortment to select from—the shapes are very beautiful and of the very latest. These new English goods are all in plain colors, of blue and green, and if you want something really artistic in Teapots, Sugars and Creams, come and see these. The prices are reasonable enough.

Teacups and Saucers, Per dozen \$4.00
Teapots, large size 75¢
Teapots, medium size 50¢
Teapots, small size 40¢

Creams, large size 35¢
Creams, medium size 30¢
Creams, small size 25¢
Covered Sugars, large size 50¢
Covered Sugars, small size 40¢

Come Here for Warm Bedding You'll Want It These Cold Nights

This is not terribly cold weather, but be prepared for what is to come. The snow suggests a cold spell, and you had better be prepared for it. We have all kinds of bedding ready for you at prices that will not inconvenience you. Our quality of bedding is just the same as our furniture, etc.—it is the best. We have a splendid variety for you to make your selections from on our second floor. We have sheets for your bed that can make your bed so comfortable and cosy that you will wonder how you ever managed to get along without them. A comfortable warm bed is an essential article in the home. It is not the bed itself that makes you comfortable, it depends greatly on the bedding. If you try some of our bedding you will know that what we say is true. Give our second floor a visit.

SHEETS, BEDSPREADS, BLANKETS, ETC.

Hemmed Cotton Sheets—Linen finish—
64 x 88. Per pair \$1.65
72 x 90. Per pair, \$2.50 and \$2.00
Embroidered Hemstitched Linen Sheets. Each, only \$5.00
Linen Sheetting, 72 to 90 inches in size, from, per yard, 90c to \$1.25
Cotton Pillow Cases, from, per dozen \$2.00
Cotton Hemstitched Pillow Cases, from, each 30¢
Frisled Pillow Cases, from, each 50¢
White Honeycomb Washing Bedspreads, with and without fringe, from, each \$1.35
Marseilles Bedspreads, in satin finish, a very large variety of designs, from \$15.00 to \$1.00
All-wool Grey Special Blankets, in dark grey. Per pair, \$4.00, \$3.50 and \$2.50
The Cordova Blanket is of a very pretty silver-grey—
6 lbs., 68 x 84. Per pair \$3.90
7 lbs., 72 x 88. Per pair \$4.55
8 lbs., 76 x 92. Per pair \$5.30
The Scotch Skeldon Blanket is of a pure white wool, exceptionally closely woven, is unshrinkable and made in two pieces in four different sizes—
8 lb. size, 80 x 34. Per pair \$7.50
8 lb. x 81, 8 lb. Per pair \$7.50
7 lbs., 72 x 81. Per pair \$6.75
6 lbs., 68 x 78. Per pair \$6.00

COTTON QUILTS

We have a splendid variety of Cotton Quilts, and if you want a good, warm, serviceable covering for the bed, that have a nice appearance, you cannot do better than take a look at this assortment.

Cotton Quilts, size 72 x 72, \$3.25, \$3.00, \$2.25 and \$2.00 | Cotton Quilts, size 60 x 72, \$3.00, \$2.00 and \$1.75

THE FAMOUS McLINTOCKS ENGLISH DOWN QUILTS

These famous down quilts are to be found here in great variety, and in the newest and most beautiful designs. We have sold a big lot of these famous quilts within the last few days, and if you want to secure one, come today. You can see from the following short list of prices that these goods are priced reasonably. The way to do is to compare the article with the price and see how long it lasts you.

Turkey Chintz, 6 ft. x 5 ft., at \$6.50
Fine quality Downproof, in French Art Sateen, 6 ft. x 5 ft., \$10.00, \$7.50 and \$6.50
Fine quality Downproof, in French Art Sateen, 6 ft. x 6 ft., \$14.00, \$12.00, \$9.00 and \$8.00

Turkey Chintz, 6 ft. x 5 ft., at \$7.50
French Art Sateen, on one side and the reverse fine French Art Sateen, 6 ft. x 6 ft. \$15.00
Fine quality Downproof in French Art Sateen, frilled border, 6 ft. x 5 ft. \$14.00

Real Economy
Dealers in Real
Quality

WEILER BROS

Our Thoughts
Are For Your
Interests

SCOTT

The condition of Flodden was ungrec. In that fit not only her King, lords and the eldest ilies. James V., who was at that time a struggles between the Duke of Albany for child and the regent kept the distracted, deluged it with blood triumphant only to set aside and driven as the young King by his authority. Jam much force of character severity. He ended his power to promote among his people, the peace with England more with the banish with him. He made a very notable journey gaging Scotland and all the islands, bays, steps to secure the pendent chieftains in kingdom, and, as by many nobles, large process of escheat the most powerful ever had, using the influence in the station of Scotland in Walter Scott said: was possessed of King could scarce be the first baron of the restrained, imprison the pleasure of a true that, when the sessed the love and was generally allowed the national council power usually rested esteem in which he repeatedly imprison murdered by the same instances by the loved, honored and son with such devotion to the fatal field of the flower of his kingdom and prospered far too much on the prince to be capable!

The people of Scotland were very poor. Of many none. The only ex hides and wool. A of course, but the country was such, so often and sword, something from England, and that no man felt sure. Moreover, nearly the lation was almost such tillage as was men, women and children existed between the through all the tenant, for example fully justified in kill though laws were similar evils, there the state capable of habitants had accumulated under great stress, become common in almost unknown. arduous conditions, impressed with the ancient classics had to the world, and had begun. It spread there was that confined to a few, many, and a certain obligatory. In 149 enacted that each holder should, under pounds, send his school at six, or in years of age. These grounded in Latin, and philosophy for ing to qualify them duties of judges, like. This is proba compulsory education doctrines of the R foothold in Scotland vious article that very jealous of the things contributed out the kingdom and when we reflected the better able to events which mar Stuart, who succeeded when he died, on early age of thirty

SPRINGTIME A

Now that the s in British Columbia feel a restlessness, which finds a response nature. A few days was in the grasp of opening bud, not grace. We went glimpse out of our endless expanse of the Chinook wind,