

## The Colonist.

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## The Semi-Weekly Colonist

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## A STRONG ADVOCATE

Mr. G. H. Barnard leaves for Ottawa today, and carries with him the best wishes of his constituents. Victoria is expecting much from the present Dominion government, and probably very many other constituencies have similar hopes. If our requests are large perhaps they are born of a period of almost studied neglect through which we have passed, and perhaps we will be satisfied with somewhat less than we feel is our due. One thing is certain. In Mr. Barnard Victoria will have a member who can be relied upon to use all his powers to secure what his constituents as a whole want. He has shown his anxiety to serve the constituency in the past, and now that he will be sitting on the government side of the house there is little doubt that his earnest advocacy of requirements will be listened to sympathetically, receive the best consideration, and where possible whatever is asked for will be accomplished. The requests which from time to time have been made upon the government could in no instance have been called outrageous. All Victoria wants is that she should receive federal treatment commensurate with her rapid growth. If we ask for increased harbor facilities it is only because the tonnage to the port is being added to every month. If the local seafarers ask for compensation the reason is that their industry is a dead letter. And similarly with all else that is sought. Mr. Barnard has always shown that he was ready to listen with the utmost sympathy to the requests of different organizations, and the matters which he so consistently advocated in the last parliament were always those which vitally affected the community. That he will do so during the next few years, and with much more chance of success, seems certain, for in Mr. Barnard and his colleagues he will address a sympathetic cord. Since his election Mr. Barnard has been ceaselessly ascertaining the needs of the city, and he goes to Ottawa primed with a full knowledge of what is wanted, and with an enthusiastic desire to do everything he can to assist in the progress and development of his constituency.

## POST OFFICE REQUIREMENTS

The public generally will agree with the board of trade on the inadequacy of the post office. The special committee appointed to look into the matter sums up its findings as follows: "The insufficiency of floor space to carry on the business; poor light generally for the staff to work in; and no ventilation." These are all defects which should be remedied without delay and whatever is decided upon about a new building it appears that the present structure will have to be remodelled pending the erection of another headquarters. Further there is the question of additional clerks and payment corresponding with the standard of wages on the Pacific Coast. The poor salaries have undoubtedly been the reason of the inadequacy and hence the inefficiency of the staff. Employment in the local post office has apparently only been regarded as the stepping stone to something better and there has been little stability among the complement of workers. Many instances of the delays in sorting mail have been brought to light and we quote one more to further point the moral. Last week a Victoria gentleman, who has a box in the post office found the following letters in one delivery: One from Victoria, posted September 9th; one from Arizona, posted September 25th; one from San Francisco, posted September 27th; one from Victoria, posted September 29th; one from Victoria, posted October 11th, and one from Victoria, posted November 1st. There is obviously something radically wrong with a system which permits of an irregularity of this description which is only on a par with complaints which have been voiced for some years past. Either we want a new post office with greater accommodation and a more adequate staff or an entire reorganization of the present system is necessary. It appears to us that another building should be provided and is goes without saying that it should be located at as central a point as possible. The present structure, with some slight remodelling, could be used as a custom house for which it is well situated. Mr. Barnard, who leaves for Ottawa today, is fully apprised of the conditions which exist and we have little doubt that post office requirements will be among the first matters which he will take up with the authorities.

## GERMANY AND FRANCE.

People have got so into the habit of

taking the military supremacy of Germany for granted that it is something of a surprise to read an article by Mons. Helais Belloc in which he shows reasons why this alleged superiority may on trial prove to be more imaginary than real. He does not attempt to dispute the enormous fighting power of Germany; his point seems to be that popularly the irresistibility of the Kaiser's army has been taken for granted chiefly because it has been so often alleged. Mons. Belloc makes a comparison between the position of Germany and France. He points out that the military policy of the former has been based upon the idea that a war is gained by success in the first "rush," and takes little or no account of the possibility of a check or a counter-invasion. This is based upon the remarkable success of the German army in the last war with France. At that time the latter was not prepared, although Napoleon III. had deceived himself into the belief that everything was in readiness, "down to the last button on the last soldier's gaiters." Germany, with a wonderful organization, and an immeasurable superiority in artillery, was able to march from victory to victory. There is no doubt that this remarkable success led the military authorities of the new empire to overestimate the prowess of their own army and underestimate the strength of their enemy. Mons. Belloc thinks that his country has made greater progress in military defence than her rival has in military aggression. He dwells upon the proverbial uncertainty of war, and he asserts that French soldiers are quicker in action and in some respects better armed than their possible antagonists.

While the German policy seems to be to stake everything upon a successful "rush," France has devoted her energies to the development of such a plan of defence that the progress of an invading army could be seriously checked if not wholly prevented. It seems not unreasonable to claim, as he does, that when a nation trusts everything to the quick success of a single campaign everything that may delay its victory renders defeat more probable. He is very guarded in what he says on this point, for he does not pretend to say whether the elaborate system of fortifications which France has perfected would delay an invader days or weeks or months. Germany has held that forts are so nearly useless as not to be worth what they cost; but it is pointed out that the experience of the Japanese at Port Arthur completely demolished this theory. It would be unsafe for a German army to advance into France with a hostile force in fortresses in its rear. No army could maintain its communications under such conditions. Hence Mons. Belloc claims that Germany would have to reduce the double chain of fortresses which guard the eastern frontier of France. If the first advance should be checked, anything, even a counter-invasion, would be possible, and Germany has not prepared herself to meet such an emergency.

After dealing with the various aspects of the case and giving Germany full credit for everything that can be claimed on her behalf, Mons. Belloc closes his paper with the statement that Teutonic military supremacy exists more in the minds of the general public than among experts, whose duty it is to keep themselves informed of the facts. It must be admitted that the manner in which France challenged a declaration of war over the Moroccan incident bears out the distinguished writer's views.

## WHITE FISHERMEN.

The returns from the fisheries of Labrador during the past two summers have been very poor. Last winter the inhabitants had a hard time owing to the shortage and the second failure during the recent season has made matters much worse. The people are now facing what threatens to be almost starvation. An appeal to the Newfoundland government has met with a response in the shape of funds, but these have proved insufficient to meet the situation and it seems likely that the Ottawa government will be asked to relieve the distress. Is there any reason why British Columbia should not profit by the plight of the fishermen in the East? We need those fishermen here to develop the industry and where possible to replace Asiatics. It would seem not only desirable but highly feasible that either through legislation or some other kind of governmental assistance a white race of fishermen should be developed on this coast. The whole province would benefit. The white man can outfish the Asiatic, but cannot compete with him on account of the cheapness of the Oriental. At Nanaimo bay where both whites and Japanese are at work it is stated that the former secure two tons of herring to every one secured by the latter. There is little doubt that at present fishermen both from Eastern Canada and the British Isles are deterred from coming to this province because they are given to understand that the industry is controlled by Orientals. Unless the employers of labor follow the advice of

Premier McBride, and replace Asiatics by white men, or unless the government takes some action this condition seems likely to continue and the chances of building up a white industry will be slim. The effect upon the prosperity of the province will be deterrent. Sir George Doughty, the head of a great fishing industry at Yarmouth, considers that the self-renewing power of the harvest of the sea on the Pacific Coast is capable of development to a point when it would equal annually the value of the whole cereal crop of Western Canada. There is abundance of salmon, cod, halibut and herring. The latter industry has hardly been touched, and on the whole very little is known of the other classes of white fish, their habits, their periodicity or their breeding grounds. These matters, however, will be ascertained to some extent in the future, and before it is too late, definite steps should be taken to insure that this immense resource is conserved for men of our own race, who in its exploitation will add to the wealth of the community. We hope that some effort will be taken to bring fishermen from Labrador to this coast, as their coming might prove the first step towards the consummation which Premier McBride so earnestly advocated in his Trafalgar Day speech.

Perusal of our Eastern Liberal contemporaries indicates that they have not yet got any further along than "agin the government."

What is known as the St. John valley railway in New Brunswick is to be built. The province of New Brunswick is a little over a hundred miles wide, and this will make four railways traversing it longitudinally. When our eastern friends want a railway they clamor till they get it.

Somebody has left the King of Spain a fortune of half a million gold dollars. The family are objecting. It will be interesting to see whether or not Alfonso keeps the money. Perhaps the dignity which hedges about the Spanish throne will not permit him to learn of this windfall. You may remember the old story of the man who spoke of the queen's legs, only to be informed by a grave chamberlain that "the Queen of Spain has no legs."

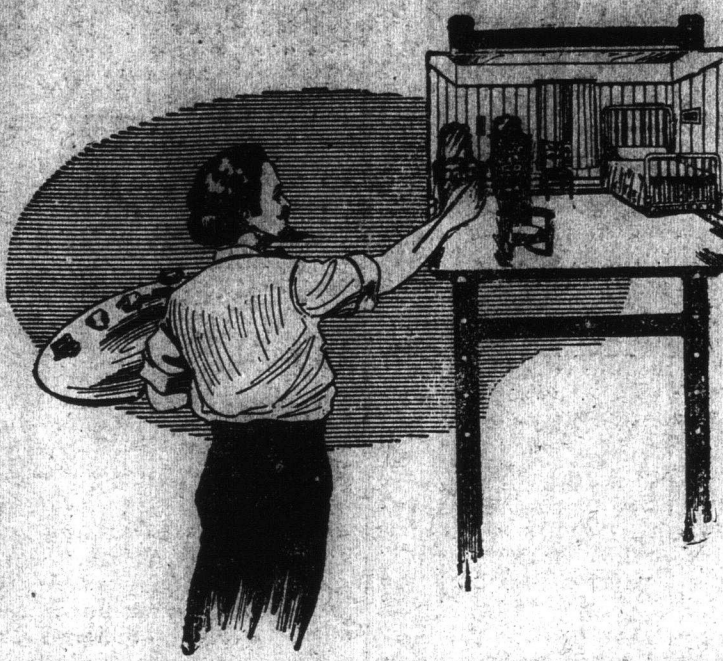
The story of the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Isabella Barlow at Clinton, makes very sad reading. The conduct of the hotel proprietor as related at the inquest furnishes an exhibition which is happily unique in British Columbia. It is a tale of such a callous character as we can scarcely credit. When human life is at stake it is customary for people of our race to cast all other considerations to the wind and to concentrate every effort towards the alleviation of suffering. The case of Mrs. Barlow furnishes an exception to that rule which is unparalleled by a single redeeming point.

The lull in British politics at the present time is very remarkable. It affords evidence of the truth of what has been recently said by prominent public men, namely, that the mass of the people are not deeply concerned with the problems which from time to time agitate the politicians. Things are being said in regard to Home Rule, which, if the people believed them, would cause intense popular excitement; but no one seems to be very much concerned about the matter except the small minority with whom politics is either a business or a pastime. The passage of the Parliament Bill has hardly made a ripple upon the surface of the national life. We do not believe this lull indicates that the British people are apathetic, but rather that their sense of discrimination is remarkably well developed, and that they are able to judge what are the things that really count.

Mr. Booth Tarkington, the novelist, is being sued by his wife for divorce. The lady alleges habitual cruelty. The allegations are not such as suggest cruelty. Mr. Tarkington's wife seems to have a desire to go along in her own way, and Mr. Tarkington prefers his way. He supplies her with what money she requires and treats her civilly enough when they happen to meet. This does not seem to satisfy the lady, and as for the man, he declares it would be unchivalrous to oppose the application, so doubtless those whom the parson, or perhaps it was the justice of the peace, joined together, the courts will proceed to put asunder. This sort of thing seems to open boundless opportunities for divorce. All that is necessary is for a wife to say she is tired of her husband, and for the husband to be "chivalrous," and the trick is done. What puzzles us is the necessity for taking such cases into court. Why not dispose of them by allowing the parties to put an advertisement in the paper saying that they are no longer man and wife.

Penticton's town council has declined to endorse a petition favoring local option.

The jury in the Fernie case of Carter vs. Barclay, for slander, arising out of statements made by Barclay as to the manner in which the relief funds of the U. M. W. of A. had been handled has resulted in a dismissal with costs against the plaintiff.



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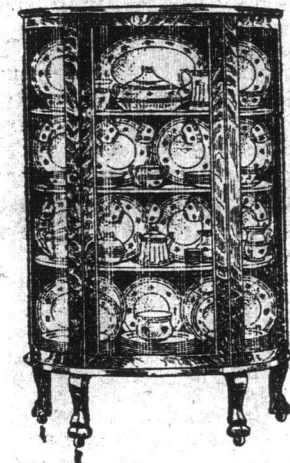
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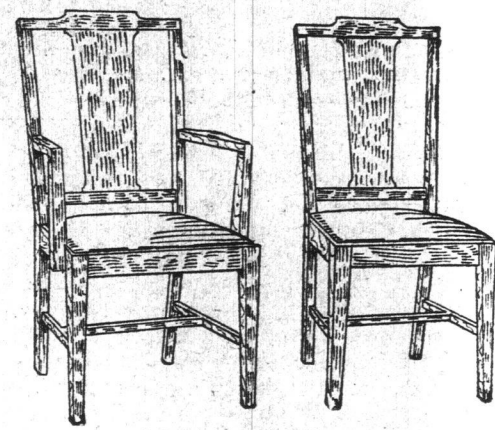


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Cheese Dishes, each .....	50c
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Teapots, each .....	\$1.25
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## HO

Here is the election held in B. confederation with 1st, 1871. It was Victoria's best known R. B. McMicking, the extraordinary e the terms of the Ca ish Columbia was three senators and eral councils.

It was in Dec election was to be to elect a represent in the Canadian H and, who was on who walked from peg in to the Ca of 62—had gone t mess after a few which the election On the morning of Micking chanced to magistrate, the la old friend of his, and rare social respect and respect.

The morning bad habit of that season, for Yale lie as it, blows up fr mountains, a mile Fraser flows to th Department of Ju a tin stove was unsuccessful effort. On either side of their feet irrever Magistrate Bushby attitude of poised deavoring to help ature by a heated events, when the the returning offic forgot this is nom its just about the Micking, while I up the electors!" So saying, Mr. hailing the solita voluntary election nomination day.

## Wond

Only those w peep behind the the marvels of th everything is run science is the key ments—science in science in cooking Dip down into the largest of New science means to In the sub-ba below the sidewa most the entire could satisfy prac munity of from makes the hotel, are concerned, al of outside assista The whirling of dynamos, motors graceful, tells yo are dancing in th ply of 50,000 cub filtered and pum tors, twenty-six in and that twenty sized skating rink

How an alche have revelled in of ice of this ki Yet it doesn't b engineer, who is planning as well mechanics in the tiple activities. of some kind wh the sub-basement floor in the reifr Jones-Smith's p ments the ice-cold cate salads and them. It is a bri the thirty up frigerators and ment, as well as tenth floor for t and blankets.

Thousands d It saves the year to have its department. For outside prices w a few examples: mos and engines tube boilers of 35 per cent. of this sing work through exhaust steam is ed hotel plant, e months. It heats building through

The varied na tory again shows shop and draught expensive machin ed by a costly s A design is draw side at a compa part finished and drills of the mac chanical storeroo ferent items.