

## The Colonist.

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### THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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#### THE ROSE SHOW.

The Victoria Horticultural Society is greatly to be congratulated upon the success of its rose show. The public-spirited ladies and gentlemen, who keep this organization in existence and devote so much time and attention to making its public exhibitions a success, deserve the thanks of the community. One of Victoria's great charms is its flowers, and it is an excellent thing to have frequent exhibitions of what our florists and amateur gardeners can do in the way of producing bloom. Such exhibitions are highly attractive and they beguile a spirit of emulation which is highly commendable and leads to excellent results. There is much pleasure to be got out of flower gardens, and everything calculated to promote an interest in floriculture deserves encouragement.

#### OVER CLASSIFICATION.

The Hodgins charges have been withdrawn and the special committee has gone out of existence, but the letter of the Assistant Chief Engineer of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company to the Chief Engineer of the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners yet remains undisposed of. That official absolutely condemned the Quebec system of classification, and says that under it "the specifications have been entirely ignored." This has been the case for many months and was the practice seven months before the Commissioners reported to Parliament that the classification in Quebec "agreed with the specifications and was therefore perfectly regular." It is of work reported to be regular that the G.T.P. Pacific engineer says:

"We had detailed percentages for each cut, and were greatly surprised at the allowance made for solid rock and loose rock. In nearly every case where the cuttings were not entirely all ledge, the estimate given for 'solid rock' is double or more than double what it should be. In fact, the specifications have been entirely ignored, and an excessive allowance made."

He concludes his letter with this remarkable language:

"As before stated, these over-classifications are not made through error in judgment, nor upon the decision of the resident or division engineers, who are fully acquainted with the character of the work, but by arbitrary orders from their superior. To such classification mentioned above, increasing the cost of the work to such an alarming extent, we must seriously protest, and respectfully request that either yourself or the Assistant Chief Engineer visit the work, and pass judgment upon the classification as made."

Surely it will not be pretended that such a protest as this ought to be overlooked, and that all investigation ought to cease because the Assistant Chief Engineer has seen fit to withdraw his accusations against the good faith of the Commissioners. The issue was not one between Major Hodgins and the Commissioners, but between the people of Canada and the men who are charged by the government with the responsibility of expending millions of public money. Incidentally it is an issue between the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company and the government, because the company has to pay interest upon the cost of the road, and it necessarily will object to paying for over-classification. It is no answer to say that this is a question to be determined later on, and that even if there has been too much charged up against the road the company will not have to pay interest on it. This may be satisfactory to the company, which is able to protect itself by a formal protest; but it ought not to be satisfactory to the people, because once the contractors have been paid according to an over-classification, there will be no way of getting the money back again into the public treasury. The contractors will be under no legal or moral obligation to return it, and as a general proposition contractors do not refund money that has been deliberately paid them with official sanction. The situation is really a very serious one. Apparently there is some monumental extravagance being practiced, and the public believes there is fraud mixed up in it. One need not be surprised. It is the duty of the government to clear the matter up, and if it refuses to do so, the electors will hold it responsible.

#### A NEEDLESS DANGER.

Under the above caption, the Toronto Globe deals with a matter which is by no means confined to the Ontario city. Not very long ago a prominent citizen of Victoria was injured in the same way as those persons referred to in the Globe's article, which we quote without comment, for none is necessary, and invite the attention of the B.C. Electric Railway Company to it. The Globe said:

"Two more people have been injured by the highly dangerous practice of running street cars past the cars which are discharging passengers. That the injuries suffered were not more serious is due to a lucky accident, and does not make the creation or continuance of the danger any more excusable. To run a car past a standing car creates a danger such as no factory inspector would tolerate among industrial employees. A street car under way is a dangerous piece of moving machinery. As such it creates the need of precautions against accidents. A free view of the road and of the approaching car gives necessary safety. When such free view is shut off it is unpardonable and even criminal negligence to run the car. A standing car shuts off the view that is essential to safety, and the law should require the approaching car to come to a halt."

A piece of moving machinery in a factory is not a source of danger if fully exposed to view. Unobstructed sight gives safety either with moving machinery or approaching street cars. But if moving machinery is so concealed by obstructions that employees may approach without any visible reminder of its proximity, absolute safety is insured by protecting rails or gratings. Experience has shown many times that it is not enough for employees to know of the danger. They must have a visible reminder of the proximity whenever they approach it. Factory inspection insures proper safeguards wherever such visible reminders are absent.

Experience has also shown that it is

not sufficient for the public to know of the passing of street cars. They must have a visible reminder of the danger whenever a moving car approaches. When the view of the approaching car is shut off by another car taking on or discharging passengers the approaching car should be stopped. This is a simple and urgently needed precaution, and such as would be required to guard against a similar danger in any factory. Now that many stops have been cut out, the additional stops entailed would be trifling compared with the danger averted. It is seldom that a moving car approaches at the time when another is stationary, but when it does so it creates a situation too dangerous to be tolerated on any public highway.

There are several places in this city where there are likely to be accidents from this cause. One of them is at the intersection of Belleville and Government streets and the other at the intersection of Courtenay and Government. Nearly every one who leaves a car at either of these points does so for the purpose of crossing the street, in the first instance to go to the Parliament Buildings or to the C. P. R. wharf, or to go out Belleville, and in the second instance to go to the postoffice. Several instances have come to the notice of the Colonist in which accidents have been narrowly averted at these points because of a car coming along while the other was stationary, and thereby obstructing the view. We suggest that no car should be allowed to pass a stationary car at either of these points unless the stationary car is disabled. Pending the issue of such an order, we advise all persons leaving a car at these points not to cross the street until their car has moved on.

#### A FREE PRESS.

The Saturday Sunset, of Vancouver, defines what is in its opinion a free newspaper. It is one "whose editor expresses his own honestly acquired convictions." Then it adds that a paper that is merely the organ of a party or corporation or other private interest is no more independent "than a cayuse staked out on a sidehill is a free horse." This sort of thing passes with some people for freedom, but does not strike them that a paper that voices the interests of an individual is just as likely to be controlled by self-interest as one that voices the sentiments of several individuals. Those persons who have had anything like a long and varied experience in editorial management will bear us out in saying that the talk of political or corporate control of newspapers or of any standard of the shoe is often upon the other foot. It may frequently happen that editors of party newspapers discuss public questions with their political friends and a line of action is agreed upon, but this is just as likely to be an honest confession as one reached by an individual who chooses to call himself independent because he stands so strongly as a corporation control goes, it is a bogeyman invented to alarm unthinking people.

As a general proposition even the editors of party newspapers express "their own honestly acquired convictions." Sometimes they do not, but better authority than they do not. The Colonist has said that the fundamental principle of party government is compromise. As society is a compromise, it is not a line of thought which any one individual may hold. For it is possible that the "independent" individual may be wrong; he may be the slave of his own prejudices; he may not be practical in his ideas; his views, if carried into effect, could either be unproductive of profitable results or lead to evil consequences. As an honest Liberal or Conservative newspaper is possible, a man may give his support to a party without endorsing everything that it does, and justify his course by believing that the policy of his party on the whole, is better for the country than the policy of its opponents, and if a man may do this, why may not a newspaper?

There may be instances in which newspapers are the organs of corporations. We do not know of any such in Canada, but there may be. We believe that the great majority of newspapers are absolutely independent of corporate control. Because a newspaper publishes the claims of, say, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company or the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, it means follows that it is under the influence of either the companies and people who support it, or it is simply judging others by what they would like to be themselves. The truth of the matter is that most newspapers are honest and most newspaper editors express "their own honestly acquired convictions." Independence is not a monopoly of journalists or editors. On the contrary such newspapers are often more than the vehicles for the expression of prejudiced and warped judgments and personal animosities.

#### POPULAR DELUSIONS.

Popular delusions die hard, but one hardly would have expected to find like Pearson's Weekly of London to speak of Alaska as a wilderness of ice and snow, and to occasionally see some extraordinary blunders in the cheaper British publications in regard to Canadian affairs, and even some of the more pretentious publications fall into ridiculous errors. One common mistake is for writers to describe the climate of Canada as they might describe that of the Isle of Wight. They forget that the Dominion is nearly as large as Europe and has about as great, or nearly as great, a variety of climate. So also in regard to the soil of Canada, its social conditions, its facilities of communication and so on. An editor who would be greatly shocked, if any one should fail to recognize him as one of the leaders of the tribe, in returning an article to be amended by the elision of all remarks about the possibilities of the Peace River country, said that it was the custom of Canadian writers to exaggerate everything about their country, and he had been told that in Canada and we know. One meets with very grotesque errors even on the part of Canadians themselves. One prominent Toronto business man never knew until he reached the Pacific Coast that Vancouver was not on Vancouver Island. A prominent Canadian public man supposed that Vancouver Island lay off the western coast of the State of Washington, until his error was pointed out to him in Victoria. Today it is a common belief among millions of cowboys that the "shoot-up" towns of Western Canada and that Indians with war paint and strings of moccasins are a common sight in our streets. Possibly Canadians are under just as great delusions of these countries as the people of other countries are, but we would not like to think we are as ignorant of other places as some people are of our place.

But there is no telling. We are all very likely to have formed exceedingly erroneous ideas respecting people and countries that we have never seen. To the ancient Romans all peoples outside of the Empire were barbarians, and a similar idea is too often found with people to day. They do not look upon what is unknown as magnificent, but rather the other way.

#### THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

In his speech before the local Conservative Association, Mr. McBride reviewed the political outlook in the province, and we think any candid critic will have to concede that he was not unreasonable in his claims as to the present prospects of the party of which he is the local leader. Speaking more particularly of Victoria he expressed the opinion that Mr. Templeman's defeat in a foregone conclusion. The majority of the people of this city are Conservative by preference. It is true that they have on several recent occasions returned liberal candidates, but normally the city is Conservative. We think this was shown at the election of Mr. Templeman. That gentleman received a very considerable Conservative support and Mr. J. L. Beck with was not backed up by a united party. Mr. Templeman also had the prestige attaching to the head of one of the public departments, and a tremendous parliamentary majority; yet his relative strength, under these exceptionally favorable circumstances was shown by the vote to be very little greater than that of Mr. Riley at a general election. Pending the issue of such an order, we advise all persons leaving a car at these points not to cross the street until their car has moved on.

Large problems, involving interests, in which Victoria is present and much greater future interests, have been up for discussion, but Mr. Templeman has never felt called upon to say anything on behalf of his constituency, neither can his friends claim that as a silent worker he had achieved anything calculated to strengthen his hold upon the confidence of the community. On two important matters he has thrown his influence against the Conservative party. The question of better terms; the other, the more recent one of the Chinese head tax. On both these questions he had taken the position that the claims of the province, upon which we are all united here, are not just or equitable, and he has been strongly entrenched in the House of Commons, but one of a group of ministers who have collected and found wanting. Concerning the administration of his own special department, which is largely routine, we have no comment to make, except to say that no scandals have arisen in connection with it, and in all fairness we can say that Mr. Templeman would permit himself to be mixed up in shady transactions. As a member of the Conservative party, he will stand in a very different position from that which he occupied at the bye-election, and while we make it a rule never to indulge in political propaganda, we are satisfied that the defeat of Mr. Templeman is easily within the powers of the Conservatives, and that they will keep up the excellent organization which they have at present.

#### MR. TAFT CHOSEN.

The choice of Mr. Taft as the Republican candidate for the presidency on the first ballot speaks well for the manner in which his campaign was conducted, and is a signal demonstration of the quality of Mr. Roosevelt. That the latter might have been the choice of his party, if he had given so much as a hint that he wished to be no one denies; that if he had been chosen, he would have been triumphantly elected no one will question. That millions of people in the United States of both political parties would have welcomed his candidature is certain. Yet he stood in the given word and refused to accept the honor that was being thrust upon him in a most unbecoming manner. He could easily have made it evident that, while he had determined not to be a candidate, he would not refuse to listen to the united voice of his party, and that he had done so, we do not know that any one could have blamed him. The condition of things in the United States would justify a man in not taking too extreme a view of the obligation of such promise as he made. But he not only stood by his word, but he used his position to secure the nomination of another. There is in this act a promise of better things for United States politics. We feel like congratulating the people of that country upon this new illustration that their President is a man in no common mold, and that they have been able to show the world such a valuable exposition of the claim that, notwithstanding all the objectionable features of their public life, as a rule the men, who are entrusted with the highest office in their gift, are inspired by high life.

The nomination of Mr. Taft means his election almost to a certainty. It also means that the same general policy which Mr. Roosevelt has followed will prevail during the next presidential term. On the whole this policy is for the good of the people. Possibly

at times President Roosevelt has been a little too precipitate, but he has always been honest. Mr. Taft will doubtless be just as honest and just as fearless, but he is likely to be more cautious. He will be a safe man at the head of affairs during a period which is somewhat critical in the development of the nation.

#### A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

The London Standard commenting upon the Pan-Anglican Congress, makes the following notable observations: "On Monday we printed a list—necessarily not quite complete—of the Bishops who will spend an eventful period in the metropolitan city of their Church. Some represent small British communities almost homogeneous in faith; others come from populous and progressive regions which support almost as many denominations as our own country; some, again, are traveling from lands where a small group of Christian worshippers seem but as a drop in the great human sea of paganism. These men, perhaps, will have most to tell us that we stand in need of learning. For the more we learn and earnest they are in their mission work the more willing they are to acknowledge the elements of truth and permanent value in other religions, however stunted in their development or perverted from the original purity of their objects. The breadth and tolerance acquired by intercourse with all sorts of men of thought, a diverse code of ethics, and a traditional outlook upon life and its purpose by no means alien to the Christian religion, are a preparation of a higher creed. Yet, as a rule, they will be found ranged on the side of the religion which they have prepared to accept a new dispensation. It is the duty of the British government as an Imperial authority, and of the Church of England as an Imperial Church, to avoid and discourage any policy of interference with the religious tenets or time-honored customs of any race within the Empire—always provided that these are not hostile to good order and elementary morals. The bloodshed and disturbance caused by injudicious zealots of his constituted authority are explored, a trouble likely to be repeated, because the most enthusiastic propagandists have no other weapon now grave a setback may be given to the cause which they have at heart. The Muslims and Buddhists look to the Imperial government for protection in their ancient faith, and are as fully entitled to claim the enjoyment of spiritual liberty as the innumerable sects in Great Britain. This principle, we rejoice to think, is generally recognized and faithfully observed by the English clergy who are laboring in foreign lands. The obligation, no less equally incumbent upon Christians of every denomination, but the sense of it should be, as indeed it generally is, amongst those who aspire to cover half the globe with a network of Christian missions."

Such a statement, if it correctly represents the facts, indicates a new departure in missionary effort. We have no cause to regret that it was the duty of all Christians to root out every vestige of what we have been so long and so earnestly endeavoring to root out. The religious beliefs of all people outside the pale of Christendom were evil and the source of the greatest darkness. Many intelligent laymen have contended that to destroy the religion of the heathen in their own religion and to present to them ideas, which they could not be expected to comprehend, was to do more harm than good. Occasionally a returned missionary would say something to the same effect. Very recently, the official of one of the greatest of all religious organizations, who had spent many years in China, in an interview published in the Colonist some time ago, spoke very freely to the same effect. He deprecated the presentation of doctrinal truths as we see them to the Chinese, and insisted that the only real missionary work was that which was exemplified in good works. By these he thought China would in time become Christianized, but it was a long time. The old notion that missionaries were in duty bound to present the Gospel to the heathen, so as to give them an opportunity to embrace it and thus justify their final punishment for refusing to do so, has been abandoned by all serious and narrow-minded minority. There is much good in all religions, and missionary work to be successful must be a work of good will and seek to improve upon it. The policy of denunciation has been a failure; but wherever it has been the policy of good works has been a success. It is refreshing to learn that the majority of the Anglican bishops appreciate this view of the case.

The Russian Duma has its own ideas of the way to promote temperance. It seriously proposes that the royal arms of Russia, which every bottle of vodka bears on its label, shall be replaced by a skull and cross bones, so that consumers of the national beverage may have before them constantly a warning that overindulgence is dangerous."

Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P., has given his views on Oriental immigration to the Standard of Empire. He takes much the same ground as the Colonist has taken, although we do not for a moment suggest that he patterned his views of those of this paper. We are very glad that he has taken the opportunity to place his opinions so strongly and in such a prominent way before the people of the United Kingdom.

Welland, Ont., June 19.—Andrew Hoover, an old farmer, was killed by lightning while rowing in the Welland river last night.

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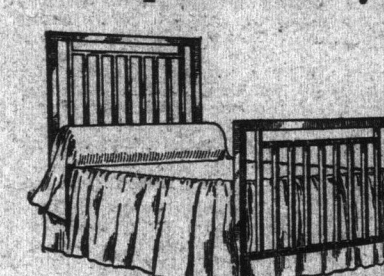
During the past eighteen months five thousand bedrooms have been built, refurnished, or are in the process of being built in Victoria and district; during the next eighteen months this number will be greatly increased. Our output of Bedsteads and Bedroom Furnishings has been phenomenal, but we have made preparations to cope with all your requirements.



In our Bedstead Department we have just unpacked a large shipment of new bedsteads both brass and iron. They are

works of art, yet practical in construction; the tubes, filling rods, castings and pillars are of the very finest materials, the workmanship is the best. In the brass you can select either round or square tubing, either continuous pillars, straight foot or bow foot; the manufacturer guarantees the lacquer for ten years. In the iron bedsteads the color combinations are exquisite, you can easily match your bedroom furnishings.

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## For Men Only

On Saturday we received a large consignment of the very latest office desks, roll top and flat tops, but—and this is the point—they are superior to anything that has been shown in Victoria in this line. We shall price them on Monday at low figures—you can see them at any time. Take elevator to fourth floor.

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