

## The Colonist.

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## THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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## THE COAL STRIKE

The prospects of a coal famine on the Prairies during the coming winter is so serious a thing that it seems unfortunate that the discussion of the Crow's Nest Pass coal miners' strike should be discussed in a spirit of political partisanship. The political aspect of the case can rest until the supply of fuel for the people of the Prairies has been secured.

The Colonist took occasion on the time of a previous strike to suggest it to be the duty of the government to provide a sufficient store of coal to meet any emergency that might arise from strike or otherwise. The wheat-growing area ought never to be in danger of a fuel famine. Such an occurrence would do more harm to the country than can be estimated, and it would result in terrible suffering to tens of thousands of people. We are not specially enamored of the idea of government operation of coal mines; but we do recognize the fact that an abundance of fuel is as necessary to the people of the Prairie Provinces as is the government of the country itself, and even more so, for the people can get through a winter without government, but they cannot get through it without coal.

Under these circumstances and in view of the prevailing uncertainty as to the sufficiency of a coal supply from mines privately operated, we once more urge upon the consideration of the Dominion government the advisability of providing a stock of coal sufficient to meet all demands for a whole winter. The lives of people ought not to be left at the mercy of unreasonable miners or stubborn mine-owners. The case seems to be one for the exercise of that residuum of power which is vested in the government of the country to be employed when the public welfare demands. As long ago as the time of the Pharaohs it was deemed good policy to store up grain against lean years. Some of the wiser Roman emperors did the same thing. It seems to us to be the duty of the government to store up coal against the possibilities of a shortage from strikes or other causes.

## THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

It is no exaggeration to say that the coming of the Duke of Connaught to Canada as Governor-General is regarded in this part of the Dominion with a very great deal of satisfaction. This feeling is by no means confined to what is sometimes called the "English" element of the population, by which is meant those who have recently come from the Mother Country. Indeed, we think the strongest feeling is among those persons whose families have been Canadians for generations.

We doubt if many people in the United Kingdom quite appreciate how the last named class of Canadians feel towards the Mother Country. Those whose families have kept the Union Jack flying in North America for more than a century feel a sense of identity with the British nation that cannot easily be expressed in words. It is a fact that at the time of the Alaskan boundary award the strongest protests made in this part of the country were by people who had not long left the shores of the United Kingdom. Canadians as a rule accepted the decision, doubtless with disappointment but without complaint. It was one more sacrifice to the Empire and as it had to be made it was made with dignity.

To such people the coming of a member of the Royal House to the Governor-Generalship is a recognition of their status within the British nation that is very welcome. There have been representatives of the Crown sent out, who were regarded in a sense as being chosen to govern the people of Canada. They were to correct the drift of public sentiment, to remove political difficulties, to supply the country with advice and perhaps something more. But no native-born Canadian looks upon the coming of the Duke in that light. His advent is regarded as an admission that the Dominion has grown to the full stature of self-government. To send a Royal Duke to Rideau Hall and keep him within the leading strings of Downing street would have been out of the question. The Duke comes because within Canada he will be as the King, the outward and visible sign of the monarchy in a way that no one of lower rank than royalty could be. He comes only as the representative of the King's office. It is true, but nothing can prevent him from being looked upon in a special way as the representative of the King personally. Hence his coming will make stronger the feeling of sympathy be-

tween Canadians and the United Kingdom. The British people pride themselves upon being ultra-practical and Canadians flatter themselves that they are likewise. As a matter of fact they are both awayed by sentiment to a degree unequalled by the people of any other nationality. It is a sentiment that keeps the British sovereign on his throne; it is sentiment that keeps the British Empire together. The coming of the Duke will stimulate this sentiment in ways that cannot be defined in advance, and therefore he will be very welcome to Canada.

## THE LORDS AND THE VETO

The despatches from London yesterday said that most of the Unionist papers were urging the Lords to accept the Parliament Bill. It is with some little satisfaction that the Colonist recalls its attitude towards this measure. Almost alone among the Conservative papers of Canada it has refused to join in the Unionist outcry against it. We have endeavored without either supporting or opposing the measure, to enable our readers to arrive at an understanding of what it really meant and what would be the probable result of its introduction. We have been quite well aware that this attitude was not acceptable to certain extremists, who seem to be under the impression that it is the duty of a Conservative newspaper in Canada to shut its eyes to what is actually transpiring in the United Kingdom and serve up, call it or less, frequently denunciations of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George. We have thought it to be our duty simply to keep our readers informed of what has been going on and as to the probable trend of events in the future.

The conclusion reached by the London Unionist journals day before yesterday were the same as were reached by this paper months ago, namely that the Lords would have to choose between acceding to the Parliament Bill and placing the King in a position which no British sovereign ought to be forced to occupy. It has been the claim of the Lords that they have always bowed to public opinion when it has been constitutionally expressed. It is idle for them to say that Mr. Asquith did not receive from the people a free commission to deal with the powers of the Hereditary Chamber, when the recent election was forced upon him by the inability of the Constitutional Conference to reach a working solution of the question. For the Lords to insist that he had received no such commission would be to cast upon the King the duty of deciding whether he had received it or not. If His Majesty should decide that Mr. Asquith had received a sufficient popular mandate to proceed with the Bill, he would have no alternative than to create as many peers as might be necessary to overcome the hostile majority in the Lords. If he should decide that Mr. Asquith had received no such commission, then we would have the unprecedented situation of a Sovereign interpreting a popular vote otherwise than as the representatives elected have interpreted it. Thus the King would be brought into collision with the majority of a House of Commons fresh from the people, and hence His Majesty's personal action would become an issue, which no plausible interpretation of the maxim that the king can do no wrong would keep out of the resulting election. We have steadily refused to believe that the Lords would force such a crisis as would at once arise under such circumstances. We do not say that if His Majesty should choose to put his own interpretation upon the result of the late election, and by so doing force the Asquith ministry from power, the prestige of his name and the popularity of the reigning House might not combine to carry the Unionists to victory. We only say that not in centuries has any such issue come before the people of the United Kingdom, and they would be rash men who would force one now.

## THE CONFERENCE

It seems to be understood that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be asked to make a statement in Parliament concerning the recent Imperial Conference. We assume that in such a case he will give a detailed and well-considered report of what was done together with his construction of the decisions reached by the assembled Prime Ministers. If such a statement is made, it is to be hoped that it will include not only those matters upon which the Conference decided to act, but those upon which action was not taken although they were discussed. In other words, we would like to have from the Prime Minister a full explanation of what was not as well as of what was done at the Conference. We suppose there is one aspect of the case upon which it is unreasonable to expect any deliverance, namely, the communications made to the Colonial Premiers on the subject of defence. These, we assume, will be regarded as confidential, and to this no exception can be

taken. But all the other topics discussed are properly matters upon which Parliament might well express its views, and it is to be hoped that an opportunity will be given the members of doing so.

If the work of Imperial unification is to proceed, the people must be got to take a live interest in it. At present we do not observe many signs of such an interest. Most people take it for granted that the Empire will be kept together somehow or other; but there are many electors whose concern in political matters does not reach much further than the possible chance for an appropriation that will be of some value to them or of an office for themselves or their friends. It is a long time since the people of Canada have been really aroused over any political question, and in respect to Imperial matters they are very inert. Their interest can be awakened by such a statement as the Prime Minister might reasonably be asked to make and by the discussion that would ensue thereon. We are not suggesting that such a statement would disclose anything upon which party lines could be drawn. We certainly hope it would not, for we can see no good likely to arise from the introduction of party politics into Imperial matters. We would like to see a fair and dignified statement from Sir Wilfrid as to what was done, whether by the adoption or rejection of resolutions, with the reasons in each case that influenced him, such a statement to be followed by a dignified discussion of the questions involved. Nothing would have a more potent effect in elevating the tone of Canadian public life than such a discussion.

And so the gay and festive mosquito is able to interfere with railway construction in Kootenay. Some people may smile at this, but they would not do so if they could once experience the mosquito when he sets to work in earnest.

The sympathy which the local evening paper feels for Mr. Borden is enough to draw tears from a grindstone. We can assure it that its sorrow need not be without hope, for Mr. Borden doubtless knows what he is about quite as well as does our contemporary.

We owe an apology to Mr. F. B. Pemberton. In yesterday's issue it was stated that he was fined for automobile speeding and that this was his third offence. Mr. Pemberton has never been summoned for exceeding the speed limit, the automobile which figured in the police court case being his firm's office car, which was not driven by him on any of the occasions in question.

There has been so much said about the knighting of Sir W. M. Aitken that some particulars regarding it may be of interest. The London correspondent of the Montreal Herald says that surprise has been expressed in well-informed circles in England at the fact that this appointment has excited criticism in Canada, and he says that neither the Laurier nor the Asquith ministry had anything to do with it, but it was made at the suggestion of Mr. Balfour, to whom Mr. Asquith extended an invitation to name several persons for recognition in coronation honors. Sir Max, as he has generally been called, rendered the Unionist party great service in Lancashire. It was at one time thought that he would come to Canada and act under Mr. Borden; but he has definitely decided to remain in British politics. The Herald correspondent says: "It is obvious, therefore, that Mr. Aitken's Knighthood comes to him through his Unionist friends, and is an acknowledgment of work done in Lancashire prior to the last general election and probably also of the personal sacrifices he will be forced to make by virtually forsaking business for politics. The Unionists have certainly secured a strong ally, for Sir W. M. Aitken's meteoric career is proof that he possesses in a large measure those qualities that are as necessary in the conduct of the affairs of a party as in those of a large business institution. That he is prepared to devote these qualities to public work, and to largely abandon the business occupations in which he has achieved very remarkable success is taken by the Canadian colony here as evidence of an interest in public affairs for which his critics in Canada have not given him credit. On this side of the Atlantic there be many to prophesy that Sir W. M. Aitken, in public life, will be as forceful and successful as Mr. W. M. Aitken has been in business."

## Fire in Seattle Cafe

SEATTLE, July 21.—Two hundred Potlatch merry-makers made a hurried exit from the Breakers Cafe early this morning when fire was discovered in the place. When a cloud of smoke first rushed through the room, which occupies the basement of a three-story brick building at First avenue and Cherry street, there was danger of panic, but the waiters took charge of the situation and got all the guests out safely. The loss, which was almost entirely confined to the cafe, is estimated at \$10,000, with no insurance. Several firemen were overcome by smoke in the basement, but were rescued by comrades wearing smoke helmets and to this no exception can be



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### CORONATION CHINA

We have just received a large shipment of beautiful Coronation China. These goods are the finest English Bone China, and are the production of one of the leading factories of Great Britain. The design on these goods is a marvel of artistic workmanship and shows portraits of the King and Queen surrounded with British Flags and the Royal Arms.

In addition to the Coronation China we have just received a magnificent assortment of other articles. Remember that all these goods are composed of the real ENGLISH BONE CHINA. Call and inspect these goods while selections are complete.



## SPECIAL SALE OF SAMPLE LACE CURTAINS

We are clearing out all patterns of Curtains of which we have only one or two pairs, at very advantageous prices, in order to clear our shelves for stock-taking purposes. These comprise our most popular and up-to-date Lace Hangings, and this sale of goods affords you a singular opportunity to secure your curtains for Fall housecleaning. You will find curtains here suitable for cottage or mansion, in Swiss, Irish Point, Brussels, Scotch Lace, Cable Net and Nottingham.

Prices run as follows:

\$1.50 values for .....	<b>\$1.25</b>	\$3.50 values for .....	<b>\$2.80</b>
\$2.00 values for .....	<b>\$1.60</b>	\$4.00 values for .....	<b>\$3.00</b>
\$2.75 values for .....	<b>\$2.25</b>	\$8.00 values for .....	<b>\$6.50</b>

And many of the more expensive Lace Curtains—all reduced.

## "KITCHEN HELPS"

We stock a large and varied assortment of "KITCHEN HELPS," little articles that make work in the kitchen a pleasure. It will be to the advantage of every lady in Victoria to call and inspect what we have in this line. Call often in order to be "up-to-date" in your kitchen.

Below we list a few offerings:

Dish Mops .....	<b>5c</b>	Apple Corers .....	<b>10c</b>
Mincers, 25c and .....	<b>15c</b>	Salad Servers, per pair 50c and .....	<b>35c</b>
Jug Mops .....	<b>25c</b>	Wooden Spoons .....	<b>10c</b>
Nutmeg Graters, 15c to .....	<b>5c</b>	Pot Cleaners .....	<b>25c</b>
Egg Beaters, 50c and .....	<b>25c</b>	Stove Lifters .....	<b>10c</b>
Bamboo Sink Brushes .....	<b>5c</b>	Tea Strainers .....	<b>5c</b>
Can Openers .....	<b>15c</b>	Rolling Pins .....	<b>25c</b>
		Mouse Traps .....	<b>5c</b>

LADIES--Remember Our Rest Room is on Our Second Floor and Was Built For Your Comfort--Take Elevator



## DROP IN AND SEE OUR KITCHEN CABINETS

Are you acquainted with the merits of our famous "HOOSIER" Kitchen Cabinets? If not, you should lose no time in doing so. Once you are the owner of one of these labor-saving devices you will wonder how you ever managed to get along without it. This piece of kitchen furniture is the result of much time and study spent to perfect an article that should prove a real "LABOR-SAVER," and we again urge on you the importance of coming here and discovering all their merits for yourself.

MAKE A POINT OF COMING TODAY

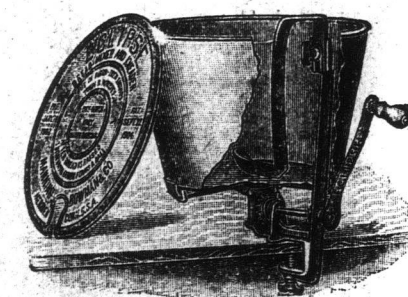
PRICED AT \$40.00

## DO YOU OWN A BREAD MAKER

We sell the best Bread-Maker on the market, and would be pleased to have you call in and let us demonstrate its merits to you. This Bread-Maker is easy to operate, strong in construction and, in short, the production of one of the most "up-to-date" factories. No one who has not used one of these useful machines can understand the satisfaction they give.

INVESTIGATE TODAY

PRICED AT \$3.00



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# WEILER BROS

Victoria's  
Popular  
Home  
Furnishers

## KNOWLEDGE

Have you not found if you have lived long enough to observe such things as these that the brilliant become the brilliant? We will pose of this, and at the same time to some persons, who are capped by a poor little into the cause and common-placed term, in later life. A pupil at school in his eminence to the tally and has a requires knowledge of duty of telling what and his teachers the education, whereas acquiring a store of may not be of use.

A store of knowledge. It broadens, fords a variety of has a tendency to man, whose whole ness affairs and ha nation, is apt to be has no relief from compensation for t must have known minds are a perfect and yet are never ordinate positions, not unknown in the cited. He was ve friends saw in him country's great me about geology that learn a thing as so pursued original tent and was able with certain other reputation among est stage he was e of a book-keeper. one. His mind w knowledge; but le resources he would go to work to ear case of another ma had all the philoso he was a delightful sunniest disposition do in a practical w and sell small art and the probably a hundred dollars. Like the other p liked by every one ble factor in a c lectual power might advantage.

Men of the ty taken extreme ca knowledge but lit perhaps even of were able, owing their memory, to a minimum of men in so readily that bring themselves process of bringin The word comes, meaning out, and Education is the powers. We ofte it takes him a lon when he has once Such a boy becom tell us that lack physical anatomy. By long disuse e ed members beo hand they are stre This is very com well to be remind place things. Of their lack of mem vated; but that is This lack of mem failure to acquire obstacle to the action, but it is not tion. If you feel and that you ar about to master s intellectual powers, ject, and you will stimulated by the is stimulated by.

Let us return boys, for this art schoolboys. The ory goes out into no teachers ready abilities. It is a g in school to instr are quickly visib sense of something tive life there is experience. Even to find time to man." Business ployment. He is fill a subordinate instruction. His ed at school that worth while by i out into life, but special demand. his place: Not low that others them, he has to