The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability
27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year $1 00
Six Months 50
Three months 25
Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

PRICE OF CROWN LANDS.

It is announced that the provincial government by order-in-council has increased the price of Crown lands to cash purchasers from $2.50 and $5.00 to $5.00 and $10.00. Up to a few years ago the Crown lands were divided into three classes and were sold at $1.00, $2.50 and $5.00 per acre. The present ministry abolished the third-class and no land was thereafter sold for less than $2.50 per acre. A further change has been expected, for in view of the steady appreciation in the value of farm lands there seemed no valid reason why the provincial treasury should not derive some of the benefit of it. The new price does not in any way affect lands applied for under the pre-emption law.

The course taken by the government in this matter will commend itself to the public generally. Up to very recently such prices would have been properly considered somewhat high, but no one will claim that today. The Hudson Bay Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have increased the price of their lands, and all private owners have done the same. In addition to increasing the price, the government it is announced will proceed to enlarge some of its reservations of land for pre-emptors.

The policy of conserving the resources of the province and facilitating the accumulation of land by actual settlers is one that will be fruitful of good results. It is also a very excellent thing from the standpoint of revenue. Possibly the doubling of the price of land may temporarily check purchases, but the province is in good shape for this, if it does occur, and in the long run the change will mean a great increase in income. The adoption of the new schedule of prices is in line with the general policy of the government under which the public domain has been made to contrbute great sums to the revenue, thereby making a reduction of direct taxation possible.

A VETERAN RESERVE.

The British Campaigners' Association of this city has asked the Dominion government to recognize them as a reserve corps. We hope that there are no reasons why this patriotic request cannot be complied with. This is only in accordance with a similar movement in progress in the United Kingdom and has, in point of fact, been inspired by it. The London Times of March 10th said:

At a meeting held on Tuesday afternoon at the Mansion House, Mr. Haldane read a memorandum embodying certain proposals in regard to the Veteran Reserve which have been submitted to the King, and which have obtained His Majesty's approval. Primarily the Veteran Reserve is a register of trained officers and men organized under the auspices of County Associations and encouraged by the military authorities with a view to increasing the resources for national defence. Wisely no explicit liability is to be undertaken, as experience shows that the uncertainty necessarily involved by such procedure acts as a deterrent to men otherwise willing to join. As the memorandum states, the ages, training, military qualifications and the intentions of the various registered members are sure to differ widely. Some of the younger men will doubtless be anxious to take their place as combatants in the ranks of the home defence forces, while their seniors may be expected to be willing to undertake equally important but less exacting duties. Similarly in peace time no definite liability will be incurred by those registering their names, but the organization will be developed mainly as a social institution, following the German example, to which we have more than once drawn attention. Thus the Reserve will receive official recognition on ceremonial occasions, including, we are glad to note, the forthcoming Coronation; provision will be made for its presence at local military functions; occasional assemblies in county towns or boroughs will be marked by an inspection by the Lord Lieutenant or other high authority; and the question of rendering suitable military honors at the funeral of a registered Veteran Reservist is under consideration. A feature in the organization is the absence of an age limit.

The Times thinks that all semi-military organizations ought to be under some central control, a view of the case with which we think there will be general agreement.

IMPERIAL POLITICS

Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of New Zealand, in an interview, which we print this morning, deals at length with imperial questions and especially with the proposal to establish a parliament for the Empire. His views are given so fully and with such force that it is unnecessary to epitomize them here. He lays the greatest stress upon the necessity for a central governing body of the Empire to determine its foreign policy, and to provide for its defence. There is much in what he says about the overseas having no representation in the body that determines the question of peace or war, although they are of necessity subject to all the consequences that might flow from hostilities between the United Kingdom and any foreign power. We use the expression "United Kingdom," not because we do not hold with Sir Wilfrid Laurier that when the Empire is at war Canada is at war, but to bring out the fact that it is a ministry, kept in power by the votes of the people of the United Kingdom alone, which has a voice in saying whether a world-wide Empire shall be plunged in hostilities, or has the right to determine, if war should come, upon what terms peace should be brought about. We speak of Canada as a nation, and so she is, but there is one aspect of national life that she does not possess. She has no voice in determining whether or not a line of policy may be taken which may result in an attack upon her frontiers. We are speaking now of legal or constitutional right only, for we do not suppose the British government would contemplate hostilities with a great power without consulting this and the other over-seas Dominions.

Sir Joseph Ward has not gone into details as to the manner in which he proposes that the Imperial parliament shall be constituted. We think that, however much we may all agree as to the principle involved, the matter of details will prove very difficult; nevertheless we are strongly of the opinion that the establishment of some central authority, with the powers indicated, and such others as may be ancillary thereto, is essential to the effective consolidation of the Empire, and hence will in the course of time be worked out on satisfactory lines. Our criticism of the New Zealand Prime Minister is that he is rather disposed to be in a hurry. He cannot hope to find the British public ready to go the length, which he desires and which the future will undoubtedly see realized, without far greater consideration than they have yet been able to give it. We are glad that Sir Joseph is going to London inspired with such strong sentiments in favor of an imperial governing body, for while he may not be able to bring such a proposal within the scope of practical politics at the present time, he will undoubtedly concentrate public opinion upon it to a degree that has not hitherto been possible. In discussing this highly important subject, it is important for overseas enthusiasts to bear in mind that the Mother Country is yet far and away the principal partner in the firm of John Bull & Co.

SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY.

Mr. Napier Denison is an official of the Dominion government, who resides in Victoria, where he has a home, and where all his personal interests lie. In connection with the work prescribed by the department in whose service he is, Mr. Denison has pursued seismological investigations, and seems to have deduced some important conclusions. He has a seismological apparatus, part of which is of his own construction. The work which he carries on is the work of a specialist. It is not something that can be included in a university course. He thinks he could teach more satisfactory results if he had somewhat better appliances, and the Natural History Society of this city has taken steps to ask the Dominion government to provide those appliances and see that they are properly housed. As an afterthought it has been suggested that certain other appliances, especially those necessary for observations of terrestrial magnetism, should be provided for Mr. Denison, and in specifying what might be used to advantage here, it has been suggested that such appliances as would enable correct time to be given to mariners at this port should also be provided.

No sooner did this become known, than a movement was set on foot in Vancouver to have the appliances removed to that city, and we have been told that somewhere on Point Grey is a much better site from which to observe earth movements and take the sun at noon than any place in Victoria can possibly be, and a memorial is being sent to Ottawa by some zealous people asking that whatever may be done may be done in Vancouver and not in Victoria. A sillier example of sectionalism we have never encountered.

In the first place the observations, which Mr. Denison has been carrying on and wishes to continue with better appliances, are not in the nature of public demonstrations, and could play no part at all in connection with the course of studies prosecuted at a university. The whole merit of the application consists in the fitness of Mr. Denison to carry along the work he has been doing, and which at present is only in the experimental stage. If the best appliances, and they are not matters of very great cost, were set up in Vancouver, they would be useless without some trained student and observer, such as Mr. Denison is, to make use of them. We suppose that if the wishes of the few Vancouver people, who have interfered in this matter, were carried out to their legitimate conclusion, the choice of the investigator would be a matter of government patronage and the executive of the Liberal party would have a say in the matter.

One of those, who are active in seeking to prevent the establishment of the proposed observatory in Victoria, speaks of it as an interference with the Provincial University. Can anything be more absurd? He says that by compelling Mr. Denison to move over to Point Grey, he would be brought within an atmosphere of science. The special value it would be to a man, engaged in measuring earth movements and drawing lines on a graduated piece of paper, to be able to meet a professor of chemistry, is not obvious to the unscientific mind. We think the provincial government can be trusted to see that the University is equipped with all appliances in the way of an observatory that are requisite in connection with any course of study to be pursued there. We repeat for the information of these ardent scientists of Vancouver that a lot of university students and a so-called atmosphere of science would in no way promote the investigations which Mr. Denison is desirous of pursuing, and which have not been pursued by any other man in Canada.

With $2,000,000 paid in the way of Chinese head-tax during a year, the exclusion law is clearly a measure that does not exclude.

Next year Normandy will celebrate the millenium of the foundation of the duchy of that name by Rollo. This is a long period to look back over and the celebration will attract world-wide notice.

There will be a very interesting race between Captain Scott and Captain Amundsen for the South Pole. Both these distinguished explorers are on the verge of the Antarctic Continent and very near each other. They are preparing to go into winter quarters.

Recent reports from London are to the effect that the House of Lords will make no serious opposition to the Veto Bill. Presumably an amendment will be offered, and possibly the bill will be sent back to the Commons, to be rejected there, and will then be passed as it will leave the Commons in the first instance, after this process has been carried out.

The fact that the legislatures of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have raised the indemnity of members to $1,500 leads the Montreal Gazette to remark that the raising of money by one body and the expending of it by another does not make for economy. This means that the members of the legislature mentioned will be paid out of the Dominion contribution to the provincial revenues. In British Columbia that source of provincial revenue does not play a very important part in the provincial receipts. On the question of sessional allowances we may add that $1,500 a session is not excessive for good men, and anything at all is too much for poor ones. To a western man the sessional allowance of members of parliament seems inadequate. To ask a man, fit for the job, to leave his business in the west and go to Ottawa for six months and more for $2,500 is unreasonable.

Fifty years have passed away since Victor Emmanuel was proclaimed King of united Italy. Most people now in active life have no recollection of the stirring events which preceded that incident, when the name of Garibaldi was in every one's mouth and the whole world watched while a great drama was being played on the Italian peninsula. Victor Emmanuel was King of Sardinia, which included the region lying between Switzerland and the Mediterranean and also the island of Sardinia. Naples was then a kingdom; the Pope reigned over the states of the church; Tuscany was an independent duchy and there were other separate governments. The Pope, Pius IX., never recognized the action of the victors, and from that day to the present the Vatican has remained apart from Italy. The jubilee of Italian union is being celebrated by a great exposition. To this it is said that the Vatican authorities are opposed, although the Pope himself is known to have expressed great interest in it.

Dublin and the King

DUBLIN, April 3.—The corporation of Dublin voted 42 to 9, to "proceed with the next business," when a resolution proposing a loyal address on the occasion of King George's approaching visit was introduced in a meeting today.

Albanians Routed

CETTINJE, Montenegro, April 3.—Turkish Bashi Bazouks summoned to the aid of the beleaguered garrison of Tuzi, in the village of Scutari, Albania, routed the rebellious Albanians with great slaughter all along the line. Tuzi was relieved and the Albanians were driven to the mountains.

100 PER CENT VALUE

"If I get 80 per cent of the time I pay my men for, I think I am doing fine," said a Montreal man the other day. He is nearly right. A lot of men don't give 100 per cent service for their pay.

It's the same, too, in other phases of life. A woman complained the other day that she doesn't get 100 per cent. value from her butcher, and we have all read a lot about the underweight schemes of manufacturers of grocer's articles.

In furniture you meet the same troubles. A dresser is made of soft wood—a stencil resembling quartered oak is applied to it, and you buy it for a bargain in oak furniture.

You can't protect yourself except in one way. Your only safeguard is the word of the retail merchant whose honesty is sterling. It will pay you to stick to him and be guided by his advice.

In every transaction in this store, we keep constantly in mind the importance of proving to you our honesty and our desire to give you 100 per cent value for every dollar you spend here.

MR. HUSBAND SHE KNOWS ALL ABOUT THE "WHITNEY" BABY CARRIAGES AND GO-CARTS BUY HER ONE

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Let Us Fix Up Your Parlor

COSTS LITTLE TO IMPROVE IT IF YOU CHOOSE FROM THIS STOCK

What plans have you made for the parlor? What changes do you propose to make when you make your 1911 Spring cleaning? You had better let us "fix up" the parlor for you. Get the assistance of a splendid stock of parlor furniture and the aid of a department that can make to your order any furniture or decorative work you may wish.

A visit to our third floor will convince you that this store is the headquarters for parlor furniture. We stock an interesting range of parlor furniture, pieces and suites. The choice of styles is very vast and the upholstery work has been done at our own factory—a guarantee of quality being right.

Perhaps you want something to match the other furnishings. Then choose a covering from our stock and let our workmen make something to your order. Let us re-cover your old parlor furniture and make it look like new.

Modelled Leather Centrepieces

These modelled Leather Centrepieces we are offering on our second floor are very much in demand at the present time, and these represent the most desired styles. Our second floor at present is most attractive, especially to those who love pretty things for the home. When paying it a visit don't fail to see these Centrepieces. We show several of these in a round shape. These are lovely pieces and especially desirable for a Mission style table.

10 inches in diameter .....75¢ 18 inches in diameter $3.00
24 inches in diameter $4.00

Odd Things For Home Adornment

¶ Odd bits that beautify the home — for which there can always be found a place—commend themselves as most acceptable wedding gifts.

¶ They can be had for most any price one chooses to pay—which is an agreeable feature to the purchaser.

¶ Our present display of such things is most satisfying in variety and range of price, embracing as it does the best of the latest productions of American and foreign makers.

¶ Glad to have you look them over.

Ladies, Use Our Rest Room, Second Floor

DINNER SETS

A Grand Selection

Speaking of Wedding Gifts—what about a nice Dinner Service? Certainly the new couple will require one, in fact more than one wouldn't go wrong. If you have a wedding gift to purchase this month, come in and see how well the appropriation may be used in the purchase of one of these stylish Dinner Sets. If you wish a dinner set for your own use, there is no better place to make the selection than from this stock. About 100 different patterns are shown. We claim to show the finest stock in Canada. Our showing includes a wide choice from the semi-porcelain styles to the most elaborate creations in fine china. By buying here you get what you want, and by comparing these dinner sets with the prices you will see that they are exceptionally good value.

Characteristic Things for Wedding Gifts

¶ Particular people desire that their gifts possess strongly marked distinctive qualities. They desire things that stand out among the myriad contributions, because of specific differences—things that fit the occasion and reflect the superior taste of the giver.

¶ We invite attention to our selection of unduplicated pieces of Art Pottery, Art Glass and Painted China, confident that your desires will be wholly gratified, whether you intend to expend much or little.

Ladies, Use Our Rest Room, Second Floor

More New Arrivals in Lace Curtains

It's impossible to find a finer collection of Lace Curtains to choose from. The new arrivals we have just received for this Spring are unequalled in designs, quality and reasonable prices. These are three of the most important points in lace curtains. If you have not paid our second floor a visit this season, you have certainly not seen the most interesting new goods for the furnishing of your home. We have an immense new stock of curtains and carpets on this floor, such as has never been seen in this city. You will admit, after spending an hour on this floor, that it is the most interesting hour you have spent for many a long time. We always make you welcome.

The Very Latest Is Always To Be Found Here

WEILER BROS

The Largest Furniture Stock in the West