The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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WHERE DANGER LIES

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome is not only a writer of pleasant stories. At least if he has only been that in the past, he has told the London Chronicle some things that indicate he may be something ver- different in the future. Mr. Jerome has studied life in all its phases. His stories show that. His talents have gained him admission into exclusive circles; his literary genius had led him to learn the habits and thoughts of the masses. He is far from being optimistic concerning the social future of England. He says:

"I have seen my share of other countries, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that in no country in the world—not even in Russia—is the gulf between the rich and the poor wider, deeper, more menacing than in England. And it was not the poor that dug it."

He recognizes the existence among the wealthy classes of many men and women who are splendid types of the race and who are animated by a high sense of duty towards the less fortunate people who surround them, but this he thinks will not save the situation. We quote:

"It is not safe to permit around you millions of people living on the verge of starvation. It is not safe for a privileged few, living in luxury, to be surrounded by a dumb mass of discontent and despair. It is not safe for the few. It may have been safe in the days before the printing press, it may have been safe in the days when no man could read or write—it may have been safe in the days of scattered hamlets, each dominated by the lord in in his castle. It is not safe today.

It would be very pleasant if we could dismiss all this as so much vaporing, as we are apt to dispose of the outbursts of extreme Socialists, but unhappily we cannot do so. Much has been done to improve the position of wage-earners. But this does not lessen, indeed it rather has a tendency to augment, the seething discontent which permeates the lower strata of the social fabric. There was a time when the masses could be kept down, but that has passed away. Our civilization has advanced with rapid strides. The conditions we have to face are vastly different from those that confronted our fathers and almost wholly unlike those with which publicists had to deal a century ago. The power of a discontented minority to kill and destroy is vastly greater than it was a generation or two ago. We read in history of how rebellious multitudes were awed by a word and intimidated by a drawn sword, and and we are going on with our social arrangements as if that sort of thing were possible now. But if this is the age of progress it is also the age of dynamite. The sword in the hand of a gentleman is no match for a dynamite bomb in the hands of a scoundrel. The safety of England from the dangers which Mr. Jerome anticipates from the width of the gulf between the rich and the poor is to be found in the fact that the gulf is not a mere void, but is filled with a class that is daily becoming more and more the ruling body in the community. At both ends of the social scale you will find extremists, but the very great majority of the "middle register" is conservative in its sentiments, whatever it may call itself in politics.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN

Lord Strathcona truly represented the sentiment of the people of Canada, when speaking yesterday at Birmingham he expressed a high opinion of the work done by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain on behalf of the Empire. However Canadians may differ as to particular fiscal views with which Mr. Chamberlain's name has of recent year been especially associated, he has a warm place in all their hearts because of his great and successful efforts to get the British people to "think imperially." As Mr. Chamberain is now in his seventy-fifth year and his health is far from good, it is not to be expected that he can hereafter take a very prominent part in imperial affairs; but his sage counsel will, we hope, for many years to come be at the disposal of his fellow-countrymen. It was very fitting that Lord Strathcona, himself one of the greatest of Empire builders, should bear this tribute to the great statesman, who stands to us all as the embodiment of the spirit that will make the fame and prowess of Britain greater in the future than it has ever been in the past.

Our friends in the State of Washington are elated over the prospective expenditure in that state this year by railway corporations of some $5,000,000. That's a very tidy sum of money, if it is not anything like what will be laid out by railway companies in this province this year.

One of the greatest arvantages enjoyed by Victoria arises out of the fact that it is the meeting place of conventions of farmers, stock-raisers and fruit-growers. These conventions bring many excellent people to the city and serve to keep all parts of the province in close touch with the capital.

The health officer's report is very satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that 1910 was somewhat of an unhealthy year everywhere. Victoria's showing is really very good. The recommendations of Dr. Hall are important, and we hope that in carrying them out the city authorities will not be influenced by any considerations of unwise economy.

On Tuesday one post office in each state in the United States was authorized to receive savings bank deposits. It is said that this is an experiment. It looks like one, and moreover like one that was intended to fail. In the British Empire and other countries postal savings banks have been a great success. Why should it be necessary to experiment with them in the United States?

The story of the growth of Victoria as told in the report of the Building Inspector is very satisfactory. There is a gain of 30 per cent in number and of 40 per cent. in value of the structures to which the permits apply. This is really a very remarkable showing, especially in view of the fact that no exceptional conditions arose during the year to stimulate building. It is only a case of solid, natural growth.

Mr. William Ogilvie, whom we all used to know in connection with the Yukon gold rush, is authority for the statement that by opening drainage canals it is possible to convert 3,000,000 acres of what are now marsh lands along the line of the proposed Hudson Bay Railway into first class wheat lands. He also proposes that the Hudson's Bay Railway shall be run by electricity.

The report which came from Ottawa to the effect that the Canadian warships were all to be built in the East created a very unpleasant feeling here. We have this morning a somewhat different and much more satisfactory explanation of the plans which it is hoped will be carried into effect. It will be exceedingly unwise policy on the part of the Dominion government to concentrate the shipbuilding plants on the Atlantic seaboard. The Pacific Coast is Canada's real danger point.

Considerable difference of opinion is said to exist in the Dominion cabinet in regard to reciprocity with the United States. No particulars have been given to the public, but the statement is made with every appearance of trustworthiness that a strong element in the cabinet does not want to go as far as the other members wish It is also said that the negotiations, which are not expected to occupy much time, will not be made public until next December, the reason being that the United States Congress will not be in a position to deal with any treaty until then.

We have very grave doubt as to the desirability of conferring upon the citizens the right to elect the police and licence commissioners. It is true that this systed prevails in Vancouver, and a very good argument can be made out theoretically in support of it. But it is an open question if it is well to make such offices elective. In British countries we distinguish between offices. Some we make elective, and some we have appointive. The broad distinction is that the appointive officials are those who have to do with administering the laws. The commissioners named seem to come under that head. Our impression is that in most parts of Canada officials having such powers as are vested in them are not elected by popular vote. We have seen no sufficient reason advanced for making a change here.

CONTRACT LET FOR ISLAND DIVISION

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—The contract for the Vancouver Island section of the Canadian Northern Railway has been awarded to Michael Carlin & Co., the contract price being $500,000.

The first section of the island division is referred to. It extends from the outskirts of Victoria to Sooke. The contract price is evidently based on the engineers' estimates, the tender being as per specifications for the different kinds of country encountered.

ALBERTA FIGHT FOR BOND MONEY

Trial Of Action Brought By Provincial Government In Great Waterways Case Begins — Union Bank Withdraws

EDMONTON, Alta., Jan. 5.—The fight for the $7,400,000 of Alberta and Great Waterways monies deposited in the Royal, Union and Dominion banks began this morning when an appearance to the action brought by the Alberta government against the above named banks to compel payment to the province of the these monies was entered by the Royal and Dominion banks. The Union bank apparently intends to pay the $1,000,000 of these monies to the court, to withdraw from the action and to allow the claimants to fight it out for themselves, for they applied for and were granted a chamber summons calling upon the parties interested to appear before Justice Beck in chambers January 27th and put forward their claims. The Union Bank manager, John J. Anderson, also submitted an affidavit to the effect that the applicants do not collude with the Alberta & Great Waterways Company, the Canadian West Construction Company or the Standard Trust Company, who are the trustees of the Great Waterways Company, an opportunity to make a fight of which they will in all probability avail themselves. According to Montreal dispatches, J. Pierpont Morgan may be drawn into the dispute.

COMPANIES LICENSED

Many Qualify Under Provincial Act to Do Business Here

The current issue of the British Columbia Gazette notes the licensing as extra-Provincial companies of Business Systems Limited, the Campbell Mfg. Co., Ltd., Craig, Cowan & Co., Ltd., the Crescent Mfg. Co., Ltd., Dixon-Wilson, Ltd., G. V. Oberhaltzer, Ltd., Hall-Hatch Knitting Co. Ltd., J. Palmer & Sons, Ltd., Krug Bros. Co. Ltd., Novel-Ti Limited, Smith-Runciman Co. Ltd., Standard Paint Co. of Canada, Ltd.; and the registration extra-Provincial of the Encyclopedia Britannica Co., Libby, MacNeill & Libby, Stimpson Computing Scale Co., Ltd., Studebaker Brothers Company Northwest, Union Fibre Company and the Washington Tug & Barge Co. The new Provincial companies of the week include the Albion Brokerage Co. Ltd., A. G. Langley & Co. Ltd., Canada Trustee Co. Ltd., Constans Gold Mines Ltd., Cranbrook Sawmills Co. Ltd., Delta Telephone Co. Ltd., Elkins Bros. Ltd., Dominion Development Syndicate Ltd., Greenwood Rink Limited, Inkster, Ward & Co. Ltd., Interior Lumber Co. Ltd., Iowa Lumber & Timber Co. Ltd., Kyax Navigation Co. Ltd., North Vancouver Trust Co. Ltd., North Vancouver Cartage Co. Ltd., Pacific Trading Co. Ltd., Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Co. Ltd., Victoria Building and Investment Co. Ltd., Victoria-Phoenix Brewing Co. Ltd., Western Plate Glass & Importing Co. Ltd., William Monteith & Co. Ltd., and the Y.M.C.A. of Vernon.

REVENUE FROM TIMBER

Returns of Department Show Receipts From Licenses

Returns of the provincial timber department for the final month of 1910 show aggregate revenues of $189,044.20, to which as usual receipts from timber licenses for lands west of the Cascades are chiefly contributary. Of these licenses 746 were issued, producing a revenue of $104,440.00. East of the Cascades 484 licenses were issued during December producing $56,048.20; timber license transfer fees amounted to $1,010; penalties, $1,675; 255 coal prospecting licenses, $25,550; coal prospecting license transfers, $320; and miscellaneous receipts, $1.

Certificates Issued.

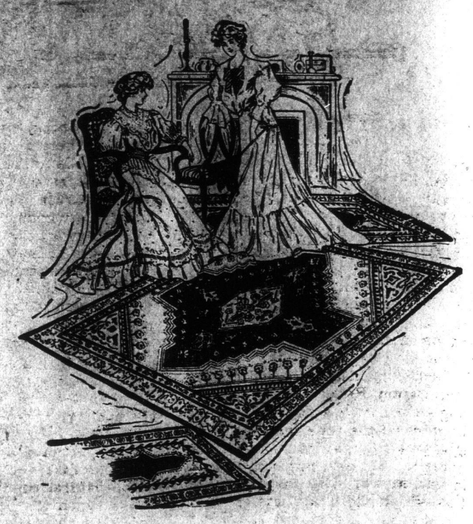
A number of special certificates have recently been issued by the Minister of Public Works under authority of the Steam Boilers Inspection Act, the following being granted special certificates of competency as operators of logging donkey engines: H. L. Boyd, Oscar Dunlop, G. F. Conley, F. H. Benjamin, D. B. Holeman, S. H. Gilmore, David Cation, David Sidar, Elmar Wirkki, James Novotney, J. D. German, James Poierer, and Edward Russell. F. H. J. Middleton has been ranted a special certificate recognizing his ability to operate traction engines and road rollers, and George Bills and Fred Disdero have been authorized as engineers of portable threshing engines.

West Coast Trunk Road.

The development leagues of both Banfield and the Sooke and Otter districts have strongly endorsed the proposal for the construction of a road along the west coast of the island to connect Victoria and Barkley Sound district. Mr. Peter Michelsen, secretary of the Banfield league has written to the headquarters of the organization in Victoria as follows: "If we can set a good road through along the west coast it will be the best thing that can happen us next to a railroad, and it may be the forerunner of a railroad. I have seen a few of the most prominent people here and they all declare a road would benefit the west coast immensely." Mr. Michelsen further says, that his league's endorsement of the proposal will follow. Mr. John A. Murray, president, and Mr. C. C. Muir, secretary of the Sooke and Otter development league are enthusiastically in favor of the project.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson, who have been visiting relatives in Victoria, left yesterday on their return to their home in Chilliwack.

Continuous Display of 750 Rugs and Carpet Squares



Have you ever heard of such a display of Rugs and Carpet Squares? Doesn't it seem ridiculous for any one to try and tell you such a thing. Well, we tell you that we have this amount on exhibition, and what is more, by giving us a call you can see them for yourself. This is a big building of ours and we have large assortments of all kinds of furnishings for the home, and you would wonder where we find room for such a display of Rugs and Carpets. Most of these Squares and Rugs are on our new rug racks, and it is the simplest matter to select from this large assortment, as you can see all these Rugs and Squares at once. You had better come and see this exhibition for yourself. It is the only way to get an idea of our enormous stock.

Kensington Art Squares

An artistic, durable, easily swept Carpet, which will keep its appearance until the last. This Carpet is of a solid weave through and through, hence it never becomes threadbare as do other weaves of carpets. We have them in a great variety of colorings and designs, suitable for bed chambers, sewing rooms, sitting rooms, etc. etc.

Size 2½ x 3 yards at, each $11.00
Size 3 x 3 yards at, each $13.00
Size 3½ x 3 yards at, each $15.00
Size 3 x 4 yards at, each $17.50
Size 3½ x 4 yards at, each $21.00
Size 4 x 4 yards at, each $23.50
Size 4 x 4½ yards at, each $26.00
Size 4 x 5 yards at, each $29.00

Krypton Art Squares

All wool, very heavy, in beautiful two tone effects, and very artistic designs, which appeal to the most critical.

Size 3 x 3 yards, each $19.00
Size 3 x 3½ yards, each $22.00
Size 3 x 4 yards, each $25.00
Size 3½ x 4 yards, each $29.00

These Squares are of extra heavy weight and are also reversible, giving a good wearing surface. All these squares are good value.

Union Art Squares

An inexpensive serviceable rug suitable for bedroom use, used as a Drugget to protect a more expensive carpet, in all standard shades.

Size 2½ x 3 yards $5.00
Size 3 x 3 yards $6.00
Size 3 x 3½ yards $7.00
Size 3½ x 3½ yards $8.00
Size 3 x 4 yards $8.75
Size 3½ x 4 yards $9.25
Size 4 x 4 yards $10.50
Size 3½ x 4½ yards $10.50
Size 3½ x 5 yards $12.00
Size 4 x 5 yards $13.00

A Fine Variety to Select From---See These

Ingrain Squares, from $29.00 to $5.00
Tapestry Squares, from $26.00 to $9.00
Brussels Squares, from $42.00 to $16.00
Axminster Squares, from $65.00 to $18.75
Wilton Squares, from $48.50 to $27.00
Velvet Squares, from $42.00 to $24.00
Smyrna Rugs, from $55.00 to $30.00
Genuine Oriental Rugs, all prices.

Here Are a Few Useful Articles to Keep Your House Clean on Dirty Days

The state of the roads makes a door mat the housewife's best friend. They save work by keeping the mud out. You all know what a terrible state some of the roads are in at present, and this weather has not done anything to improve them. It is practically impossible to go out without getting into some mud. If you should have some friends calling take some good advice from people who know and get a door mat, it will save money for you. We have a fine assortment to select from.

The Brush Cocoa Door Mat

Fine and Heavy

14 x 24 ..... 90¢
16 x 27 ..... $1.25
18 x 30 ..... $1.50
19 x 32 ..... $1.75
21 x 34 ..... $2.00
23 x 37 ..... $2.50
26 x 42 ..... $3.00
28 x 45 ..... $3.50
30 x 48 ..... $4.00

Fine Diamond Cocoa Mats

Similar to plain cocoa mats but of closer weave, strong and well made.

14 x 24 ..... $1.25
16 x 27 ..... $1.50
18 x 30 ..... $1.80
20 x 33 ..... $2.25
22 x 36 ..... $2.75
24 x 39 ..... $3.25
26 x 42 ..... $3.75

Wire door mats will not rust, do not hold the rain and are excellent for removing the mud from the shoes.

SKELETON OR ROPE MATS

14 x 24 ..... 85¢
16 x 27 ..... $1.00
18 x 30 ..... $1.25
20 x 33 ..... $1.50

WOOL BORDERED BRUSH MATS

14 x 24 ..... $1.25
16 x 27 ..... $1.50
18 x 30 ..... $2.00
20 x 33 ..... $2.50
22 x 36 ..... $3.00

RUBBER DOOR MATS

Moulded Solid Back, 18 x 33 ..... $1.50
Lightweight Rubber Mats, for motor cars, etc., 18 x 33 ..... $1.50

The United States Wire Door Mats, flexible steel door mat for outside use. Flexible and can be rolled up into a small space. Strong and almost everlasting.

18 x 24 ..... $1.25
18 x 30 ..... $1.75
22 x 36 ..... $2.50
26 x 48 ..... $4.00
30 x 48 ..... $5.00

The Best Friend You Have Is Waiting For You

WEILER BROS

Talk With Us By Phone If You Can't Come