

The Colonist.

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

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One Year \$1.00
Six Months75
Three Months50
Sent postage to Canada and the United Kingdom.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

We are in a position to say that the somewhat prolonged negotiations between Premier McBride and the representatives of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway company in regard to the location of that road have reached such a stage that tenders will shortly be invited for the construction of the road-bed and work will thereafter be pushed forward with all possible speed. Since the passage of the bill confirming the contract between the company and the government the work of surveying has been prosecuted with great diligence. It was of the highest importance that such a route should be found for the railway as would be most advantageous to the public interests, while at the same time providing a line which would develop sufficient traffic to warrant its construction. There were certain essential features to be considered, one of them being that the line when constructed should provide for such a connection with Victoria as would place this city upon the route of a transcontinental railway system. It is pleasant to be able to say that the result of the negotiations have been such that when the details are announced they will be found to be highly satisfactory to the people of this city and the island generally. We expect at an early day to be able to place full particulars before our readers, and for the present will only add our assurance that the details when they are fully made known will be our confident, be received with the hearty approval of the citizens of Victoria, and will fully justify the Premier in taking the time necessary to perfect them.

We feel justified in saying that when the plans which Mr. McBride has in hand are carried into effect, the result upon the future of the city of Victoria and the surrounding district will be more beneficial and far-reaching than was anticipated at the time the railway was under discussion anterior to the election. These plans have not been stopped and their consummation has not been assured without much labor. They are now so far advanced that there is no reason to anticipate failure. They will give Victoria a first-class railway connection with the Mainland part of the system; they will lead to the development of the whole southern section of the island, and they will afford the best possible route from this city to Barkley Sound. We ask the citizens to accept these assurances as based upon a knowledge of the result of the negotiations above referred to. Only a few matters of detail remain to be adjusted, but these in no way affect the general plan that has been decided upon. Our only reason for not being more explicit at the present time is because we wish to present the project in complete form when it is made public.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Francis L. Carter-Cotton has resigned from the presidency of the Executive Council, and Mr. Albert E. McPhillips, M. P. F. for the Islands has been appointed in his place. The reason for Mr. Carter-Cotton's resignation have not yet been made public. He has been identified with Mr. McBride's administration ever since. It was formed, although he has not been at the head of any department. Mr. McPhillips, it will be remembered, was Attorney-General in the Prior administration. His present appointment therefore will not be his introduction to the Executive Council chamber. He possesses many qualities for his new position, and his appointment to it is a recognition of the claims of this part of the province to additional representation on the council board. The cabinet as now made up is territorially very representative. The Premier represents Victoria, the President of the Council, the Attorney-General represents Vancouver, the Provincial Secretary, the northern districts, the Minister of Finance and Agriculture, the south central area, the Minister of Public Works, the east central area, and the Chief Commissioner of Land the southeastern section. It is a long time since such cabinet representation has been so widely distributed as it is at present.

INSECTS AND MAN.

Entomology until recently was looked upon more as a fact than as a useful science. This was because it was only in its preliminary stage. Science must go slow, if it is to be useful. It must lay its groundwork out with care. It must be sure of what it is going

to say before it speaks. True it is sometimes mistaken, but its mistakes are usually in matters of theory. Applied science rarely goes wrong. To-night, through the instrumentality of the Natural History Society, the people of Victoria will be enabled to hear in the Broad Street hall an address upon the relations of insects to animal life. The address, which will be illustrated by lantern slides, will be delivered by Dr. Hewitt, of the Dominion Agricultural Department. Dr. Hewitt is here for the purpose of investigating the work of the insects now stripping the foliage from so many of our Douglas firs. The nature of his investigations is somewhat as follows: He will procure a large number of the cocoons in which the larvae of the moths, from which the insects are derived, from which the larvae are derived. These he will examine to ascertain what proportion of them are rendered infertile by the presence of parasites. Next year a new lot of cocoons will be collected and examined, and it will then be possible to say whether the percentage of infertile cocoons is increasing or diminishing. The examination will be continued until it is possible to say with certainty if the parasites will get the better of the cocoons and how long it will take them to do so. This knowledge will be of great value to the owners of timber lands for it will enable them to judge advisedly what course they ought to adopt in case their timber is attacked. All Victorians remember those horrible things that covered many of the oak trees a few years ago. They have all disappeared, and their disappearance is to be attributed to the operation of a parasite that preyed upon their larvae. Not only is it possible by examination to foretell with a close degree of accuracy the probable extent of the ravages of insects, but parasites can be cultivated which will destroy insect life that is injurious to man and vegetation. Indeed it is not too much to say that entomology has opened a new universe of investigation and one in which discoveries of inestimable value to humanity may be made. The Department of Agriculture was exceedingly well advised when it took up this line of work.

THE MINNESOTA FIRES.

The terrible forest fires of which the despatches speak have so far been confined largely to Minnesota. The fact that the telegrams come by way of Winnipeg might convey the impression that the whole of the destruction has taken place in Canada, but as yet the greater part of the conflagration has not been on our side of the line. Between the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake the Rainy river forms the international boundary line. The Rainy river, along which many lives have been lost, is a tributary of the Rainy flowing from the South, so also is the Rapid river. Fort Francis, referred to in the despatches is on the Canadian shore of the Rainy River, where it empties into Rainy Lake.

The loss of life is stated at figures which are appalling, and it is impossible from information available to form any opinion as to whether or not they are exaggerated. The value of the property destroyed must necessarily be largely a matter of guess work. There is certain to be a great deal of suffering because of this terrible catastrophe and it is very clear that the generosity of the people of Canada will have a fresh draft upon it.

These fires have occurred at a later time in the year than forest fires are looked for, but it is interesting to recall that the Minneapolis fire, which was until this one, the greatest event of the kind on record, took place in October. Also the great forest fires of 1871 occurred in October. In the State of Wisconsin alone, near the borders of Lake Michigan, four hundred square miles were burned over. Terrible fires also occurred in Michigan and Illinois on the same day. The loss of life was put at seven hundred and fifty, not including those who died from injuries. Descriptions of these fires

seem to remove them from the category of ordinary conflagrations. In the "History of the Great Conflagration" one observer says "Nothing like this had ever been known" and he describes it as a "bursting of the sky with flame, a dropping down of fire out of the very heavens." Another observer says: "It did not run along the ground like a tornado, a sheet of flame reaching from the ground to the tops of the trees." It was on this same day in October, the 9th, that Chicago was burned. Perhaps there is nothing more than a coincidence in the fact that these terrible conflagrations all occurred about the same date. In October, the Minneapolis fire, October 7th, 1855; the Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago fires, October 8th, 1871; and the Minnesota fires October 7th and 8th, 1910; but the dates are worth remembering. Mention is made in contemporary newspapers of prairie fires occurring simultaneously with the conflagrations of 1871, and it is noteworthy that such fires have been reported from Manitoba.

Illustrative of the growth of courtesy in the Last West the operators in the central exchange in Victoria received instructions yesterday from headquarters requiring them to add a polite "please" when they engaged the calling party the number desired. Surely this is final and sufficient proof to the effect that the West is really civilized.

A movement is on foot in London and other large cities to suppress moving picture shows on the ground that they tend to corrupt the morals of children. Surely it ought not to be necessary to go to this extreme. It ought to be possible to regulate the nature of such shows that there would be nothing offensive in them. We are bound to say that this is too often omitted, but this affords no reason why what might be a wholesome and instructive amusement should be stopped. There is no more justification for permitting the representation of degrading spectacles in moving pictures than there is for allowing them to be shown by real people.

St. Edmund Walker, President of the Bank of Commerce, has expressed the following opinion in regard to reciprocity with the United States: "I cannot think of any kind of reciprocity which would be of advantage to us, unless it might be the exchange of the same article, such as coal for coal. But I am not even sure that this would really be a wise step for us to take at a time when we are trying to develop coal mines in so many parts of Canada." So far this expression in favor of such a treaty have been few and far between Sir Wilfrid Laurier has less reason than ever for supposing that the people of Canada desire any such measure.

A great deal that is untrue is being published nowadays in regard to the agitation for commercial union between the United States and Canada that was quite active a little more than twenty years ago. It is being alleged that this was an annexation movement under another name. This is not true. It was a bona fide effort on the part of some Canadians to discover if possible a means whereby the commercial interests of the Dominion could be most satisfactorily promoted. It was abandoned by those who advocated it when they found that it might lead to annexation, but that it was begun with any such object is grossly untrue. It is possible that some of those who are advancing the opinion above referred to are quite honest in so doing, for they may have confounded the commercial union agitation with a more or less secret campaign for annexation that was undertaken about the same time and was backed up by some people of wealth and influence in the United States. There was "good money" going for such Canadians of repute as would openly advocate the political union of the two countries, but the takers were few.

TELEPHONE USERS

We cordially invite you to call at this store and ask us for our

FREE GIFT OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORY CARD

A most handy thing to hang up by your telephone, whether in the home or at the office. Remember, we give it FREE and gladly.

CYRUS H. BOWES

Tels. 495 and 450 Chemist 1228 Government Street

Here Is a Store Full of True Economy

IT'S NO FAULT OF OURS IF FLOWERS DO NOT HAVE THE PRETTIEST JARDINIERS TO DISPLAY THEM

little house-maid says, old folks deserve a nice home



LADIES, COME AND VISIT OUR REST ROOM IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY HEARD ABOUT IT, COME AND LEARN SOMETHING

Sons and Daughters :-

Have you ever stopped to think how much your parents did for you? Do you not owe them a debt of gratitude? They have done lots for you. Remember them with something they can enjoy. They spend lots of time at home. Present them with something for their home. Why not when you can get

Solid Comfort Chairs at These Prices

Morris Chairs

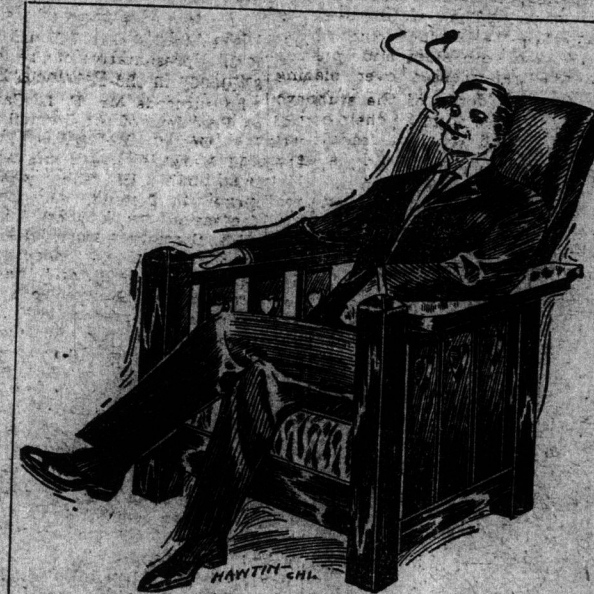
Morris Chair, Early English oak cushions in velvet. Price \$11.00

Morris Chair, golden oak and Early English oak cushions in velvet, spring seat. Price \$15.00

Morris Chair, golden oak with spring seat and cushions, in verona and crushed plush. Price \$20.00

Morris Chair, Early English oak, verona cushions. Price \$18.00

Arm-chair, Early English oak, two cushions, in Spanish leather. Price \$50.00



Morris Chairs

Arm-chair, Early English oak, red leather. Price \$35.00

Arm-chair, Spanish leather, dark green cushion. Price \$25.00

Arm, Rocker, Early English oak, cushion in Spanish leather. Price \$25.00

Early English oak, dark red leather cushions. Price \$35.00

Arm-chair, Early English, with beautiful design in back, upholstered in rich dark red Spanish leather, finished with large brass tacks. Very artistic. Price \$30.00

Here Is Something With a Special Price

We have a Davenport Sofa Bed in beautiful red leather on our third floor. We have priced this very cheaply and would ask you to come and inspect same. Only \$90.00

Sale of Linoleum and Oilcloth--10 a.m.

Five hundred yards of Linoleum and Oilcloth Remnants are on sale here this morning at very special prices. A number of good patterns and all well seasoned goods—the kind in which the color goes through to the back. It is not often you hear of us having a sale, but as we have no room for the enormous shipments that are arriving daily, we are clearing out these remnants. Below are only a few of our sizes and prices.

Oilcloths

Size 6ft. x 6ft. at, each 75¢
Size 9ft. 6in. x 6ft. at, each \$2.25
Size 3ft. x 6ft. at, each 35¢
Size 6ft. x 6ft. at, each \$1.50
Size 8ft. x 6ft. at, each \$2.00
Size 10ft. x 6ft. at, each \$3.75
Size 5ft. 8in. x 6ft. at, each 75¢
Size 7ft. x 6ft. at, each \$1.25

Linoleums

Size 8ft. x 3ft. at, each 75¢
Size 13ft. x 6ft. at, each \$3.00
Size 5ft. x 6ft. at, each \$1.75
Size 7ft. 6in. x 6ft. at, each \$2.35
Size 5ft. 10in. x 6ft. at, each \$1.75
Size 5ft. 9in. x 6ft. at, each 25¢
Size 5ft. 3in. x 6ft. at, each 40¢
Size 2ft. 6in. x 6ft. at, each 40¢
Size 3ft. x 6ft. at, each 50¢

Just arrived, Semi-Porcelain, transfer, Roslyn, pink floral border, 113 pieces, \$17.00. We sell any piece of this stock pattern separately.

WEILER BROS

FIRE HORRORS IN MINNESOTA

List of Dead is Greatly increased by Late Reports Number is Now Placed Four Hundred

BODIES RECOVERED NUMBER 1

Survivors Relate Stories Terrifying Experiences Women and Children Trampled in Wild Rush

WINNIPEG, Oct. 10.—Reports of the devastation from Warroad, Beaudette and in the burning district south of those places is the greatest history of American forest fires. Four hundred lives lost, 159 bodies recovered, and property loss a hundred millions.

Fire rangers, owing to the hot condition of the surface and gases arising from the great depth of peat, find it impossible to continue to search far into the interior, but here a large number of families are found, and mothers protecting children with their arms, and all scorched and charred. Groups of seven, and as many as twelve, were found together. Several families arriving tell of the horrors of their terrible experiences in wells, rock houses, and in shallow depths of crevices. Blinded and burned, many are dead.

Two hundred typhoid patients had been hastily removed from the new Beaudette hospital to shacks in Old Beaudette, and many are dying. Vandals have broken loose, and armed companies of United States soldiers guard streets and buildings left standing.

Beaudette.

The Rat Portage lumber mill at Rainy River, with yards, is a total loss.

The Shevelin-Matthew mill at Spooner is saved, but forty million feet of lumber is burning. Three days have gone by, and people are very anxious, hundreds of well known settlers have not yet been reported. Five thousand people are homeless. The Winnipeg fire brigade is still at Warroad fighting off the fires around that town.

Wild Rush From Dangers

DULUTH, Minn., Oct. 10.—After being hemmed in by fire on nearly all sides, and finally making his escape to the railroad station with an unconscious woman suffering from typhoid fever, his arms, Frank Watson, of Beaudette, Minn., lives to tell the story. He arrived here today, bringing the typhoid patient with him.

"Everything was confusion," he said. "Families became separated in the rush. Women shrieked and children were crying. It was everybody for himself, and the mad rush for a place of safety was like a stampede."

"Women with babies in their arms sank to the ground and were trampled under foot. Some held out their babies and asked that they be taken to a place of safety, knowing they were useless to the task, and resigning themselves to the fate threatened. Men driven half crazy by thinking their families had been lost would run wildly about asking for their relatives. Now and then someone would dive back to the burning discomfited by the flames, and men were trying to get back to the flames, fought back those who attempted to restrain them. Those who got away ran into the billows of fire and are numbered among the dead."

"If the wind drops, Rainy River will be saved, but otherwise the town is in great danger," he said.

"Trunks and valises full of valuables are piled along the railroad track in a vain effort to save them. Vandals are lurking around and stealing the property of the dead and defenseless."

Other refugees tell how wild animals raced wildly about the edge of the flames and then turned and plunged into the Rainy River and swam across to safety. They followed the flight of cattle, wild horses, deer, caribou, moose, and in truth, the cattle lay down with the bears, wild cats and timber wolves. They were all fleeing from a common enemy.

Oscar Johnson, his wife and three children, stood five hours in the river Beaudette, ducking their heads when the heat became too intense. They saw the water in the river was heated to an uncomfortable temperature, and the steam rose from the surface. When they escaped, it was as through a furnace of drying coals, with here and there a blaze reaching out for what it might destroy.

Mrs. E. G. Rason, aged sixty, a pioneer, who stood in a freight car with her granddaughter in her arms, says she counted nine bodies along the railway track.

Tales of Horror

Stories of wild animals fleeing for safety side by side with the human beings, of mothers burned to death with babies on their breasts, and of men mated while endeavoring to shield their children, were among the tales of horror brought in today.

The Duluth Express, when it arrived here today, brought many refugees from the scene of the conflagration. The engineer of the train thus describes the situation: "If the fire keeps on the way it is going there will be mighty little left of the population of that part of the country. For miles around Beaudette and Spooner there were large tracts of bush, but it is now swept clear. There have been forests in that part of the country for such a long time that the ground is practically peat, and when the trees fell they set fire to the roots and the earth around the roots."