The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability
27 Broad Street, Victoria, B. C.
A. G. SARGISON, Managing Director.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year	$1 00
Six months	50
Three months	25

Sent postpaid to Canada, United Kingdom and United States.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TIMBER POLICY.

The West Coast Lumberman, Tacoma, thinks the British Columbia government has done the right thing in the interests of the province in putting a complete stop to the exportation of logs from timber cut on ungranted lands of the crown, or on lands of the crown hereafter granted. This is somewhat in contrast with the attitude taken by the Vancouver Lumberman, which is still fighting the battles of Mr. Emmerson. After quoting the provisions of the act affected by amendments of last session, the West Coast Lumberman observes:

"It will be noted that the change refers to timber cut on 'ungranted lands.' The major portion of the timber holdings of British Columbia are on lands owned by the crown. These grants sell the timber only, which accounts in part for the very low prices at which the government has been parting with its great timber holdings. It is possible, however, that underlying these cheap cheap timber sales is a policy that will work out great results for the province. Millions of dollars from the United States have been invested in British Columbia mills and timber and great developments are at work. Under the present act this imber must be manufactured in the province. This is a very wise bit of political economy. It means more labor and bigger payrolls. Under the present rate of manufacturing development, the market that can be reached from British Columbia will probably be overdone and lower prices prevail. That result will be appreciated by the great farming districts east of British Columbia. Under the present tariff on lumber in the United States but little lumber can cross the international line. Another result will probably be an overstocked log market and lower prices on logs. As in all far-reaching measures, someone gets the worst of it, and in this case it will be the logger. On the whole, however, stopping the exportation of logs will in the long run be good for British Columbia."

A PUBLIC FRAUD.

The Liberal papers are all heartily silent about the North Atlantic Trading company. Lord Strathcona, in reply to the department of the interior, sent the following particulars by cable:

"The persons named as subscribers to the memorandum and articles of the association of the North Atlantic Trading company, and holding one share each, are Edward Sanbury, hotel proprietor, London; Alfred H. Alexander, engineer; John A. Randall, article clerk, both of Chiswick, for T. H. Dawney; Parnell Parks, Eastsheen, solicitor's clerk; Henry James Whitman, builder, Chiswick; John S. Thompson, Epsom, chartered secretary; Charles Guy Underwood Action, solicitor's clerk. The solicitor of the company is E. A. Alexander, Essex street, Strand. The capital of the company is £3,000 sterling, in 300 shares of £10 each. Am endeavoring to get list of shareholders and amount actually subscribed and paid up. The company was incorporated on Island of Guernsey, as North Atlantic Trading Company, Limited, registered June 3rd, 1905. Memorandum of association states registered office company situated Island of Guernsey. Director, J. Gluck; managing director, H. Pherfel; secretary, N. Kohan; business office, 92 Damarack, Amsterdam. Memorandum of association will be mailed by Campania 14th."

Here we have a lot of clerks and others acting as dummies for the real culprits, the identity of whom is yet unknown. Fancy these men going to the Island of Guernsey to gerister their head office and articles of association. If it were a legitimate enterprise and they were not afraid of the light of day, why not have head offices in Canada or in London, England? As will be observed, the company was registered in June, 1905, not twelve months ago, and has already drawn from the Dominion treasury nearly $200,000 for an unassorted lot of continental immigrants at $5 a head. To qualify for this bonus the company had to spend $15,000 a year in advertising.

The question arises, if immigrants were so easily gotten, why did not the government do its own advertising and save the difference between the $15,000 and the $150,000, or whatever other sum it was? It has its own agents all through Europe, and as a matter of fact does a lot of advertising everywhere. We do not know the particular arrangement whereby the North Atlantic Trading company was to sort out its particular gettings from the general mass of newcomers from the continent—nobody seems of know—but it has every appearance of a huge graft on the public treasury, which was only possible of accomplishment by the active co-operation and participation of the chief officials of the department. At all events, the government has found it convenient to cancel the contract after November next. Why should a public iniquity of the kind be permitted to exist even for six months? It is a swindle on the face of it, and the government must be aware of the fact.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Prof. J. C. McLennan, of the University of Toronto, is coming here o popularize the metric system, and for that purpose has made application for the use of the Board of Trade rooms. It appears that Prof. McLennan's expenses are being paid by the Dominion government, and he is engaged in a propaganda of education preliminary to an effort to adopt the metric system in this country to the exclusion of a system which was in vogue for hundreds of years—in other words, the substitution of the French for the British system. We do not say that we should not adopt it because it is French. That might be regarded as foolish prejudice; but it means the upsetting in the minds of the everyday people of this country of a system which has fully satisfied their commercial needs—the terms of which are mainly expressed in homely British words—and the putting in its place of a system expressed in words foreign in every sense—metres, centimetres, kilometres, millimetres, litres, grammes, milliers, calories, hectares and so on in various powers and combinations. It may be scientific, and, as Prof. McLennan says, "orderly, methodical, clear and simple;" it may be to the mind of a professor of mathematics; but to the ordinary people, who have learned to think in the language of the British weights and measures the nomenclature of the metric system is meaningless. It is like learning to think in a foreign language. Is it really necessary? Nine-tenths of our calculations are made in dollars and cents. That is the decimal system applied to our commercial wants. The number of times that weights and measures enter into our calculations and have to be reduced from one denomination to another is not sufficiently great to become a tax upon our time; and we do not know that it is at all disadvantageous at times to engage in a little mental effort to arrive at certain mathematical results. If so, a good deal of what we teach in our schools and universities about mental discipline is all rot. But if we place it on the score of utility, time-saving and brain-sparing let Prof. McLennan make a little mental calculation as to the mental energy and caloric force to be used up in eliminating the present system from the minds of about 5,000,000 Canadians and substituting another entirely foreign to them.

Then we have a lingering prejudice—it may be just prejudice and British bullheadedness—in favor of preserving our own identity in weights and measures, as in other things. The metric system aims, of course, at facilitating commercial operations and making uniform throughout the world commercial terms. Perhaps it would be an advantage in a measure, but the same advantage could be claimed for a universal language—the French or any other language. How many Frenchmen would care to give up their language for the English language in order that there might be only one language spoken? Or how many of us want to give up the English language for the French for the same reason? The language instinct is the strongest in the human heart. What an advantage it would be in Canada—financially, politically and otherwise—if we had only one language. Why do we not have it? Simply because we love the language our mother taught us too much to give it up. Similarly, inches and feet, and quarts and gallons, and ounces and pounds are part of our mother tongue, and there seems to be very little disposition among English-speaking peoples to change them for foreign equivalents.

IMPERIAL CABLES.

Imperial interest will assert itself even in the face of an anti-Imperial government. We made the prediction some time before the results of the British elections were known that, whatever was the complexion of the government in power, the question of an all-Imperial cable service was likely to receive attention. It was indicated as possible that a Liberal government in power might appeal to Imperial sentiment on new lines, and thus make itself solid irrespective of the possible development of preferential trade ideas. The possibility of the Liberal government taking up, for instance, the construction of a cable system binding the various colonies together for purposes of commercial convenience and the interchange of intelligence to and fro from and among the various parts of the empire, was referred to. It suggested itself as a taking card, which would not commit Little Englanders to any of the wider schemes of Empire to which the late Unionist government leaned. We did not, however, anticipate that the stress of events would cause our anticipations to be realized so soon after the advent of the new government to power. Some of our readers may have observed in perusing the London Letter on Tuesday the following extract:

"Public feeling has been a good deal disturbed here by the remark of Mr. Winston Churchill the other day in the House of Commons, that no little anxiety is caused to the government by the character of the information that is passed over the cable by the press agencies, often causing the press in the colonies to be under the influence of one particular set of opinions and that not the predominant set of opinions in this country. In the interest of imperial unity, it is of course absolutely necessary that press communications should be true and free from the taint of party prejudice. Then only can Englishmen and colonials understand what is going on. The Natal business provoked Mr. Churchill to express himself as he did, and it is sincerely to be hoped a lesson will be learnt by those who are responsible for cable news. The imperial loyalty that only goes out to one political party in England, is not loyalty to England. Governments and parties come and go, both here and in the colonies. Our friendship and mutual attachment should be independent of parties and above all local or party prejudice. The Natal colonials have forgotten this. They would do well to cultivate the far nobler temper displayed towards both political parties in the Old Country by both parties in all parts of the Dominion."

The Colonial Under Secretary of State may have one set of circumstances in his mind, as occasioning the necessity for a better service of news, and those who look forward to the realization of an all-Imperial cable service, such as has been advocated by Sir Sandford Fleming, may have something else entirely different in view, but whatever impels the sentiment of either, it is in one common direction, and it is an encouraging sign. The Liberal Government of Great Britain has at the present time an eminently good opportunity to signalize its term of office by a great enterprise which will for all time redound to its credit. Winston Churchill is, no doubt, optimistic enough and courageous enough to lead the way. The question is if his colleagues have the pluck and foresight to follow.

THE DOWNFALL OF DOWIE.

There is perhaps too much disposition to regard Prophet John Dowie as a fakir and a fraud. In order to determine any man's character one has to look much deeper than what appears on the surface, and to weigh a great variety of circumstances. The line which divides a good man from a bad one, a genius from a fool, a success from a failure, a patriot from a rebel, is in very many instances a very fine one. We can very easily imagine that an adventurous spirit like Napoleon might have become a brigand, a wanderer on the face of the earth, or anything else except the Emperor of France. He found his opportunity and a scope for his ambition in the conditions which grew up during the French Revolution. History is full of instances where great successes and great careers might, without doing violence to character have been absolutely reversed; or where great failures and ignoble careers might have been just the opposite. Those who make marks in the world have some time or other to make a great plunge and take chances on the result. They are judged by the result.

Luther, Cromwell, John Knox, Bunyan, Wesley, all the men who have carried fiery crosses in the cause which they espoused possessed the strong masterful spirit of the crusader, men of the class who become great saints or great sinners, men when seized with an inspiration must lead some one somewhere to a goal. We have many modern and conspicuous instances. Brigham Young, the moving spirit of the Mormon movement, was one of these; General Booth of the Salvation Army is another; Dr. Dowie is another. All of these men have similar characteristics. They are all different, but different only in degree. Brigham Young, whatever we may think about the creed he taught or the religious example he set, was one of the master minds of the American continent. His training, his mental temperament, or whatever it was, led him in a certain direction. He was a strong personality with great magnetism and constructive and administrative genius. He was a teacher, a prophet, a leader of men, who in any age would have obtained a following. The splendid organic structure and the strong Mormon spirit are simply the impress of Brigham Young's genius as a founder. Perhaps, as great, if not a greater man than he, is General Booth. In the minds of most of us, General Booth is a higher type, but still the same kind of man, combining deep religious fervor with economic aims, backed by genius for organization and administration and powerful intellectual qualities—men, who, though they may stand in our minds as zealots and fanatics, direct their movements with marvelous precision and sound judgment and infinite attention to detail. Their apparent fanaticism is simply the manifestation of a tremendous vital energy and determination of purpose. It is the steam exhaust to a powerful nature.

If we were to look around in history for the greatest example of such a class of man, we would probably find him in Mahomet the Prophet. All very great men with "missions" become, through success, rationally imbued with a sense of their own strength and their influence over their fellow men, which in time they regard as a little more than human. They have faith in their star. They believe that they were divinely appointed to perform certain great works. Napoleon had supreme confidence in himself, a confidence which finally developed into a superstition, and in the end led to his ruin. Men are often overpowered with this conviction of their powers and fate, and may then be said to be irrationally imbued with themselves.

There is no doubt in the world that John Dowie became insane on the question of himself—a super-saturated egotist, and not in his latter years morally responsible for his actions. Of course, we canot undertake to know his motives or his complete mental make-up, but the indications are that he did not any more delude his followers than he deluded himself. It is quite possible that at the outset of his propaganda he was all he pretended to be. He no doubt was sincere in his beliefs, and had conscientious intentions and ambitions in the direction of building up a community in the true interests of Zion, as he called his city. He demonstrated great business ability, marvelous energy and all qualities of a true prophet. Therefore, in his downfall, we may exercise some of the charity that is due to all men. He probably, as we have intimated, became intoxicated with his own power of doing things, and was led slowly at first, and then rapidly, away from the ideals he had in view at the outset, until he stood in his own eyes for everything in the world. A clever newspaper writer has likened his fatal trip to New York to proselytize to the Moscow campaign of Napoleon—the beginning of the end.

If Dr. Dowie was less successful than some of his predecessors in similar fields of religious conquest, it was because he was less a spiritualist than an egotist, and was weaned away from his true purpose by admiration of self. This is a theory, but it is a theory well-supported by historical parallel. If Dowie was always a knave, he was one of the cleverest ever born. In our opinion he was neither knave nor fool. He was a man of marvelous achievements, who went down in dissipation, drunken with Dowieism.

THE SUBSIDY-SEEKING PROVINCES.

Finding itself $40,000 short, the Prince Edward Island government announces that if it cannot get another increase in its grant from the Dominion treasury it will raise the money by local taxation. If the Ottawa ministers are wise they will allow the better terms seekers to resort to their alternative. The money has to come out of taxation in any case, and it will be better all round if those who make the taxation necessary also have to take the responsibility of imposing it.—Montreal Gazette.

In the above remarks the Montreal Gazette assumes its characteristic attitude towards better terms in regard to all the provinces. The Gazette has never stopped for a minute to consider whether there was any principle of right at the bottom of the demand being made by the various provincial governments. It does not concern itself as to the justice involved, the fairness of the present financial relations, or the relative requirements of the governments in respect to carrying out the responsibilities imposed upon them by the terms of Confederation. The single thing which appeals to our contemporary is the fact that a certain arrangement was made in 1867 and several times later, which it regards as a contract which should be inviolably carried out forever, regardless of consequences. It views every demand by the provincial government simply as an effort to raid the federal treasury, and any compliance with the same in the light of a premium upon extravagance.

As we have pointed out on many occasions, the treaty which exists between the Dominion and the provinces must not be regarded in the light of a commercial contract wholly, enforcible to the letter and to the bitter end in all circumstances. Two men drive a bargain and they arrive at a conclusion. As soon as it is put in force, it is regarded as inflexible by the law, which respects the rights of each party to the utmost limit of the "lex scripta." A treaty between a federal and a provincial body involves more than that. There is a moral aspect to it. It presumes the mutual and common good, and that any phase of it which does the other an injustice or is not fair or is unduly burdensome also involves the moral and constitutional right that an inequality of injustice should be made right. There is nothing in the federal relation which recognizes the moral right of the other to get "the best of the bargain," although it may be part of the bond. Therefore, before we express our ipse dixit on this question of better terms, it is incumbent to enquire if the present relations are right in themselves, if the division of revenues as between the provinces and the Dominion is an equitable one, and if the present sources of revenue of the provinces are adequate for their requirements. It will not do to say that, as the Gazette does, because it is the law it must be carried out forever and that must be the end of it. If that principle were recognized throughout there would be an end to all political progress.

Most of the provinces are hard up, and the anomaly of the situation is that the more they spend for the development of the country the harder up they become, because the cost of development is greater in ratio than that of the increased revenue which comes of the development. Every person added to the population through the efforts of the provincial administration, only brings eighty cents per annum from the Dominion, whereas each such person returns, for customs and excise, between $9 and $10 per annum to the Dominion. It is true that an increase of population in a province means also an increase of revenue in other ways, in taxation, licenses, fees, etc., but it is very much less in proportion than to the Dominion. For all of Canada it does not amount to more per head of the population than $3.50 per annum. With its greater responsibilities the federal authority requires more money than the provincial authority, but the disparity is too great in favor of the latter.

There is, again, the view which the Gazette lays so much stress upon, the spending of money, and the effect felt in the way of taxation. The provinces, if they exceed their limit, must resort to direct taxation, which is always distasteful. The Dominion raises its revenue entirely by indirect taxation, although it has the right to resort to direct taxation in extremity. We know that during the past ten years, through prosperity, there has been abounding revenue, with large surpluses, which has kept pace with the most lavish expenditure Canada ever experienced, and yet no share of the immense jump in revenue has gone back to the coffers of the provinces, which helped by their expenditure to create the prosperity, notwithstanding that their responsibilities have steadily increased with the increase of population. If it be right that there should be a check upon expenditure by the provinces, there should also be a check upon the extravagance of the Dominion. Millions of dollars are being squandered right and left by the federal authorities on all sorts of schemes, and for all sorts of purposes. Some $75,000,000 or $80,000,000 are being actually thrown away upon a useless portion of the Grand Trunk Pacific to satisfy the political demands of one section of the Liberal party. The Gazette says so. If its logic is right, and as all expenditure has to come out of taxation anyway, does it not follow, that, if more were paid to the provinces there wou'd be less for the Dominion to squander?

But the crux of the whole matter is that both governments alike are responsible to the people for their acts, and that whether they are extravagant or otherwise the proportion of revenue that each should enjoy should be fixed on some equitable basis, which it is not, we contend, at the present time. Once fix upon some fair basis of financial relations, and the people of the provinces will look after the rest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by correspondents.]

"SINGLE VS. DOUBLE."

Sir—May I beg a very small space in your valued paper? I will drive straight and cut out the turns.

This is the time of booming towns and 100,000 clubs, etc., and it is a most fit and proper time for improvement in treatment.

What is the industry that has made the province and our cities, and all our wealthy merchants and dealers? The poor, despised farming industry, and nothing else. And yet today the farmer is treated worse than any other man of business in the province.

It is high time to look into these things, and a word this letter catch the eyes of the mayor of Victoria, or any other town, the matter of better treatment and prices to the farmer should be taken up by the boards of trade. Take, for instance, a farmer shipping the produce to a dealer and taking it all out in trade, such as grain, feed, etc., there are hundreds doing this today and striving to make a living at the game. Is it fair or just, I ask you, for that dealer to make a profit on both sides of the account? In short, is not the produce exactly the same as cash?

I maintain that one profit is all that the farmer should pay, and that should be a standing rule in every city, and with all and every merchant in the province. If this matter is agreed upon by each board of trade, and publicly acknowledged by all, then truly a move would be made towards 100,000 clubs and the No. 1 Club—the farmers—would be getting justice.

RANCHER.

Births, Marriages, Deaths

MARRIED

GREEN-WOLFE—At Christ Church, Vancouver, Alexander Rainer, eldest son of the late A. A. Green, of Victoria, to Babette Ethel, only daughter of Mrs. Marcus Wolfe.

OWEN-HORNE—At St. Paul's church, Nanaimo, on the 18th instant, by the Rev. A. Sylva-Whyte, assisted by the Rev. J. R. Dunlop, William Arthur Owen to Edith Blanche Horne.

DIED.

BARNARD—On Sunday, April 22, 1906, Clarissa Darlington, the dearly beloved wife of Alfred Henry Barnard, at St. Joseph's hospital, Victoria, B. C.

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE—Good family cow, test 4½. 121 Montreal street. ap25

FOR SALE—One black horse, five years old, sixteen hands high, very gentle. One bay horse, six years, good driver. One sorrel horse, six years, heavy set, kind, and good worker. Also buggies, carts, wagons and harness. Apply I. J. J. Fisher's Carriage Shop, Store St. a10

FOR SALE—Eggs for hatching from pure bred stock; imported breeds of White Minorcas, $2.50, and Black Spanish, $2, a setting. R. H. Robertson, Cumberland, B. C. ap8

EGGS FOR HATCHING—Orpingtons, black $2.50, white $1.50, buff $1; White Leghorns, $1; Pekin ducks, $1 dozen. Miss Turner, Cadboro Bay road. Phone B337. a6

FOR SALE—Pure bred, registered yearling Red Poll bull, quiet to lead. Apply to C. T. Gibbons, Cowichan station.

FOR SALE—Eight fresh calved cows, cheap. Apply Heal P. O. mr30

FOR SALE—Heavy laying strains R. I. Reds, White Leghorns, silver cup winners; stock for sale; eggs for hatching, guaranteed. Free circular. J. J. Dougan, Cobble Hill, B. C. mr29

FOR SALE—Pure Silver Laced Wyandotte pullets, at $1.50 each, and Blue Andalusian pullets, $2. H. W. Bullock, Salt Spring Island. a3

FOR SALE—White Rock eggs for sale, prize winning strain; $2.00 15. Shade's Shoe Shop, 85 Yates street. a4

FOR SALE—Black Minorca eggs, 75c. per setting. Apply Speed Bros. ap21

FOR SALE—Cheap St. Bernard dog, 14 months old. W. Short, 1 Phoenix Place, James Bay. ap24

LOST

STRAYED—Small black graded Jersey cow, branded "W. L." on left hips. Any one finding same kindly notify Mr. Noble, Royal Oak, or Dr. Wilson, Beaver Lodge. Reward. ap24

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