The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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AN INTER-PROVINCIAL TOUR

The Edmonton Bulletin and Vancouver Province discuss the reported intention of Mr. McBride to invite the premiers of the other provinces to visit this province and consider the claims of the province as though such an invitation had been sent out or at least had been decided upon. Our information is that the matter has not been as yet seriously considered by the provincial government, and that the suggestion owes its origin to a passing observation made by Mr. McBride to a Montreal friend. The Bulletin thinks the invitation would not be accepted; the Province thinks it would be. We agree with the latter. We go further and suggest that the provincial premiers should make an inter-provincial tour. Let it be begun at Sidney, Cape Breton, and ended at Dawson. Let each province bear the expense of the party while within its borders and the Dominion pay the bills for the Yukon.

For such an occasion let politics be laid aside, and let the premiers address public gatherings upon Canada as a whole, each man in turn dealing with his own province in particular. What an inspiring tour it would be? It would promote good-fellowship between the people of the various provinces. It would concentrate public attention and give us all a better idea of the greatness of our common country. The press would chronicle the movements of the party, and the complete story of the tour would be a book of the greatest value.

THE SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Victoria Sailors Ladies' Guild has issued an appeal for assistance. In it they state their objects to be to help seamen, and for that purpose:

1. To protect them from the evils they are especially exposed to in seaport cities.

2. To provide a good, homelike resort for the seamen while they are in port.

3. To afford recreations in the way of concerts, lectures, games, socials, etc.

4. To supply good literature to men while in port; also for leisure time at sea.

5. To inculcate temperance principles in the minds of seamen.

6. To provide religious privileges for seamen ashore, that their spiritual and temporal welfare may be brought about.

The co-operation of the ladies of Victoria is asked in either or all of the following ways:

By becoming a member of the Guild.

By interesting your friends in the work of the society by arranging a drawingroom meeting in aid of the work.

By sending books and magazines to the Institute.

By helping to entertain men at musical and literary evenings occasionally.

By providing tea or cake, etc., for the "At Home" on Sunday afternoons, about once a month.

By prayer that all the work done may be blest of God.

The membership fee is $1.00 a year. The officers of the league are: Mrs. J. W. Troup, president; Mrs. J. D. Pemberton and Mrs. J. R. Anderson, vice-presidents; Miss Macdonald, treasurer, and Mrs. Nathaniel Shaw, secretary. Either of these ladies will be glad to receive contributions of any kind in aid of the work, and to give any information concerning the institute which they may possess. The work is a necessary one and should be well supported.

CAR-FERRIES AND WHEAT.

The Columbian tells the people of New Westminster that its natural facilities for a grain-shipping port are greater than those of Vancouver. The facilities of Victoria are greater than those of either. If there were a land connection across the Gulf of Georgia, grain would come here as a matter of course, even though the mainland cities were as accessible by water as they are now. But car-loads of grain can be carried from the mainland to the Island more cheaply by ferry than by a land route of equal length. If you doubt it ask those who have had experience in handling business by car-ferries. "Given return freights," said the manager of the Pere Marquette railway, "and I will carry freight by car-ferry seventy-five miles across Lake Michigan for ten cents a ton and make money at it." Just see how it would figure out. Such a car-ferry as he was speaking of would carry 1,000 tons of freight, or 2,000 tons on a round trip of 150 miles. This would give earnings of $200 per day to pay for the cost of operating the ferry, which would leave a great margin, as the coal consumption would not be large and the crew would be small. The railway company that will provide for up-to-date ferry connection with Vancouver Island, not a barge towed by a tug, but a self-propelling modern craft, and build elevators at or in the vicinity of Victoria will have a splendid chance to build up a great business bringing wheat westward and shipping lumber eastward. Visionary do you say? That is what they told Samuel Cunard, when he started his steamship line. That is what they told James Harding, when he said that a railway by the most direct line from St. John to Montreal would make the former city the winter port of Canada.

EXTENDING TRADE.

The department of Trade and Commerce has prepared a circular to business men in which they are asked for suggestions as to what can be done to increase the export trade of the Dominion, and also for suggestions as to changes in the compilation of trade statistics and the collection and distribution of information received from trade commissioners. A circular of this kind, when it is received by a business man, ought to receive the best consideration he can possibly give it. No Minister and no member of the permanent staff of a department can hope to understand the practical questions arising from day to day in connection with foreign trade as the men engaged in that trade understand them. It is only necessary to talk for a little while with a merchant engaged in Oriental commence to learn that in this line of trade unique conditions occur, conditions, which would never suggest themselves to a man in a government office in Ottawa. Many merchants are slow to communicate the result of their experience and observations to the public, not because they do not wish to give others the benefit of them, but because they wish to avoid the appearance of posing as authorities, yet the information possessed by such men is just the information which the Department of Trade and Commerce ought to have, if it is to formulate plans, which will be of use to the business community. Therefore we are glad that the circulars are to be issued, and hope that those receiving them will afford the Department all the assistance in their power. Even a minor suggestion might lead to a far-reaching inquiry and a valuable result.

AN ORIENTAL DREAM.

A Calcutta despatch attributes the unrest among the educated natives of India to the influence of Japanese agitators, and alleges that the number of Japanese, touring that country, is constantly on the increase. It also speaks of a dream, indulged in by some leading Japanese, of a great Oriental federation with the Mikado's empire at the head. A good many generations have passed since the Orient has produced a great leader, but it may be that the spirit which made Kublai Khan the most powerful man of his century, yet lingers somewhere in Eastern Asia and only awaits an auspicious hour to make itself manifest. In dealing with the Orient we have to realize that the unknown quantities in the problem are many and very important. Of course, the story, which comes from Calcutta, may only be the invention of a correspondent, but well-informed people are convinced that the leaders of Japanese national thought are dreaming of things, which would not look well in print. A Japanese will assure you that his nation has absolutely no ambitions in the way of territorial expansion. Marquis Ito, as he was then called, assured the Colonist less than twelve years ago that Japan had within her own borders all the scope, which her expanding population would need for generations to come, and yet he has substantially brought about the annexation of Korea. When Formosa was taken over from China the world was assured that the change of ownership had no international significance; yet a great naval station is being established on the southern end of this island, and within striking distance of the Philippines. In Java and Sumatra the Japanese are much in evidence. Always their business is pacific, but always it is to make known the strength and glory of the giant of the north, which has shaken off the lethargy of centuries and successfully defied one of the greatest of world powers. There is little doubt that the people of Australia regard the southern extension of Japanese dominion as a present menace. The Anglo-Japanese alliance will not check advances in this direction. Its effect will be to relieve Japan from possible hostilities during the rest necessary after the struggle with Russia. When the Mikado's government is ready for the next step forward, its preparations will be just as complete as they were when war was precipitated with Russia, and the blow will be struck just as suddenly. In saying these things we are not reflecting on Japan. Probably if Canadians were Japanese they would regard a dream of Oriental domination from Kamschatka to Tasmania as only the expression of a perfectly justifiable racial and national ambition.

WOMAN AND VOTES

We hear much of the Suffragettes in England, but not much of the anti-Suffragettes. This is doubtless because the doings of the former make the most sensational reading. As a general proposition those who say "do" attract more attention than those who say "don't." But the latter are hard at work in England and are circulating literature of their own. In a leaflet before us attention is drawn to the fact that in the United Kingdom there are 20,102,408 males and 21,356,313 females, and from this it is argued that woman suffrage would give the control of affairs into the hands of women. The obvious reply to this objection is that neither the women nor the men are likely to act in a body, but this reply, though obvious, is not an answer. Granting that women would divide as men divide on public questions, as there are more of them to divide they would be the dominant factor in politics.

Some of the suffragettes seek to meet this objection by proposing a limited woman franchise. It has been suggested that only unmarried women should vote, which would be absurd, as it would give to the young girl with no thoughts above having "a good time" a power in the State, which her mother would not possess, and it would be to penalize marriage, which the law ought rather to encourage. Another suggestion is that unmarried women should not be allowed to vote, but why deprive an intelligent young woman of the franchise simply because she did not marry? Why not disfranchise the man who remained unmarried? One proposition is as sensible as the other. A third suggestion is that women shall vote on a property qualification, but if women are to vote at all, why apply to them a different rule to what is applied to men? These questions do not trouble the anti-Suffragettes, for they meet them all by saying that women should not vote at all. It is the Suffragettes who are wrestling with them.

If women are to vote, all women ought to vote, or else all men ought not to vote, and if all women vote then say The Women's National Anti-Suffrage League: "Theirs would be the dominant vote. To them would be given the greater responsibility in the appointment of the government that must decide the nation's policy in Imperial Defence, i.e., in all matters concerning the Army and Navy, in our relations with foreign powers, in our relations with our own Colonies and in the government of India." It is true that all men do not vote in the United Kingdom, but the point is that the conditions upon which suffrage might be exercised ought to be identical in the case of men and women, and under such circumstances women would be the dominant factor.

In a circular issued by the League there is the following paragraph: "If women vote, they ought also to hold office and office-holding, on the face of it is incompatible with woman's proper discharge of her duties as a wife and mother. 'Woe betide the land which offers its political trusts as premiums for childless women.' The trusts that women now bear are as sacred as any on earth, and man cannot relieve her of them."

The principle at the base of this paragraph is recognized by many of our cities, which dismiss women school teachers as soon as they get married. It is a surprising thing that the advocates of women suffrage refuse to give any consideration to the physical reasons why women are incapable of discharging all the duties of citizenship. As woman suffrage is not an issue in Canada and is not likely soon to be, it is not necessary for the Colonist to express any opinion one way or the other, but it would have no objection to print letters from the friends of the movement, if they will confine themselves to facts and arguments.

ELECTION PROTESTS.

Eastern exchanges describe in a graphic way a scene, which took place in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick on the last day for the filing of election petitions. Before that day came it is alleged negotiations had been in progress between the representatives of the two political parties to see if an arrangement could be reached which would prevent any protests from being filed, but they were not successful, and on the day mentioned four attorneys appeared in the Clerk's office, each armed with a petition and the necessary cash deposit. The petitions were against Mr. Pugsley, of St. John, Liberal; Mr. McAllister, of Kings-Albert, Liberal; Dr. Daniel, of St. John, Conservative, and Mr. Crocket, of York, Conservative. Here were all the elements of a nice "saw off," and the papers are unanimous in saying that such a proceeding would have been acceptable all round, if Mr. Fowler, the defeated candidate in Kings-Albert, had been willing. The wires were kept busy with messages from all sorts and conditions of politicians urging Mr. Fowler not to press his protest, but no satisfactory reply was received, so a few minutes before the office closed the attorneys in the three other cases sat around the Clerk's table with their petitions and Dominion notes in their hand. It was a case of four o'clock or Fowler arriving first. With just a minute to his credit, Mr. Fowler's attorney reached the scene and laid his petition and cash on the table, and simultaneously down dropped the other petitions with the requisite cash, and the first step towards maintaining electoral purity in the year of grace 1908 and in the province of New Brunswick had been taken. Such a performance is not calculated to enhance materially the respect and confidence which the public have, or at least ought to have, in the public men of the country. It makes politics look like a game. We are not laying the blame at the door of any individual, or claiming credit for one man more than another. We are simply saying that the incident is calculated to bring the whole matter of election protests into contempt. It makes them appear, not as devices whereby electoral purity can be promoted, but one whereby scheming politicians can secure something that they think worth while. If this were the only case of the kind, the very ludicrousness of the exhibition would take some of the harm out of it; but there have been other cases in which protests were not filed, but were withdrawn by virtue of arrangements between the party managers. The history of election protests is such that one may be excused for doubting if the country is in any way the better for them. There is no use in scolding the party managers for the abuse of protests, and by party managers we do not mean the party leaders, but the local managers of campaigns. These people would not dare play fast and loose with the election law if public opinion was not utterly lukewarm in respect to its observance. Politics is too much of a game; but it will remain a game and the laws of the land will be brought into contempt by the men, who are elected to make them, unless public sentiment crystallizes into a demand for honesty in all matters connected with the elections.

Germany is to build airships capable of carrying explosives—another move in the direction of preserving the peace of Europe.

Representatives of the Alberta government are in Ottawa and it is alleged that their business is in connection with the proposed railway policy of that province.

The Christmas number of the War Cry contains a spirited picture entitled "In the Firing Line." It is a reproduction of Mr. R. Caton Woodville's splendid painting.

In notable contrast to the attitude of the press in Canada, all the papers in South Africa give sympathetic approval to Lord Rosebery's committee's proposal that a regular number of Colonial peers should be admitted to the House of Lords.

Commenting upon the statement of Mr. Hays, of the Grand Trunk Pacific, that he expected to see Prince Rupert a great wheat-shipping port, the Toronto Globe says he probably had in mind the future market for Canadian grain in the Orient, and not the demands of the United Kingdom and other European points. We shall not assume to say what Mr. Hays had in mind, but it is altogether likely that he is fully aware of the fact that grain is already shipped from Tacoma, Portland and Seattle for the United Kingdom.

The very interesting announcement is made that a party of British bankers will visit Canada in the early summer of 1909 for the first time. This news was brought to Montreal by Mr. Tancred Bienvenue, general manager of the Provincial Bank, and Mr. G. M. Bosworth, fourth vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who went to England in connection with the Provincial Bank deal with a large London banking institution and succeeded so well that they state that it is the intention of the financial contingent to take a private car at Montreal and leisurely take in Ontario, the three Prairie provinces, British Columbia, and very likely the Maritime Provinces as well. The general impression is that the excursion in question will lead to large sums of additional capital being invested in the Dominion.

It is proposed to increase the salary of the President of the United States from $50,000 to $100,000. The job is worth it.

Athabasca Landing has its newspaper. Before we realize what is going on there will be a paper published at Great Bear Lake.

"Popular opinion inclines to the belief that Castro's rule is drawing to an end," says a despatch from The Hague. Castro seems to have had some small hint along the same lines himself.

Some people in London suggest that President Roosevelt is mad. Well, wouldn't anybody be mad if he was charged with such a monumental graft as that alleged in connection with the purchase of the Panama Canal.

Mr. Borden is to be asked to declare his views on woman's suffrage. He might reply that he is awaiting the outcome of the agitation in England. Will he follow the Prime Minister's example and refer the ladies to Sir James Whitney?

Local merchants report that the volume of business this year is much in excess of any previous holiday season. It may be said, in all truthfulness, that business conditions in Victoria are in an eminently satisfactory condition, and that the outlook is most promising.

Apparently there is going to be considerable distress in Toronto this winter owing to lack of employment for men. Some means will have to be devised of preventing the congestion of men in the cities in search of employment.

The report that the Canadian Northern has an option on the Calgary and Edmonton railway, now operated by the Canadian Pacific, is very interesting, but the man, who supposes that the latter company would be thereby shut out of Edmonton for any length of time, will reckon without his host.

Mrs. William Bunn, who has just died at her residence at Shoal Lake, Manitoba, at the age of 90 years, visited the site of Victoria in 1847. There must be but few persons now living whose experience of pioneer life in this section of Canada antedates that of the estimable lady who has just passed away.

The number of Indians in Canada is on the whole slightly increasing, although in some localities they are dying out. As an eastern contemporary points out, no color line is drawn against the Indian, whose complete assimilation with the white population is only a matter of a few generations.

The city council has acted wisely in deciding to hereafter arrange to have names of streets imbedded in the cement walks at the corners of each thoroughfare. Visitors have experienced much annoyance because of the absence of facilities for information which this will supply.

Replying to an address of welcome at Colombo, Ceylon, Admiral Sperry, in command of the United States battleship fleet, said that the object of the cruise was not to demonstrate American naval power, but to teach her navy the lesson of self-maintenance, which Lord Nelson and the British admirals learned in the eighteenth century.

The Asquith government has withdrawn the bill prohibiting the use of hop substitutes in the manufacture of beer, as it savored too much of protection. The government, supported as it is by an immense majority, seems quite unable to adhere to any definite programme, and by its shilly-shally policy is rapidly making itself the laughing stock of the country.

Several women in a Toronto crowd attempted to kiss Longboat, the famous Indian runner, on his arrival from New York, but were prevented by bystanders. These latter showed themselves meddlesome busybodies. It is such instances as this which lift athletics out of the mire of commercialism to a higher and nobler plane, make life worth living and promote peace and goodwill to men.

The attitude of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the Licensing Bill has, it is said, created a profound impression in England. He not only voted for the measure, but made a powerful speech in support of it. The Nation says: "He took a higher line of moral rebuke than he has ever yet adopted—a line such as the Episcopal bench has not, we think, taken before in its history."

Solely because it is in the interest of education and without any commercial features whatever, we commend to the attention of the public the fact that on the twenty-ninth instant the second concert of the Victoria Musical Society's series will be given. The artists are Miss Katherine Goodson, pianist; Mr. Arthur Hartmann, violinist and Mr. Alfred Calzin, accompanist. This is a rare combination of artists.

The Council of Jewish Women, of New York, have issued an appeal to the press for the elimination of indecent details in the published evidence at murder and divorce trials. While everyone will sympathize with the motives here disclosed, it must be apparent to all thoughtful persons that the present movement is simply misdirected effort. The press may be divided into two parts—the respectable and the reverse. In respect to those of the first class, no such appeal was necessary, and as to the latter, it will not be heeded. The only way in which the suggested reform may be accomplished is by securing the enactment of laws prohibiting the publication of the objectionable matter alluded to, but we fear public opinion in the United States is hardly ripe for such reform.

SHOP EARLY TOMORROW

NEW THINGS EVERY DAY

Santa Is Coming With a Rush

JUST FOUR SHORT SHOPPING DAYS AND THEN THE HOLIDAY

YES, Xmas will be here in a jiffy—four short shopping days only intervene. And how those four days will fly! Unless you start in early tomorrow morning you'll surely overlook something in the rush and excitement of the next few days.

Fill up the home with practical gifts—useful articles, gifts of service to every member of the household. In some instances it is preferable to take the money usually expended on a host of gifts for individual members and invest it in the purchase of something for the daily use and enjoyment of the whole family.

But whether you seek gifts for the individual or gifts for the family, you'll travel far before you'll find a more comprehensive assortment of practical gifts than is offered you in this establishment. And the values—well, we claim that for equal quality our values are unmatchable.

As to the price latitude of this shop—what more could you want than a list of sensible and useful articles, ranging in price from 10c up to $500, or more if you wish furniture combinations? Surely there is a price range to suit any purse—to fit yours. By all means come and see our splendid offerings before deciding upon "what to buy."

Gracious Gifts

Most gracious of gifts—Libbey Cut Glass. In thousands of homes the loveliest gift of all will be Libbey Cut Glass. And can you conceive a Christmas remembrance more satisfying in every respect? Is it not the gift you are seeking?

If "Her" gift is cut glass her first thought will be: "Is it Libbey's"? If it is—unrestrained delight. The very name is an assurance that you have bought the best.

NAPPIES, $12.00 to $2.50
VASES, $30.00 to $3.50
BOWLS, $40.00 to $7.50
CANDLESTICKS $6.00
DECANTERS, $18.00 to $10.00
WHISKEYS, $18.00 to ..$10.00
CLARET JUGS $15.00
SUGARS AND CREAMS, $18.00 to $7.50
CELERY TRAYS, $12 to $6.00
OIL BOTTLES, $7.50 to ..$5.00
WATER BOTTLES, $14.00 to only $6.00
ICE TUBS $15.00
HAIR RECEIVERS $9.00
CARD RECEIVERS .. $12.00
BUTTER DISHES $20 to $6.00
TUMBLERS, per dozen, $24.00 to $20.00
ROSE BOWLS, $35.00, $10.00
COMPORTS, $10.00 to ...$5.00

THIS IS CUT Libbey ON EVERY PIECE TRADE MARK

GIFTS FOR LADIES

And for the Lady of the Home the first gift should be a Bissell Carpet Sweeper, for we know of no other gift that would be more appreciated than this labor-saver. Good for at least 10 years' service. Priced at $3.25, $3.75 and $5.00.

Ink Stands
Sterling Whisks
Bridge Tables
Foot Stools
Music Cabinets
Parlor Cabinets
Parlor Chairs
Reed Chairs
Ladies' Desks
Framed Pictures
Work Tables
Tea Tables
Jardiniere Stands
Book Cases
Magazine Stands
Couches
Framed Mirrors
Dressing Tables
Sewing Sets
Manicure Sets
Sterling Toilet Sets
"Libbey" Cut Glass
Fancy China
Kettle and Stand (for 5 o'clock tea)
Fern Pots
Jardinieres
Piano Lamps

BY ALL MEANS SEE OUR LIST OF PRESENTS FOR THE LADIES

Gift Suggestions

Here are a few of the host of Xmas Gift Suggestions the Second Floor offers you this season. We have listed on these pages during the past few days many of the goods things shown here, so today we call attention to but a very few. You'll find these specially good values and ideal for gift giving purposes.

We should greatly appreciate an opportunity to show you these and other interesting items.

Art Table Covers

The best values we have ever offered in these Liberty Art Table Covers. A splendid assortment of designs and several sizes—from 36 to 40 inches square. Prices range from—

50¢ to $1.25

Pillow Cases

Splendid values in pillow cases, these. We have them in hemstitched and frilled, and all are priced at the fairest sort of pricings. For quality brands, what better prices would you want than

Hemstitched at .....25¢
Frilled, at, from.....50¢

Linen Drawn Work

This Mexican Linen Drawn Work offers a wealth of good things for gifts. The daintiest creations imaginable are offered, and the pricings are such as to fit most any purse strings. Here are a few:

TABLE CENTRES, $10.00 to only $1.75
D'OYLIES, from $1.25 to...40¢
SIDEBOARD SCARFS, $8.50 to $4.50
TEA CLOTHS, $1.00 to $20.00

WEILER BROS. VICTORIA·B·C

THE $1.50 TAG

Perfume Sprays
Brass Vases
Cake Plates
Salad Bowls
China Cups and Saucers
China Berry Dishes
China Cheese Dishes
Glass Vases
Jardinieres
Frilled Cushions
Sterling Table Bells
Silver Sugar Tongs
Silver Toast Racks
Silver Napkin Rings
Silver Berry Spoons

WEILER BROS. VICTORIA·B·C

THE $2.50 TAG

Art Cushions
Lace Curtains
Oak Jardiniere Stands
Umbrella Stands
Mission Book Shelf
Mission Dining Chairs
Large Arm Rockers
Oak Book Shelf
Child's Reed Rockers
China Cups and Saucers
Sterling Whisks
Sterling Match Safes
Linen Tea Cloths
Axminster Rugs
Pretty Table Covers

FREE—A VALUABLE NEW BOOK ON HOMES—FREE

We have just received from the press our mammoth new 1909 catalogue of homefurnishings—the handsomest work of its line issued in Canada.

It is a big book of useful information on home-furnishing, and a big lesson in economy in home decoration, and a copy should adorn the bookshelves of every homekeeper in B. C. Its more than 300 pages offer an easy solution of the Xmas Gift problem. Out-of-the-city dwellers should send for a copy. Mailed free on receipt of postal. Send today.

THE "FIRST" FURNITURE STORE OF THE "LAST" WEST—ESTAB. 1862

HOMES HOTELS CLUBS BOATS

Weiler Bros

CHURCHES SCHOOLS STORES OFFICES

SHOWROOMS: GOVERNMENT ST., VICTORIA, B. C. FACTORY: HUMBOLDT ST.

Ebony Goods for Ladies

Always appreciable and very popular as Christmas gifts. Why not select one of these genuine articles?

EBONY HAIR BRUSHES, $4.00 to $1.00
EBONY CLOTHES BRUSHES, from $2.25
EBONY HAT BRUSHES, prices to $1, 90c and .....75¢
TOILET CASES, beautifully fitted in Ebony, full range of prices.

CYRUS. H. BOWES, Chemist, Government St., near Yates