

The Colonist.

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THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr. Attorney-General Bowser is back to his office again after a trip to Eastern Canada and Europe. Like all good British Columbians, he is glad to get home again. The rest had done him much good, although the trip was not a pleasure one by any manner of means. It has fallen to Mr. Bowser's lot to have the responsibility of bringing forward for final decision several very important public questions. As is well known, there are some matters upon which the respective jurisdictions of the federal and provincial governments are not well defined. The framers of the British North America Act endeavored to define them, but they could not be expected to have in mind the various aspects of the different subjects, which they attempted to apportion, and at any rate the terms of the apportionment are such that the jurisdictions necessary overlapped. This was unavoidable, and the courts have during the last forty years had a good deal to do in determining the meaning of that statute. A number of the questions have been disposed of, and as far as we now recall political considerations have played no part in them in any way whatever. Where provincial governments have thought they had jurisdiction they have asserted it, and the Dominion government has followed a similar course. A little consideration will show that this is the only proper course to take. If either of the governments should submit to a limitation of its jurisdiction, harm might come of it, for later private individuals might raise the question involved in the act, and the consequences to innocent people might be serious. For this and other reasons the federal governments have always been jealous of their constitutional rights.

It has so happened that during the last few years three important matters have arisen in regard to which there are doubts. They are the Indian reservations, the fisheries and the water rights within the railway belt. The first was brought up in acute form by the action of the Dominion government in regard to the Ts'mispan Reserve; the second arose out of the demand for better terms, in which the provincial government of British Columbia was involved; and the third came up in connection with the action of a water power company, and the policy of the province in respect to irrigation and water powers. It was the clear duty of the provincial government to uphold what it was advised are the rights of the province and equally the duty of the Dominion government to uphold what it was advised are the rights of the Dominion. These questions have brought Mr. Bowser's name very prominently before the public, and we can say with justice that he has conducted the proceedings relating thereto in a manner which has shown him to be alive to their importance, as well as a good lawyer and capable administrator.

Just a word as to Mr. Bowser as a public man. He is very industrious. If he has a falling in this direction it is that he works too hard for his own health. He is an exceedingly courteous and obliging departmental chief. In the legislature he is a fearless debater, always giving and taking forensic blows with unflinching good nature. He has an admirable legislative record to his credit, and while he is a strong partisan, he never lets partisanship interfere with his sense of fair play, and even-handed justice. As the head of the provincial law department he sustains splendidly the high reputation which that office has enjoyed in British Columbia ever since it was a province. Of nothing have our people greater cause to be proud than the manner in which the administration of justice has been carried on. The reputation of the province in that regard is world-wide. No higher praise can be given to any attorney-general than to say that he is a worthy successor of the galaxy of able attorneys-general who have preceded him, and when we say this, in regard to Mr. Bowser, we are sure no one will assert that it is not perfectly true.

A COMING QUESTION

On Saturday a Chinese school was opened in this city and it was given of the ceremonies it was stated that there are over three hundred children in Victoria of Chinese parents but of British, that is of Canadian, birth. The number of such children will increase from year to year, and the question of their political status must inevitably come up sooner or later. The London Free Press tells of an application being made for admission to citizenship in the United States which was refused. The applicant was a man named William Knight. He had served in the United States navy for twenty-seven years, and was awarded a medal for exceptional courage in the battle of Manila. His father was an Englishman; his mother was half Chinese, half Japanese. They were married at Shanghai

under the British flag. The court held that he was a Mongolian. In British Columbia no "Mongolian" can be enfranchised under the law as it now stands. But what is a Mongolian? The word Mongolian originally was an invention by a writer about a century ago, who made an unwarranted division of the human race into five families. He applied the term Mongolian to the people of Asia. He was absolutely astray in his classification. The term Mongol, or Mogol, is the name of an Asiatic tribe having the same origin as the Turks, most of the Russians, the Hungarians, probably the Poles and some other European races. The most distorted application of the term cannot make a Hindu, a Sikh, a Persian or a Japanese a Mongolian in a racial sense of the term. By no means all of the people of China are of Mongolian descent. In point of fact, only a minority of them are. Therefore ethnologically the term Mongolian has really no meaning of any value. But this aspect of the case is academic only. The practical side of it is that every year from now on a number of native-born residents of British Columbia, whose parents pay taxes, who receive a good education, who will go into business, who will acquire property, who will become intelligent law-abiding citizens, will not have a right to vote, because they are of Chinese parentage. Frankly, we do not think they ought to have a vote because their ways are not sufficiently our ways as yet to make us feel safe in entrusting to them what might easily be the balance of power in elections; but their disenfranchisement does not exactly harmonize with a sense of justice. This seems to show that you cannot always safely apply abstract principles to the working out of political problems. But there is not the least doubt that by and by this question will come up in an acute form.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE

Despatches from London demonstrate the wisdom of the course taken by the Colonist in refraining from endeavoring to shape a scheme of Imperial Defence, as many of our Eastern contemporaries have been doing day in and day out. Commenting some days ago upon observations in a contemporary reflecting unfavorably upon the entire absence of anything resembling jingoism in Mr. Borden's remarks on this question, we said that he could not hope to satisfy the extremists, because he must of necessity feel a grave sense of responsibility in view of the fact that what is now being done in London by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the overseas Dominions is the determination of a policy which will at least be a foundation for future action. At the base of this policy there must be certain principles, which will be settled from time to time, provided the basic principles are sound. This view is in line with what Mr. Borden said in his Dominion Day speech in London. We quote from it:

The resolution in the form in which it was passed, while its terms might not upon their surface seem as significant at the moment as the offer of the Dreadnoughts would have been, laid down a permanent policy for the Dominion of Canada upon which both parties united and which would serve a more practical purpose than any such offer of Dreadnoughts.

There are people in Canada, "more loyal than the King" who will refuse to accept this as a frank statement. They will say, as a Winnipeg paper recently said, that Mr. Borden is hedging so as to keep himself square with the French vote, but to us it seems that he is displaying statesmanship of a high order. The Colonist was one of the few papers which would have been glad to have seen Mr. Borden consulted by the Imperial Conference. That was not thought advisable by those who have the determining of such matters, but Mr. Borden has, with what we regard as a high conception of his patriotic duty, taken occasion while in London to express himself upon the question of Imperial Defence in a manner showing the people of Canada to be a unit as far as their political leaders can speak for them. We take the following from the Toronto Globe:

In a speech at the Constitutional Club, Mr. R. L. Borden summarized the view expressed by Parliament at the last session, commending it as a policy on which both parties were united. His summary was: (1) That they recognized the duty of Canada to take her share in Imperial Defence as her wealth and importance increased; (2) that the payment of regular and periodic contributions to the Imperial treasury was not, as far as Canada was concerned, the most satisfactory solution of the problem of Imperial Defence; (3) that the House would approve any expenditure necessary for the speedy establishment of a Canadian navy in close relation to and in co-operation with the Imperial navy; and along the lines suggested by the Admiralty at the last Imperial Conference; and (4) that the Canadian

people would be prepared to make any sacrifices necessary for the purpose of co-operating with the Imperial navy in maintaining the integrity of the Empire and its naval supremacy.

To this no true Canadian can take any objection. As far as can be judged from the despatches, it is along the lines thus indicated that the Conference is proceeding, and we are confident that no one will be more gratified if a decision is reached, giving effect to these ideas, than the Conservative leader.

While speaking of this matter, reference may be made to an article in the Minneapolis Journal, wherein an argument is made against Canada having a navy of her own, and advising her to trust to the Monroe Doctrine for protection. To this the Toronto Star replies that if the British Navy were vanquished, the Monroe Doctrine would not be worth talking about. This is true. It was the knowledge that the British Navy was prepared to back it up that gave President Monroe courage to announce the so-called doctrine.

Austrian Prince gone bankrupt for \$10,000. What's the matter with hettress crop?

Hamilton Herald wants law making Canadians ineligible for office of governor-general. We don't believe it would make the least bit of difference where a governor-general came from, as long as he was a man of sense.

A contemporary thinks the trouble with the Northern Indians can be cured by giving them each 160 acres of land. We fear it is over-optimistic on that point. One hundred and sixty acres of land would be of much little use to the average northern Indian.

Eastern contemporary says Siwash are a tribe of Indians living in Northern British Columbia. Eastern contemporary should buy Chinook dictionary. Would then learn that any Indian is a Siwash, or Savage, as the term means.

San Francisco lawyer stole \$100,000; ran away to South America; made fortune; was to pay his debts and come home. Question is: Is lawyer seized with spasm of honesty, or is it simply that he thinks it worth while to pay \$100,000 to get back to San Francisco?

After all it seems that those people who questioned the sufficiency of the new reservoir may not have been so far astray after all. We forbear comment until more is known, but it is not pleasant to learn that at the very height of the dry season the reservoir has had to be put out of commission.

The New York Evening Post is much impressed with the difficulty of the problem presented by South Africa. It refers to the fact that in the United States, Canada, and Australia the number of the native races was relatively so small in comparison with the area over which they were spread and the number of white immigrants, that they could be ignored in working out the problem of government.

In New Zealand the Maories were numerically strong enough to demand and receive political recognition, and in South Africa the black population occupies even a stronger position. It is hardly possible that the white population of the latter country can undertake a policy of extermination against the blacks, and that they shall be kept perpetually in a state of inferiority is hard to believe. Evidently the Boer problem is not the only one with which the statesmen of South Africa will have to grapple.

A contemporary says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier accepted office a poor man, and asks how much better off he is now. Although the paper asking this question is a supporter of the Dominion government, we take leave to tell that its observation is a piece of unwarrantable impudence. It is no one's business whether Sir Wilfrid Laurier is rich or poor, as long as no one suggests that, if he is rich, he has become so at the public expense. For our own part we should be very glad to learn that Sir Wilfrid has been able to make a good investment now and then, but it is distinctly none of our business, nor any one else's. Equally impertinent is our contemporary's inquiry as to the financial standing of Mr. McBride. If one should speak of Mr. Templeman's financial position before he entered public life, and ask questions as to his present position, he would very properly say it was nobody's business but his own. We had supposed that the contemporary referred to had reached the depth of the mire of politics, but we were mistaken. Paraphrasing a famous quotation from Hudibras, we may say: "Which way it turns is mine; itself is mine; and in the lowest mire still lower mire opens."

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Here are a few seasonal items from the silver store. Splendid for table now or any time. Patterns are newest, quality the very best and the prices fair—what more would one want? Pleased to show you these and many other interesting items in this department.

BERRY DISHES—Silver plated dishes with glass bowls. Many attractive styles with prices ranging at \$10.00 to \$4.00

BERRY SPOONS—of 1847 Rogers Bros.' silver plate. Many pretty designs and each one in a lined case. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$2.00

BERRY SETS—Another 1847 Rogers Bros.' product. Set consists of spoon and half-dozen forks in lined case. Several patterns, at per set \$6.00

STERLING BERRY SPOONS—If you want something dainty in Sterling berry spoons, see these. In lined cases, at \$7.50 to \$5.00

Bedroom Furniture

New Styles Low Priced

COMBINATION DRESSER AND STAND—This is an attractive and space saving piece of furniture. Has 1 large and 1 deep drawer and cupboard. Large bevel plate mirror, towel rack. Nicely finished. Priced at \$14

COMBINATION DRESSER AND STAND—Another combination of merit. Has 3 drawers and cupboard and attractive oval bevel plate mirror. Towel rack. Nicely finished in golden oak finish. Priced at, each \$18

DRESSER AND STAND—\$35 for this suite is little. Dresser has 2 large, and 3 small drawers and round bevel plate mirror. Nicely finished in golden oak finish. Price for the two pieces is \$35

DRESSER AND STAND—This is an excellent value. Dresser has 2 large and 3 small drawers and large, round bevel plate mirror. Finely finished in mahogany finish. Stand designed to match. Two pieces for \$38

DRESSER AND STAND—A suite in golden quarter-cut oak. Dresser has 1 large and 2 small drawers and a large bevel plate mirror. Finely finished throughout. Two pieces priced at \$40

Come In and Try These Comfortable New Chairs

COME in and sit in some of these new furniture pieces—feel the comfort and ease of these newest creations. The assortment just added Saturday includes great, large, roomy, easy and morris chairs that are invitingly comfortable in appearance—and fact. Designs are decidedly new, materials the best and the finish unbeatable.

These chairs come in Early English finished mission styles and in golden oak. They are upholstered in leather and are built to last a lifetime. If you are interested in superior furniture, new styles and fair prices, by all means see these offerings.

ARM ROCKER—Mission designed frame finished in Early English finish, selected oak; upholstered in red leather. Priced at \$18.00

ARM CHAIR—Mission designed frame, selected oak, finished in Early English finish. Upholstered in red leather. Priced at \$18.00

ARM ROCKER—Selected oak frame of mission design, finished in Early English finish. Upholstered in red or olive Spanish leather. Price \$18.00

ARM CHAIR—A mission designed frame of selected oak, finished in Early English finish. Upholstered in olive Spanish leather. Price \$18.00

ROCKER—A striking style in Early English finished oak, mission design. Upholstered in olive Spanish leather. Priced at each \$35.00

THREE-PIECE SUITE—Consisting of arm chair, arm rocker and settee. Made of selected oak in mission design. Upholstered in red leather. An attractive suite. Price for three pieces \$80.00

STYLISH DINING ROOM FURNITURE JUST IN

LOOK where you will never find more attractive furniture than these diningroom pieces just added—not at the price nor much more than the price. Some of the handsomest creations in diningroom furniture pieces are now in our showrooms—just added Saturday.

We'll have these priced for you tomorrow and we want you to come in and see these pleasing pieces in mahogany. Selected woods have been chosen, artistic designers employed and the highest workmanship put into these and the product is something striking in dining tables, dinner wagons, china cabinets, parlor cabinets.

OTHER FURNITURE—A carload will be up from the freight sheds tomorrow. The car includes some pleasing parlor furniture and diningroom chairs, tables, etc. We'll have much to interest you this week—in new and stylish, well built furniture.

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MANY DEATHS DURING THE HEAT WAVE

Thousands Swelter and So Pass Away in New City as the Mercury Climbs the Scale

WAILING OF BABIES SOUNDS THROUGH N

New York, Aug. 11.—The record of yesterday, when more than two score people died in this city from the effects of the unprecendented heat, bids fair to be equalled or passed today. Up to noon the record at police headquarters and at the hospitals showed that at least a score more had been added to the roll of the sun's sacrifices and it is understood that many others will die before the coming of darkness, a slight relief to the sufferers.

Men walked about the downtown streets today in their shirt sleeves, carrying fans, the sweat pouring from their faces. The sight of an unconscious woman being carried to a drug store for restoratives, was uncommon and the ambulances busy all day. Everyone who died today died of heat, and many among the poorer classes went out to food rather than brave the heat of the city long enough to get their customary work. Those who spent the day, as they had spent the night, on the sands at Coney Island, were not so fortunate.

The greatest mortality has been among the babies and their wailing sounds pitifully through the night. Early in the evening the heat was less direct, but the sun's rays were less direct, and the babies and younger children splashed and waded in the dirt and rolled in the cool mud. Late in the night, when the heat was at its height, the wailing of the children, and the clanging of ambulances, were hurried to hospitals where sometimes death, relieved their misery, and bodies of these little ones lay at the morgue and this morning more were sent to join them.

Of them came from the East where the suffering is greatest. There are many depressing features of the heat wave in a great city, but night crying of the children is most distressing.

Next to the babies, the very young adults are the greatest sufferers. The hospitals are filled with victims, most of whom will never recover. Ten adults are dead up to present time and fresh calls to the hospitals pour in.

The parks throughout the city crowded all night and thousands on rooves. In the coldest of the city hall, where the stonework the sun off during the day, there is a breath of fresh air at the grate figures lay during the night of darkness to be roused at day by the special police. During the children hang about the fountains, splashing in their waters and free shower baths beneath them when the purposely blind "cops" not see them. The wailing of the trust are pursued by vultures bands of youngsters who descend on each order of the frozen food is delivered. The horses thro the city suffer keenly from the too, and hundreds of them st. Many drivers use the hose of animals at every opportunity.

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