

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST One Year \$1.00 Six Months .75 Three Months .50 Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

A LAND POLICY.

The local evening paper calls upon the government to propound a land policy, and promises to support it in so doing if it is for the general benefit of the province. Our contemporary would hardly like to admit that it would oppose a policy that would be for the general benefit. But this only by the way. The Colonist would be equally glad to support any new policy that would be of that character, and it would hail with delight any proposals which its contemporary, or any one else, may make that will lead to "bringing the waste places under cultivation." The difficulty about the matter is to devise a policy that will have the effect desired. While the Colonist does not favor the locking up of large areas for speculative purposes, it is not by any means sure that moderately large areas might not be sold to individuals or colonization corporations with advantage. In saying this the Colonist is speaking solely for itself and not for the government. It has every sympathy for the pre-emptor, but it is by no means sure that colonization companies are not likely to be the means of bringing very many desirable settlers into the country. This is a very large province, and the area of farming land is much greater than has generally been supposed. There is plenty of room for pre-emptors, even although very considerable tracts are in the hands of companies. These companies can go out and look for settlers and many of them are doing so with great success. The people, whom they bring to the country make excellent settlers as a rule, and we do not see why this sort of work ought not to produce good results in British Columbia as it has in the Prairie Provinces.

The case of lands requiring irrigation is one that can hardly be dealt with by pre-emptors. The settler who takes up 160 acres cannot as a rule afford to bring water to it and unless the government is going to install irrigation works, as has been proposed, it seems to follow either that such lands must be controlled by a single owner to warrant the establishment of an irrigation plant. We can very well believe that our contemporary would like to see the country settled, and we would like to know what it thinks is the best way to deal with the irrigable areas.

While, as we have said, there are considerable areas in the hands of private individuals or companies and held for speculative purposes, either through colonization or otherwise, it is to be remembered that the wildland tax, which is four per cent, is a very considerable inducement for such owners to let their holdings go at reasonable prices. If there should appear to be any disposition on the part of such owners to block the settlement of the country, there is always a remedy in the hands of the government and legislature in the shape of an increase in this tax. Would our contemporary favor such an increase at the present time? The whole subject is one that might be profitably discussed without any feeling.

SHOOTING ACCIDENTS.

The shooting season opened this year with a fatal accident; a young man, with a lifetime before him was shot to death by a fellow-hunter—a boy whose knowledge of firearms was practically nil. It is not out of place to comment on the occurrence. The details of the fatality are matters for the police and the coroner. The fact confronting us is this: another name has been added to a list already shamefully long, the list of those accidentally killed by careless hunters. Surely if proof was insufficient before, this sad affair points the necessity of a remedy for this danger.

A few days prior to the opening of the hunting season this year a citizen who has seen active service in war time remarked to an acquaintance that he would not object to taking his chances again on a field of battle, but he would not for any consideration risk his life in the hunting district adjacent to Victoria during the early days of the "open" period. And this was no idle talk. The man spoke advisedly. With the district in which some may lawfully be shot restricted to a comparatively small area—and justly so—and with no check upon trigger fingers of the great army of ambitious sports, there is a very

real danger in traversing the woods at this time of the year.

The question of a remedy is one which offers many difficulties. The suggestion most popular among the sportsmen who would seek to put a stop to this danger, is that of gun licenses. The objection to gun licenses is the difficulty that would be entailed in their enforcement. Yet they would undoubtedly go far towards solving the problem of keeping guns out of the hands of irresponsible and inexperienced lads. A more stringent and more effective means—if it is not requiring all sportsmen to prove their right to carry firearms before they might take guns into the woods. But, whatever the remedy, the necessity for one has been emphasized most painfully. It is assuredly in order for the sportsmen themselves to take this matter in hand, and come forward with suggestions upon which a workable solution may be based.

MAIL SERVICE.

The attention of the Colonist has been called to a matter that seems of some importance. The City of Nanaimo brings mail from Cumberland, Comox and other points in that neighborhood. This mail is transferred at Nanaimo to the E. & N. railway. On the down trip, when the boat does not come on to Victoria, this is probably the best arrangement that can be made, and when the boat connects with the train on Saturday afternoon, it is all right, but when the connection is not made, the mail lies in the Nanaimo office until Monday morning, when it is sent on to Victoria, reaching here at noon. There being no noon delivery those business men, who do not have postoffice boxes, do not get letters coming by that mail until 4 p. m., which is too late to ship orders by the boat on Tuesday morning. The suggestion is that the boat should bring the mail through to Victoria on Saturday.

In regard to city delivery, we suggest that the time has come for a noon delivery, in the business section. At present there are only two deliveries daily, and properly enough under those conditions, the late delivery is not made until after the Sound mail comes in. We think a delivery to the business section ought to be made as soon as the E. & N. mail is distributed. Undoubtedly, as the postmaster points out, this cannot be done with the present staff. We would not have disposed of a statement that the office is undermanned for its present business. We think a good case can be made out for a larger staff.

THE CASE OF CAMPBELLTOWN.

The case of Campbelltown, N. B., is set out very clearly and moderately in a letter from the secretary of the relief committee to Mr. Frank I. Clarke, secretary of the Canadian Club here. It appears to us that the people of Canada are not doing their full duty towards the inhabitants of that unfortunate town. It will be a very creditable thing if those who have suffered so severely from the fire are called upon to suffer from the rigors of the winter. We commend this matter to the consideration of the City Council. We are sure the citizens would support that body in giving what under the circumstances would be a reasonable donation. This is a case where "he gives twice who gives quickly."

A COSTLY CONFLAGRATION.

Returns from Ottawa show that during the past fiscal year the consumption of cigarettes in Canada increased by something like 100,000,000. The increase was entirely in "home made"—Canadian manufactured—cigarettes, imports having fallen off slightly. The consumption of tobacco in this form during the period ending March 31st, caused about \$4,000,000 to go up in smoke. These figures will, no doubt, be viewed with alarm by a very large number of citizens who entertain ancient and honorable prejudices against the white paper "cotton mills," as they have been called. Yet a careful consideration of

facts may show that the alarm, which we take for granted, may be unfounded and that, contrary to natural inferences, Canada is not going to the bow-wow.

In the first place, it is not at all proved that the much maligned cigarette is the agent of destruction which it is popularly supposed to be. There are eminent authorities who declare that a cigarette made of good tobacco is one of the purest forms in which the soothing weed may be used. The prejudice against the cigarette is founded very largely upon its effect upon juvenile mental and physical growth and in this particular it is unquestionably well-founded. Tobacco in any form must necessarily be injurious to half-grown boys. The cigarette, being mild, and less expensive than other forms of tobacco, is the victim of the youth as much as the youth is the victim of the cigarette. Let the small boy essay to smoke his father's aged and triple-seasoned pipe, or let him slich a cigar and puff it in the lee of the family woodshed, and the result may be foretold with accuracy, based, perhaps, on reminiscence. On the other hand, the cigarette does not produce the nausea caused by the pipe or the cigar. In this it is a danger and a menace and laws governing its sale so as to exclude minors, cannot be too rigidly enforced.

But let us suppose that the small boy might smoke an old pipe or a black cigar without feeling a sinking sensation "in his midst;" what then would be the effect on him mentally and physically, were he to become a victim of the habit in either of these forms? We venture to say that the bad results would be more marked in character and more rapid in development than in the case with the cigarette. The figures quoted at the beginning of this article are startling when considered by themselves. But, let us take them in conjunction with the increase of population during the same period and a part, at least, of their fearfulness evaporates. Many of those who came to Canada during the period ending March 31st were users of cigarettes. They were not boys, and it is safe to say that the cigarettes they used did them less harm than the same amount of tobacco in the form of cigars or smoked in pipes would have done.

We are not defending the use of the pipe in any form. Assuredly, the expenditure of four millions of dollars upon smoke in one form alone, in a country with a population the size of ours is open to serious question. But, as for tobacco in cigarette form, we believe that a thorough enforcement of the laws governing the sale of cigarettes and government inspection of factories wherein they are made and of the material of which they are manufactured, would do much to dissipate a popular prejudice. Of course, one danger of cigarette smoking is that cigarettes, being handy little things, are very likely to be used extensively.

An interesting advertisement appears in the Colonist this morning. The E. & N. Railway is calling for tenders for the clearing of the right-of-way from Parkville to Union Bay. This indicates that there is going to be pretty lively rivalry between the Canadian Northern and the Canadian Pacific for the development of the Vancouver Island.

Telephone to Alberni. That Alberni will be connected by telephone with Victoria and all other population centres of the northern Pacific Coast in the very near future is promised by Manager Halse of the British Columbia Telephone Co., who has just returned from Alberni, where he was in consultation with the local board of trade in connection with the installation of long-distance service and an improved local system. Mr. Halse explains that the company has for some time past contemplated the establishment of connection between Alberni and points on the east coast, but could not earlier make provision for the straggling of wires on account of railway construction being still in progress. The way is now clear, however, and if business appears to warrant the extension it will be undertaken in the very near future.

A Good Complexion

Of roses and lilies—a natural, youthful bloom, with an absence of lines, wrinkles, pimples, blackheads and other disfiguring blemishes is assured to those who use a

Turkish Bath at Home

In a Thermal Bath Cabinet. A great health-promoter. A positive cure for rheumatism and many other ailments. Call here for Free Booklet telling you all about this splendid device. Price of Bath Cabinets complete

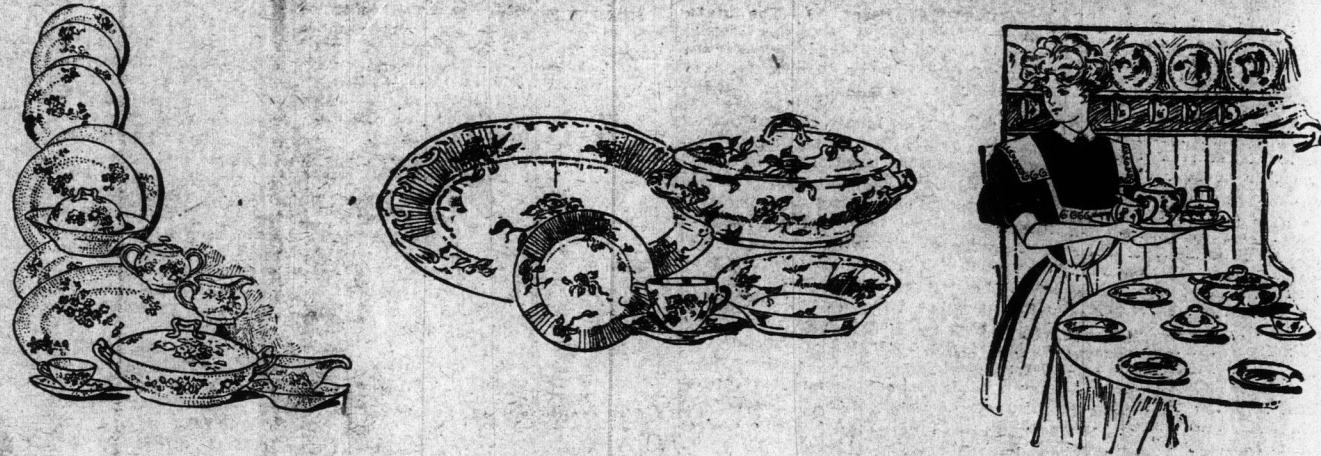
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CYRUS H. BOWES

Chemist 1228 Government Street

Will You Look at Our MAGNIFICENT DINNERWARE

One Hundred Different Patterns to Choose From



Some of the Lines Carried Are:

Wedgwood, Haviland, Ahrenfeldt, Limoges, Royal, Swedish Carlsbad, Saxony, Rosenthal, Austrian

We have without a doubt the finest showing of dinnerware in the West. We have the largest choice of patterns and the most artistic designs procurable. We have people every day looking at this china and telling us how beautiful it is. People who are making a tour of the world come into our store just to look around, they saw this dinnerware of ours and we show you our whole line. It is never any trouble to us to show you. Come today. Prices start from, per 97-piece set, at \$7.50

Out of Town Orders Shipped Free

We want to draw the attention of the people out of town to the fact that we make no charge for packing and shipping their orders. All prices are for b. train or boat here.

Do not hesitate to send us any orders for china or glassware, etc. Just give us an idea of what you want, how much you are prepared to pay, then leave the rest to us, and you will find everything satisfactory. You will find your ordering much easier if you ask us to send you one of our CATALOGUES—FREE.

LADIES! USE OUR REST ROOM ON THE 2nd FLOOR YOU WILL FIND WE HAVE CONSIDERED EVERY CONVENIENCE FOR YOU



Odd Plates for Plate Rails and Decorative Purposes

A LARGE ASSORTMENT

We have a splendid assortment of these odd plates at present to select from. They are very artistic, and if you have a plate rail in your home that looks bare for want of a few ornaments, come in and have a look at what we offer. We have them in Landscape views, Game and Fish patterns, White and Gold, White and Blue, and Floral designs. Many of these are hand-painted. If you are of an artistic temperament, we have the plates for you to work on. Come and see these on the first floor. Takes but a minute.

Prices are \$12.00, \$5.00, \$4.50, \$3.00, \$2.50, \$2.25, \$2.00, \$1.75, \$1.50, \$1.00 to 50¢.

Dainty China Tea Sets in Excellent Variety

On the first floor balcony you'll find displayed some decidedly interesting tea sets. Dainty, pleasing patterns characterize these productions and combine with superior quality of ware and fair pricings to make this display an unusual one, and one that you should see.

If you feel that there's room in your home for a dainty tea set, come in and see the beauties in—

Carlton Ware, Aynsley China, Wedgwood China, Balmoral China, Haviland China, Ahrenfeldt China

There is a big range of prices, ranging from \$65.00 for the choice creations in china—40 pieces—to a little price on the Carlton Ware of \$7.50.

WEILER BROS

HAS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT

Colonel Roosevelt Interviewed by Executive W. Reference to Situation New York State

IS WELL PLEASED WITH OUTCOME

Mr. Taft Reiterates Assurance Formerly Conveyed to Chairman Griscom of State Republican Committee

ALBANY, N. Y., Sept. 19.—President Taft and Colonel Theodore Roosevelt met today at New Haven, Conn., the second time since the former president's return from Africa. Roosevelt sought the conference with the president.

It was plain from all that transpired before and after the meeting of the colonel and his close political advisers are not a little worried of the situation in New York state, and came to the president for further evidence of his moral support. This the president was glad to do. He declared that his position in New York state fight had been clear from the very first. He said he sympathized heartily with the fight against "bossism" being waged by the people of the state. Mr. Taft reiterated statements he made in his letter to Lloyd C. Griscom, president of the New York county Republican committee, the time of the Sherman-Roosevelt controversy over the temporary chairmanship.

President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt did not discuss the question of the presidency of 1912. Mr. Taft's position is this: "He is willing to run if nominated. If his friends think there is a good chance for him to be re-elected, Mr. Taft feels that they will do so to his nomination." President Taft said that while number of subjects were interjected in the brief conference the New York situation was the foundation of gathering.

Mr. Griscom Satisfied NEW YORK, Sept. 19.—Lloyd C. Griscom gave out this statement of the conference: "I am perfectly satisfied with the situation. I was very much surprised to find that President Taft's position was not changed when he wrote me on August 10. The president has a thorough understanding of the issues involved in the situation in this state."

Colonel Roosevelt Pleased OYSTER BAY, Sept. 19.—Well pleased with his conference with President Taft, Colonel Roosevelt returned to Oyster Bay at tonight and drove Sagamore Hill.

"I had a very pleasant interview with the president and the colonel and an entirely satisfactory talk of the New York situation." He admitted that the national situation also had been discussed, but declined to repeat any of the conversation. It was learned, however, that he had not taken up the question of candidate for governor of New York.

DROWNED IN NARROWS

Three Members of Vancouver Launching Party Fall Victims to Deadly Tide

VANCOUVER, Sept. 19.—Laughing and singing "Under the Harvest Moon" a merry launch party was caught in the deadly tide rip of the Narrows of Prospect point last evening and of the four youths and two girls who composed it, three, William Young and his sister, Mabel Young and William Woodruff, lost their lives.

The others, clinging to the upturned boat, were safely taken ashore by John Baker, an Indian, who venturing into the boiling waters where the back eddy meets the rush of the outgoing tide, got them all safely ashore.

James Jamieson, the betrothed of the dead girl, was one of the party. The young people, all between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, had been picnicking at Indian river, returning down Burrard Inlet in the gasoline launch Yoo and I, essaying to go out by the Narrows and around to English Bay with the object of landing there. Keeping dangerous close to the southern shore, they with signs spelling danger to professional mariners, they rounded Prospect point, where runs out the dangerous shelf on which the old Bever's hull was cast up by the tide thirty years ago. Here the back eddy and the outgoing tide meet, the waters rising almost in a wall. Straight into this seething cauldron headed the launch and in a moment it was capsize and the whole party were struggling in the water.

Better Than Expected

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 17.—Late reports from western and Southern Alaska indicate that the salmon pack has been in some instances larger than expected. For instance, there has been a full pack at Orea. Late runs of the heavy. The pack at Chignik was also better than expected. In southern Alaska the canneries are at operating and packers here believe that sales will all be filled. A million dollars in wages will have been disbursed Seattle by the Alaska packers when the last of the employees is paid off.