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# THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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## MR. MCBRIDE CRITICIZED.

The Vancouver World prints editorially a long article from a correspondent. We assume that we do our contemporary. It is in the opinion of the communication as its own, and that the ascription of the article to a correspondent is only to distinguish it from an editorial. The fact that the Times printed the same article, without any credit indicates that it was in receipt of the same communication. We assume therefore that the article may be taken as the expression of the views of the Liberal party. The article is long. It occupies nearly three columns in the Times. The World divides it into eight sections. It has evidently been prepared with great care.

It begins with an endeavor to characterize Mr. McBride as a public man, and takes the position that he prefers to make trouble rather than devote himself to the task of developing the province. This is grossly unfair. Whether or not Mr. McBride possesses what the writer of the article calls "the genius of statesmanship" is something which time only can decide, but there is abundant evidence that he is able to take a broad and comprehensive view of public affairs and to deal with them in a sagacious and successful manner. He inherited two legacies from his predecessors. One was an empty treasury and an exhausted credit; the other the claim of "better terms." It is only a little more than four years since he took office. He has converted deficits into surpluses, and placed the credit of the province at a high point. Today British Columbia as a political organization, as well as a field for investment, stands unsurpassed among the various parts of the Empire. To any one but a political partisan, this would seem to be an achievement of no small magnitude. Mr. McBride took up the question of better terms where his predecessors left it, and in so doing had at first the unstinted support of his political opponents in the legislature. As was shown by the resolution of 1905. If in pressing these claims he was "making trouble," as the writer of the article suggests, Mr. J. A. Macdonald, one time was participant criminal, and he has boasted through the constituencies that it was he who stated for Mr. McBride the nature of the claim to be presented at Ottawa. Mr. McBride took the "better terms" question a step further than his predecessors. He secured the recognition of the principle upon which it was based from Sir Wilfrid Laurier and from the premiers of all the provinces. He followed this up by preventing the Ottawa government from forever closing the door against the presentation of our just claims. These things may not constitute statesmanship. That is a matter of opinion. They certainly show that Mr. McBride was equal to the duties of the hour. Invited to Ottawa by the federal Premier to attend a conference at which the question of better terms came up, Mr. McBride has had little leisure, between the time required to get the financial affairs of the country into shape and the proper handling of the case for better terms, to give his attention to the formulation of a policy of development. Moreover, he would have been unwise to have done so, until he saw the results of his efforts to restore the province to its true financial position. He has inaugurated an irrigation policy, which will result in a great addition to the agricultural capabilities of the province, and in due time he will develop other advantageous projects.

We do not propose this morning to follow the writer through the seven other paragraphs into which the World divides his article. We propose to review briefly the position of the party, to which Mr. McBride is opposed, in respect to the questions dealt with above. In as regards the Premier's successful efforts to restore the credit of the province and replenish its empty coffers, the course taken by the Liberal party in the legislature was one of cautious criticism. We concede that the duty of the Opposition is to criticize, and we are not disposed to be too exacting in the duties which we can say with absolute certainty that no part whatever of the credit of restoring the province to its true financial position is due to the Liberal party. In regard to "better terms," we have already said that at the outset Mr. Macdonald, who was the author of the choice language strong enough to express the justice of the provincial claim. At a meeting held during the campaign, Mr. Macdonald, the Premier-elect, Mr. John Oliver, boasted that the government had come to the Liberal side of the house to find terms equal to the strength of the claim of the province. But with the passing of the resolution of 1905 co-operation with Mr. McBride ceased. When at the invitation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier Mr. McBride went to Ottawa, Mr. Templeman's newspaper alleged that he was only going in search of a grievance, and from the hour of his setting out until the day the Conference closed not only the Times but other Liberal papers sought by every means to make his mission frustrate his efforts. When he reached Ottawa he found Mr. Templeman there. British Columbia was the only province having part of its premier to present. Most people would have supposed that Mr. Templeman would have been in evidence and assisted Mr. McBride to make his case as strongly as possible. He was not present at any session of the Conference, and there is no evidence that he at any time or in any way, directly or indirectly lent his assistance to the province at this critical time. His abstention from any participation in pressing for our rights could only be construed as indicating that he was hostile to them. We are not surprised therefore that the other members of the Dominion cabinet declined to trouble themselves about the matter. Mr. Templeman did not even do as much as Mr. Fielding, for he did make a proposal to Mr. McBride, which indicated that he thought justice had not been done the province. When the resolutions adopted by the Conference were before Parliament, not one of the representatives of British

Columbia, all of whom are Liberals, had so much as a single word to say on behalf of the province. We are very sure that Mr. McBride need not fear a comparison of his conduct with that of the Liberal members in the House of Commons from this province. Their partisanship prevented them from opening their mouths to assist political rival, although he was laboring to secure what every government and legislature in British Columbia for years past had claimed were the just rights of the province. We shall reserve the other features of the article for treatment again, only saying now that it seems regrettable that the writer of it could not have been more careful to set forth statements of fact. We shall show that he has been very careless in at least one important particular.

## MUTATION OF METALS.

The mutation of metals, which Sir William Ramsay says he has accomplished as far as copper is concerned, by converting it into lithium, is a very notable discovery. Sir William has not tried to convert copper into gold, but there would seem to be a possibility of converting gold into copper, although this does not necessarily follow from what has been achieved. For some time scientific men have inclined to the idea that all substances are really forms of some one substance. This is not very different from the views of the Arab alchemists. Cæsar, who wrote on the subject in the Eighth Century, said that there were three essential substances, "namely," mercury, sulphur and arsenic. Paracelsus, the greatest of all the alchemists, said the essential elements were four, namely, salt, sulphur and mercury, with a fourth, which could be separated from the others, and which corresponds to the ether, which modern chemists have suggested as an all-pervading substance. Paracelsus believed that his four elements were really only forms of one. Thus we see that modern science is getting upon the same ground as that occupied by the alchemists of an age, which is not recognized as scientific. We seek for the origin of the idea, that all matter is only a manifestation of one substance in different forms, we must go back to the twilight of history, for in the earliest records extant, which deal with anything more than the doings of kings, we learn of men seeking for the means whereby base metals could be converted into gold. Was this process once known, and it is among the forgotten things of an ancient civilization? There seems to be some reason for thinking so.

## INFLUX OF JAPANESE

There is considerable, quiet excitement in Vancouver over the arrival of the 1,200 Japanese, whose presence on the Kumeric was noted in this paper some days ago. There is no doubt about there being more to follow. Mr. R. G. Macpherson, M.P., what can be done to check this invasion of Orientals. The situation is one of very great difficulty. To the ordinary white man it appears highly objectionable that there should be free entry to people from the Orient. It may be that the danger is more real than the recent alarm. As far as we know there is no immigration from Japan to this country. The course of events in Korea indicate that the Japanese government may wish to stimulate immigration to that country, in which event the surplus, which would find its way across the Pacific might not be large. At the same time, we have no reason to believe that conditions have been changing in Japan. If the government of that country was ever able to tell the people where they should go, we do not think that such a state of things obtains anywhere. The Japanese, like the natives of southern and central Europe, are lured by the bait of high wages, and we greatly doubt the ability of the Japanese government either to keep its emigrants at home, or divert the stream of emigration to Korea, as it is known that plenty of work at good wages can be obtained in Canada, where they do not hope as much from the action of the Japanese government as might have been looked for a few years ago.

When comes the time to face a policy of exclusion we are faced with another set of conditions. Japan is our ally and Japanese have certain treaty rights in the British Empire. It is not very easy to devise a plan whereby the right of free entry into this country can be taken away without interfering with the provisions of the treaty. Bowser made an attempt during the last session of the legislature to put up a barrier, but it failed, and there is hardly any doubt that its failure was due to the action of the Dominion government. We do not claim to be advised of the facts, but we venture the statement that this will be the case, if the papers are ever brought down. There can hardly be any doubt that the Imperial Parliament would consider itself stopped by the treaty from legislating for the exclusion of Japanese from any part of the Empire. Canada has accepted the treaty, and it is not apparent how, in the future, the Dominion Parliament can pass any such legislation. By the terms of the British North America Act immigration is expressly placed under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament, and hence we do not see what the local legislature can constitutionally do. Of course if the treaty should be passed an Act, which while not dealing with immigration as such, would yet practically bar Oriental immigration, and it should not be disallowed at Ottawa, it would be the law of the land. But unfortunately if such an Act were passed, the Japanese government would immediately protest to the Home government, and there would be very little chance of such a measure receiving the royal assent. The two peoples will not mix. We do not know that it is in the interests of either that they should mix. It would be easy to write a tirade upon the subject, but that would do no good. The only way to do towards solving a problem is to endeavor to understand it, and that is all we are trying to do at present.

## RAIL CONNECTION.

In Sandford Fleming's report made in 1877 occurs the following paragraph: "If it is considered of paramount importance to carry an unbroken line of railway to the coast of Vancouver Island, and there is a likelihood that this project will, regardless of cost, hereafter be seriously entertained, then Route No. 6 becomes of the first im-

portance, and really the only one open for selection." This is a very interesting statement to read when some people are seeking to deny the route Inlet Route, which is the No. 6 mentioned in the report. We are told that the route was only a "fad" of Marcus Smith; also that its cost would be prohibitive. Yet here we have the greatest authority on railway construction that Canada has ever had, the present Sir Sandford Fleming, a man whose opinion is respected in two continents, telling us that such a connection, even with the feature of unbroken railroads, is, with all the bridges, may have been seriously entertained. This was thirty years ago, and yet there are people who assert that it is too soon to consider such a connection even though it is proposed to eliminate the bridges for the present.

## A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST.

Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, was in the city on Wednesday in conversation with a representative of the community of interest between this province and Alberta. He said that the better acquainted he became with the character of both provinces, the more satisfied he was that the prosperity of one is simply bound up with the prosperity of the other. We think the Colonist can assure Mr. Motherwell and the people of his province that this is a feeling more clearly appreciated every day by the people of British Columbia, and we feel very confident that he would find the government and legislature of Saskatchewan prepared to execute any plans for the advancement of their common interests.

Mr. Motherwell has the credit, we think, of being the first public man to give public expression to the idea above referred to, and the Colonist is more than pleased to be the vehicle through which the sentiment is given to the people. This paper and Mr. Motherwell represent opposing political parties, but that is no reason why we should not be glad to find some common ground upon which we can stand, for we believe that we are all Canadians first and party men afterwards. This declaration of the Saskatchewan minister may be said in a way to mark the beginning of a new epoch. It was fitting that the sentiment should be expressed by a representative of the Prairie province. Naturally a British Columbian would be able to bring about closer business relations with the prairie provinces on the face of things it does not appear so evident that the thoughts of the men of the Prairies should be turned in that direction. All that legislation and much that the transportation companies could do have been calculated to direct their attention towards the East. To be able to discover a close connection of interest between this Pacific Coast province and the interior is something that was not looked for just at this time from a Dominion. We believe that the sentiment expressed by Mr. Motherwell will spread very rapidly. It is full of promise for the future of both provinces. We believe that the time is ripe for the cultivation of the closest relations between British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Of course we do not mean to ignore the fact that there are political and social relations, but only business and social relations, and the position in those projects for mutual benefit, which need the assistance of the provinces as such and in their capacity as members of the Confederation. It will be the policy of the Colonist to foster this intimacy.

## CANADA'S POSITION

To those Canadians, who have been identified, even in a minor way, with the progress of their country since that eventful day in 1897 when the five eastern provinces formed themselves into a Dominion, the position which Canada occupies in the eyes of the world must be a source of profound gratification. Some of us can recall the day when the men who laid the foundations of the Dominion foretold a time when Canada would challenge the attention of the world, and the lifetime of them dreamed that in the future of their country a great reputation would be realized. It must be a source of pleasure to Sir Charles Tupper, in the evening of his eventful career, to look upon the glory of the land, with which his name will always be identified. He stands almost alone among the leaders of the people, who brought about the union of the provinces. The others have all passed to their reward, but the venerable statesman is yet able to look with appreciative eyes upon the magnificent results of the policy to which he lent all the vigor of his earlier manhood.

Times have changed since those days. Then the region west of the peninsula of Ontario was so little known that most people regarded it as a great waste land. British Columbia was hardly a name to most people in those days, and those who knew what it was had only a vague conception of its whereabouts and its natural riches. No one for a moment supposed that thousands of men would see the vacant Northwest pouring a steady stream of grain into the markets of the world, and that the remotest province recognized as the richest in the transcontinental chain. There was a time when people hesitated to avow the greatness of Canada. Now it is a title of honor. There was a time when the most that was hoped was that we might have a string of settlements along the United States border. Now we know that we have an Empire lying north of the boundary. There was a time when we wondered what we should do for people to settle our lands. Now they are coming by thousands, tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands. There was a time, when the youth of the land, despairing of finding opportunity for advancement at home, turned their faces to

the great Republic, as soon as they could get money enough together to pay their travelling expenses. All this has changed. Canadian youth finds room for all its energies, and thousands of the best manhood of the United States are seeking homes on the fertile lands of Canada. There was a time when leaders of public thought on both sides of the Atlantic anticipated that the day was not far distant when British North America would drop into the arms of the republic, and that the day was not far distant when the great Mother Land beyond the seas.

It is a wonderful story. It is the romance of history. It is full of lessons of courage for the present and inspiration for the future. There may be yet a few people in England, who refuse to see that Canada is destined to play an exceedingly important part in the affairs of the world and especially in those of the British Empire, but they are becoming fewer and fewer influential every day, as the demonstration of the potentialities of the ability of the people of the country is being manifested. Our country is growing in population, wealth, self-confidence and international prestige. At the same time it may be said that it is growing more strongly attached to British institutions and more resolved to do what lies in its power to maintain the integrity of the Empire. If the glorious possibilities of the realm, under the Union Jack are not realized, the fault will not lie with the Canadian people.

## THE HAYWOOD TRIAL

As the Colonist looks at the matter, the verdict in the Haywood case is not a very material matter, except to the public mind, which is so much concerned in the result. The machinery of the courts of Idaho, like our own, requires that twelve men shall agree as to the guilt of an accused person, and while the possibility of a majority verdict to form a conclusion is not possible, it is better in some respects than that of outsiders, their decision will not be accepted generally as infallible. Suppose the jury finds that the accused is guilty, no one will suppose for a moment that the Western Federation of Miners will consider the verdict a proper one, and if he should be found guilty, the people would be pressed by the old form of Scotch verdict: "Not proven." People who have taken only a casual interest in the trial are likely to accept the verdict as correct, whatever way it may go, but unfortunately these people are not of the class to whom we must look for a solution of the problems out of which the murder and the trial arose.

We do not know that any newspaper is called upon to express an opinion as to what has been established by the evidence. Any reader who has read the reports from day to day is quite as capable of reaching a just conclusion as any newspaper, and we do not feel called upon to enter into discussion of the balance of probabilities. We have certain facts, one of which is that a molestation of the relations of the Western Federation of Miners has been committed under circumstances, which show either that there was some guiding mind behind them, or that they were the work of some person or persons, who recognized as binding upon the murderers. Of the crimes and the motives leading up to them, the Western Federation of Miners may be as innocent as the babe in the arms, but the crimes cannot be denied and this being so, it seems to us that the Western Federation and all other labor organizations called upon to exert all their influence, and to make every effort to render it no longer supposable by their worst enemies that they regard murder as one of their weapons. It will not be enough that Haywood shall escape conviction; it will be enough that in the opinion of the jury no responsibility direct or indirect rests upon the Federation for the crime referred to. In this regard, if it is to play a useful part in the social and economic conditions of America, adopt such lines of action as will place it absolutely above suspicion and strenuous in its regard will be none the greater if Haywood is found guilty than if he is declared innocent or the jury should disagree.

But it is not only the Western Federation that is in trial. The mine owners have been arraigned before the bar of public opinion, and it makes no difference that they are men who sit in their offices and manage their properties. The public have learned that, when self-interest is thrown into the scale, there is little or no difference between the man who works with his coat on and the man who takes his off. To that end, the mine owners have contributed to the production of the conditions out of which the murders have arisen may be uncertain. Whether or not they were engaged in a conspiracy to secure the conviction of Haywood is only an incident, just as the guilt or innocence of Haywood is only an incident. There is something exceedingly "rotten in the state of Denmark" and we decide to believe that the fault all rests with the miners. If after this prolonged trial has been concluded there is not a searching of hearts on the part of employers as well as the employees, the deeds of violence, which have shocked the people of America will be repeated on a vastly larger scale.

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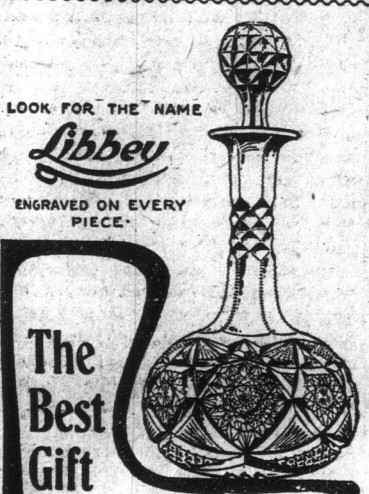
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