

The Colonist.

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THE SETTLEMENTS.

The formal ratification of the settlement remains to be secured. Little ground for doubt that the settlement in the Crow's Nest Pass mines has been settled. The credit for the settlement attaches in a very large measure to Mr. Robert Rogers, minister of the interior in the Borden cabinet. A month ago a resolute effort was made by the International president to bring the miners to an agreement, but it seemed very likely to prove a failure when Mr. Rogers appeared on the scene. As we understood the matter, one of the chief points in dispute was the continuation of what is called "the check system," which is the retention by the managers from individual miners of the amount of their dues to their unions. The mine owners are understood to have objected to this on the score of the extra cost, but the miners seemed inclined to believe their real objection to be that by acting as collectors for the unions they kept those organizations in a high state of efficiency. The owners seem to have abandoned this point, and we have little doubt that it was that made the settlement possible.

The settlement is a feather in the cap of the minister and redounds greatly to the credit of the Conservative administration. It is an excellent thing for the whole country. More than one industry was at a standstill because of the mines being shut down. The new contract is said to be for three and a half years, which is probably a concession by the owners to the mine owners, for it was at one time contended that the contract should not be for more than two years. We are greatly pleased that this long strike has been brought to an end on terms which both parties to the dispute seem to regard as fair and equitable.

FISHERY LICENSES

Mr. Shepherd, M. P. -lect for Nanaimo, proposes to have the manner of issuing fishery licenses by the Dominion government inquired into. From time to time reports have reached us indicating that this licensing power has been very carelessly misused to the advantage of certain well-known Liberal politicians in Vancouver. Presumably the letter of the law has always been complied with, but sometimes "the letter killeth." It ever was intended that the issuance of fishery licenses should enable some one, or actually engaged in fishing, to make profit out of the exigencies of others. It has been alleged, for example, that a certain well-known firm, not engaged in fishing even indirectly, obtained a large number of licenses, which were turned over to Japanese fishermen on the understanding that the latter should buy all their salt from the firm in question. Assuming that this was the case, while there would be nothing in it that could be construed into a violation of the law, it certainly would not be such a performance as was contemplated by Parliament in passing the law.

It will not be difficult to correct such abuses as that referred to. That will be only a matter of administration. It may not be so easy to devise legislation that will prevent the growing ascendancy of Japanese fishermen in the waters of British Columbia. As during the Laurier regime the Colonist never lost sight of the international aspect of the problems presented by the presence of Orientals in Canada, so in justice to Mr. Borden it feels that the difficulties attending the solution of those problems ought not to be forgotten. That he will do everything that is within his power to keep Canada a "white man's country," we may confidently expect, but it must not be forgotten that his position carries with it responsibilities that are not merely local, provincial or Canadian, but also imperial. In Mr. Shepherd the constituency of Nanaimo has a representative who will be on the alert to see that the law as it stands is carried out in accordance with its intent, and who will bring to bear upon the broader questions involved in our fisheries a sane, yet resolute, determination to promote the welfare of Canada.

We may add that we very greatly hope means will be devised whereby it may be possible to develop on this coast the Dominion a community of white fishermen, who will be British subjects. History teaches that the fisheries have ever been the nursery of seamen, and that maritime supremacy has been based upon supremacy in this line of activity. Therefore in any efforts that Mr. Shepherd may make to build up a fishery industry here that will give employment to the men, he will be performing an excellent duty. Hence we wish him every success in the efforts he is about to make.

FAITHFUL TO CANADA

Earl Grey has an exceedingly happy way of expressing himself and his appreciation of Canada is unbounded. During his tenure of what he calls "the best billet in the Empire," he enjoyed exceptional facilities for seeing the country as it is. He is a trained and discriminating observer, and the opinions which he has formed and so ably expressed concerning the present and the future of the Dominion are of exceptional value. In the speech delivered at the banquet given him by the Royal Colonial Institute he took occasion to remove any impressions that might have found a lodgment in the minds of the English people to the effect that there is any feeling in Canada of dissatisfaction with British connection or desire for annexation, of which the reciprocity movement was the outcome. No such feeling exists, and none is likely to arise. Throughout the whole of the late campaign the Colonist steadily refused to attribute disloyal or annexation sentiments to its political opponents, and it joins with Earl Grey in asserting that the people of the Dominion are to a man firm in their attachment to the Empire.

It is a fortunate thing for Canada that she has been able to produce so excellent an impression upon the mind of a gentleman of the stamp of the noble earl. He was always faithful to Canada while with us, and we may rest assured that he will prove our very true friend now that he is at home again. We venture to think that Earl Grey will play a part of great prominence in the public life of the United Kingdom during the strenuous times that are not far ahead, and it is a good thing to know that in so far as Canadian interests may be involved in any new issues that may arise, we have in our late governor-general one who will be able to deal with them understandingly.

THE GREAT INTERIOR

Commercial Victoria has a deep interest in the progress of the great southern interior of British Columbia. This extensive region is rapidly advancing in population, and in the development of its enormous resources. Examination of the stocks carried by the merchants shows that the standard of merchandise demanded by the people is very high. Possibly there may be a greater variety to choose from in some lines in the coast cities, but in point of quality, the people of the mining towns, the saw mill towns and the towns of the fruit-growing sections are satisfied with nothing less than the people of the larger centres required. The "country store," such as most of us are accustomed to in small centres in the East, is absolutely lacking in centres of equal population in Southern British Columbia. This is true of all lines of goods from house-furnishings to groceries. You hear the same thing in Fernie, with its population made up chiefly of miners, as you hear in Vernon, where there are hundreds of people who were accustomed before they came to this province to refined surroundings, and it is: "Our people want the best goods."

The volume of trade that will be built up in this part of the province will be very large. Many merchants now carry stocks valued from \$100,000 upwards upon their shelves and in reserve. The annual turn-over of more than one house exceeds half a million. Here is a trade worth making an effort to participate in largely, and it is a very fortunate thing for Victoria that there are good reasons for anticipating not only a more direct connection between this city and the Southern Interior, but what will be even better, a competitive service. We venture to suggest to our local merchants that they should visit personally this part of the province, and become themselves acquainted with the people and with their methods of doing business. The personal equation counts for much in trade as in everything else.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Vernon and Kelowna are the elder Okanagan sisters and as they were in British Columbia before I was, I feel that it would be presumption on my part to attempt anything like a description of them. The thing that was uppermost in my mind, when we came back today from a visit to the famous White Valley in which the Coldstream estate is situated, is that tens of thousands of people pass across the province on the C.P.R. without being able to form the least idea of this wonderful land. "Sicamous" means nothing to anyone. May I venture to suggest to the Canadian Pacific authorities that they might do worse than to change the name to Okanagan Junction. That would convey some idea to the casual tourist; that there might be something worth seeing down in this part of the province. The orchards in the vicinity of Vernon and Kelowna are very extensive. I suppose the great area which extends up the White Valley, must be by very much the largest area in fruit in British Columbia and perhaps it may be the largest continuous area in Canada. We motored up the valley nearly 20 miles without

coming to the end of the fruit area. The valley must have an average width of three miles at least. Indeed there are probably 40,000 acres here that are or can be planted to fruit, and be successfully irrigated. Note that I am referring to one district only. Down towards Kelowna there are other great areas planted or available for planting. What a wonderful land this will be when all the irrigable hill-sides are in fruit and other crops! The man who attempts to forecast the commercial, yes or the political, future of British Columbia without taking Okanagan into account is making a mistake of the largest kind. There may be half a million acres between Sicamous and Okanagan Falls which is south of Penticton, over practically all of which fruit-culture and intensive agriculture can be successfully carried on. That means a population of at least 100,000 people, and probably many more.

The people of the Okanagan are looking forward to the coming of the Canadian Northern. Not that they have anything but good words for the Canadian Pacific; but they hope for a competition in service that will facilitate the development of the country. The purchase by Sir William Mackenzie of the greatest water-power in this district leads them to expect electric feeders to the C.N.R. and also cheap power that can be utilized in pumping water to some of the benches that cannot be economically supplied from other sources. That there will be plenty of business here for both railways is beyond a doubt. As I pointed out in a former letter, it is estimated that the trees now planted will, when in full bearing, load 15,000 cars and there is room for more than twice as many trees as have been set out so far. To handle 30,000 car loads will keep the C.P.R., the C.N.R., and the K.R.R. busy during the short season in which fruit can be handled.

Vernon is showing every sign of active growth. Fine new buildings are being erected and public improvements are being carried on. The same spirit of optimism is in the air here as is so notable everywhere else through all Southeastern British Columbia.

As this is likely to be the last letter of this series wherein I have endeavored to tell something of the part of the country visited by the Commission on Taxation, perhaps it may be well to make a few general observations. We have journeyed on the Mainland nearly 2,000 miles of which perhaps 600 have been by motor. We have seen much. There must only be few persons who have seen all that we have seen in a single tour. We have got to know the settled part of the province very well and have been able to test by our own observations the statements made to us by scores of witnesses whom we have examined. I am only speaking the minds of all our party when I say that from the day we left Golden to ascend the Columbia Valley to the present moment each day has brought its surprises; each hour's travel has added to our store of knowledge and to our appreciation of the greatness, of the almost limitless possibilities of the land. Truly, as a people, "our lines have fallen in pleasant places and we have a good inheritance." C. H. L.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION

The policy of establishing a western division of the Board of Railway Commissioners will, we are satisfied, be of very great value to the whole country. The Board as now constituted has really more than it can attend to. It is doing very good work, but in view of the rapid expansion of transportation facilities in the West, it is physically impossible for one set of commissioners, no matter how industrious and competent they may be, to give that degree of personal attention to the matters coming under their jurisdiction that is requisite in the interests both of the railways and the business community.

We intend no reflection upon the present Board when we say it is impossible that questions calling for decision can be dealt with under existing conditions as promptly as they ought to be. The area of the Dominion is large, and the transportation problem is steadily becoming more involved as well as more important. There is ample work for two Commissions to perform.

If you have sharp eyes you can see Venus high up in the heavens today at midday. Venus is morning star, and is consequently several degrees west of the Sun. The planet looks like a bright white spot. It may not be seen at first glance, and even after it is seen, it seems to come and go. It is worth looking for. Our recollection is that it is eighteen years since the planet was visible to the naked eye in broad daylight.

At the present time party politics in British Columbia are as dead as Julius Caesar. There is no opposition because there is nothing upon which either the federal or provincial government can be opposed, and there is no leader of an Opposition in sight, if there were issues to contend over. We do not suppose that this state of things can continue indefinitely, but as a matter of record it is well to mention the fact that it exists today.



Wednesday,
November the First

WEILER BROS.

Cordially Invites All Victoria to Attend Their

First Fall Opening

No doubt all of you are aware that we have been making extensive alterations to this big store of ours; we have now completed the work, and take this way of having "a day at home," by asking you to attend our First Fall Opening. Our displays of Fall Carpets, Rugs, Furniture, etc., etc., which have been arriving in great variety, will be a pleasure to every home-lover.

For years the Weiler Bros. Store, Victoria's Leading Furniture and Housefurnishing Mart, has been buying headquarters for the big majority of housefurnishings. Perhaps you are of that majority; if so, you know what exceptionally fine quality we stock and how profitable and pleasant your visits prove.

To you we say, come again; come Wednesday, come expecting more than ever before. You will not be disappointed.

To you of Victoria and vicinity who have never made our acquaintance, we most urgently invite you to come Wednesday and know the Weiler Bros. Store.

Know what its splendid stocks, its better store service and lower prices will mean to you.

WEILER BROS

All Victoria and Vicinity
Is Cordially Invited

THE RO

The one good during his reign and capable success stationed on the revolted and declared, sluggish indifference out of Italy, and the struggle, took refuge Gallienus at once tempted to accomplish in promoting a co-emperor, which he expired Gallienus, who the armies. The choicest and afterwar Aureolus had to see and intrigue enjoyed his ancestry is ver services were ve against the Goths repulsing that form Gallienus and was ly disaffected toward all his vices much shrewdness, midable, if not ver learning that Clapeperor, Aureolus se liance. The propo tempt; the siege o Aureolus was forc demanded his ex show of resistance.

The new emper ary qualities. Any clemency, he per condemn to death to be his enemies, by a general decre to increase his popu rightful owners es cated by Gallienus have been to estab in Rome and Italy the national supre next step was to b state of discipline come invincible. impossible task to gushed soldier, b and how to appea ful in convincing derly conduct we cess, and in the c to bring his troop ciency.

The empire wa collapse. A gene factio emperor of Queen Zenobia ru collected a force upon an enormou self. Such was t Claudius set him 259, when he wa first directed his campaign lasted prospects were t be overthrown. would have bee tary genius of Cl the jaws of defea operations were t time, but the bal the Romans. The and the spring of of the barbarian Famine followed their overthrow, from Gothic inva the time being a stricken by the deathed he na Amelius, as his emperors, few de Claudius. He wa temperate. His li those of most of spired mere sensu spired by a ferven to restore Rome glory, and althou more than two ye him to accomplish a successful begi for the greater tr

GLA

The tops of t great plateau lyin show distinct ma lower part of the that river lies, in shows not only m tion in the way o the polishing of t the different stag In the valleys after former member o versity says that high est elevations on their summits Southern British Washington, wh Okanagan rivers great glacier, tha least a mile and time the conditio thing like that o time, except tha