

The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability 27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year \$1.00 Six months .60 Three months .35 Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

THE SESSION

The Lieutenant-Governor relieved the Legislature from its labors yesterday. The session has been somewhat longer than has been the rule in recent years, and it has been a very busy one.

The new Land Act is of great importance, and will have a far-reaching effect of a beneficial nature. The legislation relating to the selection of the site for the Provincial University, that relating to the granting of liquor licences, and others of a public character mark the session as one of unusual value.

The House has shown itself to be a very capable one. The members all took a keen interest in the various measures submitted for their consideration. Persons who have been in the habit of transacting business with the legislature of British Columbia will bear us out in saying that the members are in all respects equal to those of any previous House, and that they give promise of becoming exceedingly useful public men.

THE OTTAWA DELEGATION

The report, which Messrs. Simon Leiser and Joshua D. Kingham, delegates from the Board of Trade, were able to make of the result of their visit to Ottawa, is highly satisfactory. The government has promised to undertake those harbor improvements which the growing needs of the port require. As these improvements were first suggested in the Colonist, our readers may be quite familiar with them, but it may nevertheless be well to state that they comprise the removal of the rocks, which lie on the west side of the harbor between Songhees Point and the railway bridge. This will nearly double the area of navigable water between the Indian Reserve and the east side, and will very greatly improve the entrance between Laurel and Songhees points. The rock will be removed by two Lobnitz dredges, which will crush it, so that it can be taken up by ordinary dredge scoops and be deposited elsewhere.

Our understanding of the plans is that the crushed rock will be placed in front of the Reserve, where it will create a valuable piece of water frontage. We are informed that these dredges are to be worked continuously. They have already been ordered from the makers in Scotland, and as soon as they arrive and the necessary scows are built they will be put to work. We understand that about \$250,000 will be spent in harbor improvements during the present year. This expenditure will naturally be only the beginning of large outlays, whereby the inner harbor will be improved to its full capacity.

In regard to the opening of the Post Office lobby on Sunday, the delegates do not appear to have been as successful as could be wished, although there is a chance that access may be allowed to the boxes on Sunday evening. This half a loaf would be better than no bread. The efforts of the delegates in regard to mail service were successful, and valuable. In the course of his observations on the report Mr. Leiser made a statement of very great importance. It was that he was authorized by Mr. Wainwright, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Pacific, to say that not later than next year that company will begin work upon a connection with Vancouver Island by way of Bute Inlet. If Mr. Wainwright has not been misunderstood, this statement is of the greatest importance. We are not surprised at it for the arguments that have been brought to bear upon the Grand Trunk Pacific, to show that company what it has to gain by constructing such a line, are unanswerable.

The Colonist takes much pleasure in acknowledging the excellent work done by the delegates, and it is right to mention the name of Mr. H. F. Bullen in this connection. Though not one of the delegation, he was in Ottawa at the time the delegates were there, and gave them much assistance. The result of the mission is a subject for congratulation to all concerned.

NAVAL DEFENCE

The House of Commons having adopted the Naval Defence Bill, Canada has been fully committed to the policy therein contained. The Colonist would have been glad if the Government had asked Parliament to go farther than is proposed, but it is heartily in accord with the policy involved in a Canadian navy. The attitude of this paper on this subject has been consistent throughout. It began years ago, by advocating the establishment of a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve and a training ship on the Pacific Coast. Long before the people in other parts of Canada gave even passing attention to the question, the Colonist recognized that Canada has a duty to perform in the premises, and has from that time onward sought to impress this duty, as far as it was able, upon the people of the country. As the discussion has proceeded, our views have developed. With a better understanding of the subject and animated only by the desire to see that Canada did her share in the defence of the Empire, we have reached a conclusion that has already been expressed and to which reference will be made herein.

When the ships of the Royal Navy were withdrawn from Esquimalt, the Colonist advocated the assumption by Canada of the duty that had been discharged by those ships, namely, that of police duty on the eastern shore of the Pacific Ocean. We heartily supported the views advanced by Rear-Admiral Fleet and endorsed by the Navy League to this effect. Later we took the position that the construction of a dry dock at Esquimalt, capable of receiving the largest vessels of the Royal Navy, ought to be undertaken by the Dominion Government as a contribution to Imperial defence, thereby endorsing the policy urged upon the Dominion Government by the Board of Trade and the Navy League. Later, when the Colonial premiers, at London, assented to a policy of Colonial co-operation in naval defence, the decision met with our strongest approval, and we found pleasure in applauding the resolution unanimously passed by Parliament during the last session of that body. When the Dominion Government announced that it had resolved to adopt a policy that would lead to the construction of a Canadian navy, we gave our adherence to the principle therein involved. When that policy was described in detail by the Prime Minister we approved of it as far as it went, but expressed the opinion that it did not go far enough. We took the position that in addition to the ships proposed to be purchased and built, the Dominion should provide two first-class battleships. With this view the debates show that Mr. Bannard, the representative of this city, and Col. McLean, Liberal M.P. for Queen's, N. B., were fully in sympathy. We have also taken the position that, in the event of war, the ships of the Canadian navy should pass automatically under the control of the Admiralty. Standing, as we do, for a full measure of Canadian autonomy within the Empire, we have looked upon the last named proposal as not at all inconsistent therewith, for we recognize that this unity of control implies unity of counsel; in other words, that the establishment of naval units by the several self-governing Dominions must in the very nature of things lead to the establishment of a permanent Imperial Council, which shall pass upon all questions of foreign policy. To us any other system of control of the Empire's navies would prove defective. These are matters for future consideration. If we thought that the bill now before Parliament was Canada's last word in respect to the naval defence of the Empire, we should look upon it as a promise fulfilled in the letter, perhaps, but broken in the spirit; but we have faith that the people of Canada will insist that what has been accomplished shall only be regarded as the beginning of the work which the Dominion will be called upon to do.

Two resolutions were adopted in Victoria yesterday, one by the Board of Trade and one by the public meeting called by the Navy League. It is unnecessary to criticize the phraseology of either of them. What we are all concerned about in a matter of this kind is that correct principles shall be laid down, and with the principles expressed in both of them we are heartily in accord. It is perhaps difficult, if not impossible, for any of us to appreciate what is involved in the new departure which Canada has

taken. We have set our hands to the plough and there must be no looking back. Our course must be forward. In the first article which appeared in the Colonist announcing the introduction of the Naval Defence Bill we said it was the first step that could be taken. That step has been taken. It is now the duty of every Canadian who is loyal to his land to see that nothing is left undone to make that policy as broad as the needs of the Empire.

The visit of the King to Biarritz indicates that His Majesty does not think his presence is urgently required at home.

Mr. Joseph Martin has undertaken to speak for the people of Canada. Mr. Martin, not having been able to impress his views upon the people of Canada when he was among them, is hardly the man to speak for them at a distance.

Lord Rosebery has started out on another furrow that may not be quite as lonely as some that he has hitherto ploughed. He has a plan of his own for the reform of the House of Lords. Lord Rosebery has a trick of doing unexpected things.

The Legislature drew to a close as the dog show opened. It was purely a coincidence, of course. To apply locally a remark made in another connection by a well known English painter, the Legislature was A1 and the dog show is K9.

By April 1st the United Kingdom will have under construction seven battleships, three armored cruisers, nine protected cruisers, two unarmored cruisers, thirty-seven destroyers and nine submarines: in all sixty-seven vessels. Certainly this is a terrific pace to maintain. If all the ships that were ever built previous to the year 1890 were gathered together, this fleet now building could destroy them without receiving any damage.

In a United Press despatch of March 1st, it was stated that Mr. Lloyd George would not assume control over the Liberal party until after Easter, and he would thereafter pilot his political friends through a general election. The probability of Mr. George becoming Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during the existence of the present parliament are infinitesimal; but almost anything will do for a telegram to the United States papers.

It will be remembered that at a time when the despatches told us day after day that Mr. Asquith was insisting upon certain guarantees from the King, the Colonist said that to ask for such guarantees would be opposed to the principles of parliamentary government. The Attorney-General, Sir William Robson, recently made a public statement to the same effect. He said no constitutional sovereign could be expected to give guarantees until the ministerial plan was submitted to him.

The Philadelphia Record thinks that the United States ought to go in for reciprocity with Canada, "because Canada has very little to sell to the United States." The Record comments upon the fact that commissioners have gone from Washington to all parts of the globe to discover some one to trade with, while right at their doors are the best customers in the world. That's what Canadians used to tell their neighbors; but they refused to listen. We are inclined to think that our neighbors have in respect to reciprocity "sinned away the day of grace."

There is a somewhat acute boundary dispute between Great Britain and Belgium, with Germany as an interested participant, over some 2,400 square miles of territory at the point where British East Africa, German East Africa and the Congo Free State come together. The open question is as to whether Belgium shall own the whole of Lake Edward or Britain shall have half of it. The opinion is expressed that the latter contention will prevail. Germany has no direct interest in the dispute, but is represented in the Conference now in session in Brussels as the owner of adjacent territory.

The country along the St. John river from Grand Falls to St. John is what would be called only moderately difficult in this part of the world from the standpoint of railway construction, and yet it is proposed to guarantee the bonds of a company to the extent of \$25,000 a mile and give \$6,400 a mile to secure its construction. This is only \$4,600 less than the Canadian Northern is to get for building the exceptionally difficult line through this province. The proposed New Brunswick road will parallel an existing line for its whole length and be within sight of it for about half the distance between its proposed terminals.

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Our showing of parlor furniture is another evidence of Weiler supremacy in the matter of home-furnishings. We lead in this line as in all other lines of furniture and home-furnishings.

Come up to our third floor any day and view a display of parlor furniture that excels any attempts of any other establishment in the Province. Much of the upholstery work on these pieces is the product of our own workrooms—a guarantee that it is the very best possible.

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Our stock or reception chairs includes a great variety of pretty styles. The price range is very broad also. Upholstered in a great range of materials and colorings. Prices start as low as \$75.00.

Settees from \$18.00

We don't think you'll find a better assortment of settees anywhere else in British Columbia. Our prices are low enough to let any one enjoy the service of one of these useful and stylish pieces. Priced from, each \$18.00.

Some Very Stylish Settees at \$20

While we have a big choice of settees—big in matter of style and broad in price range—the settees at \$20 call for special mention. We show several attractive pieces at this price, but advise that you see these two.

Settee with a frame of stylish design, in mahogany finish. Well built and finely finished. This is a "loose cushion" style, with a cushion covered in green "crush" plush. A very neat settee at \$20.00.

Another worthy of inspection is a square-shaped settee with mahogany finished frame and loose cushions of Italian silk-striped tapestry. Priced at \$20.00.

3-Piece Parlor Suite, \$55

One of the latest parlor suites to come from our workrooms is this three-piece suite at \$55.00.

This is a very stylish suite, consisting of arm chair, reception chair and settee. Frames are in mahogany finish and are upholstered in green silk of a very pretty pattern and shade. The three pieces, \$55.00.

3-Piece Parlor Suite, \$125

Here is a very attractive suite. Frames are of Sheraton design, and are upholstered in satin striped moire silk—cream silk with green stripe. 3 pieces—reception chair, arm chair and settee. Priced at \$125.00.

This is a very handsome suite and fit to grace any parlor—See it.

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We Are Prepared With Some Excellent Designs

There are a whole lot of people who are very partial to reed furniture for parlor use—an odd piece of attractive design. And an excellent scheme it is to add one of these stylish chairs. They combine comfort with style—a feature sadly lacking in some parlor furniture.

Our present selection of reed furniture includes some very handsome creations, and you'll find many pieces that would do credit to your parlor. We have smart chairs in reed and sea grass, and in brown or natural finish.

Probably the most popular style is the English style low chair. We have a big range, with prices starting at \$7.50.

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ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

Richard II. was a man in a resembling his father, Edward the same great personal courage, ability of rising to the demands of the same weakness of resolution, regard of his promises, the same diplomacy. He was very handsome pleasures, but not to excess. He Such a king, confronted with which was jealous of its own power. Commonalty, which had learned cise authority, ascending the throne was yet a lad, and surrounded more influenced by personal rivalry desire to promote the welfare of sovereign or the kingdom, was difficulties. As though the dome the kingdom were not in them ciently serious, the war in France along its inglorious course. Richard usually regarded as one of our gr when it is remembered that he in secure crown, a profitless war treasury and a dangerous and difficult social questions with which he deal, the wonder is not that he but that he was able to keep the absolute anarchy.

Parliament was not slow to a authority. The King being a mind not unnaturally much apprehensive men who should compose his Council demands of the war calling for necessary grants were not made statute had been passed declaring should have the right to nominate council, who were to be member ment, and that the Commons shou right, by commissioners appointed purpose, to audit the public account also enacted that when once a B passed by both Houses of Parliame receive the royal assent without a its provisions. Here we find the laid of responsible government, of pression used most commonly in it, parliamentary government. thing about the rules thus laid of they were accompanied by the dec they were in accordance with the toms of the realm.

When the King came of age, a return from France, to which count to be married, he resolved to free parliamentary control, and for a time ed likely to be successful; but his in this direction were destined to b and in the end they cost him his was formally deposed by Act of and here we note what may be the strongest possible expression of the ty of the English people. As a r only be enacted by the conjoined Commons, Lords and King; but h a demonstration that royal assent sary, for there was no king to a statute declaring Richard to be no eraign and that the crown shou Henry Bolingbroke, his cousin and of Gaunt, the powerful and ambit Edward III. The great event of reign was this assumption of abs by Parliament, and it was the an people of England to the claim t that he was, to use his own lang as able to manage his own affairs assistance from any one."

We saw in the sketch of the Pl ward III that the result of the r plunge England in labor troubles turn led to the abolition of serfdo other hand they suggested a new taxation. Money was badly need French war, and every other chann exhausted, recourse was had to a Against this the peasants revolte Wat Tyler at their head marched of how the boy king met them, and be their leader, but it is not as gene that the redress claimed by them emptiom from taxation, but exem serfdom, a request which the king, though later he revoked it, but to store the ancient institution. Speal eral terms, it may be said that fr onward the English people were a freemen. The old customs born may have lingered long in some p country, and perhaps have not y passed away; but Wat Tyler's reb intents and purposes put an end to system as established by William quoror. Three centuries of progres necessary to bring about this chang England, a land of freemen ruled by Parliament to which even the kings ject. The foundations of freedom and truly laid, so that although kings endeavored to assert absolute freedom gained was never wholly

The reign of Richard was mar spread of the great religious moven in the time of his father. We saw reign of Edward the English Chur up by Parliament, refused to rec authority of the Pope in many es ticulars. Wyclif advocated not of dependence of England from papal c that the Pope should divest hims claim to temporal power. His influ to Germany by way of Flanders, w took it up and began the movemen ther afterward carried through su Wyclif's efforts were chiefly confined land. It is not necessary to give an Lollardism, for to do so would be to on controversial ground. It will be to indicate some of the results. On was the translation of the Bible into