

## Twice-a-Week Times

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### THE GERMAN ENTENTE.

We fully expected that the opposition at Ottawa would endeavor to create an agitation over the action of the government in abolishing the surtax on German goods, the government of the Fatherland having withdrawn from its untenable position in insisting that Germany should have the full benefit of the preference accorded Great Britain. It would not be reasonable to assume that the opposition would be consistent in its attitude towards anything the government proposes. Besides, Mr. Borden's followers who do not always follow have probably forgotten that they attacked the administration for imposing the surtax in the first instance, pointing out the serious loss to Canada which would surely follow the strangling of German trade. The opposition recognizes but one duty to itself and no duty to the country, and that is its obligation to oppose whatever the government proposes. Which also explains its course on the naval question.

Our readers who cherish sound views on the question of protection and freedom of trade will also have observed that a member of Parliament who professes to speak on behalf of Canadian manufacturers has sounded "a note of alarm" in regard to the effect of opening our markets to German manufactures. This political Jeremiah is not only concerned about the fate of Canadian manufacturers; he is distressed because the abrogation of the surtax will have the effect of nullifying the British preference and driving British manufactured goods out of our markets. And yet we seem to have a recollection of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association lamenting on its own behalf the preferential policy of the Laurier government, prophesying the ruin of the manufacturers of the country if it were adopted and demanding that the member should speak under the preferential scheme should be as high, and preferably higher, than the rates of duty which prevailed under the old National Policy. Yet all this agitation has been aroused over the repeal of a surtax which simply has the effect of restoring the duties on German goods to the rate which obtained previous to the demands of the Germans that they should be placed on an equality with the British in the Canadian markets. The situation, in effect, therefore is that the opposition was dissatisfied when the surtax was imposed and it is more deeply grieved now that the surtax has been removed. But the fact is, as statistical returns prove, that the tariff war was detrimental to the true interests of both countries, and it is a good thing for all concerned that an amicable arrangement has been reached. The controversy was not of Canada's seeking. It was forced upon her. She maintained her right to grant preferential treatment to the Mother Country. That vital principle has been conceded. Germany has practically acknowledged that her demands were unjustifiable.

But possibly the most extraordinary thing in connection with the settlement of the misunderstanding is the comment of the British press. One would think the restoration of former trade relations between the two countries threatened a dissolution of the Empire. For our part we cannot understand why the manufacturing and commercial interests of Great Britain cannot be expected to compete for the growing trade of Canada with the corresponding interests of Germany, even if there were not a substantial preference in favor of the former. The cessation of commercial hostilities will no doubt result in a great increase in the trade between Canada and her European neighbor, but that growth need not necessarily mean a decline in the trade between Great Britain and Canada. Our business is expanding at a tremendous pace, and Germany, realising the possibilities of the future, is anxious to share in it. Why should there not be direct steamship connection between the ports of Canada and the ports of Germany as well as between the ports of France and the ports of Canada? If there is trade sufficient to warrant such a service, it cannot be carried on without substantial benefit to the people of both countries. The same thing is true of German immigration. Direct steamship connection will be sure to promote an increasing influx of industrious, enterprising and frugal Teutons, whom experience demonstrates to be among the very best classes of immigrants. There is plenty of room for people of that class in this wide Dominion. We consider the foresight of the German government to be flattering to Canada in the highest degree. It proves that

an eminently practical, far-seeing nation realises the nature of the future that is in store for this country. And the Germans already with us can be counted among the most loyal subjects of the British Crown.

It is not difficult to understand what is at the back of the comment of the Tory press of Great Britain on this matter. The idea desired to be conveyed is that if protection be not adopted by the country as a policy, with preferential trade as an excuse for its adoption, the days of the Empire are numbered.

### DESERVING OF GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Although this is an age of wonderful mechanical inventions and progress, the stage has not quite been reached at which man can dispense entirely with the enforced services of the lower animals. Natural agencies have been harnessed in many directions. Men travel in steam carriages, electric cars and vehicles propelled by mineral oils. Not satisfied with moving over the surface of the earth at a speed which annihilates distances, they are striving to conquer the natural force of gravity and fly through the air. But although we are subduing nature and going at a rate which would have made our forefathers dizzy, the time is not yet when the horse can be completely emancipated from the bondage in which he has been held for thousands of years. And there are other animals of the lower orders which are still more necessary than the horse to our comfort and convenience.

While public sentiment has advanced steadily along "animalitarian" lines, it is still true that abuses are occasionally inflicted upon the useful creatures we have subjected to our desires and necessities. That is the reason why in every centre of population in Canada and other countries Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are doing good, and necessary work. Many men entrusted with the charge of such animals seem to be oblivious of the fact that these creatures, as well as all creatures not absolutely under human control, are endowed with feelings common to all things which draw the breath of life. It is for the protection of natural creation in their divinely ordained rights that the societies mentioned exist. However, these associations cannot do their voluntarily assumed duty without funds. They do not draw their revenues from state sources; they have not the power of levying taxation. They are entirely dependent in this respect upon the good-will or the munificence of the communities in which they operate.

The Victoria organization is trying to enlarge the bounds of its work. It has engaged a special officer—in regard to whose qualifications there can be no question—to prosecute offenders against the laws which have been wisely placed upon the statute books for the protection of the inalienable rights of the lower orders. The people of Victoria have subscribed liberally, although not as liberally as they ought, to the funds of this organization. The city gives an annual grant of \$50, which might surely be considerably increased. The province sets aside \$500 for the benefit of an alleged provincial organization, the scope of whose operations have not yet been extended to Vancouver Island, notwithstanding the fact that there are but three branches of the society in existence within the boundaries of the province. This is a matter which is surely worthy of investigation at the session of the Legislature now in progress. The S.P.C.A. gives its services gratis, and appears to be gratified at the opportunity of being of service, the work cannot be carried on during the present year with a sum less than \$1,200—twice the amount expended last year. According to the annual report of the society, now before us, the income for the year ending 31st October, 1909, was \$567.05. There was a balance carried forward of \$255.13, which aggregated a sufficient sum to carry on the work for the term. This year there is a surplus of \$246.50 on hand to commence with, but if the more extended programme is to be carried out the customary contributions will have to be largely increased. At least a thousand dollars must be obtained. Either the subscriptions or the number of contributors must be doubled. We are sure it is but necessary for the public to be made acquainted with the facts to insure the complete success of the noble work of the Victoria branch of the S.P.C.A.

### THE TRUE NAVAL POLICY.

The Canadian Courier of Toronto probably expresses the opinion of the majority of Canadian readers of newspapers when it says that it is a weary of the discussion of the naval question. It may be quite true that the attitude of the press towards this very important issue is determined to a considerable extent by political opinions and party affiliations. Speaking for ourselves, we honestly believe we have striven to consider the matter strictly from a Canadian and Imperial standpoint. We believe the government has adopted a policy which future

events will establish to be the only true and permanent solution of a very delicate as well as a very important problem. In any case there can be no question whatever as to the political independence of the Courier. If anything it leans toward the opposition side in its able reviews of the various political issues which are being projected into the political arena from time to time. Therefore we have no hesitation in quoting extensively from the editorial columns of our contemporary on this matter of naval defence, believing that it expresses the opinion of not less than nine-tenths of the population of Canada. The Courier in its last issue says:

"Have you made up your mind whether Great Britain is likely to be wiped off the map by Germany in 1912? Have you a mind to make up? Or perhaps you are sick and tired of the whole subject and you have reached the position where you are so confused by the conflicting opinions and official statements that you don't care. Eh, what?"

"Some time ago, we gave our readers the opinion of the United States naval experts, which is that Germany's naval strength is about one-third of that of Great Britain. Other people, justified in speaking authoritatively, have pooh-poohed the whole German scare on the same grounds. But the Unionists in Great Britain for their own purpose have kept the bogey-man well stuffed with straw and have displayed him constantly. The Conservatives of Canada have apparently felt it their bounden duty to follow their namesakes in Great Britain and to fanatically urge that Canada should give Dreadnoughts quickly. Because of this, the subject is still alive. Mr. Borden revived it last week. Therefore, the bogey-man must be punched again and the writer proposes to do his share once more."

"Then to the task. Most of the trouble has arisen from a speech made by Mr. McKenna, the First Sea Lord, in the British House last spring. The honorable gentleman was 'somewhat astray' at that time and has since recanted through Dr. Macnamara, parliamentary secretary to the navy. In a speech at Hastings, on January 13th, Dr. Macnamara stated that in April, 1912, Britain will have 20 Dreadnoughts to Germany's 13. At the same date Britain will have 40 pre-Dreadnought battleships to Germany's 20; also Britain's 40 will have a larger proportionate tonnage and gun-power than Germany's 20. Ditto in cruisers with 35 to 8. Ditto in Dreadnought docks with 12 to 6."

"A report of this speech may be found in the London dailies of the 14th, and any doubter is invited to read it for himself. Why any sane Canadian, with such a report in front of him, can go on declaring that Britain is in immediate danger is more than an ordinary journalist can explain."

"One can easily understand why the opposition in Great Britain has tried to create a feeling of unrest in that country just before a general election. But why Canadian Conservatives should try to create the same kind of unrest with no general election in sight is hard to comprehend. The situation is absolutely senseless. Their attitude betokens either a sad loss of reason and judgment or else a weak-minded resort to a dangerous political expedient."

"The resolution proposed by Mr. Borden last week in the House speaks of the 'impending necessities of the Empire' and the need to 'assure its peace and security.' It further says that the government's proposals 'will give no immediate or effective aid to the Empire.' All these phrases are apparent, as it is not to be denied, that the Empire is in serious and immediate danger. There are hundreds of thousands of loyal Conservatives through the country who will get that impression and be considerably stirred up. It would be rather strong to say that these honest citizens were being unnecessarily disturbed, and yet it does not seem possible to give any other explanation. No doubt Mr. Borden and those of his party responsible for the resolution have their reasons for trying to create this impression, but we question their soundness. So far as the Bordenites are personally concerned, we believe that he is too well informed and has too much 'horse sense' to justify the resolution on any other ground than political necessity."

"Spite of all differences of opinion on the naval policy, every citizen must be pleased with the progress which Canada is making towards strengthening her position as a member of the Empire and as a member of the greater family of nations. The Canadian navy may never be used for the purpose of war, and the less fighting it sees the better for us all, but it will be an additional proof that the 'Men of the Northern Zone' are increasing in number, wealth and national self-consciousness. Factories, railways and universities the symbols of progress which the visitor to this country will find most striking. The Canadian flag on ocean freighters, ocean passenger vessels and warships is the symbol which will impress the people abroad."

"A Canadian-built navy should be but the forerunner of a greater Canadian-built merchant marine. Providing that Canada does not carry protection by customs duties to the extreme that it has been carried in the United States, and providing that our foreign commerce develops in the future as it has in the past, Canada will be known as a great shipping country. Because of mismanagement and

because of her wonderful internal market, the United States has not achieved prominence as a maritime nation. Her failure should be both a warning and a stimulus to do her utmost to develop her foreign trade side by side with her domestic trade. A nation without a foreign trade and an adequate merchant marine is but half a nation; she may be likened unto a man with one withered arm. Already Canada has, comparatively speaking, a greater ocean-going tonnage than the United States. Our three great transcontinental systems are stretching out and combining sea-carriage with land-carriage. To maintain this valuable superiority, Canada needs a ship-building policy. She needs a navy which where her vessels may be given their yearly out-fitting and overhauling and to which injured vessels may go for repairs, or may be remodelled and rebuilt. She needs also shipyards where new vessels may be constructed."

"In all our study of economic conditions and in all our making of laws for husbandry, mechanics, manufacturing and general commerce, let us not forget to make such laws and inaugurate such policies as will give to Canada a ship-building industry. One has but to study the commercial history and present position of Great Britain and Germany to see how important in the development of commerce such an industry may become."

### REPORT ON RESERVOIR WILL BE DELAYED

### G. H. Bryson Will Not Undertake Task Until Big Basin Can Be Emptied

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

It is improbable that any effort will be made by G. H. Bryson, acting city engineer, to investigate the condition of the Smith's Hill reservoir and prepare a report on the same for the city council for a month or more. The impression prevails in some quarters that Mr. Bryson has already prepared a report. This is erroneous. He and Mr. Topp had set to work on the task, but they abandoned it when they ascertained that Arthur L. Adams still maintained his contention with the city in respect to that piece of work. Now, however, as Mr. Adams is no longer employed there is no obstacle to prevent Mr. Bryson going on with the work.

In view, however, of the fact that it is deemed inadvisable to empty the reservoir at this season of the year some time will elapse before the work of investigation can be taken in hand. As long as the water level is high, there is a possibility of the outbreak of a serious fire which would necessitate a good water pressure—and as the reservoir is an important factor in such a case it will not be emptied until spring approaches. At present there is about seven feet of water in the big basin on Smith's Hill.

### BRIEF LOCALS

—Mrs. Hasell wishes to know if there are any young people living in the vicinity of the Jubilee hospital who would be willing to form a choir to assist in the services held on Sunday afternoon in the Chamberlain chapel. She will be pleased to meet them on Friday evening at 6 o'clock in the chapel.

—At Tuesday's meeting of the committee of the Victoria branch of the "British and Foreign Sailors' Society" a vote of thanks was passed to the executive of the trades and labor council for their generous present through Mr. A. Leary, of the sum of \$20 in appreciation of the recent visit and address by Mr. Will Crooks, the labor humanitarian.

—Building permits have been issued to J. H. Robertson for additions to his house on Elford street to cost \$400, and for a garage to cost \$150; to Robert Kay for a house on Adelaide street, to cost \$1,800; to Dr. E. Hall for additions to a private hospital on St. Charles street, to cost \$800, and to Mark Cosner for a dwelling on Leighton road, to cost \$5,000.

—In view of the fact that Rev. H. C. Speller, who has since October 1st been supplying the pulpit of the First Baptist church, is desirous of leaving, a farewell gathering has been arranged for next Friday evening. Rev. Mr. Speller has preached very acceptably in the First Baptist church, and it is with regret that the congregation parts with him. He will occupy the pulpit for the last time on Sunday. He returns to Moose Jay. The farewell gathering will be held in Victoria hall, where services are held.

—In connection with the opening of the Imperial parliament in London Tuesday, mention is made in the dispatches to the Times of the part played by the gentleman, Usher of the Black Rod, Admiral Sir H. Stephenson. This officer is known in Victoria, where at one time he was admiral of the fleet of the Esquimalt. Many of the older residents of Victoria remember him well. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Loughborough, is a cousin of Mr. Justice Gregory, retired, of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. The father of Mr. Justice Gregory of the British Columbia Supreme court.

—At the opening of the legislature on Wednesday Premier McBride made reference to the loss of the Hon. C. F. Cornwall. He made reference to the late Mr. Cornwall played in the early politics of the province; his elevation to the lieutenant-governorship; his long connection with the bar and his general contribution to the industrial life of this province. An expression of regret at his death will be placed on the records of the House.

## What Other People Think

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

To the Editor:—I see in Semi-Weekly Times of 11th inst. that our member, Mr. Hayward, said in the House that the government paid the country teachers sufficient salary.

At a meeting held in the schoolhouse here during the Christmas holidays the secretary of trustees told those present that the teacher had received an offer of \$65 per month from the trustees of North Cowichan municipality to teach in one of their schools with 12 pupils, whereas here she got only \$50 with 40 pupils of all grades from alphabet to those preparing for entrance exam., that she had been unable to secure board in private house and was forced to leave her home in the district to increase her salary.

It was resolved at the meeting to call on the trustees to increase her salary to \$65 per month, and if we wished to retain her services we would have to do something ourselves, as the government was unable to pay her the salary she was entitled to.

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Does Mr. Hayward think that \$25 per month with board and lodgings is quite sufficient salary to pay a teacher for a country school, or does he think that farmers' children are not entitled to a decent education?

E. H. FORREST.  
Cowichan, B. C., 12th Feb., 1910.

### LAND TAXATION.

To the Editor:—In this evening's Times there is a very interesting communication from Mr. Wm. Marchant on tax reform. I always like to read his articles, which appear often in the columns of the Times. As a rule I can follow him and agree with his theories, but on this tax question I beg leave to say that I fail to see any sound reasoning in making the land pay all taxes. It appears to me just a scheme by one body of men to shift the pack on the other fellows' backs.

Now, why should land pay all the taxes under the present system of freehold by purchase. If governments only leased land and made no sales outright there might be some show of reason in the argument of what is called single tax. Land without labor is of very little value, so that the argument that to tax improvements or buildings is taxing labor is not sound, for without labor very little can be obtained. No man or body of men build houses or business blocks for pure love of the city or to improve their neighbor's lot. They build in the first place for their own benefit, fully expecting that the other fellow by rents or purchase will pay them a goodly rate of interest.

If you were to take off all taxes of improvements, what would be the result? You would value land with equal possibilities at the same rate. One man or company could put up a skyscraper and hand there are those who say it is of vital importance that the neighboring municipality should be preserved as a market where Victoria may dispose of its water works. But if we are to admit this, then the contention that the suggested price—ten cents per thousand gallons—is far too low.

The Times this morning interviewed a number of prominent citizens and asked them what they thought of the proposed agreement. Walter Walker thought the city council had done right in rejecting it, and he hoped they would do the same thing this evening. He said that if the proposed arrangement whereby Oak Bay would be sold water at ten cents a lower rate than the cost to the people of Victoria.

Ex-Ald. Hanna thought the matter was so important that it ought not to be rushed through the council in the hasty manner proposed. He also thought the price too low and favored the fullest investigation into the whole situation before the city council should go to any hard-and-fast agreement with Oak Bay.

Alex. Wilson termed the proposed agreement preposterous. The price was too low. He believed, notwithstanding all statements to the contrary, that there is an abundance of good water at Elk lake, and that the fullest inquiry should be made before abandoning that source. In any event, contended Mr. Wilson, the city should hold on to Elk lake. It was too valuable an asset to be bartered away.

Other leading citizens interviewed were strongly in favor of the agreements believing that it is the one thing left if the city is to preserve Oak Bay as a market and prevent the tearing up of the streets in the laying down of additional water pipes.

This C. E. Redfern, one of the leading pioneer business men who has had long experience at the council board in the capacity of mayor, and whose views are universally respected, said that while the price at which it is proposed to sell to the city is not high, it is a very fair investment, and that in view of all the circumstances, perhaps the best thing to do would be to confirm the agreement. Mr. Redfern added that the city council should in his opinion at the earliest possible date acquire the property of the Esquimalt Waterworks Company by expropriation, at the same time securing a supply of water. In his opinion it would be futile to approach the Esquimalt Waterworks Company with an offer of purchase.

Charles Hayward, ex-mayor, while he confessed that he had not given the matter that full consideration which its importance warranted, thought the agreement should be passed. He considered it about the only thing that was left for the city to do if Oak Bay is to be prevented from entering into a contract for the supply of water from the Esquimalt Waterworks Company. It ought to be clear to everyone that Victoria should be permitted to dispose of water to the neighboring municipality, but this privilege would be destroyed should the bill now before the legislature be passed in its present form.

Col. E. G. Prior said he had not studied the agreement very closely, and therefore could not give an off-hand opinion of any value. He would be willing to go on record, however, as opposed to a plan which would result in the tearing up of the streets for the laying of waterpipes to supply Oak Bay. Col. Prior mentioned incidentally that it was well known that he had long been an advocate of the city buying out the property of the Esquimalt Waterworks Company.

Other leading citizens spoken to were in the main favorable to the agreement, but for one reason or another they refused to be quoted for publication.

The local bank clearings for the week ending Tuesday amounted to \$1,560,530.

## SUIT AGAINST ALLEGED MERGER PROBABLE

### U. S. Attorney-General May Be Asked to Prosecute American Telegraph Co.

New York, Feb. 17.—It is expected here to-day that a request that Attorney-General Wickham start proceedings against the American Telephone & Telegraph Company on the grounds of conspiracy in the restraint of trade will be made following the suit brought by the stockholders of the United States and Cuyahoga Telephone companies in Ohio.

In the Ohio suit, minority stockholders charged that the control of these properties was being secured by J. P. Morgan for the American company. The taking of depositions was concluded here to-day, the attorneys for the stockholders declaring they have secured enough testimony to make their case.

It is known that the attorney-generals of Ohio and Missouri have been watching the suit closely, and it is predicted that out-of-proceedings may be started in those states if the stockholders win their case.

### SHOULD CITY PASS AGREEMENT?

(Continued from page 1.)

On Wednesday last Mayor Morley, following the rejection of the agreement by the council the night previous, appeared before the private bills committee of the legislature and asked that the bill which Oak Bay is applying for in respect to water rights shall be delayed until the agreement between the two municipalities could again be considered by the council. In view of the mayor's representations, the committee decided to let consideration of the Oak Bay bill stand over until Tuesday next. At this evening's meeting, therefore, a by-law, giving effect to the agreement, will be introduced at the instance of Ald. Langley, chairman of the legislative committee.

Public opinion would seem to be divided as to the merits of the proposed agreement with Oak Bay. On the one hand there are those who say it is of vital importance that the neighboring municipality should be preserved as a market where Victoria may dispose of its water works. But if we are to admit this, then the contention that the suggested price—ten cents per thousand gallons—is far too low.

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## ALEXANDRA CLUB TO BUILD NEW HOME

### Decision Reached at an Important Meeting Held Yesterday Afternoon

At a general meeting of the members of the Alexandra Club held Tuesday afternoon, the decision to proceed with the erection of a new clubhouse was reached. A lot is to be purchased and a structure, exclusively devoted to ladies, to be erected. It is proposed to build on Douglas street nearly opposite the Union Club. There was a large attendance and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed in regard to the project.

The proposed building will include ground floor, comprising supper room, dressing rooms, kitchens, cloak rooms, laundry and storerooms.

The second story will consist of an auditorium or ball room, which will be fully equipped with a spring and rubber floor for dancing and with a stage for concerts, lectures and dramatic performances.

The third floor will be occupied by the Alexandra Club proper and will contain tea room and drawing room, library and writing room, bedrooms, kitchen and lavatory, and all necessary equipment.

Mrs. Henry Croft, the president, opening the meeting, said: "Ladies—I am glad to see you all here to-day to lay before you a scheme whereby the Alexandra Club may help itself—I, e., both lot and building—and attain that dignity and full usefulness which is the aim of all of us who are interested in the club."

Mrs. Croft then read a letter from the committee of the club, which was adopted by the club and to maintain it as an institution even when—by reason of its narrow environs and inadequate accommodation—it could offer only small and restricted service to the community. Those days are past. With the influx of population and the dawn of a more prosperous era the Alexandra Club has prospered too. Since our quarters were enlarged in October, 1907, our membership has doubled, and our income has done the same. Our library and tea departments are taxed to their utmost capacity and there are numerous avenues of usefulness open to us could be but secure the necessary prestige, accommodation and position to meet the needs and requirements of a many and varied interests represented among us."

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