The Colonist

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DELITZSCH VERSUS OPPERT.

Some time ago a professor named Delitzsch delivered a lecture to which a good deal of attention was drawn because the German Emperor happened to be among his hearers. The thesis of this lecture was that the Jewish religious ideas were entirely borrowed from Babylonian literature and tradition. The presence of the Emperor at such a lecture aroused severe comment among the orthodox people of Germany, and he was moved to write a letter, which we are bound to say possessed internal evidence of being an entirely original contribution to the discussion. As a proof of the fact that the German Emperor is a man of a profoundly religious disposition, the letter was an important document, but as a contribution to the discussion of the questions raised by Professor Delitzsch, it was beneath contempt. The Emperor of the Germans has great and noble qualities, of which his admiration of his Imperial grandfather is not the least. It is true that he would be more estimable if he did not ignore the share his father and mother had in his makeup, but even from emperors everything is not to be reasonably expected. Professor Delitzsch has, however, stirred up a very different man in Professor Jules Oppert of Paris, one of the most distinguished Assyriologists now living. Professor Oppert states that as early as the sixth millenium before Christ, Semitic hordes came into the Euphrates and Tigris valleys, and the union of these resulted in Babylonian civilization. About the close of the third millenium before Christ, there came from the West, from Ur of the Chaldees, a great man, who, according to the testimony of the great Babylonian historian Berosus, was well and favorably remembered by the Chaldeans, namely, Abraham, who was the first to express a faith in one higher Being. Abraham was the first monotheist of whom history gives any indication. To translate that into religious language is simply to say that to Abraham was given a fuller, purer, truer revelation of the Supreme Being than had previously dawned upon any human being. When Mohammedans call Abraham the first Moslem, they tell the truth; under all circumstances he was conspicuous for his monotheism, while the Babylonians were polytheists and ever remained such. Now if the central essence of the Old Testament is the development of the idea of One God, and its struggle against idolatry of all kinds, in the history of a people who derived their faith from their father Abraham, how could such a literature be derived from the Babylonians, who were polytheists, and remained polytheists until they decayed and disappeared? Similiarities of nomenclature, language, or even custom, between the Jews and the Babylonians prove nothing in the face of a fundamental difference in the root principle of their religions. "In the end," says Professor Oppert, "the whole argument for the so-called Babylonian origin of the Jewish culture amounts to the following: We can prove that the Chaldeans had the nose in the middle of the face; the Jews had the same; hence the noses of the Jews are derived from the Babylonians." Professor Oppert says that the Pentateuch and pre-exilic books of the Old Testament were the remnants of Jewish literature which survived the burning of the Temple by the Babylonians, and were collected after the return, and that much that is in them is very old, it being silly to maintain that nothing of this can date back as far as Moses, who, he declares, could both read and write. He goes on to remark that the only thing in this portion of the Old Testament which was really borrowed from Babylon is the so-called chronology of Genesis, which he declares to be modern, spurious, "and the most harmful gift the Babylonians have handed down to our times." Professor Oppert's opinion has attracted very widespread attention, because it is more conservative and confirmatory of the orthodox view than opinions which have been accepted by many professed theologians. The origin of monotheism with Abraham, and the development of that idea as the foundation of religious faith in the history of the Jews, is all that any rational theory of inspiration in modern times demands.

AN ORIENTAL PROBLEM.

One of the most serious problems the United States has to face in the Philippines is the government and civilization of the Moros, among whom most of the serious trouble has recently broken out. The Moros are terrible savages. They are quite prepared to be friendly with people who keep faith with them, and respect their religion and institutions. But those they are not prepared to surrender so long as any power of resistance whatever remains to them. The Spaniards they could not abide because the Spaniards attempted to baptise them by force, and committed outrages upon them when they resisted. They retaliated by committing outrages upon the Spaniards, and had much the best of it in this respect, as the imagination of the most bloodthirsty Spaniard is a pale and lukewarm affair compared with the refinements of torture which naturally suggest themselves to a properly constituted Moro. The difficulty for the United States is this, that if it wishes to administrate the territory of the Moros with any semblance of success, it must not interfere with one man rule (and the despotism of a Moro sultan is not a thing to be lightly regarded), which is the only form of government the Moros understand, with polygamy, or with slavery, which is closel yinterwoven with the Moro religion, or with that religion itself. If it does interfere with those things, the United States will be under the painful necessity of exterminating the Moros to make its interference at all effective. The question of whether people who refuse to abandon slavish obedience to the will of a dirty old despot, and who prefer polygamy and slavery and all sorts of evil institutions, social and religious, to the benefits of Christian civilization, should or should not be exterminated, is one which used never to be answered in the negative. But a long experience in the government of Oriental people has caused grave questionings to arise in the minds of British people as to whether extermination or civilization according to our model, is a proper alternative to lay before them. It is quite likely the experience of the people of the United States with the Moros will be highly instructive to them also.

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EXHIBITION OF WORK.

It is a relief, when critics are many of the kind and value of the education the younger generation is receiving, to turn to such a display of practical and artistic achievement as is now on exhibition at the Market Hall, the work of the children in our schools. Of one thing we may be certain, the old dreary way of training the intellect of children only through their memories, is gone, and gone for ever. Our educational system, whatever may be its faults and failings, has at least accomplished that reform. The eye and the hand are now used to "keen the wit and to refine the heart," as well as the ear and the memory. Artistic and mechanical aptitudes are developed as a means of education, and physical exercise is systematized and brought to bear on the general scheme. The exhibition which so many visited yesterday is a great object lesson in the solid results achieved along those lines. The young people of today have a better chance by far of becoming educated and cultivated men and women, and of having all that is in them developed, than their fathers and mothers had. We say a better chance advisedly, because it does not follow that they will necessarily become, all of them, better educated and more cultivated. True education depends upon the attitude of the individual to the opportunities afforded. No amount of external embellishment can compensate for those self-directed efforts which make the recognition of faults and weaknesses of character the first step towards eradicating them. But while education is impossible without the co-operation of its subject, it is a great source of encouragement to those who have the interests of our race and country at heart, to see the educative influences available so much wider and more generous than they have been in the past, and to know that neither cost nor effort will ever be counted where it is possible to still further develop them.

CANADIAN COMMERCE.

Every day Canada is being better recognized by the United States as a serious rival for European trade, and particularly British trade. Our export trade with Great Britain is just about one-sixth of that of the United States, but in the lines where it does compete it is competing successfully and growing relatively faster. Letters from American trade agents say that Canada is a dangerous rival, and that the energy and enterprise of our merchants are capturing a larger share of British trade every year. From a commercial standpoint Canada was never more in evidence in Britain than at the present time. The trade statistics of Britain have been more deceptive than the general aspect of trade, for while the reports show that a comparatively small amount of British trade can be credited to Canada, they also contain warnings as to Canadian aggressiveness. There are errors in the British trade returns due to the habit of classing goods from American ports as products of the United States. As a consequence the great volume of Canadian products reaching the Atlantic through American territory is credited to our neighbors. But while it is desirable that full credit should be accorded the Dominion for her contribution to Britain's food supply, we can afford to tolerate erroneous statistics, if they are accompanied by impressive words as to the seriousness of Canadian competition. Canada has the resources to produce just as effectively and more cheaply than the United States, and an impetus has been recently given to Canadian production which will render Canada from now on a still more important factor in international commerce.

A most interesting letter on the decline in consols appears in the New York Post. It is from a gentleman who subscribed for $500,000 worth of the last issue, believing that income tax would not be deducted from the foreign investor. When he found it was deducted, he promptly sold his consols. The proposition is absurd. The foreign holder of consols looks upon them as returning the rate of interest less 6 per cent. income tax. This does not affect the British investor, because whatever he puts his money in at home or abroad he would be required to pay that six per cent. But of course the foreign investor is not in that position. We quite agree with this American that for a government to invite subscriptions to a loan at a certain rate, and then to reserve the power to tax the interest to any extent which it pays itself against foreigners, not subject to the laws of the country, is a most peculiar proceeding. If any South American republic did that to British bondholders, we believe that a cruiser would be sent to investigate at once. It leaves the value of consols as an interest-bearing investment subject, so far as the foreign lender is concerned, to an arbitrary variation in value at the option of the debtor. Such a thing is a disgrace to the financial probity in which Britons everywhere take so much pride.

A writer the other day made a remark of some depth when he said that on the American continent a "religion had been made of utility."

Mr. Whitaker Wright has declared that he will not return to England a prisoner, if he can help it. It is not the returning he objects to, but the manner of it. He would hasten back to English shores if he could do so in peace, and seek honorable advancement by plucking the guileless investor.

Police Commissioner Greene of New York City has been having an interesting time with the gambling element in New York. He expressed himself pleased with a raid made the other day by a certain Inspector McCluskey. He said: "It shows distinctly that when the police go after a case they can get the evidence. I called this pool room specifically to the inspector's attention, and you see how promptly he got the evidence." Verb. sap.

Our attention was drawn yesterday to some extraordinary and funeral-looking placards ornamenting several of the street corners of the city. These placards are exactly like some of the cards of rules we sometimes see hung up in the bedrooms of hotels. On investigation, close investigation, because the print is illegible except at close range, they proved to be advertising placards. What possible purpose they serve as such we do not know, unless, like the secret marks of the tramp, they are intended to post the foreign advertising fakir on the people in Victoria who are likely to surrender to his blandishments and exchange their good money for his ingenious persuadings.

The movement set on foot by the different gun clubs looking to the better preservation of grouse is a worthy one, and one which should receive the recognition it merits. But we doubt that it will be very difficult to preserve grouse in the habitat frequented by pheasants. The pheasant is a fine bird, but lordly in his ways, and the grouse takes care to keep out of them. We fear that grouse and pheasants will divide the territory, that they will never share it. Grouse and pheasants are a good deal like black bass and trout. The presence of the one is incompatible with the continued existence of the other. However, there may be altitudes to which the pheasant will not spread, where the grouse may still flourish and increase. The grouse has one thing in its favor. It can skirmish a living where a pheasant would starve.

The idea of extending the Easter school holidays for a day or two as a precaution against the grippe microbe, which is advanced by a correspondent this morning, appeals to us as a useful one. A very great number of people are sneezing and coughing and grumbling and groaning under this abominable plague in Victoria just now. It does not appear to be generally serious in its symptoms or effects, but it is, in the words of Mr. Mantilini, undeniably "moist and unpleasant," and we believe that if it were not Sunday morning the epithet by which he prefixed his tearful anticipation of his latter end could also be quoted without grave offence. The epidemic is dying away, and a week or so will probably see the end of it; but if an extra school holiday or two would tend to hasten its departure, the sacrifice on the children's part these would involve, might be overlooked. Children cannot be taught too early to sacrifice their own inclinations to the good of the community.

Manitoba and the Northwest have a grievance against the Dominion government almost as bad as British Columbia. Thetford Mines, a small town in Quebec, with a population of 1,600, is to have a public building to cost $12,000. For the whole province of Manitoba the government is granting only $5,000 for the accommodation of public business. Here are some of the leading towns of the Northwest with a considerable postoffice revenue, treated with the Dominion government's usual generosity to the West in the way of buildings:

	Revenue.	Vote.
Selkirk	$3,440	Nil.
Carberry	3,335	Nil.
Souris	2,728	Nil.
Lt bridge	4,524	Nil.
Moose Jaw	4,427	Nil.
Virden	2,926	Nil.
Edmonton	6,039	Nil
Yorkton	2,410	Nil.

The list might be continued to great length and in each case a marked injustice is done Western towns. When it is mentioned that $12,000 is being expended at L'Assomption, the birthplace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which has a postal revenue of $465, Western electors will better appreciate the motives which prompt the disbursement of the people's money.

THE USE OF SAVINGS.

The Halifax Herald estimates that the people of Nova Scotia have $20,000,000 on deposit in the banks drawing 3½ per cent. interest. This leads the Herald to remark, "What a difference it would make if this vast sum of money were being utilized here by the owners of it in the development of our industries." The Insurance and Finance Chronicle makes this statement the subject of an onslaught. It first draws attention to the prevalence of the idea that the growth of bank deposits is an evidence of business stagnation, and then proceeds to demolish that idea with entire satisfaction to itself, overlooking the fact that the Halifax Herald is absolutely right, and that it is absolutely wrong. Certainly, the argument that money could not earn any rate of interest at all if it were hoarded by the banks and not utilized, is correct, and also that banks do not keep their deposits in their safes, but loan them out to those who are doing business of various kinds. And it may be shown by the published returns that banks do not keep one dollar in their vaults for which they can find a safe and profitable use. But it does not follow that the banks employ the deposits in the same place as they receive them, and all that the Halifax Herald said was that the savings of Nova Scotians would be of more benefit to Nova Scotia if invested in productive enterprise in Nova Scotia and not deposited in banks which may and do utilize them in New York and elsewhere. That we should imagine was a self-evident proposition. Though not quite so self-evident, it is equally true that very heavy bank deposits are an evidence of local business stagnation and lack of enterprise. Bank deposits are not hoards so far as the ultimate utilization of the money is concerned, but so far as the depositor is concerned, the action of depositing is the action of hoarding. In any community where bank deposits rise to a very high level, it is either because there are no profitable business opportunities for its reproductive employment on the spot, or because the people are too ignorant or too lazy to take advantage of the opportunities which do exist. We should not have thought it was a fact often, even inferentially ignored, that business stagnation causes cheap money, and active business enterprise dear money. The meaning of that is only that deposits overtake the possibility of using them in the one case, and fall behind it in the other. If the estimate of the Nova Scotian paper is correct, the conditions which exist there are a decided evidence of commercial stagnation. Let us see whether we can gain any light on this subject from the statistical returns of the Canadian banks in reference to Canada as a whole. The banks have $48,639,724 of the people's savings invested in what are known as "call loans" in Canada, and $44,668,557 of Canadian savings invested in "call loans" outside Canada. "Call loans" are loans for facilitating stock exchange transactions, the manner by which credit is applied to these transactions. This statement shows, therefore, that the volume of business in stocks and bonds and shares in Canada is only half what, from the money in Canada available to finance it, we should expect. And that shows that the number of home-owned railways and companies of various kinds is far smaller than the savings of the people, the locally accumulated capital, would justify. In a year, however, the "call loans" in Canada have increased over 30 per cent., and the foreign "call loans" have not increased, which shows an improvement. Loans and discounts in Canada amount to $331,646,220 as compared with $292,059,778 a year ago. But loans and discounts outside Canada amount to $32,118,508 showing an increase of nearly six millions in a year. Roughly then, the Canadian banks have $76,786,000 of Canadian savings invested, that is being utilized, abroad, and to balance that, are utilizing in Canada about $5,000,000 of foreign money. That is the situation. It is much better than it was a few years ago. The banks have flooded the West with the savings of the East, to their own great profit, and to the great advantage of the country. But for every dollar deposited in Canada there should be abundant use in Canada, if enterprise and initiative kept pace with industry and frugality, and the resources of our country. The fact is, however, that our Eastern people, the savers of the nation, are only now beginning to look beyond a heritage of hard work with the insurance of a deposit in the bank, and to realize their combined duty and opportunity in the great productive and industrial resources of our country.

The Nova Scotia coal output registered an increase last year of 737,504 tons.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

A member of the Quebec Legislature has introduced a bill dealing with temperance, which is based upon an extraordinary distinction between "alcoholic" and "intoxicating" beverages. A beverage containing over 4 per cent. and up to 15 per cent. alcohol is defined by him as "alcoholic," while beverages containing over 15 per cent. of alcohol, are defined as "intoxicating." Proof spirit contains 49.24 per cent. of alcohol. According to the authority of this legislator, common rye whiskey diluted with two parts of water would be an "alcoholic," but not an "intoxicating" drink. The unscientific character of his distinction is demonstrated by the fact that it would be quite possible for the ordinary individual to get most outrageously drunk on such a mixture, and that that event would occur long before he was at all inconvenienced by the amount of water he had consumed. But this legislator is aiming at a distinction which does exist, although he has made a ludicrous failure of hitting the mark. All alcoholic beverages contain food as well as alcohol. If they did not, they would simply be a more or less diluted form of a potent drug. It has been demonstrated that even the most potent spirit ordinarily used as a beverage contains a considerable amount of nourishment. It certainly contains something else. It is not exactly in the same category as mutton broth. It is also a fact of experience that where beverages are used in which the percentage of alcohol is low compared with the percentage of nourishment, the vice of drunkenness is diminished, while the alcoholic craving, so common a phenomenon in Northern latitudes where people drink potent spirits, is non-existent. If temperance reform was conducted along the lines of this distinction we firmly believe that great good could be accomplished, although this Quebec gentleman's is a somewhat grotesque attempt to do so.

BALKAN ACTIVITY.

It is one thing to organize a rising among people rendered desperate by tyranny, and quite another thing to decree that the rising shall not take place. Leaders may see that the time is not ripe for revolt, and that revolt cannot possibly lead to any definite result, but the rank and file are as a rule too occupied with their grievances to pay any attention to arguments of that kind. They have been worked up to the pitch of revolt and some kind of row they are going to have, so to save time they go out and kill a Turk or two. The result is a succession of scattered and unorganized mobs who do a little murder and massacre in various places, until they meet disciplined troops when the murder and massacre come from the other side. The only outcome possible is that the condition of the oppressed people is made far worse than it was before, if worse it can be made. A terrible responsibility rests upon any of the European powers who have encouraged and fomented insurrection in the Balkans with assurances of sympathy and support, and have then withdrawn these assurances at the last moment. There can be no outcome to isolated outbreaks by Albanians or Macedonians except complete and bloody repression by the Turks, and that is a task which, in all its features, the Turks thoroughly enjoy. Of course there is a possibility that these risings may be so general and so simultaneous as to make intervention a positive necessity, and if so the greatest possible danger of a European war will arise. But of this there does not appear to be any anticipation. We fear that the Christian subjects of the Porte are in for a dose of Turkish repression, followed by a dose of Turkish reform, and that while they will relish neither they will be obliged to submit to both.

THE LIBRARY SITE.

The site for the Carnegie Library has been settled by vote and by such a large majority in favor of the Yates street site that there can be no doubt whatever as to the location preferred by the people of the city. As after all it was a matter of comparatively-speaking minor importance where the library was to be built, compared with the question whether it was ever to be built at all, that we feel certain that the minority who preferred the other site will cheerfully acquiesce in the decision of the majority. The site having been settled, the next thing to be done is to get the building up as soon as possible. Our city fathers are nothing if not deliberate in the execution of the works committed to their care. Having surmounted the site question under the persistent jogging of the public, they are still likely to balk at a plan or stumble over a contract. They may rest assured, however, that there is a very strong desire on the part of the people to see the last of the grimy hole which is at present the only temple of polite literature available to the general public in Victoria, and that prompt and energetic action to build and equip the new library will be accounted to them for merit.

About 100,000 persons emigrate from Great Britain annually, by far the largest proportion to the United States. Canada has hitherto secured a very small share of this population. Emigrants from Great Britain are now asking themselves why they should go to the United States when the people there are themselves overflowing to Canada. From now on Canada will get the bulk of this emigration. This year it may be larger than usual owing to hard times in Britain. But the idea that the movement to Canada is going to seriously affect conditions in Great Britain is ridiculous. In this connection a most extraordinary paragraph appeared in the press despatches that the emigration to Canada would seriously affect house letting in Edinburgh. Why Edinburgh, and why the business of letting houses? This idiotic paragraph has been published in every Canadian newspaper of importance. The truth of the matter is that the source of our European news is jealous of Canada's attractions to British emigrants, and shows its jealousy by endeavoring to make out that the people of Great Britain view emigration to Canada with alarm, which, so long as it was headed for the United States, they regarded with complacency.

A new disease has been discovered, which we suspect of being a very old one, called "eye strain." When people who are engaged in work calling for intense mental application begin to have trouble with their eyes they had better look out. "Eye strain" has nothing to do with weakness of the vision. It is merely the delicate optic nerve giving warning of a general mental collapse and nervous breakdown. In nine cases out of ten, when study begins to affect the eyes it is not spectacles that are needed but mental relaxation. It is not the vision that is affected but the brain. In school children, students, and brain workers, the eye should be carefully watched as the barometer of the brain, and spectacles will not cure "brain strain."

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT.

The railway merger which was marked by the flotation of the Northern Securities Company was the first step which drew wide public attention to a process of railway development which has been going on for a long time. It marked a forward step in the policy of one control over freight from its origin to its destination. This control is bound to result in an effective economy in the cost of transportation. But whether either the producer or the consumer secures any advantage from this economy is an entirely different question. The policy of securing the control of freight from its origin to its ultimate destination involves the securing of a monopoly of freight at its origin. The theory that there is always a latent possibility of competition which checks excessive extortion by a monopoly, is very obviously put out of court by the consideration that, to make that competition effective at any particular place, would require the reduplication of a transcontinental system. This is the point at which the centralization under one control of the business of transportation affects the producer and the consumer. On all sides there is an agitation to invoke the strong arm of the state to avert its apparently logical consequences. It is a remarkable fact, however, that this process of centralization and amalgamation has been accompanied by a steady reduction in the flat cost per mile ton of transferring freight, and railway freight rates have not risen at all comparably to the rise in general prices and wages. This makes it look as though the community was deriving some benefit from the operation of its transportation service on a gigantic scale. We have not the smallest sympathy for the attitude of mind which looks upon the big amalgamation as necessarily an evil, compared with the small company. It is an attitude of pig-headed conservatism. In the virtues of competition to protect the producer and consumer, we have not the smallest faith. Competition is costly and wasteful, and, in the last analysis, it must be the producers who have to make good the waste it causes. However, we are wandering from our subject. We did not mean to discuss the economic bearings of transportation combines, but to describe the rapidity with which the control of freight from its origin to its destination has spread as the only possible policy for transportation companies to pursue. The Northern Securities Company was followed by an extension of the principle from the control of land transportation to the control of sea transportation through the Morgan Atlantic Combine. This again was followed by the purchase of a steamship line by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. On all sides it is recognized that the machinery for the transportation of freight must be harmonized and brought under one control from one end of the world to the other. In Canada we have another transportation system now in the making, to wit, the Canadian Northern Railway Company. Its development is proceeding along exactly the same lines adopted by the other systems, and proceeding along those lines much faster than most people are aware of. The railways controlled by this company extend from the Northwest Territories to the Great Lakes, and the Great Northern railway, further East, is included. It has a working agreement with the Canadian Atlantic Steamship Company for the transfer of freight from Port Arthur to Parry Sound, and with the Canadian Atlantic railway from Parry Sound to Hawkesbury. From that point the Great Northern of Canada, now under the control of Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, provides a service to Quebec. At Quebec the steamers of the Leyland line will load Canadian Northern freight for Europe under a special agreement for service and connections. Thus we have in connection with the youngest transportation system in North America a group of allied interests which makes it independent and self-sustaining, and affords a remarkable example of the rapidity with which railway systems have adopted the principle of development already forced upon the older companies. This system also, developed in view of conditions which were not apparent when the older roads came into existence, is not likely to prove a less formidable competitor on account of its youth. We do not see how a system occupying the position which it does is to be easily dislodged from the vantage ground of actual achievement it possesses, by any other company, however strong, which may come into the field. The incomplete portion of the whole system is the section between the plains and the Pacific Coast. It is evident that if the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern remain in the field as competitors, their keenest fight will be over the Pacific section of their respective enterprises, and that, as soon as the Eastern gaps are filled up and the Eastern policy defined, the war will break out in this province. It will be our own fault if concessions greatly to our advantage do not result.

THE OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The formal opening of the session of the legislature which took place yesterday was dull and unrelieved by any of those incidents which are attractive to the gallery. Even the annual growl about the adjournment over the end of the week which Mr. Oliver attempted to make the basis of a speech upon topics which had nothing whatever to do with the motion to adjourn, found no responsive echo in any part of the House, and a most perfunctory support from the leader of the opposition. The newly-elected members, Messrs. Semlin, Patterson and the Hon. W. W. B. McInnes, were warmly welcomed by the House, and after the members of the government had made a start in connection with the ordinary business of the session, and Mr. Oliver had enjoyed a little tilt with the Speaker, an adjournment was taken till next Monday. The Speech from the Throne has in it very little of a contentious nature, but a good deal of an eminently practical and businesslike nature. A Conciliation Act in labor disputes is promised, which will reflect great credit upon the government if it provides a feasible means of arbitrating these disastrous and recurrent difficulties. The Speech refers in language which is as nearly glowing as any that such a document can indulge in, to the beneficial effect the settlement of the Northwest is having upon the lumber and fruit industries of the province, and promises legislation to encourage the immigration of fruit growers. One of the most important, possibly the most important item in the Speech, is the welcome assurance that action will be taken to provide by survey or reconnaissance more definite information about the lands in the province suitable for settlement. We made sure that the taxation of metalliferous mines would be dealt with. An act to amend this and another to amend the "Coal Mines Regulation Act," represent all the mining legislation which is foreshadowed, unless the initiative is taken by the Mining committee of the House. We are glad to see that the government, while it welcomes the legislation on the Chinese question promised at Ottawa, does not propose to abandon its attitude to that question, which also involves the consideration of provincial rights, and we are sure that a unanimous endorsation of the stand taken upon that point will be granted by the House. From the remarks let fall by Mr. Oliver, before he was called to order, we should judge that it was at least his intention, if not that of the opposition, which he often seems to lead, or, at least, drag after him, to try to make a political issue out of a tissue of recriminatory charges hurled across the floor of the House at the members of the government. We should hope that the opposition would by this time have learned the fatal mistake they made in this regard, and refuse to follow the lead of Mr. Oliver. The opposition only succeeded in lowering the tone of political debate in British Columbia, without advancing their own cause in the slightest degree. Some people are unable to imagine that others who differ from them are not wrong in motive and evil in intent, as well as, from their point of view, mistaken in conduct. But continued assertions of wrong motives on the part of opponents do not influence the public, because they appreciate, without sharing, the prejudices which have given rise to them.

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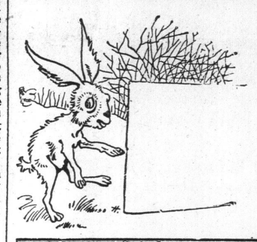

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GARDEN TOOLS.

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E.G. PRIOR & CO., LD. L'TY.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

We have a full line of the following goods at the right prices; give us a call if in need of anything in our line.

Builders' Hardware, Mechanics' Tools, Iron and Steel, Pipe and Fittings, Brass Goods for Steam and Water, Garden Hose, Belting, Agricultural Implements and Vehicles.

E. G. PRIOR & CO., LTD., VICTORIA

Branch Stores at Vancouver and Kamloops.

NOTICE.

Respecting Timber Licenses.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Section 50 of the "Land Act," that in future no special licenses to cut timber on Crown lands will be granted or renewed until after the applicants have had the limits surveyed by a duly qualified Provincial Land Surveyor to the satisfaction of the Lands and Works Department.

W. C. WELLS,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.
Lands and Works Department, Victoria B. C., 26th March, 1903.

"A Genius," writes a small boy, "is born first and raised afterwards; but the world don't know he's a genius till somebody sprains their leg by stumbling over his grave."—Atlanta Constitution.

New Summer Suits, $8.00, $10.00, $12.00 and $15.00. B. Williams & Co. *

Possession, backed up by a strong arm and a hefty boot, is usually ten points better than the law.—Penn. Punch Bowl.

10 cases fine English neckwear just unpacked. B. Williams & Co. *

YOU TAKE NO CHANCES.

All druggists and dealers guarantee every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to anyone who is not satisfied after using two-thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the world for la grippe, coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough, and is pleasant and safe to take. It prevents any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia.

Twenty cases spring and summer underwear. B. Williams & Co. *

Mrs. Upson—Your grandfather is an octogenarian, is he not? Mrs. Newrich—Indeed, he isn't anything of the sort. He is the most truthful man I ever bumped up against.—Chicago Daily News.

See our new regatta and negligee shirts, new styles and patterns. B. Williams & Co. *

"You say your playing created a great deal of talk?" said the friend. "Yes," answered the pianist, "but, unfortunately, it was mostly during my performance."—Washington Star.

100 dozen English cashmere sox, 25c. pair. B. Williams & Co.

"I sent to you for a detective the other day for some important work——" "I know you did, sir; but I have none to spare; every one of them was investigating the career of some college athlete."—Puck

Five cases bags and valises just opened. B. Williams & Co. *

She—How long have you been living in New York? He—Oh, I came here about the time they began digging up the streets for the subway. "Have you been here as long as that?"—Yonkers Statesman.