

The Colonist.

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FUTURE OF VICTORIA

The remarks of Mr. McBride as to the future of Victoria, which he made in connection with his explanation of the proposed disposition of the Songhees Reserve, show him to be actuated by the liveliest optimism. That Victoria is just on the eve of a period of very great development is now the opinion of every one, and that development will be promoted to a very large degree by the policy which the city's senior representative has introduced and carried through the House.

In amplification of what he said in respect to the difference in the position of the city towards the Reserve from what it was only a few years ago, mention may be made of the fact that when the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company expressed a desire to establish their workshops on the Reserve and build coal-bunkers on the waterfront a very large proportion of the citizens looked upon the proposal with a good deal of favor. No one would tolerate such an idea now.

We are not advised as to the plans which the government proposes to adopt in respect to the former Reserve, but we feel confident that the best interests of the city will be safeguarded in whatever may be done. It is very satisfactory to know that the principle on which the government will proceed in forming those plans is that provision must be made for the requirements of a great city.

CLIMATE

Do you realize that during the past few weeks when we have been laying concrete and asphalt on streets and the construction of buildings of all description has been steadily in progress here, over the greater part of North America the thermometer has been registering below zero, and heavy snow storms have interrupted traffic? We are in no way disposed to criticize unreasonably the climatic conditions prevailing elsewhere, but it is allowable to direct attention to the exceptionally favorable conditions which prevail here. Perhaps there are certain compensations for cold weather. We are inclined to think there are; nevertheless we have a right to congratulate ourselves upon the fact that we live in a country where we have no extremes of temperature.

As Canada becomes better populated and more fully developed, the climatic advantages of this city will become more and more an important factor in its progress. Of itself the absence of extreme heat and extreme cold is a very great thing, but combined with these other things which add to its value. The great advertising card of St. John is that it is an open port all the year round, and the fact that it is so has led to the hauling of grain from the prairies hundreds of miles to get it to a point of shipment. But we have here on the British Columbia sea board many ports that are always free from ice, and at which all the business connected with the handling of cargoes can be carried on in any one month of the year quite as favorably as in any other month. This is not the case at St. John or Halifax, although those harbors can be reached by ships at any time. Our harbors are much nearer the great grain-producing areas than are the harbors of Eastern Canada. Hence outgoing train can be delivered here and handled here more cheaply during the winter season than it can be at eastern ports. Thus our climate will play an important part in determining the direction of commerce. We have advantages in this respect, that cannot be offset by any that the East may possess.

From the standpoint of the manufacturer climate means much, and this observation holds good as well as regards summer heat as winter cold. An operative can be at his best the whole year through here, whereas in other parts of the continent his productive capacity is handicapped by extremes of temperature. As business adjusts itself in Canada to geographical and climatic conditions, the equitable nature of the temperature of the Pacific Coast is certain to have an important influence in determining the location of industries. We concede that for the time being there are certain considerations as to the labor supply and the cost of turning that operate against this coast; but this is only a temporary condition of things. The capacity of this part of the country to yield good products is, acre for acre of cultivable land, higher than in any other part of Canada, and the area of cultivable land is large. We may feel confident that the volume of food products raised here will greatly expand

and that the existing handicap in this regard—a handicap inseparable from a new country like British Columbia, will soon be removed. When this result has been reached this province, with its vast stores of raw material, will attain prominence in a manufacturing way, and the climate will contribute much to such a result.

From the residential standpoint nothing remains to be said that has not been stated over and over again. It has been said of Switzerland that it coins its scenery into an unending stream of wealth. It is said that California does the same thing with its climate. We have as magnificent scenery as Switzerland, and a far greater variety; we have a climate, which, taking one part of the year with another, is as enjoyable as that of California. There is no valid reason why we should not coin our scenery and our climate into an unending stream of dollars.

A NAVAL RESOLUTION

Mr. Brewster has given notice that he will move a resolution relative to the establishment of a Canadian naval unit on the Pacific coast. We should be very glad to see such a policy adopted, but are not very clear as to the propriety of asking the Legislature at this stage to express an opinion upon it. The federal government has the whole question under advisement, and is about to consult the Admiralty as to the best course to be adopted. Pending such consultation it seems to us that it might be regarded as premature for any parliamentary body to endeavor to influence the decision of experts. When the views of the Admiralty have been obtained we shall all be in a better position to express opinions than we are now. While the question was purely a federal one the Colonist urged as forcibly as it was able that a fleet unit should be established on this coast, and if the matter were one to be dealt with at Ottawa alone, we should continue so to urge; but since Mr. Borden has decided, and we think wisely decided, to consult the highest naval authority in the Empire before announcing any policy, it seems to us that the adoption of an advisory resolution by the legislature would be stepping a little aside of the line of duty of that body.

AN ENVIABLE RECORD

Senator Macdonald leaves today for Ottawa, on his seventy-first trip across the continent in the course of his legislative duties. In 1871 he was summoned to the Senate by Lord Lisgar, and during the forty years since he has not there he has travelled 213,000 to and from Victoria to attend the sessions. This is indeed an enviable record, and probably one which is not possessed by any other politician on this continent, or perhaps in the world. The Senator is 79 years of age, and has the distinction of being one of the founders of Victoria, having come to this city as long ago as 1851. He has filled almost every position in the gift of the city, and in all he has shown that he is a man of good business instincts, of an ilkeable personality, and of considerable capability. To him Canada owes the fact that the 24th of May is a perpetual holiday, as during the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria he introduced a bill in the senate with this object in view. All his interests are in Victoria, and there is no one more keen to see this city forge ahead. Despite his great age, he is in better health than he has been for years, and he has never been more optimistic about the future of the city than he is today.

The telegrams announce that a great boom-ceremonial have been prepared for the King and Queen. That is as it should be.

Very much satisfaction was expressed around town yesterday at the business-like manner in which the new city administration began its regime on Monday night. Every one hopes that this will only be an earnest of what is to come.

The proposal that the coal miners of the United Kingdom shall go on strike after March 1st is receiving very large support. This taken in connection with the failure so far of the effort to bring about a reconciliation between the cotton operators and the weavers, makes the industrial outlook in the United Kingdom decidedly gloomy.

The population of France is 39,601,508, an increase of 255,254 in six years. This is less than 1 per cent. In fact only 0.89 per cent, or 0.145 per cent, a year. In view of the fact that there is very little emigration from France this is an abnormally low increase. A healthy gain would be about 2 per cent a year provided there were no emigration. Taking a long series of years the population of England has increased at the rate of 1.5 per cent. annually, or more than ten times as rapidly as that of France during the past six years.

Lack of space yesterday prevented a reference to the very able speech of Mr. Brewster on the Address. He had a difficult task, but he discharged it in a very efficient manner. The member for Alberni has none but sincere personal friends in the Legislature, and he

ploughs his "lonely furrow" with a great deal of dignity and good nature.

By the death of Henry Labouchere journalism has lost one of its most brilliant ornaments. He was a man of wide experience and remarkable ability, a clear and forceful thinker, a hater of shams and a politician of independent views. Of late years his failing health prevented him from playing the interesting role in public life with which his name will always be associated.

There is talk of a general election in the United Kingdom on an early day. In view of the very many important questions before Parliament it seems at this distance to be very desirable that the electorate should be asked for an expression of opinion before any new changes are inaugurated. We think Mr. Asquith can be relied upon to take the proper course under the very difficult circumstances with which he is surrounded.

An esteemed correspondent writes us regarding his experience with the Shakespearean quotation which formed the subject of a brief reference the other day. In his case the word "rack" was converted into "racc," which certainly was in the last degree exasperating. Now it is fair to say that the person who changed "rack" into "racc" in the Colonist says that he did so of intention because he always understood a rack to mean a small fragment. We do not find any authority for this; but we do find that "racc" was an obsolete spelling of "rack," meaning a fine, filmy cloud. Our correspondent mentions an instance where "sermons in stones, books in running brooks," was changed by a cautious compositor into "sermons in books, stones in the running brooks," which our correspondent says "converted into the commonest of commonplace one of the noblest figures in the whole range of literature."

An English paper announces that there is a project on foot to prosecute Christian Scientists in the United Kingdom. We read in a well-known work of a somewhat similar procedure, which took place nearly nineteen hundred years ago, but the historians who relate it say "persecute," which no doubt is merely a clerical error. Thus does history repeat itself. We suggest that in order to prevent a repetition of the abominable crime and misdemeanor involved in cases through the instrumentality of Faith, a Royal Commission should be appointed to prepare an expurgated edition of the New Testament, for as long as people are allowed to read a book wherein it is unblushingly told that men "of like passions" with ourselves, healed the sick and did other remarkable things by Faith, there will be danger that others may emulate their pernicious example. We also suggest that it is time for an authoritative declaration on some other subjects. There is, for example, that abominable fallacy held by some mothers that there is virtue in "kissing the spot that make it well," and the awful practice of soothing a fied baby, and perhaps even one in pain, by softly-sung songs or gentle patting is still in vogue in certain strata of society. Let us wipe humanity's slate clean of all these errors. Let us usher in the reign of Science, making adequate provision, of course, for letting the world know just what is the latest guess in that department of human speculation.

STRUCK BY SNOWSLIDE

One Man Killed and Others Injured in Accident Near Albert Canyon—Passenger Train Stalled

VANCOUVER, Jan. 15.—Going to the aid of C.P.R. passenger train No. 4, which ran into a snowslide near Albert Canyon on Sunday, a wrecking train with Superintendent Kilpatrick's private car attached was struck by a slide where the passenger train was stalled, and the engine and three cars thrown into the ditch.

One man, a fitter named Jackson, was killed instantly, while Dr. Hamilton, the C.P.R. doctor at Revelstoke, and two other men were injured.

Three cars of the passenger train which left Vancouver Saturday were derailed by the first slide, but according to reports at the C.P.R. offices here no one was injured.

Vancouver is threatened with freight famine, if the blizzards on the prairies and the snow and landslides in the mountain sections of the C.P.R. continue. As far as could be ascertained by inquiry of officials of the C.P.R., there has not been a freight train through from Winnipeg since Friday, and no passenger trains since Sunday noon. Three transcontinental passenger trains have been stalled just east of Field and will not reach Vancouver till noon tomorrow.

G. T. P. PROGRESS

Track-Laying Machine Sent Through Kitselas Tunnel—Making Ready For Summer's Work

PRINCE RUPERT, Jan. 15.—General Superintendent Mehan of the G. T. P. is getting his track-laying machine through the tunnel at Kitselas today, and will be ready to start laying steel on the graded way to the Skeena crossing on Tuesday. He has everything ready and will rush all work to completion, thus assisting to get supplies in for the rush work this coming summer.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Henry Labouchere, widely known as the owner of Truth, is dying at Florence, Italy, aged 80.



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THE DINING-ROOM

- China Cabinet—Early English finish. Four shelves and mirror back. Glass door and sides.
- Buffet—Early English finish. Top 22 x 52. British bevel mirror 12 x 42. Two drawers at top. Large linen drawers. Two doors to cupboard.
- Extension Table—Early English finish. Six-foot extension. Round top.
- 5 Dining Chairs—Upholstered; leather seats. Arm Diner, upholstered, leather seat.
- Brussels Square—Size 9 x 9, pretty pattern.

THE PARLOR

- 3-Piece Parlor Suite—In mahogany finish. Upholstered seats. Set consists of Settee, Parlor Chair and Arm Chair.
- 2 Parlor Chairs—With upholstered seats. Frame in mahogany finish.
- Parlor Table—Mahogany finish.
- Parlor Cabinet—Mahogany finish.
- Velvet Square—Size 9 x 12ft., floral design.

THE BEDROOM

- Dresser—Golden finish. Top 20 x 36. British bevel mirror 18 x 36. Two large drawers. Oval shaped mirror.
- Chiffonier—57in., high, 30in. wide, 18in. deep. Five large drawers.
- Wool Square—Size 9 x 10ft. 6in.
- Full Size 4ft. 6in. White Enamel Bed—With brass trimmings.
- 1 Pair Wool Blankets.
- 1 Pair Flannelette Blankets.
- 1 Pair Pillows, complete.
- Bedspread.
- A Famous McIntock Down Quilt.
- A Spring for Bed.
- Excelsior Wool Top Mattress.
- Bedroom Table.
- Dressing Table.
- Arm Rocker—Cane seat.
- Bedroom Chair.

THE KITCHEN

- 4 Kitchen Chairs—Golden finish.
- Kitchen Table—With drawer.
- Kitchen Cabinet.
- Linoleum—Size 9 x 11.

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See the Displays on the Tables in Our China Department—1st Floor

It's seldom you'll get a Dinner Set of the Weiler Quality at these reduced prices. One or two pieces in each set are missing, some pieces perhaps have got broken, others sold, and in each case the set is not complete. We are clearing out these patterns, and therefore have reduced the prices to sell quickly. We do not intend to keep them, as we have heavy shipments arriving and can do with the room these Dinner Sets occupy. Get yours early.

Fine English Semi-Porcelain Dinner Set—
From one of the best Staffordshire makers, a dainty floral border design, in

green and mauve, with two gold lines on each piece. 107 pieces. Original price \$20.00. Clearing price..... **\$16.00**

Two Fine Austrian China Dinner Sets—
Also short of pieces and in one case decoration slightly defective. You'll never get a chance like this for many years to come. It's your gain and our loss, but we do not want to buy odd pieces to complete these sets. You'll agree with us when you have examined them that they are true bargains at the prices asked. These two sets were \$18.00 each, and are now priced as low as, per set, \$15 and **\$10.00**



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