

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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A CRITICAL ISSUE.

That a critical issue has been raised in the United States by the sentence of Mr. Gompers and other prominent labor leaders to gaol for contempt of court can hardly be questioned. It is accentuated by the incident at Danville, where miners on strike refused to obey a temporary restraining order, and when the United States marshals attempted to enforce the order of the court, one of them was killed and two were wounded, while of the miners one was killed and several were wounded. The hotel, in which the miners were at the time, was burned, but the men escaped and at last accounts were being pursued. Further trouble was anticipated.

The merits of the cases in which the orders were issued by the courts, sink into insignificance in comparison with the principle involved in the sentence in the one case and the fighting in the other. That principle seems to be the supremacy of the government of the United States, for he it is who issues the orders in both cases were issued by federal courts, not by state courts. There can be no mistake about what is at stake. Either the United States is able to enforce the decrees of its courts or it is not. We do not know how a matter of this kind will be dealt with in that country, but for some time past such a crisis as has arisen has seemed inevitable. While a court, which cannot compel observance of its orders, no longer has any excuse for existence, there can be no doubt that the use of the injunction has been carried exceedingly far in the United States. Yet the most extreme partisan of labor must admit that unless there is some authority in the state, which all men are bound to respect, a condition of anarchy will arise, and if it does, it is not easy to foresee what the consequences may be. As the case of Mr. Gompers stands today there seems to be an issue joined between the labor organizations and the courts. The government cannot afford to lose on such an issue. On the other hand workmen have more to gain from the maintenance of the powers of the courts than any other class. Doubtless there are a few isolated cases in which the application of the principle involved in the use of the injunction works a hardship, but on the whole the case of the courts of justice is a protection to the weak against the strong. In a hundred ways they stand between the workingman and the business man, the small means, the humble citizen, on the one hand, and the rapacity of accumulated wealth on the other. It may seem hard to be restrained by injunction from doing what one's sense of right says ought to be done; but it would be infinitely harder for the man, who has his living to make by the toll of hands or brain if there were no tribunal to which he could appeal to prevent injustice being done him. We shall not indulge in any speculations as to how the difficulty which has arisen, shall be solved; but we feel sure that sooner or later there will come a conflict, which may shake the United States to its very centre, unless something can be done to restore the confidence of the people in the government of the country as it finds expression in the courts of justice. The gravest feature of the case is this loss of confidence. If the people really trusted the judges, there would be no question of disobedience to their decrees; but, rightly or wrongly, the people do not trust them, or at least a very great many of them do not. They believe the judges are mere puppets in the hands of a wealthy oligarchy, a belief which we do not believe is well-founded. They believe that the judges approach all questions involving the rights of workingmen from a wrong point of view, and for this there may be some reason. We do not attempt to disguise the very serious nature of the crisis which has arisen. President Roosevelt is face to face with the most serious problem with which he has yet been called upon to deal.

A NATIONAL ANTHEM

Every now and then some one tries to write a National Anthem for Canada, and every effort is a failure. Composers have tried their hands at the music for such a song with very considerable success, but when it has come to a matter of words the results have been very unsatisfactory. All the poets and versifiers, whom the United States has been able to produce in a century and a quarter, have not succeeded in producing anything which the people will accept as an expression of national sentiment. The "Star Spangled Banner" is effective in a musical way, but is a little "draggy"; the words relate to an incident, and hence are not suitable for a national air. The words of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" are too stilted to be really popular, and they were written only to go to the British National Anthem. Verses made to order are usually misfits. The musical part of a national song is not a very difficult matter. Almost anything slightly groovy with a swing will do. It must, of course, be simple, so that any one can vociferate it at full lung-power. "God Save the King" is a fine example. It can be almost played that with a stick of wood on the head of a barrel. But when you come to write the words for a National Anthem, you have a different proposition. It is doubtful if any one ever sat down in cold blood and wrote such a composition that ever amounted to anything. Literary merit is not essential. Let us suppose that "God Save the King" was not an existence and that some one should

write it. How many publishers would accept it as a gift on condition that they should print it? Not many, we venture to say. Canada is not old enough to have evolved a National Anthem. The sentiment of the people has not clustered around any particular person, event or idea. When the average rhymster sits down to write a Canadian song he tries to include everything in it from the herring fish of Nova Scotia to the miners of Klondike, and the result is a species of dictionary. By and bye, something may happen, or we may do something as a people, or some one may think of something that will catch the popular idea. Then somebody will make it into a poem and somebody else will fit it to music and we will have a genuine Canadian anthem. In the meantime "God Save the King" will do very well, but some one might write a Canadian verse to add to the others.

THE ENGLISH IN INDIA

It is becoming the fashion in certain quarters to exclaim against the horrors of British rule in India. We have before us a copy of "Free Hindustan," a periodical published in New York and purporting to be "an organ of freedom and of political, social and religious reform. Its motto is: 'Resistance to tyranny is service to humanity and a necessity of civilization.' It is published to promote 'the liberation of Hindustan, that millions may be saved from the starvation caused by the legalized pillage of India by the British government.' On its first page it has two pictures of famine victims. Its resting place is all directed against the British government. It is edited by Bande Mataram, and its chief purpose seems to be to raise money. Mr. Bande Mataram conveniently shuts his eyes to the history of his own country. He would not dare look at the facts and then claim that British rule has done harm to India, that it has produced worse conditions than those which existed before the days of Clive. He can, however, attract certain clientele by claiming that England robs India. Here the facts are against him, but why should a reformer pay any attention to facts? Mr. Mataram has a soul above facts. We have at hand a London despatch of the 19th, which contains some statements that are interesting in this connection. A Hindu writer is quoted as saying that \$23,000,000 are annually sent from India to England. Mr. Charles McMinin, who has lately been admitted to the Indian Council, says that the shoe is on the other foot and that India gets a great deal more money and bullion than she sends away. He points out that during the last year the country only exported \$29,000,000, whereas \$28,000,000 were received, showing that the country was richer in cash and bullion by \$2,000,000 on the transactions of the year. Mr. McMinin quotes Mr. Kier Hardie as saying that in the last forty years \$8,000,000 of the people have died of poverty, and points out that the official returns put the number at 1,000,000. He shows that the purchasing power of the people has increased threefold in the last twenty-five years while their trade has increased over 200 per cent, which is a greater increase than the United States can show. If India were being starved by British rule, we would expect a decrease in the population, but there is an increase. British rule in India has brought order out of chaos, and it is not one who terminates there would be a repetition of the dreadful incidents, which have made the history of the country so terrible. That more might have been accomplished than has been may be true; that much remains to be done is beyond all doubt, but we feel very sure that the impartial investigator will have no hesitations in concluding that the British rule in India is the better for being under the British flag.

TRAILS IN THE ISLAND.

In the observations made by Mr. Sutton before the Board of Trade committee yesterday morning, he laid special stress upon the necessity for making trails to open the interior of Vancouver Island to prospectors and others. Notwithstanding the fact that the island is about 7,000 miles of coast line, and no part of it is more than 20 miles in a direct line from the sea, the interior is practically inaccessible for lack of trails. The forest growth is so dense that prospectors can hardly get through it, and to carry enough food to enable them to remain in the interior for any length of time is entirely out of the question. The suggestion that such trails should be made is by no means a new one. Every administration has had its attention directed to the necessity for them, but always the difficulty has been the expense. We suggest to the present administration the importance of the proposed work, which is one of the things that the new Minister will have to grapple with. The proposal is not that expensive roads shall be made, but only pack trails, which would not cost more than from \$50 to \$100 per mile. One of the suggested trails would be from some part of the Nootka Sound across the island to meet the trails or roads on the east side, and from this other trails could be extended north and south. We do not propose that a complete system shall be undertaken next year, but only that when a beginning is made, and this, we submit, ought not to be delayed a definite plan should be formed. We commend this matter to the careful consideration of the Minister of Public Works and his colleagues.

A BUILDING RECORD.

The Halifax Chronicle says that the claim made for the city in which it is published, that "it leads the Dominion for the year in the volume of building constructed in proportion to the population," is borne out by "comparison of construction figures of the different cities and towns of Canada." The estimate of construction for Halifax for the year is \$730,000, exclusive of buildings begun last year and which were completed this year. Such were included the total would sum up to one million dollars or very near it. The permits for the first eleven months of the year were 604 and the value of the buildings for which they were granted was \$715,575. Halifax has a population of about 42,000. It was slightly over 40,000 in 1904, and we assume it has increased since then. This gives an average per capita value of construction of \$17, not a bad showing by any means. Now let us look at what Victoria has to show for the same period, and upon precisely the same basis as Halifax. We think we have about 49,000 people living in Victoria and its suburbs, but in the city proper, from which alone it is possible to get returns, there are probably under 35,000 people. In the first eleven months of this year there were issued 528 building permits, and the value of the structures was \$1,017,000 which

may be stated at \$30 per capita. The number of permits in Victoria was one to every 88 people; in Halifax it was one to every 74 people. Tabulated the case stands this way:

	Halifax	Vancouver
Number of buildings	528	604
Value	\$1,017,000	\$730,000
Average value	\$1,927	\$1,194
Proportion number to population	1 to 88	1 to 74
Value per capita	\$30	\$47

Thus we see that on all points but one, the record is in advance of that of Halifax. If we could include the suburbs, the showing would be even more favorable to Victoria. We do not claim for Victoria that it makes the best showing of any city in Canada, but we do say that it makes a showing that is a matter of satisfaction and encouragement.

A WAY OUT

It has been said that to reopen the question of taxation as a qualification for municipal voting will have a far-reaching effect on the whole of the province. The householders, who were disqualified because they did not pay taxes, would doubtless all have paid it in they had been asked to do so. It is perfectly ridiculous to exempt from this tax a man who is capable of earning his living. We take the general position that a man who makes a living in the community enjoys the benefit of municipal government, ought to share in its cost, and this no matter how old he is. If there are reasons why he should be exempted, let him be exempted, but let him claim the exemption, and not make it apply automatically to persons who do not want it. Let the law be changed so that any man over a certain age may claim exemption from the road tax. Whether he should be asked to give his reasons for the request is a matter of opinion. For our part we suggest that a man over sixty-five should be exempted as a matter of course, if he wished to be; but that any man under that age should be asked to give some reason. We are not at all particular on this point, however; what we want is that the exemption should be claimed, and if persons would claim it, and if any man did he might very properly be disqualified for the time being, unless for other reasons he is entitled to vote. Nothing can be very much more absurd than to disqualify a man for not paying a tax which he is not called upon to pay, but would pay if he were asked to.

THE SKEENA RIVER DISTRICT

Under the above caption Mr. J. C. Gwillim contributes an article to the Canadian Mining Journal. He says many things which are already familiar to Colonist readers, but old things gain a new interest when viewed from a new point of view. Here is a description of the voyage up the coast which is very good:

"The journey from Vancouver to Port Essington, or Prince Rupert, takes from forty to fifty hours. The trip is made on any of the many boats which ply between the coast and northern ports. It is a voyage without a parallel in the world—so sheltered from the main Pacific ocean that there is seldom any wind, and for half the way the eastern shores of Vancouver Island are followed quite closely. A scene of mountains, green islands and glaciers, seas or arms of the sea, in every direction. Even now this passage presents an almost continuous succession of steamboats, far apart, but in the days to come, when this desirable land is peopled and the fisheries, timber, farming lands, and mines are fully developed, there will be a sea-going traffic through these waters which may be greater than that of the Great Lakes at the present time. Nearly all this traffic at present passes through Seymour narrows, a channel that may some time be bridged. Through this passage go all the Alaskan boats and fishing boats, also the new traffic between Prince Rupert and Vancouver. After passing Vancouver Island the land and sea features change considerably. There is the same intermixture of land and water, but the land is less wooded, and is clothed with a less generous tree growth. There is a general absence of soil; the nakedness of the hills, islands and rocks, only clothed with moss and smaller trees; the beach is a water-mark on the rock which dips steeply into the sea, or a ragged reef-ribbed shallow."

The writer's anticipations of future traffic are not at all exaggerated, and the prospect of their realization at an early day lends force to the pressure being made to secure a railway construction to the north and of this island. Mr. Gwillim is much impressed with the position of Hazelton. Hazelton is hardly the centre of a productive district; it is more like a funnel entry to the Pacific coast from a great interior region full of possibilities in the agricultural and mining industries. From Hazelton one can go northwards up the Skeena and Skeena valleys and into that great unknown towards the Yukon; eastwards one hundred miles to the placer camps of Omineca; and beyond it, to the north, the new Ingham place, South-eastwards is the Bulkley valley, on the route of the railway, and further south and east the wide belts of agriculture land in the Nechace and other districts.

Concerning the mineral resources of the country he can say but little, only speak in general terms, and only appreciate the difficulty attending prospecting under existing conditions, which he says will be soon remedied. We quote:

"Concerning the mineral resources, the district is one of great distances, and the new Ingham place, South-eastwards is the Bulkley valley, on the route of the railway, and further south and east the wide belts of agriculture land in the Nechace and other districts."

The postoffice department shows a surplus on the year's business of \$1,082,301. This is the greatest surplus "that has been." The estimate is that 388,011,000 letters have been posted in Canada during the year, which is more than one a week for every man, woman and child in the country. We have 446 more postoffices and 1,000 more telegraph offices than we have many apologies to make when the House meets.

Let Us Fill Your Prescriptions



In all our business career we have never permitted any but the highest quality ingredients to be used in any prescriptions prepared here. We do a large enough business to have new goods (always pure goods, coming in continually, so our stock is constantly replaced, fresh, potent and reliable. Prices low as is consistent with high quality.

CYRUS H. BOWES

Government Street Chemist Near Yates Street

FINE NEW CARPETS

JUST IN. COME IN AND LET US SHOW YOU THESE

TOMORROW we shall have some handsome new carpets for your inspection—new Brussels, new Axminsters, new Tapestry Carpets and new Squares and Mats.

These come from those old, reliable makers, John Crossley & Sons. This insures the quality being the very finest, for these makers have been making "quality carpets" for many years, and their fame is world-wide. The designs are very attractive.

We are particularly well equipped to look after your needs in carpets. We offer you an unusually wide range in the matter of design and price, and we have a most efficient staff of workmen to look after the making and laying of these carpets. We are prepared to remake your old carpets to fit your other rooms. When you require anything in the carpet line, you cannot do better than come to this carpet store.



New Arrivals in Wedgwood China Tea Sets

Tomorrow we offer you some handsome China Tea Sets and Salad Sets just received from the famous Wedgwood potteries. This is a shipment that came too late for Xmas business, though purchased specially for that trade. It contains some unusually attractive sets.

We wish to clear these at an early date, and to that end have marked that at quite interesting figures. We feel sure that these prices shall be even more appealing than the china, attractive as it is.

However, they are certainly worth a visit, and we hope to see you in the china store tomorrow. Lots of other interesting items in this department. Special values in odd pieces.

TEA SET—40 pieces—in pretty blue and gold decoration. Price	\$16.00	TEA SET—Forty piece set with pretty floral decoration. Price	\$22.50
TEA SET—A floral decoration in forty piece set. Price is	\$18.00	TEA SET—Blue band and gold—a real handsome set. 40 pieces	\$30.00
TEA SET—Attractive floral decoration. Price is fair at each	\$20.00	TEA SET—A set full of style. Dainty gold decoration. Priced	\$35.00

We Are Also Showing Some Pretty Salad Sets—New

SALAD SET—Bowl, large plate, and twelve small plates. Blue willow decoration. Specially good value at	\$6.50	SALAD SET—Another floral decoration that pleases. Bowl, large plate and twelve small plates. Price	\$8.00
SALAD SET—A floral decoration which is attractive. Twelve small plates, large plate and bowl. Price	\$9.00	SALAD SET—Typical Wedgwood decoration, this. Floral. Twelve small plates, large plate and bowl. Price	\$10.00

For the New Year's Table



New Arrivals in Fine Linens

Just in time for the New Year's feast table—a shipment of grass bleached Irish Damask Table Linen. Belfast mills have sent us some excellent linen tabling this shipment. And isn't it a timely arrival?

You'll enjoy the "spread" more if the linen is snow white new linen, and with such excellent values offered you there isn't a reason why yours shouldn't be new.

These new arrivals are medium priced lines, and are splendid values. Some people prefer to buy the unbleached linens, and it is an excellent plan, for the price is lower and a few times in the tub makes them look as dainty as the bleached ones. Come in and let us show you some good values.

These are Guaranteed Pure Linen Bleached

LINEN TABLING—62 inches wide, at, per yard	60¢
LINEN TABLING—65 inches wide, at, per yard	65¢
LINEN TABLING—72 inches wide, at, per yard	\$1.00
And also in 72 inches, at \$1.35, \$1.40 and	\$2.00

Unbleached

LINEN TABLING—66 inches wide, at, per yard	\$1.00
LINEN TABLING—72 inches wide, at, per yard	\$1.25
LINEN TABLING—72 inches wide, at, per yard	\$1.00
LINEN TABLING—71 inches wide, at, per yard	\$1.35

Pure Bleached Linen Napkins

19 x 19 in., per doz., \$2.25	22 x 22 in., per doz., \$2.50
21 x 21 in., per doz., \$2.75	24 x 24 in., per doz., \$3.00
26 x 26 in., per doz., \$5.50	27 x 27 in., per doz., \$7.00

Unbleached Union Linen

LINEN TABLING—54 inches wide, at, per yard	35¢
LINEN TABLING—58 inches wide, at, per yard	50¢
OTHER TABLE CLOTHS at prices ranging up to, each	\$22.50
OTHER TABLE NAPKINS at prices up to, per dozen	\$22.50

FREE FREE

Every housekeeper or prospective housekeeper who lives outside of Victoria should have a copy of our handsome new 1909 catalogue of home furnishings. It is a reference book on correct and economical home-furnishing and should be in the hands of every keeper of a home or every person who is contemplating any such move.

Its more than 300 pages are filled with interesting news for you. It brings you in close touch with Western Canada's greatest Home Furnishing Store. A copy is free for the asking, and there isn't any better time to ask than RIGHT NOW.



New Year's Requisites

Will you "receive" this year? If so, your sideboard will probably need a few replenishings in glassware. Few or many, we can supply them—plain or fancy. Prices consistent with quality.

- Q Decanters
- Q Claret Jugs
- Q Goblets
- Q Champagne
- Q Claret
- Q Sherries
- Q Wines
- Q Punch Bowls
- Q Punch Cups
- Q Lemonades

WEILER BROS.
HOME, HOTEL AND CLUB FURNISHERS—VICTORIA, B. C.