

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN.

In pursuance of its usual custom of attempting to give its readers some idea of the strength of the respective candidates as the campaign progresses, the Colonist has been endeavoring to teach a conclusion on that point while yet there are ten days' work to be done before the polls open. The opinion that will be expressed herein is not derived from conversation with party workers. Such persons may be relied upon to take a rosy view of the chances of their respective candidates. It is based upon the remarks that have fallen from the lips of a number of persons on both sides of politics, many of whom were told that the aim of the inquirer was to form an opinion of the set of public opinion. The conclusion we have reached is that, as things are today, Mr. Barnard stands to be elected by a very substantial majority. It is right to give the reasons which explain this fact as we see them. Each reader can judge for himself as to their sufficiency.

Victoria is normally an uncertain constituency. There is a large vote that cannot be placed with any degree of certainty in advance of a campaign; but there are some factors that can be relied upon as trustworthy. One of these is that there is in this city a large, influential and active element that is opposed to reciprocity on principle. Those who compose it are not influenced at all by what may be said on either side about prices of commodities or the effect of the agreement upon trade. They look upon any trade agreement with the United States as a dangerous thing, and for two reasons, one of them being that they believe it will militate against Canada's connection with the Empire, and the other is that they dread the effect upon Canada herself of any trade compact with the United States. This factor in the electorate is more numerous than the element that is predisposed to favor reciprocity.

A second factor in the case is the unpopularity of the Laurier government in this city; an unpopularity largely due to the fact that this city has received very scant consideration at the hands of that government during the fifteen years it has been in power. Victorians have seen great public works undertaken in other parts of Canada, but they have seen little or nothing done by the Ottawa government for the up-building of their city and the development of Vancouver Island.

A third factor in the case is the disappointment to which Victorians have been subjected by reason of the failure of the government to make good its undertakings in regard to the maintenance of the defenses and the garrison, and the complete absence of any evidence that justice will be done this part of Canada in the matter of naval construction.

We have no doubt that the Liberal party recognizes their local weakness because of these things, and this is evident because from the opening of the campaign until yesterday, the effort of Mr. Templeman's supporters has been to win over the workingmen's vote. Not only has this effort been a failure, but it is certain that a large element of that vote has been alienated. The attempt to stampede workingmen by telling them that the cost of living will be reduced has been an utter failure. We do not say that some persons do not believe it, but those who take the most stock in the claim hold that wages will fall if the price of commodities falls. A very large number of workmen hold that labor is a commodity and will depreciate in price as other commodities depreciate in price. Their vote will certainly not be thrown for reciprocity. But there are hundreds of workmen who refuse to accept it as proved that reciprocity means cheaper living, and who will not vote for the candidate of a government which has recently been guilty of two acts which are calculated to prejudice the interests of labor. One of the acts is the declaration of members of the government in favor of the substitution of an agreement with China for the head-tax. Workingmen refuse to believe, and with good reason, that any such agreement will restrict Chinese immigration. The other act is the relaxation of the immigration regulations which was intended to permit the entrance of contract laborers into the province, and was the means whereby a large number of contract laborers were admitted. These two acts will cost Mr. Templeman hundreds of votes.

We sum the situation up as follows: The anti-reciprocity party is stronger in Victoria than the reciprocity party—we mean by this that those who will vote for Mr. Barnard simply because he is opposed to reciprocity are stronger numerically than those who will vote for Mr. Templeman because he is in favor of reciprocity; that is, reciprocity is unpopular in Victoria. The advocates of

reciprocity have failed to convince the unplaced element of the electorate that the agreement ought to be ratified. The labor vote has been largely alienated from Mr. Templeman by the course followed by his government. The whole administration of that government has been such as to weaken it very seriously in the opinion of the electorate outside of the favored few who have enjoyed a share in the patronage. These are among the reasons which explain what we think is the present temper of the constituency, and it is favorable to Mr. Barnard by one of the largest majorities given in Victoria in many years for a Conservative candidate.

SEATTLE VIEW

Discussing the annexation of Canada to the United States, which it regards as an issue "that will develop some day," the Seattle Times says "if the United States manifested a desire to invite Canada to enter the fold, it is a surety that sober men in the Dominion would give the subject serious and probably not unfavorable consideration." The Times does not know what it is talking about. There has been a good deal said about annexation during the past few months, but the Canadian, sober or otherwise, has yet to be heard from who will admit that he would view a proposal to that effect with any feeling other than detestation.

The Seattle Times may as well get this fact thoroughly into its mind. There is absolutely no sentiment in Canada in favor of annexation. If the opponents of reciprocity have declared against it because they fear it as the stepping stone to annexation, the advocates of the agreement have been no less vigorous in declaring their disbelief in any such consequence. There is at least one subject upon which the public men and the public press of Canada are a unit, namely in the refusal to admit that they consider annexation a contingency that will be favorably considered by the Canadian people. If there is one question in favor of which no candidate dare appeal to a Canadian constituency it is annexation to the United States. The public speaker who would advocate annexation would be driven from any platform in Canada by an indignant audience; the newspaper that would venture to advocate it would see its circulation melt away like snow under a July sun. Let the Times and every one else in the United States get this idea well through their skulls.

Just one thing more, and at present it is the most important thing in this connection. There are thousands of Canadian voters, who have always heretofore been favorable to the idea of reciprocal trade relations with the United States but will vote against the Laurier government on the issue of reciprocity for no other reason than that men of prominence in the United States have chosen to look upon reciprocity as a first step towards annexation. They are not going to stop and reason it out with themselves whether reciprocity ought to have such a tendency, or whether it will have it. Some of them are quite ready to admit that as a mere matter of trade the proposed agreement might have its advantages. But when it is asserted by public men and public newspapers in the United States that they favor the measure because they believe it will lead to the absorption of the Dominion by that country, the thousands of voters referred to dismiss every other thought, and will work and vote against reciprocity to the utmost of their power. The manner in which this one thought is taking the place of all others in the mind of electors is proof, which even the Seattle Times must admit conclusively, establishing that the day is far distant when any one in this country will give favorable consideration to political union with the United States.

THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE

You may or may not be impressed by the argument that the closer trade relations that will be engendered by a reciprocity agreement with the United States will weaken our connection with the Empire. You may or may not believe that under the specific agreement now before the electorate the cost of living will be reduced. You may or may not assent to the proposition that competition from the United States will injuriously affect certain Canadian industries. You may or may not fear that the rapid exploitation of its natural resources, which reciprocity is expected to bring about, will be hurtful to the country. But no matter what your opinion may be upon these points, you cannot hope to prove that the commercial independence of Canada can be maintained after the Canadian people have assented to the policy, which is submitted to them for their approval by the Laurier ministry.

Our position on this question is not only that the agreement negotiated by Messrs. Fielding and Paterson is in itself objectionable, but that the principle involved in the regulation of the Canadian tariff by an agreement with the government at Washington is indefensible. We are told from time to time that the Conservatives in former times favored reciprocity. Undoubtedly they did so, and undoubtedly their course was justified by the conditions that

then existed. We see no reason to attempt to conceal or explain away what is a part of the history of Canada. But during the last twenty years conditions have changed. To enter into a reciprocity agreement with the United States in 1911 is a very different thing from what such a course would have been in 1891. Not only has Canada changed since the time when Sir John A. Macdonald last appealed to the people, but the United States has changed. Canada has changed for the better; the United States has changed for the worse. We are not now referring to the latter country in respect to its wealth and importance as a nation. In this particular it has advanced with gigantic strides. We have in mind the commercial and financial unrest which mars the present and beclouds the future of that country, the great combines which control its industrial prosperity, the selfish interests which control its legislation. These things were almost non-existent in 1891. We are also referring to the spirit of national arrogance which has grown up during the past two decades, a spirit which will render any true spirit of reciprocity between the two countries impossible. Is there any man who believes for a moment that, once we have entered into a trade agreement of any kind whatever with the United States, the interests in that country, which will profit thereby, will not seek in future to control Canadian fiscal legislation? If any man does so believe, he must be credulous in the extreme.

A nation such as Canada is cannot hope to remain fiscally independent of a nation like the United States, with which it is co-terminous for three thousand miles, and with which it will steadily become more closely bound by any trade agreement that can be negotiated. We took this objection to the reciprocity negotiations when they were inaugurated. We repeated it at times during the progress of the negotiations. We raised it again when the nature of the agreement was announced. Our position has been that Canada ought to retain absolutely in her own hands the regulation of her own trade, and while we concede that this right is nominally reserved by the reciprocity agreement, it is not and cannot be preserved to us. A man in the swift current above Niagara Falls may be free to swim as he will, but he will be carried over the cataract just the same as if he were tied hand and foot.

The evening paper charges the Colonist with violating the principles of common law by commenting upon a case which the Police Magistrate had taken under advisement. There are two answers to this charge. One of them is that the Colonist did nothing of the kind, its comments being directed wholly against the action of the government in issuing instructions that were shown by the evidence of the case to exist. This was made absolutely clear in the article referred to by our contemporary. In the second place, the Colonist is fully aware of the rule that, pending the determination of a case that is before the courts, if a newspaper comments upon it, it does so at its peril and is subject to such penalties as are proper for contempt of court; but it also knows that, if the public interests so demand, there is no stage in which a suit or prosecution may be when a newspaper ought through fear of the consequences of proceedings for contempt, hesitate for a moment in making such comments as seem called for. The courts have never yet been able to muzzle the British press, although they have sometimes tried to do so.

The evening Liberal paper says that every independent paper in Canada is advocating reciprocity. The independence of our contemporary in political matters is, like Halley's comet—not visible to the naked eye.

The wheat crop of the Prairies is undoubtedly the largest on record and notwithstanding the reports sent out for the purpose of bulging the market is a wonderful one and will fill the pockets of the farmers with cash.

A strong representation of the British Press Association will be at the Empress on Sunday night, and will be suitably entertained by the Provincial Government, who have placed the invitations in the hands of the Victoria Board of Trade.

"Is This Bowser's Latest Scheme—Or Part of Tory General Campaign?" The local Liberal paper asked this startling question in vivid headlines on Tuesday. Having read the Seattle despatch over which the question was placed, we think we are safe in reaching the conclusion that it is simply a nightmare induced by an overdose of Labor Day.

Dominion Revenue.

OTTAWA, Sept. 8.—The total revenue of the Dominion for the first five months of the fiscal year was \$62,036,616, as compared with \$45,830,376 for the same period last year, an increase of \$16,206,240. For August alone the revenue was \$11,727,444, an increase of \$1,553,514 over August, 1910. The expenditure for the five months totaled \$29,526,630, as compared with \$27,546,017 in August, 1910, an increase of two millions.

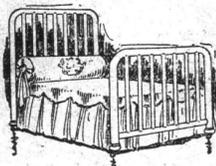


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This store offers every "reason why" you should not wait. Everything here for your home, and just as you want it. You will be able to have a nicely furnished home, and your furniture of the highest quality and reasonable price, if you will visit this store of ours and see the largest assortment of Home Furnishings in Western Canada.

Enameled Iron Bed \$14.00

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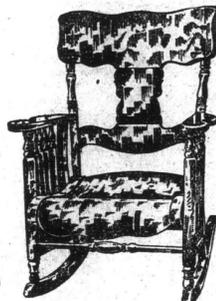
\$4

Foot Rests at \$3.00



Comfort Rockers \$5.50

A mighty nice Oak Rocker—full quarter sawed, golden or Early English finish. A solid, well braced Rocker, well made and neatly finished, exceedingly comfortable and very attractive in appearance; solid wood seat. It would be mighty good value at \$10.00. More than reasonable at the price of



\$55.0

In better design than illustration; frame in either golden or Early English finish, top upholstered in genuine leather. A snap at \$3. We have a wide variety to select from and range in price, \$8.00 to

\$3

Oak Dining Table \$36

With very heavy massive pedestal base, Colonial design, 44 inch round top, 8-ft. extension, solid oak rich fumed finish. This table is well made and nicely finished, of very attractive design and will prove an ornament to your home. The price of \$36 is more than reasonable.



We have an unequalled variety to choose from. Prices start at

\$7.50

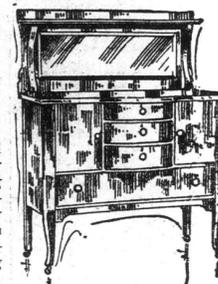
Fir Kitchen Cabinets \$10.00



Has two bins, are divided, one utensil drawer, a mixing and bread board, nice spruce top. A well made, nicely finished Cabinet, and mighty reasonable at the price named.

Oak Buffet \$50

An excellent little Buffet, all oak, rich golden finish, similar to illustration; containing large linen drawer, three silver drawers, two nice roomy cupboards, bevelled British mirror in top, of beautiful design, at a most interesting price.



OUR WINDOW DISPLAY "SUNDOUR"

UNFADABLE CURTAIN MATERIAL, CHARMING COLORINGS AND PATTERNS. GUARANTEED NOT TO FADE

Sundour unfadable curtain and drapery fabrics are revolutionizing the textile trade of two hemispheres. There are no colorings approaching them in appearance and they have all the beautiful qualities of the finest old dyes. Various schemes are shown here in these Sunfast goods, and we would greatly appreciate an opportunity to show you the new arrivals. There is a splendid assortment of dainty materials, which will give richness and harmonies not possible through the use of any other materials, and when you get these Sundour fabrics you have the satisfaction of receiving not only the most attractive curtain and drapery materials, but also of getting the finest quality and unfading colors. We are sole agents.

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Sundour Madras Curtains from, per yard.....\$6.50 Sundour Linen Taffetas from, per yard.....

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DURATI

In the article Roman emperors of Mithras, and looked for final sense after a profusion of progressive persons, who character of the (may be in the that the Romans of Christianity, existence to be a vicarious sacrifice a god, who was and that through virtue and self the highest possible, namely, a Creator and Sust take any unbiased substitute for the and for the final the universal Bene, we will fit from a philosophical mental principle proposed in this, son between the might be made v presented clearly strongest possible of Christianity; followers of Midea of a future, which our presence is by no means

If it is often said life is not taught, contrary, the who is to the effect something not in. This is not quite future life is r taught by the Bible the Bible resemble who does not se prove those thing conscious. For ship of ancestors thing if our anced death. Buddhism term of existence the limit is not comes to differen of probation. The raism is the same individualism in difference in this as taught by the religions is that individuals must be of their lives on bear this fact in spirit of criticism meant all class in by people of thousands of pe that the belief in the early Christ quently been as tion intended to they could impo We are frequent fuse to accept hell are simply in desired to have could reward th enemies. But th great religions th idea of an existe at all times and wisest men of af ter, founder of religions, Buddha cepted by the ma unknown founde crates and coun human thought end all. At all who scoffed at ture life, but the as forgotten as t teachers have ma this fact upon th them for instruct impressed the pe belief in a future the common prop lay the surest fo of Christianity as religious thought

In one of his think it was he, our Christ and affect to despise, is worth keepin ception of the De should accept. is an error. We with the Jews t are idols, where dom's conception cases a far more tained by the Jehovah, as the ten, was their G mankind, but a charged himself scendants of a p holly anthropo sessed all the at high degree. H things He was suaded that He v flesh; he was rel