

The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability
27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year \$1 00
Six months 50
Three months 25
Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

BETTER POLITICS.

A better tone is beginning to be apparent in British Columbia politics. Much less acrimony prevails, and there is a marked disposition to confine discussions to questions of public interest, to the exclusion of the real or fancied shortcomings of individuals. The general tone of the press is very pronounced, and the contrast between British Columbia newspapers and many of our leading eastern contemporaries is in this respect very marked. Only those persons who are familiar with Canadian newspapers can appreciate the value of this such prominence that everything they say ought to be worthy of attention, color every utterance with partisan bias and expressions of personal animosity to such an extent that their opinions are valueless. A free and independent expression upon any public question is not to be looked for in their columns. There must always be a personal side to politics, but surely the people of Canada are too intelligent to suppose that any one party has absorbed all the honesty, all the intelligence and all the patriotic sentiment in the country. A good many Victorians heard Mr. Borden at the Canadian Club luncheon. The sentiments he then expressed were elevated, honorable and patriotic in the highest sense, and not a man who heard him can have formed any other conclusion than that, whatever might be the soundness of his views on public questions about which there might naturally be some difference of opinion, he is a man who gives his best intelligence and most sincere effort to advance the welfare of his country. We find eastern Liberal papers referring to him at times as though he were a political schemer of the lowest type. So, also, we find in some of the Conservative papers references to prominent Liberals of a character which is highly reprehensible. We should not look upon these matters as so absolutely objectionable, if it were not that they obscure the real character of public life. The Oriental question, for example, is difficult enough without being obscured by the suggestion that Mr. Borden in his treatment of it is playing a game to capture British Columbia. The All-Red project is surely too important an undertaking to be disposed of by sneers at Mr. Sifton.

The exhibitions of nastiness in which certain papers indulge are usually the production of persons who are unknown to the public, and whose opinions, if expressed over their signatures, would be treated with indifference. The actual leaders of the political parties disapprove of the and take every possible occasion to disavow them; but there is a class of partisans who think such things are "a part of the game," but even they would not father them. On one occasion a gentleman, not in public life in this province, asked the Colonist to publish something about a political opponent. He was told that it would be published if he himself would write out the statement and permit it to appear over his own signature. He promptly declined, with equal promptness apologized for having made the request. Some little firmness is required to resist the pressure brought to bear upon a newspaper to lend itself to methods which would adopt personally, but the experience of the Colonist is to the effect that even the strongest partisans prefer the decent course. We are glad to be able to say that, not only in this province, but all over Canada, there are strong signs of the approach of an era of better politics.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy has given \$1,000,000 for the founding of an institution in Boston, where indigent people may be taught the principles of Christian Science. This cult is undoubtedly growing in influence and the number of its adherents is progressing in this respect is probably more rapid than any other movement inaugurated within the domain of Christianity. To claim that it is a mere fad would be absurd in the light of the hold it has upon the minds of a very large number of highly intelligent and educated people. It is stoutly opposed by the churches, and yet it claims to be the logical outcome of the doctrines which the churches teach. It claims to be the truest exponent of the principles which Jesus taught, and to furnish a demonstration of powers with which the Apostles were endowed. A claim of this kind, sincerely advanced by intelligent, intelligent and prayerful people, is not to be dismissed as absurd until at least it must be tested by its fruits. Doubtless extravagant assertions are made on behalf of Christian Science; doubtless many preposterous things are attributed to it; doubtless there are mountebanks, quacks and fakirs who profess to be able to demonstrate it and to distinguish between the true and the false may not always be easy, yet it is not only quite possible but very probable that it may be a legitimate step in the evolution of Christianity towards the exceedingly simple yet all potent faith taught by its Founder. To speak of an evolution backwards may seem like a contradiction in terms, and perhaps it would be better to speak of Christian Science as a step in the evolution of Ecclesiasticism into true Christianity, which a pagan writer of the first century described as absolute faith in Christ.

BUSINESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The financial condition of the United States seems to have got beyond the range of the newspaper critics who are now addressing themselves chiefly to the general business condition. This naturally suffers from the death of money, which persistently refuses to come out of hiding and get into general circulation. An uneasy feeling will be created by the announcement that the Secretary of the Treasury is shortly going to call upon

the banks to refund some of the gold which was paid out a month or two ago. We do not understand the system upon which the treasury conducts its business, but to a man on the outside it seems rather poor policy to call in money at the present time. The banks are already sufficiently alarmed about their reserves. A notable feature of the present condition is that the general public apparently refuses to believe what the leaders in the financial world tell them. A few months ago one could hardly pick up a United States paper without finding articles describing the wonderful financial ability and fabulous wealth of one or more of a certain group of people. One might naturally have expected that when these people told the country that there was no danger, and that the crisis was past, there would be a revival of public confidence, but though these assurances have been many, and though it has been said that the resources of certain presumably exceedingly rich men are pledged to sustain the great financial institutions, the people at large refuse to part with their coin, and are intensely eager to get what they may be standing to lose. Probably the bankers and the editors of the financial papers are too close to the people concerned to realize the full truth, which, it seems to us, is that the present financial stringency is due to an absolute loss of confidence on the part of the general public in the financial institutions of the country. Until this has been restored, or something takes the place of it, we fear the revival will be delayed.

Henry Clews & Co. say the country emerges from the panic with the mercantile and industrial conditions generally sound. They also say that the produce of the farms of the country last year was worth \$7,000,000,000, that there is no overproduction of manufactures and that exports are increasing rapidly. This is very satisfactory. These things have no relation to panics. They ought to bring about good times. The farmers with their seven billion dollars' worth of products want the things which the manufacturers can supply, if they are in a position to receive them, and people abroad want the wheat, the cattle, hogs and all the rest of the yield of the farms. These things ought to spell prosperity. Why do we not must leave to others to decide, but it looks to us as if the nation was feeling the reaction from money-madness, which has prevailed for the last four or five years.

We think we know the remedy. Years ago, when all the papers and the politicians of the United States were discussing how to resume specie payments, Horace Greeley used to keep on printing in the New York Tribune "The way to resume specie payments is to resume confidence in the United States. If every man in that country would go down to his place of business this morning resolved to do business exactly as he did a year ago, the financial stringency would be a thing of the past before lunch time.

THE BOWSER BILL.

Continuing its observations in regard to the Bowser Bill and the constitutional question therein involved, the Vancouver World says: "We must therefore conclude that the bill is unconstitutional, and that Mr. McBride neglected to take the steps required by him to resist the abrogation of the rights and liberties of parliament." Our contemporary thinks also that Mr. McBride should have explained in his New Westminster speech "why he did not protest against His Honor's assent."

We repeat that we do not propose to discuss the constitutionality of the Lieutenant-Governor's action until he has explained or has had an opportunity of explaining it. That it would yet arrived. But there can be no objection to discussing a suppositious Assent. Hereafter, if the Lieutenant-governor withheld assent from a Bill without the advice of his minister or Royal instructions, would his action be unconstitutional? We should unhesitatingly say that it would be, and we cannot understand how any one could hold a different view. This is such an exceedingly simple proposition that we only state it for the purpose of disposing of it. What course a premier is to take in such an event would depend very much on circumstances, and until we have all the circumstances before us, we do not propose to express an opinion. We can, however, in this aspect of the question suppose a case. We can suppose that a set of circumstances might arise in which a premier would have the right to assume that he was in possession of the instructions at the moment of his conversation with the premier, the latter having explained to him the reasons for withholding assent. Months afterwards the premier finds that the instructions were not given, although the lieutenant-governor acted just as he paragon authority, which in this case would be the federal ministry, would have explained to him the circumstances, the premier undoubtedly could resign, but that he ought to resign is quite another matter. A third case may be supposed. A lieutenant-governor does not follow the policy of the power appointing him and whose instructions he must follow; but the latter repudiates the responsibility for his act, and pushes him into conflict with the legislature or his province and public sentiment generally. What ought to happen then? It seems to us that the answer to this question would rest with the lieutenant-governor.

The World wants to know why Mr. McBride did not tell the New Westminster meeting whether or not he protested against the Lieutenant-Governor's action. We do not know of any contemporary that the proposition, and indeed, the only place where Mr. McBride ought to speak freely and fully upon the subject is the floor of the legislature. We venture the opinion that, when he has explained his course in the premises, he will demonstrate to the satisfaction of the public that he has acted, not only in the public interest, but in accordance with sound constitutional practice. It may be developed that the case is wholly unprecedented, and, if this shall prove the case, it will be for the legislature to say whether or not Mr. McBride correctly construed his constitutional duties as a minister enjoying the confidence of the legislature and of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING. It seems unfortunate that the Exhibition Building should have been destroyed just at the time when everything looked promising for the success of the annual fair. Just what the actual loss has been cannot be

very well stated, because the building was not well suited for its object. A structure that would serve just as well for exhibition purposes could be erected for much less money than the old one cost or could be replaced for a put the matter another way, the insurance is sufficient to put up a building that will afford just as great conveniences to exhibitors as that which has been burned. Therefore there is no good reason why the fire should interrupt the work of the Agricultural Association. But we do not think the people of Victoria will be content with a new building such as the insurance money will pay for. They will want something better than the old one, and we venture to suggest that no time should be lost in deciding upon what is needed and in putting it under way. If it were not that it is, in our humble judgment, desirable to have the race track and the Exhibition grounds adjacent to each other, we would feel disposed to favor the erection of the new building within the city limits, say in the field purchased by the city and the old race track, but such a plan is hardly feasible, for the reason stated and some others. An exhibition museum shall be established, the attractions must be kept together, if an exhibition is to be a financial success. Hence public in the future will be a very serious suggestion against building on the old site, and we only refer to the matter to show that the years ago there was a very general opinion among the citizens that the building ought to have been erected so far out of town.

THE TERCENTENARY

Earl Grey's proposal for the celebration of the Tercentenary of the founding of Canada, so far as it has been developed, is to take the form of a dedication of the battle fields of St. Foy and the Plains of Abraham. He proposes also that the old forts, rifle factory, which now occupy these historic sites shall be removed, that the fire proof museum erected on the site shall be stored historical mementoes of Canada's past, that a national park shall be established, and a seven-mile driveway shall be laid out by way of the Plains, down as far as Wolf's Cove and around the plateau overlooking the St. Charles valley. In addition to these things, he wishes to have an colossal statue of the Angel of Welcome erected on the heights near the Citadel, where it can be seen by all the ships sailing up the St. Lawrence. The proposed arrangements are in the land of the Canadian Battlefields Association, of which Earl Grey is patron. His Majesty has given his hearty approval of the proposed work and has contributed 100 guineas to the fund. Effort will be made to raise money in all parts of Canada by popular subscription.

We have already expressed our sympathy with the general idea of commemorating the founding of Canada, and while the suggested arrangements would be exceedingly difficult to suggest anything that would be suitable to such an occasion. If it is not commemorative of Canadian progress, it will be a fitting tribute to the Canadian unity. There is an aspect of the case which is worthy of mention, namely that such a project would serve to concentrate the attention of the people of Canada upon an important epoch in their history, and that it can be truthfully said that it will be difficult to arouse much enthusiasm in the future without the complete realization for lack of funds.

TRY THE EASIER WAY.

We take the following extract from the Ottawa Free Press which is generally understood to be the honest organ of the Laurier government. "Much as we may desire to build up trade with Japan, the rest of the Orient, we must take care lest in doing so we imperil the national future of our country. We are not building for today alone. There are years ahead of us: there are generations yet unborn for whom we are now legislating, and the Free Press is in opinion that whatever may be the result of the mission of Hon. Mr. Lemaire, it would be good policy on the part of Canada to direct attention to the statement appearing in an Ottawa despatch of yesterday to the effect that the federal inspector declares the milk supply of British Columbia to be of very low quality. The average percentage of genuine milk from all parts of Canada is 81, which is higher than any previous inspection, but the percentage from this province is only 58. This is apparently a matter which ought to be looked into. Aside from the fact that the publication of such a statement is a decided detriment to the health of the community, the health of the community might be adversely affected by the consumption of milk deficient in nutritive properties, infants especially being the sufferers. The result of a complete surprise to most people who have believed that dairying in this province was conducted on the most scientific lines, and under most favorable conditions."

Suez Canal Traffic. During the year 3,975 vessels, with a total tonnage of 18,809,169 tons gross and 3,442,873 tons net, passed through the Suez canal. Of this number 97 were war ships and military transports.

the British Empire, but if it is not, it should appear that it is impossible to maintain the existing commercial arrangements with Japan without sacrificing our right to protect ourselves from undesirable immigration, then we should without hesitation denounce the treaty, so far as Canada is concerned. But let us try the easier way first. Japan professes to be very willing to restrict the immigration of her people to Canada. If this is an honest profession, we should be sorry to suggest that it is not, she cannot take offence at a measure directed against no nation in particular, but only against immigrants of a certain class. We would like to have the Free Press explain its objects to such legislation if it has any.

LOSING THEIR HEADS.

The commander of the United States troops at Fort Lawton, near Seattle, has been telling an interviewer that 150,000 infantrymen are needed to protect the Puget Sound country against Japan. Our neighbors would be losing their heads. As far as any one can see there is no conceivable reason why Japan should invade the United States. What would happen in the event of sudden hostilities between the two countries may not be very certain, but there is a possibility that a war should come about within a year or two, our neighbors would get the wind and naval circles. Every man in error, the United States, and a flying column might be able to do a great deal of damage, but while such a step would be a brilliant stroke, it would so incense the people of that nation that they would never consent to the negotiations of peace until they had wiped out the insult by the extinction of Japan. The astounding thing in all the war talk that we hear nowadays is that it is confined very largely to military and naval circles. Every man in error, every branch of the service seems to be afflicted with a wild desire to talk. It would be very amusing if it were not very dangerous. The way to bring about war is to keep on talking about it.

Victoria will join with Vancouver in a protest against the withdrawal of the subsidy to the Australian steamships.

The best possible Christmas present that could have come to the Boundary district was delivered on Tuesday, when the labor difficulties between the cranberry growers and their employees was reached. This announcement will cause the greatest satisfaction throughout the province, and both parties to the agreement are to be congratulated. The outcome of the negotiations which have been proceeding for some time and which culminated in such an admirable spirit. The new scale of wages of about 50 cents per day lower than that which was metes closed on November 11th. This reduction in wages, at the low price of copper and high operating costs.

A Toronto dispatch tells of a little incident attendant upon the celebration of the Christmas festivities in that city which will excite a pleasant interest from one end of Canada to the other. On Tuesday evening a delegation of Veterans Association waited upon Mrs. Muir, widow of the late Mr. Alexander Muir, author of the enterprise story, and before she sent her with papers raising a mortgage upon her home, which amounted to about \$200. There was a balance of about \$200, which was handed to her with best wishes for a "Merry Christmas." The committee must have really understood the intentions of the donors, for had the matter been generally known there would have been a general clamour from Halifax to Victoria that the privilege of contributing to the fund should be extended to the thousands who would feel it not only an honor but a duty thus to assist the widow of the man who gave to Canada a national anthem of its own.

As we feel that the general public has some slight interest in the matter, it is proper to direct attention to the statement appearing in an Ottawa despatch of yesterday to the effect that the federal inspector declares the milk supply of British Columbia to be of very low quality. The average percentage of genuine milk from all parts of Canada is 81, which is higher than any previous inspection, but the percentage from this province is only 58. This is apparently a matter which ought to be looked into. Aside from the fact that the publication of such a statement is a decided detriment to the health of the community, the health of the community might be adversely affected by the consumption of milk deficient in nutritive properties, infants especially being the sufferers. The result of a complete surprise to most people who have believed that dairying in this province was conducted on the most scientific lines, and under most favorable conditions."

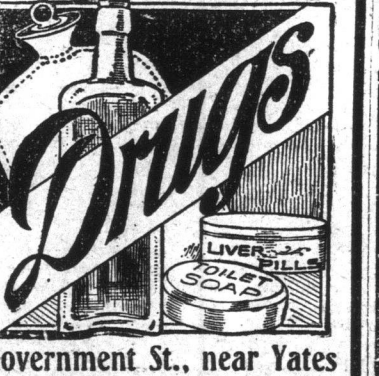
Suez Canal Traffic. During the year 3,975 vessels, with a total tonnage of 18,809,169 tons gross and 3,442,873 tons net, passed through the Suez canal. Of this number 97 were war ships and military transports.

Your Health

Should have your careful attention at all times. Our store is known for the purity and freshness of our drugs.

We also supply all requisites for the toilet table except the wafers.

CYRUS H. BOWES, Chemist, Government St., near Yates



The Season of Cards

Is Now Here. Are You Prepared for the Occasion? NOW is the season of cards and card parties. Disagreeable, gloomy evenings are forgotten in the excitement of an interesting game of "Euchre" or "Five Hundred." You'll have parties, that's certain. Now, we have something in the way of Card Party Furniture that is certain to interest you—a line of finely finished folding tables and chairs full of superior points of merit.

These Burrows Folding Tables are the lightest, handsomest, most compact Folding Tables ever marketed. They surpass in every important detail all other folding tables for similar uses. Their neat design and handsome finish make them suitable for use in rooms with refined furnishings. These tables weigh only half as much as other folding tables and fold 14 inches thick. Chairs have same superior qualities—folding to same thickness. We furnish you with strong dustproof cardboard boxes so that you may fold and store away table and chairs when not in use. By all means see this superior furniture. It costs no more than very ordinary sorts.

Folding Card Tables

Deep Mahogany finish, green felt or green leatherette cover, packed in separate carton, at, each...\$5.50
Golden Oak and Weathered Oak, green felt or green leatherette cover, packed in separate carton, at, each...\$6.50

Folding Chairs To Match

Deep Mahogany finish, each \$2.50
Golden or Weathered Oak, at, each...\$3.00

NEW CAKE STANDS

Something especially nice are these new arrivals in Reed Cake Stands. Some very attractive styles came to hand in our last shipment of Reed Furniture. Ever used one? If not see these pretty new styles. Two leaders sell at, each—

\$3.50 and \$4.00

SPECIAL VALUES IN FINE PILLOWS

Special Pillow values are offered on our Fourth Floor. Among the new arrivals in this department worthy of special mention is a line of feather pillows in fancy ticking of extra quality. These pillows are unusual value at these prices. Pillows are sold at these prices and at lower figures, but not these sorts. When you need anything in the pillow line investigate our offerings and do not fail to see this particular line.

Extra Good Value at, each - \$1.00 and \$1.25

GET A NEW DINNER SERVICE FOR NEW YEAR'S!

Why not get that new Dinner Service now? Get it before the New Year! You've promised yourself one soon, so why not get it and brighten the New Year's table with its presence. Just now we have a particularly fine assortment of dainty low priced sets for your consideration. The new arrivals last week are especially nice. Let us show you these. Shown on our Fourth Floor. Come down tomorrow!

In the Windows

The windows are interesting these days. Just look at the Broughton Street Furniture windows and see the two cosy rooms there. Shows you how handsome some of our moderately priced furniture looks even when the environment isn't as it should be.

New Year's Gift Pieces

Someone forgotten at Christmas? Or, maybe, you received a gift from an unexpected source and wish to return the compliment—in either case we have some choice bits of the very newest designs in china, art pottery and glass left from the rush that will answer the purpose.

We'll take a good bit off the regular price in order to dispose of them before taking inventory—which, by the way, doesn't dim their lustre a particle.

Our Storekeeping Ideas

¶ This store is planned to be as helpful a server of the public, as far as China and Glass is concerned, that it is possible to create.

¶ Its merchandise is chosen by experts so that it is impossible for you to get anything unworthy here.

¶ Our experts scour the markets to present their best productions, in wide variety, for your choosing—all on the most economic basis of cost.

¶ We invite criticism, for it is that which points to perfection.

¶ We want to be perfect.

Special Displays

The Second Floor, always an interesting place, is this week doubly so. Some handsome new arrivals in Carpets and Rugs, the special Oriental Display and the unusual efforts of the Manchester Department combine to make it a most interesting spot.

Clearance of Holiday Left-Overs

The best Christmas trade we ever had, leaves our stock with fewer of the things a merchant naturally dislikes to carry, than usual.

These we are willing to part with at a material reduction in price.

There are some very choice pieces of Art Pottery, China, Art Glass, and some Novelties which are just as rich, handsome and valuable as they were a week ago.

You can own them—if you will but pay us a portion of their value—before inventory taking.

FURNISHERS OF HOMES, HOTELS, CLUBS, Complete and Good

Weiler Bros

THE "FIRST" FURNITURE STORE OF THE "LAST" WEST
GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.

MAKERS OF FURNITURE AND OFFICE FITTINGS That Are Better