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EARL GREY

His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, was fifty-nine years old yesterday. The Colonist joins in the hearty congratulations that have been showered upon him. Albert Henry George Grey, 4th Earl Grey, is son of General the Hon. Charles Grey. The first Earl served with distinction as a member of the House of Commons and gained much distinction as Administrator of Rhodesia. As representative of the Crown in Canada he has been a conspicuous success, indeed none of his predecessors can be said to have so fully met what the situation required. His only peer in this respect whose name occurs to us is Earl Dufferin, who came to Canada at a very critical period in the history of Confederation and by his exquisite tact and gentle firmness influenced public opinion in the right direction. Earl Grey was not called upon to exercise such qualities. He found Canada contented and prosperous in the highest degree, and the task that devolved upon him was to lead Canadians to a full appreciation of their great responsibilities. A people like those who inhabit this Dominion, all very busy about their own affairs, are not likely always to give that consideration to what may be called the ethical aspects of national development. The advantage of having a governor-general sent out from the United Kingdom is that they can approach without bias and with absolute singleness of mind those greater questions, with which men engaged in what we call "practical politics" cannot very well concern themselves. This Lord Grey has been able to do, and he has done it so well that it has been said of him that he is "the best advertising agent Canada has had," which is pretty high praise for a nation of advertisers.

Earl Grey is to leave us shortly. His life will hereafter be inactive is not to be thought of. There is a great work to be done by such men as he for Britain and for the Empire. We shall not suggest in what special line he will find his greatest usefulness, for that is something that time only can determine, but we venture to think that his time of service beyond seas has expired and that hereafter he will serve his country at home. He will bring to bear upon the discharge of any duties which may be called upon to work in an imperial field, an experience gained in nations in the making. Possibly his ideas may not quite harmonize with those of some of the men with whom he may be called upon to work, for it seems inevitable that his breadth of view must be greater than that of those who have been thinking chiefly of local problems and how best to win elections. From this he has happily been free and in a few months he will be able to bring to bear upon the solution of the great problems of the Empire a ripe judgment and a singularly happy faculty of expressing his views. Canadians will watch his future career with the deepest interest and with the most hopeful anticipations.

WATER AGAIN

A petition is being circulated asking for the submission of a bylaw authorizing the city to utilize Sooke Lake as a source of water supply. Last week the ratepayers refused to sanction a net expenditure of about \$600,000 to enable them to obtain full control of the whole area using an artificial water supply; now they are to be asked to pay at least \$1,500,000 to enable less than one-quarter of the area to obtain a new source of supply. The new proposal is that the whole city, including Victoria West, shall be made liable for a system from which Victoria West will derive no benefit whatever. We have not looked into the matter, but we venture the suggestion that the city cannot exempt the property owners of Victoria West from liability on account of water supply derived from Sooke Lake without special legislation, and it will certainly be rank injustice to seek to compel the people of that part of the city to pay for what they will never make use of. Among those who are now urging that the city shall go to Sooke for water are some who only last week were telling us that Elk Lake was sufficient for all the purposes of the city for a long time to come. Before the present movement proceeds any further we wish to ask the ratepayers to reflect upon what they are asked to do. They are asked to adopt as the source of water supply a lake that will be upon the line of a railway to extend from Victoria to the northern end of the island, a railway that will all aspect will become an exceedingly im-

portant highway of travel. By this time next year the line along the lakeshore will be well under construction and the waters of the lake will thereafter be liable to contamination every day in the year. Have the people of Victoria thought what this may mean? Millions of dollars are being expended all over the world to guard against unsanitary conditions, and yet the ratepayers of Victoria are to be asked to vote money to procure water from a source of supply that cannot by any possibility be preserved from contamination.

THE MILITIA

The report of General Sir John French upon the Canadian militia is not altogether pleasant reading. He thinks the personnel of the force is everything that can be desired, but has grave doubts as to the efficiency as a fighting organization. He thinks the volunteer system is more suitable for Canada than any other, but does not think it has had a fair trial, and urges that it should be made so efficient as to guarantee reasonable security. We quote from the report: "Nothing less than this will do and anything less will mean inefficiency, failure and, at last, disaster. According to my judgment important requirements are not fulfilled. I may summarize the personal shortcomings as lying in an insufficiently developed organization, inadequate knowledge in the higher commands; in the test qualifications for officers and non-commissioned officers of the active militia laid down in regulations not being strictly enforced and in the rank and file not being compelled to fulfil their engagements. Only when the regulations which govern the constitution and maintenance of the Canadian militia are strictly enforced will it be possible to say whether the present system meets the defensive requirements of the country or not. Judging from what I have seen of the excellent material and the fine spirit which is apparent in all ranks, marked progress which has been made within the last few years and the evident signs of its continuance, I should be inclined to think that, so long as the present condition of affairs on the North American continent remains as it is, the existing system, if strictly administered on a sound basis of peace organization, should suffice to meet the needs of the Dominion. This seems like very grave criticism. Indeed, it is not easy to see how it could be much more serious arraignment of the militia in which the Militia Department has been administered. Sir John does not go very fully into particulars, but it would be very interesting to learn what is the "higher command" in which he says there is "inadequate knowledge." Are we to understand that we have been paying high salaries to people who do not understand their business? That seems to be what the language quoted means. We note especially the phrase, "higher command." This seems to point not at the local officers of the Department at Victoria, Quebec, Halifax and elsewhere, but at the Department itself, and it is capable of being construed to mean that the Minister of Militia himself does not understand his duties as well as he ought to. But the General's criticism extends all the way down the line, for he finds that the rank and file do not set up to their engagements. It is not a pleasant criticism. It seems to show that we have been paying a good deal of money for very inadequate results. Of the personnel of the men there is not and there never was any question. They are the kind of material out of which soldiers are made. The fault is not with them. General French says it is higher up. The country will await with interest what the official, who is highest of all, will have to say for himself in answer to these criticisms.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

It does not take long to throw the United Kingdom into the heat of a political controversy. By next Saturday fifty-four of the constituencies will have recorded their votes, and we will have perhaps some intimation of how the tide is running. It is said to have been arranged that 19 constituencies shall not be contested. Of these 17 are held by Unionists, 2 by Liberals and 1 by a Labor member. While both sides express confidence as to the result, it is quite impossible to forecast it. Parties are so evenly balanced that a deadlock is by no means an impossibility, in which event there would have to be another attempt to discover some common ground of action in order that the affairs of the country may be carried on. The statement is very freely made that Mr. Balfour and the Marquis of Lansdowne were quite ready to meet with Mr. Asquith's suggestions in respect to such an extent that a compromise might have been agreed upon, but their hands were forced by a very aggressive group within the Unionist party, which would not hear to anything short of a struggle to the finish. The appearance of probability is given to this by the fact that the majority of the leading Unionist papers had quite clearly laid the ground for the acceptance of a programme that would include home rule all round and a federal parliament for the United Kingdom.

WINE AND THE WINE GROWERS

A strong effort is now being made to confine the trade wholly to the House of Lords. Mr. Balfour made an attempt to force tariff reform to the fore, but it does not seem to have been very successful. A number of free-trade Unionists have appealed to the people to drop every other question but that involved in the reconstitution of the hereditary chamber. The election bids fair to be one of the keenest ever fought in the United Kingdom. Mrs. William Heffler, who lives in Illinois, must surely hold the position of champion grandmother. She is thirty years of age and has a grandson. The father of the grandson is 19 and the mother is 16. The absolute lack of interest taken by the people of Canada in the reciprocity negotiations is more eloquent than a thousand speeches. The explanation is that we are doing pretty well thank you as things are. The Kaiser has created a good deal of a flutter in Germany by strongly advising naval orders to practice total abstinence. He says "the times require iron-hearted men." He urged the cadets to join the Good Templars and said "the nation that in future uses the least amount of alcohol will march at the head of the column in war." It will be a surprise to most people to learn that the number of desertions from the United States army is higher than from any other army in the world. Last year they fell off 3,500, and we are told that this was a reduction of 30 per cent. As the whole army only numbers 30,000 this means that nearly one man out of eight deserted during the year. The British army numbers 200,000 men and the desertions were only 1,750 or one man out of every hundred. There has been trouble at Ottawa. None of the Consular-General attended the last Drawing Room held by the Governor-General and Lady Grey. The reason was that they were assigned a place after the Mayor of Ottawa, and this they claimed was not right, because they were diplomatic representatives of their respective countries. To this it is answered that they cannot be diplomatic representatives, because such representatives are not accredited to any colonial government. The matter is not a very serious one, but it serves to show the importance often attached to trifles. Extraordinary misconceptions are entertained in some quarters as to the nature of the Speech, which the King delivers at the opening or closing of parliamentary sessions. Those people who make up the telegrams for some of the papers seem to be under the impression that the Speech in some way reflects his Majesty's personal views. As a matter of fact it is doubtful if there was a single sentence in the prologation speech inspired by the King unless it may have been that in which he expressed his intention to follow in his father's footsteps. This being an expression of personal intention was probably due to the King himself, but all the references to public questions are the language of his ministers.

BIG GAME OF B. C.
ON THE INCREASE

Chief Provincial Warden turns From Trip to Lillooet—Government Establishes New Reserves

Chief Game Warden Bryan Williams who has just returned from a tour through Lillooet, spent yesterday in the capital, and is authority for the statement that the past season was an exceptionally good one for game all varieties, and that instead of the signs of exhaustion, the big game of British Columbia—a very valuable provincial asset—are really on the increase. And this despite the fact that the many distinguished hunters who visit the province during the season returned to their homes lighted with the fine trophies secured there were many of such hunters in the field, and all had rare good luck. Field, and Mr. Bryan Williams' own stay eleven days in Lillooet, he counted fewer than 100 head of mountain sheep and deer. The former are supposed to have belonged to a band of about fifty hunters of the locality, and which multiplying rapidly—the Monte-brown sheep or common big horn. Honeyman, one of this season's game hunters from abroad, reports that he has secured a caribou and a single day, while he himself secured the limit of 2 sheep, 2 goats and 2 deer. In the short space of eight days.

For the further protection of a game, the government has just adopted orders-in-council establishing the reserves, or rather enlarging two of its game reserves, and formally establishing as a game reserve the large tract in Kootenay that for some time past has been operated by the successive orders-in-council. To the annual closed season therein. To the reserve now taking in the entire valley of the north fork of Bridge river and being declared upon for the particular benefit of the bear, are present there in number, or of a certain size. The new Fort George reserve lies between the north and south fork of the Fraser river, with an approximate length of from 80 to 70 miles and breadth of between 20 and 40. This is a great moose country containing also some caribou and many mountain goats. The caribou are established as a game reserve in the valley of the Kootenay. The East Kootenay reserve is a regulation game preserve of approximately 400 square miles area. The game herein has been protected during the past two seasons by several orders-in-council, and the wapiti now in the foothills of the mountains are becoming so numerous that by the season it is hoped that protection may be for a certain number of years. The Kootenay wapiti have greatly increased in numbers during the past few years.

The difficulty in according to the several requests that have been made for an earlier open season for the Kootenay wapiti is the fear that an influx of hunters would occur and promiscuous slaughter follow, whereas if the sportsmen would be discriminating and pick off only the best, instead of harm would really result. The feed conditions and the climate in this district are ideal for the game, and there are no predatory wolves to worry the animals. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$4,000 to deliver in this country a herd of ten chamois, while the weather conditions in the northern part of the island are not, in the light of present information, particularly favorable for the chamois; and the wolf packs would most probably soon extinguish the game. It is Mr. Williams' costly importation of the East Kootenay game park will prove an ideal locality for the successful propagation of the chamois, and with stock from this part of our own country the suitability of the Vancouver island alps as a habitat for them later on may more safely be proved. As for the European red deer it is his belief that one of the favorably situated islands of the Gulf of Georgia should first be stocked, the deer being subsequently distributed to Vancouver island and other parts of the province.

GOOD ROADS PLAN FOR WASHINGTON

Committee Appointed by Commission Advises Acceptance of Mr. Samuel Hill's Offer For Construction WALLA WALLA, Wash., Nov. 29.—J. P. Hartman, J. K. Donovan and R. H. Thompson, members of the special committee appointed by the Washington Good Roads convention, which convened here this morning, this evening submitted a report memorializing the State Legislature to take cognizance and recognition of the offer made recently by Samuel Hill, who is son-in-law of James J. Hill, who offers to construct roads in many counties of the state free of expense to the counties. The resolution recommends which ways and means for the early completion of the roads may be selected. Mr. Hill's offer was made several months ago, his conditions being that

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Unbleached Table Linens, at per yard, \$1.00 to 45¢
Bleached Table Linens, at per yard, \$1.25 to .65¢
Table Cloths, 2 x 2 yards, \$4.25 to .50
Table Cloths, 2 x 2 1/2, from, each \$3.00
Table Cloths, 2 x 3 yards, from, each \$3.75
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