The Colonist.

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KEEP INDEPENDENT

The Colonist has often expressed its hearty approval of the principle of trades-unionism. It looks upon the organization of workingmen for the advancement of their reasonable interests as not only permissible but highly commendable. Holding these views we yet feel able to endorse in a general way the following observations from the Strathcona Plaindealer:

The report from Cobalt that the Western Federation of Miners is making a desperate effort to obtain working control of the mines in that camp is sensational. The character of the Federation as revealed in the Idaho courts recently, if not known before, makes it very evident that Canada does not want any such organization controlling any branch of her industrial resources. Labor unions are all right and necessary to the welfare of the workers, but this Western Federation of Miners as operated in Colorado and Idaho has shown itself to be a terrible menace to civil government and individual liberty. Canada cannot afford to allow such hold-up methods to prevail in any place within her borders as have prevailed over there. It would be better that the mines were shut down for years or that martial law should protect the operation of the mines against acts of violence.

We do not think it necessary to inquire into the truth of the very grave charges that have been laid at the door of the Western Federation of Miners. The matters dealt with in the trial of Haywood are by no means the only outrages of which this organization has been accused. We are willing to grant that it may be more sinned against than sinning. The mine-owners of the United States have no monopoly of virtue and honor. Our point is that there is no need in Canada for such an organization. It may be that there is need of it in the United States. There is only too much reason to believe that in certain states the bench is in the hands of capitalists and legislatures are bought and sold freely. Even if this were not the case, the frequent changes of administration resulting from the system in vogue in most of the western states are undoubtedly destructive of confidence in the impartiality of those charged with seeing that the laws are enforced. Hence it may be necessary in those states that there shall be some strong central organization like the Western Federation to which certain labor unions can look for support at all times. There is no need for us to discuss this. What we want to point out is that there is no need for anything of the kind in Canada. Our legislatures are honest. We do not mean to say that in the securing of franchises various influences, which will not bear very close examination, may not sometimes be employed, but as a rule the men who constitute the membership of the Canadian Parliament and provincial legislatures are honest and can be trusted to hold the balance fairly between the various elements of the community. Our courts are above suspicion. We do not think there is a man who will question this. Sometimes our judges make errors, but being human this is to be expected, but we are sure that we can say with absolute certainty that every man in every part of Canada feels absolutely safe in the hands of our courts These two facts, the honesty of our legislative bodies and the integrity of our courts, are factors which labor unions ought to take into account, and their organization ought to be framed in view of them. Trades-unionism in Canada should be shaped in accordance with the institutions of the country. In a land where all men are equal before the law and where the fountain of legislation has not been polluted, there is no need of such an imperium in imperio as the Western Federation of Miners. We believe that the very great majority of trades-unionists will agree with this view. What we would like to see is the organization of workingmen along such lines as are necessary under British institutions, which are only a general name for Canadian institutions. Canadian workingmen may sympathize with their less fortunate neighbors, who feel the necessity of keeping themselves in readiness to fight for their rights, but happily such a condition of things does not exist in Canada, and it will never exist as long as workingmen are content to exercise their rights as free men in a constitutional way.

"TAMPERING WITH THE BILL"

The Ottawa Free Press thinks that the "better terms" Bill has been "tampered with." This is a tolerably strong expression, and after reading it, we feel like asking our contemporary how it makes such a view of the case square with the opinion of the Montreal Herald, the Toronto Globe and the Victoria Times, which is that the omission of the words "final and unalterable" really is an exceedingly unimportant matter. But a more interesting observation by our contemporary is its denial of an assertion by the Mail and Empire, which said that the position of the federal government exemplifies "a doctrine of centralization and provincial repression." The Free Press says: "How can that be the case when the bill is based upon the action of a conference between the provinces and the Dominion at which the amendment to the B. N. A. act was agreed upon by eight out of the nine provinces represented? Have we not a democratic system of government in this country? Does not the will of the majority prevail?"

These questions bring up the essential point of the case. Our Ottawa contemporary thinks that they must be answered in such a way that the logical conclusion would be that British Columbia is bound to accept not what justice entitles us to but what the majority of the provinces decree, and not British Columbia only, but every other province. That is to say, suppose that at some time in the future some exigency might arise under which by every principle of right the Dominion ought to extend exceptional consideration to one of the provinces. We may not be able to foresee such a contingency, but the unexpected very frequently happens. In such a case, will it be contended that the Dominion could not do that province justice without first calling together the premiers of all the provinces and securing the favorable vote of the majority of them? The Free Press does not require to be told that provincial premiers are subject to the influence of political conditions in their own provinces. Will it take the position that whether or not justice shall be done to any one province must depend upon the political conditions existing in a majority of the other provinces? We do not think that it will take such a position. We are quite ready to go as far as our contemporary in considering for the democratic nature of our institutions, but by what principle of democracy does it make a majority vote of provincial premiers a decree of the Canadian democracy? Moreover British Columbia never made any bargain with Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island or Manitoba, much less with Saskatchewan and Alberta. It made no bargain with these provinces individually nor with them or a majority of them in combination. Its bargain was made with the government of Canada and it is to the government of Canada that it looks for relief from the unexpected insufficiency of that bargain to meet the needs of the province. We have never heard that Nova Scotia or New Brunswick or any other province, when pressing its claims for better terms, was told that under our democratic institutions it was necessary to secure the majority vote of the provincial premiers before relief could be granted. Why should an exception be made in the case of British Columbia? If Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said that "a bargain is a bargain" and British Columbia must put up with what it agreed to take in the first instance, supplemented in proportion to the manner in which the grants to the other provinces are supplemented, the position would have been intelligible, if not equitable, but to concede that British Columbia is entitled to exceptional consideration, and then refuse the province an opportunity to demonstrate before impartial judges, or even before the Dominion cabinet itself what would be just treatment under the facts of the case, is both illogical and unfair.

NO "INVASION" OF RIGHTS

The Ottawa Free Press says that the action of the Colonial Office in striking out the words "final and unalterable" in the amendment to the B. N. A. Act "is clearly an invasion of the constitutional rights of Canada as a self-governing community." If these words applied only to the amendments applicable to all the provinces alike, we might not feel called upon to take exception to the Free Press's opinion, but as they applied also to something which especially concerned one of the provinces, and were intended to affect an arrangement to which that province objected, we think the protest is unfounded. It is true that Canada is a self-governing community, and as such its constitutional rights must be respected. But it is also true that British Columbia is, as far as the affairs of the province are concerned, a self-governing community, and the Canadian Parliament was "invading" its constitutional rights, when it asked the Imperial Parliament to prevent forever any further assertion by this province of claims, which it believes are substantial. We think that the Colonial Office has very correctly interpreted the Constitution of Canada.

We would suppose that in view of this opinion of the home organ of the Laurier ministry, we will hear nothing more about the insignificance of Mr. McBride's achievement. If he was able to persuade the Colonial Office to invade the constitutional rights of Canada, what he accomplished was no trifle. Our position is that he did nothing of the kind, but only secured from that department of His Majesty's government a recognition of the constitutional rights of this province, and also incidentally of all the other provinces. It can hardly be necessary to remind the Free Press that one of the cardinal doctrines of the Liberal Party, in the days when it was in opposition, was that the provinces had constitutional rights, which were just as sacred as those of the Dominion. If the exigencies arising in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion which compel him to keep his majority in Quebec solid, forced Sir Wilfrid Laurier to take a new view of provincial rights, we may regret it, but it is the duty of those, who have the case of British Columbia in charge to maintain the time-honored view of what we have called "the individuality of the provinces." In so doing they are fighting the cause of all the provinces. There may come a day when the East will be exceedingly thankful that this far-western part of the Dominion has refused to allow the constitutional rights of a province to be sacrificed.

THE BENCH

The Vancouver Province of the 18th inst. dwelt at considerable length with a condition, which it alleges exists on the Supreme Court bench in this province. No names are mentioned, but not many people will experience much difficulty in determining who is meant. We are not disposed to take part in a discussion, which deals with generalities only. A matter of this kind should be dealt with specifically, so that if there is any member of the bench, whose conduct calls for criticism, he may be singled out for that purpose and his colleagues on the bench may not be included inferencially in the condemnation. We do not know that the matter is yet at that stage that the press ought to take it up. Lawyers make complaints that things are unsatisfactory, and we tell them frankly that in the opinion of the Colonist it is for them to make specific allegations on the points complained of. If they do so, and can show good cause, the press will back them up readily and forcibly enough. We do not like to accuse the bar of lack of courage, but we do say in the plainest possible way that if it has grievances, or if in its opinion the administration of justice is not carried on in a way that is fair to suitors in the courts, it is its duty as an association of citizens and as the members of a body, which has ever been the champion of popular rights, to make its views known. We do not suggest that any member of the bar should move in the matter individually. The lawyers have an organization, and at the meetings of that body, it ought surely to be possible to give the complaints, of which the Province speaks, and which we have heard on the streets from time to time, full consideration, and devise some way in which redress can be obtained. If they do not take this course, the conclusion will either be that they are unwilling to exercise their undoubted rights or that there is no real cause for complaint.

There is a good deal of cheap dignity tacked on to the bench by some people. We made a mistake out here in British Columbia when we called judges "my lord." They are not lords justices, but simply judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. When we gave them this exaggerated title, we put them on a pedestal where they do not belong, and if some of them have felt that they really ceased to be common clay, we are all somewhat to blame. Then there has been an exaggerated idea of the freedom of the bench from criticism. An eastern Chief Justice once said to a newspaper man: "So long as you do not question the motives of judges, or say anything which may interfere with the course of justice in a pending case, I consider it to be not only your right but your duty as a public journalist to criticize freely the acts of judges, when in your judgment they seem open to criticism." If a newspaperman in British Columbia acted on that idea, he would stand a good chance of being thrown into prison summarily and being treated like a common thief, as one of the fraternity from Nelson was treated a few years ago.

MAKING AN ISSUE.

Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P., is unwise in his day and generation. In an interview, which he gave to a Colonist reporter, printed by this paper yesterday, he said:

"After we have wasted our substance we go begging the Dominion authorities to assist us out of our difficulties. We have the richest province in the Dominion yet we have been unable to pay our way as a province. Instead of economising our resources we prefer to create a political agitation with the Dominion government to make up the loss. No province of the Dominion has given so much away as British Columbia. No province in the Dominion has handed out its resources in so reckless a way."

We confess to a good deal of surprise, for we had given Mr. Smith credit for greater political sagacity than the quotation implies. However, it has the merit of frankness. No one hereafter can have any reason to doubt where he stands on this question. He is the first representative man in the province to take the position that British Columbia has no case for better terms because it has squandered its wealth. True he does not say this in so many words, but unless he proposes to follow up the statement, which he has made, by opposition to any further consideration being granted to the province, the quoted remark might well have been left unsaid. Mr. Smith is not a gentleman, who speaks at random. He weighs his public utterances before making them, and estimates not only how they will be understood in the light of what has happened, but as to how they will be construed in eventualities to come. His deliberate conviction seems to be that, because of the manner in which the resources of this province have been dealt with in the past, we have no case to present for further consideration. The Times has taken much the same ground, and we have declined to accept it as expressing the views of Mr. Templeman in this regard, but after Mr. Smith's statement, and in view of the fact that Mr. Templeman has had ample opportunity to set his paper right, if it was placing him in a false light before his constituents, we may take it as the settled purpose of these two leading spirits in the Liberal party of British Columbia to oppose any further allowance to this province, because the natural resources of the country have not been husbanded in the past as carefully as they might have been. This has the merit of being a position which is very easily understood.

We draw attention to several matters, which seem to have a direct bearing upon the issue thus raised. During all the negotiations, which have taken place between the provincial and federal governments on this question, the point taken by Mr. Smith has not been raised. It was not raised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in reply to Mr. McBride's remarks at the interprovincial conference. It was not raised by any of the provincial premiers at the conference. It was not raised in the House of Commons or the Senate during the discussion of the better terms resolution. It was not raised on any occasion in the local legislature, and we may mention especially the time in the session of 1905 when Mr. McBride accepted Mr. J. A. Macdonald's resolution declaring that the province was entitled to exceptional consideration on account of permanent physical conditions, and also the time during the legislative session of this year, when Mr. Macdonald moved his amendment to Mr. McBride's resolution. Colonist readers may remember that this paper pointed out that, by a failure to avail themselves of certain parliamentary rules, Mr. Macdonald and his supporters were placed in a position of antagonism to the further presentation of our claims, and that we were severely taken to task for this, and were reminded that not only had those gentlemen voted for a resolution calling for further action, but Mr. Macdonald had telegraphed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier asking that the words "final and unalterable" might be left out of the resolution then before parliament. During all these discussions, no one has ever ventured to hint that the province was estopped in equity by reason of the extravagance of its governments. This is an objection, which might have been left for others to make, but if this is the view of Messrs. Templeman and Smith, we can easily understand, why the former did not attend the conference and why neither of them had one word to say in the House of Commons, when the resolution was before that body. If we go further and accept this as the explanation of the silence of Messrs. Sloan, Macpherson, Ross and Galliher, and Senators Riley and Bostock, we can hardly be charged with jumping at a conclusion. We are not at present specially concerned with what the gentlemen just named may have to say. An issue has been fairly and squarely raised by Mr. Smith and we think we may fairly add by Mr. Templeman.

It would be manifestly unjust to Mr. Macdonald, Liberal leader in the local legislature, to hold him responsible for what Mr. Templeman's paper and Mr. Smith have said, until he has had an opportunity of expressing his own views on the subject. The Colonist cordially places its columns at his disposal, if he desires to declare himself upon the new aspect of the case which has arisen. Before he went to Dawson a week or two ago, Mr. W. W. B. McInnes, who is understood to entertain aspirations towards a seat for Vancouver in the Dominion house, took occasion to express his great satisfaction with what Mr. McBride had accomplished in London, and his regret that he was unable to participate in a non-partizan demonstration of approval. In view of these facts, it would be premature to say that Mr. Smith has necessarily made better terms an issue in politics, but he has unquestionably done what he could in that direction, and as far as we are able to see, has done so perfectly gratuitously. We shall be very glad to hear from Mr. Smith, if he thinks he has been misunderstood or the logical conclusion from his statement has not been correctly drawn. In saying that it is the earnest desire of the Colonist to keep this question out of politics, we were absolutely sincere, and will be glad to learn that Mr. Smith's words were not intended to mean what they seem very clearly to express.

We are quite unable to understand why Mr. Smith should say that the provincial case is being made a campaign issue because the Dominion government has been drawn into it. He told our reporter that the Dominion government had nothing to do with the matter at all. Here Mr. Smith raises a new point, and one that is hardly borne out by the facts. We do not say that he misstates the facts, but only that his conclusion from them is unreasonable and cannot be sustained. Up to the time that Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked Mr. McBride to submit his case to the conference, it had never been suggested that it was not a case between this province and the Dominion, and if Mr. Smith will read the official statement read by the federal Premier to the conference, he will see that Sir Wilfrid in no way denies that this is the aspect in which the case was substantially presented by him. In fact he expressly recognized it by saying to the conference that if that body thought Mr. McBride's suggestion of a mixed commission was preferable to an attempt by the premiers to meet what Mr. McBride considered right in the interests of his province and should say so, the Dominion government would be influenced thereby. If we are to understand that Mr. Smith takes the position that the case for better terms for British Columbia is something, which must be adjusted with the other provinces, and if he is to be understood as speaking for his party in this regard, he raises a very clear and distinct issue upon which the Colonist would ask a verdict from the people of British Columbia with absolute confidence as to the result. But as we said on the other branch of the case, such a position would be so out of keeping with the record of all public men in the provincial house, irrespective of their party associations, that we hesitate to accept it as a definition of the position of the Liberal Party until its local leaders have had an opportunity to declare where they stand. But this much is very certain, Mr Smith, while deprecating the introduction of politics into this question, has done all that any one man can do to make it a political issue.

Some good people in Ontario want $280,000 damages for newspaper libels. Nothing like putting a good value on one's reputation.

The Salvation Army reports that good work is being done in England in the way of getting the right kind of immigrants for British Columbia Commissioner Coombs is very hopeful of the result of the effort.

Korea is unfortunate. There was a time when other nations would have slipped in to prevent Japan from occupying the country; but no one supports such a thing now. This is pretty conclusive evidence of the trend of events.

It is gratifying to learn that the trail along the Island shore, to permit of patrolling the coast for life-saving purposes, is progressing so rapidly that it is likely to be finished this year. Evidently it has not proved to be as serious a work as it was supposed to be.

The Western Canada Press association has announced its itinerary for its forthcoming annual excursion, which this year is to Seattle. The party will leave Winnipeg August 2 and will arrive in Victoria August 10, remaining in this city until the following day. Returning it will visit the Okanagan valley.

Of late there has been a rush to the hills of Flintshire in pursuit of the "simple life," and bungalows are common on the hillside.

In Wales more money is spent per head on smoking than in any other part of the kingdom.

Among the new pattern bayonets to be given a trial at Aldershot is one of a type used by the Japanese in the war with Russia.

Mrs. Bovenden Blunt—But why did you leave your last place?

Applicant—I couldn't stand the way the mistress and master used to quarrel, mum.

Mrs. B. B. (shocked)—Dear me! Did they quarrel much, then?

Applicant—Yes, mum, when it wasn't me an' 'im it was me an' 'er.—Answers.

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See This Display!

WHEN you are passing don't fail to see the big showing of Dining Room Furniture in the Early English style of finish shown in our Broughton Street windows. We are showing there some new pieces to give you a slight idea of the stock of this line we carry. We've an immense stock of this particular line of Furniture and can say, without fear of successful contradiction there is no such showing elsewhere in the Province. It is a kind that has found much favor with Victorians and we have sold large quantities during the past year. We expect to sell even larger quantities this Summer and Fall, and with this end in view have stocked heavily.

See the window display and then come in and go up to the third floor and see some more—a whole lot more—for there are many other pieces there.

Early English Pieces in Window

SIDEBOARD, quartered oak, Early English finish, 2 large British bevel mirrors, 2 cupboards with leaded glass doors, 3 small and 1 large drawers. A very handsome piece. Price $100.00

BUFFET, quartered oak, Early English finish, leaded glass, 2 cupboards, 2 small and 1 large drawers. Price $60.00

BUFFET, quartered oak, Early English finish. Has 2 large and 2 small cupboards and 1 large and two small drawers. Price each $65.00

ROUND EXTENSION TABLE, quartered oak, Early English finish. Top is 52 inches in diameter and table extends to 8 feet. Price . . $45.00

SQUARE EXTENSION TABLE, quartered oak, Early English finish. Top is 44 inches square and table extends to 8 feet. Price $32.00

ARM CHAIRS, in oak, Early English finish and upholstered in green leather, at, each. . $13.00

CHINA CABINET, quartered oak, Early English finish. Leaded glass doors, large mirror. Price, each $40.00

LARGE ARM CHAIR, in oak, Early English finish and upholstered in genuine Spanish leather, each . $14.00 to $30.00

DINNER WAGON, quartered oak, early English finish. Two styles, at each, $16.00 and $22.50

DINING CHAIRS, in oak, Early English finish, and upholstered in green leather at, each, $10.00

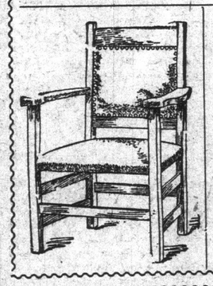
A Few Other Items in Same Style

Card Table

In Quartered Oak, Early English finish. These tables are very useful and desirable. One style makes into a Chair when not in use as a Table. For Den furnishings they are the proper thing. Two styles at each $16.00

Library Table

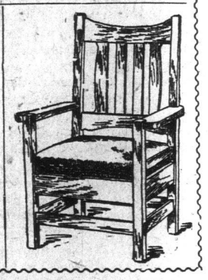
Early English Selected Quartered Oak. Top is 34x50 inches, has two drawers on side and beautifully finished ends, also shelf beneath. Mission style. Price, each $32.00



Two Pleasing Library Chairs

These chairs are large, roomy and comfortable, and very desirable in every way. They are made of Quartered Oak, Early English finish, seats upholstered in Spanish leather. Two styles, at, each—

$15.00 and $20.00



Four Interesting Pieces in Golden Oak

Library Table

Golden Selected Quartered Oak, top 29 x 44 inches, polished finish, two drawers, square legs, well braced. Price . $20.00

Library Table

Golden Selected Quartered Oak, polish finish. Top 29x50 inches, long drawer on side, ends of table have shelves for books, making it very desirable and useful. Price $35.00

Parlor Table

Quartered Oak, golden finish, also in birch, mahogany finish. Top is 30x23 inches, has shelf underneath. Beautiful polish. Price $5.00

Parlor Table

Golden Quartered Oak, highly polished, beautiful square shaped top, 17x17 inches, has shelf underneath 12x12 inches. French shaped legs. A very pretty style. Price $7.50

A Few Dining Room Table Prices

Square Extension Tables

40 in. top, when extended is 6 ft., is nicely finished surfaced oak, Price $14.00

Same as above, but 8 ft. extension. Price $16.00

Round Extension Tables

44 in. top, when extended is 8 ft., is made of quartered surface oak, nicely finished, stands on square pedestal. Price $28.00

Square Extension Tables

40 in. top, when extended is 6 ft., is made of elm, golden finish, has turned and fluted legs. Price $9.00

Square Extension Tables

54 in. top, is 10 feet when extended, is made of solid quartered golden oak, polished, has heavy massive turned legs, is indeed a beautiful table. Price $45.00

Square Extension Tables

44 in. top, when extended is 8 ft., is very nicely finished in Keppel oak, has handsomely turned and fluted legs. Price $23.00

Round Extension Tables

48 in. top, when extended is 10 ft., made of solid quartered oak, polished, stands on handsome square pedestal. Price $45.00

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