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INDIANS' RIGTHS.

Arguing that the Indians of British Columbia have much more land set apart for their use than is necessary to meet their requirements, and that consequently a large portion of their possessions should be taken away from them by a process of confiscation, is not likely to facilitate a settlement of the Songhees Reserve question. There are thousands of people in British Columbia whom their neighbors believe have more land and more wealth in other forms than they can ever use to advantage, but no one would venture to advance the proposition that everything in excess of actual needs should be taken away from these fortunates and divided proportionately amongst their less forehanded contemporaries. It may be true that the Indians are dying out, though we do not believe that vital statistics collected by the Indian department bear out that theory. White families sometimes die out too; but the state does not take the position that estates bequeathed to successors under such circumstances shall bear a certain proportionate relation to the number of the inheritors, the remainder passing to the Crown to be divided amongst the community in general. We have not reached that communistic or socialistic stage as yet. The argument, in short, is that having made what is now evidently a bad bargain with the Indians the terms of the agreement or of the treaty, or whatever we may choose to call it, shall be amended to suit the purpose of one of the parties to the contract, whether the party of the other part be agreeable or not. The contention is even advanced that there never really was any bargain or treaty or agreement with the Indians as the original possessors of this land inasmuch as they never possessed any valid title to the country. They simply dwelt here upon sufferance, leading a nomadic, barbarous existence, until the real lords of every created thing came along and established themselves permanently. Still there is in existence a treaty, or agreement, which effectually establishes the fact that Sir James Douglas did recognise the title of the Indians, and just as effectually disposes of the sophistries of our contemporary. Sir James entered into a covenant with the chiefs of the various tribes which at the time was considered advantageous, whatever we may think of it now that the lust for possession appears likely in some minds to obscure a sense of justice and honorable dealing.

It is because we realise that the Songhees Reserve must be removed from the midst of the city of Victoria that we protest against the mischievous effect of such articles as the Colonist has seen fit to publish upon the question. If our contemporary were deliberately setting itself to the task of preventing a settlement it could not have hit upon a more effective way of achieving that end.

EVERYWHERE A PROBLEM.

Look at newspapers from any part of the world, and you will find that the motor car appears to be the most troublesome of all things. In Great Britain the Suffragette makes possibly just as much noise, but she can be ignored by statesmen, and the wise statesman does ignore her; the foolish one talks back. The flying car cannot be so treated. It defiantly tears up the roads; insolently flings its dust and its fumes in the faces of rich and poor, peasant and noble, having no respect of persons; wantonly slaughters such as are not sufficiently agile to leap out of the way; and in general plays the part of a vehicular bravo.

If you pursue your consideration of newspapers further, passing from the daily list of killed and injured to the comments upon the conduct of the red-eyed demon, you will find that all sorts of methods of treatment are suggested. It has been found that passing regulations has no effect except upon a very limited number of chauffeurs. That is the most interesting part of the study, too. It is curious to note that men who are ordinarily must careful in their observations of social conventions, who would as soon think of standing upon their heads upon a densely crowded public thoroughfare as of violating the rules, written and unwritten, of the road, seem to forget all obligations to or consideration for their fellowmen as soon as they grip the wheel of a petrol chariot and hear the hum of the motor. Tossing a luckless wight aside with broken bones is then merely an incident lightly regarded. In the large cities of the world hundreds of lives are sacrificed yearly to this lust for speed. Very few offenders are punished; none in absolute accordance with their deserts. The fact can always be demonstrated to a court, apparently, that the victim, either through some physical defect or mental abstraction, was an accessory "during" the fact.

Now a word with the motor car drivers of Victoria. They are not well-beloved in the community. They have practically destroyed the surfaces of our roads and made them uncomfortable and disagreeable to all common people who use vulgar means of locomotion, such as driving, wheeling or walking. And that is not all. The owners or drivers of cars, in addition to filling eyes and lungs with dust thrown up in glee, too often in "high jinks," seem to think they are lords paramount upon the highway. All lighter and less strongly constructed bodies must jump out of the way, even into the gutter if necessary to their safety, when these machines appear. One must either concede the right of way or take the consequences. Some day, by accident, an intruder will elect to take the consequences—and murder will be done. That will be the proper description of the affair, whatever view a coroner's jury may take of it.

There is no question whatever that every day the limits of speed and safety are exceeded on the streets of Victoria and in the highways of the neighborhood by motor cars, sometimes when driven by people who might be expected to have more regard for their own bones and the bones of their neighbors. They travel at such excessive rates of speed that it is perfectly obvious if a thoughtless little child or an absent-minded adult should unexpected stray across their path a tragedy could not be averted. It is only a matter of time until attention shall be called to the conduct of these outlaws in the manner indicated.

BRITISH INCENDIARIES.

On the eve of Victoria Day, the holiday of all holidays of the year in Canada, it is depressing, almost distressing, to read the doleful forbodings of some British publications in regard to the future of the British Empire. Lord Northcliffe, one of the leading newspaper publishers of the world, has been lecturing the people of Great Britain on the subject of the sins of the "yellow press," telling them of the mischief these journals are likely to do by their deliberate attempts to stir up strife between the Mother Country and her neighbors. The rebuke of his Lordship was timely. But it was not as many people doubtless suppose, directed against the daily newspapers of the United Kingdom. They are not the only sinners, nor the chief offenders, in this very grave matter. Some of the monthly reviews are publishing articles of a most incendiary character, articles which, fortunately, are not given very extensive circulation among the masses of the people, or they would undoubtedly provoke something very much more to be deplored than strained relations.

If the attacks upon Germany which appear monthly in the jingoistic National Review, a frothy periodical which professes to be greatly concerned about the future of the Empire, are inspired chiefly by political spite against the Asquith government, then matters political have fallen to a very low ebb in Great Britain. In the May number of the Review, for example, there is a sensational article purporting to be a speech delivered by Arabi Pasha in the year 1911 upon the subject of the decline and fall of the British Empire. The ruin depicted by this distinguished Turk was of course brought about by a war with Germany. The campaign lasted only three weeks, the result being decided in one great naval battle, in which the British fleet cut a very sorry figure. It was annihilated by explosives dropped from German airships invisible in the clouds. Immediately the news of the catastrophe became noised abroad, here is what happened, as told by the Review writer:

"Of small avail to France and England were now their mutual assurances of help. The German army poured like a flood over France. Russia's promised support was not forthcoming after the catastrophe in the North Sea. Japan showed herself an apt pupil of England. She had promised to put one hundred thousand men at England's disposal in the hour of need. On the evening of June 15 (1911) the extent of the British defeat was made known in Tokio, and ten days later Hongkong was in the possession of Japan, the English garrison being unable to offer any serious resistance to such superior forces. In India there broke out a fearful insurrection which cost thousands of Englishmen their lives, order only being restored after the entrance of the Cossacks, who, as once before in the Balkans, were welcomed as deliverers. In Egypt a massacre was only prevented by the landing of Italian troops, ostensibly to assist the "legitimate owner." On June 21 the United Free States of South Africa were constituted. On the same day the Congress of Washington passed a resolution that American troops should march into Canada "for the preservation of law and order." For Ireland, moreover, the hour of liberation had at last arrived. The English functionaries were hounded out of the country and a republic proclaimed.

"This war, which was decided by a naval battle lasting a single hour, was of only three weeks' duration—hunger forced England into peace. In her conditions Germany showed a wise moderation. In addition to a war indemnity in accordance with the wealth of the two conquered states, she contented herself with the acquisition of the African colonies, with the exception of the southern states, which had proclaimed their independence, and these possessions were divided with the two powers of the Triple Alliance. Nevertheless this war was the end of England. A lost battle had sufficed to manifest to the world at large the feet of clay on which the dread Colossus had stood. In a night the British Empire had crumbled altogether; the pillars which English diplomacy had erected after years of labor had failed at the first test."

That is the sort of food for thought one of the so-called great reviews, edited by men of broad, Imperial views, is laying before the people of Great Britain—and others are wondering why the public mind is becoming inflamed, why the once steadfast British people are losing their mental balance.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD'S APPROVAL.

Lord Charles Beresford shares the opinion of Lord Alfred Milner that the first duty of the overseas Dominions in this troublous matter of Imperial naval defence is to set about the work of constructing navies of their own, which in case of necessity will act in concert with the navy of Great Britain. The views of Lord Charles appear to be the views of naval experts generally, and these in turn are in harmony with the decision of the Canadian government and the Australian government. But there is a school of thought in Canada, which knows little about naval matters, that does not agree with authorities whose business it is to shape the defence policy of the Empire at large. This school has a branch—a very vociferous branch—in Victoria. The self-constituted organ of the ultra-loyalists here has been charging the government of Canada with disloyalty, with failing to realise and accept its responsibilities, and with various sins of omission in connection with the question of the Imperial defence. Now that persons who must be assumed to know what is required have expressed their opinions, and those opinions are found to be in absolute harmony with the views so eloquently given expression by the Premier of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier—now that the government has announced its intention of securing cruisers from the British government which will form the nucleus of the fleets Lord Charles Beresford says should be established—perhaps these flamboyant patriots will cease their prating about the failure of Canadian public men to rise to an occasion which demands concerted action and the construction of one or more Dreadnoughts on behalf of the British government.

PROBING BALTIMORE'S MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Mayor Declares City Has Been Robbed—Experts Investigating.

Baltimore, May 22.—Expert accountants will begin a thorough investigation of Baltimore's municipal accounts, according to a statement of Mayor Mahool. The investigation is a result of recent disclosures which involve several prominent city officials.

"The municipality has been robbed," says the mayor, "but the bonding companies will make good the loss. The public demands quick exposure of discovered dishonesty, followed by stern, relentless prosecution."

The mayor asked the assistance of the standing committee of municipal research to find a system to preclude the possibility of wholesale dishonesty in city administration.

STRIKE FOR MORE PAY.

Butte, Mont., May 21.—All the lumber workmen in Northern Montana went on strike to-day, demanding an increase of 50 cents a day in their wages. More than 1,000 men are affected by the strike.

NEW PRESIDENT.

Winnipeg, May 21.—At a meeting of the Board of Trade yesterday E. D. Martin was elected president and C. N.

SOOKE LAKE IS ULTIMATE GOAL

(Continued from page 1.)

system in Victoria West were taken into account the council would find that Sooke lake could be developed for the same amount.

Ald. Raymond was of the same opinion as to comparative costs, and said he had fully made up his mind, if the city's offer was accepted or the matter was submitted to arbitration, to propose that in the submission of the question to the people there should be two ballots, whether or not this purchase was approved and whether or not the city should go to Sooke lake. In view of the way the Goldstream source was crippled trying to supply the tramway company he considered the city would be worse off than with Elk lake.

Ald. Mable agreed largely with his colleagues, but reminded them that after the time spent lobbying for the new bill they would make theselves ridiculous if they did not take advantage of it and proceed to arbitration. On the merits of the case, he was in favor of securing the Goldstream water at the price offered, as it could be got in more readily than from Sooke. There would be no expense incurred beyond the cost of the arbitration, as it would be for the people to decide. It would be wise to get rid of the question one way or other, and then the city could go on with the Sooke proposition if desired. Ald. Mable expressed his lack of faith in Elk lake being sufficient for all demands for ten years.

Ald. Turner declared himself in favor of proceeding to arbitration.

The water commissioner, in reply to Ald. Henderson, said the cost of arbitration would be about $25,000. The value of the undertaking, with the maximum allowance of 6 per cent. interest and 20 per cent. bonus, was said to be $858,000, although he understood a member of the government had had figures which made it $720,000. The crux of the arbitration would be whether the bonds should be 20 per cent. or 1 per cent.

Ald. Henderson took the company's position to be that of people willing to sell, but determined to get the top price. He had good reason to believe that the company would take the matter as far as the Privy Council if the award was against their estimate of the worth of their undertaking. Personally he would like to see the city acquire it even at $900,000, although it would not be the asset it is to the company now.

Ald. Bishop said there was no doubt Victoria needed more water and that quickly. To develop Sook lake would mean a delay of five years or more, whereas the Esquimalt works would give a good supply at once and the matter could be satisfactorily settled by arbitration. There was no fear of litigation, as the company would be bound to accept the award.

Ald. Henderson said there need be no fear of a shortage while Sooke lake development would be in progress, as the Esquimalt company was bound, on eighteen months' notice, to give Victoria a minimum of 500,000 gallons a day for five years.

"I think the best thing you can do is throw this Esquimalt proposition over and go to Sooke," Ald. Ross declared.

The matter will be further discussed in council next week.

CIVIC VISITORS.

Hamilton Alderman Is on a Business Trip to Victoria.

Ald. George H. Lees, a member of the city council of Hamilton, Ont., is in the city at present on a business trip. Ald. Lees is a large manufacturing jeweller in the Ambitious City and a prominent member of the Board of Trade in addition to being one of the council leaders. To-day he was the guest of Mayor Hall at luncheon and this afternoon or to-morrow he will be driven round the city and surrounding country.

Another civic visitor in the city at present is Mayor J. F. Robinson, of Kamloops. Both gentlemen are staying at the Empress.

SPRING FASHION ANNOUNCEMENT

Having every facility to secure the leading styles and modes as portrayed in Paris, London and New York, this store is now showing in its various departments many of the charming new creations of the season noted for their taste, distinction and refinement.

AMONG OUR LATEST ARRIVALS ARE

Cluett-Peabody Coat Shirts, ranging in price from $4.00 to **$1.50**
Welch-Margetson Zephyrs and Oxford Shirts, all England's latest styles, up from **$1.25**
American and English Summer Vests, from $10 down to **$1.50**
Panama Hats, from $40.00 down to **$7.00**
Straw Hats, in all shapes, up from **$1.00**

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Our Name Behind Our Clothing Is an Important Asset, It's Your Protection. Our Name Behind Our Furnishings Is Worth a Good Deal to You.

Lotus Bath

This Powder not only softens the water, but delightfully perfumes it; makes the most refreshing bath one can imagine. Excellent for bathing the face as it thoroughly cleanses the pores of the skin, removes shine, alleviates sunburn and promotes a good complexion.

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Tuesday, a Sale of High-Grade Wallpaper

50c to $1.50 Paper for 25 Cents

This is one of the best opportunities that we have ever offered the people of Victoria, a great chance to save on Wall Paper of the highest grade.

The assortment includes paper for practically every room in the house, particularly the rooms that require good quality and handsome wall coverings. The papers cover a wide range of designs and color schemes, rich, beautiful patterns in light effects for drawing rooms, handsome designs in the heavier colorings for dining room, hall or den, including some wonderfully rich tapestry effects, some of which are of Oriental design and splendid examples of the paper maker's art. Dainty designs for the bedroom, a good assortment for this purpose and some of the very best designs and values. In fact for any room in the house you can buy paper of the highest grade at a price that you usually pay for makes that are very much inferior. It is important to remember that these imported papers come in twelve yard rolls, instead of the eight yard roll that is usually sold. Sale starts Tuesday morning a 8:30 o'clock. 50c, 75c, $1.00 and $1.50 Wall Paper, Tuesday, per roll..... **25c**

Mattresses, Tuesday at $2.50

A quantity of Spencer's BEST COTTON TOP MATTRESSES in first-class ticking, genuine cotton felt on one side and best excelsior on the other. Sizes 3 ft. 0 in., 3 ft. 6 in. and 4 ft. 6 in. These are wonderful value for Tuesday, at, each **$2.50**

Springs, on Tuesday, at $2.50

A quantity of extra good quality EASTERN MADE SPRINGS. They are made of the best woven wire and solid frames, the sizes are 4 ft. 6 in., 3 ft. 6 in. and 3 ft. 0 in. Very special value for Tuesday at **$2.50**

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DETECTIVE THREATENS 'FRISCO ATTORNEY

Witness Leaves Stand and Shakes Fist in Lawyer's Face.

San Francisco, May 21.—Defying counsel for the defence to prove that he lied, Detective John Helms, star witness for the prosecution, threw the Calhoun trial into an uproar to-day by leaving the witness stand and shaking his fist in the face of Attorney Stanley Moore.

Shortly after Helms had been put upon the stand for cross-examination he said:

"Stanley Moore told me that I had done the best work ever done for the United Railroads in following that d—— Burns."

"Don't you know that you're lying like a dog," passionately exclaimed Moore.

"I am not, and I dare you to prove that I am," returned the witness, leaving his chair and starting for the attorney.

As soon as the belligerents were quited by the court, Heney suggested:

"As the witness has been charged with perjury, I suggest that he be prosecuted. Mr. Langdon is here and I am sure that he will be willing to allow Attorney Earl Rogers to be appointed a special prosecutor in the case."

E. A. Moore, who had also risen, turned his back to Heney and said:

"May God help us if we ever have to ask aid from the district attorney's office."

Then Attorney Byington, of the defence, added a half audible remark which Judge Lawlor interpreted as an insult to the court and warned the lawyer that such conduct would not be tolerated.

The combatant attorneys having been quited and the witness having returned to his seat, he continued his story.

Washington, D. C., May 21.—Attorney General Wickersham to-day sent to District Attorney Langdon at San Francisco a full statement regarding Francis J. Heney's connection with the government, including the amounts of money paid him. This statement was sent to Langdon in response to a telegram received from Patrick Colhoun and to letters sent here by New York attorneys interested in the Calhoun defence. Heney is now carried on the rolls as a special assistant attorney general.

It is stated on reliable authority here that Wickersham's statement shows that Heney has been paid $65,000 in the past six years for his work for the federal government.

—W. F. Glover, formerly manager of the Elite bowling parlors, Fort street, was charged in the police court on Friday with theft of $17, being part of money received as manager for the company, which the prosecution alleges he failed to hand over to the firm, T. J. W. Hick a partner in the firm said accused had been employed on salary and had collected payments for advertisements which he had not turned in. Accused pleaded not guilty and asked for a remand to engage counsel. He was remanded on $100 bail until Wednesday next.

—Senator Riley and Mrs. Riley have got home from Ottawa, where they have been since the session began. The senator looks well and says he is glad to be back in a decent climate after an eastern winter.

G. L. H. MIDDLETON IS ACQUITTED IN COURT

No Evidence to Show That Money Was Obtained by False Pretenses.

After bickering and quarreling for two hours in the police court on Friday one with the other, Richard Lowe, counsel for the prosecution in the case against G. L. H. Middleton, told J. A. Aikman, the solicitor for the defence, he would meet him outside later on and settle all differences. The defending lawyer asked the prosecuting lawyer for the right to choose between pistols and swords when the magistrate told both their constant bickering showed a great lack of courtesy to the court.

At the close of the evidence the magistrate found accused, G. L. H. Middleton not guilty and dismissed the case. The accused was charged with obtaining money by false pretenses from Maynard & Sons. The prosecution put G. H. Maynard in the witness box. He gave evidence that the money had not been obtained from him or his firm by false pretenses.

The wife of accused gave evidence that she was possessed of considerable money when she married accused, and that his father had given him $400. It had all later become community property in a joint account. They had gone on a trip to Denver and stored the furniture with Smith & Champion. On return the husband had ordered the furniture removed to the auction room, where it was sold last week and the money paid over to him. Accused had then taken a ticket for Denver and obtained a bank draft for $250. The proceeds of the furniture sale amounted to $143. The magistrate said there was evidently a disagreement between husband and wife over their finances, but there was no evidence before the court that accused had obtained money by false pretenses from Maynard & Sons.

Middleton was fined $20 on Tuesday for carrying a loaded revolver and has been in jail unable to pay the fine, as all his funds were tied up in the draft, which has been in the possession of the police. The court on Friday ordered the draft and documents found on accused when arrested, returned to his solicitor.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT CEDAR HILL

Will Be Held Shortly by Oak Leaf Club—Membership Increases.

(Special Correspondence.)

Gordon Head, May 21.—The members of the Oak Sea Tennis Club play at their court at Cedar Hill every afternoon and evening. A number of people have lately joined the club and a tournament is to be held shortly.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie has placed his farm, Braefoot, under the management of Edward Harrop.

Robert Scott has chosen a beautiful site for his new house on Tyndall avenue. Excavations are being made for the basement and Mr. Scott intends building soon.

GRANTED DIVORCE.

New York, May 21.—Helen Kelly Gould was granted a divorce yesterday from Frank J. Gould. The report of the referee favoring her suit was confirmed by Justice Gerard, of the supreme court, who granted an interlocutory decree of divorce.

Mrs. Gould is allowed the custody of two children of the marriage, Helen Margaret and Dorothy, from December to April, both inclusive, and Mr. Gould from May to November, subject to certain modifications. The defendant is held responsible for the education of the two children and also for their medical attention. No provision is made for alimony, nor is the name of any co-respondent named.

The Goulds were married in 1902. Mrs. Gould is a daughter of the late Eugene Kelly, the banker, and is wealthy in her own name.

DUTY ON FINISHED LUMBER.

Washington, May 21.—It was announced to-day that the senate finance committee had determined to reduce the proposed rates on finished lumber. The concessions have not been decided upon as yet, and will depend largely upon what action is taken on rough lumber.

Senator Culberson, of Texas, made a bitter attack upon the protective tariff to-day. He declared that it increased the cost of living out of all proportion to the increase in wages, and enabled American protected manufacturers to sell cheaper to foreigners than to the home consumers.

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