The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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AN IMPERIAL DUTY.

The Colonist has placed itself squarely on record in regard to the need of action by the Dominion in the matter of self-defence, but another duty devolves upon the people of this country, and we are rich enough to undertake it. The protection of the Mother Country may not be our first duty, but it stands upon the same level as the protection of our own land.

The announcement by the First Lord of the Admiralty that Germany is increasing her navy at an unexpected rate imposes an obligation upon British people everywhere. It is an obligation which no one anticipated. We have all been under the comfortable assurance that the United Kingdom was able to maintain the two-power standard without unduly burdening her people. There seems to be some doubt on this point, and that being the case we think it is the duty of the people of Canada to give a helping hand. If more battleships are needed than the British government feels that the highly taxed people of Britain can afford to pay for, let Canada build one and present it to the Royal Navy.

We believe that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier would rise in his place in Parliament and inform the House that he proposed to ask for a vote for that purpose, such an expression of hearty approval would go up from one end of Canada to the other as would surprise the world.

The people of Canada can afford to give the navy a battleship of the most approved type. They can afford to give more than one for that matter. The time has come to show the world that the Empire is a unit.

We have no desire to introduce politics into a question of such a character, but it is the simple truth to say that the Dominion government lags behind public opinion in this respect. The people of Canada are ready to help the Mother Land, and a very great majority of them will regret exceedingly if they are not given the chance to do so. A signal opportunity has come to Canada, and we earnestly hope that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will seize upon it and give voice to the sentiments of the people. We await not without anxiety the course which he will take.

NON-PARTIZANSHIP.

A contemporary, commenting upon the suggestion of the Colonist to the effect that, while newspapers may properly enough fight election campaigns as vigorously as they know how, they ought between elections to abstain from the persistent discussion of everything from the partizan point of view, says this means that a paper "should be an ostrich." We confess to being unable to see the point of this observation. The particular characteristic of the ostrich to which our contemporary refers is its alleged habit of burying its head in the sand, which we are told is the expedient resorted to by the silly bird under the impression that when it sees nobody, nobody can see it. We confess to ignorance of what is in the mind of the ostrich, if it does the thing referred to, and we also confess to being unable to see wherein the course suggested by the Colonist bears the slightest relation to such absurd tactics. There are some newspapers, which think it necessary to proclaim daily that they are Liberal or Conservative as the case may be, and there are some people who have doubt as to the loyalty of a newspaper to the party with which it is in sympathy if it does not manage at least once a day to laud and magnify its friends and pour maledictions upon its opponents. For six years and more some of the Liberal papers of British Columbia and a good many Liberal papers in other parts of Canada have been after the scalp of the McBride ministry, but not only is the scalp still in its place, but it is seemingly more vigorous than ever. There is not even any reason to believe a political hair tonic to be at all necessary. In like manner for the last thirteen years many of the Conservative papers in Canada have been belaboring the Laurier ministry day after day, but at the last advices from Ottawa that aggregation of dreadful men were still comfortably reclining on the treasury benches without the least fear of anything disastrous happening. This constant attack upon political opponents only has the effect of wearying every one except the few partizans, who, unless they get a dose of political venom with their morning porridge or their evening night-cap, think the whole world has gone wrong.

There is a great non-partizan work to be done in Canada, and in our humble judgment the newspapers could with advantage devote themselves to it. There ought to be no insuperable difficulties in the way of discussing, say, the irrigation problem in British Columbia without a sneer at the Chief Commissioner; it ought to be possible to talk about the Grand Trunk Pacific and the country it will open up without a fling at the Prime Minister. We ought as Canadians to be able to treat those things which pertain to the national advantage without representing that the country is going to the dogs because our opponents are in power at the federal or provincial capitals. We ought not to fear to admit that great good will result from something for fear that it may be construed into an admission that our opponents have been not wholly foolish or criminal. If to do these things is "to be an ostrich" we can only say that it is a pity there are not more ostriches in the country.

THE U. S. TARIFF

While the changes in the United States tariff do not go as far as was expected by some Canadians in respect to the admission of pulp and paper into that country, they go far enough to make it very evident that after a little the barriers will be thrown down and that too without any corresponding concessions from this country. For the present there will be a duty on pulp and paper unless the Canadian authorities, federal and provincial, refrain from imposing anything that resembles an export duty. We are not in possession of the tariff Bill, but the report of the committee, which examined this phase of the tariff was as follows:

Mechanically ground wood pulp, one-twelfth of one cent per pound, dry weight; provided, however, that mechanically ground wood pulp shall be admitted free of duty from any country, dependency, Province, or other subdivision of Government which does not forbid or restrict the exportation of or impose any export duty, export license fee, or other export charge of any kind whatsoever, either directly or indirectly (whether in the form of additional charge or license fee, or otherwise) upon mechanically ground wood pulp or wood for use in the manufacture of wood pulp.

Chemical wood pulp, unbleached, one-sixth of one cent per pound, dry weight; bleached, one-fourth of one cent per pound, dry weight; provided, that if any country, dependency, or Province shall impose an export duty or other export charge of any kind whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, on pulp wood exported to the United States, the amount of such export duty or other export charge shall be added as an additional duty to the duties herein imposed upon wood pulp when imported from such country, dependency, or Province.

We are not sure how this is to be understood. There is no impost of any kind upon pulp wood exported from any of the provinces except Ontario and British Columbia; at least that is how we understand the matter. There is, indeed, no specific impost upon the export of pulp wood from this province, but there is no doubt that the provisions governing the cutting of timber have that effect. There may be an open question as to whether under the proposed United States tariff ground wood pulp could be sent to that country free of duty from the provinces in which there is no such prohibition. There is no reason to suppose that the federal authorities will impose a duty on exported pulp wood.

We notice from interviews printed in the Toronto Star that the lumbermen of that city think the lowering of the duty on lumber will be a good thing for Canada, although some of them admit that it may lead to an increase of price in Canada. One of those interviewed said that an agitation might arise for the imposition of an export duty on all Canadian timber, but we greatly doubt this. The views of Mr. D. D. Mann and Mr. George S. Lindsey, recently president of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company, have so much of a local application that we quote them in full from the Star:

According to Mr. Lindsey, manager of the Crow's Nest Pass company, British Columbia would be affected in at least five respects by the proposed American tariff revision.

"In lumber it means a wider market," said Mr. Lindsey to the Star this morning. In bituminous coal and coke, if Canada reciprocates, there's an enlarged and increased American market for British Columbia. As Canada imposes no duty on coke, the American duty will be removed. Canada does levy 53 cents on bituminous coal, so reciprocity is a condition here. In pulpwood and lumber British Columbia will derive a decided benefit. In one particular, zinc, the new tariff is unfavorable, as a duty of one cent a pound on zinc in ore is proposed. However, the important commodities are, lumber, pulpwood, coal and coke, and such changes are favorable."

"Any change that the Americans may make in their tariffs on iron and steel will not affect the iron industries of Canada, at least, not for some time to come."

So spoke Mr. D. D. Mann of the Mackenzie & Mann interests, when seen this morning with reference to the Payne tariff.

"It is not that we have not in Canada sufficient iron ore for export purposes, for we have. The reason we are not injured or helped by any change the United States may put into force is that the iron mines have not been developed enough to allow export trade. There is ample demand in Canada for all the ore which the mines turn out, and it will continue so for some years. In time, perhaps, enough ore may be dug out of the earth to allow some of it to be exported, but by then we won't be worrying over tariff changes.

"I am glad to see that pulp has been put on the free list," went on Mr. Mann. "That is as it should be. We have an inexhaustible supply of material in this country, if the proper protection is afforded our forests in the matter of planting trees and fire protection. In addition, the trees grow fast. That being the case, when the duty is taken off pulp, it can be manufactured in this country. Under the old tariff the wood went in free, and the American water power was used to manufacture the pulp. Now, we can use our unlimited water resources to turn out the pulp, and it gives the United States the opportunity of using its water power for other purposes."

The putting of pulp on the free list is contingent upon Canada's not putting on an export duty. In Mr. Mann's opinion there is no reason for Canada doing anything of the sort. An export duty would have for its object the protection of the pulp manufacturers, but with pulp on the free list into the States, the manufacturers are given that very protection.

"Any country that is a manufacturing country should let in all materials free," went on Mr. Mann. "It not only protects the native raw material, but gives more work to the manufacturing concerns themselves."

Mr. Mann stated that there should be no duty on coal.

"The geographical positions of the two countries show that," he said. "Here in Eastern Canada, in Ontario and Quebec, we have no coal, while to the south of us is an unlimited supply. In the Western States there is no coal, while to the north, in Canada, is another unlimited supply. Why shouldn't there be free trade in coal? If there were it would do away with the long haulage over the railways from coast to coast in Canada, and from coast to coast in the States."

A PROMISING CENTRE.

We have very great hopes of the future of Duncan and the surrounding country. If you do not know about the attractiveness of that part of Vancouver Island, the loss is yours. It is a delightful spot. Nature has been lavish in bestowing her favors on it. Beginning at Cowichan Bay, with its lovely outlook over the placid water to the Islands beyond, with their striking outlines, and extending up to the head of Cowichan Lake, with its lofty hills clad in magnificent forest, there is an area where every prospect pleases, and where so far from man being vile, there are about the best lot of folk to be encountered anywhere. To be sufficiently beloved of the gods to be able to live in Duncan or thereabouts has only one drawback, and it is that it is such a good gift that those who receive it have no justification in expecting anything more either now or hereafter. In all seriousness the Cowichan Valley, which includes more than the valley of the Cowichan river, for all the delightful region adjacent thereto is referred to herein, is ideal from the standpoint of those persons who want a home amid pleasant surroundings. One of these days this will be a great pleasure resort.

Nowhere are the fertility of the soil and the geniality of the island climate better demonstrated than in the locality now under consideration. There are doubtless other places that are just as good, but they are not so well known and are not so readily accessible. In passing we may add that in Duncan and vicinity can be seen what can be done in a score and more of places on Vancouver Island, when the transportation problem has been solved. But just now we are speaking only of this delightful valley. If you never have spent a summer day there, do not let this coming summer pass without doing so, and it would be just as well to make your arrangements to stay two days, for you will not want to come home. It will not be long before all the hotels there will have to be enlarged and there will be several more tourist hotels at Cowichan Bay and the Lake.

AMERICANIZATION ?

A modest little paragraph in Sunday's Colonist has aroused the ire of a correspondent, whose letter we print this morning. He sees in the fact of mention being made that Admiral Evans, U.S.N., was to deliver a lecture, the surplus proceeds of which were to go to the Maternity Ward of the Royal Jubilee Hospital, proof of the Americanization of Canada. It is the habit of the Colonist to assist all public institutions in every way it can, and when an entertainment of any kind is given in their interest, mention is made of the fact, and we fail to see why the rule should be departed from simply because the lecturer happened to be a United States admiral. We do not know what "British concert" our correspondent referred to, but if there was any of which Colonist readers were not notified, the fault must have been with those having the entertainment in charge. In order that what we have said above about notices may not be understood, we may add that some little sense of proportion must be observed, and at the risk of incurring our correspondent's further displeasure, we will say that an entertainment, got up by a local organization in which a distinguished representative of another country is to take part, is on rather a different footing from an ordinary amateur concert, although these frequently get a very great deal of free publicity from the Colonist.

Our correspondent refers to some municipal matters in which he thinks we are following our neighbors too closely. A little consideration should have shown him that this arises out of necessity. Much as most of us would like to see the United Kingdom drawn upon for such services as he mentions, such a course is quite out of the question, and we can depend upon the eastern provinces only to a limited degree. Our United States neighbors are dealing with the same problem as we are, namely the opening of a new country, and we would be exceedingly foolish not to avail ourselves of the result of their experience. Take the matter of street paving. The City Council sent a committee to examine the streets of the nearby cities, because they are nearby, and therefore are not only cheaply and conveniently reached, but are grappling with the very same questions as we have to deal with. Doubtless veery much of advantage might be learned by a committee of the City Council, if one were sent to Great Britain to study the street question, but that would be a case to which Tennyson's words, "so loyal is too costly," might be applied. We must use as object lessons the things which are close at hand. In regard to articles bought in the United States, they are probably bought there by the city for the very same reason that public and private purchases for Great Britain are made in the United States, namely, that what is wanted can be got there more advantageously than anywhere else.

LEARNING FRENCH.

The Toronto News thinks there would be a better understanding between the different elements of the Canadian people if more English-speaking Canadians would learn to speak French. Possibly so; quite probably so. The humiliation of soul, that the average English-speaking person would have to undergo before he or she was able to speak French so as to be intelligible to a Frenchman, would have the effect of a penance and the average person aforesaid would be ready to acknowledge the superiority of all and several of his fellows, from Doukhobors to French-Canadians. Speaking generally, it may be said that the English-speaking Canadian is about the worst linguist in all the world, and the same observation holds good, although possibly in a smaller degree, to the people of England. Our tongues are stubborn; our ears are bad; our sense of dignity is so perverted that we regard a foreign language as an abomination and a needless infliction. The meek and lowly Chinaman comes to our shores. Does any one of us take the trouble to learn even one word of his language? Not at all. We insist that he shall learn ours and he does, and we call him stupid and anything else we can think of if he does not "savey" what we mean when he has been in the country forty-eight hours, but we will live in a French community twenty-seven years, and never get beyond "Bon jour" or something like that. We may pick up a few words but they are of no earthly value. We are like the man who went to a school to be cured of stammering and after twenty lessons learned to say "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" without a break, but remarked later "I f-f-fail to see what use I c-c-c-can m-m-make of that in ordinary c-c-conversation." It would certainly be a delightful thing if we could all speak French so that other people could understand us. You have heard of the man who went into a Paris restaurant and, when the garcon approached him, said: "J'ai faim." The ignorant foreigner—all foreigners are ignorant—understood him to say: "J'ai femme," and that he meant he was waiting for a lady to join him. The man waxed wroth because his wants were not ministered to, whereupon he called the waiter to him again and, thinking that possibly his idiom was at fault said: "Je suis faim." The waiter understood him to say, "Je suis femme," and reported the matter to the proprietor, who sent for the police, who arrested the visitor under the impression that he was a woman masquerading in man's clothes. And yet the Toronto News would have us all learn to speak French. The advice would be more acceptable if, as some humorist has said, "them foreigners did not spell so much better than they pronounce."

MR. MARTIN'S SUGGESTION

Mr. Joseph Martin has suggested that Canada should remove all duties from imports from the United Kingdom. Like most of Mr. Martin's suggestions, this is very interesting. He has the advantage which comes from being a political free lance, who can suggest anything without being bound to stand by it. Our experience with Mr. Martin in British Columbia is that he is better at stating objects rather than in showing how to reach them. He has certainly given us all something to think about, and when he reaches England he is very likely to be heard from again on this topic.

We are glad of one thing in connection with Mr. Martin's latest departure, and that is his hostility to the notion that the solidarity of the Empire depends upon the adoption of a policy of protection by the United Kingdom and the granting of a preference to the over-seas Dominions. If that were the corner stone of the Empire, we should have grave fears of the superstructure. This is not to say that politically and economically such a plan might not prove of immense advantage to all concerned. Many things are advantageous that are not necessary.

The Winnipeg Tribune expects to see Mr. Martin return to Canada after an interval and lay before the people of the Dominion his views along the lines indicated above. He will find many attentive listeners. Up to the present we have heard only the other side of the case. The new school of Imperialists in England seems to be unable to think about very little else than the effect of tariff reform, and a good many Canadians find it difficult to discriminate between what is at present only a local issue in the United Kingdom, the details of which have not been at all worked out, and the wider problem involved in the unity of our Empire in bonds that shall be both enduring and elastic. Apparently Mr. Martin will give a new tone to the discussion.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Mr. D. H. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Australia, has been talking to a newspaper man in Melbourne about the development of trade between the Commonwealth and the Dominion. He said that a preferential tariff is necessary to the rapid expansion of this trade, although it is even now growing, and that with the increase of population in the Western Provinces Australia will find a large and profitable market here for her exports. At certain times of the year he thinks that British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces will consume a good deal of fresh Australian fruit, because the seasons of the two countries are the exact opposite of each other; but he claims the demand for dried fruit would be very great, especially in the interior provinces, which now depend upon the Mediterranean countries for their supply. He thinks there would be considerable sale in Canada for Australian hardwoods. The only Canadian products, of which he spoke as likely to be sold in the Commonwealth, were manufactures, and if we include lumber in that category, we suppose he is fairly correct, although there is a large market available in Australia for British Columbia apples, for the same reason that Australian fresh fruit can be sold here to advantage at a certain time of the year. The question of trade with the Commonwealth is one of great interest, but there is not very much that Canada can do to foster it, owing to the unreadiness of our southern friends to make a preferential agreement with us.

Uncle Sam is going to endeavor to cut down expenses. The task will be a difficult one, as he has so long been reclining in the lap of luxury that he will dislike very much to give up his seat.

A balloon in a gale of wind is not a pleasant thing to be attached to, as a party of five men from Los Angeles are prepared to testify. Experiments in aerial navigation are not to be gone into lightly by amateurs.

The cessation of work at some of the mines in the Boundary country, due to the low price of copper, it is to be hoped will be only temporary. Unfortunately copper-producing properties are to a more or less extent always at the mercy of the market for that metal.

It is to be hoped that there will be a full attendance of the subscribers to the general funds of the Vancouver Island Development League at the Board of Trade rooms this afternoon. Matters of pressing importance are to be discussed and it is imperative that the work for which the League has been established should be undertaken immediately.

Admiral Sir William Kennedy made a remarkable declaration during the course of a speech in London the other day. Referring to the wrangling in the House of Commons as to one or more Dreadnoughts he said: "Who cares for that? Don't let us have any wrangling about any more Dreadnoughts. Tell the gentlemen over the water that we will build two for their every one. Tell them that we will go on building, if we have to spend fifty millions a year. That is the answer to such garbage as that."

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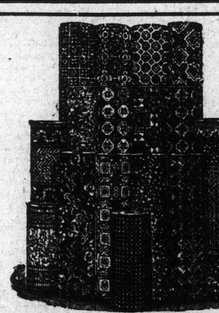

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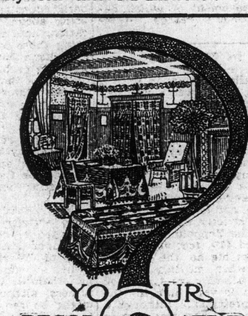

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CAPT. TATLOW PRAISES SEATTLE EXHIBITION

Location Is Ideal and the Fair Will Be Ready in Plenty of Time.

(From Thursday's Daily)

"I was amazed at the extent of the buildings and the amount of work already done at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition," said the Hon. Capt. Tatlow yesterday on his return from a visit to Seattle. "They are going to have a beautiful exhibition which reminded me very much of the White City, as the Franco-British exhibition was called, which I visited in London last year."

Capt. Tatlow has just returned from a trip to the Sound metropolis, where he went to see Col. Hutchinson, who is in charge of the Canadian exhibit. The colonel is an expert in exhibitions and has had charge of the arrangements and installations of the Dominion exhibits at a number of worlds' fairs, and his handiwork at Dublin and London was generally considered the most attractive of any of the displays made. He is surrounded by an expert staff, and Canadians will have no reason to be ashamed of the efforts made in their behalf when they visit Seattle this year.

Capt. Tatlow assured Col. Hutchinson that the local government would be pleased to do what it could in the way of lending assistance. There is to be no separate exhibit from British Columbia, but the province will be represented in the general Canadian display. All the government agents throughout the province will do what they can to help in the way of collecting and forwarding what is needed, and the local contributions will take the shape chiefly of timber, fish, mineral and agricultural products.

Ideal Location.

Speaking of the fair, Capt. Tatlow said:

"They have an ideal location for an exhibition with a beautiful lake coming up to the grounds and the snow-capped mountains in the background. At the Franco-British exhibition they had painted scenery to form a background. It was very cleverly and realistically done, but in Seattle they have the real thing.

"I was amazed to see how much work had been accomplished. Many of the buildings are already finished and it is possible now to form an idea of what the exhibition will be like. The grounds are already visited by crowds of people at a charge of 25 cents a head. The most backward of the buildings seemed to be that of the American government, but they are working hard at it and it should be finished in time.

"The Canadian building is nearly ready and Col. Hutchinson told me that there were nine carloads of exhibits already there awaiting unloading. It is situated just east of what in Europe would be called the court of honor, and just behind the Music pavilion. Many of the buildings are exceedingly beautiful architecturally, and with two exceptions all are white. This will give a very beautiful effect, like that which was so much admired at the Franco-British exhibition in London, and which earned for it the name of the White City. The exceptions are the very handsome Forestry building, done in the Corinthian style with immense pillars made out of huge fir trunks. The Arctic Brotherhood is also putting up a pavilion in the shape of a log cabin which is beautifully situated overlooking a little bay formed by the lake.

"Seattle is certainly a wonderful place. They are working night and day getting the streets and approaches to the grounds in shape. As I came home from the theatre last night, the steam shovels were at work and the utmost activity prevailed. There is no doubt in my mind but that the exhibition will be ready on time, and that it will be an achievement of which Seattle will have every reason to be proud."

WAR IN THE AIR.

A dirigible balloon, equipped with a searchlight and, with twenty-six men aboard, flying through the air at the rate of fifty miles an hour, is the latest development in aerial navigation. The possibilities of such a means of transportation may be very great, although it is absurd to suppose, as some do that an army can be moved by such means. But the dirigible balloon men are not having everything their own way. The artillerists are after them, or more strictly speaking the gun makers. The Zeppelin airship is 445 feet long and 49½ feet wide. That is it is nearly as big as the Dreadnought. Even when moving at top speed it would afford a pretty good target. When it is very high in the air it might be pretty safe, although a projectile can be sent about as high as any airship would go. Professor Herici is authority for saying that a projectile, fired from a cannon during the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, went considerably more than three miles high. It was discharged from a gun trained at an angle of 45 degrees. Trained at a higher angle a gun could send a projectile a very long way up although we do not suppose the ordnance that would be used to attack airships would have the energy of that used in the experiment mentioned. The new gun designed to destroy airships, is so constructed, when in action the wheels are turned at right angles to the gun, which can be revolved rapidly in a circle on them, like a spade being the centre of the circle. It can be elevated to any angle, and the sighting is not done along the barrel but by an ingenious arrangement which does not require the gunner to assume any difficult position. The projectile to be discharged is designed to set the gas in the balloon on fire. A mere hole through the gas bag would not do any considerable damage. The inventor of the new gun is confident that he can destroy airships at his pleasure, no matter how fast they may move through the air. This seems like the old contest of guns versus armor over again, but presumably the airship has limitations which a seagoing ship has not.

Crook Sentenced.

K. J. Hofyard, alias H. Henderson, alias H. J. Harvey, pleaded guilty yesterday morning to passing two worthless cheques, one for $14 and the other for $16. He was given a year on each count. The man was only recently released from jail, where he scerved nine months' sentence on a similar charge.

Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Layard, from Salt Spring Island, are down in Victoria.