The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE MEXICAN LINE.

It is stated upon what seems to be good authority that the management of the Canadian-Mexican steamship line, which receives a subsidy from the Dominion government, insists that all business shall be done from Vancouver. The control seems to be in the hands of Captain Worsnop, whose brother is in business in Vancouver and is also Mexican vice-consul there. The matter calls for prompt attention from the authorities at Ottawa. The subsidy is not for a line from Vancouver only to Mexico, and we submit that Victoria, Chemainus, Nanaimo and Ladysmith ought to be put upon equal terms with the city on the Mainland. Our information is that the attention of Mr. Templeman has been called to this matter, and if necessary the Board of Trade ought to make a strong protest against the proposed policy. The energy which Captain Worsnop has devoted to this business is very commendable, but it is not his private affair, nor ought it to be used to the special advantage of his personal friends. Naturally he might be disposed to send as much business as he can to his brother, and if the line was not in receipt of a subsidy from the Dominion, no one would have the slightest right to complain at his favoring one port or one individual. But the enterprise is to a certain degree a public one and the government, it seems to us, is in duty bound to see that it is carried on in the public interest, and if our information is correct this is not wholly the case at present.

SETTLING THE PROVINCE.

The News-Advertiser discusses the settlement of the public lands of British Columbia, and it seems to be of the opinion that the proper way to go about it is to develop some particular district as near as possible to existing means of communication. It says that where settlers are permitted to choose their own locations, they make demands for roads and bridges, which create large calls upon the public revenue without adequate results. There is a good deal in this latter point, although there may be some doubt if our contemporary has proposed the best solution of the colonization question. If its views were adopted the government would practically restrict settlement to certain areas, and there is great room for doubt if any ministry is the best judge of the localities where it is desirable that settlers should go. We know that there has been strong objection in some quarters in British Columbia to avail ourselves of the services of colonization companies as intermediaries, but perhaps it might be possible to devise a plan that would not be open to any serious criticism. The moment it is proposed to sell land to a colonization company, there is at once an outcry, against parting with the people's heritage and permitting private individuals to make a profit. We are asked why the government cannot be its own colonization agent and make the profit itself. This question can be readily answered by those who take the trouble to investigate the matter. Such persons know that it is quite impossible for a government to act successfully in colonization lines, that is, in selecting people and locating them on farms, and as for the profit, we do not believe it would be possible for a government to do colonization work and make any money out of it. Proposals have been made to the government for the purchase of large areas under conditions that might with some modification be acceptable. We are told that some of these conditions were that the land should be paid for after survey and that there should be a time limit within which it was to be settled; that the purchasers undertook to construct highways and schoolhouses where necessary and to keep them in repair for a fixed term. In return the company was to be at liberty to set its own price upon the land. We do not know that any such applications are now pending. There may be objections to doing business along such lines as these, but we are not aware of any that could not be met by a carefully framed agreement.

AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy is very optimistic. The interview which we print this morning is very pleasant reading, especially so far as the condition of the money market and the crop outlook are concerned. He is not quite so enthusiastic over a fast All-Red route as some other people, but he looks forward to something being done no very distant date. The very admirable manner in which the Canadian Pacific has been handled under the presidency of Sir Thomas has no doubt exercised a potent influence upon the regard in which Canadian investments are held in Britain. He reminds us that the British investor looks doubtfully upon enterprises that are problematical in their outcome and will have very little to do with the promoter, who has everything to gain and nothing to lose. Fortunately for Canada there has been a great weeding out of such projects during recent years.

The crop prospects are excellent, and this observation applies not only to the prairie provinces but to the whole of Canada and to the greater part of the prairie of the United States also. This means more for the country than be easily foretold. While it is too soon for it to have any direct effect upon the general financial situation, it will do much to encourage a hopeful feeling. Sir Thomas speaks of a return to a period of "rational prosperity." He does not anticipate any period of inflated values, and we are sure that no one wants it. The splendid manner in which Canada weathered the financial storm of last year and the rapid way in which matters are righting themselves all over the world is one of the most notable things of the time, illustrating that the general public is steadily becoming more independent of the manipulators of funds. This is due to the fact that the distribution of wealth is much more general than it formerly was.

AS TO JAPAN.

Those who heard or have read Professor McGregor's address to the Canadian Club cannot fail to have been impressed with the amount Canadians have to learn about Japan. One point the club's guest particularly emphasized, namely, the present tendency of the Japanese people. As a military and naval power they have demonstrated their fitness to stand in the front rank, and they are now devoting themselves to economic development. They are studying commerce and industrial pursuits. They realize that they have much to learn before they can claim equality in these with Occidental nations, but they are apt students and determined to succeed. We see no reason to doubt that in the course of not many years the Japanese will occupy the same position commercially and industrially as they now do in the sphere in which they lately gained such signal triumphs. This is a matter of tremendous importance. The Japanese are an economical race, and if they succeed in developing as great industrial skill as we have in America, they will dominate the whole Orient, and unless we are prepared in some way to meet them we may find ourselves "cribbed, cabinned and confined" to our own Continent. We recommend this matter to the very serious consideration of all students of political economy and especially those who look at such questions from the standpoint of labor. We hardly know what to suggest. Perhaps there is nothing of value that any one can suggest at present. Perhaps the only thing to be done is to study the possibilities of the situation very carefully. One thing is certain. We cannot go on treating Japan industrially as a negligible quantity. The millions of dollars invested in manufacturing plants, and the millions of people depending upon their profitable operation in America and elsewhere may be very seriously affected in the near future by Japanese competition. Asia has been held up as the great consumer of the products of Occidental skill and ingenuity, but it is quite possible that Japan may occupy the field.

TEDDY AND BILLY.

An amusing story comes from Berlin, that is, it is amusing to those who possess the saving grace of humor. We do not expect that it will be much appreciated in the United States, where anything reflecting upon the foreign relations of that country cannot by any possibility be amusing. The story is that the Polish residents of the United States wanted President Roosevelt to protest to the German government most vigorously against the laws recently passed in Prussia providing for the expropriation of the property of the Poles under certain conditions. As a presidential election is pending, the Polish vote was thought to be important, and therefore the incumbent of the White House, with an amiable desire to help his dear friend, Mr. Taft, was said to be about to inform the Kaiser in a Pickwickian way that he ought really not to treat the Poles as the Prussian parliament proposes. Thereupon the Prussian newspapers began to intimate in pretty plain language that Mr. Roosevelt had better mind his own business; but the Kaiser is said not to have been satisfied with these semi-official hints, and to have caused Mr. Roosevelt to be informed, very informally of course but none the less positively, that if he interfered in the domestic affairs of Prussia "the German government would be compelled to resort to the most drastic diplomatic extremes by way of expressing its objection." This is as far as things have gone. It is now Mr. Roosevelt's play, and the gossips of Berlin are wondering just how he will take the Kaiser's "unambiguous notification."

The whole story is probably the invention of some meek and lowly correspondent without the fear of either Teddy or Billy before his eyes. There are such people in the world, difficult as it may be to imagine that any one could be so utterly regardless of the eternal principles of—well, we hardly know what to say, as to be guilty of the lese majeste, scandalum magnatum and other things like that involved therein. We do not think there is much chance of President Roosevelt making an exhibition of himself as would be involved in the proceeding which he is alleged to have contemplated.

A STEP FORWARD.

Rear-Admiral Kingsmill, of the Royal Navy, is on his way to Canada to take command of the Marine Service of the Dominion. It is stated that he is to be entrusted with the organization of a naval militia on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The government steamer Canada is to be used for instructional purposes, and men will receive training in seamenship and gunnery. The new fishery cruiser to be built for the Pacific coast will be employed in the same way. While this is not a very great advance, it is a step in the direction which Canada ought to take. To contributions to the Royal Navy there are objections which are not easily answered; but there is no argument whatever against the assumption by the Dominion of some share in the defence of its coasts. This is the attitude which seems to find favor throughout the country.

We hope and believe that the proposed step is only a beginning, and that in a short time it will be followed by some such plan as Admiral Fleet proposed about a year ago. We ought to have a cruiser or two and a few torpedo boats and destroyers on this coast, as a sort of "first aid." We do not suppose that Canada can expect for many years to come to dispute with any nation the palm of naval supremacy, but we ought not to stand perfectly helpless as we are at present. We could well assume the duty of policing the western coast of America in the interests of the Empire. Until we have done this, we will fall short of our duty. But a step forward is to be taken, and for this much, thanks.

"A SEA OF MOUNTAINS."

The Premier and Provincial Secretary have returned from a trip through that part of British Columbia, which a brilliant parliamentarian described as "a sea of mountains". Not very many people at the time thought that Mr. Blake was very far astray in his picturesque phrase. The few of us, who then paid attention to the geography of the western part of Canada, were of the opinion that there was not much in what are now Yale and Kootenay worthy of serious consideration. But as a matter of fact no one paid any great attention to that country except a few of the British Columbia pioneers, and even they were not over sanguine as to its future value. It still remains a sea of mountains, but between the mountains there are valleys, many of them broad and fertile, and in the mountains themselves are valuable stores of mineral. We have known about the existence of mineral for a good many years, but it is only recently that we have begun to appreciate what the fertility of the valleys means to the country. If any one had been asked ten years ago upon what the future of Yale and Kootenay would depend, he would undoubtedly have answered that it would be wholly upon its mines. We know better now. We know that great as will be the mineral output of this great region, its permanent source of wealth will be its fruit and other farms. In value the mineral output will exceed from year to year for a long time to come the yield of the farms, but the mines will in time become exhausted no matter how vast they may be, while the products of the soil can be continued indefinitely. This is an exceedingly interesting fact, and it has been brought out very prominently by the tour of the ministers. Just what the available cultivable area in southern British Columbia is cannot be definitely stated, and very much depends upon the amount of water that can be utilized, but it is very large.

A MODERN TENDENCY

Introducing his measure providing for old-age pensions, Mr. Asquith said:

There are two figures in our modern society which make an especially strong and, indeed, irresistible appeal, not only to our sympathy, but to something more practical, sympathy translated into a concrete and financial effort. One is the figure of the child. Since 1870 you have added to your annual provision for the education of the children of this country out of taxes and rates an annual sum of over twenty-four million pounds sterling. The other figure is the figure of old age, still unprovided for except by casual and unorganized effort, or by what is worse, invidious dependence upon poor law relief.

This is very interesting because it states in very succinct form the tendency of modern legislation. Governments and legislative bodies are beginning to realize that their duties lie more in the direction of promoting the welfare of the masses at home than of winning national glory abroad. There are many people, who think that the most desirable thing for a nation is to have a great foreign minister, but we are by no means sure of it. The foreign policies of nations have cost much in blood and treasure and have laid heavy burdens upon the poor. It is foreign policy that makes Europe an armed camp. There is quite a distinct line of demarcation in British politics on this question, and the Liberals are charged with paying too much attention to domestic affairs to the exclusion of what are called the greater questions of national interest; but we are inclined to think that a government that will aid the aged and the children will deserve well of the country and accomplish more real good than one that makes a spectacular record in foreign affairs.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

The London Daily Mail wants the Admiralty to despatch a powerful fleet of battleships on a tour round the world next year. The Mail thinks it timely to demonstrate to the self-governing colonies that Great Britain possesses finer ships than the United States. We like the suggestion, not so much to impress the people of the Colonies as for the purpose of showing the whole world that, while the present policy of the British government is to mass the fleet in places convenient to home waters, it is a fighting force that can, if needed, make itself felt in every quarter of the world. If we might be permitted to add to the suggestion, we would say that the fleet might fly the flag of Admiral His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness said at a speech delivered before the Colonial Institute the other day that he had probably been in more parts of the Empire than many of his auditors. It would be eminently fitting if he could make the grand tour once more, and this time in a representative of Britain's prowess on the seas. A tour such as has been proposed would be a wonderful thing, a great fleet circumnavigating the globe and calling on the way at British coaling stations, and visiting the capitals of Greater Britain. What a reception it would receive.

DISTURBING NEWS.

If the report from Harbin proves well founded, and the Chinese merchants in Manchuria are boycotting Japanese goods, serious developments may be anticipated. A boycott in southern China could be ignored in Tokio, but not one in Manchuria, where Japan's status is of prime importance from many points of view. The late war was far from settling conditions in the Chinese province. Indeed it left them in a more dangerous state than ever. Japan now makes certain claims in the nature of sovereignty; Russia does the same thing, and China seems determined to preserve her standing if possible. The chances for discord were grave enough without the boycott, which introduces a factor for which diplomacy may not be able to provide a remedy. There never was anything quite like this Chinese boycott. The people seem to have determined to avenge an insult to the nation. It is a very remarkable demonstration of democracy. People, who have lived long enough in China to understand the race, say that it is the most democratic country in the world, but it is a surprise to find people voluntarily making great sacrifices to do what their government is unable to do.

That the Japanese government will tamely submit to a movement calculated to check the commercial aspirations of the country at the very outset is hardly likely, especially now that it has spread to a region where that government thinks it has some rights. We do not look for any immediate step on the part of the Mikado's ministry, who cannot be at all desirous to precipitate a war with China; but if the boycott grows formidable, very serious trouble may be looked for.

PUBLIC MEN.

The Nelson News has an editorial suggested by some observations made by Mr. Martin Burrell in favor of the better treatment of Canadian public men. There is no doubt that much improvement is possible in that direction. But public men themselves are very much to blame for the prevalence of the contrary practice. They begin it on the floors of the House of Commons, where a certain number of them exhaust their ingenuity in saying disagreeable things about others. While the leaders of the parties do not themselves indulge in this sort of thing, they do very little to discountenance it. Possibly they may excuse themselves by saying that they are not the custodians of their colleagues' decency; but it is very difficult to believe that, if parliamentary discourtesy was sternly condemned in high quarters, we would not have less of it. From the House it spreads to the newspapers. It is always easy to write abusive things, and only those persons, who have to fill editorial pages day after day, know the temptation at times to follow the line of least resistance. Moreover, there is a class of near-politicians who thoroughly enjoy the abuse of their opponents, when the papers indulge in it. They are not given to that sort of thing themselves, and they will assume a lofty tone when spoken to about it and ask what else is to be expected of a newspaper. Nevertheless they like it, and they think a newspaper is giving its political party mighty poor support if it does not indulge in invective and abuse. When by some accident it happens that a paper on the other side hits them below the belt, they are indignant beyond measure. Generally speaking the editorial tone of Canadian newspapers in this respect is improving. There still linger a few specimens of prehistoric type, which always attribute dishonesty to their political opponents and cannot discuss any subject whatever without indulging in personalities, but even they are gradually becoming ashamed of themselves. Public men have these matters largely in their own hands. If they do not wish to be abused, they should avoid abusing others. If they wish to avoid personalities, they have only to discuss public questions on their merits.

Forty miles an hour in an aeroplane seems pretty fast traveling for a flying machine. The Wright machine did it.

Occasionally the public is reminded that there is such a thing as a Senate in Canada. It has just emerged from its normal obscurity to propose a plan to regulate the length of parliamentary debates.

Collier's has a fine poem on Memorial Day. It is by Bliss Carman. Mr. Carman is a Canadian of U. E. Loyalist stock. Curious, isn't it, that in a nation of more than eighty millions, no one could be found as available for this patriotic task as a son of Canada?

We congratulate the members of the Board of Park Commissioners on the very sensible programme they have arranged for the summer band concerts. We should like to regard the plan for this season as but the "thin end of the wedge" promising a larger and more comprehensive scheme in the not remote future.

The local public library statistics indicate a rapid growth in population. It is distinctly reassuring to see such an institution patronized so largely. As an elevating factor in the life of the community its influence must be considerable and of incalculable value at a time when the cheaper forms of amusement seem to have seized such a large share of public attention.

"A believer in Canada's destiny" resident in New York has forwarded a cheque for $10,000 to Ottawa towards the Quebec battlefields park. The identity of the generous donor has not been disclosed, but Canadians of all classes will greatly appreciate the gift, and not entirely because of its intrinsic value. Canada has very many staunch friends in the United States.

Next week's race meet promises to be a most successful affair. In respect to track facilities Victoria was never better situated; and as horsemen are unanimous in the opinion that this city is an ideal place for such an affair, and as the entries are large and representative, every factor for a really notable event would seem to be present.

The local grown strawberries were a little late in arriving, but they are none the less welcome. Those who profess to know whereof they speak, say that a bumper crop is assured, and that because of the backward season the market will shortly be glutted with berries, with a consequent slaughtering of prices. Housewives would probably be able to stand a "rate war" in strawberries with considerable equanimity.

With commendable promptitude the Mines Department has despatched the Provincial Mineralogist to the scene of the recent gold strike in the Findlay river region. In view of the conflicting reports that have reached the coast in respect to the value and extent of the new diggings and the fact that a stampede of prospectors and fortune hunters is threatening, it is highly important that an official report should be made at the earliest possible date.

The entry into the Esquimalt dry dock of the largest vessel it has ever accommodated—the Suveric—and the fact that in this instance its capacity has been taxed to the limit, directs attention anew to the need of immediate attention being given to the question of securing the erection of a larger basin. Already some business has been lost to the Esquimalt dock by its inability to accommodate vessels of the larger type now visiting these waters, and it requires no argument to show that this is a situation which will not improve as time passes.

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Simpler, cleaner and infinitely better than the old way; made in little sheets—a sheet for a tub; 26 sheets in a package. 10c worth will last an ordinary family six months. Get it from

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There Is a Hearty Welcome Awaiting Visitors Here

To the visitor in our town, here for a day or two only, or for the entire Summer, we would say: "Come in." We are glad to have you inspect the splendid things on display in this establishment. If you perchance see anything you would like to carry home as a memento of your visit, we shall be delighted to sell it to you. But don't imagine you are expected to buy. We think this is a pretty nice town, and ours a right nice shop, and we are not ashamed to have you look it over.

Newest Ideas in Fine China

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The critics of fine Porcelain searching for choice specimens will delight in examining the display and congratulate themselves that right at home may be found such a creditable and satisfactory showing.

We would appreciate an inspection. You are truly welcome and under absolutely no obligation to purchase.

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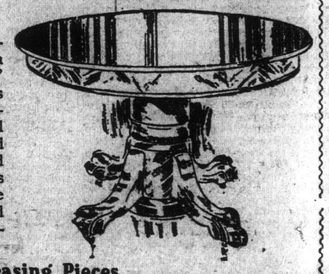

Here are a few items in the furniture way particularly desirable if you would have a dining room just a little "different" and just a little nicer than the "usual." These pieces are some of our newest and best efforts in Mission designs finished in that popular "Early English" style of finish. This style of furniture is ideal for the dining room. With suitable floor covering and hangings, a most attractive room can be arranged, and at little cost. Come in and see these items and let us figure on an "outfit" for your dining room, and come today. You'll find the furniture on the third floor, and carpets, etc., in plenty on our second floor. Other interesting items are to be found on these floors.

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ARM CHAIR—A new style in leather upholstered Arm Chair, specially suited for Dining Room use. Price, each.....$15.00

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EXTENSION TABLE—A pretty style in round table. This one is 48 inches in diameter and extends to 8 feet. Priced fair, at.....$35.00

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