

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE UNITED STATES FLEET

The Lieutenant-Governor will invite the United States fleet under the command of Admiral Evans to visit Victoria and Vancouver. We are very sure that the spirit in which this invitation has been extended will be very heartily appreciated by the people of the United States, who will be no less pleased to observe the fleet of Canada if the invitation is accepted. It is a subject of general congratulation that the feelings existing between Canada and the United States are of the most friendly character. The Dominion is coming into its own and regards without any feeling of jealousy every exhibition which its neighbor may make of its greatness on land and its prowess on the sea. It would give Canadians much pleasure to be able to extend a hearty welcome to Admiral Evans and the gallant men who command, and we are very certain that the officials of the Dominion will envy Victoria and Vancouver any opportunity that will be afforded them of expressing the very cordial feelings which inspire the breasts of all the citizens of the Dominion towards their cousins south of the International Boundary.

We express the opinion of all the people when we say that we hope Admiral Evans will be in a position to visit us and bring his whole fleet with him.

LOOKING TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

The representative of one of the largest commercial establishments in the United States was in the city the other day and in the course of a conversation said that the eyes of thousands of people in the United States were directed to British Columbia and that the influx of people and capital, which would shortly take place, would be without precedent. Other well-informed people speak in the same tone. There are many reasons for this, and among them are several that may be mentioned. The manner in which the Dominion as a whole and this province in particular have understood the effects of the great financial depression in the United States commands admiration all over the business world. The published bank statements are eagerly scanned by investors and when they read, as they have in regard to Victoria, for example, of steady gains, the impression created cannot be otherwise than very favorable. Another favorable influence is the prospect of extensive railway construction. This always is a magnet of great attractive power. Railway construction involving the expenditure of many millions in this province is assured. We believe it is no exaggeration to say that within the next ten years \$40,000,000 will be paid out for railway construction and betterments in the province, and it is safe to estimate that for every dollar expended in this way another dollar will be laid out by the building of towns, the development of mines, the occupation of farms, the construction of roads, trails and bridges, the building of tramways, the establishment of steamship lines, and the countless other things which the development of a new country calls for. The province itself will expend public works possibly \$15,000,000 in the next decade. The Dominion government will pay out a large sum. We venture to suggest that \$100,000,000 is not an excessive sum to estimate as likely to be expended in railway construction and in the other lines mentioned above during the next decade. It may be very much more than this. The work now being done by the Grand Trunk Pacific, including that planned at Prince Rupert, will amount to one-tenth of this sum, and the plans of the Canadian Pacific now in sight will involve perhaps as much more. Within ten years another \$10,000,000 and probably more will be spent on Vancouver Island alone. While we do not suppose this great prospect is appreciated in all its details by people in other places, there is a general conviction that the province has entered upon a period of exceptional development.

THE G. T. PACIFIC.

We print this morning a map showing the location of the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, as far as it has been definitely established and placed under contract, and also the location of the line under construction from the head of Kitimaat Arm to the junction with the transcontinental road. It may interest readers to know that lying north of the railway line there is a very fine region. It is connected with the Skeena valley in two ways. One is by the valley of the stream shown on the map as entering the Skeena at an Indian village, and the other by the Kispiox valley, which extends north from Hazelton, Hazelton, by the way, is about the distance further up the Skeena than the map takes in. These two valleys debouch into a large area drained by the Naas, where there is much good land, and not as a rule heavily timbered, and where the climate is very well adapted to farming. Thousands of people could find homes there. Some distance up the Naas there is a very fine water power, where energy could be developed sufficient to operate a railway opening this fine area. It is one of the finest water powers in the province and can be very easily harnessed. The country immediately along the line of the G. T. Pacific as laid down on the map is not adapted to settlement, but in the valley through which the road to Kitimaat runs there is said to be a large acreage suitable for farming. Speaking in a general way, the mileage now under construction and contract will make available for occupation a large and valuable part of the province. It is only when we come to consider British Columbia in detail that we can form any idea of its vast possibilities.

TEMPERANCE REFORM.

We notice that Mr. George E. Foster has been suggesting that arrangements ought to be made whereby the profit element can be taken out of the saloon business, and tea and coffee will be sold as well as intoxicants. We do not know how the process to reach such a result except by converting the retail liquor business into a government monopoly.

although there may be some other way that we do not at present see. It has been suggested to the Colonist that credit ought to be given to those keepers of saloons, of whom there are some, who strictly observe the law and are careful not to permit drinking to excess on their premises. We are glad to be informed that there are such persons in Victoria, and that we do not feel like commending the saloon business in any of its aspects. We do say that men, who honestly endeavor to observe the law and carry on their business with some regard to the dictates of humanity and morality, ought to receive the protection of the law against competition from those who break it and disregard all rules of decency, being apparently influenced by no other motive than to get as much money as possible out of their customers. There are some saloons in this town, which are kept on Sunday in strict compliance with the law, and the others which only make a pretence of closing, and in point of fact do their best business on that day. It seems idle for any one to say that the police cannot suppress the sale of liquor in saloons on Sunday. It is not carried on so secretly as to escape notice from casual observers, and we are very sure that the officers of the law cannot be ignorant of what is done. It is somewhat said that persons, who have reason to complain of such sales, ought to lay information against the guilty parties. Possibly this may be the case, but most people do not feel like doing so. They are not in the public lobby which such a step occasions, they do not wish to be called to the police court to give evidence and possibly have to attend over and over again to suit the convenience of counsel for the accused. They do not wish to subject themselves to cross-examination and the comments, which are too often made in police court cases. They are all the more disinclined to object themselves to these things when they know that, if they manage to secure a conviction, the action of the British Columbia government will only be to punish an individual and not to stop a practice. It is otherwise with the provisions taken in hand by the police. The violators of the law know what to expect. They know that the prosecutions are not directed so much against an individual as to secure the general observance of the law. So as to other violations of the statute by saloon keepers, the police, who are charged with seeing that the law is enforced, are the proper parties to lay information and secure evidence. Heretofore the Chief of Police has been handicapped by the limited force. He is in a better position now.

FORESTRY

In Forestry and Irrigation, a monthly publication issued at Washington, D.C., we find a very appreciative reference to the policy of the British Columbia government in placing the vacant crown lands under reforestation. A somewhat startling statement is made in that connection that the forest areas of the province will "furnish an output of not more than 100,000,000,000 feet of lumber, less than this country (the United States) uses in eighteen months." This seems like an extraordinary piece of calculation. We suppose that 100,000,000 acres in British Columbia is covered with forest, which we think is not an exaggeration, and that this forest averages 10,000 to the acre, there must be two exponents in the answer, not eleven as the Washington magazine makes it. That is, we have 1,000,000,000,000 superficial feet of standing timber in the province, which would be equal to the consumption of the United States for fifteen years. Whether our figures are high or low as to area and quantity of timber, they are clearly in line times too great. Forestry and Irrigation drew a conclusion from its erroneous total.

Our contemporary in the course of an editorial deals with the necessity for forest conservation in the United States. We quote: Consider the situation. As is well known to the readers of this publication, it includes such facts as the following: Our forests are going at a rate which will consume them in about a third of a century; the beginnings of a timber famine are already with us. The reclamation of our Western forests depends upon the existence of great forests in the mountains adjacent to the deserts. Largely through deforestation, one billion dollars worth of more fertile soil is annually being swept into our harbors and bays, and at one and the same time, impoverishing our fields, impairing our commerce, and occasioning disastrous floods, costing the nation annually some hundred million dollars. Our inland waters, our greatest natural resource, are largely running to waste, an amount representing an investment of more than one billion dollars running idly over government dams. To the conservation of these waters, forests are essential. The question, again, of draining our swamps is closely connected with that of conserving our forests. In a word, we are, by the power of steam, pursuing the course travelled on foot and the course that leads directly to national impoverishment, decay and senility.

Of course, we are far from having reached the stage above outlined in that direction. There are great areas in the interior mainland that have been burned off. There will be others. The north central part of the province is now about to be opened up. Fortunately the rainfall there is greater than in the southern part, so that nature will protect the forests to some extent, but it seems to us that a duty rests upon the government to make the most energetic effort to prevent damage being done to standing timber as the province is opened by railway construction and prospecting. The work of centuries can be destroyed in a summer afternoon, and millions of dollars' worth of property can be reduced to worthless ashes. As we look upon our tree-covered hills and valleys, we are apt to conclude that forest preservation is something that we need not think of here for a long time to come, and that reforestation there is on the part of theorists, the consideration of which we can dispense with for a generation or so. But we ought to remember that some of the men, who have come into this province and acquired timber lands are the same men who went into Michigan and Wisconsin and took up the forests there, and who thought when they did so that they were securing properties that would last for generations. Now their holdings in those states having been almost denuded of merchantable timber, they are coming to the virgin forests of British Columbia. Think of what this means! What were the greatest forest areas of the United States practically exhausted in less than a single generation of lumbermen, and during a period when the average population of the country was less than 60,000,000. Now it is over 80,000,000, and in addition to the hosts that are peopling that country, our own land is filling up with a population which will consume enormous timber supplies. We have no surplus timber. We have not enough. We must now take energetic steps to conserve our existing forests and to plant new ones to replace those that have been destroyed. This is one of the subjects to which the government of the province must address its attention. It is full of difficulties, but these must be faced and overcome. The subject will bear frequent discussion and we shall take occasion to refer to it again.

THE IMMIGRATION ACT.

Temporarily Mr. Justice Morrison has administered a coup de grace to the Immigration Act passed at the session of the legislature, and we cannot help but say that we are sorry, because his decision brings up the constitutionality of the whole Act, and we will learn now just what the jurisdiction of the courts is in respect to the constitutionality of the law. The judgment goes on the ground that, as the Dominion Parliament has passed a law that a master of a vessel shall land certain persons, the provincial legislatures have no authority to say that they may not land some of them. The actual point of the decision is not very material, because when the case gets into the appellate courts the whole legislation can be reviewed.

The province has done what lay in its power to resist the law in question. It is now for the courts to say if it possesses as much power as it has endeavored to exercise. Upon this point we are anxious for a decision. If the final court of appeal shall hold that the province does not possess the right, we shall have to seek our remedy in constitutional means as are open to us to secure recognition of the strength of our laws; if we have the right then we have done all that is necessary. The Colonist ventures to say that the action of the British Columbia government, endorsed unanimously by the legislature, had a potent influence on the course of the negotiations carried on by the Dominion government with Japan and in the sending of Mr. Mackenzie King to London to discuss the Hainan Island case. We feel we can say that the only object of the government in pressing the legislation upon the attention of the House of Commons was to bring about a satisfactory solution of the question of Oriental immigration, and this we seem to be doing. The Chief of Police has been handicapped by the limited force. He is in a better position now.

THE G. T. P. CONTRACT.

The contract for the first one hundred miles of the Grand Trunk Pacific from Prince Rupert eastward has been let. The work will cost \$6,000,000, somewhat less than the original estimate. This prompt action on the part of the company following the conclusion of the contract with the British Columbia government is very gratifying and shows that the company is actuated by perfect good faith in its negotiations. Much satisfaction will be felt over the province of this announcement. The hundred miles for which the contract has been let, and the forty miles of the line from the head of Kitimaat Arm, on which work will be pushed rapidly, will mean very good times along the coast. The last part of the road, which is built by the Grand Trunk Pacific under a charter granted to a provincial company will be used for the carriage of bulk goods into the interior pending the completion of the main line of the transcontinental railway.

THE HINDU PROBLEM.

The gravity of the questions involved in the disposition of certain classes of the population of India to immigrate to Canada, has been greatly appreciated by the press of Eastern Canada. We note with a very great deal of satisfaction a growing tendency on the part of our contemporaries in the other provinces to realize the nature of the issues involved in Oriental immigration generally, and it is especially satisfactory to find that the Hindu aspect of it is being treated with care and without heat or prejudice. We can assure our contemporaries that the people of this province recognize in the fullest degree the necessity of approaching that aspect of the subject with a full appreciation of the imperial responsibilities involved in the following observation from the Montreal Star: Mr. Mackenzie King is going to England to try to arrive at an understanding with the British government regarding the immigration of Hindus into Canada. The mission will be a delicate and difficult one. Hindus are peculiarly unsuited to our climate; and their standard of living makes them an undesirable competitor with our own workmen as most other Asiatics. Yet they are British subjects; and, if the Empire is to mean anything, surely all British subjects should be free to travel and live in all parts of our common Empire. And this is a point upon which the people of India are exceedingly sensitive just at the present moment, owing to the trouble they are having in South Africa.

Britain has given South Africa a free hand in the matter; and there is no reason to expect that she will be any the less generous with Canada. But that will not relieve the Imperial government from the burden of restless population in that country, for any action we—a British Col-

ony—may take. We can keep the Hindu out, but Britain will have to pay the bill. Thus it is supremely desirable that the British government should be consulted early in the trouble; and that, if possible, a way should be found to persuade the Hindu to stay at home rather than confront him and his fellow countrymen by unfriendly treatment when he seeks admission at our ports.

This is the policy we have succeeded in establishing in the case of Japanese immigration, and it should not be impossible to arrive at something of the same sort in conjunction with the British government of India. A systematic effort to convince all Hindus who are thinking of emigrating to Canada of the undesirability of the step from climatic, industrial and other reasons, ought to result in reducing the danger to so small a figure that we could afford to let the few sporadic cases who would come, find out their own mistake; and thus we should avoid the largest single problem population under the British flag.

Houses building everywhere and not a house to rent. That's the way it is in Victoria just now.

Russia is not at war, and yet vessels entering fortified harbors on the Black Sea will be bombarded. Lovely state of things this.

The Chief Justice is to be administrator of the government during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor from the province.

It is announced that the present population of Prince Rupert is 1,000. If all goes well, another cypher will be added to those figures this time next year.

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, is likely to invent a flying machine that will fly. People generally will be disposed to keep an eye on a man of his reputation during his present experiments, until he himself shall confess failure.

It costs nearly \$3,000,000 to run the city of Toronto, which is almost as much as is required for the government of Ontario. Municipal government comes high, but we must have it. Estimating the population of Toronto at 280,000, the cost foots up at \$26.78 per head.

The announcement that the cable repairer, Restorer of the Commercial Cable Company will hereafter make her headquarters at this port instead of Honolulu, is a very excellent piece of news, implying it, as it does, a further recognition of our strategic position on the Pacific seaboard.

Fifty-one townships are to be placed on the market this spring by the Canadian Pacific. The Grand Trunk Pacific and the Northern Railway have yet to be heard from. Fifty-one new towns started by one company at the same time does not suggest that the depression is particularly menacing.

Canadians of all classes, without regard to party, will heartily commend the action of the government in determining to set aside the entire eastern side or slope of the Rocky Mountains as a forest preserve. A realization of what is the duty of Canada in the matter of forest preservation is being struck with the evidence that the Imperial Conservatives no less than Liberals to endorse a measure so obviously conducive to the conservation of a national asset which was gravely imperiled.

Nobody in British Columbia wants a "boom," but unless all signs fail this province is going to have experience something very like the one that the next two or three years, whether we want it or not. Turn your attention to whatever section of the province you choose, and you cannot fail to be struck with the evidence that great progress and development are certain. Here on Vancouver Island we are witnessing an amazing change which bids fair to assume the proportions of an army of men to work on railway construction and preparing its terminals; in the Kootenays the pulp and paper industry was never on a more prosperous basis, and in respect to fruit growing there is an assurance that the results of 1908 will break all records. We have all of us talked about the "good times" coming to British Columbia. They have arrived.

A man took a revolver from under his pillow and shot his wife, thinking she was a burglar. Not very long ago another man shot his baby boy in the same way. The practice of having a revolver under the pillow at night is an insane one. It rarely does any good and often results in disaster. Sir Walter Scott once was told by a burglar whom he had defended that he had no money to pay him, but he would give a little advice, and it was to find that Mr. Charles M. Hays has taken occasion to utter the same sentiment during the course of an interview given to a London newspaper. We quote a Canadian Associated Press dispatch appearing in the Montreal Gazette: London, March 6. Mr. C. M. Hays, of the Grand Trunk Pacific, interviewed by the Financial News said: "What we want is to induce all classes of the British public to visit Canada and judge of themselves her possibilities and immense latent wealth. We invite all and sundry."

Another Hold-Up in Victoria

and every business man will surely provide himself with one of our fine new

Money Belts Only \$2.00

Made of grey, soft strong leather with six secure pockets. Matchless for the miner, the tourist, or indeed the average up-to-date man. Call here and see them.

CYRUS H. BOWEN, Chemist, Government St., near Yates



Arriving Almost Daily at this Carpet Store—A Carload Received on Saturday

STILL once again do we chronicle the arrival of additions to our immense carpet stock. This time, it is a carload of carpets from the famous Templeton looms, and includes some of their nicest efforts in Axminster carpets. While Axminsters predominate, there is also a liberal sprinkling of Brussels and Wiltons in this shipment. In each line, are to be found many handsome designs that have never before been shown here, and designs you won't find elsewhere in the city this year. It is real economy to buy Templeton's carpets. They wear fully twice as long as most makes, and in the majority of cases cost no more than do these common kinds. The quality is guaranteed by the makers and by this house—the largest dealers in carpets in Western Canada.

We have also received a very large consignment of Ingrain Wool Squares, and have now a very complete range of sizes. The choice of colorings and designs gives you great scope in the choosing, and you can "match" or carry out any "scheme." These artistic squares are hard wearers, and are genuinely satisfactory floor coverings. There is no such complete showing of carpets in the West. We are truly "The Carpet Store of the West," and—buy your carpets at a carpet store—it pays.

A Few Prices on a Few of the Many Carpet Styles

AXMINSTER CARPETS—A splendid range of pretty and attractive designs in this favorite carpet. Prices range at, per yard, \$3.75, \$3.00, \$2.25 and \$2.00.

WILTON CARPETS—In Wiltons we also show a very extensive range of handsome designs and splendid range of colorings. Per yard, \$3.50, \$2.75, \$2.25 and \$1.90.

TAPESTRY CARPETS—In low-priced, hard-wearing carpets we show a splendid line of Tapestry Carpet at a great choice of prices. We have it at, per yard, \$1.25, \$1.00, 85c and 75c.

AXBURY CARPETS—This is a splendid carpet style and in it we have an unusually fine range of patterns and colorings. All at one price. Per yard \$2.75.

BRUSSELS CARPETS—In our offerings of this Housekeeper's Carpet you'll find a great choice of styles. It is probably the most serviceable carpet one could buy. Per yard, \$2.00, \$1.75, \$1.60, \$1.50, \$1.40, \$1.25 and \$1.00.

VELVET CARPET—This is a nice carpet style from the famous Crossley looms. At, per yard \$1.70.

After Easter Comes the Weddings

The forty days of sack-cloth and ashes don't seem to affect the plannings of lovers—like Tennyson's babbling brook they go on for ever. And the Lenten days bring decision that is promptly acted upon.

Then you among their friends send gifts—tokens of friendship. Our rich Libbey cut glass affords a wide choice of articles at a wide range of prices. We've stocked up for the occasion. New forms, new cuttings. Come in and "look."

Easter Flower Holders in Glass and Pottery

Long and narrow, short and broad—for lilies and roses, for pansies or violets. Yes, to suit any and all of the beauties of the floral kingdom that bloom at glad-some Easter-tide.

The prices for simple styles begin as low as ten cents—and you will be surprised to see what this small sum will buy this season.

More money buys larger sizes and more elaborateness. The variety also widens. First Floor showrooms.

Some Useful Bedroom Furniture

Some Dainty Bedroom Furniture is shown in our Broughton Street windows today—items that are most useful and also highly decorative. These furniture pieces are highly attractive in design, and would make a most acceptable addition to the furnishings of any bedroom. The pieces shown in the window today are moderate-priced styles, and you'll agree are very fine values—representative of the splendid values to be found all through this establishment. The Chiffoniere is an almost indispensable bedroom furniture item, and the Lady's Dresser a great convenience. Both are priced within the reach of most any buyer, and there is no reason why you shouldn't enjoy the comforts of these useful and attractive articles. See the window, anyway!

CHIFFONIERE—This is a very attractive style in mahogany finish, polished highly and finished in best possible manner. The design is new and pleasing. Has large oval bevel mirror of finest quality, and there are five large drawers. The price is only, each \$25.00.

LADIES' DRESSER—Here is a style in this very useful piece of furniture which should appeal to every lady who admires an excellent combination of style and usefulness. This dresser has a large tall mirror of first quality, two small and one large drawers, and is made of finest quartered oak, finished golden. The price is fair at, each \$25.00.

"THE LOWBOY"—This is a style of gentlemen's Chiffoniere which has found much favor with discriminating men. It is constructed on entirely different lines from the usual chiffoniere styles. There is an abundance of drawers and styles for the storage of various articles. The whole is closed with two doors, making a very neat and stylish article. The price is fair at, each \$40.00.

BUREAU AND STAND—A splendid style in mahogany finish. This is a very pleasing design and the workmanship on both pieces is the finest. The bureau has large oval bevel mirror, two small and two large drawers, stand has large drawer and cupboard. Excellent value at \$38.00.

BUREAU AND STAND—This is another pleasing style made in handsome golden oak. The finish is as superior as the design is pleasing, making a really handsome set. The bureau has large, shaped bevel mirror, two small and one large drawers. The stand has one large drawer and cupboard. The whole is priced at the low figure of \$45.00.

WEILER BROS.

HOME, HOTEL AND CLUB FURNISHERS—VICTORIA, B.C.

The Mail-Order-Way of Shopping Is Satisfactory Here.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

A well-known map of this city, suggesting geographical attention may be drawn to the fact that the city is situated in our common school to get in the habit of way. As the year are being tied together, it is important that the globe as a whole, matter, possible, speaking, parochial, it is a little different in what follows the elementary facts of.

From our present safe to conclude the consists of water around the South Sea. So far as we know, land in the other fact before us, let Just here it may world are of two spherical projection Mercator's projection as a square. The projection is drawn upon an orange sections by lines drawn. If it is then laid points which were as long as the equator proportionately, so the sections of the world drawn on Mercator's map is a continuous is the There are only three channel of Behring another is made up between the North land, and the the Atlantic and the The 60th parallel far the greater part 60th parallel of 50 length across water.

Now with your of the Continental broad at the North the South. If you as forming part of area, you will see being a triangle. North and tapers Turn now to the E Africa broad at the and if we take the twelve Australia area, we have a a the North and narrow and between this a great land area Greenland into consideration, it is also broad South.

Note another in peninsulas in the world. On the West the Alaskan peninsula and Lower California. On the East coast extending South, an Honduras forms an Scandianavia, Spain, all extending South, and extends N Hindustan. Further all extending South.

The facts herein interesting, and perhaps upon the face of it that there is a great South, and it is this that is demonstrated so far as to say that the "spherical as is towards the South, point. There are impossible to go theory. It will be continents and the If such a heaping-up

A city clergyman of Timothy said that illustrates a careless many ministers fall, what they say produce their hearers. The well as any one else the Bible in the day of copies of the which constitute the household of which exceedingly remote, of the instruction in. But the fact that he may be popularly say it now, is a work of available to the Apostles will teach us New Testament, which been written at different Apostles and by different no reason whatever Gospels, the Acts of the Book of Revelation at that time or for if they had been, producing copies at except a very few I want them, makes I New Testament session in the family servation holds good quarters there is a concerning these in church might be in ever it may amount