

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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ORIENTAL LABOR

The Times has undertaken the task of editing the Colonist. It is a pretty good man who can edit a paper, and we suggest to our contemporaries that it should confine itself to its legitimate business. Whether or not the policy of the Colonist on public questions suits our contemporaries is not very material. It appears to suit the people of Victoria. We are asked by the Times if it is to understand that, because we freely discuss and permit others to discuss in this paper the question of Japanese immigration, we are to be understood as being unalterably in favor of it. Such a question is too absurd to call for an answer, but as our contemporary seems unable to distinguish between the question of Chinese and Japanese immigration, we shall endeavor to explain it. Colonist readers do not have to be told what our views are in respect to the immigration of Japanese. We have taken advanced ground in favor of its restriction by every legitimate means; but we recognize that the relations between His Majesty's government and Japan are on a very different basis from those between that government and China. Chinese immigration has been dealt with in a manner which practically prohibits it, and we do not propose to allow the columns of the Colonist to be used by those who seek to take down the barriers against a coolie invasion. Japanese immigration has not been restricted by law, and it is exceedingly questionable how far Parliament would be justified by Imperial considerations in adopting a policy of exclusion in reference thereto. At the same time we regard it as of great importance that the views of the people of British Columbia upon this subject be made known. Hence we discuss it ourselves and permit others to use the Colonist to discuss it.

But since our contemporary is so concerned as to the attitude of the Colonist, may we ask how the personal organ of the Minister of Inland Revenue is able to make its publication of letters, violently denouncing the Chinese Exclusion law, square with its professed love for the working men? The policy of the Colonist is to labor to preserve Canada as a white man's country. We feel that we would no more be warranted in publishing the correspondence to advocate the unrestricted admission of Chinese than we would be in allowing them to advocate any other offence against the material and moral welfare of Canada. After long effort Chinese immigration was stopped. It was stopped because it was felt that its continuation would be an economic and social crime, and those who advocate its revival must seek some other means of making their views known. Speaking with perfect frankness we do not regard the menace of Japanese immigration as seriously as do the Chinese for the simple reason that there are fewer Japanese laborers, who will come here under any circumstances, but we take the position that Canada cannot afford to receive any considerable number of them to enter the country, for reasons that ought to be obvious to any one. But the matter is a difficult one to regulate. As we have already pointed out, if the Japanese have pride of race, which we are bound to respect, so have the people of Canada, and the Japanese ought to respect it. Let there be no doubt about the attitude of the Colonist on the question of Oriental immigration. It favors its restriction to the smallest possible amount consistent with the maintenance of friendly intercourse between Great Britain and the great countries of the Orient. It believes that the Imperial government owes it to the people of Canada not to sacrifice their feelings in respect to Japanese immigration, and it believes that by the full and free discussion of the question a conclusion will be arrived at, which will preserve Canada for white labor, and not offend the sensibilities of the Japanese which are probably all the more acute because they are such newcomers upon the stage of modern civilization.

MR. TURNER CRITICIZED.

Mr. J. H. Turner, Agent-General for British Columbia, is a public servant, and therefore in the manner in which he discharges his official duties he is proper subject for newspaper criticism, but he certainly has the right to ask that he should not be misrepresented. We find in the Vancouver World of the 6th inst. an editorial reference to Mr. Turner, which we assume is "written sarcastic." There does not seem to be any other explanation for it, for it is intended to be serious it is only silly. Perhaps it is only silly any way. The article is alleged to have been based upon an item appearing in a previous issue of the World, and a reference to the latter shows that a Mr. J. F. Maguire, representing the B. C. Agency Corporation, says that the people made some inquiries of Mr. Turner, and did not get what they were seeking for. Mr. Maguire tells the World that, finding that considerable uncertainty existed upon certain points, which he himself could have remedied, he wrote to his London correspondents instructing them to ask Mr. Turner. The ordinary mortal would have assumed that Mr. Maguire would have assisted his correspondents out of the abundance of his own information without troubling Mr. Turner or any one else, but apparently he did not think so, and because he chose to assume that it was Mr. Turner's duty to look after his—Mr. Maguire's—private business transactions, and because Mr. Turner was not in a position to give the information desired, he feels that he has a grievance and the World ventilates it. Now it might have been well for Mr. Maguire to have given the

World the facts of the case, if he knew them, and, if he did not know them, to have kept silent. The facts are as follows: The people to whom Mr. Maguire refers called upon Mr. Turner and asked him about shipping goods to British Columbia on consignment. Mr. Turner gave him his own experience in such matters. Then they asked about the best way of shipping, and Mr. Turner went fully into particulars, explaining the rates of freight both by way of the C. P. R. and the Blue Funnel liners, giving them information as to the packing of the goods, the rates of insurance and generally everything that he or they thought was essential. At length they came to the question of the papers necessary to meet the customs house. Now the Agent-General is neither a customs broker nor has he any connection with the customs department, while it is perhaps unnecessary to tell the World under the name of the Dominion government, but Mr. Turner, for the accommodation of those who want them, gets from the High Commissioner's office a number of blank customs forms from time to time. It so happened that, either on the same day or the previous one, Mr. Turner had been in the High Commissioner's office and had asked the chief clerk for a few of the forms, and the clerk told him that he had better not take any, as it was understood that the form was to be altered. However, when Mr. Turner's caller asked him about the form of application for entry, Mr. Turner pulled out the drawer in his desk, in which he had been accustomed to keep them, and found that they were all gone. He told Mr. Maguire's correspondent so, and added what the High Commissioner's clerk had told him about the probable damage. His caller then asked if there was not some special form necessary in the case of Vancouver, and Mr. Turner told him that the general regulations of the customs apply to Vancouver. It seems that this last observation was Mr. Turner's great offense, but as it happens to be the truth, why should he not have said so? The simple fact of the case seems to be that Mr. Maguire imagined he had a grievance, and the World in its anxiety to pose as the great friend of Vancouver, which is a laudable enough ambition, made a mountain out of a molehill. Mr. Turner did in the premises more than any agent-general was called upon to do, for it is no part of the duty of an official of the province of British Columbia to give instructions as to the customs regulations of the Dominion of Canada. The Dominion maintains the office of High Commissioner in London expressly for that among other things.

COME WEST

The Montreal Star emits a doleful note on "The Passing of the Summer," which is intended to elicit condolences from the favored residents of Victoria and Vancouver Island, on whom a kind fate bestowed the heritage of a winter which does not imply a burden hard to bear. In the course of an editorial article the Star says: "Summer is on the wane. Of this unwelcome fact one is reminded by the heavy mists, the early morning air, the tempered though still general warmth of the mid-day sunshine, by the swiftly shortening afternoons, by the ceaseless leaves on the pavement and perhaps most forcibly by the constant cabs hurrying passengers with much luggage away from the railway stations. All these things tell one, even should the calendar be neglected, that summer is fading into autumn." We feel genuinely sorry, but the best we can do under the circumstances is to say that the people of the East should make up their minds to take Horace Greely's advice and "come West." But, seriously, the incident which attach to residence in Eastern Canada ought not to be allowed to pass without serving to awaken in us a keener appreciation of our advantages in respect to the prevalence of pleasant weather conditions all the year round. It is a tremendous asset, one which ultimately will come to be appraised as valuable as any of our resources capable of industrial development. Once the attractions of Vancouver Island shall have become properly appreciated, and our opportunities for industrial expansion have been taken into account, our grand climate will prove an irresistible magnet, and many thousands from Eastern Canada will make their homes with us.

MR. OLIVER'S VIEWS

Who is Mr. Oliver? This is a question which the Montreal Star asks after perusing what he has heard of about the relative merits of the Chinese and Japanese, and the Star answers that he is an official member of the Canadian government and "a minister of the crown of an ally of the emperor of Japan." The Star thinks that in view of his official responsibility Mr. Oliver should have kept his opinion to himself, even if he believed the Japanese are not as trustworthy as the Chinese and that the Japanese government is not living up to the spirit of its understanding with Canada on immigration matters. Our Montreal contemporary thinks that Mr. Oliver's views will be quoted in Japan and will create bad feeling here, which is not unlikely. The question who is Mr. Oliver is worthy of a little consideration. He is an Edmonton newspaper man, who settled in that town when it was not much more than a geographical expression. He doubtless has many excellent qualities; a man does not generally come to the front rank on the frontier unless there is something good in him; but he is tactless, rough and lacking in appreciation of the responsibilities attaching to official position. What he said in his speech at the Japanese quite true. Probably he only expressed the opinions which he met with when at Vancouver. But there are some things which are better left unsaid, and uncomplimentary views regarding the subjects of a friendly power are among them, at least when the speaker is a minister of the crown.

It is reported that Mr. Lemieux, the postmaster-general, has indicated his desire to restore the one-cent drop-rate in cities. This action would, we imagine, be warmly welcomed by the business interests of the various cities. All the general public wishes from the post administration is the maximum of efficiency of service. The taxpayer is not hankering for the greatest surplus "that has been," so much as for the best facilities it is possible to arrange for.

IRRIGATION

Professor Carpenter has returned from his investigation of the semi-arid part of the province in company with Mr. Fulton, Chief Commissioner

of Lands and Works. We are able to present some of the results of his observations in another column. Speaking generally, it may be said that his views are exceedingly favorable to the improvement of the province, when the valleys between the Cascade Range and Rocky Mountains have been brought under irrigation. It was necessarily impossible during the brief time at his disposal to extend his examination to the whole irrigable district, and he does not profess to be able to say what acreage can be brought under cultivation in this way, but in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys alone he estimates that there are 200,000 acres of land of this class. He says the outlook for irrigation in this province is promising in the extreme and that the semi-arid belt can be made the wealthiest and most densely populated part of British Columbia, although the course of the continuity of settlement will be somewhat broken by the higher elevations. Mr. Carpenter grows ever more enthusiastic when he speaks of what we may hope to see accomplished in this line. It is exceedingly gratifying to the Colonist to be able to make the above statement. It was in these columns that the suggestion of a systematic irrigation policy first appeared, and we had the pleasure of learning immediately after the suggestion was made that it commended itself very strongly to the provincial government. Mr. McBride is to be congratulated that a thing is necessary to take steps to bring it about. He therefore promptly decided that irrigation should be taken up practically and vigorously and his colleagues were ready to fall in with his views. In Mr. Fulton the Premier is fortunate in having a Chief Commissioner who is familiar with conditions in the semi-arid belt and who knows from observation what can be accomplished there by irrigation.

MR. BORDEN

When the announcement of Mr. Borden's tour was first made, the Colonist said that it would be watched with great interest, because Canada had made a new departure in parliamentary government by officially recognizing the Leader of the Opposition by voting him a salary. We have observed with some regret a few references in Eastern Liberal papers to the "salaried" leader and think this was not only bad taste, for the salary was not sought by Mr. Borden, and it cannot be alleged with even a shadow of truth that he aspired to the position of leader because there might be some financial gain from the position. On the contrary, when he accepted the responsibility at the solicitation of his political friends, he did so at a great personal sacrifice, for, as every one knows, the leadership of the Opposition in the federal parliament is a position of almost as continuous and absorbing work as the premiership. But that is only by the way. Parliament in its wisdom decided that the leader of the Opposition should receive a salary, and Mr. Borden would not have been justified in refusing it, for if he had done so, he would have been in duty bound to have given up his place in the party to some one who would have felt free to take the salary and devote himself to the duties of the position.

Mr. Borden's tour proceeds it becomes clearer from day to day that he is making a profound impression upon the country. There is nothing in his speeches at captivum vulgus, nor is there any trace of the moral sense of the elect of Canada. He is exceedingly fortunate in having at the head of the two great parties men like Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden, both of whom have had both in private life and in public careers have established a reputation for cleanliness and courage. Mr. Borden shows these characteristics in a marked degree, and it does not wish to be understood that in saying this we are making any comparison with the leader of the government; we are simply speaking of Mr. Borden. His opponents have charged him with weakness; some of our friends have said that he lacked aggressiveness; but no one has ever suggested that he has not all the characteristics of a high-minded gentleman. His opponents are beginning to recast their views as to his supposed weakness, for they are learning that he possesses a moral strength, which appeals in the strongest possible way to the best sentiments of the Canadian people. Those who complained of his lack of aggressiveness are beginning to see that there may be a kind of political activity which is more valuable than the variety that is usually expected from political leaders. It is beginning to be understood that a party leader has other duties than simply to get his opponents and his friends in. It is beginning to be felt that the first obligation of the Leader of the Opposition is to his country, and that his responsibility in this respect is scarcely second to that of the Premier. Therefore Mr. Borden's tour is a judgment, the Canadian and as we have said, the moral sense of the electorate is daily being more and more highly appreciated. Already he has put politics on a higher plane. If he had started out on a tour of Canada to deal in abuse, innuendoes and campaign exaggerations, it is quite certain that at each stage of his journey he would have lost friends, and he would have left a trail of bitterness and disappointment from ocean to ocean. As it is he is making an admirable impression upon the country; he is showing the people that there are things in politics, and they are really the most important things, which can be discussed without malice and debated without acrimony.

Speaking for itself, and it feels that it can also speak for the Conservative Party in British Columbia. Mr. Borden's tour so far has been a splendid success. Canada is already the

better for it. With this paper, as with the Leader whom it supports, party success is secondary to the welfare of the country, but we are satisfied that not only has Mr. Borden contributed greatly to the improvement of the tone of Canadian politics, but in so doing he has laid a foundation upon which the Conservatives can build an edifice, which will be commanding and enduring. Party success will come from party honesty.

THE COLONIST'S POSITION

The Times says it is scarcely able to understand the position of the Colonist with regard to the discussion of questions relating to Chinese and Japanese immigration. This certainly is not the fault of the Colonist, for this paper has declared itself over and over again as unalterably opposed to the introduction of Chinese labor into Canada. In pursuance of this policy we have declined to print letters advising us that it was not a wise decision, but it is certainly intelligible in regard to the Japanese we have discussed the question over and over again and have never closed our columns to others desiring to discuss the pros and cons of this phase of the Oriental question. We have printed very many extracts from eastern exchanges giving their views on the subject, and have expressed approval of some and disapproval of others. We have endeavored to deal sanely with a difficult subject and perhaps this is why the Times is not able to understand our position. If it wishes a somewhat full statement of the views of this paper on the subject, it will find them in the editorial columns of the issue of August 7.

Our contemporary thinks that we have sought to belittle Mr. Oliver by our references to his remarks on the subject, but on the contrary we only gave the Minister of the Interior credit for the weight that should be attached to ministerial utterances. If the Minister of Inland Revenue should so forget himself as to speak disparagingly of the subjects or citizens of a friendly Power, we should say the same thing about him as about his colleague, for it is impossible for them to disassociate their official standing from their public utterances. If our contemporary has kept in touch of events it knows that the remarks of Mr. Macpherson, M. P. were commented upon with our approval. If our contemporary realize that much greater significance will be attached to observations made by a responsible Minister of the Crown, we are quite in accord with what our contemporary says about free and open discussion, but there is such a thing as international courtesy, and this, we think, Mr. Oliver transgressed.

We have not yet learned of any labor shortage in China, and up to date Central Africa has not been heard from.

Mr. Templeman had an exceedingly pleasant time in Victoria, Thursday. It is not often that it falls to the lot of a minister to be called upon to take the leading part in the recognition of deeds of heroism. The Minister of Inland Revenue showed himself fully equal to the occasion. The Colonist most heartily congratulates the recipients of the recognition.

In one week flour has advanced 40 cents per barrel, and hay is reported so scarce that a number of people who own cows find that they must dispose of them. But Victorians must not run away with the idea that they are being discriminated against. Greatly enhanced prices for all commodities are common to all portions of the continent.

Congratulations to the ratepayers of Oak Bay on the excellent spirit of enterprise which characterizes all their methods of dealing with the affairs of their infant municipality. Their latest step is to arrange for the erection of a commodious municipal hall, a most laudable thing, which will be engaging their wideawake Council to come up and take charge of the affairs of this city for a time.

Now comes the announcement that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company has decided to at once build to the Pacific coast. This is a sign of the times which portends a high-minded and energetic policy of trade and industry in which will be the transportation magnates of the continent fighting for the control of the trans-Pacific trade. And Vancouver Island will be one of the prominent battle grounds.

Paving the way for a big influx of tourists as soon as the Empress hotel shall have been opened, the C. P. R. is to lease a new edition of the booklet "Fishing and Shooting," dealing particularly with Victoria and Vancouver Island. It will be a most careful and comprehensive compilation, giving all the data sportsmen thinking of visiting the country can possibly require. This will prove by long odds the best advertisement of the kind the Island has ever had.

Once again British Columbia products score in the markets of the world. This time it is our salmon, which Agent Larke says commands the top price in the Commonwealth. The Dominion government has acted very wisely in deterring the sale of severe measures against foreign canners who have been labelling their product as British Columbia salmon.

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IN THE FURNITURE WAY—SEA GRASS AND RATTAN

HERE is a style for which the makers claim much—Sea Grass. Made as a companion to Reed Furniture it has found much favor with lovers of the Reed styles. There is no questioning its attractiveness. It is made into many uncommonly pleasing styles of chairs, settees, etc. It is low in price, and this fact, combined with its "Wearable" qualities and abundant "Style," has made it a popular line with Victorians.

We have just placed on show in our Fourth Floor showrooms a shipment of Sea Grass and Rattan Arm Chairs, Reception Chairs, Settees, Child's Chairs, and Child's Rockers. The Rattan lines are superior quality goods, and represent the very latest creations.

The frames of all these chairs are of best quality Malacca, making them exceptionally strong, a feature which is worth considerable when buying this class of goods.

We were fortunate in securing very favorable prices on this limited quantity, and we are offering these at prices lower, considering quality, than ever before.

We are showing some in our Broughton Street windows. See them, then come inside and see how comfortably nice they really are.

A Hint as to the Fair Pricing:

- RECEPTION CHAIRS, up from each . . . \$4.50
ARM CHAIRS, at, each \$8.50, \$7.50, \$6.00, and \$5.50
SETTEES, at, each . . . \$12.00
CHILD'S CHAIRS, at, each . . . \$3.50
CHILD'S ROCKERS, at, each . . . \$3.50

Other Styles in Reed Furniture

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Made of the best selected reed, shellac finish, has very high and attractive back. Price . . . \$8.00
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Made of reed, nicely finished, has high and very wide back with side arms, just the thing for the little one. Price \$4.00

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Made of best selected reed, shellac finish, is 46 inches long, reclining back, very strongly made. Price . . . \$16.00

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Made of best selected reed, shellac finish, with fancy rush trimmings, and is of very attractive design. Price . . . \$12.00
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WASHSTAND to match . . . \$30.00
EXCELLENT MAHOGANY DRESSER, with shaped British bevelled mirror, size 30 inches x 40 inches, dresser top 48 inches x 24 inches. Something new in style and finish . . . \$75.00
CHIFFONIER to match . . . \$70.00
DRESSING TABLE to match . . . \$45.00
SOMNOE OAK DRESSER and WASHSTAND, with shaped British bevelled mirror, 28 inches x 30 inches. The two pieces . . . \$55.00
CHIFFONIER to match . . . \$35.00
GOLDEN OAK DRESSER and WASHSTAND, with shaped British bevelled mirror, size 20 in. x 24 in. Size of dresser top 38 in. x 19 in. The two pieces . . . \$25.00

- DRESSER AND WASHSTAND, golden oak with oval shaped mirror, size 30 in. x 40 in. Size of dresser top 44 in. x 18 in. The two pieces . . . \$75.00
DRESSER AND WASHSTAND, golden oak, with round shaped British bevelled mirror, size 28 in. x 28 in. Size of bureau top 40 x 20 in. The two pieces \$45.00
DRESSER AND WASHSTAND, golden oak, size of dresser top 40 in. x 20 in. With British beveled mirror size 28 in. x 28 in. The two pieces . . . \$45.00
DRESSER AND WASHSTAND, golden oak, size of dresser top 42 in. x 19 in., with British beveled mirror, size 24 in. x 30 in. The two pieces . . . \$35.00
DRESSER AND WASHSTAND, golden oak, size of dresser top 18 in. x 40 in., with British beveled mirror. The two pieces . . . \$32.50
DRESSER AND WASHSTAND MAHOGANY FINISH. Size of dresser top 38 x 17 inches, with square mirror 20 in. x 24 in. The two pieces . . . \$24.00

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