

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE NAMELESS ONES.

"He knew them all as Billy" is what was said of the Captain of the Schelt and the men under him. Who can tell with any approach to certainty who the men were who went down in that ill-fated steamer? Very often we read in the papers advertisements asking information about some man who has disappeared, and usually there is no answer possible. The police departments of all the cities are continually in receipt of inquiries from persons seeking lost relatives, and no satisfactory reply is possible in a very large proportion of cases. Perhaps some of these lost people were "Billics." They did their work, but came and went as they saw fit. No one asked their names or if they did, no record was made of them, and when by accident or otherwise they dropped out, no one could tell anything about them.

We do not think this ought to be. Some way of keeping track of men ought to be devised and enforced. The failure to do so does not always rest with employers. Hundreds of men, who are down on their luck and seek work do not wish to be known. They prefer to be "Billy." This would be all right if they only had to be considered, but very few people are absolutely alone in the world. We suggest that this matter is well worthy of consideration.

BRITISH NEWS

British visitors to this province and sometimes residents, who have until recently resided in the United Kingdom, frequently complain of the lack of British news in the local papers. We are not going to claim that it would not be well to publish more such news if it were available, but we confess to not being quite sure what such people think is lacking. We have just read through from end to end the last issues of the London Times and the Daily Telegraph received in Victoria, and while there was a very great deal of interest in them, no matter whether one had personal associations with the Mother Country or not, there was exceedingly little that could be cabled to British Columbia for use in one of our papers. For example, the chief news item in the Telegraph was an account of a trial of a cause in London, wherein fraud in the sale of certain stock was charged. It was very interesting and well worthy of the five or six columns given to it; but any telegraphic summary that could have been sent out would have been bald and uninteresting, for the whole value of the item arose out of the exceedingly clever fencing between one of the counsel and a witness. Several columns were taken up with parliamentary reports. There were two or three murder stories, a column or so of court news and a number of miscellaneous items. The editorial was rather more than a column long and was devoted to the plans for the coronation. There were other things than these, of course; but only one item in the whole paper that could really be called of general interest to people outside of the United Kingdom, and that was in relation to the "Mary Fund," the substance of which was telegraphed to the Canadian press at the time. It is very easy to understand that a British visitor finds our papers barren of the things he is accustomed to read about, with his rolls and coffee, but we do not see how we can ever hope to remedy that deficiency, apart altogether from the question of cost, which is of itself prohibitory.

Persons who have recently come from the United Kingdom to reside here miss their home news. A lady not long ago gave as a reason for not continuing to take the Colonist that she never saw in it the news of her old home, meaning thereby the particular part of England where she had lived. She frankly said that she had not yet got interested in our local news. This was doubtless an extreme case, but it illustrates the nature of what some people not unreasonably regard as a defect of the local press. We suppose a Canadian residing in Britain would find the same deficiency in the British papers in respect to Canadian news.

We confess that we would like to have more of the political news of the United Kingdom, although a person who keeps track of what is published in the British Columbia dailies will be pretty well abreast of what is transpiring. If one takes Public

Opinion, which from week to week prints a synopsis of the leading events in politics, he will not find many things about which the Colonist did not have a fair synopsis. We are short of continental news, although recently our St. Petersburg despatches have been very full. We are not claiming that our British and general European news is as complete as we would like it to be, but we feel warranted in saying that it is by no means as deficient as some persons would have us think. A correspondent wrote a few days ago complaining that we did not leave out some of the advertisements and print British cables in their place. He was absurd of course. An English visitor yesterday complained that our British news was scattered through the paper instead of being given the most prominent place. He did not stop to think that the wreck of the Schelt—he was referring to Sunday's paper—the New York fire, and the Chinese situation came more closely home to 339 out of every 1,000 Colonist readers than the minor incidents of British news that we had on that day.

Again it is to be borne in mind that a paper is printed for the majority of its readers, not for the transient minority. To a visitor from the United Kingdom the doings of the City Council would have no interest; he would not care to read about what is doing in the building line; neither would he take the trouble even to glance over the scores of items which tell of what makes up the life of the community. He does not see such items in his home paper and they do not interest him here. We would like to do better in regard to British and foreign news than it is possible to do under the existing conditions; but we do not admit that the Colonist is nearly as deficient in this respect as some people would have us believe.

BUSINESS IN THE U. S.

Mr. James J. Hill is reported as saying that as far as he can see business will remain good. As far as any one can see there is no reason why it should not remain good; yet there is undoubtedly a great deal of anxiety all over the United States as to the immediate future. The dominant feature of business in that country at the present time is not the political situation, as some would like to make it appear, nor the reduction of wheat, threatened, in railway freights, but the accumulation of the capital of the country in the hands of a few men in New York. The interests represented by Mr. Rockefeller, Morgan & Co., and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. virtually control all the money in the United States. A gentleman connected with one of the largest financial houses in Seattle said a few days ago that practically every big building in the city was mortgaged in New York, that practically all the state, county and municipal bonds are held there and consequently that a vast sum of money is being sent to New York steadily, to pay interest. Another said that the great buildings of Seattle are owned perhaps 25 per cent. locally, and the other 75 per cent. in New York, being represented by mortgages. This condition is very general all over the United States, and the result is that a nation, with almost boundless resources and limitless energy is hovering on the edge of hard times.

The business conditions in the United States must of necessity have some influence upon Canada, but not as much as it would have had a few years ago. It is impossible, however, not to regard the monopolization by a few New York men of the control of the money of that country with feelings of satisfaction. On the contrary it is calculated to give rise to anxiety on this side of the line, for we cannot hope to escape wholly the effects of business depression among our neighbors. Therefore we hope that Mr. Hill is not only right in his view of the outlook, but that no unexpected storm will arise to nullify his expectations.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT

Mr. Bonar Law has been telling the people of England that reciprocity with the United States will increase the price of wheat in Canada. With out discussing this proposition, we are surprised that it has not occurred to Mr. Law that it is not what Canada may do, but what the United States proposes to do that will have the effect he anticipates. In the discussion of reciprocity in the United Kingdom, it seems to be lost of the fact that it has always been open to the United States to admit wheat duty free, and will always be no matter whether or not a reciprocity agreement is reached.

The removal of the duty from wheat is a question that has been before the people of the United States for more than a quarter of a century. About twenty-five years ago certain economists in that country estimated that by the year 1895 the United States would

cease to be an exporter of wheat, and thereafter would import this grain. A very valuable series of papers written by Mr. C. Wood Davis, of Wichita, Kansas, appeared in the Country Gentleman, then the leading agricultural periodical on the continent. Mr. Davis was a good deal laughed at for suggesting any such possibility either in 1895 or at any time. Other writers dealt with the matter from the same point of view, and about 1898 the question was brought to the attention of the Statistical Department at Washington by the editor of the Century Magazine. The director of that department refused to accept such a thing as within the range of possibility, and he was disinclined to believe that Canada could furnish any very considerable supply of wheat even if it were required by the United States. Moreover, he said that the irrigable lands would fully meet every demand for this grain, and he foretold that not only would the home market always be fully supplied from home farms, but the export of wheat would be kept up to its customary amount. Mr. Davis and those who thought as he did were a little premature in fixing the date when the United States would become an importer of wheat, but the readiness of the American government to put wheat on the free list shows that the consummation has been reached permanently, although it has been delayed for a decade and a half. Last year over 3,000,000 bushels were imported from Canada.

In the consideration of the trade relations between Canada and the United States, the actual needs of the people south of the Boundary line are often forgotten. The people of the United States will not put Canadian wheat unless they need it for food, and the fact that there is a rapidly growing population in that country that must be fed will have its effect upon the price of wheat reciprocity or no reciprocity. This may be an argument against the desirability of Canada's entering into any negotiations for reciprocity, and as we have said time and again we think it is; but it shows how idle it is for Mr. Bonar Law to suggest that by defeating reciprocity the price of wheat can be kept down permanently.

In North America, exclusive of Mexico, there are in round numbers a hundred millions of people who eat bread made from wheat. A market for this grain has been developed in the Orient, and is increasing. The European market is certainly not decreasing. Not only is the number of consumers greater than formerly, but the per capita consumption is larger. Statistics collected twenty-five years ago seemed to show that the average consumption of wheat was then about six bushels per capita. We have seen recent estimates which concede that this figure was correct at the time it was given, but assert that the per capita consumption in America is now more than ten bushels. The observation of most of us will bear out the statement that the coarser grains are not used as generally on this continent as they once were.

Therefore, we see no reason to suppose that under any conditions likely to arise the price of wheat will decline permanently, but we are rather inclined to think that, no matter how rapidly the Canadian product may increase in volume, the tendency will be upwards within moderate limits. When Mr. Bonar Law attempts to show the people of the United Kingdom that the price of wheat can be kept down by legislation, he is on untenable ground. The price of every commodity depends upon supply and demand, and the demand for wheat is not at all likely to fall, in view of the rapid increase in the number of consumers with whom it is unlikely that the producers will keep pace. A grain annually of ten millions of bushels of wheat would not meet the increasing demands for Canadian wheat.

Just what is upon the conscience of an esteemed contemporary? The fondness of some of those responsible for its production for piscatorial sport is well known, but why should it, as Cowper puts it, "smite the sweet but awful lyre," who comes home to tell about what he caught and especially what he didn't catch? Come neighbor? You have only whetted the curiosity of your friends. Tell us all about it.

Firemen's Strike Settled.
CINCINNATI, O., March 27.—The strike of white fire men on the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railroad was declared off tonight after an agreement had been signed by representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and Horace Baker, general manager of the road. The agreement is said to be a compromise, both sides yielding points in the dispute. Employees who went out on strike will be reinstated. The company reserves the right to refuse re-employment to any fireman. Negro firemen cannot be employed north of Oakland, Tenn. The percentage of Negro firemen employed January 1, 1911, will not be increased hereafter. Negro firemen cannot be assigned to more than one-half of the passenger or the preferred freight runs.

How About One of Our Famous "Whitney" Go-Carts for the Little Chap?

Sunshine means Health, and the best way for Baby to get it is in a "WHITNEY."



Have You Inspected Our Shipment of Go-Carts and Baby Carriages?—If Not, Why Not?

The little chap will remember his Whitney Go-cart rides for years after he has ceased to require one.

Now Is the Time to Get Your Lace Curtains

CHOOSE FROM THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT IN THE WEST

"Ariston" Cable Net Curtains From \$3.00 a Pair

The Ariston Cable Net Curtains, in ivory and white, are a very strong, double-woven net, famous for their stability and hard-wearing qualities. These new arrivals are very beautiful and have entirely new designs.

Ariston Cable Net Curtains, from, per pair, \$3.00

Curtain Material By the Yard

Many of the new houses are built with short casement windows. Your new home perhaps has those windows. If so, this material by the yard is a necessity. We have everything new in this line. Let us give you our advice in the matter. We will be pleased to see you at any time.

All Over Filet and Bungalow Nets

This charming material is fast gaining favor both in the fine and heavy weave, has a rich appearance and is very durable.

All-over Filet and Bungalow Nets, from 42 to 54 inches wide, from, per yard 40¢
Suitable Edging for these materials, from 5¢

Irish Point, Point Venise, Swiss Applique Curtains

The finest productions of Swiss and French factories are here for you to select from. Exceptionally rich effects are to be found in the Irish Point, Point Venise, Swiss Applique.

Irish Point, from 48 to 60 inches in width and from 3 to 3½ yards long, from, a pair \$7.50
Point Venise, from 48 to 60 inches wide and 3 to 3½ yards long, from, per pair \$15.00
Swiss Applique, 48 to 60 inches wide and from 3 to 3½ yards long, from, per pair \$4.50

Scotch and Nottingham Lace Curtains From 75c per Pair

These eminently serviceable and useful curtains need no introduction, as their good qualities are so well known. We have just received our new stock and have opened up many new and novel designs. We are convinced these will please you. See them some time today.

Scotch and Nottingham Lace Curtains from, per pair 75¢

Scotch Cream Madras

Beautiful patterns in this famous curtain material, good style, hanging in graceful folds, easily laundered and good wearing qualities—easily accounts for the popularity of Madras. We have a grand selection for you to choose from.

Scotch Cream Madras, from 45 to 72 inches wide, from, per yard 30¢

White Swiss Muslin

These new White Swiss Muslins, with their new designs, are very suitable for bedroom curtains and sash curtains. You will find that our assortment is the largest to select from and that the prices are the most reasonable.

White Swiss Muslin, 34 to 52 inches, from, per yard 20¢

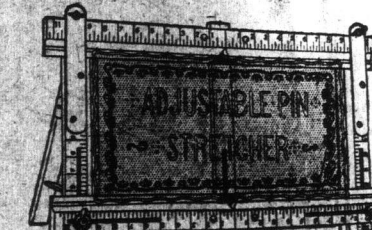
Scotch Colored Madras

This is the same material as above, in all varieties of colors and combination of colors, suitable for side curtains, also for hall, den and library or smoking-room, where the effect of a white curtain would be out of place.

Scotch Colored Madras, 45 to 72 inches wide, from, per yard 50¢



Do Up Your Lace Curtains



You will find one of our Adjustable Curtain Stretchers a great help and saving to you after having washed your curtains. Now, when you are Spring Cleaning you will be washing your curtains and taking advantage of drying them these sunshiny days. There is no hard work attached to stretching curtains if you use the "NO-PIECE CURTAIN STRETCHER." You can stretch any size of curtain on the "No-piece." You always have nice, clean, fresh curtains—it makes your curtains last longer. You need this stretcher for your Spring cleaning.

Three styles and prices—\$3.50, \$2.50 and \$1.75.

NEW SHIPMENT OF "LIBBEY" CUT GLASS JUST ARRIVED, WILL BE READY FOR YOU IN A FEW DAYS—WATCH OUR AD. THIS WEEK FOR THE NEW GOODS

If You Can't Come to Our Store Speak With Us Over the Phone

WEILER BROS

"To Have and to Hold" Your Business Is Our Greatest Desire

PLAINS OBJ OF MOT

Deputation of Which Waits Bowser Is En Purposes of Ad

That motorists, police in that each cl skin in that each cl narrow was further illustrated yesterday, in Mr. J. A. Hinton, H. B. Jackson, Herbo rone or two others of Victorians so fortunate possessors of "cars," c tion to call informally General Bowser.

The city chief of a Langley, was also present. That everyone was aulta would be percha of the facts, but cert ed with clearer comp law so much and so b ed, and the motoris more intimately in t Mr. Bowser's viewpoi intent, the necessity s tion (when interpreted discretion) of the nea Primarily, the mot advised by a legal b law as enacted is qd forced to a test in many holes might, it is he punched through it speed that it would ne nor yet power-develop ing this opinion at the ment of its worth motorists instead of "law through the court Bowser" and prayed hi Particularly it was p while ten miles per is a sane and necessa speed through the suc an act-at-law, it beco running and unneces and arbitrary limitation to really-and-truly d roads frequented by h Furthermore, it was onus of placing upo in law the proof of a reversal of the local poe ple of British justice— of the supreme rights subject, a shattering of Charts, and a blow at institutions of the land

Duty of Po Hon. Mr. Bowser d matter exacting. Nor did Police Chie had been bidden to the might answer at o such allegations of m of the law as have be against the local poe His officers, he said, against the motorists, but to enforce the in case wherein a foot or had caused a summon his honest opinion, a speed of the allegedly been from fifteen to t hour rather than unde admitted that under t resided, dealing with and their regulation, in fault, would, except ally infrequent and ceptions, demand the gagement of such a s as the city alone, army of thousands and vide employment for engaged in motoring. T city police was not to eiple and spirit of the l consideration of revenu to enforce discreetly, so that prevention might rule in place of causes and general conc "such things should be ur." There had been, t police declared, approx forty prosecutions and der the galling law. T classed in the light of lessons, and that mot pupils in more than mechanisms of modern peditions transport had strated in the marked victims to greet his w matutinal court.

Purpose of Aut The fact that the new as any other good law tended to be distorted in its interpretation, e was emphasized, by Hon To prevent the occurrence—to safeguard life and the reckless, the careless moonshine, was the whole Automobile Act. The personally desire to pref upon the city streets or roads, but that would not with the desirable princ Greatest good for the s her" of citizens. And on the government and the to stand.

As for the alleged inju ing the onus of proof unde at alleged to be in offe possibility otherwise of a conviction of even most offenders was duly emphati turney General further elu minating precedents dis pos. The statute of Onta ed similarly—but in that vices the lawmakers wen ably further, placing upon ant the onus of disprop criminal prosecutions fo calculated to prejudice p but also in civil damage which the complainants and the defendants lose thousands of dollars. How far the law legiti ve for the protection of t