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OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

The Times is not conscious of having attempted to "belittle the character" of the public meeting lately held in the city hall at Victoria for the purpose of discussing the Asiatic invasion and forming an Asiatic exclusion league. We did contemn the action of some of those present at the meeting in exhibiting impatience during the remarks of Canon Beanlands and of Mr. Lindley Crease. We still think that our esteemed comrade from Nanaimo displayed questionable taste in attempting to asperse the motives of Canon Beanlands. Mr. Hawthornthwaite does not himself dwell in a politically armor-proof citadel that he should dare to raise an issue of that kind. There is a well-defined impression that he, like certain creatures of the lower animal world, changes the hue of his political garments, when necessary, in order to bring them into harmony with his environment. The position of the Times is that when men have the courage to rise in an obviously antagonistic assembly for the purpose of courteously expressing their views upon a question which is not merely local, but Imperial, in its significance, they ought at least to be accorded a patient hearing. The letter we publish in another column to-day from the pen of Mr. Lindley Crease proves that if he had been given a suitable opportunity he would have had nothing to say at the city hall meeting worthy of the most serious attention of the audience.

We do not believe there is any considerable element in British Columbia to-day, of any class or profession, whether engaged in commercial or industrial pursuits, whether earning its bread by the "sweat of its brow" or in any manner equally honorable, that is desirous of seeing the province gradually converted into a merely Asiatic section of the Dominion of Canada. We believe the vast majority of us are sincerely desirous of seeing the suddenly developed invasion just as speedily checked. There can be no question that all classes of our people are equally interested in maintaining our position as a white man's province. We know that this consummation will be brought about without the assistance of the anti-Asiatic league or any such organization, although it may be admitted that the recent agitation has been of some value in directing the attention of the government to some of the peculiarities of the present situation, brought about, as we all know, principally by agencies which have no connection whatever with governments or with racial movements or aspirations.

Canada, as a rising nation with a rapidly expanding commerce, cannot afford to ignore the possibilities of her commercial intercourse with the Orient. British Columbia is the province most vitally interested in that trade of phenomenal growth. We occupy the portals of one continent; Japan sits at the gates of the other. We have only to consider the development of the shipping business as inaugurated by the Canadian Pacific Railway line less than a score of years ago to realize what may come to pass within the lifetime of the present generation. The commercial movement was initiated by three practically obsolete vessels of very limited capacity; now there are more lines in the business than there were formerly vessels. The increase has been so remarkable that the pioneer line in the movement will shortly place steamers of first-class Atlantic standard upon the route. Therefore we submit that the commercial phase of the matter is something that cannot be overlooked. It concerns the laboring man just as intimately as it does the merchant and the professional man, inasmuch as his interest as a British Columbian, personally, is equally important.

There has never been any doubt in our mind that Japan is quite as anxious for an amicable adjustment of the matter as Canada or British Columbia. There can be no question that when the representatives of the Dominion and the represetnatives of Japan meet and discuss the situation in an amicable spirit, a spirit of determination to reach an agreement that will meet with the approval of the people of this province, their efforts will be crowned with success; that as a result of such negotiations the menace to the white labor of the province, which some maintain is merely a sporadic movement engendered by transportation companies, will be permanently eliminated and that Canadian trade with the Orient, one of the important factors in the prosperity of British Columbia, will, with the continuance of the entente cordiale, continue its process of expansion.

BY 1912, OR LATER.

A gentleman from a constituency called Provencher has predicted that the Conservatives will "sweep the country" at the next Dominion general election. A gentleman from Nova Scotia, a much greater man than the gentleman from Provencher, twice volunteered the information that the Conservatives would "sweep the country." The gentleman from Nova Scotia was a Dominion politician, and may be presumed to have had wider and more accurate sources of information than the local politician from Provencher, and yet the wave he saw rising on the shores of the Atlantic never rose and did not sweep the country. Or rather, the wave did rise and it did sweep the country. But it was not a Conservative wave. It swept the Conservative party completely out of existence in the province of Nova Scotia. The party has not gained strength there or in any of the other provinces of the Dominion. In 1904 the Conservative party did at least present the appearance of a unit. It had its doubts about the wisdom of the course adopted in selecting Mr. Borden as leader. That doubt was resolved into conviction by the results of the election. A leader who was not strong enough to win a single constituency in his own province, too feeble even to retain his own seat, was not considered likely to make a very serious impression as a statesman upon the Dominion at large. Consequently there is a deep-rooted conviction to-day that the Conservative party can never carry the country under its present leadership. That feeling may be detected in the tone of the leading Conservative newspapers of the country to-day. Some of them speak their minds quite freely. The Toronto World is one of these newspapers. The Toronto News is another. In 1904 the News, just previous to the election, published a forecast of the result. This estimate conceded victory to the Liberal party by a moderate majority. The Liberal party won by an extraordinary majority. Our Toronto contemporary has made another forecast, based on what it doubtless believes to be accurate information from all parts of the country, supplemented, we have no doubt, by the fact that the Liberal party is led by a man who has achieved world-wide renown as a sagacious statesman while the Conservative party is led by a man who has not gained the confidence of his own supporters. The News says the Conservatives cannot hope to gain power before the year 1912. We make no comment on this prediction. We simply draw the attention of the public to it and compare it with the prophecy of the distinguished gentleman from Provencher, who has not yet attained to the dignity of a seat in Parliament. May we be permitted to remind Mr. O'Sullivan that elections are not won by boasting, as he is likely to find out in due time in his own particular case and constituency. If they were, the Liberal party would never have been in power, as there is no question that the party the gentleman from Manitoba represents exercise a monopoly of that form of winning public confidence.

THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL LEADER.

Speaking of the concluding proceedings of the Liberal convention held in Vancouver, the World of that city says:

One of the most remarkable political demonstrations ever seen in the province of British Columbia, and without doubt as great a personal triumph as has been achieved by any political leader in recent years, marked the appearance of Liberal Leader J. A. Macdonald on the platform at the smoking concert held in Labor Hall last evening in connection with the Liberal convention. Mr. Macdonald's great record in the local House, his personal work in the recent campaign, and his statesmanlike attitude throughout the sittings of the convention have won for him the uncompromising and unswerving devotion of Liberals throughout the province and the ovation tendered him last night was but the expression of this feeling of the rank and file of the party toward a leader in whom it has implicit confidence. "We are not endorsing the recent Oriental riot, but it certainly has had the effect of bringing home to the people of the British Empire that we do not intend standing for the unrestricted immigration of Orientals," said Mr. Macdonald, after having declared himself almost overpowered by the splendid reception. He had not visited the hall that evening with the intention of speaking, as the evening was solely one of social enjoyment and the smoker was organized for the purpose of bringing the Liberals from all over the province together. The hearty applause of the delegates from all over the province were due to the Liberal association for the entertainment and their reception. When the great contest came, as it is likely to come within a year, the gathering of the Liberals of the province would no doubt contribute in no small degree towards the entire organization of the Liberal party and would assist materially in making the reccord at the next elections even more glorious than that of 1904. In the next general election, in three years from now, the leader predicted the city would not repeat the mistake it had made in not electing the five splendid candidates who were defeated at the last election, but would return them by handsome majorities.

ANOTHER MISSING WORD.

We have had occasion to point out in the Times recently the strange action of Attorney-General Bowser in offering to the legislature a bill ostensibly designed to exclude Orientals from this country, but which by the omission of the word "not" expressly legalizes, instead of forbade, the entrance of these people. The clause in question instead of reading that their admission "shall not be lawful" expressly declared "shall be lawful."

This curious weakness of the Attorney-General is again in evidence. In giving to the press the corespondence which passed between Justices Irving and Martin in connection with the recent incident in the Supreme court here, Mr. Bowser says the following dispatch was sent to Mr. Justice Martin, by Mr. Justice Irving:

"I learned to-day that Chief Justice won't be back till 5th inst. You will take Victoria business this week. If you desire it will send you formal request."

As a matter of fact this is not the dispatch received by the judge affected, the word "trust" having been omitted in the telegram given to the press by Mr. Bowser. The telegram which actually passed read as follows:

"Learned to-day that Chief Justice won't be back till 5th. Trust you will take Victoria business this week. If you desire it will send you formal request."

In a controversy where such fine points are being drawn it is not necessary to point out the importance of the word which Mr. Bowser has by a curious lapse, omitted. Mr. Bowser would quickly establish a reputation in a missing word competition.

THE BOWSER BILL.

Premier McBride, Attorney-General Bowser and the constitutionally erudite newspaper which poses as the chief organ and defender of these two statesmen have now had several opportunities of explaining the circumstances under which the Bowser bill came into and passed out of existence. The people of British Columbia have listened to or read these statements, and it is for them to decide whether all the parties concerned have any considerable regard for either their own veracity or for the fundamental principles of constitutional government.

Take the case and the position of the Premier first. Mr. McBride tells the Secretary of State at Ottawa while the Bowser bill is yet before the legislature that it will be disallowed. He will not deny that such is the fact, we suppose—although we admit that in the light of certain other statements by the Premier it would not at all be surprising if he attempted to deny even this. Here we have evidence from the mouth of the Premier himself that he had discussed the Bowser bill with His Honor the Lieut.-Governor. Does Mr. McBride intend to convey the impression that in the course of his conversation with the representative of the Crown he expressed no opinion one way or the other in regard to the proposed disallowance of the measure? Even if he tendered no advice, would the fact of his ignorance of the duties and responsibilities of the chief adviser of the Crown relieve him of responsibility? As we have already pointed out, the Crown must have advisers in all cases who will assume full responsibility for its actions and justify them before either the legislature which may be in existence or before a legislature which may be brought into existence as a consequence of the course of the Crown. The political career of Premier McBride indicates beyond question that he either has no conception of his duties and responsibilities as Prime Minister or that he is determined to deliberately make all such constitutional duties and responsibilities subsidiary to the mere personal ambition of clinging to power. In a former case the Lieut.-Governor clearly expressed his lack of confidence in the judgment of Mr. McBride by refusing to accept as one of his advisers Mr. John Houston of Nelson. In that instance instead of adopting the procedure called for by the constitution, resigning and appealing to the constituencies to pronounce judgment, Mr. McBride threw the responsibility for the deadlock upon the representative of the Crown. In effect he said, "If my advice is not acceptable 'it kin be altered,' I assure Your Honor that my principles are not fixed and unalterable. They can easily be made conformable to your will." In the latest instance he, or those who essay to speak on his behalf, claim that the responsibility rests upon Ottawa, which, while it did not give any advice in this particular case, would undoubtedly have vetoed the Bowser bill if it had been permitted to reach the capital. All this would have happened, it is asserted, because the fact is well known that the passage of a Natal Act by a local legislature is well known to be contrary to Imperial policy.

That is the McBride contention. What is the Bowser position? Mr. Bowser is the Attorney-General in the McBride government, he is presumably learned in the law, and he is the legal adviser of his colleagues. A few days ago Mr. Bowser interviewed by a representative of the Colonist, contended that Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, had advised the government of Canada, as a result of certain communications which had passed between the Imperial governments of Great Britain and Japan, that it was competent for the provincial legislature of British Columbia to pass a Natal Act, and that the passage of such an act would be the most convenient method of settling the controversy between the two powers respecting Asiatic immigration into British Columbia. It is perhaps needless to say the Times has just as little confidence in the statements of Attorney-General Bowser as it has in the assertions of Mr. Bowser's chief, the Premier. We believed we had proved Mr. Bowser to be altogether wrong by correcting the quotations he had given from the correspondence between the Colonial Office and the representative of Japan. However, the Attorney-General asserted we had not published all the correspondence, intimating that he had in his possession documents which would show that Mr. Chamberlain had counselled that it was competent for the local legislature to pass a Natal Act. We are still waiting for the correspondence Mr. Bowser says he holds to make its appearance. It was presumably as a consequence of such correspondence being in existence that Mr. Bowser introduced his bill into the legislature. If the circumstances are such as he has represented them, it is within the competence of the legislature to pass a Natal Act and it is all the more incumbent upon the McBride government to see that such an act is brought into force and that the Lieut.-Governor bows to the will of the representatives of the people of this province. But our confidence has been somewhat shaken in the reliability of Mr. Bowser by statements made by his chief at the meeting in the Victoria Theatre during the recent visit of Mr. Borden. There the Premier explicitly stated that the matter was one which could only be treated by the Dominion government, thus indirectly admitting that after all he was assuming responsibility for what the Lieut.-Governor had done and not indirectly expressing his opinion of the legal and constitutional qualifications of his esteemed Attorney-General.

The people, in view of all the circumstances may well ask what manner of government is this that has been set over us. First the Premier refuses to accept responsibility for the actions of the Lieut.-Governor, who can not act except upon the advice of the individual specially appointed to advise him; then we have the Premier and his chief colleague flatly contradicting each other in respect to a matter of policy of the highest importance. Finally we have the organ of the unique combination asserting that the Lieut.-Governor, being a Dominion official and under federal political influences, the Dominion government must be held responsible for his actions. But perhaps it is not to be wondered at that our contemporary, being under the necessity of attempting a defence of something that is indefensible, has written itself into a trance.

The Toronto Globe of a recent date says: The Government are having prepared a complete and careful statement of Canada's argument against a continuance of the present large influx of Japanese immigrants into this country, for presentation by a special Canadian commissioner to the Mikado's Government at Tokio. In this statement it will be pointed out that when the treaty with Japan was signed by Canada there was an express understanding in this country that the Japanese law restricting immigration by issuing only a limited number of passports to intending emigrants each year could be continued in force. The attention of the Japanese Government will also be drawn to the fact that in their emigration laws it is expressly stated that any emigrant who obtains a passport by false representation as to his destination is liable to a heavy fine, in addition to the cancellation of the passport. The enforcement of this clause by Japan would have a large influence in stopping the influx of Japanese to British Columbia by way of the Hawaiian Islands. Other points that will be emphasized are that public opinion in this country, as shown in the utterances of the public men, in the press, by resolution of labor unions, etc., is unanimously opposed to any large or sudden influx of Oriental immigration, and that the present rate of immigration, if continued, will result in unnecessary racial friction in British Columbia, and will militate against the development of trade between Canada and Japan, as desired by both Governments.

* * *

In matters such as the negotiation of treaties of trade and commerce, where no Imperial responsibilities are involved, it is well that Canada should be given an absolutely free hand. The negotiation of a treaty with France came within this category. It was left entirely in the hands of Messrs. Fielding and Brodeur, representatives of the Canadian government, with the successful results noted in our dispatches. The effect will doubtless be not only a marked increase in Canada's business with France, but increased cordiality in the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and France. The Mother Country, in vesting her principal daughter state with increased responsibility, is adding to the sense of responsibility which such a display of confidence naturally inspires.

PLAGUE VICTIMS.

San Francisco, Oct. 5.—To-day's health board reports show the following totals in the bubonic plague: Verified cases to date, 57; deaths, 32; cases recovered, 2; remaining under treatment, 23 cases; inspected but not yet verified, 23.

PAINLESS TEETHING.

There is no period in baby's life that mothers dread more than teething time. The little gums are tender and inflamed; the child suffers and is sleepless and cross, and the mother is usually worn out caring for the child. The use of Baby's Own Tablets allays the inflammation, softens the tender swollen gums, and brings the teeth through painlessly. Mrs. N. Suave, St. Rose de Lima, Que., says: "When my baby was cutting his teeth he was feverish, cross and did not take nourishment. After giving him Baby's Own Tablets he cut six teeth without the least trouble. I have never used any medicine for children I prize so highly as the Tablets." Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from the Dr. Wilyliams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Excellent Money Saving Opportunities Await You in the Furniture Department at the Big Store

THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT is growing not alone in size, but is also gaining in popularity owing to the fact that everything found here is most modestly priced, our foresight, experience and purchasing power enables us to keep prices down so low as to allow all purses to participate in the many excellent values that is to be had here, and for this fact alone, all those contemplating purchasing furniture will find it greatly to their advantage to visit this department, look around at your leisure, compare prices and qualities, then judge for yourself. We are confident that you will be satisfied.

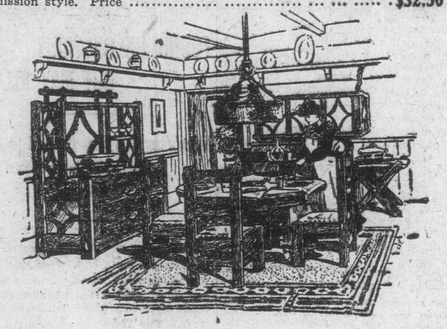
Dining Room Furniture

DINING ROOM SUITE

4-piece Suites, comprising large extension Table, Buffet containing one long drawer and three small drawers and two cupboards, plain dividded mirror, China Closet and Stand, all in weathered ash. Price, complete.. ..... $62.00

DINING ROOM TABLE

Round Dining Table, 8 ft. extension, in early English finish, strictly mission style. Price $32.50



CHINA CLOSET

China closet, in solid oak weathered, containing four shelves, glass door and ends. Stands about 62 in. high. Shaped feet. Price... $25.00

BUFFET

BUFFET, in solid oak, weathered finish, containing five drawers, two cupboards, colored leaded glass in doors, large bevel mirror at back, bronzed brass linings.. $65.00

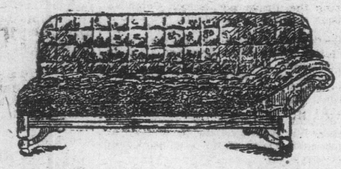
DINING CHAIRS

DINING SUITE, comprising five small and one arm chair, seat upholstered in real leather, early English finish, mission style. Per set..... $64.00

Our Showing of Couches and Lounges Most Interesting

The showing of COUCHES, etc., which is to be seen on the 3rd floor, is a most interesting one, and not only will you find the qualites of the highest, but you will find prices marked to fit any purse. Read down these few items:

BED LOUNGE, upholstered in fancy green figured tapestry with stuffed cushions and spring edges; is very strongly made and is an exceptionally good value. Price.. $18.50



Others of similar design, but without spring edges $16.50

COUCHES, upholstered in fine hard-grained, figured tapestry, in colors of blue and mixed; also some in English Red Rep, exceptionally well upholstered, at $22.50 and $18.50

COUCHES, upholstered in pantasole, in plain and button designs, spring edge, hardwood frame, is highly finished. This covering's wearing qualities is almost equal to leather, and can be cleaned, if necessary, with water. Price.... $28.00

A Large Stock of Rockers

Will always be found in this department, including those in rare and costly woods, as well as the most favored materials at most moderate prices.

PARLOR ROCKERS made in oak, cobble leather seat, carved back, is indeed very comfortable. Price $4.00

PARLOR ROCKER, in solid oak, upholstered back and seat, in plush and blue. Very comfortable. Price $5.00

PARLOR ROCKER, in oak, highly finished, upholstered back and seat in pantasole leather. Price $6.50 and $5.50

PARLOR ROCKER, in solid oak, roll seat, extra large, higaly finished, excellent value at $5.75

PARLOR ROCKER, made of birch, mahogany finish, upholstered back and seat, in red and green tapestry. Price $8.00

Chiffoniers Very Moderately Priced

At whatever price you've made up your mind to pay you will find the chiffoniers we offer just a little better than the best value offered elsewhere. Our stock, too, is extremely large, starting from the lowest price to the finest and higher priced ones, therefore we are sure that you will make a substantial saving by coming here and looking over these immense stocks. Below we are quoting two of the most attractive ones:

CHIFFONIER, made of birch, mahogany finish, containing 5 large drawers, oval mirror at top, size 23 x 17 inches, polished brass linings highly finished. Price $38.50

CHIFFONIER, made of birch, mahogany finish, containing 5 drawers, serpentine front, claw feet, shaped standards, upholding mirror, size 17 x 23 inches. Price $35.00

New Arrivals in Dressers

Especially noteworthy is the recent arrival of Beautiful Dressers, both in mahogany and birds' eye maple, made and finished in the best possible manner, which reflects much credit on the buyer of these lines. Your early inspection cordially invited.

PRINCESS DRESSER, made of birch, mahogany finish, containing 1 large drawer and 2 small ones, swell front design, carved and shaped standards upholding shaped bevel plate mirror size 18 x 37½ inch, polished brass trimmings. Price $30.00

PRINCESS DRESSER, made of birch, mahogany finish, containing 1 large drawer and 2 small ones, serpentine front carved and shaped standards upholding large oval shaped bevel plate mirror, size 30 x 40 in., highly finished. Price..... $44.00

DAVID SPENCER, LTD

LOCAL N

—The bank clearings ending October 1st were business of the city is k to the average.

—The provincial bure tion is shipping a large literature relative to th the office of the agent g don.

—The Builders' Excha plating the idea of makin Saturday afternoons, round.. The matter will at a meeting to be held o

—Arrangements for the the provincial fruit exh are now complete, and commissioner of hortic here on Monday for the look after it there.

—The funeral of the Alexander Dodd will morrow afternoon at 2:30 ily residence, 28 Bay stre Roberts will officiate. will have charge of the

—Among the visitors i Uncle Sam's domains Gifford, president of th Estate Men's Club. Mr. presses himself as being Victoria, which, he says, expectations.

—The annual harvest Centennial Methodist ch held in the church on T ber 15th. The ladies of tion having the arrange are planning to make it cess.

—While riding on th wagon which was towin behind it on the James last evening, a young the wheels of the secon his right leg run over. painful bruises he was n

—A large crowd gathe ler rink last Saturday, w the extra sessions was sessions are on every Sa from 10 to 12 p.m. for those whose business late.

—Frank Berney, a long his foot crushed at the yesterday while engaged barrels of oil from the s One of the casks slipped and rolled over his foot. ed at the Jubilee hospital

—The marriage was s Thursday in this city b Clay of John W. Darc Horse, to Miss Alice, elde John L. Gray, a residen Island. Mr. and Mrs. Da to live in Nanaimo.

—The death occurred Richard Alexander Dodd dence 28 Bay street, aft lasting for some time. was a native son, and the city, and was thirty- age. He leaves a young his loss.

—The concert given in s man's Institute last even O. U. W. hall, proved a The programme was an and proved very enjoyab ent. The proceeds of t ment were satisfactory.

—The provincial grand Orange order, Mr. McLa loops, will be in the cit and will pay an official local lodge. All member are requested to be pre meeting in the A. O. U. Monday.

—Yesterday afternoon gine ran off the track station on the E. & N. wheels of the engine we the consequence was the fic was delayed considera was cleared in time for train to get in on time.

—The annual Hallowee the First Presbyterian chu be given on or about th month. Due notice will b exact date. These annu this organization are look by many as one of the season.

—The funeral of the la burn took place from th Hon. Wm. Templeman, yesterday afternoon. The conducted by Rev. Dr. C following acted as pall-be dine, M.P.P., R. Dunn, C. Nicholas, W. McCart Nelson.

—The Victoria dogs Westminster fair made ing. Mr. Crieghton, of V a clean sweep in the C class, winning five out six prizes. Jesmond Pro winners' prize for being t spaniel in the show, car silver cup. Mr. Creight also took the prize for nel in the show.

—Stuart Henderson, M. from the mainland this m

WILSON FLY PADS

SOLD BY DRUGGISTS, GROCERS AND GENE 25c. per packet, or 3 packe will last a whole sea