

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE CABLE QUESTION.

We mentioned, a few days ago, that the Ottawa Journal's allegation to the effect that the Dominion government is placing obstacles in the way of cheaper cablegrams had not been answered by any of the papers supporting the government. Since then we are in receipt of further information on the subject, which in the interest of fair play we will give in brief. In an interview printed in the Montreal Star, Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster-General, said: "The negotiations with regard to cable rates are not off. The reduction of cable rates is a big question, and requires some time for settlement. A great deal depends upon the success which may be obtained by Chevalier Marconi. If he succeeds, that solves the problem, though we will still have to deal with the land lines." The Ottawa Journal says that Marconi is already sending a limited amount of press messages across the Atlantic at half the cable rates, but the cable people express their doubts as to his ability to duplicate his system, because of the danger of electric waves interfering with each other. Marconi, on the other hand, contends that he can indefinitely add to the number of his stations without impairing their efficiency, and that each pair of stations can transmit duplex messages, that is, messages both ways at the same time. The Journal says there is danger that the Marconi patents may be bought by some of the cable interests, and it urges the British and Canadian governments to negotiate for their purchase, which he said at the press conference, he was willing to facilitate. The Journal adds: "The government cannot afford to let the present situation last indefinitely, if they have any desire to promote that tremendous commercial and Imperial gain—cheap cables." If our contemporary rightly understands the situation, it is impossible to escape the conclusion set out in this quotation. The Journal thinks that Mr. Lemieux is of a sound mind on this question as he has ever been, but believes "other influences have triumphed."

The Ottawa Free Press, which may be assumed to speak with some knowledge of the views of the government, does not deny that negotiations have been delayed, but it lays the responsibility of the delay upon the shoulders of the Australian government and the Australian and English press. It blames the latter for not using the Pacific cable, alleging that the Australian papers, and that of the English papers, "probably not more than one, and sometimes not even one, use the Pacific line." When the Australian delegates to the press conference were in Victoria, some of them, who were in a position to speak freely, stated that the leading papers of Australia were absolutely in the hands of the Eastern Extension company, which is, in a degree, corroborative of what the Free Press says. Our contemporary says that Dr. Coulter, deputy postmaster general, "did not find any very great enthusiasm at the Antipodes in favor of co-operation with the British and Canadian." The Free Press thinks that "under these circumstances the government of Canada will act wisely if it proceeds slowly," and that when "Australia shows some disposition to enter into an agreement with Great Britain and Canada to establish an Imperial circle around the world, it will be time enough for Canada to bind herself upon the expenditure of millions upon what is, after all, only a scheme of sentiment." We do not think the idea of cheaper cablegrams can be disposed of in this way. There is a great deal more than sentiment behind it. We have no desire to misrepresent the apology which the Free Press makes for the government's admitted inaction, but it clearly begs the question which the Journal raised. As we understand this, it is that the British and Canadian governments ought to acquire the Marconi patents, as they affect communication across the Atlantic, in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the cable monopoly; also, that the Dominion government has taken no steps to secure cheaper press cables, in accordance with the statement made by Mr. Moberly Bell, of the London Times Press Conference. Mr. Bell said: "I have seen the manager of the Anglo-American Cable Company, and was here on the last occasion that the Anglo-American Company were willing to make a reduction of the press rate to Canada, and I asked him about that, and he said, 'We are willing, we are willing to make that arrangement. My board is willing, but we are bound by certain conventions, and it is quite impossible for any one company to make a change by itself. But,' he added, 'I consider not only that you are entitled to a reduction, but to a very large reduction.'"

NATIONAL REPUTATION

One of the San Francisco papers recently asked if "Party is worth while." The more one reads of partisan discussion, the more one is impressed with the importance of that question. During the last year a certain section of the British press has been alleging in unbelieved language that the condition of the country from a naval and military point of view is almost hopeless. The attack is not simply upon the minority, who would be responsible for such a state of things, if it exists, but upon the men who build ships for the navy, the men who man them, and the men who constitute the army. The British nation is represented as decadent from every point of view. We have been told that the British people cannot defend their shores against attack and that an invading force could rav-

age the country at its pleasure. We have been told that British trade is being driven out of the world's markets, and that everything, in short, with which the government can have anything to do is in the down grade. In Canada we have the same sort of thing. "Is Canada British?" asks a contemporary, and then it proceeds to demonstrate that the Dominion is dominated by Quebec. Another paper objects to a Canadian navy on the ground that in the construction of the ships and their maintenance there would be endless opportunities for graft. And so it goes on. Does the government do something to which a certain section of the Opposition press cannot on the spur of the moment think of any sufficient answer? There is always open the way to challenge the motives of those who are responsible, or question their honesty. It is the easiest thing in the world to suggest that the powers that be are dishonest. It is done by the use of a word or two. No earthly good is accomplished thereby. Such a course does not in the most remote way tend to the development of a sound public policy. It is doubtful if it is of any value whatever for the minor purpose of influencing votes. But there is one thing it does accomplish: it destroys public confidence in public men. Let no Liberal newspaper suppose that by questioning the honesty of the members of a local Conservative government, it is strengthening the position of the local Liberal party. Let no Conservative newspaper suppose that by questioning the honesty of the members of a local Liberal government, it is strengthening the position of the local Conservative party. All it is doing is creating a lack of confidence among the people of the country as to the honesty of both political parties. It is destroying that respect for the institutions of the country which is essential to good government. It is destroying the national reputation, and, most of all, it is degrading the national character.

The most interesting object in the sky just now is the planet Mars. There is no reason for mistaking it, for its bright red light is conspicuous in the eastern sky as soon as darkness sets in. Tonight the nearness of the Moon may dim its lustre to some extent, but if the sky is clear it will shine out plainly enough. It is getting nearer the earth steadily, and next month will be as close as it ever gets, that is, both the earth and the planet will be on the same side of the sun, and on the same line. Astronomers are watching its ruddy face with great interest. The United States observers at Flagstaff have been making interesting observations all summer. They claim to have discovered that the "canals" have their origin in the "ice-caps" and that as long ago as April distinct cracks in the ice-caps were visible. French observers say that the canals are enlarging as summer in the planet's southern hemisphere advances.

Mars on September 23rd will be 58,000,000 miles from the sun; that is, it will be 232 times as far away as the moon. At this time the earth will be invisible to Mars, because it will be between the planet and the sun. Therefore our unaided eyes will not be able to see the planet. The suggestion has been made that we might be able to take this opportunity of signalling to Mars, but that would be impossible, because we could not hope to produce a light so brilliant as to overcome the rays of the sun, and the only way necessary, because even now an observer on Mars could not see the earth under any conditions, because we would only be above his horizon in the day time, when we could not possibly be seen. If the illuminated side of the earth were turned toward Mars at this time it would doubtless be distinctly visible in the day time, just as on rare occasions we are able to see Venus while the sun is shining with its greatest brightness.

THE MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Miss May Sutton, of tennis fame, broke off her engagement because she was "too young to marry." It is not alleged how young Miss Sutton is, but her action has set people talking, and it is the case nowadays, what they say is finding its way into the papers. One of the ladies who has expressed her opinion is Lady Cardigan, widow of the gallant soldier who led the charge of the Six Hundred. She was married in 1858, and she says that she is fully in accord with Miss Sutton. Of course Lady Cardigan realizes that the young Miss of half a century ago has no counterpart in these later times, nevertheless, the fact that girls in their teens cannot really know their own minds. Mrs. Stannard, better known as John Strange Winter, takes the other side of the case. She advances the rather startling proposition that a girl should not be married until she is 25.

Have You an Old Black Straw Hat

If it's a becoming shape, don't throw it away, because it can be made practically as good as new with

tion that "it is the fashion today to cry out upon marriage, to regard it as an antiquated, obsolete custom only really necessary for the benefit of colonies and family estates." Against this she vigorously protests, and says that the sooner people marry the better are their chances of happiness. "I not only believe in boy and girl marriages," she says, "but I believe they are practically the only marriages." Who shall decide when doctors disagree? Is there any use in deciding any way? Youth is a relative term, and we are not very sure that we would go into high society or the literary world for a trustworthy opinion on a question affecting the ordinary run of humanity.

If we may judge from what official statements the Grand Trunk Pacific officials have made, it is very much too soon to say what the policy of the company in regard to extensions in this province will be.

The laments of what is called "The Budget League" recall the expression of the impassioned New York politician who exclaimed: "How long, Mr. Speaker, will the people of this great country be in the minority?"

The opening of the line of the Canadian Northern between Montreal and Quebec gives the fourth line of rail communication between those two cities. Certainly the progress of Canada by no means confined to the West.

Man in Windsor, Ontario, stole a betting ticket. He was arrested when he tried to cash it. His defence was that the ticket constituted an illegal contract, and hence to take it was not a crime. The magistrate took time to consider the point.

The Post-Intelligencer recalls the fact that Henry Farman, the English aviator who made such a sensational flight at Rheims, was the first man to sustain himself in the atmosphere in a heavier-than-air machine, and it records him the place of "the foremost exponent of the art of air navigation."

GEORGE ECCLES, HERO

Seattle, Aug. 31.—A movement is under way in this city for the collection of funds for the purpose of erecting a monument to George Eccles, the United Wireless operator who sacrificed his life to save the passengers on the S.S. Ohio when the vessel was wrecked off Seac Point last Thursday. Several representatives of Seattle men have come to the point with offers of money for such a purpose, and a dispatch from Seattle is to the effect that a similar movement has been started there. Should such a monument be erected, it will probably be placed in one of Seattle's parks. The funeral of Eccles will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock from Butterwood's chapel on First avenue and the Rev. A. Norman Ward will officiate. The body will be shipped over the Canadian Pacific road to the Canadian home of the dead operator.

At Winnipeg the remains will be taken from the train and a public funeral held. Winnipeg is the city in which Eccles resided for years before coming to the coast. Several United Wireless stations on the Pacific coast will be silent for half an hour during the funeral. As a fitting tribute to the memory of Eccles, his remains will be accompanied on Wednesday morning by a flying party of the United States Coast division of the United States Wireless Telegraph Company. Interment will be made at Almonte, Ont., and the pall bearers will go from New York as the Atlantic coast representatives of the company in whose service Mr. Eccles lost his life.

THIEF GETS MAIL FROM C. P. R. TRAIN

Vancouver, Aug. 31.—Eighteen or twenty registered letters were stolen last night from a mail car attached to the C. P. R. transcontinental express, number 97, which reached Vancouver at 9 o'clock this morning. The robbery is supposed to have taken place about 2 o'clock this morning at or in the vicinity of Spencer's Bridge. Several hours elapsed before the theft was discovered. At the first stop after the mail clerk became aware of his loss, telegrams were sent back over the line to all stations announcing the theft and the Provincial police at various points along the line were at work on the case early this morning. Just what was the value of the stolen mail cannot be determined, as the railway authorities have no knowledge of the contents of the letters. The loot might be worth \$4,000.

Have You an Old Black Straw Hat

If it's a becoming shape, don't throw it away, because it can be made practically as good as new with

Bowes' Black Straw Hat Varnish

This splendid varnish is water-proof—the black cannot be rubbed off. We would like every wearer of straw hats to know more about its economy and worth. Only 25c. at this store.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST
1228 Government Street, Near Yates.

CHOICE CARPETRIE

WE CARRY the largest stock of carpets of any retail store in Canada; we have to do so owing to the vast territory we cover and to retain the sole distribution of the world's leaders in the great carpet race. Do not be afraid that you will be charged a higher price because you have the wisdom to buy at the very beginning of the season and enjoy the full benefit of your floor furnishings—we never fake our prices in order to show an apparent and grossly deceptive reduction.

BRUSSELS

FINEST BRUSSELS, carrying the name and fame of the kings of the carpet trade, new designs embodying all that is latest and best in the art of carpet designing. Prices for these matchless goods, start at per yard, made and laid \$1

AXMINSTER

SUPER FINE AXMINSTERS, fresh from the factory of carpet manufacturers who have the distinction of designing and weaving carpets for His Majesty, King Edward, and other royalties, yet the prices for these exquisite productions are from, per yard, made and laid \$1.90

WILTON

RICH WILTONS in all their wealth of luxurious pile and beautiful designs, soft to the tread and almost everlasting in wear. Of these we are showing a splendid aggregation of new goods, from, per yard, made and laid \$1.50



RICH AND RARE RUGS

OF RICH AND RARE Oriental rugs we have truly a marvelous showing—rugs with histories dating from bygone ages—rugs of beautiful texture and exquisite design—rugs that are wanted in every home where rich and harmonious decorations are valued. Almost every Oriental race has contributed to our wealth of textiles in the beautiful exposition now on view in our carpet department, and almost every price makes purchase easy, for our highest priced Oriental rug is marked \$500 and our lowest at

\$3.50

WE STOCK BURROWES' handy, folding card tables, and have a grand selection. The card season is nigh, better secure one early, they cost only \$6.50 and \$5.50. —Third floor.

WHILST in our carpet department it is quite easy for you to view the latest creations in the art of curtainrie. We are always delighted to show them to you, because we know every lady is interested in the beautiful new fabrics recently evolved for window drapery. We are showing:

NEW ART LINENS in very beautiful tones of greens, browns, and blues—colour-tones in those new, soft shades so desirable for artistic curtains and covers. They are one yard wide, and the price is, per yard, \$6.00

LIBERTY ART FABRICS, exquisite new productions in conventional and floral designs, just the thing for case-ment curtains and covers. The colours are absolutely fast. They are in two widths, thirty-three inches at \$6.00 and eighty-five inches at \$11.00



FINE CURTAINS

IN VERY HANDSOME REPP VELOUR with corduroy finish, on which the effect is intensified by a rich border of Arabian lace with a coronet of the same lace wrought in the lower corners. The prevailing shades are gray, green and cream, not garish shades, but exquisite and dainty tones, matching refined furnishing. 8x4 feet, per pair \$17.50

IN RICH LIBERTY SILK, extremely "chic" and recherche, exquisite Morris designs in delicate shades of green and coral pink, with silk brush edgings and silk braiding. Size 8x4 feet, superb drapings, for beautiful homes, yet they are not by any means expensive for such exquisite hangings. The price is only per pair \$20.00

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BABY CARRIAGE RUGS—SECOND FLOOR

FURNISHERS
of
CHURCHES
SCHOOLS

WEILER BROS.

HOME FURNISHERS SINCE 1862, AT VICTORIA, B.C.

COR. GOVERNMENT AND BROUGHTON STREETS.

FURNISHERS
of
HOMES
CLUBS

News of the Week For the

Strikes Coal Seam
ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 1.—A coal seam four feet in thickness was struck on the farm of Thomas Murphy, South Branch, Kent county, while boring for a well.

Killed in Stave Mill.
COBALT, Ont., Sept. 1.—A fatal accident occurred at the Tilton company stave mill yesterday. The machine used for sawing staves went to pieces, a fragment striking Peter Clime in the abdomen, killing him instantly.

Record Custom Dues
TORONTO, Sept. 1.—Collector Bevan today announced that duties aggregated \$1,200,000 had been collected on the farm of Thomas Murphy, South Branch, Kent county, while boring for a well.

Switchman Killed.
SASKATOON, Sask., Sept. 1.—F. McDermott, a C. N. R. switchman, was instantly killed in Warman yesterday while attempting to change cars. He was formerly an employee of the Dominion Express company.

To Investigate Strike.
OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Hon. Mackenzie King announced that he had sent F. A. Acland, deputy minister, to Nova Scotia in order to get a full report of the present industrial situation. This action is voluntary on the part of the department.

Rails For G. T. P.
SIDNEY, N. S., Sept. 1.—Steamer Belle of Spain sailed last night for Prince Rupert, with a cargo of steel rails, 6,840 bundles of fish plates, etc. Captain McIntyre expects to make the passage via the Horn in days.

Customs Revenue
OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Customs collections for August amounted to \$5,345, an increase of \$1,411 over the same month last year. For the first months of the fiscal year to August 30, collections amounted to \$123,310, an increase of \$5,508, 817 over the corresponding period of 1908.

Strike Breaker Beaten
HAMILTON, Ont., Sept. 1.—Joseph Edward Lyon, strike breaker for Toronto, was sent to jail for two weeks today for assaulting James Ripley, secretary of the Iron Molders' Union. Lyon was beaten by the union men who came to Ripley's assistance.

Swept by Cloudburst.
RENO, Nev., Sept. 1.—The mining camp of Sawdust, 100 miles from Reno, was swept by a cloudburst this evening, a wall of water said to have been 25 feet in height rushing through the street. Many women and children are missing. Five hundred persons are homeless, and 165 buildings have been destroyed.

Murdered Man Identified.
WINNIPEG, Ont., Sept. 1.—The body of the man killed and thrown into the river on Monday last, was identified as that of John Holme, a former father of Ridgely. The father is a prosperous contractor. John Holme, of Milwaukee, sailor, is being held by the police.

Former Chief Justice.
OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Sir He Strachan, former chief justice of the province, died this evening, at 84 years, at his residence on Queen street. He was born in England, and came to Canada in 1870. He was appointed to the supreme court in 1876 and retired, and was succeeded by Sir Ellice Trenchard.

Cricket Match a Draw

OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—The cricket match between Ottawa and Philadelphia ended yesterday in a draw. The game was stopped at lunch. The Philadelphians were all out for 32. Ottawa scored 118 for three wickets. Ottawa resumed innings, which they lost for 25. The Philadelphians scored 118 for three wickets.

Meets With Accident

NANAIMO, Sept. 1.—Ernest employed as conductor on the A. & N. S. railway, was injured yesterday while at work, sustaining injury to his forehead and left arm which render amputation necessary. He taken to the hospital at Cumberland where he is doing as well as can be expected.

Portuguese Trawler on Banks

HALIFAX, N. S., Sept. 1.—The tugboat steam trawler Elita, of the vessel of the kind bearing the Portuguese flag to cross the Atlantic, was seen yesterday in the harbor of the city. The vessel has been on the banks for three days, but so far has had no luck. It is a large boat and if her operation on the banks during the balance of the season are successful other vessels from Portugal will be sent out summer.

Artistic Temperament

NEW YORK, Sept. 1.—G. B. Howard, the playwright, was paroled today on a charge of forcing Miss Theresa Mond, whose stage name is Geraldine, to marry him. He was given him a diamond ring at the police station. He is now on his way to the court today, but Magistrate Corbett refused to dismiss the case and announced that he would hold it over till the girl returned. The court refused to return the ring to the playwright, telling him he must get a receipt for it. The jewel is said to be worth \$750.

Shot By Hired Man

QUAPPELLE, Sask., Sept. 1.—Harris was yesterday afternoon on a bluff on his farm at Edgemoor, here, dangerously wounded. He had some words with his man, H. Roper, on Friday last, that Roper shot him in the head and then dragged him to the bluff. It appears that after the shot Roper drove to town, put his horse at theivery stable, cashed a check for \$30, bid his friends goodbye, and then returned. He was aroused on account of no one being for the rig, and harvest operation at a standstill. The wounded man is in a critical condition. The police have the case in hand.