

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 Free Press, 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 the Marconi company, 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 war 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 rather, but the cable people 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 cable company. It blames the latter for not using the Pacific cable, alleging that the Australian papers are giving the business to the old Eastern Extension company, and that of the English papers, "probably not more than one, and sometimes not more than half, 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 absolute 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. C. G. D. Mackenzie, 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 when Australia shows some disposition to enter into an agreement with Great Britain and Canada to establish an Imperial girdle around the world, it will be time enough for Canada to bind herself upon the expenditure of more 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. 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 at the Press Conference. Mr. Bell said: "I have seen the manager of the Anglo-American cable company. He said here on the last occasion that the Anglo-American company were willing to make any 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. It is surely no answer to the position taken by the Journal to say that the Australian government and the Australian and London papers will not patronize the Pacific cable. However, we are told on the authority of the Free Press that a statement on the subject from Sir Wilfrid Laurier may be expected, and we shall wait for that before saying anything more than that from the newspaper aspect of the controversy, the government does not emerge with any great amount of credit."

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 minister, 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 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 its own satisfaction. 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 anything in the world 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 doubt the good is established 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 Liberal Dominion 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 allegations first above referred to as to the decadence of British power have worked a great deal of injury. It is all very well to say, as some do, that it is an Englishman's privilege to grumble; but foreigners do not remember this, and young men growing up in the overseas Dominion do not make an allowance for it. If you keep on long enough asserting that a nation has grown feeble and unequal to its responsibilities, people will begin to think so. We suppose that parties are necessary, and that as long as we have popular government so long will the people divide into political aggregations, but surely there ought to be such a thing as an ability to distinguish between the position of the government of a country and opposition to the reputation of the country. Depend upon it, you will continue to deery the reputation of a country without lowering its character.

MARS.

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 rugged 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-cap," and that as long ago as April distinct cracks in the ice-cap were visible. 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, if the planet were visible to 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, as 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, she insists 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 proposi-

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

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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

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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 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 Liberal Dominion government it is strengthening the position of the local Conservative party.

Man in Windsor, Ontario, stole a betting ticket. He was arrested when he tried to cash it. His defence was that the ticket constitutes an illegal minion 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 of a dirigible, and he took it as a crime. The magistrate took time to consider the point.

Prince Ito, of Japan, doubts if China can successfully adopt a constitution. He gives three reasons. One of them is that the enormous area of the country and the defective means of communication would impede the assembly of a parliament. Another is that Chinese conservatism is almost impenetrable, and of "being about such changes as parliamentary government would involve. A third is that the Chinese having no experience in local self-government, cannot be trusted to administer a representative national government. He thinks that any attempt to establish constitutional government in China would imperil the peace of the Orient."

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 Sisco Point last Thursday. Several residents of the city have offered to contribute to the purpose and a dispatch from Seattle is to the effect that a similar movement is being 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 2 o'clock from Butterwood's chapel on Fir street, and the Rev. A. Norman Ward will officiate. The body will be shipped over the Canadian Pacific railway to the Canadian home of the dead operator.

At Winnipeg the remains will be taken from the train and a public funeral held in Winnipeg in the city in which Eccles resided for years before coming to the coast. A fitting tribute to the memory of Eccles, his remains will be accompanied on Wednesday morning by a funeral train. The body will be taken to the Pacific Coast division of the United States Wireless Telegraph Company, where it will be made at Almonte, Ont., and the pall bearers will go from New York as the Atlantic coast representative of the company in whose service Mr. Eccles lost his life. Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 31.—Winnipeg will honor the body of George Eccles, the "Jack Blinn" of the Pacific, who lost his life on Friday while assisting the "O. S." signal for help, number 97, which reached Vancouver at 9 o'clock this morning. The body is supposed to have taken place about 2 o'clock this morning at the vicinity of Spence'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.

THIEF GETS MAIL FROM C. P. R. TRAIN

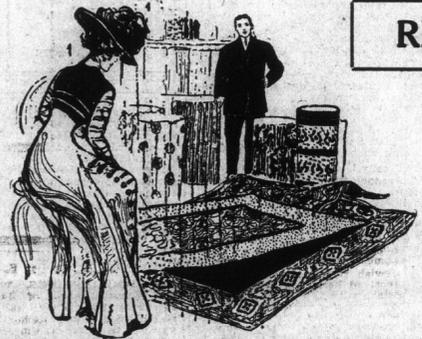
Vancouver, Aug. 31.—Eighteen or twenty registered letters were stolen last night from a mail car attached to the C. P. R. transcontinental express, number 97, which reached Vancouver at 9 o'clock this morning. The robbery is supposed to have taken place about 2 o'clock this morning at the vicinity of Spence'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.

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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 AXMINSTER WILTON

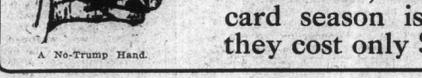
FINEST BRUSSELS, carrying the name and fame of the kings of the carpet trade, new designs embodying all that is latest and best in the art of carpet designing. Prices for these matchless goods, start at per yard, made and laid \$1 SUPER FINE AXMINSTERS, fresh from the factory of carpet manufacturers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



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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

WEILER BROS. HOME FURNISHERS SINCE 1862, AT VICTORIA, B.C. COR. GOVERNMENT AND BROUGHTON STREETS. FURNISHERS OF CHURCHES SCHOOLS FURNISHERS OF HOMES CLUBS

News of the World 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 Cline in the abdomen, killing him instantly.

Record Custom Dues. TORONTO, Sept. 1.—Collector Bevan announced that duties amounting to \$1,200,000 had been collected during the month of August, 1908. This was a record figure.

Switkhman Killed. SASKATOON, Sask., Sept. 1.—F. McWhorter, a C. N. R. switchman, was instantly killed in Worman yard yesterday afternoon while at work on the tracks. He was formerly an employee of the Dominion Express company.

To Investigate Strike. OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Hon. Mackenzie King, minister of labor, has 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. SIDERON, N. S., Sept. 1.—Steamer Belle of Spain sailed last night for Prince Rupert, with a cargo of steel rails, 6,840 bundles of flat steel, and 100 tons of iron. The steamer will make the passage via the Horn in days.

Customs Revenue. OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Customs collections for August amounted to \$5,465, an increase of \$1,000 over the same month last year. For the 10 months of the fiscal year to August 30, collections amount to \$50,817, or an increase of \$5,508, 817 over corresponding period of 1908.

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

Swept by Cloudburst. RENO, Nev., Sept. 1.—The mining camp of Bowditch, 100 miles from Reno, was swept by a cloudburst this evening, a wall of water said to have been 102 ft. in height rushing through the street. Many women and children are missing. Five hundred persons are homeless, and 165 buildings have been destroyed.

Murderer Identified. WINNIPEG, Ont., September 1.—The body of the man killed and thrown into the river by a former father of Ridgely, the father is a prosperous contractor there. John Holme, of Milwaukee, sailor, is being held by the police.

Former Chief Justice. OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—Sir He Strachan, 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 Ellis Taylor.

Crickets Match a Draw. OTTAWA, Sept. 1.—The cricket match between Ottawa and Philadelphia ended yesterday in a draw. Ottawa scored 118 for three wickets. The Philadelphia team scored 118 for two wickets. The match was a draw.

Meets With Accident. NANAIMO, Sept. 1.—Ernest employed as conductor on the A.P. son Logging company's train at Esquimalt, was struck by a log 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 steaming in the harbor of the vessel of the kind bearing the Portuguese flag to cross the Atlantic search for fish arrived in Sydney, N.S., for bunker coal and supplies. The vessel has been on the banks for three days but so far has had but poor luck. It is a large boat and if her operations on the banks during the balance of the season are successful other than from Portugal will be sent out summer.

Artistic Temperament Aggravated. NEW YORK, Sept. 1.—G. B. Howard, the playwright, was paroled today on a charge of forcing Miss Theresa Mond, whose stage name is Gertrude, to give him a diamond ring at the police station a week ago. Miss Mond has refused to appear at Howard and is beyond the court's dictation 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, day, telling him he must get a receipt if he wants 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 Edgely, when he was shot by a hired man. He had some words with his man, H. Roper, on Friday last, and Roper shot him in the head and then dragged him by the hair. It appears that after the shot Roper drove to town, put his horse at the livery stable, cashed a check for \$30, bid his friends goodbye, and then returned to his farm. Roper was accused on account of no one being for the rig, and harvest operation at a standstill. The wounded man is in a critical condition. The local police have the case in hand.